

WORK SESSION: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Location: Commissioner's 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 those participating in the meeting please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Commissioner Erb, Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Webster, Chief Clerk Hemminger and Solicitor Karn.

Others Present:

Helen Schmitt (Public), Sarah Seymour (Elections/Voter Registration), Glenn Nelson (Fort Roberdeau), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), Angela Wagner (Controller's Office), Lindsay Dempsie and Brandon Meck (Finance Office), Katherine Swigart and Melena Koegler (Human Resources), Rebecca Robinson (Purchasing), Carol A. Dannenberg (Hollidaysburg Community Watchdog), Steffen Housum (JPO), Allison Senkevich and Melissa Harpster (Commissioner's Office).

Upcoming Meetings:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| Tuesday, September 27, 2022 | 3:00 p.m. | *Board of Elections Meeting (Commissioners Mtg. Room) |
| Wednesday, September 28, 2022 | 3:00 p.m. | Blair HealthChoices Board Mtg. (81 Holliday Hills Dr., Hollidaysburg) |
| Thursday, September 29, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. | Blair Co. Planning Commission (Altoona Water Authority) |
| | 10:00 a.m. | *Commissioners Business Session (Commissioners Mtg. Room) |
| Friday, September 30, 2022 | | |
| Monday, October 3, 2022 | | |
| Tuesday, October 4, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. | *Commissioners Work Session (Commissioners Mtg. Room) |

Executive Session Announcement:

Chief Clerk Hemminger stated that she, the three-3 Commissioner's, Finance Director Lindsay Dempsie, HR Manager Melena Koegler and HR Director Katherine Swigart met in Executive Session beginning at 10 am on Monday, September 26, 2022 to discuss two-2 collective bargaining agreements.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: 08/30/22, 09/01/22, 09/06/22, and 09/08/22.

Commissioner Erb called for corrections or changes to the meeting minutes of 08/30/22, 09/01/22, 09/06/22 and 09/08/22. There were no corrections or changes noted.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as prepared.

Public Comment:

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

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Erb called for public comment.

Commissioner Webster stated that last evening, the commissioners attended the Blair County Association of Township Officials annual convention. The event was a great opportunity to meet the township officials & staff members. There were presentations by officials from the PA Association regarding updates in relevant laws & regulations. Many of our local businesses & PA organizations were present to showcase their services & products to the township officials. I commend the Blair County township, borough, & city officials for their dedication to and work for their communities & to the county as a whole. It is heartwarming that we work together for the common benefit of all of our citizens & communities.

Commissioner Burke stated she had no comments today.

Commissioner Erb stated that the county has been working with Alleghenies Broadband, Inc., and its consultant the Foresite Group on a broadband evaluation project. The goal of the project is to identify the needs of the county’s households and businesses relating to broadband.

Commissioner Erb stated Foresite has developed an online survey in which we are asking our citizens to participate to help determine if they have access to reliable and affordable internet service. The survey includes a speed test. It takes only a few minutes to complete. We are asking that it be done from your home computer for the most useful survey results. In the event you don’t currently have home internet service, you can complete the survey form on a cell phone or other available device.

Commissioner Erb stated we will have a link to the survey from the county website later this week. He stated that Allison Senkevich, Assistant County Administrator will have some flyers available after this morning’s meeting.

Proclamation: 2022 Altoona Kiwanis Club “Citizen of the Year” Award
Commissioner Erb read the following Proclamation and motioned for its adoption:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Amy Mearkle has always believed in the saying “you make a living by what you get, and you make a life by what you give”; and

WHEREAS, Amy graduated from Elizabethtown College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications and a minor in Public Administration during which time she was awarded the 1998 Raffensperger Award, which honors the best all-around senior communications major for dedication and service to the department; and

WHEREAS, Amy worked for 10 years as the Morning/Noon Anchor for WTAJ-TV, earning a spot on the Altoona Mirror’s “20 Under 40” in the fall of 2011; and

WHEREAS, Amy then joined the DelGrosso Family of Companies in November of 2011 and credited her hard work ethic and success as the current Director of Marketing and Events to growing up on her family’s dairy farm; and

WHEREAS, Amy has been involved in public service and has volunteered at a number of non-profit organizations including the Blair County Chamber of Commerce, Girls Night Out Altoona, Inc., ARC Federal Credit Union and the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center; and

WHEREAS, Amy has received the Blair County Chamber of Commerce’s Athena award and the American Cancer Society “Volunteer of the Year” award; and

WHEREAS, Amy resides in Hollidaysburg and is the proud aunt to eight nieces and nephews and a great aunt to eleven great nieces and nephews with number twelve on the way in February; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, WE, the Blair County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Blair County, take this opportunity to recognize and thank Amy Mearkle for her service to the citizens of the County of Blair, and congratulate her on receiving the

2022 Altoona Kiwanis Club “Citizen of the Year” Award

DULY ADOPTED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Blair, Pennsylvania, this 27th Day of September 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation.

Consent Agenda

Resolution #389-2022:

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

| EFFECTIVE DATE | WARRANT NUMBER | AMOUNT |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 09/27/2022 | 220927CY | \$224,984.83 |
| 09/27/2022 | 220927SS | \$229,431.76 |
| 09/27/2022 | 220927WW | \$237,160.99 |

Which include payment of the following invoices:

- UPMC Altoona, in the total amounts of \$3,540.81 and \$346.50.
- Blair County Community Action Agency, in the total amount of \$32,989.97.
- Blair Senior Services, in the total amount of \$557.70.

- b. Ratification of the following seven-7 Warrant Lists:

| EFFECTIVE DATE | WARRANT NUMBER | AMOUNT |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 09/22/2022 | 220922FI | \$58,645.55 |
| 09/21/2022 | 220921RF | \$423.32 |
| 09/20/2022 | 220920SS | \$117,362.25 |
| 09/20/2022 | 220920FI | \$129,561.98 |
| 09/22/2022 | 220922HR | \$21,246.24 |
| 09/16/2022 | 220916RF | \$295.53 |
| 09/19/2022 | 220919FS | \$1,480.76 |

- c. Ratification of Total Payroll for the Check Dated 09/22/22, in the total amount of \$839,161.91.

- d. **2022 Budget Transfer:** Charges for self-insured workers' compensation plans for calendar year 2022.

| From | \$ | To |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 01101GCO-41530 General County Operations | \$718.00 | 31101GCO-41530 Workers' Compensation |

- e. **2022 Budget Transfer:** To cover Autopsy fees.

| From | \$ | To |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| 01101GCO-41999 General County Operations | \$17,282.00 | 01152-44120 Coroner |

- f. **2022 Budget Transfer:** Charges received from McNeese Wallace for the month of August 2022.

| From | \$ | To |
|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$3,600.00 | 01160ED-44080 Judge Doyle |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 120.00 | 013201-44080 CYF |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 645.00 | 01152-44080 Coroner |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 90.00 | 01105-44080 Human Resources |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 690.00 | 01209PO-44080 Prison |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 368.00 | 01157-44080 Public Defender |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 250.00 | 44122-44080 Public Safety – 911 |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 250.00 | 01202-44080 JPO |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 250.00 | 01151-44080 Sheriff |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$6,180.00 | 013201-44080 CYF |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 50.00 | 44122-44080 Public Safety – 911 |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 50.00 | 01202-44080 JPO |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 50.00 | 01151-44080 Sheriff |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 285.00 | 01158-44080 District Attorney |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 285.00 | 01157-44080 Public Defender |
| 01101GCO-44080 General County Operations | \$ 360.00 | 35101-44080 Parks and Rec |

- g. **Bridge #67/West Loop Road Replacement Project:** Requesting approval of ECMS submission, Invoice #3, Part 3, Construction Services, in the total amount of \$1,915.85, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.
- h. **NBIS Bridge Inspection and Inventory:** Requesting approval of ECMS submission of Invoice #54, received from Stiffler McGraw, in the total amount of \$1,861.04 for Bridge #69, C-101 over South Dry Run. Expenses are 80% reimbursable, with 20% paid from Act 44 Bridge Fund.
- i. **Bridge #82/Frankstown Branch Superstructure Replacement Project:** Requesting approval of ECMS submission, Estimate 002, in the total amount of \$61,414.55, received from Glenn O Hawbaker Inc. Expenses are 100% reimbursable through the Road Map Fund.
- j. **Holiday Schedule 2023:** Requesting approval of the Holiday Schedule for 2023 with the following days being recognized as holidays for non-union employees of the County of Blair:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| New Year's Day | *Observed Monday | *January 2, 2023 |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Monday | January 16, 2023 |
| Presidents' Day | Monday | February 20, 2023 |
| Good Friday | Friday | April 7, 2023 |
| Memorial Day | Monday | May 29, 2023 |
| Juneteenth | Monday | June 19, 2023 |
| Independence Day | Tuesday | July 4, 2023 |
| Labor Day | Monday | September 4, 2023 |
| Columbus Day | Monday | October 9, 2023 |
| Veterans' Day | *Observed Friday | November 10, 2023 |
| Thanksgiving Day | Thursday | November 23, 2023 |
| Day after Thanksgiving | Friday | November 24, 2023 |
| Christmas Eve | Friday | December 22, 2023 |
| Christmas Day | Monday | December 25, 2023 |

*If a federal or state holiday falls on Saturday it is usually *observed* on Friday (the day before), and when it falls on Sunday it is *observed* the following Monday.

- k. **Employment:** Christina M. Pitts, FT, Clerk Typist 1–Clerical Stats, CYF, \$10.49/hr., effective 09/19/22; Sheryl A. Durbin, Temporary, Department Assistant, Elections, \$10.00/hr., effective 09/26/22; and Tyler A. Rowles, PT, Assistant Public Defender, \$30,500.08/yr., effective 09/26/22.
- l. **Resignations:** Diana K. Freedman, FT, Administrative Support, EMA, \$12.16/hr., effective 09/20/22; Sandra J. Diehl, FT, Probation Officer Aid 1, APO, \$11.58/hr., effective 09/30/22; Amy P. Wertz, FT, Fiscal Operations Officer, CYF, \$51,939.94/yr., effective 09/30/22; and Alicia C. Williams, FT, Caseworker 1, CYF, \$31,317.00/yr., effective 09/30/22.

Commissioner Erb noted his abstention on the payment of invoices to UPMC Altoona and Blair County Community Action Agency due to a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Burke noted her abstention on the payment of invoices to Blair Senior Services due to a conflict of interest.

Motion by Commissioner Webster, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 389-2020 with the abstentions as noted.

Staff Reports & Special Business:

Elections/Voter Registration:

Sarah Seymour requested approval of a County Application and Agreement for 2022 HAVA Grant Funds and Attachment B (Standard Terms and Conditions – Grant Agreements) between the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, in the total amount of \$9,717.62, to be used for activities to improve the administration of elections for federal office, including to enhance election technology, make election security improvements and implementation of SUREVote, for the period of March 16, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

Discussion followed.

Human Resources:

Katherine Swigart requested approval of a Side Letter between the County of Blair and the Pennsylvania Social Services Union (PSSU), SEIU Local 668 representing union-eligible employees of Children, Youth and Families and County of Blair, effective date of approval, for one-time, not-to-base wages payments as outlined in said Side Letter.

Miss Swigart stated that the Side Letter of Agreement is effective upon commissioner's approval between PSSU, SEIU, Local 668, representing union-eligible employees of Children, Youth, and Families and County of Blair for one-time, not-to-base-wages payments as noted in the Agreement provided in your meeting packets.

Commissioner Webster stated that she opposes the action of paying bonuses to one of the county offices for several reasons. She stated that she feels it is not fair to arbitrarily pay bonuses to one office over the others outside of normal wage and benefit negotiations. Bonuses open the door to additional, increased spending and ultimately, an increase in taxes. Commissioner Webster also stated that she opposes the use of ARPA funds, since those are intended for infrastructure improvements.

Commissioner Erb stated that it is a one-time payment and reminded Commissioner Webster to keep in mind that a similar type request covering non-union employees' is slated for discussion at the upcoming Salary Board Meeting in October.

Resolution 390-2022: Approving a Side Letter between the County of Blair and the Pennsylvania Social Services Union (PSSU), SEIU Local 668 representing union-eligible employees of Children, Youth and Families and County of Blair, effective date of approval, for one-time, not-to-base wages payments as outlined in said Side Letter.

Motion by Commissioner Erb, seconded by Commissioner Burke, nay by Commissioner Webster. Motion passed two-to-one.

Fort Roberdeau:

Glenn Nelson requested approval of a Forever Media, Inc. Autumn Play Fall Promotion with commercial air schedule on WALY 103.9 of 35:60 second commercials along with live promotional mentions, directory listing and Fort Logo on the landing page of Forever-Altoona.com, promoting October special Fort events, in the total amount of \$600.00, to be paid from the Fort's county advertising funds budget.

Mr. Nelson stated that Solicitor Karn reviewed the agreement.

Discussion followed.

Children, Youth & Families:

Laura Burke requested approval of an agreement between Christine Tyndall, RYT 500, Simply Power Yoga LLC and the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth & Families, for a one-1 hour restorative yoga class, in the amount of \$250.00. Said fee is 100% reimbursable by the IV-E Caseworker Visitation Grant.

Commissioner Burke stated that Simply Power Yoga provided an hour long training as a part of Caseworker Visitation Grant Day held at Fort Roberdeau's White Oak Hall on September 21, 2022. The training included restorative yoga poses and guided meditation for workers to use at home to reduce stress and cope with trauma. She stated the fee is 100% reimbursable by the IV-E Caseworker Visitation Grant.

Discussion followed.

Resolution 391-2022: Approving an agreement between Christine Tyndall, RYT 500, Simply Power Yoga LLC and the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth & Families, for a one-1 hour restorative yoga class, in the amount of \$250.00. Said fee is 100% reimbursable by the IV-E Caseworker Visitation Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 391-2022.

Old Business:

Adoption of Resolutions:

Resolution 326-2022: Approving the FY 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 renewal Purchase of Service Agreements between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families and Professional Family Care Services, Inc.

No action taken.

Resolution 375-2022: Approving the FY 2022/2023 renewal contract between the County of Blair and Peerstar, in the maximum contract amount of \$10,500.00.

No action taken.

Adjourn:

Meeting Adjourned,

Nicole M. Hemminger, Chief Clerk