

January 2, 2026

REORGANIZATIONAL

There was a reorganizational meeting at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road Small Conference Room for the reorganizational meeting for 2023. In attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, (via teleconference) Kovach, Solicitor Marinos, Chief Clerk Witchey, Sheriff Chamberlain, Treasurer Creveling, Register & Recorder Lupini, Prothonotary Stroup, Jean Lapinski, Michele Frye, Matt Repasky, MJ Mahon, Marcie Strachko, Bobby Christainson. Via Zoom: April Miller, Jeremy Brown, Jenn Long, Kirsti Kritzer, and Tim Murphy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Solicitor Marinos called the meeting to order and he asked for the nomination for Chairman of the Board

A. Ask for nomination of a Chairman of the Board;

Motion by Karschner for Brewer and seconded by Kovach; abstain by Brewer; motion passes

B. Ask for a nomination of a Vice-Chairman of the Board

Motion by Karschner for Kovach and failed by no second; motion by Brewer for Karschner seconded by Kovach; abstain by Karschner; motion passes

C. Ask for a nomination of a Secretary of the Board

Motion by Karchner for Kovach and seconded by Brewer; abstain by Kovach; motion passes

D. Appointment of Tony McDonald for Solicitor and Alicia Marinos as Assistant Solicitor

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

E. Reappointment of Chief Clerk Witchey

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

F. Approve the Continued Agreement with First Columbia Bank and Trust as the Depository for County Funds

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

G. Approve First Keystone Bank as an Auxiliary account for County Funds

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

H. Approve the 2026 holiday calendar

Motion by Karchner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

I. Approve the 2026 payroll and holiday calendar

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

J. Approve the County operational hours for 2026 as 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (in the policy manual)

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

K. Approve the Policies and Procedure Manual

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- L. Authorize the Chief Clerk and/or Finance Director to approve payment of bills which may cause the County to lose a discount or suffer a penalty because failure to remit at an earlier date than a scheduled meeting day for approval

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- M. Approve the federal mileage rate of \$.725 per mile.

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- N. Approve the reappointment of County personnel (listing is in the salary board minutes)

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- O. Approve the appointments of commissioners and alternatives to the various boards (SEDA-COG, Conservation, Traveling Library, CMSU, WVFMB, HS Coalition, LEPC, WIA/LEO, CMVB, CMOA, Penn State Extension, CCWMA DRIVE, and FOCUS. CYS Advisory Board has all three Commissioners s Ex-Officio Members)

SEDA-COG - Randy Karchner

Alternate - Brandon Eyerly

Conservation - Randy Karchner

Alternate – Dean Brewer

Traveling Library – Dean Brewer

Alternate - David Kovach

HS Coalition - David Kovach

Alternate – Dean Brewer

WVFMB – Chris Anderson

Alternate – Randy Karchner

LEPC - Randy Karchner

CMVB - Dean Brewer

CMOA- Randy Karchner

CYS Advisory - All Commissioners as Ex-Officio Members

WIA/LEO - David Kovach

Penn State Extension - David Kovach

CMSU - Dean Brewer

CCWMA - Randy Karchner, Dave Kovach

DRIVE - Dean Brewer

Prison Board - All Commissioners

ECEN Board - All Commissioners

GEMS Authority – David Kovach

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- P. Approve McDonald as Solicitor and Marinos as the Asst. Solicitor for the Columbia County Election Board for 2026.

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- Q. Approve Dave Witchey, Chief Clerk for the Columbia County Elections Board for 2026.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- R. Authorize Chief Clerk and Solicitor McDonald to act on any disputed electoral issues and to issue Watcher's Certificates to candidates and parties as entitled by law during 2026.

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- S. Approve Matthew Repasky and Thea Karas to act on behalf of the Columbia County Board of Elections for conducting election matters and to issue Watcher's Certificates to candidates and parties as entitled by law during 2026

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- T. Approval to notify Judges, Inspectors & Clerks of Poll School for the May 16th, 2026 Municipal Primary and Municipal Election Nov 3rd, 2026.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

U. Approve the following election advertising:

- 1. Public Test of the Unisyn System Voting for General Primary and Election
- 2. Return Board convenes Friday after the General Primary and Election
- 3. Casting of the lots for tie votes (if any) at the General Primary and Election
- 4. “Notice of General Primary” in the newspaper, listing office titles which will appear on the primary ballots
- 5. “Notice of General Election” in the newspaper, listing office titles and candidates which will appear on the election ballots
- 6. Any and all additional advertising that may be necessary to conduct Election in 2026

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk