

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 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:

John McGinnis (Public) Edwin Figart (Public), Karen Longenecker (Public), Herb Longenecker (Public), Cindy Walls (Public), Richard Latker (Public), Rhonda Holland (Public), Donald D. Corl (Public), Angela Wagner (Controller's Office), Nicole Smith (Court Administration), Jim Pooler (Maintenance), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Janet Wasserman (Public), Cathy Schemminger (Public), Babette Gottshall (Public), Drew M. Baker (Public), Edward Falee (Public), Jenn Sleppy and Sarah Chuff (Finance), Rev. Roy A. Stewart (Public), Bonita Shreve (Public), Gang Tang (Public), Ying Li (Public), Gary G. Dull (Public), George Letcher, Jr. (Public), Jamie Scarangella (Public), Donna Haines (Public), Ronald Wiser (Public), Theresa Rudy (Social Services), Cheryl Rupp, (Family Services), Cheryl Gonsman (Family Services), Ashley Gay (Family Services) and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office).

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, January 11, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Airport Authority Meeting (Blair County Airport)
Wednesday, January 12, 2022		
Thursday, January 13, 2022	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session (Commissioners Mtg. Rm., Basement)
Friday, January 14, 2022		
Monday, January 17, 2022		Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Courthouse Closed
Tuesday, January 18, 2022	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Mtg. Rm., Basement)

Executive Session Announcement:

Chief Clerk Hemminger announced that she, the three-3 Commissioners and HR Director Katherine Swigart met in Executive Session beginning at 9:00 a.m., today, Tuesday, January 11, 2022 to discuss matters pertaining to a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Approval of Minutes – 11/30/21, 12/2/21, 12/7/21, and 12/9/21:

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 11/30/21, 12/2/21, 12/7/21 and 12/9/21. There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb shared the Blair County Board of Commissioners Public Comment Policy listed below:

**Blair County Board of Commissioners
Public Comment Policy**

Public comment and participation in decisions made by governing bodies is an essential component to county government. The Blair County Board of Commissioners encourages public participation in the various matters that it addresses.

In order to provide adequate opportunities for public comment and participation in a manner that will contribute to the overall effectiveness of the decisions made by the Blair County Board of Commissioners, the Board has established certain procedures to follow.

Procedures are designed to provide the maximum opportunity to all members of the public to present their views and opinions on various matters of importance that confront the Board. The following

procedures will be followed at all Blair County Board of Commissioners meetings to allow for public participation:

- 1) Public comment will occur at the properly designated place on the regular Board Agenda. On most Agendas, public discussion will occur at the item labeled "Public Comment".
- 2) Any individual who wishes to address the Board must be a resident of Blair County. Non-residents must own property in Blair County or represent a business or organization located in Blair County in order to address the Board.
- 3) Any individual who wishes to address the Board must state their full name, street address, and the address of the Blair County property they own or the business they represent if they are not a resident, and municipality so that it may be recorded in the Minutes.
- 4) Any individual who wishes to address the Board will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their statement(s).
- 5) The Board will not take any formal action or vote during public comment. If the comment is made on an agenda item, the action will be taken at an appropriate time in the meeting.
- 6) Any individual is free, at any time, to submit written comments and testimony to the
- 7) Commissioners by mail, fax, or e-mail.

In general, the purpose of Public Comment is for the public to make comments on any item considered by the Board as part of the Agenda or on any other item of community interest. Individuals addressing the Commissioners should confine their remarks to statements of opinion, information, or fact. The Public Comment section of the Agenda is not intended to be a debate. Rather, it is intended to be an orderly presentation to help the Board in making its decisions on various issues confronting the County. The Chair may rule, out of order, any comment that is not appropriate to the intent of this policy.

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Richard Latker, President of the Prison Society and President of the Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog Group, expressed his concern that the draft Second Amendment Referendum was not nearly robust enough. He urged the Commissioners to revise it. Mr. Latker suggested thousands of dollars are being spent by Southern Alleghenies, which the Commissioners sit on, in legal fees to prevent the Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog Group from obtaining the proposals in the Open Records office. The money, he claims, is being spent on broadband infrastructure.

Rhonda Holland, Blair County Tea Party President suggested that a citizens group be formed to assist with working on the agreement and that it currently doesn't have "any teeth". She spoke about statistics from the FBI on violent crime. She expressed that she feels we do not need more gun laws and that citizens need to be able to defend themselves.

Donald Corle, Frankstown Township resident shared a few brief words and stated he felt the draft was a good starting point; however, it needs further work and development and cites it "lacks teeth".

Trish Height stated if the 2nd Amendment Referendum is not for citizenry, then please do not strategize. She asked the board why they are ready for political backlash.

Ms. Height stated that safety concerns at the county's Central Court Building have been ongoing since 2009 with no policy changes made. She urged the board to address the safety concerns in order to avoid future safety issues/and or attacks.

Reverend Roy Steward stated that he worked at obtaining signatures on the petitions for the referendum. Reverend Steward stated that residents are concerned and upset in our county.

Pastor Gary Dull stated that he believes our 1st Amendment is at risk with the attack on the 2nd Amendment.

Bonita Shreve, Coalition President stated that she felt the intergovernmental referendum draft lacked enforcement measures and penalties.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners' comments.

Commissioner Webster thanked those in attendance for their comments regarding the Amendment Referendum and their efforts in accomplishing their goals of getting the referendum on the ballot. She reiterated the process of how the Referendum gets passed. She agrees with and supports the idea of having a group of citizens come together for overseeing the process.

Commissioner Burke encouraged more people to come to the meetings and speak during public comment. She addressed the public comment made on Central Court Security.

Proclamation – National Stalking Awareness Month:

Commissioner Burke read and requested adoption of the following proclamation:

**National Stalking Awareness Month Proclamation
January 2022**

Whereas, under the laws of all fifty states, the U.S. Territories, the District of Columbia, and federal government, stalking is a crime; and

Whereas, 6-7.5 million people are stalked in a one-year period in the United States, and the majority of victims are stalked by someone they know; and

Whereas, 3 in 4 women killed by an intimate partner have been stalked by that intimate partner; and

Whereas, many stalking victims lose time from work and experience serious psychological distress and lost productivity at a much higher rate than the general population; and

Whereas, many stalking victims are forced to protect themselves by relocating, changing their identities, changing jobs, and obtaining protection orders; and

Whereas, many stalkers use technology—such as cell phones, global positioning systems (GPS), cameras, and spyware—to monitor and track their victims; and

Whereas, there is a need for great public awareness about the nature, criminality, and potential lethality of stalking; and

Whereas, criminal justice systems can enhance their responses to stalking by regular training and assertive investigation and prosecution of the crime; and

Whereas, laws and public policies must be continually adapted to keep pace with new tactics used by stalkers; and

Whereas, communities can better combat stalking by adopting multidisciplinary responses by teams of local agencies and organizations and by providing more and better victim services; and

Whereas, the Blair County Board of Commissioners is joining forces with Family Services, law enforcement, and concerned citizens throughout Blair County and the United States to observe National Stalking Awareness Month; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Blair County Board of Commissioner, do hereby proclaim January 2022 as STALKING AWARENESS MONTH and applaud the efforts of the Victim Service Program of Family Services Incorporated for their efforts in promoting awareness about stalking.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #11-2022:

- a. Payment of the following four-4 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/07/22	220111WW	\$175,759.38
01/11/22	220111SS	\$347,598.04
01/11/22	220111TD	\$240,305.03
01/11/22	220111CY	\$219,880.57

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- Thomas and Chandra Jandora, in the total amount of \$1,550.00.

- b. Ratification of the following ten-10 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/06/2022	220106HR	\$6,985.19
01/05/2022	220105FP	\$279,473.29
01/04/2022	220104WW	\$52,449.64
01/04/2022	220104CO	\$18,626.18
01/04/2022	220104SS	\$23,860.00
01/03/2022	220103HI	\$560,437.23
01/03/2022	220103FS	\$1,991.74

01/01/2022	220103FN	\$117,016.69
12/30/2021	212330HR	\$15,229.34
12/27/2021	211227FS	\$1,661.93

- c. **Blair County Drug & Alcohol Program:** Requesting approval for use of the Courthouse Courtyard Area from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, August 6, 2022 to conduct the Central PA Recovery Walk Rally.
- d. **Resignations:** Edward G. Luciano, Per Diem, Fill-In Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.38/hr., effective 01/03/22; Chantal M. Sisko, FT, GIS Mapper/UPI Coordinator 1, Assessment, \$14.64/hr., effective 01/07/22; Eric A. George, Per Diem, Fill-In Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.38/hr., effective 01/14/22; and Tammie J. McCahan, PT, Receptionist/Clerk, Costs and Fines, \$10.51/hr., effective 01/14/22.
- e. **Retirements:** Todd A. Vaughn, FT, Maintenance Technician/Equipment Operator, Highway, \$20.76/hr., effective 01/07/22; and James Garlick, FT, Truck Driver and Vector Control, \$20.61/hr., effective 01/08/22.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payment of an invoice to Thomas and Chandra Jandora due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution #11-2022 with abstention as noted.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

COVID Update:

Mark Taylor stated that since his last COVID update there were over seven-hundred (700) positive cases reported with four-hundred-fifty (450) of those cases reported this week. He stated that sadly there were five (5) deaths and sixty-two (62) hospitalizations reported. Both variants are being reported of those hospitalized; however, the Omicron variant cases are less severe.

Mr. Taylor stated that COVID testing continues today through Friday at the Blair County Convention Center from 9 am to 6 pm daily. He stated that two-hundred-seventy-five (275) persons who tested at the Convention Center had a positive test result.

Elections/Voter Registration:

Sarah Seymour requested approval of a Professional Services Agreement by and between the County of Blair and NPC Inc. for election professional services relating to managing data, printing, mailing and/or other related digital solutions and services for the 2022 General Primary and Election as outlined in Exhibit A (Statement of Work) with pricing as listed below:

Mail-In/Absentee Ballot Package with Windowed Outer Envelope (Includes ballot up to 1 sheet, double sided - 8 1/2" x 14"; outer, return and secrecy envelope; and instruction sheet)	\$1.49/mail package
Annual Mail-In Ballot Application Mailing	\$0.19/mail package
Flat Program Management & Set-up Fee per Election	\$7,500

Ms. Seymour stated that the request is for a renewal Agreement and Statement of Work for election professional services relating to managing data, printing, mailing, and/or other related digital solutions and services for the 2022 General Primary and Election.

Ms. Seymour stated that the total cost to the county would depend upon the number of mail-in/absentee ballots requested. She stated that the pricing reflects a .04 cent increase from last year with everything else remaining the same.

Discussion followed.

Finance:

Rebecca Robinson requested approval for authorization to participate in the Costar's contract for the purchase of between 180 and 420 tons of sodium chloride (road salt) at a price to be determined by the bidding process for the participation period of August 2022 through July 2023, and authorization for the Blair County Procurement Specialist to submit the request on behalf of the County of Blair.

Ms. Robinson stated that this is a yearly request and without being part of the Costar's salt contract the county would have to bid out on their own or purchase from whatever company could provide us with salt at any given time. She stated that the tonnage price would be determined once the state has the total quantity they will be bidding for. Last year's rate was \$75.45/ton.

Discussion followed.

Social Services:

Theresa Rudy requested approval of a Purchase of Service Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Social Services and the Law Office of Stephen D. Wicks for Mental Health Procedures Act (MHPA) legal representation, both consultative and court appearances, at the rate of \$160.00/per hour for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Mrs. Rudy stated that Solicitor Karn reviewed the agreement for FY 21/22.

Discussion followed.

Valley View Park:

Melissa Harpster requested approval for maintenance/repair services to the Valley View Park tractor/mower in an amount not to exceed \$650.00.

Mrs. Harpster stated that when Valley View Park closes for the season the county's Highway Department completes routine maintenance and repairs to the park's operating equipment. She stated that the park's tractor/mower is in need of approximately \$650.00 in repairs, and that the Park and Recreation Advisory Board approved to recommend that the Board of Commissioners consider an allocation of the Park and Recreation Reserve Account #035 not to exceed \$650.00 for the needed repairs.

Discussion followed.

Second Amendment Sanctuary Referendum Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement:

Introductory discussions on the initial draft of the agreement and discussions concerning the process and timeline for approval.

Chief Clerk Hemminger read the following Press Release, "Introduction of Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for Sanctuary Referendum":

Today, the Board of Commissioners will have their first opportunity to discuss the required intergovernmental agreement the County must enter with all of the municipalities in the County as a result of the referendum approved at the November general election. At the November general election, the voters in each of the 24 municipalities and the County approved a referendum requiring all 25 municipalities to enter into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement declaring a Second Amendment Sanctuary and prohibiting the use of public funds in violation of the Second Amendment. The solicitors for all the municipalities have collaboratively developed a draft agreement so each municipality can discuss the draft with the public in accordance with the Sunshine Act. Having a common starting point will help to prevent having 25 different versions of the agreement under consideration. It is necessary that every municipality agree to a single document that encompasses the extent of the cooperation.

While this draft agreement addresses the question approved by the voters and legally complies with the laws related to intergovernmental cooperation agreements, this draft agreement only serves as a means of creating a common starting point for which public input can be obtained under the Sunshine Act. Having gotten to this stage in the process, the solicitors' roles will be limited to advising the board of their municipalities with the process to approve the final agreement by resolution. This stage could not have occurred until all municipalities had their reorganization meetings on January 3. It is anticipated that the City, boroughs and townships will have this draft agreement on their agendas in February.

Each of the Councils or Boards will be individually responsible for handling how they gather input from the public, how long they allow for input, what input they wish to implement, and what matters they want their solicitor to research. The ultimate goal is to reach a final, single agreement. In light of the fact that 25 municipalities have to approve the agreement, it is unknown at this time when the municipalities will be in a position to proceed to adoption of a final agreement.

Commissioner Webster stated that she is in agreement with the suggestion for the formation of an Advisory Committee. She would recommend that one-1 representative from each of the 25 municipalities be selected to serve on the committee.

Commissioner Burke stated that she feels there is ample opportunity for residents to express their opinion and encourages Public Comment; however, she is opposed to the suggestion of the formation of an Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Erb stated that he agrees with Commissioner Burke's comments and questions the formation of an Advisory Committee.

Old Business:

None

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk