

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

December 18, 2025

**Ebensburg, PA
December 4, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 5, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 8, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 9, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 10, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 11, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 12, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 15, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 16, 2025**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
December 17, 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 10:10 a.m.

Public Comment:

John DeBartola stated that he was told that there was a joint meeting that took place between City organizations and the County and that he hopes that there was no violation of the Sunshine Law. He also stated that he filed a Response to the County's Petition to increase the tax millage, as he believes the County should make cuts to expenses and not raise taxes.

Etta Albright questioned the County's stability and stated that people in public service should be there to serve the people.

Marty Yahner, a local farmer, asked the Commissioners to reconsider raising taxes. He believes that the County should make cuts to expenses, like any other business, rather than raise taxes, since farmers pay more in taxes than the average landowner.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to waive the reading of the Minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held December 4, 2025, but to approve them and place them on file.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Notice of Executive Sessions:

- 1. December 15, 2025, meetings with Human Resources and the Solicitor.**
- 2. December 16, 2025, meeting with Agency Department Heads.**

Policy:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve a Responsibility for Lost, Stolen, or Damaged County-Issued Property Policy.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Resolutions:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve a Resolution approving and authorizing the submittal of two (2) applications for fiscal year 2025 funds, under the Pennsylvania Community Development Block Grant Program, for projects in East Taylor Township and Scalp Level Borough.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve a Resolution approving the appointment of a Section 504 Officer and adoption of the Section 504 Plan, Section 504 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, Section 3 Plan, Anti-Displacement Plan, and Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprises Plan.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Agreements:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Grant Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, for Intermediate Punishment Treatment Program funds, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$90,000.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Agreement with the City of Johnstown to have the Cambria County Treasurer collect City taxes, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, at a rate of \$3.90 per parcel for the first 2,500 parcels, and \$1.90 per parcel for any parcel over the initial 2,500.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Lease with Lambcakes, LLC, for space at the Central Park Complex, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027, at a rate of \$1,224.00 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, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026.

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 for Cambria County Children & Youth Service Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Terry O'Hara, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Service Provided	Rate
Individual Evaluations of Children, Adolescents, and Adults	\$600.00/per evaluation
Interactional/Bonding Evaluations	\$600.00/per evaluation
Court Testimony (includes preparation and testimony)	\$300.00/per hour
No Show Fee (if there is not a cancellation 48 hours in advance)	\$150.00/per evaluation
Travel Fee	\$150.00/per hour

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Tax Exonerations:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky 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/Buyers Name	Municipality	Exonerate	Amount
57-74968	57-020-186.000	Dennis K. Shaffer, Jr.	Stonycreek Township	2020-2024 taxes. Unsold after Judicial Sale. Now Repository.	\$3,104.18
56-13216	56-086-410.000	Mark A. Pearce & Janell D. Wallace	Northern Cambria Borough	2004-2024 taxes. Unsold after Judicial Sale. Now Repository.	\$22,177.44
76-1368	76-001-326.000	Natesha S. Jurcie	Johnstown 6 th Ward	2003-2024 taxes. Unsold after Judicial Sale. Now Repository.	\$40,802.54
80-4850	80-005-300.000	Charles W. Cohen, Jr., & Dorothy J. Cohen	Johnstown 10 th Ward	2012-2024 taxes. Unsold after Judicial Sale. Now repository.	\$25,405.90
82-5673	82-012-104.000	John Quinton Meadows	Johnstown 12 th Ward	2022-2024 taxes. Unsold after Judicial Sale. Now repository.	\$746.15
82-5695	82-012-221.000	John Quinton Meadows	Johnstown 12 th Ward	2022-2024 taxes. Unsold after Judicial Sale. Now repository.	\$613.53

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Resignation:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the resignation of Barbara Lehmier from the Cambria County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, effective immediately.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Reappointments:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing the following individuals to the Cambria County Children & Youth Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

Matthew Gribler, Esquire
Susan Martin

Lisa Shirt
Shane Downey

Jack C. McLaughlin
Lisa Botteicher

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing David Stolz and John Nibert to the Cambria County Conservation District Board, for 4-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Thomas C. Chernisky to the Cambria County Conservation District Board, for a 1-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Steve Verbosky to the Cambria County Fire Advisory Committee, for a 2-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Dennis Pawlikowski to the Cambria County Solid Waste Management Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Cathy Sumner to the Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Scott W. Hunt to the Agricultural Land Preservation Board, for a 1-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Mark Wissinger and Patrick Mulcahy, Jr., to the Cambria Somerset Authority Board, for 5-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Dr. Charles Kupchella to the Cambria County General Financing Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Michael Tatarko and Laura Maruca to the Cambria County Industrial Development Authority Board, for 5-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve reappointing Dr. Charles Koren and Shawn Veneskey to the Cambria County Planning Commission Board, for 4-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing the following individuals to the Cambria County War Memorial Authority Board, for 4-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2029.

Martin Kuhar

William W. Marshall

Ken Jubas

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 Agricultural Land Preservation Board, for 3-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending January 1, 2029.

**Robert Davis
James Benshoff**

Dan Senft

James J. McMullen

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve reappointing Thomas Kakabar to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve reappointing the following individuals to the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Board, for 6-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2031.

Linda Thomson

Carl “Buddy” DeYulis

John Augustine

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hunt and passed unanimously.

Appointments:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Captain Daniel Price to the Cambria County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board, for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Heather McCloskey to the Cambria County Planning Commission Board, for a 4-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2029.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve appointing Dr. Tammy Haslett and Ray Guzik to the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority Board, for 5-year terms, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Dr. Kristy Chunta to the Pennsylvania Highlands Community College Board, for a 6-year term, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2031.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

New Hires:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to amend the Agenda pertaining to the per-diem hours of Charles Burkhard and Travis Buck, as Charles Burkhard should be approved at 1000 hours, and Travis Buck should be approved at 780 hours.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Charles Burkhard, Per-Diem Chaplain for the Prison, (Paygrade 000-U/\$15.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective January 4, 2026. (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 Marines, Full-Time Department Clerk I for the Clerk of Courts Office, (Paygrade 3-B/\$13.23 [1820 hours] per hour), effective January 5, 2026. (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 Theresa Subich, Full-Time Tipstaff/Court Clerk for the Courts, (Paygrade 22-G/\$24,078.60 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026. (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 Travis Buck, Per-Diem Law Clerk for the Courts, (Paygrade 000-R/\$33.00 [780 hours] per hour), effective January 5, 2026. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Transfers:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Kyle Drennen, Full-Time Law Clerk for the Courts, (Paygrade 48-D/\$55,489.56 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time Assistant District Attorney for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 48-L/\$55,315.54 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Lisa Gallopin, Full-Time Finance/Compliance, Office Manager for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 50-L/\$43,015.50 [1950 hours] annually), to Full-Time Executive Assistant for the Courts, (Paygrade 49-B/\$42,752.08 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Jessica Paskowski, Full-Time First Assistant District Attorney & Major Crimes Unit for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 59-I/\$72,326.59 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time District Attorney (Elected Official) for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 000-A/\$233,916.00 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Joseph Green, Part-Time Assistant District Attorney for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 48-A/\$40,158.28 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time First Assistant District Attorney & Major Crimes Unit for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 59-I/\$55,315.54 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Brianna Fox, Full-Time Special Assistant to the District Attorney for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 60-I/\$31,515.12 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time Finance/Compliance, Office Manager for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 50-L/\$33,090.88 [1950 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Christine Hinterliter, Full-Time Manager/DUI for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 36-I/\$30,667.00 [1820 hours] annually), to Full-Time Special Assistant to the District Attorney for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 60-I/\$32,200.35 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to transfer Kaitlyn Burkhardt, Full-Time Department Clerk IV for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 21-B/\$15.76 [1820 hours] per hour), to Full-Time Manager/DUI for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 36-I/\$31,558.80 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 5, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Remove from Payroll:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to remove Joshua Krise, Full-Time Veterans Affairs Representative II for Veterans Affairs, (Paygrade 23-D/\$15.08 [1820 hours] per hour), effective December 27, 2025.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to remove William Hines, Jr., Full-Time Detective for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 35-C/\$26.56 [2080 hours] per hour), effective January 4, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to remove Gregory Neugebauer, Full-Time District Attorney (Elected Official) for the District Attorney's Office, (Paygrade 000-A/\$226,411.00 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 4, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

President Commissioner Hunt stated that there would be a Special Commissioners' Meeting on Tuesday, December 23, 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