

April 2, 2026

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, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Michelle Frye, Ell Adams, Jeremy Brown, Jeannie Lapinski, Vanna Cleary and MJ Mahon. Via Zoom: Trevor Knobel and Don Coleman.

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 and 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, Kovach, Chief Clerk Witchey, Michelle Frye, MJ Mahon, Nicole Hause, Ginny Mazzei, Betsy Rubio, Register & Recorder Lupini, Sheriff Chamberlain, Matt Repasky, and Via Phone Commissioner Karschner. Via Zoom Doyle Shadle, Kirsti Kritzer, Don Coleman, Tim Murphy, Denise LaBuda, April Miller, Thomas Frace, Jeremy Brown, and Rachel Swartwood. Commissioner Brewer asked Betsy to start the meeting since she had an item on the agenda regarding the use of the DEMO Funds for a property in Bloomsburg that was destroyed by fire. During the discussion she also wanted to cap the amount that would be spent out of the fund and it was determined that amount would be \$13,000. Matt Repasky then provided a brief update regarding mail in ballots and the projected timing of when the mail in ballots will be going out to the Columbia County voters from the Counties new vendor Fort Orange Press. It appears as though Fort Orange will receive the ballots on April 14th or 15th and that if Fort Orange receives the information on that date they anticipate those ballots being placed in the mail system as soon as Monday April 20th. The Commissioners voted to add Ordinance for the Redevelopment Authority to be the County's Land Bank. After which the remaining agenda items were reviewed with along with the personnel moves, and Jeannie providing updates on both available cash and bills. After which the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

Sheriff Revenue – March Report

Interest:	\$ 1,471.07
Civil	\$ 6,277.00
Lic To Carry	\$ 5,016.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$ 228.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$ 0.00
Personal Prop	\$ 1,473.00
Real Estate	\$11,319.08
Transports	\$ 0.00
Warrant	\$ 1,938.50
Total	\$27,722.65

Register & Recorder – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$44,754.90
Total business all sources was \$1,628,573.02

Number of Deeds recorded for March was 192
Number of Mortgages recorded for March was 162

Treasurer – March Report:

County Commission \$3,166.00

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation for Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 12th -18th

B. Approve the use of DEMO Funds in the amount of \$12,720 and also establish a cap because it does not include any additional funds if there is any asbestos found at the location in the amount of \$13,000 for the fire damaged property on West Main Street in Bloomsburg

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

C. Approve Ordinance 2026-1 designating the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority as a Land Bank

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

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

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

E. Approve Peters Consultants, Inc. for the Dry Dam Inspection Services Agreement for 2026, 2027 & 2028 in the amount of \$2,200 per year

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

F. Approve a resolution supporting SEDA-COG seeking a grant through DCNR for the County Greenway Plan

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

G. Approve continuing membership of the Farm Bureau for \$100

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

H. Approve Children & Youth to place their Child Abuse Prevention Flags in front of the courthouse as it is Child Abuse Prevention month

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

I. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a bought out flood property that is now owned by the borough

- Parcel 02-04-00800-000 \$45.00

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

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

- Stephanie Nearhoof, Medical Staff, Jail, six (6) month step, 1/21/26
- Gavin Doucette, Medical Staff, Jail six (6) month step, 1/21/26
- Meghan McHenry, Reclassification to PT Exempt Training Coordinator, 3/29/26
- Christopher Anderson, EMA/Resiliency Director, Promotion, 3/23/26

Motion by Karchner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

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

- Montana Henrie, Secretary, Domestic Relations, Hire, 4/6/26
- Joshua Hartman, PT Deputy, Sheriff, Hire, 4/13/26
- Adam Bennett, Probation Officer to Deputy, transfer to Sheriff, 4/13/26
- Debra McHenry, Assistant Deputy, Register & Recorder, four (4) year step, 4/19/26
- Michelle Feitner, Admin Asst, Courts, four (4) year step, 3/7/26
- Michael Beyer, Chief Deputy, Sheriff, four (4) year step, 4/4/26

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

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

- Jarod Cole, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 3/20/26

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Kawneer sent a letter notifying the Columbia County Commissioners that they are seeking renewal to their Air Quality Permit through the Department of Environmental Protection
- The Commissioners received notification of a request for a water obstruction permit from John Marks with the Project name being Stone Creek Estate Streambank Satbilization at 4650 Hideaway Manor Catawissa PA, project is 282 linear ft.
- The Commissioners received notification of a request for a water obstruction permit from Charles Litwhiler with the Project name being Litwhiler Phase 2 at 4045 Maple Grove Rd Benton PA, project is 500 linear ft.

BILLS:

- Approve the bills for 3/24/26 for \$1,042,144.71

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trevor Knobel spoke briefly regarding the Commissioners and the working relationship with Knobels and that he would like to continue that process then Commissioner Kovach mentioned the ceremony by the Boy Scouts and that their flag will be at the Smithsonian Institute for America 250

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk