

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioner's Meeting Room, Basement.

**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:

Cris Fredrickson (Department of Emergency Services), Melissa Harpster (Commissioner's Office), Allison Seidel (Victim/Witness), Rich Huether (Ag Land Preservation), Sherry Socie (Planning Commission), Angela Wagner (Controller's Office), Brandon Meck and Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Jim Hudack (Social Services), Nicole Smith and Scott Schultz (Court Administration), Carol A. Dannenberg and Bryan King (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Katherine Swigart (Human Resources), Jim Ott and Kermit Alwine (Sheriff's Office), Ashley Gay Vocco, Cayli Gil, Cheryl Gonsman, and Alex Ross-Schnaubett (Family Services Inc.), Sue St Martin (Tax Claim) David Kessler and Jody Gill (Public).

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, October 11, 2022	7:00 p.m.	Blair County Airport Authority (Blair County Airport)
Wednesday, October 12, 2022		
Thursday, October 13, 2022	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioner's Business Session (Commissioner's Meeting Room)
Friday, October 14, 2022		
Monday, October 17, 2022	3:00 p.m.	ABCD Corp. Board Meeting (ABCD Corp.)
Tuesday, October 18, 2022	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioner's Work Session (Commissioner's Meeting Room)

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 09/27/22 and 09/29/22

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the minutes of 09/27/22 and 09/29/22.

There were no corrections or changes noted.

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

Public Comment:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment. **There were no comments noted.**

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Webster shared a few brief words acknowledging the Down on the Farm Event held this past Thursday evening, October 6 and the Fort Roberdeau Haunted Halloween Event held this past Saturday evening, October 8. She extended a thank you to all those involved with putting together these two-2 events and for those who participated in them.

Commissioner Burke announced that today is International Day of the Girl Child 2022. International Day of the Girl Child is observed to bring awareness to the gender inequality that girls from all around the world are confronted with.

Commissioner Erb had no comments today.

Proclamation: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2022

WHEREAS, domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive behavior used by one person to gain power and control over another in an intimate or familial relationship. It is a crime that violates an individual’s privacy, dignity, security and humanity by use of physical, emotional, sexual, religious, and financial control; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is prevalent in every community, and effects all people regardless of age, socioeconomic status, education level, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, or nationality; and

WHEREAS, the devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime for individuals and society as a whole not only here in Blair County, but throughout the United States and the world.

WHEREAS, it is survivors themselves who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring peace and equality to the home and working to create a society with a zero tolerance for domestic violence and where they and others like them can be heard; and

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Blair County, take this opportunity to recognize the important work done by Family Services Incorporated, and do hereby proclaim the month of October to be ***Domestic Violence Awareness Month*** and urge all Blair County citizens to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs to work toward improving victim safety and holding perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their actions against individual victims and our society as a whole.

DULY ADOPTED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 4th Day of October 2022.

ATTEST:

Nicole Hemminger, Chief Clerk

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Bruce Erb, Chairman

Laura Burke, Vice-Chairman

Amy Webster, Secretary

Staff members from Family Services Incorporated shared a few brief words pertaining to Domestic Violence Awareness Month and extended a thank you to the Board for the recognition and Proclamation.

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

Consent Agenda:

Resolution #402-2022:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/11/2022	221011SS	\$311,304.60
10/11/2022	221011CY	\$303,824.70
10/11/2022	221011WW	\$301,574.98

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- Blair County Community Action Agency, in the total amount of \$2,311.72.
- Thomas and Chandra Jandora, in the total amount of \$1,500.00.

b. Ratification of the following eight-8 Warrant Lists:

10/05/2022	221005ML	\$ 31,840.83
10/07/2022	221007FP	\$250,018.47
10/04/2022	221004MW	\$ 599.15
10/04/2022	221004WC	\$ 10,374.94
10/06/2022	221006HR	\$ 12,628.66
10/03/2022	221003HI	\$525,971.70
10/03/2022	221003FS	\$ 1,182.42
10/01/2022	221001FN	\$117,011.75

c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated October 6, 2022, in the total amount of \$842,805.57.

d. **2022 Budget Transfer:** Charges received from Justifacts for the month of September 2022.

