

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioners 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 stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster (conference call), Chief Clerk Hemminger and Assistant Solicitor Muriceak.

Members Absent:

Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Cris Fredrickson (EMA/911E), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Paul Shaffer (Public Works), Don Weakland (IT), Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioners Office), Jim Hudack, Cindy James, Melissa Gillin, Theresa Rudy, and Ken Dean (Social Services), AC Stickel (Controller), Nicole Smith (Court Administration), Cheryl Bakale (Crisis Mobile), Jennifer Feathers (UPMC Access), John Hooper, Noel Miller, Katie Clauss and Shannon Trenzo (UPMC-WBHA), Wendy Melius (Center for Community Action), Michael Edelster (Altoona Crisis), Jim Ott (Sheriff), and Jane Sheffield (Allegheny Ridge Corporation).

Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesday, April 27, 2022	3:00 p.m.	Blair HealthChoices (Contact Blair HealthChoices for information)
Thursday, April 28, 2022	8:30 a.m.	Blair County Planning Commission (Altoona Water Authority)
	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Business Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)
Friday, April 29, 2022		
Monday, May 2, 2022		
Tuesday, May 3, 2022	10:00 a.m.	*Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Meeting Room)

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 04/05/22, 04/07/22 and 04/12/22

Commissioner Erb requested that the approval of meeting minutes be deferred until the meeting of May 3, 2022.

Public Comment:

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

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for commissioners comments.

Commissioner Webster – no comments noted.

Commissioner Burke – no comments noted.

Commissioner Erb introduced Lindsay Dempsie as the newly appointed County Finance Director.

Proclamations: UPMC ACES Award Winners John Hooper and Jen Feathers

Commissioner Erb read the following two-2 proclamations in recognition of the UPMC ACES Award Winners John Hooper and Jen Feathers and motioned for adoption of the proclamations:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, John Hooper is one of three Blair County individuals to be nominated and win the UPMC Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service (ACES) award out of 90,000 eligible UPMC employees; and,

WHEREAS, John Hooper graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to work as the Home Nursing Agency Intensive Case Manager and ICM Supervisor with UPMC in 2016 where he currently is the Team Leader Case Management Liaison; and,

WHEREAS, John Hooper earned his Board Certification as a Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Professional in 2005 and his Board Certification in Disaster Crisis Outreach and Referral Team (DCORT) in 2012; and,

WHEREAS, John Hooper is an active member of the Blair County Suicide Prevention Task Force, and Lexington Clubhouse Advisory Board, where he assists members with the tools and resources to live and work independently in the community. Since 2012, he has served on the Mental Health Criminal Justice Team serving 25-30 individuals released from the County jail each year; and,

WHEREAS, John Hooper has helped coordinate activities during May's "Mental Health Month" to reduce the stigma of mental illness by sharing resources with the community; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Blair County, would like to take this opportunity to recognize John Hooper for his many years of service to the citizens of Blair County, and congratulate him on receiving the **2022 UPMC ACES Award**.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 21st day of April 2022.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Jen Feathers is one of three Blair County individuals to be nominated and win the UPMC Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service (ACES) award out of 90,000 eligible UPMC employees; and,

WHEREAS, Jen Feathers graduated from Penn State University in 1995 with a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Psychology and, after graduation, went on to work at the UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital where she currently serves as a Crisis Clinician III; and,

WHEREAS, Jen Feathers earned her Board Certification as a Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Professional in 2005 and her Board Certification in Disaster Crisis Outreach and Referral Team (DCORT) in 2012; and,

WHEREAS, Jen Feathers is an active member of the Criminal Justice Mental Health Team, serving as their Facilitator to develop treatment recommendations for offenders and the Mobile Crisis Expansion Project, serving as their Co-Facilitator, where she is directly responsible for data analysis and tracking outcome metrics for the project; and,

WHEREAS, Jen Feathers has helped coordinate activities, events, and trainings with the Blair County Department of Social Services to reduce the stigma of mental illness by sharing resources with the community; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Blair County, would like to take this opportunity to recognize Jen Feathers for her many years of service to the citizens of Blair County, and congratulate her on receiving the **2022 UPMC ACES Award**.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 21st day of April 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt the two-2 proclamations.

Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month within Blair County, and motioned for adoption of the proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH
APRIL 2022**

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a complex and serious problem in our society, affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, all children have the right to live in an environment free from abuse and neglect and are entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, and to feel secure; 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, in 2020 Blair County Children Youth and Families received and investigated 2,192 reports of neglect and 490 reports of abuse toward children; and

WHEREAS, Blair County is fortunate to have dedicated individuals and organizations who work daily to counter the problem of child maltreatment and to help connect parents to the resources they need; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships among families, community members, social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, medical facilities, businesses, and child welfare professionals; 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, we, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as **NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in Blair County, Pennsylvania 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 and to recognizing the tireless work of our child-welfare workforce.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Erb and unanimously approved to adopt the proclamation.

Consent Agenda:
Resolution #136-2022:

- a. Payment of the following one-1 amended Warrant List:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/21/22	220421SS	\$320,694.24

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- UPMC Altoona, in the total amount of \$306,395.00.

- Blair Senior Services, in the total amount of \$1,132.30.
- United Way, in the total amount of \$13,167.04.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/26/22	220426TD	\$712,346.26
04/26/22	220426CY	\$622,939.25
04/26/22	220426WW	\$245,201.86
04/26/22	220426SS	\$580,316.91

Which include payment of the following invoice:

- UPMC Altoona, in the total amount of \$7,371.36.

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/20/2022	220420WT	\$780.00
04/08/2022	220331PC	\$14,462.43
04/21/2022	220421HR	\$18,528.17
04/19/2022	220419CA	\$500.00
04/18/2022	220418FS	\$3,532.15
04/13/2022	220413RF	\$107.17
04/14/2022	220414HR	\$28,340.02
04/11/2022	220411FS	\$4,121.85

- d. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated 04/21/22, in the total amount of \$819,726.87.
- e. **Employment:** Amy P. Wertz, FT, Fiscal Operations Officer, CYF, \$50,549.72/yr., effective 04/20/22; Paige L. Lear and Megan M. Runk, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$16.87/hr., effective 04/25/22; Katie L. Ness, Per Diem, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$15.08/hr., effective 04/25/22; Domenic J. Roefaro, FT, Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.52/hr., effective 04/25/22; Donna Rudasill, FT, Temporary Department Assistant, Tax Claim, \$12.00/hr., effective 04/25/22; Lindsay M. Dempsie, From, FT, Fiscal Operations Manager, Social Services, \$46,810.40/yr., To, FT, Director, Finance, \$64,056.20/yr., effective 04/25/22; and Melena M. Koegler, From, FT, Receptionist/Clerk, Custody, \$10.50/hr., To, FT, Manager, HR, \$46,805.20/yr., effective 04/25/22.
- f. **Resignations:** Joseph D. Karlinsey, FT, Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.52/hr., effective 04/22/22; Anthony R. Cavazza, FT, Deputy, Sheriff's Office, \$15.52/hr., effective 04/29/22; and Melanie A. Weidlich, FT, Department Clerk II, Domestic Relations, \$11.58/hr., effective 04/29/22.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payments of invoices to Blair Senior Services and United Way due to a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Erb noted his abstention on the payment of invoices to UPMC Altoona due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 136-2022 with the abstentions as noted.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Allegheny Ridge Corporation:

Jane Sheffield requested approval of a grant agreement between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acting through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Funds, in the total amount of \$10,000.00, for the Blair County Trail Town Development Project, for the period of 01/01/2022 through 12/31/2024. Match of funds, in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be paid by Explore Altoona. Total project cost is \$11,000.00.

Ms. Sheffield stated the project would engage Blair County communities influenced by the development of long-distance trail corridors including the September 11th National Memorial Trail, the Main Line Canal Greenway, and the Lower Trail. The project will also help municipalities evaluate their accessibility and assets that will attract trail users and maximize the economic benefit to residents. She stated the process would include the integration/updating of current and past planning in these communities and a work plan for a potential Circuit Rider to assist with implementation.

Ms. Sheffield stated the total project cost is \$11,000.00 with the \$1,000.00 match of funds being paid by Explore Altoona.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated the approving Resolution should also include that Ms. Sheffield is authorized to sign the grant documents on behalf of the county.

Discussion followed.

Department of Emergency Services:

Cris Fredrickson requested approval for the submission of the Federal FY 2019/2022 Year 3, Mid-Year Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (HMEP) Performance Report to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Mrs. Fredrickson stated that the report submission is required to receive the 80% reimbursement of cost for completed projects; however, no projects were completed during this reporting period. She stated there would be projects for reimbursement for the second half of the reporting period.

Discussion followed.

Coroner's Office:

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested approval of an agreement by and between the County of Blair and Hollidaysburg American Legion Ambulance Service (HALAS), for on-call back-up transportation of deceased individuals as directed by the Coroner or the Coroner's duly authorized representative, at the set forth rates outlined in said agreement for the period of 04/01/22 through 12/31/23.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that the agreement with HALAS is for on-call back-up transportation of deceased individuals and used on an as-needed basis when the primary contract provider Forsht Livery is unable to provide services.

Discussion followed.

Social Services:

- a. Melissa Gillin requested approval of a FY 2021/2022 Contract between the County of Blair and the Center for Community Action, in the maximum contract amount of \$6,700,000.00, for the period of 05/01/22 through 06/30/22, to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP2) for rental and utility assistance.

Ms. Gillin stated the contract with the Center for Community Action is new for FY 2021/2022 covering the period of 05/01/22 through 06/30/22 to administer the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP2) funds for rental and utility assistance. She stated Solicitor Karn has reviewed the contract.

Wendy Melius from the Center for Community Action was present at today’s meeting and provided a brief introduction of the Center for Community Action and the services they provide.

Discussion followed.

- b. Melissa Gillin requested approval of a FY 2021/2022 Contract Amendment #1 between the County of Blair and the Center for Community Action for contract provisions specifically related to the requirements of administering the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERAP2) funds as outlined in said Contract Amendment #1.

Ms. Gillin stated that Amendment #1 to the contract outlines the specific contract provisions for the administration of the ERAP2 funds.

Ms. Gillin provided a brief explanation of the differences between ERAP1 funds and ERAP2 funds.

Discussion followed.

Children, Youth and Families:

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested approval of five-5 FY 2020/2021 and FY 2021/2022 renewal contracts between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and the agencies as outlined below:

CONTRACT TERMS
07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021
&
07/01/2021 – 06/30/2022

AGENCY	FY 2020/2021	FY 2021/2022
THE BAIR FOUNDATION	X	X
BETHANNA, INC	N/A	X
CORNELL ABRAXAS GROUP	X	X
DIAKON CHILD, FAMILY & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES	X	X
FAMILIES UNITED NETWORK, INC	N/A	X

Commissioner Erb requested that Chief Clerk Hemminger provide for commissioner review prior to the Thursday, April 28, 2022 Business Session the contracted rates for FY’s 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Discussion followed.

Prison:

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested approval for the acceptance of bids received for the Blair County Prison Security Upgrades for review, award or rejection according to County Code.

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that bids solicited for the Blair County Prison Security Upgrades Project were opened through Penn Bid on Thursday, 04/21/22 beginning at 1 pm. She stated the following three-3 bids were received:

Extended Price Analysis Reference Number	Description	Type	UOM	Quantity	Extended Estimate	Montgomery Technologev Systems	Siemens	Securitas Electronic Security	Average
Bid Price Ratio						100%	68.92%	53.91%	
Total Extended						\$1,216,900.00	\$1,784,144.59	\$2,307,588.19	
Base Bid						\$1,185,000.00	\$1,719,155.00	\$2,197,867.00	
	BIDDER will complete the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents, Inclusive of the ALLOWANCE, for the 1 following price(s): STIPULATED-SUM BID PRICE	Base	LS	1		\$1,185,000.00	\$1,719,155.00	\$2,197,867.00	\$1,700,674.00
Unit Prices						\$31,900.00	\$64,989.59	\$109,721.19	
Unit Price 1	Price for two additional Type "360" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$6,200.00	\$7,014.48	\$9,679.24	\$7,631.24
Unit Price 2	Price for two additional Type "C" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$4,400.00	\$7,499.26	\$8,508.32	\$6,802.53
Unit Price 3	Price for ten additional Type "FD" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$12,000.00	\$38,345.72	\$77,581.60	\$42,642.44
Unit Price 4	Price for two additional Type "MS" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$6,200.00	\$7,800.84	\$9,022.64	\$7,674.49
Unit Price 5	Price for one additional Type "270.WP" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$3,100.00	\$4,329.29	\$4,929.39	\$4,119.56

Chief Clerk Hemminger recommended that the board consider acceptance of the bids received for review, award or rejection according to county code thereafter.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 137-2022: A resolution approving the following three-3 bids received for the Blair County Prison Security Upgrades Project for review, award or rejection according to county code thereafter:

Extended Price Analysis Reference Number	Description	Type	UOM	Quantity	Extended Estimate	Montgomery Technologev Svstems	Siemens	Securitas Electronic Security	Average
Bid Price Ratio						100%	68.92%	53.91%	
Total Extended						\$1,216,900.00	\$1,784,144.59	\$2,307,588.19	
Base Bid						\$1,185,000.00	\$1,719,155.00	\$2,197,867.00	
	BIDDER will complete the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents, Inclusive of the ALLOWANCE, for the following price(s): STIPULATED-SUM BID PRICE	Base	LS	1		\$1,185,000.00	\$1,719,155.00	\$2,197,867.00	\$1,700,674.00
Unit Prices						\$31,900.00	\$64,989.59	\$109,721.19	
Unit Price 1	Price for two additional Type "360" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$6,200.00	\$7,014.48	\$9,679.24	\$7,631.24
Unit Price 2	Price for two additional Type "C" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$4,400.00	\$7,499.26	\$8,508.32	\$6,802.53
Unit Price 3	Price for ten additional Type "FD" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$12,000.00	\$38,345.72	\$77,581.60	\$42,642.44
Unit Price 4	Price for two additional Type "MS" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$6,200.00	\$7,800.84	\$9,022.64	\$7,674.49
Unit Price 5	Price for one additional Type "270.WP" surveillance cameras with required conduit and cabling	Option	EA	1		\$3,100.00	\$4,329.29	\$4,929.39	\$4,119.56

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 137-2022.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board:

Melissa Harpster requested approval of 1) an updated AYSO field use schedule, and 2) approval of an extension on submission of the Fall AYSO field use schedule.

Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 137-2022: A resolution declaring a state of emergency with respect to Blair County Bridge #69/Everett Road, located in Freedom Township.

Chief Clerk Hemminger requested this item be deferred to a future meeting.

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk