



BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 10:02 A.M.

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 asked that everyone participating in the meeting stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present:

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

Others Present:

Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Melissa Gillin, Patricia Muriceak, Cindy James, and Tyras Young (Social Services), Nick Burket (Public Works-Facilities), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Molly Milliron (JPO), Paige Schwaderer (Court Admin), Scott Bailey (APO), Cris Frederickson (EMA), Grant Wills (GIS), and Kay Stephens (Altoona Mirror).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

An Executive Session was held on 04/27 at approximately 1pm with 3 commissioners, HR, Chief Clerk, and Assistant Chief Clerk to interview a candidate for one open position.

An Executive Session was held on 04/29 at approximately 2pm with the 3 commissioners, HR, and Chief Clerk regarding one Collective Bargaining Agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sam Dunkle stated that the Clocktower Project is at \$60,000.00 of it's \$75,000.00 goal. He encouraged employees to make a donation in support of the project.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kessling stated that is satisfying to live in a community that preserves history. Our county struggles with funding and he appreciates the American Legion and Sam Dunkle for doing this for our community.

Commissioner Burke added that years ago people asked about the clock tower. It is special to us and the community. She also reminded everyone that May 1st is Law Day and there will be students in Courtroom 2 presenting their America 250 Student Essays.

Commissioner Webster stated that she remembers back when the bell rang and the clock was correct. She reminded everyone that today was the Anniversary of the Vietnam War and tomorrow there will be a ribbon cutting for the lead Mine display at Fort Roberdeau.

PROCLAMATIONS

The Commissioners tabled the "May 2026 is ALS Awareness Month" Proclamation.

Commissioner Burke read the following Proclamation:

May is Mental Health Month
2026

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to the overall well-being of individuals, families, and communities throughout Blair County, influencing how residents think, feel, act, and respond to life's challenges; and

WHEREAS, one in five adults in the United States experiences a mental health condition each year, and many more residents of Blair County are impacted directly or indirectly through family members, friends, coworkers, and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions do not discriminate and affect individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life, including children, adolescents, veterans, and older adults within Blair County; and

WHEREAS, early identification, prevention, and access to appropriate mental health and substance use services can significantly improve outcomes and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, stigma and misunderstanding surrounding mental health challenges often prevent individuals from seeking help, highlighting the need for continued education, awareness, and open dialogue within our community; and

WHEREAS, Blair County is served by dedicated organizations, providers, and advocates—including the Blair County Department of Social Services, local healthcare systems, schools, first responders, and community-based agencies—who work tirelessly to provide support, treatment, and recovery services; and

WHEREAS, initiatives across Blair County continue to promote mental wellness, suicide prevention, crisis intervention, and recovery, including collaboration among public safety, healthcare, and human services partners; and

WHEREAS, strengthening community awareness and fostering a culture of compassion and support can help ensure that all residents feel empowered to seek help and support others in times of need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Blair County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the month of May as Mental Health Month in Blair County, Pennsylvania, and encourages all residents to prioritize their mental well-being, support those experiencing mental health challenges, and engage in activities that promote resilience and recovery. We call upon citizens, government agencies, healthcare providers, educators, businesses, and community organizations throughout Blair County to work together to increase awareness and understanding of mental health, reduce stigma, and ensure access to compassionate and effective mental health services for all.

Cindy James spoke about upcoming events in support of Mental Health Month.

Motion by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling, and approved to adopt the Proclamation for Mental Health Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 141– 2026:

a. Ratification of the following eleven (11) Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
4/21/2026	260421WW	\$938,834.48
4/16/2026	260331EO	\$205.11
4/17/2026	260417DI	\$10,782.23
4/02/2026	260402WC	\$993.00
4/20/2026	260420FS	\$3,765.87
4/20/2026	260420ML	\$290.87
4/23/2026	260423HR	\$10,879.43
4/24/2026	260424WX	\$10,140.47
4/24/2026	241112TC	\$2,895.15
4/28/2026	260428SS	\$739,188.35
4/28/2026	260428WW	\$459,009.40

Which includes payment of the following vendors:

- Blair Senior Services in the amount of \$193,990.00.
- Hollidaysburg Borough in the total amount of \$28,180.07.

b. **2026 Budget Transfer:** To cover restroom maintenance at Fort Roberdeau:

From	\$	To
01103BM-46060 Building Maintenance	\$1,416.12	08607-46060 Fort Roberdeau

c. **2026 Budget Transfer:** To cover window repairs at the Adult Parole Annex:

From	\$	To
01101GCO-44960 General County Operations	\$495.54	012012-44960 APO Satellite

d. **Social Services:** Requesting approval to light the courthouse up in green lights from May 1, 2026 through May 22, 2026, in support of Mental Health Month.

e. **Commissioners:** Requesting approval to light the Courthouse up in red/white/blue lights from May 23, 2026 through July 31, 2026 in support of America's 250th anniversary.

- f. Employments: Sodergren, Justin, R., FT, Deputy Sheriff, \$19.35/hr., effective 4/27/2026. Spaide, Trevor D., FT, Assistant District Attorney, District Attorney, \$1942.31/biweekly, effective 4/27/2026. Davis, Gabriel M., PT, Telecommunicator, Public Safety 911, \$19.35/hr., effective 4/27/2026. McEldowney, Richard J., FT, Deputy, Sheriff, \$19.35/hr., effective 4/27/2026.
- g. Status Changes: Burns, Nicole C., FT, Telecommunicator, Public Safety 911, \$19.74/hr., to PT, Telecommunicator, Public Safety 911, \$19.74/hr., effective 4/14/2026.
- h. Separations of Employment: Sterling, Shawn, FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/8/2026. Bailey, Victoria L., FT, Corrections Officer, Prison, \$21.53/hr., effective 4/23/2026. Hyle, Lisa M., FT, Probation Officer Aide, Adult Probation Office, \$13.75/hr., effective 4/23/26. Makosky, Susan, M. FT, Administrative Support, Juvenile Probation Office, \$15.05/hr., effective 4/24/2026.
- Commissioner Burke abstained from payments to Blair Senior Services and Hollidaysburg Borough due to conflicts of interest.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved with the abstentions as noted.

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

a. Children, Youth and Families:

- i. Eric Malloy requested approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth, and Families, the Solicitor supporting CYF, Diakon-SWAN, LLC, and its subcontractor, Voce, for the SWAN Legal Service Initiative (SWAN LSI) Paralegals(s) for the period of October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved
- ii. Eric Malloy requested approval of the Contract between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Rose Weir d/b/a Revive Therapy: Where Healing Begins for consulting services through June 30, 2027.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Burke and unanimously approved

b. Juvenile Probation:

- i. Joe Cox III requested approval of the Juvenile Probation Service Program Grant Agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of the Blair County Juvenile Probation Office and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania acting through the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission for the award of program funds for the performance period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the total amount of \$146,839.00.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved
- ii. Joe Cox III requested approval of the 2026/2027 contract agreement between the County of Blair, on behalf of Blair County Juvenile Probation, and Central Counties Youth Center for juvenile detention facilities for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at the rate of \$667.00 per day per juvenile, with additional fees per contract on an as-needed basis.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved

c. Adult Probation and Parole:

- Scott Bailey requested approval to submit an application for the 2025-2026 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) Justice Reinvestment Initiative 2 (JRI-2) grant #49696 in the amount of \$405,714.00. All items requested in this grant agreement were removed from the 2026 County budget.
- Motioned by Commissioner Kessling, seconded by Commissioner Webster and unanimously approved

d. Public Works/Facilities:

- i. Nicholas Burkett requested approval of the Quote received from Elderhorst Belis Inc. for the restoration of the clock tower clock and bell operation in the amount of \$12,250.00.

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

- ii. Nicholas Burkett requested approval for the submission of the Pennsylvania Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (PCoMP) 2026 Sallade Safety Improvement Program Grant Application for the purchase of five (5) new AEDs for the Sheriff's Department and new AED pads and batteries for the Courthouse and Fort Roberdeau in the total amount of \$10,223.24.

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

- iii. Nicholas Burkett requested approval of the Quote received from Empire Communications Systems for the installation of a camera system at the Coroner's Office body storage area, in the amount of \$7,834.00.

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

e. Social Services:

- i. Melissa Gillin requested approval for Blair County Department of Social Services to sponsor the Blair County Local Emergency Planning Committee at the Blair County Emergency Preparedness Summit in the amount of \$1,000.00.

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

- ii. Melissa Gillin requested approval of a Property Owner/Contractor Agreement for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Code Compliance Repair Assistance Program between the County of Blair, Department of Social Services, Gayle Benton, and Bentons Builders for front porch repairs located at 106 S. 16th Street, Altoona in the amount of \$7,500.00.

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

f. Public Safety 911E:

- Cris Fredrickson requested approval for the award of the bid received for the Blair County Department of Emergency Services Public Safety Grade Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS):

Vendor	Comments	Bid Amount	Comment
AXON Enterprise Inc.	Cost with all optional equipment	\$61,990.00	Award
W.S. Darley and Co.	Cost with all optional equipment	\$44,252.00	
AXON Enterprise Inc.	Cost without optional equipment	\$58,980.00	
W.S. Darley and Co.	Cost without optional equipment	\$34,500.00	

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

g. Court Administration:

- i. Paige Schwader requested approval to submit a FY 2025-2026 Treatment Courts Discretionary Grant application to the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) for the Blair County Drug Court in the amount of \$5,565.00.

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

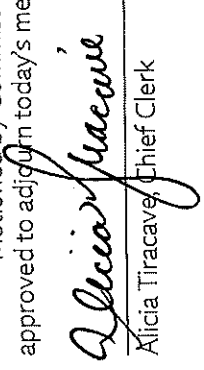
- ii. Paige Schwader requested approval to submit a FY 2025-2026 Treatment Courts Discretionary Grant application to the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) for the Blair County DUI Court in the amount of \$5,565.00.

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

