

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

**Public meetings are being held both in-person and by conference call. To participate in the meeting please dial 1-408-419-1715 or 1-408-915-6290 and enter meeting number 2468097683#*

Call to Order:

Commissioner Erb called the meeting to order.

Moment of Silent Reflection:

Commissioner Erb called for a moment of silent reflection.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

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

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Mark Taylor (911/EMA), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Melissa Harpster and Allison Senkevich (Commissioners), Paul Shaffer (Public Works – Highway), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Sarah Chuff (Finance), Jim Pooler (Public Works – Facilities), Rich Heuther (Farmland Pres. Board), Bonita Shreve (Pres. Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition), Richard Latker and Virginia Tillery (Hollidaysburg WatchDog), Brian Wiser (Keller Engineers), DeAnna Heichel (Assessment), Angela Wagner (Controller), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, January 27, 2022	8:30 a.m.	Planning Commission Meeting (Altoona Water Authority)
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)
Tuesday, February 1, 2022	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)

Approval of Minutes – 12/21/21 and 12/28/21

Motion by Commissioner Burke and second by Commissioner Webster to approve meeting minutes.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for any public comment.

Richard Latker discussed his involvement with the Prison Society and is very happy with the improvements he has been seeing. His point of issue was with the law library and said that the Prison is under court order to maintain access for inmates. He received complaints from inmates that they do not have access to certain information. He discussed an agreement that included certain access granted to inmates and that there are issues that need to be addressed in order to have a functional law library.

Mr. Latker then went on to discuss his involvement with the Hollidaysburg WatchDog organization and the Southern Alleghenies board. He said he went to the board to address the 10 allegations of impropriety and they have substantiated 3 or 4 of those cases. He charged that Southern Alleghenies is refusing to release public information from the federal and state level.

President of the Blair County Coalition, Bonita Shreve read the following statement during the meeting:

“Dear Blair County Commissioners,

As the President of Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition, I have an Obligation to the Good Citizens of Blair County regarding the 2nd Amendment. This Organization was instrumental in getting the Referendums on the November 2nd 2021 Ballot and and Voted for with an Overwhelming Majority.

We are indeed a Political Action Campaign as well as a Registered Organization in the State of Pennsylvania.

We want to Keep the Wording Exactly how it was Stated on the Referendums.

I believe that the following words could start out the Intermunicipal Agreement as Such:

For the People By The People of Blair County Pennsylvania this Day We Enter into a County Wide as well as All 24 Municipalities Intermunicipal Agreement that No Taxpayer Resources shall be used to enforce any legislation passed after November 2nd, 2021 that would Infringe upon an Eligible Citizen's Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Also in Accordance that No other Referendum can over- ride these Referendums without superceeding the full count of votes for both County-wide and All 24 Municipalities. If any Municipalities take any other Referendum that over-rides this Referendum for their own Municipality they Shall still Abide by the County-wide Referendum. If the County-wide Referendum was to be overridden than the Municipalities shall still abide by their Referendum in its own Municipality. In order for any other Referendum to over-ride what these current Referendums state then they must also over-ride Both County-wide and All 24 Municipalities in the Same Election Cycle. This is what Blair County 2nd Amendment Coalition Proposes to Be Fair and Balanced.

I Strongly desire to be on any Task force or Citizens Committee that maybe formed to ensure that the Good Citizens of Blair County are Represented.

Thank you for your Time and Efforts concerning this Matter.

God Bless You, Blair County and Our Great Nation of America Abundantly and Always!

Sincerely,
Bonita Shreve”

Commissioners Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for any commissioners’ comment.

Commissioner Burke expressed her condolences on the passing of Bob Merritt’s, who was a tipstaff and a Korean War veteran. She mentioned he was married for 63 years and was a very kind person.

Commissioner Erb also expressed his sympathies and memories of Mr. Merritt’s efforts in helping the Blair County Children’s home in Williamsburg and other activities for the betterment of youth in the County.

Consent Agenda

Resolution #30-2022:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/25/2022	220125WW	\$276,064.39
01/25/2022	220125SS	\$545,199.49
01/25/2022	220125CY	\$79,311.78

- b. Ratification of the following one-1 Warrant List:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/18/2022	220118FS	\$2,100.03

- c. **2021 Budget Transfer:** Veterans Affairs markers unable to be purchased in 2021 due to supply chain issues.

From	\$	To
01603-42140	\$649.70	36101-42140

- d. **2022 Budget Transfer:** Veterans Affairs grave markers unable to be purchased in 2021 due to supply chain issues.

From	\$	To
36101-42140	\$649.70	01603-42140

- e. **Resignations:** Christina A. Fink, PT, Public Defender, Administrative Support, \$10.50/hr., effective 01/18/2022 and Fred A. Guyer, FT, Judge Doyle, Tipstaff, \$10.65/hr., effective 01/28/2022.
- f. **Employment:** Paulino A. Cuevas, FT, Sheriff, Deputy, \$15.38/hr., effective 01/24/2022.
- g. **Status Change:** Sarah T. Chuff, Pay rate change: from \$1,931.30 biweekly to \$2,027.87 biweekly due to out of class, max 13 pay periods; Diane L. Strohm, Job change: from

Courtroom Clerk to Receptionist/Clerk in Prothonotary's office, adds pension, and increases hours from 999 hours per anniversary year to 1500 hours per anniversary year.

Motion by Commissioner Burke and second by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #30-2022.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS

COVID update:

Mark Taylor provided the following Covid update:

- 1,332 new cases which is 200+ cases from the prior week
- 538 new cases this week
- Increase in cases among school-age children
- 15 deaths from last week with 2 more added this week
- Over 24% positivity rate, 41 people in hospital with 17 on ventilators
- More Omicron cases than the Delta variant, but people aren't as sick and not being hospitalized
- Covid testing site at People's Natural Gas field continuing the rest of this week
 - o Over 3,400 have been tested so far, over 795 tested last week, over 35% of those people were positive
 - o Over 20,000 people have gotten their booster
- Blair County numbers:
 - o 58% of people are vaccinated
 - o Of the 78% of positive cases, 85% in hospital, 84% deaths of unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated)

Blair County Bridge #70/South Poplar Run:

Brian Wiser requested approval for Part 6, Final Design – Notice to Proceed – Rehabilitation project with a scheduled Let Date of 7/28/22 (twelve-12 month duration).

Discussion followed.

Blair County Bridge #67/West Loop Road:

Brian Wiser requested approval for project bids opened by PennDot for Blair County Bridge #67 – Replacement project.

Let Date	Project	Award Date	Rank	Bidders	Bid Total	Contract Amount
01/13/2022	21918		1	Wen-Brooke Contracting Inc.	\$996,818.82	\$996,818.82
			2	JVI Group Inc.	\$1,134,070.30	\$1,134,070.30
			3	Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.	\$1,136,136.00	\$1,136,136.00
			4	Francis J. Palo, Inc.	\$1,159,022.00	\$1,159,022.00
			5	Charles J. Merlo, Inc.	\$1,214,000.00	\$1,214,000.00
			6	Kukurin Contracting, Inc.	\$1,243,950.00	\$1,243,950.00
			7	Clearwater Construction, Inc.	\$1,308,777.00	\$1,308,777.00
			8	C.H. & D. Enterprises Inc.	\$1,312,458.69	\$1,312,458.69
			9	New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc.	\$1,364,372.40	\$1,364,372.40
			10	HRI, Inc.	\$1,377,726.00	\$1,377,726.00
			11	Allison Park Contractors, Inc.	\$1,550,000.00	\$1,550,000.00

Chief Clerk Hemminger advised the Commissioners that PennDot is ready for award of the bid at the Commissioner's meeting and clarified the Resolution would be for the acceptance of the bids and awarding the bid to Wen Brooke Contracting Inc. who was the lowest bidder.

Discussion followed.

Resolution #32-2022: A resolution requesting approval of project bids for the Blair County Bridge #67 replacement project.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, second by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #32-2022.

Blair County Bridge #73/Freedom Township:

Brian Wiser requested approval and signature of a proposal of service between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers for supplemental design, project management, shop drawing review, and construction consultation for additional repairs discovered during construction of Bridge #73 in the total amount of \$12,490.00 (lump sum plus estimated costs).

Commissioner Burke asked Brian about the lifespan of the bridge and he advised her that it was between 5-10 years after the repairs are complete.

Discussion followed.

Blair County Salt Storage Building Project:

Brian Wisner requested approval and signature of a proposal of service between the County of Blair and Keller Engineers for structural design, land development, storm water management plan, erosion & sedimentation control plan, documents & bidding, shop drawing review, construction consultation, and electrical design services in the total amount of \$55,860.00.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the total amount of the project would be a liquid fuels expenditure.

Discussion followed.

Agricultural Land Conservation Board:

Rich Heuther requested approval and signature of a contract between Agrarian Associates, Inc. and Blair County to conduct an easement appraisal of the Leonard R. Burket Estate Home Farm.

Mr. Heuther said that the Leonard R. Burket Farm would be the 59th farm to be appraised.

Chief Clerk Hemminger added that the \$1,650.00 would be reimbursed at the closing through the state program.

Discussed followed.

Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program:

Nicole Hemminger requested approval and signature of the 2022 Certification of County Funds for the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation program.

Chief Clerk Hemminger discussed that the \$70,000.00 of the \$82,888.00 would be from the Marcellus Shale Fund (and not the General Fund). The remaining balance is interest/penalty of Clean and Green rollbacks.

Discussion followed.

Assessment Office:

DeAnna Heichel requested approval and signature of an independent contractor agreement between the County of Blair and Pittsburgh Realty Valuation, Inc. DBA Integra Realty Resources – Pittsburgh, effective 1/1/2022 through 12/31/22 or sooner if all court appeals filed in 2021 for the 2022 assessment year have concluded.

Discussion followed.

Elections/Voter Registration:

Sarah Seymour requested approval and signature of two Election Polling Place Lease Agreements between the County of Blair and the property owners (Municipal/Federal Government and Privately-Owned Facility) for the May 17, 2022 Primary Election and the November 8, 2022 Election.

Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement:

Continued discussion.

Commissioner Erb reiterated that anyone wishing to make a public comment can submit their comments via email to publiccomment@blairco.org.

The Commissioners advised they have no comments at this time and are waiting for additional requested information.

Adjourn:
Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk