

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

January 22, 2026

Ebensburg, PA
January 8, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 9, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 12, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 13, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 14, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 15, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 16, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 19, 2026

Courthouse closed for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Ebensburg, PA
January 20, 2026

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

Ebensburg, PA
January 21, 2026

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, at the Northern Cambria Municipal Building, at 10:09 a.m.

Public Comment:

Etta Albright requested that the salary of the position in the Controller's Office that was not passed at the Salary Board Meeting be tabled until the next Meeting instead of not passed. She also stated that she will be filing an Amicus Brief in order to help create a best practice model to be used in situations regarding individuals with underlying brain and neurocognitive issues.

Lisa Crynock, Prothonotary, thanked Commissioners Hunt and Rager for not allowing the amendment to the Salary Board Meeting to modify the salary of the position in the Controller's Office, as it was not an emergency and should be put out ahead of time for everyone to see.

Eva Shevock stated that the starting salaries of the second deputy positions are based on the unions they belong to and that it's not fair to have a higher starting salary for one of the positions and not all of them.

Edward Cernic, Jr., Controller, stated that he provided his transition plan regarding the positions in his office to the Commissioners last summer and that this position is relied upon by 1,160 retirees and approximately 600 employees who may need retirement information from his office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to waive the reading of the Minutes of January 8, 2026, but to approve them and place them on file.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Notice of Executive Sessions:

1. January 20, 2026, meeting with Agency Department Heads.
2. January 20, 2026, meetings with Human Resources and Solicitor.

Mileage:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve adjusting the mileage reimbursement rate for 2026, from \$.70 to \$.725 per mile, pursuant to IRS guidelines, effective January 1, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Lease:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Lease with Nulton Diagnostic Treatment Center, for space at the Central Park Complex Building, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, at a rate of \$3,974.55 monthly.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Agreements:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Assessment Agreement with Patrick J. Zirpoli Consulting & Investigation to provide a comprehensive evaluation of practices, policies, risks, and recommendations for the Cambria County Prison, in the amount of \$11,000.00, to be paid out of the Prison Commissary Fund.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Agreement with Bedford County to house juveniles at the Cambria County Prison, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, at a rate of \$150.00 per inmate, per day.

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.

George Junior Republic in Pennsylvania			
Cert No.	Unit ID	Service Provided	Rate
Multiple 407640	RG	Regular Residential	\$329.30/day
Multiple 408140	SN	Special Needs	\$412.19/day
Multiple 408210	DA	Drug & Alcohol	\$340.01/day
407920	DX	Diagnostic	\$353.45/day
Multiple 407830	IS	Intensive Supervision	\$526.83/day
454420	SD	GJR Secure	\$730.99/day
Multiple 408120	SM	Special Needs M.A.	\$199.65/day
Multiple 408210	DM	Drug & Alcohol M.A.	\$82.94/day
407510	TR	Therapeutic Residence for Adolescent – Complex Cases	Determined by individual county contract.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve three (3) Service Contracts for Cambria County BHDS Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Greater Johnstown Landlord Association	Performs any duties as they relate to Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Point in Time Outreach, as well as in the development and coordination of the Single Point Entry Housing Process.	\$55,365.00
Greater Johnstown Landlord Association	Provider shall operate the day-to-day operations in the execution of Cambria County's Comprehensive Housing Rental Assistance Program.	\$155,256.00
Alleghenies Unlimited Care Providers, Inc.	Provides transportation according to ODP waiver & non-waiver regulations.	\$4,308.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Appointment:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve appointing Dr. Brandi Penatzer to the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority Board, for a 5-year term, beginning January 22, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

New Hire:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to hire Chad Roberge, Full-Time Caseworker I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 52-C/\$44,167.50 [1950 hours] annually), effective February 2, 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 Rager to transfer Jeremy Smick, Full-Time Counselor for the Prison, (Paygrade 32-K/\$54,433.60 [2080 hours] annually), to Full-Time Director of Training and Recruitment for the Prison, (Paygrade 67-F/\$57,155.28 [2080 hours] annually), effective February 2, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Faith Smith, Full-Time Account Clerk II/Float for the Recorder of Deeds Office, (Paygrade 11-A/\$14.48 [1820 hours] per hour), to Full-Time UPI Assistant/Clerk III for the Recorder of Deeds Office, (Paygrade 16-C/\$15.20 [1820 hours] per hour), effective February 2, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Remove from Payroll:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove George Rozum, Full-Time Chief Deputy Warden of Operations for the Prison, (Paygrade 73-D/\$73,767.20 [2080 hours] annually), effective February 17, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Ruth Garcia, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$24.96 [2080 hours] per hour), effective January 8, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Brian Latoche, Full-Time Major of Booking & Admission for the Prison, (Paygrade 70-L/\$66,963.52 [2080 hours] annually), effective January 31, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Benjamin Shovestull, Full-Time Temporary Accounting Assistant I for the Controller's Office, (Paygrade 11-D/\$13.26 [1820 hours] per hour), effective January 7, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Zabrina Deyarmin, Full-Time Clerk Typist I for Voter Registration, (Paygrade 3-A/\$13.02 [1820 hours] per hour), effective January 9, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Sandy Jones, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 13-G/\$18.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective January 17, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Dana Descavish, Full-Time Pension Benefits Healthcare Administrator/Second Deputy for the Controller's Office, (Paygrade 48-F/\$51,473.24 [1820 hours] annually), effective January 31, 2026.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Rescind:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve rescinding the hiring of Barbara Steiner, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 13-G/\$18.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective January 20, 2026. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held January 8, 2026).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve rescinding the hiring of Dylan Segada, Per-Diem Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 13-G/\$18.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective January 20, 2026. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held January 8, 2026).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

President Commissioner Hunt stated that there would be a regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at Saint Francis University, Kudrick-Oravec Vista Room, Schwab Hall, 3rd Floor, 132 Franciscan Way, Loretto.

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