

MEETING OF THE MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 21, 2024

Members Present: Commissioner McGonigle, Commissioner Finley / by phone,
Commissioner Coleman

Prayer: Todd VanDyke, Kingdom Unification, Sandy Lake

Pledge of Allegiance: Was held.

Others Present: Peter Acker, Cory Beck, Nicki Biles, Mary Jo DePreta, Thad Hall, Cathy Herriott, John Logan, Sean McLaughlin, Stephen Sherman, Tanya Williams, Dee Dee Zickar, Aliyah Hunt, Todd VanDyke, Lorna Slater, Dick Turner, Joanie Micsky, Bill McConnell, Roni Shilling

General Discussion Items: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

2024-513 RESOLUTION to approve 11/14/2024 Commissioners' Meeting MINUTES:

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

PROCLAMATIONS

2024-514 RESOLUTION to approve a PROCLAMATION to recognize MERCER AREA HIGH SCHOOL for receiving the distinguished National Blue Ribbon Award for 2024.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

PROCLAMATIONS

2024-515 RESOLUTION to approve a PROCLAMATION to recognize OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for receiving the distinguished National Blue Ribbon Award for 2024.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

CYS

2024-516 RESOLUTION to enter into an AGREEMENT with the following provider for services listed.

EFFECTIVE 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025

VENDOR	PROGRAM	RATE	TERM
Victor S. Heutsche	Parent Representation	\$75.00	Hourly
Attorney at Law	Child Representation		
734 Stambaugh Avenue	Educational Decision Maker		
Sharon, PA 16146			

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

HUMAN RESOURCES

2024-517 RESOLUTION to approve the following HUMAN RESOURCES actions:

NAME/POSITION**EFFECTIVE****LEVEL/STEP/GRADE****NEW HIRES****CHILDREN & YOUTH**

Ann Marie Blank

11/13/2024

YCL 00-01 (\$16.37/hr.)

Clerk Typist

Date Correction Only

JAIL

Xavier Ganzy

12/02/2024

JCO 00-01 (\$18.78/hr.)

Corrections Officer

TRANSFERS**CYS**

Devon Smith

11/17/2024

YCW 00-01 (\$20.05/hr.)

Caseworker I

Transfer from Temp. Caseworker I

CLERK OF COURTS

Kinzie Elder

11/25/2024

P&A 03-06-01 (\$20.95/hr.)

Second Deputy

Transfer from Sr. Procedure Clerk

SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT**JAIL**

Justin Angus

11/12/2024

Corrections Officer

CYS

Ingrid Both-Hoesl

11/13/2024

Caseworker I

SHERIFF

Richard Schenker

11/11/2024

PT Deputy Sheriff

E911 CENTER

Beth Stigliano
Systems Administrator

12/13/2024

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jennifer Hamilton
Sr. Director of Human Resources

12/03/2024

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

HUMAN RESOURCES

2024-518 RESOLUTION to approve the following HUMAN RESOURCES actions for
Departments reporting to the Courts:

NAME/POSITION	EFFECTIVE	LEVEL/STEP/GRADE
<u>NEW HIRES</u>		
Domestic Relations		
Wendy Whitmore	11/25/2024	P&A 04-00-01(\$18.94/hr.)
Enforcement Officer		

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

APPOINTMENTS**RESOLUTION**

2024-519 Confirm the following appointment to the West Central Workforce Development Board for the term as specified:

Kerrie DeChurch	Representing: State Employment Service	12/01/2024 – 06/30/2026
	under Wagner-Peyser (Category D2)	

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION	VENDOR	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-520	N/A	N/A	Effective 11/21/2024

Resolution to approve a Tax Collection Agreement with the City of Hermitage, Hermitage School District, and Farrell Area School District, allocating the cost of tax collection in the City of Hermitage in light of the recent Hermitage / Wheatland merger.

DISCUSSION: Solicitor McConnell advised this is an unusual situation that requires an agreement. The merger between Hermitage and Wheatland is causing the Hermitage Tax Collector to collect taxes for four different taxing authorities, including the Farrell Area School District. The County's responsibility for the Hermitage Tax Collection operations will be only for the printing and postage of the County Tax Bill that occurs once a year.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

COURTS

RESOLUTION	VENDOR/CONTRACT	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-521	Dagostino Electro Services 600 Mifflin Road Pittsburgh, PA 15207	\$3,424.76	Effective 11/21/2024

Resolution to approve the purchase of an exterior security camera for use at the Courthouse. Purchase will be reimbursed by AOPC through the 2022-2023 Common Pleas Essential Security Equipment Reimbursement Project.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

COURTS

RESOLUTION	VENDOR/CONTRACT	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-522	Dagostino Electro Services 600 Mifflin Road Pittsburgh, PA 15207	\$2,071.25	Effective 11/21/2024

Resolution to approve the purchase of an exterior security camera for use at the Courthouse. Purchase will be reimbursed by AOPC through the 2024-2025 Common Pleas Essential Security Equipment Reimbursement Project.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RESOLUTION	VENDOR/CONTRACT	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-523	Corrections Development, Inc. P.O. Box 7017 Penndell, PA 19047	\$6,600.00	01/01/2025-12/31/2025

Resolution to approve annual renewal of Prosecutor Management maintenance and upgrades for D.A. software including necessary technical, reporting, and database support.

DISCUSSION: D.A. Acker reported this is the annual subscription renewal for the prosecution management system that is used in the District Attorney's Office.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle
Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley
Yes-Mr. Finley Yes-Dr. Coleman

MH/ID

RESOLUTION	VENDOR/CONTRACT	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-524	Behavioral Health Partnership, Inc. 2520 New Butler Road New Castle, PA 16101	N/A	01/01/2025-12/31/2027

Resolution to approve Amendment of the two (2) year Agreement for HealthChoices Administrative Services with potential renewal of one TWO year renewal at the end of the said term. The Partnership desires to engage the County for the provision of administrative oversight services to the NWBHP for Behavioral Health Services under the Health Choices Program. Services include Administrative Oversight, program/service management, fiscal management, and Information technology support.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Coleman relayed information provided by MH/ID Administrator Paulette Benegasi, who was unable to attend the meeting. This is for a contract with NWBHP. It is a routine contract and has been MH/ID's consist manner of business since the inception of Health Choices in Mercer County.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

GRANTS

RESOLUTION	GRANTOR:	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-525	PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development 400 North Street, 4 th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225	N/A	Effective 11/21/2024

Resolution to amend resolution 2024-0417 for the Strategic Management Planning Program Grant for a Phase I Project to evaluate Mercer County operations. Mercer County's local match will be amended from 10% to 25% for a total amount of \$31,250.00.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

GRANTS

RESOLUTION	GRANTOR:	AMOUNT	DATE RANGE
# 2024-526	Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	not to exceed \$1,000,000.00	Effective 11/21/2024

Resolution to approve application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for a State Local Share Account - Statewide Program Grant. Funds would be used to purchase three (3) drones and two (2) vehicles for County use, under the proposed Public Safety Initiative Project. No County match required.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Finley advised this grant consists of two parts. One part will be used to purchase vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and the Juvenile Probation Department. The second part will be for the purchase of drones, which will enable the County to establish a drone program. The drones would be used for public safety efforts, primarily for search and rescue operations with infrared and thermal capabilities. The drones would also be used for the GIS Department for mapping purposes and for the Soil Conservation Office.

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Mr. Finley

Vote: Yes-Mr. McGonigle

Yes-Mr. Finley

Yes-Dr. Coleman

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Commissioner's Reports:

- Commissioner McGonigle expressed his condolences to Bill Cannon's family on his passing. Bill Cannon was very involved in the agricultural community. He was a past president of the Mercer County Farm Bureau, current member of the PA Farm Bureau, 4-H youth, and started the No-Till Alliance. His passing will leave a void in the farming community and the Mercer County Community.
- Commissioner Finley thanked all the County leadership for their efforts to reduce costs in the County budget. The Commissioners appreciate those who are responsible in their departments to trim those costs.
- Commissioner Coleman also thanked the leadership staff in the County departments in their continued efforts to reduce costs, being good stewards of tax-payer money. She advised she went to 4-H Achievement Awards Ceremony at the Extension Office. The County has a very good 4-H program, and she enjoys supporting them.

Elected Official/Department Head Reports:

- Controller Sherman advised he traveled to Harrisburg where he received the Certified PA Public Retirement Plan Professional Designation. The certification takes approximately a year to complete, and it is believed that he is the first Mercer County Controller to receive this certification.

- Elections Director Thad Hall informed 44,000 ballots have been recounted and his Office will start counting the mail-in and provisional ballots. They will be using an ES&S machine that scans at a faster speed.
- Tax Office Director Cathy Herriott spoke about a newspaper article regarding the proposed milage increase. She said her office has been receiving numerous calls regarding the increased taxes on properties. Herriott provided information on knowing how much the proposed milage increase would affect someone' taxes by taking the assessed value on their latest tax bill and multiplying that amount by .0036 to show the increased amount.

Recess to Salary Board

Public Comment: None

Questions of the Media: Caleb Stright from the Record Argus advised there will not be a newspaper published on Thursday, November 28th.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Mr. McGonigle

Seconded: Dr. Coleman

Attest:

Chief Clerk

Mercer County Board of Commissioners