

August 7, 2025

There was a Commissioners meeting at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road, Small Conference Room for the regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting. In attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor Marinos, Marcie Strachko, Treasurer Creveling, David Witchey, April Miller, Holly Johnston, and Michelle Frey. Via Zoom were Don Coleman, Misty Chapman, MJ Mahon, and Kelly O’Brien.

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, Marcie Strachko, Solicitor Marinos, Treasurer Creveling, Beth Burke, Michelle Frye, Jean Lapinski, MJ Mahon, Misty Chapman, April Miller, Holly Johnston and Ethan Howard. Via zoom was Tom Frace. Chairman Brewer asked Ethan to start the meeting and Ethan provided an update of all Penn State Extensions programs including 4-H, Master Gardeners, Agronomy, Nutrition, Leadership & Community, and Water Team which is going to have a PFAS Event on August 28th at Central Columbia Middle School. Beth Burke then provided a brief update on her agenda item. April then discussed Columbia County’s Children and Youth’s need based 2026/2027 budget. After these updates the rest of the agenda was reviewed and Marcie’s reviewed the hires steps and increases, Jean then reviewed available cash and bills. After which the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Screener – July Report:

Courthouse:		
Visitors		7,428
Alarms		2,970
Weapons:	Guns	3
	Knives	37
	Misc	12

Annex:		
Visitors		5,216
Alarms		1,879
Weapons:	Guns	2
	Knives	17
	Misc	11

Sheriff Revenue – July Report

Interest:	\$ 1,907.73
Civil	\$ 4,088.00
Lic To Carry	\$ 3,382.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	\$ 114.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	\$ 0.00
Personal Prop	\$ 626.00
Real Estate	\$ 0.00
Transports	\$ 0.00
Warrant	\$ 1,023.69
Total	\$11,141.42

Register & Recorder – July Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$36,465.20
Total business all sources was \$1,120,924.19

Number of Deeds recorded for July was 149
Number of Mortgages recorded for July was 177

Magistrates Reports – July Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	142	\$5,508.48
Bloomsburg	263	\$9,545.30
Catawissa	349	\$8,701.69
Millville	238	\$6,341.53

Treasurer – July Report:

County Commission \$3,107.00

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. A Discussion and public comment for the Columbia County Children & Youth 2026/2027 needs based budget

B. Approve the Ordinance designating the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority as a Land Bank

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

C. Approve CMSU reimbursement of \$5,663.81 from the opioid funds for their support of the MAT Program at the Columbia County Prison

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

D. Approve the use of Hotel Tax Funds for the North Berwick Athletic Association request of \$1,000 for reimbursement associated with the Berwick Jr Legion State Tournament

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

E. Approve the use of the 911 lot on August 9th for the Visitors Bureau Fish Tournament awards ceremony

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

F. Approve the advertisement seeking Conservation District Directors

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

G. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest for a lease hold trailer moved or razed with no permit

- Parcel# 1203 00907325 \$547.49

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

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

- Ken Carey, Sr. Telecommunicator, ECEN, two (2), year step, 7/24/25
- Owen Rice, FT CO, Jail, six (6) month step, 7/20/25
- Samantha Bagan, CCMS, Jail, Hire, 8/18/25

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

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

- Brenda Berlin, Judicial Secretary, MDJ Bloomsburg, two (2) year step, 7/24/25
- Heidi Knorr, Clerk, Treasurer, six (6) month step, 8/24/25

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

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

- Juwan Petties-Jackson, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 8/16/25

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

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Myers LLC, notified the Commissioners that Millville is filing their NPDES permit renewal FOR THEIR Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- Entech notified the Commissioners that Wise Foods, Inc. is applying for permit under the air pollution control act. The project is an application for a synthetic minor operating permit.
- Roaring Creek Egg Farms is filing an amendment to their NPDES existing CAFO Permit for operation
- DEP sent notification that Continental Mine Operation permit was corrected

BILLS:

Approve the bills dated 8/1/2025 in the amount of \$262,299.33

Motion by Commissioner Kovach; seconded by Commissioner Brewer; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey