

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY APRIL 25, 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, Solicitor Christopher Gabriel, and Chief Clerk Lemminger.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lindsay Dempsey and Brandon Meck (Finance), Allison Senkevich and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Ray Benton (Coroner), Brooke McCready (CYF), Sam Dunkle (Court Administration), Sherry Socie (Blair Planning), Joe Cox (Juvenile Probation), Ashley Gay Vocco, Charlene Luke, Jen Walk, and Claire Wherthey (Family Services Incorporated), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Hemminger confirmed an Executive Session has not been held since the last meeting on Tuesday, April 16th.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 4/16

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, 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.

Commissioner Kessling thanked the individuals involved in the election process.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Commissioner Burke read the following proclamation:

**Proclamation
Sexual Assault Awareness Month – April 2024**

WHEREAS, 2024 Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in every community; and,

WHEREAS, SAAM aims to raise public awareness about sexual abuse, harassment, and assault and educate communities about how to be involved in prevention; and,

WHEREAS, this year's SAAM campaign theme, "Building Connected Communities", calls on each of us to work together to prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and assault; and,

WHEREAS, statistics show over 53% of women and over 29% of men reported experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime and the person who harmed them was someone they knew; and,

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) and 1 in 3 Hispanic women (34.8%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime; and,

WHEREAS, more than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime; and,

WHEREAS, 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence and 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and,

WHEREAS, all of our communities will be safer and stronger by making them more equitable for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, race and ethnic backgrounds, ages, faiths, and abilities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and encourage all citizens to work together to create strong, connected communities that take care of one another and make decisions to ensure the safety and well-being of others to end sexual violence.

DULY, adopted by the Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania this 25th day of April 2024.

**BLAIR COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

David Kessling, President

Amy E. Webster, Vice-President

Laura O. Burke, Secretary

Attest:

Nicole Hemminger, Chief Clerk

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

Ashley Gay Vocco, from Family Services Inc. (FSI), expressed her appreciation for the Commissioner's recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month and mentioned that FSI's main goal is holding offenders accountable, citing several statistics and ways their organization is supporting sexual assault victims. She also mentioned a "lunch and learn" opportunity on Friday, April 26th from 11:00am-2:00pm.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution 204 – 2024:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
04/16/2024	240416CY	1,275.00
04/18/2024	240418HR	1,700.23
04/16/2024	240429RA	50,588.79
04/15/2024	240415RA	975.00
04/15/2024	240415FS	3,702.66
04/23/2024	240423WW	402,317.67
04/23/2024	240423CY	533,487.84
04/23/2024	240423SS	36,135.52

b. Ratification of Total Payroll for the check dated 4/19/2024 in the total amount of \$856,043.35.

c. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover legal fees from McNees Wallace for the period ending 3/31/2024:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$2,700.00	113201-44080 CYF
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	\$330.00	01105-44080 Human Resources

d. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover charges from Liberty Fire Solutions:

From	\$	To
01103BM-44710 Building Maintenance	\$61.35	01161MD-44710 MDJ Dunio

e. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To consolidate Org codes:

From	\$	To
01602600- 34000 Emergency Management	\$67,946.00	01602-34000 Emergency Management
01602600- 41010 Emergency Management	\$41,363.14	01602-41010 Emergency Management
01602600- 41030 Emergency Management	\$27,474.72	01602-41030 Emergency Management
01602600- 41500 Emergency Management	\$998.15	01602-41500 Emergency Management
01602600- 41510 Emergency Management	\$4,267.95	01602-41510 Emergency Management
01602600- 41700 Emergency Management	\$17,209.47	01602-41700 Emergency Management
01602600- 41710 Emergency Management	\$520.44	01602-41710 Emergency Management
01602600- 41720 Emergency Management	\$20,825.42	01602-41720 Emergency Management
01602600- 41730 Emergency Management	\$2,025.00	01602-41730 Emergency Management

f. **Termination:** Beyer, Sabrena L., FT, Department Clerk, DRS, \$11.31/hr., effective 4/15/2024.

g. **Resignations:** Smith, Patrick W., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/18/2024. Heaton, Jestelynn A., FT, Correctional Case Manager, Prison, \$11.58/hr., effective 4/26/2024.

h. **Employments:** Bilhuis, Sara R., PT, Caseworker, CYF, \$20.00/hr., effective 4/22/2024.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approve to adopt Resolution 204-2024.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Prison:

Warden Tate requested approval of the Order Form between the Blair County Prison and Thomson Reuters Enterprise Centre GmbH and West Publishing Corporation, dba Thomas Reuters, for the West Proflex inmate law library for a period of (36) thirty-six months, with a 5% increase from year 1 to 2 and 2 to 3, at the following rates:

- Year 1 - \$3,098.60 per month
- Year 2 - \$3,253.53 per month
- Year 3 - \$3,416.21 per month

Commissioner Webster requested that, prior to this contract expiring, a judge be asked to provide other options for legal research in the prison.

Warden Tate mentioned that this was already being discussed amongst the members of Prison Board.

Resolution 205-2024: Approving the Order Form between the Blair County Prison and Thomson Reuters Enterprise Centre GmbH and West Publishing Corporation, dba Thomas Reuters, for the West Proflex inmate law library for a period of (36) thirty-six months, with a 5% increase from year 1 to 2 and 2 to 3, at the following rates:

- Year 1 - \$3,098.60 per month
- Year 2 - \$3,253.53 per month
- Year 3 - \$3,416.21 per month

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 205-2024.

Juvenile Probation:

Joseph Cox requested approval of a contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office, and Outside In to provide child welfare services for children and youth, effective 1/1/2024 through 1/1/2025.

Resolution 206-2024: Approving the contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Juvenile Probation Office, and Outside In to provide child welfare services for children and youth, effective 1/1/2024 through 1/1/2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 206-2024.

Coroner:

Coroner Ray Benton requested approval of the advertisement for the Invitation to Bid and for the Bid Specifications for 1) Removal and Transportation of Decedents and 2) Storage of Decedents for the Blair County Coroner.

Coroner Benton mentioned that the previous contract for these services was combined and for this new bid, he chose to separate the services, which he feels would attract more bidders.

Resolution 207-2024: Approving the advertisement for the Invitation to Bid and for the Bid Specifications for 1) Removal and Transportation of Decedents and 2) Storage of Decedents for the Blair County Coroner.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 207-2024.

Children, Youth, and Families:

Brooke McCready requested approval of the FY 23/24 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPPA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Centre County Youth Service Bureau.

Commissioner Burke asked for additional information on what services Centre County Youth Service Bureau provides.

Ms. McCready added that this is a renewal agreement, but that she would need to get clarification on what services this vendor provides.

Resolution 208-2024: Approving the FY 23/24 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPPA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth, and Families, and Centre County Youth Service Bureau.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 208-2024.

Commissioners:

- i. Chief Clerk Hemminger requested approval of the proposal between the County of Blair and Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. (B&L) for engineering services to prepare an updated Blair County Solid Waste Management Plan in the total amount of \$85,000.00.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted the Blair County Solid Waste Management Plan is due for renewal in June of this year. This proposal includes preparation of a plan extension.

She also mentioned that this firm, Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., is the same firm the County used in 2010 to create the initial Plan. She went on to further explain that the cost of the engineering services should be covered by grant funds.

Resolution 209-2024: Approving the proposal between the County of Blair and Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. (B&L) for engineering services to prepare an updated Blair County Solid Waste Management Plan in the total amount of \$85,000.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 209-2024.

- ii. Chief Clerk Hemminger requested ratification of a Letter of Support for the grant application submitted by the Altoona Public Library for the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program grant.

Chief Clerk Hemminger noted the deadline for the submission has passed, which is why this item is requesting a ratification instead of an approval.

She also mentioned that the County only provided a Letter of Support and there was no financial obligation.

Resolution 210-2024: Approving the ratification of a Letter of Support for the grant application submitted by the Altoona Public Library for the COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program grant.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 210-2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

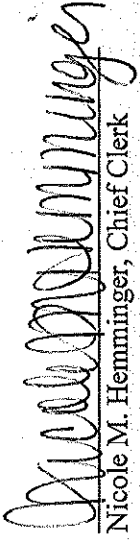
Commissioners:

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

Commissioner Webster requested that this item be held for a future meeting pending her outstanding discussion with the solicitor.

Adjourn:

Motion by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adjourn today's meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nicole M. Hemminger".

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk