



BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, BASEMENT

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kessling called the meeting to order.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER:

Commissioner Kessling asked for a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Kessling asked that everyone in attendance stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, and Chief Clerk Tiracave.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Madison Murtiff and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Lindsay Dempsey (Finance), Lisa Auty (Highway), A.C. Stickel and Angela Wagner (Controllers), Tricia Johnson (Social Services), Eric Malloy (CYF), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Sue St Martin (Tax Claim), Nick Burket (Public works/Facilities), James Ott (Sheriff), Matt Hale (Prison), Nick Gates (Public), Mark Corden(Public), Murphy DePompei (Dinsmore& Shohl), Jay Wenger (RBC Capital Markets), Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kay Stephens asked about the meetings regarding the bond issue.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burke, on behalf of the Blair County Opioid Settlement Committee, reminded everyone that there are two informational webinars available discussing how to apply and eligibility. She also had QR codes available for anyone that might be interested.

Commissioner Webster reminded everyone that tomorrow is the 25th anniversary of 911 and there will be various remembrances going on.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 160– 2026:

- a. Ratification of the following ten (10) Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
08/31/2026	260831FS	\$2,485.70
09/01/2026	260901FN	\$117,032.20
08/31/2026	260831RF	\$533.84
09/01/2026	260901HI	\$641,036.84
09/03/2026	260903HR	\$9,000.45
09/08/2026	260908SS	\$76,079.24
09/08/2026	260908CY	\$270,601.25
09/08/2026	260908TC	\$206,921.84
09/10/2026	260910AA	\$276,229.44
09/08/2026	260908VW	\$933,824.16

Which includes payments to the following:

- Blair Senior Services in the amount of \$2,182.06
- Hollidaysburg Borough in the amount of \$2,107.34

- b. Ratification of total Payroll for the paycheck dated 08/07/2026 in the total amount of \$1,043,920.85

- c. 2026 Budget Transfer: To cover Constable transport fees:

From	\$	To
01161MD-44000 MD Dunio	\$3,000.00	01161BJ-44000 MD Jones

- d. 2026 Budget Transfer: To cover August employee background checks:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$117.45	01209PO-42000 Prison
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$109.45	01103BM-42000 Building Maintenance

01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$172.55	012011-42000 Adult Parole
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$84.90	01158-42000 District Attorney
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$51.65	01151-42000 Sheriff
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$76.90	113201-42000 CYF
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$84.90	01160-42000 Court Admin
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$41.45	01161BJ-42000 MDJ Jones
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$58.45	01202-42000 Juvenile
01101GCO-42000 General County Operations	\$42.45	01153-42000 Prothonotary

e. 2026 Budget Transfer To cover VOCA grant expenses:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-41999 General County Operations	\$293.02	01164710-45070 Victim Witness

f. Salt Storage Building: Requesting approval for payment #5 to John Claar for the Salt Shed Building Project in the amount of \$76,124.50.

f. Bridge #33/Old Mill Run Bridge Replacement Project:
Requesting approval of ECMS submissions Invoice #30, Part 3, Construction Consultation, in the total amount of \$1,076.61, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

g. Bridge #73/T-349 Bridge Removal Project:
Requesting approval of ECMS submission Invoice #13, Part 1, PE Phase, in the total amount of \$11,773.33, received from Keller Engineers. Expenses are 95% reimbursable and will be paid from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

h. Status Notice:

Effective Date	Effective Date	Last Name	First Name	Dept	Position	Status	Rate
Employment	09/08/26	Dzikowski	Daniel J	MDJ Jones	Administrative support	Nonexempt, FT	14.44
Employment	09/08/26	Maddox	Barton L	Sheriff	Deputy (PT)	Nonexempt PT	19.35
Employment	09/08/26	Remes	Maddox N	Public Works	Custodian	Nonexempt PT	18.09
Employment	09/08/26	Sanders	Evan J	JPO	Probation Officer	Nonexempt PT	19.35
Employment	09/08/26	Tompson	Kelley L	Prothonotary	Department support	Nonexempt, FT	13.09
Employment	09/08/26	Rice	Gracie T	Court Administration	Tipstaff (PT)	Nonexempt, PT	13.75
Separation	09/04/26	Conner	Mark A	Prison	Corrections Officer	Nonexempt, FT	23.50
Separation	09/04/26	Strandidge	Melissa J	Prothonotary	Department support	Nonexempt, FT	13.09

Commissioner Burke abstained from payments to Blair Senior Services and Hollidaysburg Borough due to conflicts of interest.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

a. Children, Youth and Families:

- i. Eric Malloy requested approval of the FY 2026/2027 Renewal Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and the following agencies for the period of July 1, 2026 through July 30, 2027.
 - Families and Pressley Ridge
 - Professional Family Care Services
 - Children's Home of Pittsburgh
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

- ii. Eric Malloy requested approval of the FY 2025/2026 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and BCL Partners, LLC, d/b/a Schaffner L.Y.F.E Youth Center, for the period of July 1, 2025 through March 6, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved.

- iii. Eric Malloy requested approval of a FY 2026/2027 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital for the period of July 24, 2026 through June 1, 2027.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke, and unanimously approved.

b. Tax Claim:

Sue St. Martin requested approval of six (6) Judicial Sale Title Search/Bring-down Service Agreements, including After-Hours Access Agreements, between the County of Blair, the law firm, and title searcher listed below to conduct Title Searches on Judicial Sale Properties and Bring-down Searches on Upset Sale Properties needed for completion by December 23, 2026, in the amounts as advertised in Resolution 204-2025:

- Sullivan Law Offices LLC
- Raymond J. Wendekier Law Offices
- Rea, Rea & Lashinsky
- Forr, Stokan, Huff & Naugle
- Mears & Adams Attorneys
- BMZ Law PC

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

c. Social Services:

- i. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the FY 2026/2027 Purchase of Service Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Department of Social Services, and Jeffrey L. Berkey Esquire, to provide Mental Health Procedures Act legal representation for court appearances as court-appointed Mental Health Review Officer, for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at the rate of \$220.00 per hearing.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

- ii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of a Property Owner/Contractor Agreement for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program between the County of Blair, Department of Social Services, Kylei Sell, and Tornatore Painting & Wallcovering for exterior scrape & paint of a home located at 311 S. 6th Street, Altoona, in the amount of \$7,500.00.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

- iii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the FY 2026/2027 renewal Agreements between the County of Blair and the Blair Drug and Alcohol Partnership, for treatment and support of the programs as outlined below:

In Prison Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)	\$10,000.00
Opioid Use Disorder Treatment (OUD)	\$96,000.00
In Prison Women's Re-entry Services	\$96,000.00

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

d. Opioid Settlement Committee:

Tricia Johnson requested approval to execute the 2026 Certification Form for funds to be distributed from the County Abatement Account and for Commissioner David Kessling to execute said form.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

e. Public Works/Highway:

- i. Lisa Auty requested approval of an Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Public Works/Highway Department, and James E. Cherry d/b/a Cherry Communications for the service of CB radios and handheld 2-way radios as set forth in County approved purchase orders.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

- ii. Lisa Auty requested approval of an Agreement for Purchases Under Bidding Threshold by and between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Public

Works/Highway, and Icon Signs Co., for design and decaling services for all County Department Vehicles as set forth in County approved purchase orders.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

f. Public Works/Facilities:

- i. Nicholas Burket requested approval of Change Order #2 to the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair and Carl Walker Construction (Contract #1 General) for the Blair County Parking Garage project in the increased amount of \$55,621.32 and to extend the Substantial Completion date from October 19, 2026 to November 20, 2026, and the Final Payment date from October 19, 2026 to December 11, 2026. The revised total cost is \$2,266,974.76

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

- ii. Nicholas Burket requested approval of Change Order #1 to the Agreement between the County of Blair and Montgomery Bros. Plumbing and Heating, LLC. (Contract #2 Plumbing) for the Blair County Parking Garage project to extend the Substantial Completion date from October 19, 2026 to November 20, 2026, and the Final Payment date from October 19, 2026 to December 11, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

- iii. Nicholas Burket requested approval of Change Order #1 to the Contract Agreement between the County of Blair and MH Electric LLC. (Contract #3 Electric) for the Blair County Parking Garage project to extend the Substantial Completion date from October 19, 2026 to November 20, 2026, and the final payment date from October 19, 2026 to December 11, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

g. Employee Wellness Committee:

- i. Lindsay Dempsey requested approval to accept the 2026 PCOMP Wellness Improvement Grant in the amount of \$327.04.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

h. Commissioners:

- i. Chief Clerk Alica Tiracave requested approval of the Agreement between the County of Blair and Henningsson, Durham & Richardson of Pennsylvania, Architects, and Engineers, P.C. for architectural design services for the new Blair County Prison Project in the amount of 5.5% of the Owner's budget for the Cost of the Work and with an effective date of September 10, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and unanimously approved.

Jay Wenger, from RBC Capital Markets, and Murphy De Pompei, from Dinsmore Shohl, gave a special presentation regarding the bond the County will be adopting to finance the new correctional facility, renovations of the Lakemont Park dam, and energy efficiencies at the Blair County Courthouse.

Commissioner Kessling stated the Board of Commissioners' intent is not to borrow \$14,000,000.00. It gives the County the ability to, but most importantly it states not to exceed that amount. This Board of Commissioners has been tasked with taking on issues that have been left go for years and they are taking the steps to address them.

i. Finance:

- i. Lindsay Dempsey requested authorization for the incurring of nonelectoral debt by the issuance of general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed one hundred forty-four million dollars (\$144,000,000.00); covenanting to pay, and pledging all available taxing power of the local government unit for the payment of, the bonds; establishing a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository; fixing the form, maximum interest rates, maturity dates and other provisions for the payment thereof; authorizing the acceptance of a proposal for the purchase of the bonds; authorizing a filing of required documents with the department of community and economic development; ratifying and directing certain actions of officers; and making certain other covenants and provisions in respect of the bonds.

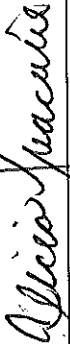
Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster, and
unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURN

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



Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk

