

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

February 8, 2024

Ebensburg, PA
January 25, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
January 26, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
January 29, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
January 30, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
January 31, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
February 1, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
February 2, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
February 5, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
February 6, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
February 7, 2024

Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Commissioners in Session. Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky were present.

The Commissioners' Meeting was called to Order by President Commissioner Scott W. Hunt in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to waive the reading of the Minutes of January 25, 2024, but to approve them and place them on file.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

John DeBartola stated that he believes the County will be renegotiating four contracts this year. He questioned what precedent the Commissioners would be setting, if they waive the healthcare policy for a spouse for one individual but no one else. He noted that the Commissioners chose not to help someone in the past with getting insurance for their spouse, so why would they do this now? Why does the County policy say one thing and the Commissioners do another?

Controller Cernic stated that he believes approving the Addendum for Barry Barefoot is wrong. The Commissioners received three proposals to do this work, it should have been understood when the work needed to be done.

Notice of Executive Sessions:

1. February 5, 2024, meeting with Agency Department Heads.
2. February 6, 2024, meetings with Human Resources and Solicitor.

Addendum:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Addendum for Contract Extension with Barry Barefoot allowing the Agreement dated September 14, 2023, to end on April 2, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed with a 2 to 1 vote. Commissioner Chernisky voted no.

Agreements:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Option Agreement with Peer Empowerment Network.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Service Contract with Keller Engineers for documents and bidding services with regard to repairs to Bridge No. 27, Von Lunen Street Bridge, in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Contract (Provided Funding is Available):

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve one (1) Service Contract Amendment for Cambria County BH/ID & EI, Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount	New Amount
Kels, LLC	Additional support for consumer due to their unique behavior or physical needs.	\$148,058.00	\$151,132.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve one (1) Service Contract for Cambria County Drug & Alcohol, Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount
Clearbrook Treatment Centers, LLC d/b/a Huntington Creek Recovery Center	ASAM Level 3.7 (WM) – Adolescent	\$579.00 per day
	ASAM Level 3.5 Inpatient – Adolescent	\$472.00 per day
	ASAM Level 3.7 (WM) – Adult	\$441.00 per day
	ASAM Level 3.5 Inpatient – Adult	\$425.00 per day

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith to approve one (2) Service Contracts for Cambria County Children & Youth, Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

City of Altoona Fire Department	
Service Provided	Rate
City of Altoona Fire Department	\$49.00 per hour per staff for Firesetter Program training and interviews, plus \$.67 per mile (2024 Standard Mileage Rate – IRS).

The Bair Foundation of Pennsylvania							
Cert No.	Unit ID	Service Provided	Rate	Maintenance Rate	Title IV-E Allowable Admin	Unallowable Admin	Admin Rate
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BA	Supported Foster Care – Supported Enhancement FC/KC	\$89.06/day	\$34.76	\$53.15	\$1.15	\$54.30
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BB	Medically-Needy Level 1	\$74.97/day	\$42.53	\$31.76	\$ 0.68	\$32.44
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BI	Medically-Needy Level 2	\$74.97/day	\$52.83	\$21.67	\$ 0.47	\$22.14

316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BC	Medically-Needy Level 3	\$80.12/day	\$72.48	\$ 7.48	\$ 0.16	\$ 7.64
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BK	Medically-Needy Level 4	\$89.36/day	\$89.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BD	Traditional Foster/Kinship Care Lower Level FC/KC (Ages 0-12)	\$77.47/day	\$25.75	\$50.63	\$ 1.09	\$51.72
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BL	Lower Level FC/KC – (Ages 13-21)	\$82.75/day	\$30.90	\$50.76	\$ 1.09	\$51.85
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BE	Supported Foster/Kinship Care Young Parent/Non-Dependent Infant	\$103.34/day	\$50.33	\$51.90	\$ 1.11	\$53.01
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BS	Treatment Foster Care (ages 0-12)	\$175.00/day	\$70.00	\$85.70	\$19.30	\$105.00
316390 348370 332840 415360 450390 446410	BT	Treatment Foster Care (ages 13-21)	\$175.00/day	\$70.00	\$85.70	\$19.30	\$105.00
450390	BA	Supported Foster Care – Supported Enhancement FC/KC – SPECIFIC FOR SIBLINGS AH – 00016371 CH – 00016372 DH – 00016373	\$96.69	\$50.00	\$45.70	\$0.99	\$46.69
		Extraordinary Transportation	\$.58 cents/mile				
		TBRI	\$94.36/hour				
		Supervised Visitation	\$94.36/hour				
		Path to Permanency	\$23.59/15 minutes				

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Tax Exonerations:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to authorize and direct the Tax Claim Bureau Director to strike, from the records in her office, taxes plus penalty, interest, and fees assessed against:

Control No.	Map No.	Assessed Name	Municipality	Exonerate
6-118264	06-028.-000.099	Hill, Chad A.	Blacklick Township	2003-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
16-117722	16-001.-000.98A	Affordable Living MHC Homes, LLC	Cresson Township	2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
17-103695	17-005.-000.096	Murvine, Matthew	Croyle Township	1989-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
17-103777	17-003.-000.098	Malzi, Debra	Croyle Township	2008-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-54838	23-016.-000.027	Regan, Joseph	East Taylor Township	2014-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-54977	23-016.-000.035	Kinzey, Ricky	East Taylor Township	2002-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-55223	23-016.-000.080	Bloom, Shannon	East Taylor Township	2015-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-114860	23-016.-000.006	Kerr, Brett	East Taylor Township	2011-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-114861	23-016.-000.013	Nagle, Doris	East Taylor Township	2003-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-116517	23-016.-000.029	Addams, Clifton	East Taylor Township	2010-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-117819	23-016.-000.019	Allen, Vicky	East Taylor Township	2020-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
23-118434	23-016.-000.068	Clark, Shonda	East Taylor Township	2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
27-119382	27-012.-111.01T	James, Isaac W.	Elder Township	2005-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
34-115913	34-059.-000.127	Serben, Ray	Jackson Township	2019-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
44-115982	44-012.-000.097	Hitch, Robyn	Patton Borough, 1 st Ward	2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
45-105613	45-004.-000.094	Gillette, Darlene	Patton Borough, 2 nd Ward	2020-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
47-113428	47-005.-000.099	Betz, Kimberly	Portage Borough, 2 nd Ward	2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
47-118946	47-005.-409.000	Noble, Austin	Portage Borough, 2 nd Ward	2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
48-117852	48-033.-000.090	Fuzie, Marie	Portage Township	2010-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.

48-119409	48-014.-000.012	Knowlton, Irene	Portage Township	2014-2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
49-66105	49-008.-128.01T	Revesz, Jennifer & Daniel	Reade Township	2023 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
68-224945	68-015.-202.058	Harper, Carla	White Township	2022 taxes. Trailer strike off per Tax Assessment.
77-1630	77-018.-309.000	Staller, Jessica K.	Johnstown, 7 th Ward	2023 taxes. Sold at 11/8/23 Private Sale.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Appointment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve appointing Jim McMullen as Chairman of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board for 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

New Hires:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Alex Ashcom, Full-Time Chief Clerk/County Manager for the Commissioners’ Office, (Paygrade 100-C/\$85,000.00 annually), effective February 15, 2024, along with the Reimbursement Agreement allowing for spouse’s healthcare. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Blake Dyson, Full-Time Department Clerk I for the Prothonotary’s Office, (Paygrade 3-B/\$12.41 per hour), effective February 12, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve hiring the following individuals as Full-Time Correctional Officer I’s for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$23.62 per hour), effective February 19, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Montgomery | Kenneth Ramos | Gary Shope |
| Vincenzo Scott | Nathanel Bodenarine | Isaac Swanson |
| Brayden Bobby | Megan Morgan | Jason Glessner |

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Joshua Shuster, Full-Time Sheriff’s Deputy for the Sheriff’s Office, (Paygrade 35-B/\$18.00 per hour), effective February 26, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Remove from Payroll:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Terrance Nyland, Full-Time Deputy Coroner for the Coroner’s Office, (Paygrade 35-D/\$38,833.60 annually), effective January 27, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Lori Anderson, Full-Time GIS Technician I for Tax Assessment, (Paygrade 48-T/\$14.29 per hour), effective February 3, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Devon Nagle, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$24.65 per hour), effective February 9, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Jacquilyn Shoemaker, Full-Time Account Clerk II/Float for the Tax Claim Bureau, (Paygrade 11-C/\$13.45 per hour), effective February 10, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Autumn Emswiler, Full-Time Telecommunicator for the Department of Emergency Services, (Paygrade 35-F/\$17.78 per hour), effective January 31, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Rosemary Nastasi, Per-Diem Court Clerk for the Courts, (Paygrade 22-C/\$12.00 per hour), effective February 12, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Michele Rudge, Full-Time Case Aide I for the Area Agency on Aging, (Paygrade 15-W/\$25,174.50 annually), effective February 3, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Kerry Schrock, Full-Time Accountant II for BH/ID & EI, (Paygrade 45-E/\$36,643.10 annually), effective January 22, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Emma Hunt, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$38,356.50 annually), effective February 6, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed. Commissioner Hunt abstained.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Jennie Fresch, Full-time Clerk Typist I for BH/ID & EI, (Paygrade 7-B/\$24,199.50 annually), effective January 23, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Ronald Inzana, Full-Time Watchman/Custodian for Maintenance, (Paygrade 9-D/\$13.55 per hour), effective January 30, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Correction:

Motion was made by Commissioner Hunt to approve correcting the effective date of the transfer of Ashley Tronzo, Full-Time Adult Probation Officer for Adult Probation, (Paygrade 47-C/\$46,731.22 annually), to Full-time Re-Entry Coordinator for Adult Probation, (Paygrade 36-M/\$57,750.00 annually), from January 29, 2024, to January 30, 2024. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held January 11, 2024).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Rescind:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to rescind the hiring of Dennis Previte, Part-Time Solicitor for the Coroner's Office, (Paygrade 000-C/\$1,800.00 annually), effective January 2, 2024. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held January 11, 2024).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to rescind the hiring of Cara Francsechini, Full-Time Domestic Relations Clerk I for Domestic Relations, (Paygrade 6-C/\$12.59 per hour), effective February 5, 2024. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held January 25, 2024).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hunt stated that the next regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting would be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 6:05 p.m., at the Cambria Heights Elementary School Library, 138 East Campbell Street, Carrolltown.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Tara N. Keilman, Deputy Chief Clerk