

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: TUESDAY, October 29, 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 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 Socie.

THEIRS PRESENT:

Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempse (Finance), A.C. Stickel (Controller), Melena Koepler, Sandy Holencik, and Brian Walters (Human Resources), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Mindy Hostler (CYF), Scott Baily (Adult Parole), Don Weakland (JT), Mackenzie Caron (Blair Planning Commission), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Richard Sutter (Public), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Socie stated there were three (3) Executive Sessions held on Monday, October 28, 2024.

The first meeting was held at 8:30 a.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, Chief Clerk Socie, Finance Director Lindsay Dempse, Human Resources Director Melena Koepler, and Human Resource Analyst Kyle Brashear regarding multiple vacant positions and budgeting.

The second meeting was held at 9:30 a.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, Chief Clerk Socie, Finance Director Lindsay Dempse, Human Resources Director Melena Koepler, and Human Resources Analyst Kyle Brashear, and Solicitor Gabriel regarding bargaining and 2 CBA's.

The third meeting was held at approximately 12:00 p.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, and Chief Clerk Socie regarding two open positions.

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES – 9/10, 9/24, and 10/8.
Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for public comment.

Kay Stevens asked for an update concerning the letters going out to the municipalities regarding the decertification of the Tourism Promotion Agency.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for commissioner comment.

Commissioner Burke offered her condolences to the community of the Altoona Area High School on the loss of two of their students over the weekend. She stated that it was shocking in terms of last week's Proclamation for Students Against Drunk Driving and to have one of the deaths appear to involve drunk driving and the other to an unfastened seatbelt. These were preventable deaths and her heart goes out to their school community.

Commissioner Webster echoed Commissioner Burke's statement and added that life is so precious, and our young people are such a wonderful asset, and it is horrible to lose any one of them.

Commissioner Kessling added that our thoughts are with their families.

FORT ROBERDEAU LEAD MINE PRESENTATION AND DONATION ACCEPTANCE:

Glenn Nelson introduced Richard Sutter, who had made generous contributions to Fort Roberdeau asset developments over the years, including a new lead mine exhibit, which would show Fort Roberdeau as having the first military operations in American history for the sake of independence.

Mr. Richard Sutter gave a presentation on the plans for the Fort Roberdeau Lead Mine Exhibit, including site development, a storyboard, and an information kiosk. This would be the second of three projects that Mr. Sutter has committed to donating a total of \$45,000.00 in three-year increments towards project completions.

Commissioner Kessling stated the Board of Commissioners is honored to have someone like Mr. Sutter who understands the history of Blair County, as well as the history of our country, and is willing to preserve it. It is such a blessing to have people who invest back into the community, and he cannot thank Mr. Sutter enough for his commitment so that history is not lost and the younger generations can see what it was like during that time.

Resolution 509-2024:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/25/2024	241029WW	282,641.19
10/29/2024	241029CY	100,701.67
10/29/2024	241029SS	283,053.97

b. Ratification of the following five-5 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/24/2024	241024HR	40,987.94
10/25/2024	241025WX	8,336.09
10/21/2024	241021RF	432.94
10/21/2024	241021FS	1,910.54
10/21/2024	241021EH	23,529.09

* Which includes payment to Burke & Co. LLC. in the amount of \$200.00.

* Which includes payments to Blair Senior Services in the total amount of \$645.40.

c. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover vehicle maintenance costs:

From \$ **To**

01103HW-44730 Highway \$79.45 762011-44830 APO

d. **Employments:** Hatfield, Kristine M., FT, Correctional Case Manager, Prison, \$11.58/hr., effective 10/28/2024. Hughes, Caymen M., FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$15.52/hr., effective 10/28/2024.

e. **Resignations:** Hartkorn, Mark, FT, Maintenance Technician – Electrician, Public Works, \$21.39/hr., effective 10/25/2024. Morgan, Allison, FT, Supervisor – Casework, Children, Youth, and Families, \$1,845.91 biweekly, effective 10/25/2024. Socie, Sherry, FT, Chief Clerk, Commissioners, \$2,965.30 biweekly, effective 11/30/2024.

g. **Status Changes:** Morina, Andrea, FT, District Court Administrative Support – Jones, MDJs, \$11.58/hr., to FT, Department Support - Register and Recorder, Register and Recorder, \$11.03/hr., effective 10/21/2024.

Chief Clerk Socie made a verbal correction to her effective resignation date, from 10/31/2024 to 11/30/2024.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstentions on the payments to Burke & Co. LLC. in the amount of \$200.00 and Blair Senior Services in the total amount of \$645.40.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 509-2024 with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Intermunicipal Relations Committee (IRC):

Chief Clerk Socie, on behalf of Brock Bryan, requested approval for the acceptance of the Calendar Year 2023 Section 903 grant in the amount of \$35,898.00 from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Resolution 510-2024: Approving the acceptance of the Calendar Year 2023 Section 903 grant in the amount of \$35,898.00 from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 510-2024.

Adult Probation and Parole:

Scott Bailey requested approval to submit the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Continuing County Probation and Parole Grant application for FY24/25 in the total grant amount of \$115,710.00.

Resolution 511-2024: Approving to submit the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Continuing County Probation and Parole Grant application for FY24/25 in the total grant amount of \$115,710.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 511-2024.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval for the Payment-of-the-Invoice-Made-Outside-the-County-Purchasing-Policy received from United Rentals for three (3) light towers for the Fort Roberdeau Halloween event for the period of October 18, 2024 through October 19, 2024, in the total amount of \$597.00.

Resolution 512-2024: Approving the Payment-of-the-Invoice-Made-Outside-the-County-Purchasing-Policy received from United Rentals for three (3) light towers for the Fort Roberdeau Halloween event for the period of October 18, 2024 through October 19, 2024, in the total amount of \$597.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 512-2024.

Human Resources:

- i. Sandy Holencik requested approval for the Submission of the 2024 Wellness Improvement Program Grant Application to Pennsylvania Counties Workers Compensation Trust (PCComp) in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used for the purchase of five (5) water bottle filling stations.

Resolution 513-2024: Approving the Submission of the 2024 Wellness Improvement Program Grant Application to Pennsylvania Counties Workers Compensation Trust (PComp) in the amount of \$5,000.00 to be used for the purchase of five (5) water bottle filling stations.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 513-2024.

ii. Sandy Holencik requested approval of the Union Side Letter between the County of Blair and SEIU/Local 668 PSSU Children & Youth Services for Recruitment incentives for newly hired full-time caseworkers, through December 31, 2025.

Commissioner Burke stated that this is just renewing something we were already doing this year through 2025 and it would be an 80/20 split.

Commissioner Kessling confirmed that this would not be coming out of the general fund.

Resolution 514-2024: Approving the Union Side Letter between the County of Blair and SEIU/Local 668 PSSU Children & Youth Services for Recruitment incentives for newly hired full-time caseworkers, through December 31, 2025.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 514-2024.

iii. Sandy Holencik requested approval of the Union Side Letter between the County of Blair and SEIU/Local 668 PSSU Children & Youth Services for retention bonuses for existing union-eligible staff, paid through funds awarded from the Family First Transition Act.

Commissioner Kessling stated this is a pass-through of funds from the Federal government through the State to the CYF staff for retention bonuses. This does not come out of the general fund.

Resolution 515-2024: Approving the Union Side Letter between the County of Blair and SEIU/Local 668 PSSU Children & Youth Services for retention bonuses for existing union-eligible staff, paid through funds awarded from the Family First Transition Act.

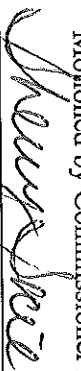
Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 515-2024.

LD BUSINESS:

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Adjourn:

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



Sherry Socie, Chief Clerk

