

March 20, 2025

There was a Commissioners meeting at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road, Small Conference Room for the regular scheduled Commissioners meeting. In attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Solicitor Marinos, Treasurer Creveling, Jean Lapinski, Doyle Shadle, Roy Bunger and Michelle Frye. Via Zoom were Denise Labuda, Jenn Long, and MJ Mahon.

Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order and asked that we stand and pledge the flag, he then called for the approval of the minutes of the prior meeting.

Motion by Kovach seconded by Karschner; all approved.

Commissioner Brewer then called for a report of the work session: The work session report is as follows, at 10:00 AM there was a work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor Marinos, Marcie Strachko, Dave Witchey, Betsy Rubio, Beth Burke, Rich Kisner, Michelle Frye, Treasurer Creveling, Jean Lapinski, Oren Helbok, Chris Anderson, Register & Recorder Lupini, and MJ Mahon. Via zoom were April Miller, Denise LaBuda, Jenn Long, Thomas Frace, Jamie Shrawder, and Lisa Dooley. Commissioner Brewer asked Rich to discuss his request first. Rich presented his latest project which is being called Bloom Height Project. He discussed the fact that he has secured financing and the project is similar to the Bloom Mills projects. But in order to cover the additional costs he asked the Commissioners that he utilize \$100,000 of Act 137 Funds to assist the project. The Commissioners then voted to add this to the item to the agenda Commissioner Kovach made the motion and Commissioner Karschner seconded, all approved. Betsy Rubio from the Redevelopment Authority then asked to be on the agenda to have listed as the County’s designated land bank. Commissioner Kovach made the motion and Commissioner Brewer seconded, all approved. Oren then discussed the possibility the use of Tourism Funds to turn trash and requested the use of \$3,500 of Tourism Funds for the Project. Commissioner Karschner made the motion and Commissioner Kovach seconded, all approved. Ethan from Penn State Extension then discussed all the different programing the extension has been doing over the last qtr and then highlighted the upcoming Ag Awareness week and event on April 5th at the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds After that discussion the rest of the agenda was reviewed and Marcie reviewed the hires/step increase and promotions for both the Commissioners and Elected Officials and Courts. Jean reviewed bills and available cash. After which the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – February Report:
Total remitted to the County was \$22,735.39
Total business all sources was \$29,731.82

Clerk of Courts – February Report:
Total remitted to the County was \$45,637.11
Total business all sources was \$85,791.25

Magistrates’ Reports – February Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	247	\$6,517.69
Bloomsburg	425	\$11,924.80
Catawissa	219	\$5,746.29
Millville	270	\$5,151.76

Sheriff Screener – February Report:

Courthouse:		
Visitors		6,465
Alarms		3,543
Weapons:	Guns	1
	Knives	25
	Misc	14
Annex:		
Visitors		4,619
Alarms		2,538

Weapons:	Guns	3
	Knives	21
	Misc	3

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve utilizing Lycoming Supply which had the lowest bid of \$8,541.00 to repair Ester Furnace End Post, once repaired this will reopen the bridge

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- B. Approve the use of \$5,000 of Hotel Tax Funds to assist in the Berwick Mural Project on the Nationwide Building

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- C. Approve the use of \$2,500 of Hotel Tax Funds to the Fishing Creek Sportsman Club for their annual trout tagging

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- D. Approve the use of \$3,500 for a Public Art Project “Trash Transformed” highlighting the waterway cleanup project

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- E. Approve CSG utilizing \$100,000 of Act 137 Funds for Bloom Heights Project that will provide housing for a 32 unit project.

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- F. Approve Columbia County Redevelopment Authority being designated as a land bank

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- G. Discussion regarding the request for Hotel Tax Funds for the pickle ball courts located in Bloomsburg

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- H. Approve Children & Youth to utilize the County flower beds in front of the Courthouse for Child Abuse Awareness.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- I. Approve the agreement with SEDA-COG for administrative services for the West End Flood Wall

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- J. Approve the use of the County’s Parking Lots for the Renaissance Fair which is being held on April 26th, 2025

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- K. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of parcels due to 2024 interim bills that were entered in the system incorrectly:

- 16 properties entered incorrectly \$11,150.12

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of parcels that did not receive their County/TWP tax bill

- Parcel 27-03-00501163 \$45.00
- Parcel 17-03-A02700000 \$45.00

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest of a parcel assessed twice

- Parcel 22-01C-01000000 \$184.21

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

Approve the exoneration of 4 Parcels owned by Central Columbia School District

- 4 Parcels \$12,438.47

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

L. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:

- Nikolle Bastian, Caseworker I to CW II, promotion, CYS, 1/16/2025
- Lukas Reynolds, Telecommunicator, ECEN, Hire, 4/1/2025
- David Nevel, FT CO, Jail, 4 yr step, 3/28/2025
- Todd Burke, PT CO, Jail, 1 yr step, 4/15/2025
- Elyse Goodbred, FT CO, 1 yr step, 4/15/2025
- Nolan Coombe, FT CO, Jail, 6 mos step, 4/10/2025
- Justin Mease, FT CO, Jail, 6 mos step, 4/10/2025
- Michael Vezendy, PT CO, Jail, 6 mos step, 3/23/25
- Alexis Mundorff, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 03/31/2025
- Lexis Rhoads, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 03/31/2025
- Kirsten Yoder, Caseworker Aid, CYS, 6mos Step Increase, 02/26/2025

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

M. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS and COURT EMPLOYEE HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:

- Tammy Poust, Judicial Secretary, MDJ Bloomsburg, 2 yr step, 4/10/2025
- Marissa May, Legal Secretary, District Attorney, Transfer, 03/31/2025

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

N. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENTS:

- Matthew Yackiel, Telecommunicator, ECEN, Resignation, 3/7/2025
- Caroline Creasy, Admin Asst, Planning, Retirement, 4/11/2025
- Anthony Dressler, Caseworker I, CYS, Resignation, 3/7/2025
- Cavern Gosciminski, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 10/6/2024
- Joseph Clegg, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 3/11/25
- Robyn Conrath, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 3/11/25

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Larson Design Group notified the Commissioners of a request for water obstruction permit on Mifflin X Road for a bridge replacement project.
- Michael Harding sent a letter to the Commissioners to discuss the Wind Vane atop of the Courthouse wanting to discuss the repair or replacement of the Vane.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Approve the bills dated 3/14/2025 in the amount of \$215,652.40

Motion by Commissioner Karschner and seconded by Commissioner Kovach; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Doyle Shadle brought up the issue of the residents that are located in North Centre and South Centre Townships that are having an issue with high level PFAS in their drinking water. He discussed and provided articles and other literature of the background of DEP’s approved use of municipal waste (sludge) as a fertilizer back in the 80’s.

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk