

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

January 16, 2025

Ebensburg, PA
January 6, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 7, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 8, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 9, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 10, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 13, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 14, 2025

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 15, 2025

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 10:15 a.m.

Public Comment:

Etta Albright commented that the County needs to be transparent with its finances. She believes there needs to be truth, trust, and transparency in how the County operates.

Theresa Kosaber asked if there was an answer yet as to what happened on Election Day, November 5, 2024. She also asked if mail-in ballots were sent by the State.

John DeBartola questioned or commented on the following:

1. He asked if there were inspections being done at the Prison. He stated that the County should be doing any required inspections that are necessary.

2. He questioned if the County would be performing an audit of the Probation Office and if there was an investigation being done, in light of the criminal allegations against the Chief Probation Officer.

3. He stated that he had heard that the County was giving a bonus to a BH/ID & EI employee. He asked, if this is true, why was the bonus being given?

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to waive the reading of the Minutes from the Commissioners' Meeting held on January 6, 2025, but to approve them and place them on file.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Notice of Executive Sessions:

1. January 13, 2025, meeting with Agency Department Heads.
2. January 14, 2025, meetings with Human Resources and the Solicitor.

Mileage:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve adjusting the mileage reimbursement rate for 2025, from \$.67 to \$.70 per mile, pursuant to IRS guidelines, effective January 1, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Resolution:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve a Resolution providing for the compensation of Tax Collectors, beginning in 2026, at the following rates:

1. \$3.90 per parcel for the first 2,500 parcels with a minimum payment of \$650.00 per year;
2. \$1.90 per parcel for every parcel over 2,500;
3. \$125.00 per year for general office expenses;
4. \$5.00 per qualified assessment change and interim tax bill; and
5. One-third (1/3) of RAK Program costs, not to exceed \$130.00 annually.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Agreements:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve the Local Share Account Grant Contract, Contract No. C000091575, with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority, to be used for the Firefighters Association School Improvements Project, for a term beginning October 22, 2024, and ending June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$153,000.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Merchant Agreement with AllPaid, Inc., to utilize the AllPaid Payment Network in the Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau, effective February 1, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Video Edge Software Agreement Renewal, for 2025, between Fedora Intertech and the Cambria County Prison, in the amount of \$7,987.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Program Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, in the amount of \$129,547.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Agreement with Susquehanna Regional Transportation Authority, d/b/a rabbittransit, and the Cambria County Transit Authority, to provide services with respect to the Medical Assistance Transportation Program, beginning April 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, at a rate of \$42.49 per trip, in correlation with the terms and conditions of the Agreement and pending solicitor review.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Contracts (Provided Funding is Available):

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve three (3) Service Contracts for Cambria County BH/ID & EI, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nulton Diagnostic & Treatment Center, P.C.	24/7 Mobile Crisis Interventions Services, immediate response to individuals and families seeking mental health crisis intervention for diversion from local emergency departments via REACH Crisis Walk-In Center.	\$187,946.00
Nulton Diagnostic & Treatment Center, P.C.	Implementation costs for the REACH Walk-in Clinic, which will provide 24/7 Mobile Crisis Interventions Services, immediate response to individuals and families seeking mental health crisis intervention for diversion from local emergency departments.	\$82,000.00
Saint Francis University Social Work Program	Oversees Pennsylvania's Independent Monitoring Project.	\$44,462.00

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.

<u>Compassion Living, LLC</u>			
<u>Cert No.</u>	<u>Unit ID</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Per-Diem Rate</u>
152100		Residential Group Home – Moderate Care	\$394.00

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 2024-2025.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Westmont Hilltop School District	Student Mental Health Software System	\$2,250.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve three (3) Service Contracts for Cambria County Area Agency on Aging, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Huckestein	Preventative Maintenance at Forest Hills Senior Center	\$1,127.75 annually
Huckestein	Preventative Maintenance at Johnstown Senior Center	\$4,259.94 annually
Huckestein	Preventative Maintenance at Ebensburg Senior Center	\$852.00 annually

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 2025-2026.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Reaching Educational Achievements with	School-Based Mental Health Counseling	\$1,054,195.34

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Tax Credit:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve a 2025 tax credit for Taylor Farm I, LLC, Map No. 08-020.-117.001, pursuant to the Court Order entered at No. 2023-3298, in the amount of \$4,399.81.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Bid:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the bid of MARC Service, LLC, of Windber, Pennsylvania, for an indoor cooler for the Johnstown Senior Activities Center, in the amount of \$36,820.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Appointment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to appoint Craig Descavish as Full-Time Interim Warden for the Prison, (Paygrade 88-D/\$83,183.36 [2080 hours] annually), effective January 10, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Acting Position:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve Corey Hale as Full-Time Acting Chief of Probation for the Courts, (Paygrade 87-J/\$75,721.62 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 15, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

New Hires:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Jacalyn Moran, Per-Diem DUI Instructor for the Court's Special Administration, (Paygrade 32-W/\$100.00 [1000 hours] per class), effective January 21, 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 Eva Spangler, Per-Diem Court Clerk for the Courts, (Paygrade 22-C/\$12.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective February 2, 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 Jade Snedden, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$43,192.50 [1950 hours] annually), effective January 21, 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 Wahida Omar, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$43,192.50 [1950 hours] annually), effective January 21, 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 Elizabeth Elbayly, Full-Time Drug & Alcohol Prevention Program Specialist I for Drug & Alcohol, (Paygrade 61-D/\$43,000.00 [1950 hours] annually), effective February 3, 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 David George, Full-Time Custodian/Maintenance Worker I for Maintenance, (Paygrade 12-B/\$13.31 [2080 hours] per hour), effective January 21, 2025. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Transfer:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Joshua Shuster, Full-Time Deputy Sheriff for the Sheriff's Office, (Paygrade 35-B/\$18.67 [2080 hours] per hour), to Part-Time Deputy Sheriff for the Sheriff's Office, (Paygrade 35-B/\$15.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective January 5, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Remove from Payroll:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Hugh Balsinger, Per-Diem Legal DUI Counselor for the Court's Special Administration, (Paygrade 32-U/\$150.00 [1000 hours] per class), effective December 31, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Hugh Balsinger, Per-Diem DUI Counseling Assistant for the Court's Special Administration, (Paygrade 32-X/\$200.00 [1000 hours] per class), effective December 31, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Hugh Balsinger, Per-Diem DUI Instructor for the Court's Special Administration, (Paygrade 32-W/\$100.00 [1000 hours] per class), effective December 31, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Kimberly Feist, Per-Diem DUI Instructor for the Court's Special Administration, (Paygrade 32-W/\$100.00 [1000 hours] per class), effective December 31, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Christian Smith, Full-Time Warden for the Prison, (Paygrade 94-A/\$83,183.36 [2080 hours] annually), effective January 9, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove William Muir, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$24.29 [2080 hours] per hour), effective January 3, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Joseph Coyle, Jr., Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$24.29 [2080 hours] per hour), effective January 7, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Joseph Thomas, Full-Time Adult Probation Officer for Adult Probation, (Paygrade 47-C/\$45,258.45 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 25, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Correction:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve correcting the effective dates of the hiring of Maverick Budman, Per-Diem Information System Specialist Externship for Technology, (Paygrade 41-M/\$12.00 per hour), from January 3, 2025, through April 20, 2025, to January 6, 2025, through April 20, 2025. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held December 19, 2024).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Rescind:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve rescinding the hiring of Sean Hegadus, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$37,713.00 [1950 hours] annually), effective December 23, 2024. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held November 14, 2024).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve rescinding the hiring of Lakeyn Hogue, Full-Time Clerk Typist I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 7-B/\$24,199.50 [1950 hours] annually), effective December 9, 2024. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held November 14, 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 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Jury Room of the Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Alex M. Ashcom, Chief Clerk