

BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA

Thursday, October 22, 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 called for a moment of silent prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
Commissioner Kessling asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Commissioner Kessling, Commissioner Webster, Commissioner Burke, and Chief Clerk Alicia Tiracave.

OTHERS PRESENT
Madison Murtiff and Lori Guyer (Commissioners), Emily States (911), Cris Fredrickson (EMA), Becky Robinson (Purchasing), Brandon Meck and Lindsay Dempsie (Finance), Eric Malloy and Shannon Tucker (CYF), Andrea Morina (Register/Recorders), A.C. Stickel and Angela Wagner (Controller),Tricia Johnson (Social Services), Devin Saylor (Assessment), Donna Fisher (Blair County Conservation District), Riley Foster, Tabitha Smith, Madyson Lidwell, Lena Ransom, Sam Garman, Alayna Mitchell, Emily Gieg, Hanna Ingram, Cooper Stilt, and Sarah Garman (Hollidaysburg Area School District), Shauna Hoover (Operation Our Town), Scott White (Public), Rachel Foor-Musselman (Altoona Mirror), and Nate Taylor (Public Access Channel).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT
An executive session was held on October 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. with the Commissioners and Chief Clerk to interview a candidate.

APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES –10/15/2026, 4/30/2026, 4/23,2026, 4/16/2026, 4/9/2026, 4/2/2026, 3/26/2026

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS
Commissioner Webster reminded everyone its almost time to vote! You can go to election office and vote now. Mail in ballots are already out. Its important as an American to participate in the election.

Commissioner Kessling sent thoughts and prayers to Cove Mountain Wood Products as they experienced and large fire last night. We hope they can recover quickly.

PROCLAMATION – October 19-26, 2026 is Red Ribbon Week
Commissioner Burke read the following Proclamation:

Red Ribbon Week – October 2026

WHEREAS, Alcohol and substance abuse in this Nation have reached epidemic stages; and

WHEREAS, Substance abuse is particularly damaging to one of our most valuable resources, our children, and a contributing factor in the three leading causes of death for teenagers- accidents, homicides, and suicides; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that visible, unified presentation education efforts by community members be launched to eliminate the demand for drugs and;

WHEREAS, The National Red Ribbon Campaign offers citizens the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to drug-free lifestyles (no use of illegal drugs no illegal use of legal drugs); and

WHEREAS, The National Red Ribbon Campaign will be celebrated across America during Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31,2026; and

WHEREAS, Business, government, parents, law enforcement, media, medical institutions, religious institutions, schools, senior citizens, service organizations, and youth will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during this week long campaign; and

WHEREAS, The community of Blair County, PA further supports the efforts of the Red Ribbon Campaign;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners of the County of Blair of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim October 23-31, 2026 as RED RIDDOB WEEK, and encourage its citizens to participate in drug presentation education activities, not only during Red Ribbon week, but all year long, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to a drug-free Blair County.

Motioned by Commissioner Burke, seconded by Commissioner Kessling and unanimously approved to adopt the Proclamation for Red Ribbon week.

Commissioner Burke stated we do this every year and it's nice to hear from the students what they are doing at school. As a parent it's good to hear from peers, sometimes kids will listen better to peers over their parents. She always says she hopes her children learn from her mistakes. Not just related to substances, but making sure they wear their seat beat and other things like that. There are all sorts of things that may be difficult to talk about but it's important that we take care of each other and keep each other safe.

Samnatha Garman, President of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), stated that the week of October 23-31st is Red Ribbon week and is celebrated throughout the area schools. She really enjoys all the things they do during Red Ribbon week. In Junior High it's not so cool to participate in anymore. SADD tries to make the week as fun as possible. They do voluntary random drug testing and if you pass you get a $25 gift card to Sheetz. The Students Against Drunk Driving partner with Blair County Drug and Alcohol Program (BDAP) to try to prevent and bring awareness to alcohol and drug abuse, drunk driving, and underage drinking. They were able to do a mock drunk driving accident last year before prom. She would like to think it helped students understand the reality of drunk driving. Thank you for your time, support, and helping make our community a healthier place to live.

Commissioner Kessling commended the students for doing what they are doing. He stated he would not like to be growing up now. There is so many different things out there and someone only has to touch you and that's it. Doing what you're doing helps make the community strong. As older people, sometimes children don't want to listen. So, you guys, being the age you are, helps with this. Thank you for doing what you're doing.

Commissioner Webster said her children are no longer teenagers, but she knows this was important when they were growing up too. We were always worried about people trying to bring drugs and alcohol to parties and things like that. She thanked the students for being aware and speaking out about it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 165– 2026:

a. Ratification of the following eight (8) Warrant Lists:

EFFECTIVE DATE	WARRANT NUMBER	AMOUNT
10/13/2026	261013FS	$3,555.87
10/08/2026	260930PC	$19,710.73
10/10/2026	261010GG	$20,083.00
10/15/2026	261015HR	$16,282.61
10/15/2026	261015FS	$591.70
10/20/2026	261010SS	$723,536.85
10/20/2026	261020CY	$669,753.24
10/20/2026	261020WW	$757,123.28

Which includes payments to the following:

- Hollidaysburg Borough in the amount of $25,892.16
- Blair Senior Services in the amount of $423.00 and $188,472.45

b. Ratification of total Payroll for the paycheck dated 10/16/2026 in the total amount of $1,043,208.68.

c. 2026 Budget Transfer: To cover bridge replacement legal services:

From	$	To
01101GCO-44080 General County Operations	$1,950.00	01101-44080 Commissioners

d. Commissioners:
Requesting approval of the 2027 Holiday schedule for non-union employees.

e. Status Notice:

Type	Effective Date	Last Name	First Name	Dept	Position	Status	Rate	New Dept	New Position	New Status	New Rate
Separation	09/25/26	Johnson	David F	Prison	Corrections Officer	Nonexempt, FT	$24.00/hour	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Separation	10/13/26	McFarland	Kylee M	Prison	Corrections Officer	Nonexempt, FT	$23.50/hour	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Separation	10/14/26	Markel	William A	Prison	Corrections Officer	Nonexempt, FT	$23.50/hour	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retirement	10/16/26	Culbertson	Dorothy R	JPO	Administrative Support	Nonexempt, FT	$15.39/hour	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Status Change	09/25/26	McNeal	Lillie S	Prison	Corrections Officer	Nonexempt, FT	$28.50/hour	N/A	Sergeant	Nonexempt, FT	$30.00/hour
Status Change	10/12/26	Cruseliet	Andrew Q	DA	Certified Legal Intern	Nonexempt, FT	$22.87/hour	N/A	Assistant District Attorney	Exempt, FT	$2438.77/biweekly

Commissioner Burke abstained from payments to Hollidaysburg Borough and Blair Senior Services.

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

STAFF REPORTS & SPECIAL BUSINESS:

a. Blair County Agricultural Land Preservation Board:

Donna Fisher, on behalf of Rich Huether, requested approval of an Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the County of Blair Jointly in Perpetuity and England Family Limited Partnership for 104.10 acres located in Woodbury Township, Blair County, in the total purchase price of $261,291.00. The Commonwealth shall pay $186,291.00 and the County shall pay $75,000.00.

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

b. Children, Youth and Families:

Eric Malloy requested approval of the FY 2026/2027 Purchase of Service Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Agreement between the County of Blair, Blair County Children, Youth and Families, and Bethesda Children's Home d/b/a Bethesda Lutheran Services for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

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

c. Social Services:

i. 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, Gwen Eaken, and Rovenolt Contracting, LLC for porch renovations of the house located at 523 N. 10th Avenue, Altoona, in the not-to-exceed amount of $7,500.00.

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

ii. Tricia Johnson requested approval for the submission of a FFY 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on behalf of the seventeen (17) Non-Entitlement Communities of the County of Blair in the total amount of $246,028.00.

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

iii. Tricia Johnson requested approval of the Cooperative Agreements between the County of Blair and the five (5) Entitlement Municipalities and to submit an application and administer the FY 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program on their behalf as follows:

$ 111,304.00	Blair County to benefit Hollidaysburg Borough
$ 109,555.00	Blair County to benefit Tyrone Borough
$ 120,401.00	Blair County to benefit Antis Township
$ 101,980.00	Blair County to benefit Blair Township
$ 130,410.00	Blair County to benefit Frankstown Township

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

iv. Tricia Johnson requested approval for the submission of the "combined" FFY 2026 Community Development Block Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the County of Blair on behalf of

the seventeen (17) Non-Entitlement Communities in the amount of $201,748.00, and on behalf of the five (5) Entitlement Communities in the amount of $322,900.00, for a total amount of $819,678.00.

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

d. Court Administration:

Alicia Tiracave on behalf of Sam Dunkle requested approval of the Proposals dated October 13, 2026 received from Empire Communication for camera installation outside of Courtrooms #2, #3, and #5, and the hallways adjacent to these Courtrooms in the total amount of $24,056.00 as outlined below. This is being funded by the AOPC grant.:

Outside Courtroom	Amount
#2	$7,490.00
#3	$10,338.00
#5	$6,228.00

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

e. Public Safety/911:

Emily States requested approval for the Payment of the Invoice Made Outside the County Purchasing Policy received from SBM Electronics, Inc. for support and maintenance of the Audiolog Voice Recorder, for the period of September 24, 2026 through September 23, 2027, in the total amount of $13,621.75.

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

f. Public Safety/EMA:

Cris Fredrickson requested approval of the electronic submission of the 2027 Mosquito-Borne Disease Control (MBDC) Grant Application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in the total amount of $74,486.00, for the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

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

g. Finance:

Lindsay Dempsie requested approval of the 2026/2027 State Food Purchase Program (SFPP) Grant Agreement between the County of Blair and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in the amount of $249,806.77.

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.

Alicia Tiracave, Chief Clerk