

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: TUESDAY MAY 14, 2024 1:00 P.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by Zoom. To participate in the meeting, please dial 1-309-205-3325 or 1-646-876-9923, enter meeting number 988 9066 9264, and enter the meeting passcode 423423.*

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent reflection.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Kessling requested that those participating in the meeting please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, and Chief Clerk Hemminger.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lindsay Dempsie and Brandon Meck (Finance), Allison Senkevich and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Melissa Gillin (Social Services), Mindy Hostler (CYF), Angela Wagner (Controller), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Brock Bryan (IRC) Judy Rosser (Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program), Scott Durbin (Durbin Companies), Rebecca Brown (City of Altoona), Helen Schmitt (Public), Kay Stevens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Hemminger confirmed an Executive Session has not been held since the last meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 4/25 & 5/7

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for public comment.

Kay Stevens from the Altoona Mirror asked if there are any new or additional discussions regarding the Opioid Settlement Money Spending Report that is due in June.

Commissioner Kessling responded that there will be further discussions about the Opioid Funding at the meeting on May 23, 2024.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kessling called for commissioner comments.

Commissioner Burke stated she ran in the YMCA Diamond Dash races that were held this past Saturday in Hollidaysburg and reminded everyone the next races will be on July 4 in Altoona. She encouraged anyone interested to come out and join in the races.

Commissioner Kessling stated that Redd Up Altoona was held on Saturday, May 11, 2024. This was a city wide clean up event and he thanked those that participated.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Commissioner Kessling read the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION
Armed Forces Day - May 18, 2024**

WHEREAS, in February 1950, President Truman established a single holiday to recognize and honor individuals who defend our nation both at home and abroad; and,

WHEREAS, the first Armed Forces Day, celebrated on May 20, 1950, marked the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, that unified forces of our land, sea, and air defense; and,

WHEREAS, 11 years later on March 18, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed Presidential Proclamation 3399, officially declaring Armed Forces Day a national holiday on every third Saturday in May; and,

WHEREAS, on Armed Forces Day, we honor all the members of our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard and Reserve forces; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Blair recognizes and honors over 25 current employees who have served or who are still serving in one branch of the Armed Forces; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 18, 2024 "Armed Forces Day" and encourage all citizens to display the flag of the United States at their homes and businesses on Armed Forces Day, and to learn more about military service by attending and participating in the local observances of the day.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 14th day of May 2024.

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

David Kessling, President

Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

Nicole Hemminger, Chief Clerk

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to accept the Proclamation as prepared.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Resolution 229 – 2024:

a. Payment of the following three-3 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
05/14/2024	240514WW	108,814.97
05/14/2024	240514CY	679,486.51
05/14/2024	240514SS	196,763.29

b. Ratification of the following nine-9 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
05/09/2024	240509RA	139.64
05/09/2024	240508FP	247,506.34
05/09/2024	240509HR	6,066.24
05/09/2024	240508EO	66,425.37
05/08/2024	240508TC	241,254.47
05/08/2024	240508SS	3,000.00
05/08/2024	240508RA	217,852.43
05/06/2024	240506FS	2,406.51
05/03/2024	240503WT	505,041.25

- Which includes payments to Julia Burke in the total amount of \$156.61, Thomas and Chandra Jandora in the total amount of \$1,500.00, and Hollidaysburg Borough in the total amount of \$4,957.77.

c. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover the re-allocation of legal expenses:

From \$ _____ To \$ _____
 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations \$31,764.08 01102-44010 Solicitors

d. **Affordable Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board:** Requesting approval for the reappointments of Donald Delozier, Scott Durbin, and Susan Eberhardt for the period of 05/01/2024 to 04/30/2026.

e. **Resignations:** Leaper, Daniel L., FT, Maintenance Technician, Public Works - Building Maintenance, \$19.52/hr., effective 5/10/24.

f. **Employments:** Easterling, Minyhah A., Temporary Department Assistant, Public Works, \$12.50/hr., effective 5/13/2024. Lykens, Thomas G., FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$15.52/hr., effective 5/13/2024.

g. **Status Change:** Bailey, C. Scott, FT, Deputy Chief, APO, \$2,162.02 biweekly/\$56,212.52 annual to FT, Chief, APO, \$2,460.20 biweekly/\$63,961.20 annual, effective 2/19/24. Koegler, Melena M., FT, HR Manager, HR, \$1,983.09 biweekly/\$51,560.34 annual to FT, HR Manager, HR, +5% (\$99.16 biweekly) out of class wage for interim HR Director, max 13 pay periods or hire of job incumbent, effective 4/29/2024. Bilthuis, Sara, PT, Caseworker, CYF, 1500 hours/year, \$20.00 to FT, Caseworker, CYF, \$20.00/hr., effective 5/7/2024.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstentions on the payments to Julia Burke in the total amount of \$156.61, Thomas and Chandra Jandora in the total amount of \$1,500.00, and Hollidaysburg Borough in the total amount of \$4,957.77.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 229-2024 with abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:
Intermunicipal Relations Committee (IRC):

i. Brock Bryan requested approval to ratify the online submission of a Section 904 Performance Grant Application for Calendar Year 2022 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Act 101 and to accept the award in the total amount of \$31,227.49.

Mr. Bryan stated that the grant covers half of his salary and that the County already received the funds and he was requesting the money transfer to the IRC.

Resolution 230-2024: Approving the ratification of the online submission of a Section 904 Performance Grant Application for calendar year 2022 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Act 101, and acceptance of the grant award in the total amount of \$31,227.49.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 230-2024.

ii. Brock Bryan requested approval to submit an online Section 904 Performance Grant Application for Calendar Year 2023 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Act 101 to be completed by Brock Bryan, IRC Executive Director, on behalf of the County of Blair, in the estimated total amount of \$35,898.00.

Resolution 231-2024: Approving the submission of an online application of a section 904 Performance Grant Application for Calendar Year 2023 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Act 101, in the estimated total amount of \$35,898.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 231-2024.

Prison:

Warden Abbie Tate requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair, PrimeCare Medical, Inc., and Pyramid Healthcare, Inc., to provide methadone medication for opioid use disorder to patients incarcerated at the Blair County Prison to be paid with Opioid Settlement Funds.

Warden Tate added that the only methadone inductions will be for pregnant inmates who are currently not on methadone but abusing opioids and other individuals enrolled in methadone maintenance prior to admission to the prison.

Judy Rosser of Blair County Drug & Alcohol stated that the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD) grant would run through September 2024, but she would be asking for a time extension. After the PCCD grant funds are depleted, the funds from the Opioid Settlement will begin.

Resolution 232-2024: Approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair, PrimeCare Medical, Inc., and Pyramid Healthcare, Inc., to provide methadone medication for opioid use disorder to patients incarcerated at the Blair County Prison to be paid with Opioid Settlement Funds.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 232-2024.

Public Defender:

The request for approval to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) for the FY 2023-2024 Indigent Defense Grant Program Funds in the total amount of \$97,092.00 was tabled pending further information at a later Board of Commissioners meeting.

Children, Youth and Families:

i. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2024-2025 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Ashley Passarello, Esquire, Attorney of Grabill Law Offices, PLLC, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$85.00/hour.

Chief Clerk Hemminger pointed out that the terminology "as counsel for minor child or court-appointed additional counsel for minor child" is missing and will be added to the Resolution before signing.

Resolution 233-2024: Approving the FY 2024-2025 Agreement for payment of legal services, as counsel for minor child or court-appointed additional counsel for minor child, between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Ashley Passarello, Esq., Attorney of Grabill Law Offices, PLLC, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, billed at the rate of \$85.00/hour.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 233-2024.

ii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2024-2025 Agreement for Payment of Legal Service, as counsel for minor child or court-appointed additional counsel for minor child, between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Brian Grabill, Esquire, Attorney of Grabill Law Offices, PLLC, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$85.00/hour.

Resolution 234-2024: Approving the FY 2024-2025 Agreement for Payment of Legal Service, as counsel for minor child or court appointed additional counsel for minor child, between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Brian Grabill, Esquire, Attorney of Grabill Law Offices, PLLC, for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at the rate of \$85.00/hour.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 234-2024.

iii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Alternative Living Solutions for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with costs varying depending on the number of children in care and the level of care required

Ms. Hostler corrected the time period listed on the agenda from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Resolution 235-2024: Approving the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Alternative Living Solutions for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with costs varying depending on the number of children in care and the level of care required.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 235-2024.

iv. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Blair Family Solutions for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, with costs varying depending on the number of children placed with the agency, the number of days of care, and the level of care required.

Ms. Hostler added that the rates did not change since the FY 2023-2024 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement. She also corrected the time period listed on the agenda from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Resolution 236-2024: Approving the FY 2024-2025 Purchase of Service Agreement and HPPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Blair Family Solutions for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with costs varying depending on the number of children placed with the agency, the number of days of care, and the level of care required.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 236-2024.

- v. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 2024-2025 Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Rentokil North America d/b/a Rentokil Steritech d/b/a Ehrlich.

Resolution 237-2024: Approving the FY 2024-2025 Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Rentokil North America d/b/a Rentokil Steritech d/b/a Ehrlich.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 237-2024.

Social Services:

- i. Melissa Gillin requested approval to establish the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program.

Scott Durbin, from Durbin Companies, added that this program gives low-income homeowners with code violations the opportunity to submit an application to be considered. The Committee members review the applications and then grant potential households up to \$5,000.00.

Commissioner Webster asked if a contractor is required to be licensed by the state to be valid to submit a bid.

Mr. Durbin answered that the contractors are required to be licensed by the state and to show proof of insurance.

Resolution 238-2024: Approving the establishment of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 238-2024.

- ii. Melissa Gillin requested approval of an allocation of Affordable Housing Trust Funds attained through Act 137 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program in the total amount of \$50,000.00.

Resolution 239-2024: Approving the allocation of Affordable Housing Trust Funds to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program in the total amount of \$50,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 239-2024.

- iii. Trina Illig requested approval to submit reporting documents to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) to close out FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Contract #C000073790 in the total amount of \$885,208.00.

Commissioner Kessling asked why we would just now be reporting FY 2019 documents.

Ms. Illig cited the various projects that were being funded by this grant money over multiple years and that the state extended contracts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution 240-2024: Approving the submission of reporting documents to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) to close out FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Contract #C000073790 in the total amount of \$885,208.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 240-2024.

Human Resources:

Brian Walters requested approval to authorize Pennsylvania Counties Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperative (PCHIPC) to transfer \$115,913.20 from the County of Blair's current PCHIPC reserve balance of \$580,563.41 to cover the 2023 funding shortfall.

Resolution 241-2024: Approving the request for the Pennsylvania Counties Health Insurance Purchasing Cooperative (PCHIPC) to transfer \$115,913.20 from the County of Blair's current PCHIPC reserve balance of \$580,563.41 to cover the 2023 funding shortfall.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and approved to adopt Resolution 241-

Commissioners:

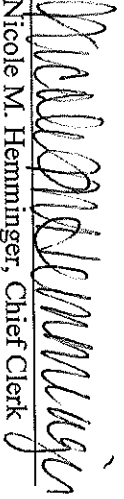
Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger requested approval of the ECMS agreement L00823 between the County of Blair, Keller Engineers, Inc., and PennDOT for the engineering service on the Old Mill Run Bridge (#33), which includes preliminary design, final design, service during construction, and construction inspection, in the maximum agreement cost of \$562,665.92..

Resolution 242-2024: Approving the ECMS agreement L00823 between the County of Blair, Keller Engineers, Inc., and PennDOT for the engineering service on the Old Mill Run Bridge (#33), which includes preliminary design, final design, service during construction, and construction inspection, in the maximum agreement cost of \$562,665.92.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 242-2024.

OLD BUSINESS:
None.

Adjourn:
Motion by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adjourn today's meeting.


Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk

