

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

December 19, 2024

Ebensburg, PA
December 16, 2024

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

Ebensburg, PA
December 17, 2024

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

Ebensburg, PA
December 18, 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, at 10:10 a.m.

Public Comment:

None.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to waive the reading of the Minutes of December 16, 2024, but to approve them and place them on file.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Notice of Executive Sessions:

1. December 16, 2024, meeting with Agency Department Heads.
2. December 17, 2024, meetings with Human Resources and the Solicitor.

Budget:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the 2025 budget.

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

Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the proposal of First National Bank for a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, in the amount of \$10,000,000.00, at a fixed interest rate of 3.98%.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Ordinance:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve an Ordinance, pursuant to Act 48 of 2024, establishing a County demolition and rehabilitation fund and imposing a fee, of \$250.00, to be collected by the Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau, from purchasers at sales under the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, and by the Cambria County Sheriff, from Judicial Sales in mortgage foreclosure actions, beginning April 1, 2025, with authorization provided to the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority with regard to use of the funds.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Addendum:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Addendum to the Agreement with Community Action Partnership of Cambria County, regarding MATP services, to extend the Agreement through March 31, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Termination:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve terminating the Lease Agreement with Cambria County Parking, LLC, per notice sent on November 27, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Agreements:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Short-Term Lease Payment Agreement with Blackstone Capital, for property located at 364 1/2 Corrine Avenue, Johnstown, 15906, in the amount of \$900.00 per month.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Short-Term Lease Payment Agreement with Jason Riligio, for property located at 1344 Maryland Avenue, Johnstown, 15906, in the amount of \$650.00 per month.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the SAVIN Maintenance and Service Agreement with the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute to implement and maintain a statewide automated victim information and notification system.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Letter of Agreement with the Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, with respect to on-the-job training, beginning January 3, 2025, and ending April 20, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Contracts (Provided Funding is Available):

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve one (1) Service Contract Amendment for Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Service, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount
Reaching Educational Achievements With Clinical Mental Health, Inc.	Provide school-based mental health counseling. This amendment is to include the addition of \$1,500.00 in state opioid response funds.	\$1,500.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve one (1) Service Contract for Cambria County Children & Youth Service, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

New Life Adolescents, LLC			
Cert No.	Unit ID	Service Provided	Per-Diem Rate
456430		Residential Services – Community Based (Female)	\$416.06

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Emergency Repair:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the additional work needed for the emergency repair of the Courthouse roof, by Bryn Enterprises, LLC, in the amount of \$28,341.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Bylaws:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve amending Article II of the Bylaws for the Cambria County Children & Youth Advisory Board to read as follows: “The advisory board develops resources for adoptive/foster/dependent children, and children in Cambria County, and assists the agency with meeting the needs of the children in regard to educational and financial support.”

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Resignations:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Thomas Fritz from the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Renee Daly from the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Robert L. McCombie from the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Nicole Marie George from the Cambria County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Loreen Bencie from the Cambria County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Dr. David Lehman from the Cambria County Transit Authority Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Christine Greene from the Cambria County BH/ID & EI Advisory Board, effective December 19, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Appointments:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve appointing the following individuals to the Cambria County Fire Advisory Committee Board, for 2-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

Steve Kass

Mark Wadsworth

Kevin Schrock

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Joe Loughan and B.J. Newman to the Cambria County Police Advisory Committee, for 2-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Mike Belvia to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Steve Gironda to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, to fill an unexpired term, beginning December 19, 2024, and ending December 31, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Bruce Eash to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, to fill an unexpired term, beginning December 19, 2024, and ending December 31, 2027.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Heath Long to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, to fill an unexpired term, beginning December 19, 2024, and ending December 31, 2028.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Cathy Sumner to the Cambria County BH/ID & EI Advisory Board, to fill an unexpired term, beginning December 19, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Matt Gribler, Esquire, to the Cambria County Children & Youth Advisory Board, to fill an unexpired term, beginning December 19, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing the following individuals to the Cambria County Transit Authority Board, for 5-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.

Ralph Boyle

Doug Helsel

Loreen Bencie

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Reappointments:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Giles Dumm to the Cambria County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending January 1, 2028.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing June Fether to the Cambria County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Jerome Stephens, Jr., to the Cambria County General Financing Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing George Arcurio, III, to the John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Diane Waksmunski to the Cambria County Planning Commission Board, for a 4-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2028.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing W. John Pudliner to the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing the following individuals to the Cambria County Fire Advisory Committee Board, for 2-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

Pete Barczak

Scott Emerson

Jay Nagle

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing the following individuals to the Cambria County Police Advisory Committee Board, for 2-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

**Jeff McEvoy
Beth Edwards**

Tim Rhoades

Phil Vaught

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing the following At-Large Members to the Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission, for 3-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

**Rick Strait
Jim Foster**

Donald Rhodes, III

Jay Cessna

Beth McGregor

Sharon Clapper

Erin Abel

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Ray Gorman and Eugene Kupchella to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, for 5-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing the following individuals to the Cambria County BH/ID & EI Advisory Board, for 3-year terms, beginning February 1, 2024, and ending February 1, 2027.

Melissa Joseph

Thomas C. Chernisky

Dr. Larry Nulton

Allen Joseph

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Mary Beth Allenbaugh to the Cambria County BH/ID & EI Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the following reappointments to the Cambria County Children & Youth Advisory Board, for 3-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Alan Johnson

Blair V. Pawlowski

Patricia Fyock

Donna Cauffiel

Robert Cabala

Debra Crowder

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

New Hires:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Martin Kirsch, Full-time Information Systems Specialist for Technology, (Paygrade 41-H/\$40,131.00 [1950 hours] annually), effective January 6, 2025. (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 Maverick Budman, Per-Diem Information Systems Specialist Externship for Technology, (Paygrade 41-M/\$12.00 per hour), effective January 3, 2025, through April 20, 2025. (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 Telecommunicators for the Department of Emergency Services, (Paygrade 35-F/\$17.78 per hour), effective January 13, 2025. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Kenneth Burtop

Gabriel Davis

Leah Behe

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Transfers:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Jessica Weil, Full-Time Assistant District Attorney for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 48-L/\$56,498.78 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time Special Victims Assistant District Attorney for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 48-L/\$56,498.78 [1820 hours] annually), effective December 23, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Lisa Gallopin, Full-Time Finance/Compliance Manager for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 48-V/\$38,122.50 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time Finance/Compliance, Office Manager for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 50-L/\$41,553.00 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 1, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Brianna Fox, Full-Time Department Clerk IV for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 21-B/\$15.06 [1820 hours] per hour), to Full-Time Special Assistant to the District Attorney, (Paygrade 60-I/\$30,150.12 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 1, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Kaitlyn Burkhardt, Full-Time Department Clerk III for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 15-E/\$14.07 [1820 hours] per hour), to Full-Time Department Clerk IV for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 21-B/\$14.77 [1820 hours] per hour), effective January 6, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Kailee St. Pierre, Full-Time Clerk Stenographer I for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 5-B/\$13.22 [1820 hours] per hour), to Full-Time Department Clerk III for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 15-E/\$14.58 [1820 hours] per hour), effective January 6, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Remove from Payroll:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Georgia Gaillard, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$37,713.00 [1950 hours] annually), effective December 7, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Tyler Charney, Full-Time Storage Virtualization Disaster Recovery Administrator for Technology, (Paygrade 50-M/\$51,393.68 [2080 hours] annually), effective January 1, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Thomas Davis, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$23.62 [2080 hours] per hour), effective December 9, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Sarah McCool, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$26.19 [2080 hours] per hour), effective December 16, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

President Commissioner Hunt stated that the next regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting would be held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk