

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025, 10:01 A.M.

Location: Commissioners Meeting Room, Basement.

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER:

Commissioner Kessling called for a moment of silent prayer.

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.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alicia Tiracave and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsey (Finance), A. C. Stichel and Angela Wagner (Controller), Shannon Tucker (CYF), Sue St. Martin (Tax Claim), Allison Seidel (Victim Witness), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Paul Shaffer (Public Works/Highway), Sarah Seymour (Elections), Rich Huether (Farmland Preservation), Carol Dannenberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Socie confirmed there was one Executive Session held on January 14, 2025, at approximately 10:00 a.m. with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, Chief Clerk Socie, Assistant Chief Clerk Tiracave, and Assistant Human Resources Director Brian Walters to discuss one open position.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES: – 1/9/25

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for Commissioners Comments.

Commissioner Webster reminded everyone that on this date in 1991 the Gulf War started and we should be thankful for our military, police, and all of those that provide services to protect us.

Commissioner Kessling stated that with the upcoming extremely cold temperatures, please check on your neighbors and keep your animals inside.

Consent Agenda:

Resolution 9 – 2025:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/14/2025	250114WW	234,781.70
01/14/2025	250114SS	136,483.38
01/14/2025	250114CY	544,205.51

Which includes payment of the following invoices:

- Holidaysburg Borough in the total check amounts of \$51.00 and \$962.82.

b. Ratification of the following one-1 Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
01/08/2025	250108VYR	240.00
01/09/2025	250109HR	4,108.86
01/08/2025	241231PC	19,489.35
01/13/2025	250113FS	1,302.64
01/13/2025	250113ML	27,840.14

c. Ratification of the Total Payroll for the check dated 1/10/2025 in the total amount of \$933,779.78.

d. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for maintenance on county vehicles:

From	To	\$
01103HW-44730 Highway	01151-44730 Sheriff	\$1,000.00
01103HW-44730 Highway	012011-44730 Adult Parole	\$500.00
01103HW-44730 Highway	01209PO-44730 Prison	\$300.00
01103HW-44730 Highway	113201-44730 CYF	\$500.00
01103HW-44730 Highway	08607-44730 Fort Roberdeau	\$200.00
01103HW-44730 Highway	01202-44730 Juvenile	\$200.00
01103HW-44730 Highway	01107-44730 Assessment	\$300.00

e. **2025 Budget Transfer:** To cover the fees for county solicitor services:

From	To	\$
01101GCCO-44080 General County Operations	01102-44010 Solicitors	\$50,000.00

f. **Sheriff Office:** Requesting approval of two (2) Penn State University Altoona student interns, Lucia DeRosa and Nicholas DeAntonio, for the period of January 2025 through April 2025. Internship is for credit only and at no cost to the county.

g. **Employments:** Conrad, Brayden, PT, Probation Officer Support, Adult Parole and Probation, \$11.58/hr., effective 1/13/2025. Dick, Brianna, FT, Department Support – Court, Court Administration, \$10.50/hr.,

effective 1/13/2025. North, William, FT, Maintenance Technician – Electrician, Public Works, \$20.56/hr., effective 1/13/2025. Wheeland, Melissa, Temporary Department Assistant, Children, Youth, and Families, \$21.12/hr., effective 1/13/2025.

- h. **Status Changes:** Tucker, Shannon, FT, Manager – Casework, Children, Youth, and Families, \$2553.67 biweekly, to FT, Director – CYF, Children, Youth, and Families, \$2553.67 biweekly, effective 12/23/2024.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payments to Hollidaysburg Borough.

Motioned by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and approved to adopt Resolution 9-2025 with the abstention as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Farmland Preservation:

Rich Huether requested approval of a Service Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, and Agrarian Associates, Inc. for the easement appraisal of the Biddle Family – Over Farm in the total amount of \$1,700.00 to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of PA at the time of closing.

Mr. Huether added that this 236-acre farm is ranked number 1 out of 14 applications for 2025. The proposed \$159,600.00 in funding received for this program is from Marcellus Shale Funds and the Clean and Green Rollback taxes and will be the highest combined funding for us. With a farm of this size, it will be greatly needed.

Commissioner Kessling expressed his appreciation to Mr. Huether for the work he is doing.

Resolution 10-2025: Approving the Service Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, and Agrarian Associates, Inc. for the easement appraisal of the Biddle Family – Over Farm in the total amount of \$1,700.00 to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of PA at the time of closing.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 10-2025.

Public Works/Highway:

Paul Shaffer requested approval of an Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair and Foster F. Wineland Inc. for vehicle repairs and maintenance as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Resolution 11-2025: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair and Foster F. Wineland Inc. for vehicle repairs and maintenance as set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 11-2025.

Tax Claim:

Sue St. Martin requested approval of the agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Tax Claim Bureau, and InfoCon for the electronic transfer of unpaid 2024 taxes submitted by up to twenty-five (25) local tax collectors at the rate of \$95.00 per municipality for a maximum amount of \$2,375.00.

Ms. St. Martin added that they already received 15 submissions, which were processed manually, so this price should be less than half of what is listed.

Commissioner Kessling thanked Ms. St. Martin for her years of work resulting in finally closing out a property of over \$40,000.00 in unpaid taxes.

Resolution 12-2025: Approving the agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Tax Claim Bureau, and InfoCon for the electronic transfer of unpaid 2024 taxes submitted by up to twenty-five (25) local tax collectors at the rate of \$95.00 per municipality for a maximum amount of \$2,375.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 12-2025.

Victim Witness:

Allison Seidel requested approval of the 2025 renewal of the SAVIN Maintenance and Service Agreement between the County of Blair and the PA District Attorneys Institute for the PA SAVIN Program within the Victim/Witness Office for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, at no cost to the County.

Ms. Seidel stated that PA SAVIN sends notifications to victims when an offender is released from jail.

Commissioner Webster stated that this is a great service, and she is thrilled it comes at no cost to the county.

Resolution 13-2025: Approving the 2025 renewal of the SAVIN Maintenance and Service Agreement between the County of Blair and the PA District Attorneys Institute for the PA SAVIN Program within the Victim/Witness Office for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, at no cost to the County.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 13-2025.

Elections:

i. Sarah Seymour requested the approval and signature of two (2) Election Polling Place Lease Agreements between the County of Blair and the property owners (Municipal/Federal Government and Privately-Owned Facility) for the May 20, 2025 Primary Election and the November 4, 2025 Municipal Election.

Resolution 14-2025: Approving and signature of two (2) Election Polling Place Lease Agreements between the County of Blair and the property owners (Municipal/Federal Government and Privately-Owned Facility) for the May 20, 2025 Primary Election and the November 4, 2025 Municipal Election.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 14-2025.

ii. Sarah Seymour requested approval of a Professional Services Agreement by and between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and NPC, Inc. for professional services related to managing data, printing, mailing, and/or other related digital solutions and services for the 2025 Municipal Primary and Election as listed below:

Mail-In/Absentee Ballot Package with Windowed Outer Envelope (Includes ballot up to 1 sheet, double sided - 8 1/2" x 14", outer, return and secrecy envelope; and instruction sheet)	\$1.55/mail package
Annual Mail-In Ballot Application Mailing	\$0.22/mail package
Flat Program Management & Set-up Fee per Election	\$7,500.00

Resolution 15-2025: Approving the Professional Services Agreement by and between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Board of Elections, and NPC, Inc. for professional services related to managing data, printing, mailing, and/or other related digital solutions and services for the 2025 Municipal Primary and Election as listed below:

Mail-In/Absentee Ballot Package with Windowed Outer Envelope (Includes ballot up to 1 sheet, double sided - 8 1/2" x 14", outer, return and secrecy envelope; and instruction sheet)	\$1.55/mail package
Annual Mail-In Ballot Application Mailing	\$0.22/mail package
Flat Program Management & Set-up Fee per Election	\$7,500.00

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 15-2025.

JLD BUSINESS:

Correction from the December 31, 2024 Consent Agenda. Requesting approval of the reappointment of Donald Delozier and Cindy Bigelow to the Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for the period of 1/1/2025 through 1/1/2028 (previously 1/1/2027).

Adjourn:

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


Sherry Socie, Chief Clerk