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$36.25	76201713-42000 APO
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$105.28	01107-42000 Assessment
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$447.97	013201-42000 CYF
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$174.60	01160WK-42000 Judge Kagarise
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$58.25	01160CO-42000 Custody
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$112.63	011062-42000 Elections
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$175.88	01153-42000 Prothonotary
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$145.23	01157-42000 Public Defender
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$206.78	01151-42000 Sheriff

e. **Bridge #67/West Loop Road Replacement Project:**

Requesting approval of ECMS submission, Estimate 006, in the total amount of \$14,345.54, received from Wen-Brooke Contracting Inc. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

- f. **Employment:** Sue Ann Feather, PT, Treasurer Clerk, Treasurer's Office, \$11.58/hr., effective 10/11/22; and Amanda R. Parizack, FT, Parole and Probation Officer, APO, \$16.30/hr., effective 10/11/22.
- g. **Resignations:** Skyler A. McMullen, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$20.59/hr., effective 09/19/22; Brandon M. Amigh, FT, Caseworker 1, CYF, \$16.70/hr., effective 10/11/22; Lawrence A. Hagg, Seasonal, Groundskeeper, Public Works, \$14.61/hr., effective 10/13/22 and Christian A. Kerstetter, PT, Assistant Public Defender, Public Defender's Office, \$32,792.50/yr., effective 10/14/22.

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

Commissioner Erb noted his abstention due to a conflict of interest on the payment of invoices to Blair County Community Action Agency.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 402-2022 with the abstentions as noted.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Adoption of Ordinance 1-2022:

An Ordinance designating a certain deteriorated area within the corporate limits of the County of Blair as being eligible for LERTA designation, pursuant to the Act of December 1, 1977, P.L. 237, 72 P.S. section 4722 and for RLERTA designation, pursuant to Act No. 34 of July 9, 1971, P.L. 206, 72 P.S. section 4711-101. The eligible location is the entirety of the Townships of Catharine and Woodbury and the Borough of Williamsburg. The ordinance provides for exemption from County real property taxes at the rate of 100% for year one, 80% for year two, 60% for year three, 40% for year four and 20% for year five. The exemption terminates after the fifth year. The ordinance shall terminate ten (10) years from the effective date of January 1, 2023, unless otherwise repealed or extended by the County of Blair.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that an advertisement recently ran for the adoption of Ordinance 1-2022 designating a certain deteriorated area within the corporate limits of the Townships of Catharine and Woodbury and the Borough of Williamsburg as being eligible for LERTA and RLERTA designation. She stated that two-2 public meetings were held regarding the LERTA and RLERTA designation.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated should the board adopt the ordinance it would become effective on January 1, 2023 and would terminate ten (10) years from the effective date, unless otherwise repealed or extended by the county. The eligible location would be provided exemption from county real estate taxes at the rate of 100% for year one, 80% for year two, 60% for year three, 40% for year four and 20% for year 5, with the exemption terminating after year 5.

Discussion followed.

Agricultural Land Preservation:

- i. Rich Huether requested approval of a Contract for Services between the County of Blair and Agrarian Associates Inc., for an easement appraisal of the Linda M. Longenecker-Kensinger Farm, in the total amount of \$2,500.00. Said cost will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of easement settlement.

Mr. Huether stated the appraisal would be for an approximate 76 acre easement. This easement would be the 60th easement in Blair County.

Mr. Huether stated that Solicitor Karn reviewed the contract.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Rich Huether requested approval of an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair, Jointly in Perpetuity and the Leonard R. Burket Estate Farm Easement, located in Huston Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the purchase price of \$196,875.81, with the Commonwealth paying \$141,880.40 and the County of Blair paying \$55,000.00.

Mr. Huether stated the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase is for the county's 59th easement. The easement consists of 129 acres located in Huston Township, Williamsburg, PA.

Mr. Huether stated the easement purchase price is in the total amount of \$196,875.81, with the Commonwealth paying \$141,880.40, and the County paying \$55,000.00. He stated that the funds for the easement purchase are available in the Farmland Preservation Account.

Discussion followed.

Court Administration:

- i. Scott Schultz requested approval of a Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Subgrant Award #2019-JG-LS-37708, for the Blair County Reentry Coalition to develop a Reentry Strategic Plan, in the total award amount of \$14,960.00, for the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Mr. Schultz stated that a consulting agreement in conjunction with the PCCD County Re-entry Planning Grant will be presented to the board at the Work Session of 10/18/22.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Nicole Smith presented discussion concerning the acceptance of bids for review, award or rejection according to county code for the Blair County Magisterial District Judges' (MDJ's) Security Glass & Panels Project.

Ms. Smith stated that there were no bids received for the Blair County Magisterial District Judges' (MDJ's) Security Glass and Panels Project.

Discussion followed.

- iii. Nicole Smith requested approval of a proposal received from Allegheny Glass, in the total amount of \$7,982.00, to supply and install one (1) 36"x42" level 2 bullet proof interior transaction window with surround sound for voice transmission, 18" shelf with deal tray, 4-7/8" stainless steel frame and caulking, within the Court Administration Office. Cost will be reimbursed in full by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC).

Discussion followed.

- iv. Nicole Smith requested approval of a quote received from GovConnection Inc., in the total amount of \$13,645.16, to provide polycom equipment for courtrooms 4 and 6. Cost will be reimbursed in full by the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC).

Ms. Smith stated that the quote is for a full polycom cart for courtroom 6, and for a replacement polycom camera and cord for courtroom 4.

Discussion followed.

- v. Nicole Smith requested approval of a quote received from RBA Professional Data Systems Inc., to provide RBA eJury web-based software (base application, online questionnaire module, debit card module, and additional services as outlined in said quote) for the one-time cost not to exceed \$49,250.00; with annual maintenance fees of \$9,375.00.

Ms. Smith stated that the eJury web-based software will allow potential jurors to complete an online questionnaire and to submit requests for excusal from jury duty online. Ms. Smith stated if purchased, the software will save time and labor that is currently being spent in the opening and processing of completed paper forms.

Ms. Smith stated that there were several quotes obtained for the web-based software, and the county's current vendor for information technology and services, RBA, provided the lowest quote, in the one-time cost not to exceed \$49,250.00; with annual maintenance fees of \$9,375.00. She stated the next lowest quote received was \$10,000.00 higher than RBA's quote.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated the one-time cost could be paid with the county's ARPA funds, and the annual maintenance fees would be paid from the general fund.

Discussion followed.

- vi. Nicole Smith requested approval of a quote received from CDW-G for the SQL Server Standard 2019 Per Core Licenses (four-4 total) for use with the RBA eJury application, in the total amount of \$4,990.00.

Ms. Smith stated that the total amount is a one-time cost that could be paid with the county's ARPA funds.

Discussion followed.

Victim Witness:

Allison Seidel requested approval for the submission of a FY 2023/2024 Victim/Witness Services (State RASA), Victims of Crime Act (Federal 16.575 VOCA), Victims of Juvenile Offenders (State VOJO) Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in the total amount of \$200,089.00, for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Ms. Seidel stated that the grants will be used to assist and provide services to victims and witnesses throughout the course of their criminal proceeding. Funds will be used for employing individuals who provide assistance to victims and witnesses, for travel to and from MDJ courts, and snacks and beverages for victims and witnesses while they are visiting the Victim/Witness Office.

Discussion followed.

Department of Emergency Services:

- i. Cris Fredrickson requested approval of a renewal quote received from Rave Mobile Safety, for Reverse 911 Services, in an amount not to exceed \$13,482.00, for the period of December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023.

Mrs. Fredrickson stated that the \$13,482.00 amount is included in the Hazardous Materials Budget.

Mrs. Fredrickson stated that the Rave Reverse 911 system is used by emergency services to contact the public in the event of an emergency; specifically it is used for evacuations and sheltering in place information.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Cris Fredrickson requested approval of a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), 9-1-1 Statewide Interconnectivity Funding Grant Agreement, in the total award amount of \$261,525.00, to be used for SAC CHE Maintenance \$103,338.00, SAC Regional CAD Maintenance \$74,655.00 and SCM ESInet Maintenance \$83,532.00 Projects, for the performance period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Discussion followed.

Human Resources:

Katherine Swigart requested approval of the following hourly rates received from Campbell Durrant, P.C. for labor counsel services provided to the county, effective January 1, 2023:

- Principals \$220.00 per hour
- Senior Associates \$195.00 per hour
- Associates \$185.00 per hour
- Paralegals and Law Clerks \$145.00 per hour

Miss Swigart stated that Campbell Durrant provides labor counsel services for the prison. She stated that the rates increased \$15.00 per hour for the first time in two-2 years.

Discussion followed.

Tax Claim Bureau:

- i. Sue St Martin requested approval of four-4 Judicial Sale Title Search Service Agreements between the County of Blair and the law firms/and realty services listed below to conduct Title Searches on Judicial Sale Properties and Bring-down Searches on Upset Sale Properties needed for completion by December 31, 2022, in the amounts as advertised in Resolution 444-2021:

- Goldstein, Heslop, Steele, Clapper, Oswald & Smith
- Mears & Adams
- Haberstroh, Sullivan & George
- Evey Black Law Office

Ms. St Martin stated that there are thirty (30) overbids, twenty (20) trailer and seventy-four (74) title searches on judicial sale properties that need to be completed by the end of December 2022.

Ms. St Martin stated that Attorney Fanelli reviewed the agreements.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Sue St Martin requested approval of four-4 After-Hours Access Agreements between the County of Blair and the law firms listed below for after-hours access by listed paralegals to the Blair County Register/Recorder's Office and the Prothonotary's Office to conduct Title Searches and Bring-down Searches on Judicial Sale Properties that need to be completed by December 31, 2022:

- Goldstein, Heslop, Steele, Clapper, Oswald & Smith (Cindy Dick)
4 pm to 10 pm, M-F; and 7 am to 10 pm, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.
- Mears & Adams (Leslie Evanoski, Christine McKeon and Julie Myers)
4 pm to 10 pm, M-F; and 7 am to 10 pm, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.
- Haberstroh, Sullivan & George (Jill Noel, Shawn P. Sullivan and Ray Wendekier)
4 pm to 10 pm, M-F and 7 am to 10 pm, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.
- Evey Black Law Office (Shari Hurm and Danielle Mattern)
4 pm to 10 pm, M-F; and 7 am to 10 pm, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

Ms. St Martin stated that Attorney Fanelli reviewed the agreements.

Discussion followed.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board:

- i. Melissa Harpster requested approval of a quote received from Paul Carnell's Auto, to repair the damaged county owned truck used by the Valley View Park Groundskeeper, in the total amount of \$975.00.

Mrs. Harpster stated that Paul Shaffer, Public Works-Highway Manager obtained three (3) quotes for the needed repair. She stated the lowest quote received was from Paul Carnell's Auto, in the total amount of \$975.00. The Park and Recreation Advisory Board recommends that the Commissioner's accept the quote received from Paul Carnell's Auto.

Mrs. Harpster stated the repair costs will be paid from the Park and Recreation Reserve Account #035 Fund.

Discussion followed.

- ii. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035, in an amount not to exceed \$100.00, to purchase a seat cover for the county owned truck used by the Valley View Park Groundskeeper.

Discussion followed.

- iii. Melissa Harpster requested approval of an allocation of Park and Recreation Reserve Account Funds #035, in an amount not to exceed \$500.00, to purchase automatic shut-off faucets for installation in the restrooms at Valley View Park.

Mrs. Harpster stated that the installation of automatic shut-off faucets should alleviate the issue with faucets being left running and wasting water.

Discussion followed.

- iv. Melissa Harpster requested approval for the Blair County Conservation District to hold their 2023 Envirothon Event at Valley View Park, tentatively set to take place on April 25, 2023.

Mrs. Harpster stated that the Park and Recreation Advisory Board received a request from the Conservation District to hold an Envirothon Event at Valley View Park. She stated this event was held annually pre-COVID, and will be resuming in 2023.

Mrs. Harpster stated that the event is tentatively scheduled to be held on a date prior to the park opening for the 2023 season; however, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board doesn't foresee any issues with having the restrooms opened for use during the event.

Mrs. Harpster stated that the Conservation District stated they would be able to provide the county with the appropriate Certificate of Liability Insurance and Endorsement closer the event date.

Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Sheriff's Office:

Sherry Socie requested approval for the submission of an Application for Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Local Law Enforcement Grant Funds, in the maximum dollar amount of \$5,379,857.00.

Ms. Socie stated the grant application has been revised by removing gym memberships and retention bonuses for the Sheriff's Deputies and adding CIT training and coordination efforts. She stated the maximum dollar amount now is \$5,375,809.00.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 403-2022: Approving the submission of an Application for Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Local Law Enforcement Grant Funds by the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the maximum dollar amount of \$5,375,809.00.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 403-2022.

Resolution 326-2022: Approving the FY 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 renewal Purchase of Service Agreements between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Professional Family Care Services, Inc.

No action taken.

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk