

August 20, 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 (via zoom), Solicitor McDonald, David Witchey, Eric Boughner, Jean Lapinski, Leigh Ann Hoffman Hunter, Treasurer Creveling, Chris Anderson, Sydney Springer, and Marcie Strachko. Via Zoom: Don Coleman Denise LaBuda, MJ Mahon, David Kovach and Ell Adams.

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 Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

Commissioner Brewer called for a report of the work session: In attendance was Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach (via teleconference), Solicitor McDonald, David Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Eric Boughner, MJ Mahon, Dave Kurecian, Taryn Crayton, Ginny Weibel, Anthony Boberick, Ginny Weibel, Cody Meredith, Jean Lapinski, Treasurer Creveling, Eric Boughner, Otto Kurecian, and MJ Mahon. Via Zoom: Denise LaBuda, Jeremy Brown, Kirsti Kritzer, Don Coleman, Jeremy Brown, Thomas Frace, Tim Murphy, Sheriff Chamberlain, and Ell Adams. The work session started with Anthony from Mamoth Recycling introducing his company and the history of how they came to be and how far they have progressed. Ginny from the Children’s Museum then discussed their new building that they have purchased along with the fact that the new facility will allow them to become the third museum in Pennsylvania to become a NASA Challenger center. She presented Hailstone economic impact that the museum creates along with letters of support for the museum. The request for the museum is \$40,000 per year for 5 years. The Commissioners stated that they did not want to encumber any funds that go beyond their current term because neither has committed to run again, so they only wanted to encumber the \$40k for the next two years and that the next board can decide to fund the remaining three years. The Chief Clerk mentioned that the current % of Hotel Tax is set at 3% but could go up to 5% if the board wants more funds coming into Hotel Tax, the Commissioners stated that would need to be reviewed at a later date. The remaining part of the agenda was reviewed along with all personnel moves; Jean then provided the Commissioners updates on both available cash and bills. The Commissioners voted to include the transaction of selling \$5,067,927 of retirement accounts and purchasing \$5,067,927 of different accounts that was a recommendation made by JR Castle @ Castle Consulting for the Retirement Board.

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

After which the work session as adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates Reports – July Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	218	\$ 4,746.26
Bloomsburg	386	\$ 9,403.93
Catawissa	463	\$ 9,787.50
Millville	377	\$ 6,325.63

Sheriff Screener – July Report:

Courthouse:		
Visitors		
		6,781
Alarms		
		2,793
Weapons:	Guns	3
	Knives	38
	Misc	6
Annex:		
Visitors		
		4,797
Alarms		
		2,134
Weapons:	Guns	1
	Knives	27
	Misc	1

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – July Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$19,834.07

Total business all sources was \$27,276.12

Clerk of Courts – July Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$43,065.37

Total business all sources was \$75,291.97

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve the use of \$40,000 per year of Hotel Tax Funds for 2026 & 2027 for the Children's Museum request to assist in the purchase and renovation of their new building

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- B. Approve Barb Warunek seeking the 2026/2027 PCCD grant for the Intermediate Punishment Treatment Program

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- C. Approve Unpaid Extended Leave as a Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- D. Approve the Columbia County Planning Commission recommendation of the reappointment of Michelle Bella to the Planning Commission Board

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

- E. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:

- Jessica Tineo, promoted to Paralegal, PD, 8/17/26
- Lynn Reed, PT CO, Jail, Rehire, 9/13/26

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

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

- Skylar Truchon, Probation Officer, Adult Probation, four (4) year step, 8/15/26
- Madison Beisswanger, Clerk, MDJ Catawissa, two (2) year step, 8/26/26

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

- G. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENT

- Joseph Miller, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 8/22/26
- Gavin Getz, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 8/22/26
- RyLee Sortman, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 8/1/26

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Rettew notified the Commissioners that the Town of Bloomsburg is filing for a general NPDES Permit for a new T-Hanger and Taxiway at the Bloomsburg Municipal Airport
- Entech Engineering provided notification that Wise Foods is applying for modification of its Wastewater Treatment Plant in Berwick Borough
- Peters Consultants, Inc. notified the Commissioners that Julie Evans filed a after the fact permit application for the 529 West First Street home. The application seeks retroactive approval for existing side/rear decks, stairs and elevated HVAC.

- The Town of Bloomsburg sent an email regarding Velioa regarding the paving of Market Street and Summit Avenue.
- WHM Group, LLC notified the Commissioners that the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company is seeking a general permit to uncover the pipeline so that they can inspect and/or repair an anomaly.
- The Commissioners received notification of a project in Locust Township located at 136 Slabtown Road in Catawissa for a culvert stream crossing for access to a home.

BILLS:

- Approve the bills for 8/14/26 totaling for \$1,504,404.45

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Leigh Ann Hoffman Hunter spoke about the ongoing issues of overcrowding, littering, bad behavior, illegal fires, alcohol, drugs, bridge jumping, and overall disrespect of the park at the County’s Hoffman Natural Area. She stated that she felt the County was not doing enough, which in turn is enabling the bad behavior. She reviewed how the park was acquired and that Columbia County purchased the land from her father for \$49,092 in July 2011. Leigh Ann also stated that she wanted to know what the plan is in the future for the park. Chief Clerk Witchey suggested that the family purchase the park back from the County so that they could control the land, and she stated that County and she should have a private meeting to discuss that.

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey