

CAMBRIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

September 12, 2024

**Ebensburg, PA
August 15, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 16, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 19, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 20, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 21, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 22, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 23, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 26, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 27, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 28, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 29, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
August 30, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
September 2, 2024**

Courthouse closed for Labor Day.

**Ebensburg, PA
September 3, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
September 4, 2024**

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

**Ebensburg, PA
September 5, 2024**

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

Ebensburg, PA
September 6, 2024
Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
September 9, 2024
Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
September 10, 2024
Commissioners Scott W. Hunt, Keith Rager, and Thomas C. Chernisky present.

Ebensburg, PA
September 11, 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 10:05 a.m.

Public Comment:

John DeBartola stated that he hoped the Commissioners would not be giving Vision 2025 any money in the future. He also spoke regarding homelessness in the County and his concerns about the cost of putting a roof on the Martha & Mary House. He asked the Commissioners to take a stand against homelessness.

Controller Edward Cernic, Jr., stated that the 16th Annual Edition of the Citizen's Financial Report was complete and would be posted on the Controller's page of the County's website. The information contained in the report is taken from the County's audit. He advised that if anyone had any questions about it, they could contact his office.

Notice of Executive Sessions:

1. September 9, 2024, meeting with Agency Department Heads.
2. September 10, 2024, meetings with Human Resources and Solicitor.

Proclamation:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve a Proclamation for National Recovery Month.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Ordinance:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to approve Ordinance No. 3 of 2024, pending an executed Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement, authorizing exemptions, deductions, abatements, and credits for real property, earned income tax, net profits, mercantile, and business privilege taxes within Hastings Borough, Elder Township, and Cambria Township, Cambria County, being designated as proposed Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zones.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Ordinance Revision:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve including the language "pending an executed Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement" with regard to the approval of Ordinance No. 2 of 2024 authorizing exemptions, deductions, abatements, and credits for real property, earned income tax, net profits, mercantile, and business privilege taxes within Franklin Borough, Cambria

County, designating same as a Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone. (Action originally taken at the Commissioners' Meeting held August 15, 2024).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Grant:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Certification of Local Government Approval for Nonprofit Organizations Receiving ESG Funds from State Recipients, specifically for the Women's Help Center, Inc., to provide emergency shelter activities.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Amendments:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Fourth Amendment to the Lease between University Park Associates Limited Partnership and the Cambria County Area Agency on Aging, to provide space for the East Hills Senior Activities Center, beginning August 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2025, at a rate of \$1,541.66 per month.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Amendment to the Agreement with Tyler Technologies, Inc., dated June 2, 2022, to allow for reallocation of the pricing, with no change to the total amount of the original Agreement.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Agreements:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with MidAtlantic Solid Waste Consultants, d/b/a MSW Consultants, to provide professional services with regard to the Cambria County Municipal Waste Management Plan Update, in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Community Development Block Grant Program Contract, Contract No. C000089765, with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds in the amount of \$656,926.00, beginning July 11, 2024, and ending July 10, 2028.

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 Short-Term Lease Payment Agreement with Blackstone Capital, LLC, for property located at 364 ½ Corrine 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 3-Year Extended Maintenance Agreement with Secure Technology Value Solutions, for the body scanner located at the Cambria County Prison, beginning September 14, 2024, and ending September 14, 2027, in the amount of \$31,350.00.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Three+One Company, Inc., for cash Vest liquidity and treasury analyses, at a rate of \$250.00 annually per one million dollars of the most recently adopted budget.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Engagement Letter with Dinsmore to provide bond counsel services.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Contracts (Provided Funding is Available):

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve five (5) Service Contract Amendments for Cambria County BH/ID & EI, Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Vendor	Service Provided	Original Amount	New Not to Exceed
Allegheny Chesapeake Physical Therapists, Inc., d/b/a Pivotal Physical Therapy of Western Pennsylvania	Provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy including any special instructions for the Early Intervention Program.	\$100,000.00	\$90,000.00
Beginnings, Inc.	Provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy including any special instructions and social work for the Early Intervention Program.	\$225,000.00	\$226,495.00
Gehlman, Melissa	Occupational therapy for the Early Intervention Program.	\$9,500.00	\$9,578.00
Leaps & Bounds Developmental Services, LLC	Early Intervention initial and annual evaluations.	\$100,000.00	\$100,792.00
Pediatric Therapy, LLC	Provide pediatric physical/occupational therapies, speech therapy, social work, and special instruction for behavior, hearing, & vision.	\$575,000.00	\$525,000.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve two (2) Service Contracts for Cambria County Drug & Alcohol, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount
DLP Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, LLC	Maternal Addiction Resource Center – Case/care management and recovery support services for pregnant women and women with children.	\$352,913.18
Alternative Community Resource Program	Certified Recovery Specialist Services – Individual Group	\$76.00 per hour \$22.00 per hour

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve five (5) Service Contracts for Cambria County BH/ID & EI, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount
Advocacy Alliance	Conduct certified investigations in accordance with MR Bulletins No. 00-04-11, “Certified Investigations,” and No. 6000-04-01, “Incident Management,” as well as the Pennsylvania Certified Investigators Manual, in addition to providing incident management.	\$75,000.00
Family Links, Inc.	Provider will link, coordinate, and monitor the services per the needs of the intellectually disabled consumer.	\$10,000.00
Independent Family Services, Inc.	Family-based behavioral health services will be provided.	\$7,500.00
Skills of Central PA, Inc.	Drop-In Center provides services that connects individuals to others and the community.	\$100,000.00
Skills of Central PA, Inc.	Community habilitation services via care, support, and skills training with supervision.	\$314,447.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve three (3) Service Contracts for Cambria County Children & Youth Services, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Alternative Living Solutions					
Cert No.	Unit ID	Service Provided	Rate	Allowable Maintenance	Allowable Admin
444640 444620 444610 444600 443960 442110 441000	TL	Transitional Living	\$274.00	\$209.45	\$64.55
446300	IL	Supervised Independent Living	\$274.00	\$61.34	\$212.66

Bethesda Children's Home d/b/a Bethesda Lutheran Services

Cert No.	Unit ID	Service Provided	Rate	Allowable Maintenance	Allowable Admin
FOSTER CARE					
431900	BB	Foster Care Class BB	\$68.11/day	\$35.00	\$33.11
431900	DD	Foster Care Class DD	\$68.47/day	\$40.00	\$28.47
431900	FF	Foster Care Class FF	\$83.71/day	\$41.00	\$42.71
431900	HH	Foster Care Class HH	\$88.71/day	\$46.00	\$42.71
431900	JJ	Foster Care Class JJ	\$130.10/day	\$35.00	\$95.10
431900	LL	Foster Care Class LL	\$135.10/day	\$40.00	\$95.10
431900	OO	Foster Care Class OO	\$133.78/day	\$75.00	\$58.78
GROUP HOMES					
402560	GH	Claney House Group Home	\$335.00/day		
402570	IT	Ida May Right Specialize Setting	\$350.00/day		
402570	SH	Ida May Right Specialize Setting – Shelter	\$350.00/day		
467820	IT	Hope Mae Specialized Setting	\$350.00/day		
467820	SH	Hope Mae Specialized Setting – Shelter	\$350.00/day		
402540	IT	Freeman Specialized Setting	\$350.00/day		
402540	SH	Freeman Specialized Setting – Shelter	\$350.00/day		
424190	BB	Right Start for Young Mothers Specialized Setting – Baby Only	\$160.00/day		
424190	EM	Right Start Program - Mother/Expectant	\$370.00/day		
424190	MB	Right Start Program - Mother and Baby	\$530.00/day		
424190	SH	Right Start for Young Mothers Specialized Setting – Shelter	\$350.00/day		
424190	TL	Right Start Transitional Living Specialized Setting	\$260.00/day		
431900	PH	Petersen Home	\$230.00/day		

Professional Family Care Services, Inc.

Cert No.	Unit ID	Service Provided	Rate	Maintenance	Admin
331020	FF	Foster Care Services	\$70.17/day	\$35.50	\$34.67
331020	II	Minor Parent and Child Foster Care	\$ 100.50/day	\$65.76	\$34.74
326080		Family Group Decision Making Successful Conference: A family that has been referred for a FGDM conference in which a conference is coordinated and facilitated with nuclear family, extended family, and/or identified supports of the family and has an approved plan. (max 30 hours)	\$2,500.00		
			Maximum of \$3,000.00 per conference, with County approval for identified extraordinary expense (i.e., out of town travel and/or lodging)		
326080		Family Group Decision Making Successful Referral: A family that has been referred for a FGDM conference in which coordination activities have occurred that directly correlate to the FGDM referral but do not result in a family conference. (max 10 hours)	\$1,000.00		
326080		Family Group Decision Making Unsuccessful Referral: A family that has been referred for a FGDM conference that does not result in any new engagement/activities due to a lack of engagement by the nuclear family and/or extended family members. (max 3 hours)	\$250.00		
		Family Group Decision Making Follow-Up Conference	\$500.00		
		Emergency Caregiver Assessment: When the process ends following the assessment/SWAN withdrawal.	\$50.00/hour		
313790		Adoption Services (SWAN Affiliate Agency)	As defined by the State		
		Family Profile	\$3,260.00 (after SWAN funds depleted)		
		Child Profile	\$2,290.00 (after SWAN funds depleted)		
		Child Preparation	\$3,120.00 (after SWAN funds depleted)		
		Child-Specific Recruitment	\$3,140.00 (after SWAN funds depleted)		
		Permanency Court Conference	\$1,000.00		
		IL Service Plan Meeting	\$500.00		
		Family Service Plan Conference	\$500.00		
		Interstate Compact Home Study	\$3,260.00/Study		
		Global Assessments and Annual Re-evaluation of Interstate Compact Foster Home (ongoing) per case	\$495.00/every three months		
		Extra Ordinary Mileage Reimbursement	PA State approved rate		
		Family Finding			

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

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

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount
1023 Group, Inc.	Provide support and services to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to include, but not limited to, general fiscal and clerical services.	\$50,000.00

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve six (6) Service Contracts for Cambria County Area Agency on Aging, Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Vendor	Service Provided	Amount
Nutrition, Inc.	Home-Delivered Meals Congregate Meals 5-Pack Frozen Meals Shelf Stable	\$3.47 \$3.86 \$4.96 \$3.73
Nutrition, Inc.	Lease	\$1.00
Nutrition, Inc.	Manage Senior Centers	\$716,933.00 annually \$875,556.00 annual max
The Tribune Democrat	Foster Grandparent Program Advertising – Neighbors Section	\$1,525.00
Raymond Arcurio	Ombudsman	\$39,220.00 annual max

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Change Orders:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Change Order of Earth Shapers, LLC, for extra stone that was needed at the Vintondale Borough Flood Control Area, in the amount of \$10,504.73, for a new contract total of \$122,650.73.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to approve the Change Order of Sodys Excavating for extra stone, and placement, that was needed at the North Branch Blacklick Creek/Tim Sherry property, in the amount of \$4,993.94, for a new contract total of \$67,109.94.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

New Hires:

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to hire Kathy Kissell, Full-Time Department Clerk I for the Sheriff's Office, (Paygrade 3-B/\$12.41 [1820 hours] per hour), effective September 30, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to hire Melissa Ream, Full-Time Chief Investigator for the Public Defender's Office, (Paygrade 49-H/\$14.58 [1820 hours] per hour), effective September 16, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chernisky to hire Hillery Beverlin, Full-Time Clerk Typist I for Children & Youth Service, (Paygrade 7-B/\$24,199.50 [1950 hours] annually), effective September 30, 2024. (Employment is contingent upon successful completion of pre-employment health screening).

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rager and passed unanimously.

Transfers:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Jamie Proudfit, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$23.62 [2080 hours] per hour), to Full-Time Lieutenant for the Prison, (Paygrade 67-C/\$58,891.04 [2080 hours] annually), effective September 15, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to transfer Kathryn Porter, Full-Time Prevention Program Specialist for Drug & Alcohol, (Paygrade 61-D/\$47,829.60 [1950 hours] annually), to Full-Time Quality Assurance Risk Management Specialist for BH/ID & EI, (Paygrade 57-N/\$50,221.08 [1950 hours] annually), effective September 30, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Remove from Payroll:

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Kara Spanko, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$23.62 [2080 hours] per hour), effective September 4, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Philip Thomas, Full-Time Watchman/Custodian for Maintenance, (Paygrade 9-D/\$13.09 [2080 hours] per hour), effective August 24, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

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

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Travis McMullen, Full-Time Correctional Officer I for the Prison, (Paygrade 26-A/\$23.62 [2080 hours] per hour), effective August 22, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Joseph Frontino, Full-Time Lieutenant for the Prison, (Paygrade 67-C/\$58,891.04 [2080 hours] annually), effective October 6, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Stephen Gresh, Full-Time Care Manager II for the Area Agency on Aging, (Paygrade 43-D/\$36,090.60 [1950 hours] annually), effective August 17, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove Richard Velemirovich, Jr., Full-Time Care Manager II for the Area Agency on Aging, (Paygrade 43-D/\$34,132.02 [1950 hours] annually), effective August 17, 2024.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Chernisky and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rager to remove William Patterson, Per-Diem Renovation Crew Supervisor for the Renovation Crew, (Paygrade 000Z/\$15.00 [1000 hours] per hour), effective September 9, 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, September 26, 2024, 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