

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 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:

Brooke Lafferty (Prison), Lindsay Dempsie and Brandon Meek (Finance), Allison Senkevich and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Mark Taylor and Emily States (Public Safety), Cindy James (Social Services), Tiffany Treese and Mindy Hostler (CYF), A.C. Stickle (Controller), Brian Walters (Human Resources), Judy Rosser and Amanda Humphreys (Drugs & Alcohol), Joe Keller and Chuck Gjimerac (Parks & Recreation Commission), Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel), and Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Nicole Hemminger confirmed an Executive Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 16 at 9:00 AM with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, Brian Endler, and Gregory Schrock, from TransSystems, and herself to discuss the purchase of land.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 4/11

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for public comment. There were no comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Kessling called for commissioner comments. There were no comments.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Commissioner Webster read the following proclamation:

**Proclamation
Jury Appreciation Week
April 28- May 4, 2024**

WHEREAS, the right to trial by jury is one of the core values of American citizenship; and
WHEREAS, the obligation and privilege to serve as a juror are as fundamental to our democracy as the right to vote; and
WHEREAS, our court depends on citizens to serve as jurors; and
WHEREAS, service by citizens as jurors is indispensable to the judicial system; and
WHEREAS, all citizens should be encouraged to respond when summoned for jury service; and
WHEREAS, a continuing and imperative goal for the courts, the bar, and the broader community is to ensure that jury selection and jury service are fair, effective, and not unduly burdensome on anyone; and
WHEREAS, one of the most significant actions a court system can take is to show appreciation for the jury system and for the tens of thousands of citizens who annually give their time and talents to serve on juries.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Blair County Commissioners, together with the Blair County Court of Common Pleas in the County of Blair, be committed to the following goals:

- Educating the public about jury duty and the importance of jury service;
 - Applauding the efforts of jurors who fulfill their civic duty;
 - Ensuring that the responsibility of jury service is shared fairly by supporting employees who are called upon to serve as jurors;
 - Ensuring that the responsibility for jury service is shared fairly among citizens and that a fair cross section of the community is called for jury service; ensuring that all jurors are treated with respect and that their service is not unduly burdensome;
 - Providing jurors with tools that will assist their decision making; and
 - Continuing to improve the jury system by encouraging productive dialogue between jurors and court officials.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the week of April 28- May 4, 2024 be designated “Jury Appreciation Week” in Blair County and that the undersigned support the celebration of this week, in collaboration with “Law Day” on May 1, 2024, which shall include various activities in pursuit of the above goals.

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

David Kessling, President

Attest:

Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

Nicole Hemminger, Chief Clerk

Laura O. Burke, Secretary

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

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation:

Proclamation
NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH
April 2024

WHEREAS, in Federal fiscal year 2022, nearly 3.1 million reports were made to child protective services; and, **WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and, **WHEREAS**, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of the Blair County; and, **WHEREAS**, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and, **WHEREAS**, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and, **WHEREAS**, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and, **WHEREAS**, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and, **WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and, **WHEREAS**, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of April as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH** in Blair County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

David Kessling, President

Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

Laura O. Burke, Secretary

Nicole Hemminger, Chief Clerk

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

Tiffany Treese, from Children, Youth and Families, mentioned that CYF will be holding a ceremony on April 23, 2024 at 12:00pm in recognition of National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month. The event will feature reading and singing from the students at Kids First, as well as guest speakers President Judge Wade Kagarise and District Attorney Pete Weeks. Ms. Treese added with 123,132 people in Blair County, of which there are 50,000 families, the CYF office received over 3,000 reports of child abuse which is 4% of the families in the county.

Commissioner Kessling read the following proclamation:

Proclamation
National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week
April 14 - 20, 2024

WHEREAS emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services; and, **WHEREAS** when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and, **WHEREAS** the safety of our police officers, firefighters and paramedics is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Blair County 911E Center; and, **WHEREAS** Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and, **WHEREAS** Public Safety Telecommunicators are the single vital link for our police officers, firefighters and paramedics by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them information and ensuring their safety; and, **WHEREAS** Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Blair County 911E Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and, **WHEREAS** each dispatcher has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of April 14th - 20th, 2024 as "National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week", in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

DULX, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 16th day of April 2024.

BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

David Kessling, President

Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

Laura O. Burke, Secretary

Nicole Hemminger, Chief Clerk

Attest:

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

Emily States from 911E, expressed her appreciation for the Commissioner's recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 195 – 2024:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/19/2024	240419CY	72,989.62
04/16/2024	240416WW	583,554.60
04/16/2024	240416SS	179,460.65

b. Ratification of the following 6-six Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/09/2024	240409ML	28,370.45
04/10/2024	240410RA	7,476.93
04/10/2024	240410TC	550,246.27
04/10/2024	240410FP	253,803.03
04/11/2024	240411HR	17,059.83
04/08/2024	240408FS	3,010.85

• Which includes payments to Thomas and Chandra Jandora in the total amount of \$1,550.00, Blair Senior Services in the total amount of \$161,491.70, and Hollidaysburg Borough in the total amount of \$151.00.

c. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover maintenance on county vehicles:

From	\$	To
01103HW-44730 Highway	\$60.00	01151-44730 Sheriff

d. **Park & Recreation Advisory Board:** Requesting approval for the re-appointment of Philip T. Riccio and the appointment of Michael C. Kessling, filling expired term of Galen Bickel, to the Advisory Board for the period of 5/01/2024 through 4/30/2027.

e. **Resignations:** Lyczkowski, Joseph J., FT, Parole & Probation Officer, APO, \$16.71/hr., effective 4/8/2024; Kennedy, Linda L., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/10/2024.

f. **Employments:** Espenlaub, Eric C., Seasonal, Groundskeeper, Public Works – Highway, \$14.42/hr., effective 4/15/2024; Leaper, Daniel L., FT, Maintenance Technician, Public Works – Facilities, \$19.52/hr., effective 4/15/2024; Starr, Mallory R., FT, Administrative Assistant, APO, \$13.80/hr., effective 4/15/2024.

g. **Status Change:** Brehm, Jennifer L., from FT, District Court Administrative Support, MDJ Miller, \$11.87/hr., to FT, Probation Officer Aide, APO, \$11.87/hr., effective 4/22/2024.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstentions on the payments to Blair Senior Service, Hollidaysburg Borough, and Thomas and Chandra Jandora due to a conflict of interest.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster to approve to adopt Resolution 195-2024 with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Blair County Drug and Alcohol:

Judy Rosser and Amanda Humphreys requested approval of the submission of the FY 24-25 Intermediate Punishment, Probation with Restrictive Conditions Grant #43927, the Intermediate Punishment Plan, and the Program Authorization Form to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the period of 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025 in the total amount of \$315,000.00.

Ms. Rosser added this grant helps to support Blair County Drug and Alcohol with the costs of urine testers, treatment programs, supplies, DUI and Drug Court costs, and 3 probation positions, which costs around \$163,000.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted this item would need reviewed by the solicitor and could be approved pending solicitor approval.

Resolution 196-2024: Approving submission of the FY 24-25 Intermediate Punishment, Probation with Restrictive Conditions Grant #43927, the Intermediate Punishment Plan, and the Program Authorization Form to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the period of 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025 in the total amount of \$315,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 196-2024 pending solicitor approval.

Public Safety:

Mark Taylor requested approval of a Preventative Maintenance Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services E-911, and PALCO Power Systems for the maintenance of one Blair County 911 commercial vehicle generator for the period of 4/01/2024 through 3/21/2025 in the total amount of \$874.96 (for one annual visit).

Resolution 197-2024: Approving the Preventative Maintenance Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Department of Emergency Services E-911, and PALCO Power Systems for the maintenance of one Blair County 911 commercial vehicle generator for the period of 4/01/2024 through 3/21/2025 in the total amount of \$874.96 (for one annual visit).

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 197-2024.

Social Services:

Cindy James requested ratification of the Letter of Support for the Blair Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc. for their grant application for 24-02 Substance Use Disorder Drop in Centers to the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Ms. James added the \$750,000 grant application was due Friday 4/12/2024. She mentioned the majority of the grant money would be used at the Hope Drop-In Center to assist with the number of overdose deaths since Covid.

Ms. Rosser mentioned that, of the drugs on the street, an estimated 78% are laced with Fentanyl and Xylazine. Liquid Fentanyl and the emergence of “fake” pills are also coming into the country in increasing numbers.

Resolution 198-2024: Approving the ratification of the Letter of Support for the Blair Drug and Alcohol Program, Inc. for their grant application for 24-02 Substance Use Disorder Drop in Centers to the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 198-2024.

Children Youth, and Families:

Mindy Hostler requested approval of the Amendment Form between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and ZOOM to amend the existing contract for the purchase of a room connector in the total prorated amount of \$185.42 for the remainder of the contract.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted this item would need reviewed by the solicitor and could be approved pending solicitor approval.

Resolution 199-2024: Approving the Amendment Form between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and ZOOM to amend the existing contract for the purchase of a room connector in the total prorated amount of \$185.42 for the remainder of the contract.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 199-2024 pending solicitor approval.

II:

- i. Don Weakland requested approval of the first amendment to Technical Services Agreement #3 between the County of Blair and Zito Media Communications, LLC, dba Zito Business, to provide voice service for the 911-E Center to extend the expiration date from 8/25/2023 to 4/30/2024 at a monthly recurring cost of \$818.00.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted this item would need reviewed by the solicitor and could be approved pending solicitor approval.

Resolution 200-2024: Approving the first amendment to Technical Services Agreement #3 between the County of Blair and Zito Media Communications, LLC, dba Zito Business, to provide voice service for the 911-E Center to extend the expiration date from 8/25/2023 to 4/30/2024 at a monthly recurring cost of \$818.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 200-2024 pending solicitor approval.

- ii. Don Weakland requested approval of Technical Service Agreement #4 between the County of Blair and Zito Media Communications, LLC, dba Zito Business, to provide voice service for the period of 5/1/2024 through 4/30/2025 at a monthly recurring cost of \$615.60.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted this item would need reviewed by the solicitor and could be approved pending solicitor approval.

Resolution 201-2024: Approving the Technical Service Agreement #4 between the County of Blair and Zito Media Communications, LLC, dba Zito Business, to provide voice service for the 911-E Center for the period of 5/1/2024 through 4/30/2025 at a monthly recurring cost of \$615.60.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 201-2024 pending solicitor approval.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board:

Joe Keller and Chuck Gojmerac requested approval of an allocation of \$7,000 for community based grants. Each grant would be eligible for a maximum award of \$1,000.

President Keller noted this request is supported fully in the Park & Recreation budget.

Commissioner Burke stated that repairing the road at Valley View Park is a priority for her and therefore, she will not be voting in favor of any grants being given to the community until there is a plan for the parking lot repair.

Commissioner Webster agreed with Commissioner Burke. She added the parking lot is a safety issue and needs to be addressed before any grants are given out.

Mr. Keller stated the Park & Recreation Advisory Board will be doing a needs assessment and anticipates these issues will be addressed shortly thereafter.

No motion or second. This item did not pass.

Commissioners:

Allison Senkevich requested approval to submit an application for the 2023-2024 PCoRP Loss Prevention Grant Program to include upgrading two windows with bullet-resistant glass at one of our MDJ locations in the total amount of \$4,867.04, the purchase of two FloorTrak Floor Cable Covers for the IT Department in the total amount of \$369.66, and the purchase of two AirFiber Wireless Bridges for the IT Department in the total amount of \$2,180.94.

Ms. Senkevich stated the total grant amount was \$30,000. The first submission was awarded on February 15, 2024 for \$22,596.00. This second submission is for the remaining balance in the total amount of \$7,404.00.

Resolution 202-2024: Approving the submission of the application for the 2023-2024 PCoRP Loss Prevention Grant Program to include upgrading two windows with bullet-resistant glass at one of our MDJ locations in the total amount of \$4,867.04, the purchase of two FloorTrak Floor Cable Covers for the IT Department in the total amount of \$369.66, and the purchase of two AirFiber Wireless Bridges for the IT Department in the total amount of \$2,180.94.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 202-2024.

Prison:

Brooke Lafferty requested approval of the award or rejection of the bids received for two-2 milk products for the Blair County Prison.

Vendor	Pint Price	Gallon Price
Vale Wood Farms	State Min. Price +\$	State Min. Price +\$
Ritchey's Dairy	State Min. Price +\$	State Min. Price +\$

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated there was an issue with the original bids submitted through the Penn Bid system. A clarification form was requested from each bidder.

Chief Clerk Hemminger added that Vale Wood Farms did not choose to submit the clarification form. Ritchey's Dairy submitted a clarification form stating they would charge only the State Minimum Pricing. At this time she requested the board take action to reject the bid of Vale Wood as incomplete and award to Ritchey's Dairy at the State Minimum Price.

Resolution 203-2024: Approving the award and rejection of the bids received for two-2 milk products for the Blair County Prison.

Vendor	Pint Price	Gallon Price
Vale Wood Farms	State Min. Price +\$0.00 did not resubmit	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00 did not resubmit
Ritchey's Dairy	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00	State Min. Price +\$ 0.00

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 203-2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

Requesting approval of a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Blair County Parking Garage Stair Tower Repair Project dated October 20, 2023.

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested that this item be held for a future meeting pending outstanding questions.

Adjourn:

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adjourn today's meeting.



Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk

