

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: TUESDAY, October 8, 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.

OTHERS PRESENT:

ori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempisie and Brandon Meek (Finance), A.C. Stickel (Controller), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Mackenzie Caron (Planning Commission), Abbie Tate (Prison), Sam Dunkle (Court Administration), Mark Taylor (EMA/911E), Ken Ressler (Facilities), Brian Walters and Melena Kogler (Human Resources), Don Weakland (IT), Richard Peo (Sheriff), Carol A. Dannerberg (Holidaysburg Community Watchdog), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

Chief Clerk Socie confirmed there was an Executive Session held on Monday, October 7, 2024 with Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, Chief Clerk Socie, and Solicitor Gabriel to discuss one-1 personnel issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for public comment.

Kay Stevens asked if the Executive Session involved a personnel issue or a Union contract and how many people were involved.

Chief Clerk Socie confirmed it involved 2 people.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Commissioner Kessling called for commissioner comment.

Commissioner Burke shared her thoughts and prayers are with the people impacted by Hurricane Helene and Ailton.

Commissioner Webster asked that on the one-year anniversary of the attack on Israel by terrorist groups, may we continue praying for the Israeli hostages still being held captive.

Commissioner Kessling stated that after ABCD Corp. reached out to Explore Altoona and held a meeting, it was after that meeting that Explore Altoona has no desire to change anything they are currently doing nor any desire to do what the Commissioners asked them to do. He is sorry to hear they are taking that stance.

Resolution 465-2024:

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

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/10/2024	241010FP	250,428.50
10/08/2024	241008SS	107,622.34
10/08/2024	241008WW	554,616.13
10/08/2024	241008CY	10,392.50
10/08/2024	241008TC	313,826.44

b. Ratification of the following six-6 Warrant Lists

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/04/2024	241001RA	30.00
10/03/2024	241003RA	2,140.00
10/03/2024	241003HR	17,075.08
10/01/2024	241001FN	117,026.92
10/01/2024	241001HI	557,320.01
9/30/2024	240930FS	2119.20

c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the paycheck dated 10/4/2024 in the total amount of \$858,820.69.

d. **Blair County Conservation District Board:** Requesting approval for the reappointment of Cindy Bigelow for the period of 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2028.

e. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover insurance deductible costs:

From \$ To
01101GCO-44900 General County Operations \$2,975.00 01103BM-44900 Building Maintenance

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

From \$ To
01103HW-44730 Highway \$140.00 01202-44730 Juvenile Probation

g. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover vehicle repair costs:

From \$ To
01103HW-44730 Highway \$150.00 01209PO-44830 Prison

h. **2024 Budget Transfer:** To cover janitorial supply costs:

- From _____ \$ _____ To _____
- 01101GCO-41999 General County Operations \$17,000.00 01209PO-43040 Prison County Road 101 Road Closure Request: Requesting approval to conduct the Claysburg Kimmel Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 11, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to approximately 6:00 p.m. Parade will begin at the Community Park at Community Park Rd. At Bedford Street. The parade will process South on Bedford St. to and onto Oakdale Rd. and dispersing between Athletic Rd. and Dummings Hwy.
- i. **Employments:** Carpenter, Sara G., FT, Law Clerk – Consiglio, Court Administration, \$1,600.36 biweekly, effective 10/7/2024. Lipscomb, Teree C., FT, Caseworker I, Children, Youth, and Families, \$20.00/hr., effective 10/7/2024. Magnetti, Justin R., Temporary, Telecommunicator Trainee, 911 Center, \$13.88/hr., effective 10/7/2024. Tremmel, Lindsay N., FT, Department Support, Domestic Relations, \$11.03/hr., effective 10/7/2024.
- k. **Status Change:** Fisher, Camela, FT, Department Support, Register and Recorder, \$11.03/hr. to FT, First Deputy - Register of Wills, Register and Recorder, \$14.08/hr., effective 10/1/2024.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstentions on the payment to Thomas and Chandra Jandora in the total amount of \$1500.00 and the Borough of Hollidaysburg in the amounts of \$8,505.39 and \$128.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and approved to adopt Resolution 465-2024 with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Sheriff:

Chief Deputy Richard Peo requested approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, Blair County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Altoona, acknowledging and supporting the submission of a 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application by the City of Altoona and the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$22,337.00, with an allocation of funds to the City of Altoona, in the total amount of \$18,500.00, and an allocation of funds to the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$3,837.00.

Chief Deputy Peo added that the JAG grant is used for training and training equipment when budgets are strained.

Resolution 466-2024: Approving the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Blair, Blair County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Altoona, acknowledging and supporting the submission of a 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Application by the City of Altoona and the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$22,337.00, with an allocation of funds to the City of Altoona, in the total amount of \$18,500.00, and an allocation of funds to the Blair County Sheriff's Office, in the total amount of \$3,837.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 466-2024.

Prison:

Warden Abbie Tate requested approval of the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison, and Custer's Contracting for plumbing maintenance and repairs set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Warden Tate stated this would provide another option for mid-sized jobs.

Resolution 467-2024: Approving the Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Prison, and Custer's Contracting for plumbing maintenance and repairs set forth in County-approved Purchase Orders.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 467-2024.

Facilities:

- i. Ken Ressler requested approval to submit a request for a Street Closing Permit to Hollidaysburg Borough to close Union Street from Mulberry Street to Allegheny Street for maintenance of the Blair County Parking Garage.

Mr. Ressler added that Strawberry Alley should also be closed.

Commissioner Webster questioned when the closure would be done.

Mr. Ressler responded Saturday, October 12. From 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Commissioner Burke responded that would not work because of Pumpkin Fest being held on Allegheny Street that day.

Mr. Ressler stated that we would then have to bump it to Saturday, October 19.

Commissioner Webster reminded that October 26 would not work either because of the Halloween parade, and the county would have to work around the events occurring in town.

Commissioner Kessling asked that this item be tabled until the next Commissioners meeting for consideration when the dates, permits, and necessary streets and alleys are confirmed.

- ii. Ken Ressler requested approval of the Quote between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Highway Department, and Craig Fencing for the replacement of the entrance gate at the highway yard in the amount of \$2,975.00.

Resolution 468-2024: Approving the Quote between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Highway Department, and Craig Fencing for the replacement of the entrance gate at the highway yard in the amount of \$2,975.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 468-2024.

IT:

Don Weakland requested approval of the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair and Cogeco US d/b/a Breezeline for 500/500 Mbps Fiber Direct Internet Access with /27 blocks of IP addresses for a three (3) year period in the amount of \$885.00 per month.

Mr. Weakland added that this contract will save money as well as increase the internet speed.

Resolution 469-2024: Approving the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair and Cogeco US d/b/a Breezeline for 500/500 Mbps Fiber Direct Internet Access with /27 blocks of IP addresses for a three (3) year period in the amount of \$885.00 per month.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 469-2024.

Social Services:

Trina Illig requested approval for the submission of a FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Budget Revision, Contract #C000082572, to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development as follows:

- Holidaysburg Borough
1. Reduce existing activity for Housing Rehabilitation from \$92,410 to \$12,410 (including delivery costs) for a total decrease of \$80,000.
 2. Reduce existing activity for Administration (Holidaysburg Borough) from \$20,280 to \$15,280 for a total decrease of \$5,000.
 3. Add activity for the Bedford Street Flood Drainage Improvement Project from \$0 to \$85,000 (including delivery costs) for a total increase of \$85,000.

Commissioner Burke asked if this will address the flooding in the Gay sport area.

Ms. Illig confirmed this Contract will address the flooding in the Gay sport area.

Commissioner Burke noted that she would normally abstain since it involves the Borough of Holidaysburg, but since the amount is the same and it is approving the submission, she will vote on this item.

Resolution 470-2024: Approving approval for the submission of a FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant Budget Revision, Contract #C000082572, to the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development as follows:

- Holidaysburg Borough
1. Reduce existing activity for Housing Rehabilitation from \$92,410 to \$12,410 (including delivery costs) for a total decrease of \$80,000.
 2. Reduce existing activity for Administration (Holidaysburg Borough) from \$20,280 to \$15,280 for a total decrease of \$5,000.
 3. Add activity for the Bedford Street Flood Drainage Improvement Project from \$0 to \$85,000 (including delivery costs) for a total increase of \$85,000.

Motion by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 470-2024.

Public Works/Highway:

Brian Wisler, PE Vice President Assistant Director of Transportation at Keller Engineers Inc., on behalf of County of Blair Highway Manager Paul Shaffer, requested approval of the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair and TRC Engineers Inc. to provide Quality Assurance Prestressed Concrete Inspection Services for County Bridge #69. This involves the Fabrication of Structural Prestress Concrete Box Beams, at the rates listed below plus additional fees as stated in the contract, through June 30, 2025:

Senior Level Structural Concrete Plant Inspector
Regular rate per hour: \$91.59
Overtime rate per hour: \$111.90
Project Manager Services / Supervision
Regular rate per hour: \$170.95
Overtime: Same
Practice Lead Services

Regular rate per hour: \$275.37
Overtime: Same

Mr. Wisor stated that TRC Engineers Inc. normally inspects for PennDot at this location.

Mr. Wisor added that the rates are not to exceed \$10,000.00, and if they exceeded that amount, TRC Engineers would request prior approval from the county before proceeding.

Commissioner Kessler thanked Mr. Wisor for presenting this item in Paul Shaffer's absence and for everything that Keller Engineers, Inc. does for Blair County.

Resolution 471-2024: Approving the the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair and TRC Engineers Inc. to provide Quality Assurance Prestressed Concrete Inspection Services for County Bridge #69. This involves the Fabrication of Structural Prestress Concrete Box Beams, at the rates listed below plus additional fees as stated in the contract, through June 30, 2025:

Senior Level Structural Concrete Plant Inspector

Regular rate per hour: \$91.59

Overtime rate per hour: \$111.90

Project Manager Services / Supervision

Regular rate per hour: \$170.95

Overtime: Same

Practice Lead Services

Regular rate per hour: \$275.37

Overtime: Same

Motion by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 471-2024.

Department of Emergency Services:

Public Safety Director Mark Taylor requested approval of the Extension of the FY 22/23 Hazardous Materials Response Fund Grant Agreement (C950004082) between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Department of Emergency Services, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the new performance period of July 1, 2023 through December 30, 2024, at no cost to the county.

Mr. Taylor noted there was an error on the submission and the year should be corrected to FY 23/24.

Resolution 472-2024: Approving the Extension of the FY 23/24 Hazardous Materials Response Fund Grant Agreement (C950004082) between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Department of Emergency Services, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) for the new performance period of July 1, 2023 through December 30, 2024, at no cost to the county.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 472-2024.

Fort Roberdeau:

Fort Roberdeau Director Glenn Nelson requested approval of the Security Services Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of Fort Roberdeau, and Keystone Investigation and Security Specialist, LLC, to provide three security guards at the Fort Roberdeau Halloween Adventures on Saturday, October 19, 2024, in the total amount of \$360.00.

Resolution 473-2024: Approving the Security Services Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of Fort Roberdeau, and Keystone Investigation and Security Specialist, LLC, to provide three security guards at the Fort Roberdeau Halloween Adventures on Saturday, October 19, 2024, in the total amount of \$360.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 473-2024.

Commissioners:

Chief Clerk Socie requested approval of the Amended Reimbursement Agreement (R24090008) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation, for Bridge 81 and authorizing the Chief Clerk to sign said agreement.

Chief Clerk Socie stated this Agreement was previously approved, but the amendment was required due to an incorrect column in PennDot's information concerning the shared match.

Resolution 474-2024: Approving the Amended Reimbursement Agreement (R24090008) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Department of Transportation, for Bridge 81 and authorizing the Chief Clerk to sign said agreement.


Motioned by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 474-2024.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

Adjourn:

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



Sherry Socie, Chief Clerk

