

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, August 22, 2024, 1:00 P.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION:

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent prayer for our nation.

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.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES – 8/8 & 8/13

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, and Commissioner Burke.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsey and Brandon Meek (Finance), Angela Wagner (Controller), Joe Cox (PO), Melena Koegler and Brian Walters (Human Resources), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Mindy Hostler (CYF), Brooke Lafferty (Prison), Devin Saylor (Assessment), Sherry Socie (Blair County Planning Commission), Rich Huether (Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board), Derek W. Flaig (Blair Senior Services), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Commissioner Kessling confirmed there were no Executive Sessions held since the last Board of Commissioners meeting on August 13, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for Commissioners Comment.

Commissioner Burke reminded everyone that schools are back in session and everyone needs to pay particular attention to school buses and children walking and biking to and from school.

Commissioner Kessling announced that Joe Hurd recently retired from the Blair County Chamber of Commerce and Commissioner Kessling thanked Joe for everything he has done.

Resolution 389-2024:

a. Payment of the following five-5 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
08/20/2024	240820CY	199,361.46
08/20/2024	240820WW	216,827.28
08/20/2024	240820SS	364,547.83
08/20/2024	240820DA	183,420.00
08/20/2024	240820RA	170.50

b. Ratification of the following four-4 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
08/13/2024	240813DA	480.00
08/15/2024	240815HR	16,764.32
08/12/2024	240812ML	27,278.37
08/12/2024	240812FS	2,161.61

c. 2024 Budget Transfer: To cover legal fees from McNeess Wallace:

From \$ To
01101GCC-44080 General County Operations \$4,856.90 113201-44080 CYF

d. 2024 Budget Transfer: To cover legal fees for annual fire extinguisher inspection:

From \$ To
01160-44030 Court Administration \$185.00 01160DC-44700 Judge Consiglio
01160-44030 Court Administration \$360.00 01160WK-44700 Judge Kagartse

e. 2024 Budget Transfer: To cover legal fees for annual fire extinguisher inspection:

From \$ To
01103BM-44710 Building Maintenance \$50.45 762012-44710 APO

f. **Blair County Bridge #33/Old Mill Run Bridge Replacement Project:** Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #1, Part 1, Preliminary Design, in the total amount of \$6,052.85, and Invoice #2, Part 1, Preliminary Design, in the total amount of \$14,033.95, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid for from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

g. **Resignations:** Johnson, Amanda S., FT, Probation Officer Aide, APO, \$11.58/hr, effective 08/01/2024. Bryan, Brenda A., FT, Deputy, Treasurer, \$43,775.68/yr, effective 08/16/24. Easterling, Minyah A., FT, Temporary Department Assistant, Public Works, \$12.50/hr., effective 08/16/24. Matish, Nicole L., FT, GIS Mapper/UPI Coordinator I, Assessment, \$16.95/hr., effective 08/23/24.

h. **Employments:** Kubovesak, Jordyn L., FT, Probation & Parole Officer, APO, \$16.30/hr., effective 08/19/24.

- i. **Status Changes:** Mosele-Miller, Tracy A., FT, Administrative Assistant, APO, \$15.11/hr., to FT, Payroll Administrator, Controller, \$15.11/hr., effective 08/17/24. Brashear, Kyle, FT, Payroll Administrator, Human Resources, \$14.05/hr., to FT, Human Resources Analyst, Human Resources, \$43,888.00/yr., effective 08/17/24. Walters, Brian, FT, Benefits Specialist, Human Resources, \$19.51/hr., to FT, Human Resources Assistant Director, Human Resources, \$50,642.35/yr., effective 08/17/24. Koegler, Melena, FT, Human Resources Director, Human Resources, \$64,055.94/yr., to FT, Human Resources Director, Human Resources, \$70,461.56/hr., effective 07/06/24. Guyer, Lori, FT, Administrative Coordinator, Commissioners' Office, \$16.05/hr., to FT, Administrative Coordinator, Commissioners' Office, \$.80 additional per hour for out of class duties, effective 07/22/24. McCaulley, Skyler, FT, Temporary Department Assistant, Fort Roberdeau, \$11.00/hr., to Seasonal (999 hrs./yr.), Historic Site Assistant I, Fort Roberdeau, \$11.00/hr., effective 08/19/24. Steberger, Douglas, FT, Maintenance Technician – Plumber, Building Maintenance, \$21.53/hr., to FT, Maintenance Technician – Plumber, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 08/19/24. Deffenbaugh, Emilie, Seasonal (999 hrs./yr.), Historic Site Assistant II, Fort Roberdeau, \$11.85/hr., to Seasonal (1500 hrs./yr.), Historic Site Assistant II, Fort Roberdeau, \$11.85/hr., effective 8/19/2024.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 389-2024.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:
Blair Senior Services:

- i. Derek Flaig requested approval of a Participation Grant Agreement and Assurance of Compliance for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Mr. Flaig added that the program serves approximately 1,700 individuals, with 85% of the trips to Blair County Medical Providers.

Resolution 390-2024: Approving the Participation Grant Agreement and Assurance of Compliance for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 390-2024.

- ii. Derek Flaig requested approval of a Contract for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) between the County of Blair and Blair Senior Service for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Resolution 391-2024: Approving the Contract for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) between the County of Blair and Blair Senior Service for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 391-2024.

Commissioner Kessling thanked Mr. Flaig for everything he does.

Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board:

- i Rich Huether requested approval of an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and Penn England Family Limited Partnership for 123.9 acres located in Woodbury Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of \$298,671.30. The Commonwealth shall pay \$209,671.30, and the County shall pay \$89,000.00.

Mr. Huether added the corrections that the partnership is the England Family Limited Partnership and the County shall pay \$85,000. He continued stating that Agriculture is the #1 industry in the County and the State, and Blair County has the most farms in our region in farm preservation.

Resolution 392-2024: Approving the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and England Family Limited Partnership for 123.9 acres located in Woodbury Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of \$298,671.30. The Commonwealth shall pay \$209,671.30, and the County shall pay \$85,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 392-2024.

- ii. Rich Huether requested approval of an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and Penn England Family Limited Partnership for 117.09 acres located in Woodbury Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of \$283,357.80. The Commonwealth shall pay \$213,357.80, and the County shall pay \$70,000.00.

Commissioner Kessling noted that money is made available by Act 13 funds, and he thanked Mr. Huether for everything he does to make this possible.

Resolution 393-2024: Approving the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and Penn England Family Limited Partnership for 117.09 acres located in Woodbury Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of \$283,357.80. The Commonwealth shall pay \$213,357.80, and the County shall pay \$70,000.00.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 393-2024.

Salvation Army:
Lindsay Dempsey, on behalf of Jim Brown, requested approval for the submission of the State Food Purchase Program Expense and Data Report (SFPP) for FY 23/24 to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Kessling pointed out that the FY was corrected to FY23/24.

Resolution 394-2024: Approving the submission of the State Food Purchase Program Expense and Data Report (SFPP) for FY 23/24 to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 394-2024.

Children, Youth and Families:

i. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 24/25 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Michael Adams, Esquire, Attorney of Mears and Adams, at \$85.00/per hour, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Resolution 395-2024: Approving the FY 24/25 Agreement for Payment of Legal Services between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Michael Adams, Esquire, Attorney of Mears and Adams, at \$85.00/per hour, for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 395-2024.

ii. Mindy Hostler requested approval of the FY 24/25 Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and DeWitt Cleaning Services, LLC, for home cleaning services provided on an as-needed basis as detailed in Exhibit A.

Ms. Hostler added that DeWitt Cleaning Services also helps with teaching organization and cleaning techniques in hoarding situations.

Resolution 396-2024: Approving the FY 24/25 Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and DeWitt Cleaning Services, LLC, for home cleaning services provided on an as-needed basis as detailed in Exhibit A.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 396-2024.

Public Defender:

Russell Montgomery requested approval for the acceptance of the FY 23/24 Indigent Defense Grant Program Funds from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) in the amount of \$97,092.00.

Mr. Montgomery added that until this year, Pennsylvania was the only state that gave no money for Public Defenders. Hence, the Public Defenders offices' across the state are underfunded and 20% of the Public Defenders positions state-wide are open. This money will allow the Blair County Public Defender's office to hire an investigator, and the remaining half of the money will go to the courts for Conflict Counsel.

Resolution 397-2024: Approving the acceptance of the FY 23/24 Indigent Defense Grant Program Funds from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) in the amount of \$97,092.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 397-2024.

Finance:

Lindsay Dempsey requested approval of the 2024-2025 Volunteer AD&D Program renewal application with CCAP for the period of October 1, 2024 through October 1, 2025, as outlined below:

- Medical Maximum \$100,000
- Accidental Death Maximum \$25,000
- Accidental Dismemberment Maximum \$25,000
- Deductible Amount \$0

- Number of Community Volunteers 149 x \$3.45 = \$514.05
- Number of Court Referred Alternative Sentencing Volunteers 0 x \$4.60 = \$0
- Number of Work Release Volunteers 10 x \$4.60 = \$46.00
- Number of Juvenile Tobacco Volunteers 0 x \$2.90 = \$0

Total Premium Due

\$560.05

Resolution 398-2024: Approving the 2024-2025 Volunteer AD&D Program renewal application with CCAP for the period of October 1, 2024 through October 1, 2025, as outlined below:

- Medical Maximum \$100,000
- Accidental Death Maximum \$25,000
- Accidental Dismemberment Maximum \$25,000
- Deductible Amount \$0
- Number of Community Volunteers 149 x \$3.45 = \$514.05
- Number of Court Referred Alternative Sentencing Volunteers 0 x \$4.60 = \$0
- Number of Work Release Volunteers 10 x \$4.60 = \$46.00
- Number of Juvenile Tobacco Volunteers 0 x \$2.90 = \$0

Total Premium Due

\$560.05

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 398-2024.

Prison:

- Brooke Lafferty requested approval to accept the bids received on August 22, 2024, for the Food and Non-food Items for the Blair County Prison and to award or reject per county code thereafter.

Ms. Lafferty mentioned there was one company that submitted bids.

Resolution 399-2024: Approving the acceptance of the bids received for the Food and Non-food Items for the Blair County Prison and to award or reject per county code thereafter.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 399-2024.

- Brooke Lafferty requested approval to accept the bids received on August 22, 2024, for the Milk Products for the Blair County Prison and to award or reject per county code thereafter.

Ms. Lafferty mentioned there was one company that submitted bids.

Resolution 400-2024: Approving the acceptance of the bids received for the Milk Product for the Blair County Prison and to award or reject per county code thereafter.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 400-2024.

Commissioners:

- Commissioner Webster requested approval of the Contract between the County of Blair and David M. Maines Associates, Inc. for the roof restoration and slate replacement at the Blair County Courthouse in the amount of \$722,861.00.

Commissioner Webster noted that this would be for replacing the roof of the old section of the courthouse with an artificial slate that was approved by the Historical Architectural Review Board. This project was budgeted for \$1,000,000.00 with ARPA funds, and Commissioner Webster was happy to announce that the price of materials has come down.

Resolution 401-2024: Approving the Contract between the County of Blair and David M. Maines Associates, Inc. for the roof restoration and slate replacement at the Blair County Courthouse in the amount of \$722,861.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 401-2024.

- Commissioner Webster requested approval of the Appointment of Trisha Johnson, Joe Cox, Drew Yingling, Amy Marten-Shanafelt, Coleen Heim, and Judy Rosser to the Opioid Settlement Committee.

Commissioner Webster added that the committee would be made up of individuals from the Community and would be chaired by Trisha Johnson.

Resolution 402-2024: Approving the Appointment of Trisha Johnson, Joe Cox, Drew Yingling, Amy Marten-Shanafelt, Coleen Heim, and Judy Rosser to the Opioid Settlement Committee.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 402-2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioners:

For discussion: the formation of the Blair County Trail and Recreation Authority.

Commissioner Kessling stated that the Commissioners continue to move forward in their discussions and they will keep everyone updated.

Adjourn:

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adjourn today's meeting.



Sherry Socie, Chief Clerk

