

April 16, 2026

There was a Commissioners meeting at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road, Small Conference Room for the regular scheduled Commissioners meeting. In attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Ell Adams, Jeannie Lapinski, Cindy Creveling, Delainey Muscato, Angie Hunselman and Noreen Chikotas. Via Zoom: Denise LaBuda, Karla Alexander, John Mahon, Adam Roberts, Patricia De Leo, Allen Masteller, Jessica Brittain and Don Coleman.

Commissioner Brewer called the meeting to order and asked that we stand and pledge the flag, he then called for the approval of the minutes of the prior meeting.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

Commissioner Brewer then called for a report of the work session: The work session report is as follows, at 10:00 AM there was a work session held, in attendance were Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Jeannie Lapinski, Don Coleman, John Mahon, Barb Warnuek, Josh Napoli, Patricia De Leo, Wesley Thomas, Lucas Fetterman, Jo Connor, Otto Kureshian, Adam Roberts, Richard Lloyd and Shakeena Lee. Via Zoom: April Miller, Doyle Shadle, Jeremy Reese, Thomas Frace, Tim Murphy, Denise LaBuda, Jodi Cook, Kirsti Kritzer, Allen Masteller and Karla Alexander. Commissioner Brewer asked Jeannie Lapinski to start the meeting with a discussion regarding the distribution of \$660,806.08 of opioid funds. Representatives from the following organizations presented requests for receipt of funds: AGAPE, CMSU, Adult Probation, Community Strategies, Columbia County Coroner, Genesis House and the Columbia County Jail. Adam Roberts then presented a request for a contribution for the BBQ & Brew Music Festival for \$12,500. Otto Kureshain said the Disc Golf Course at Briar Creek Lake will open on Saturday, April 18th at 12:00PM. After which the remaining agenda items were reviewed along with the personnel moves, and Jeannie providing updates on both available cash and bills. After which the work session was adjourned.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Magistrates Reports – March Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	265	\$ 6,642.81
Bloomsburg	445	\$10,630.74
Catawissa	956	\$10,895.31
Millville	459	\$ 8,469.58

Prothonotary:

Clerk of Orphans Courts – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$27,199.81
Total business all sources was \$45,659.54

Clerk of Courts – March Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$55,971.58
Total business all sources was \$60,790.78

Sheriff Screener – March Report:

Courthouse:

Visitors		7,089
Alarms		3,419
Weapons:	Guns	0
	Knives	42
	Misc	18

Annex:

Visitors		5,446
Alarms		2,754
Weapons:	Guns	4
	Knives	30
	Misc	7

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Proclamation for National Library Week April 19th to 26th

- Read by Commissioner Kovach

B. Approve the annual Chamber of Commerce membership in the amount of \$315.00

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

C. Approve the funding requests for the County's Opioid Funds

- AGAPE: \$18,000.00; declined request in the amount of \$2,000 for Narcan; CMSU provides Narcan
Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved
- Adult Probation: \$408,649.48
Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved
- Columbia County Coroner: \$25,351.86
Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved
- Columbia County Jail: \$1,547.00
Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved
- CMSU: \$200,000.00 was pre-approved and already paid out
- Tabled Community Strategies until later
- Tabled Genesis House request until more guidance is provided

D. Approve Larson Design to perform the inspection of the County's covered bridges that are not opened to traffic

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

E. Approve the Contract with OTB East Lost Valley Management LLC for marketing and other items associated with the disc golf course which will be paid from Hotel Tax Funds

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

F. Approve request of \$12,500.00 for the BBQ & Brew Music Festival from the Hotel Tax Funds

Motion by Kovach with reporting summary and seconded by Brewer; Karschner Abstained

G. Approve the quote from Dutch Hill Painting in the amount of \$1,878 for the stripping and painting of the Courthouse Flagpole

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

H. Approve the use of the County's Parking Lots for the Renaissance Fair which is being held on April 25, 2026

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

I. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:

- Jeni Hassel, Parent Educator, Family Center, seven (7) year step, 4/16/26
- Ed Berlin, Part-time Laborer, Parks, Recall, 4/20/26
- Morgan Mungo, Paralegal, PD, six (6) month step, 11/19/25
- Corrinia Williams, Caseworker 2, CYS, Promotion, 1/21/26
- Kelsey Allbeck, Deputy, Tax, salary increase, 5/16/26

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

J. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS and COURT EMPLOYEE HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:

- Hank Clarke, Conflict Counsel, Courts, Hire, 4/20/26
- Terri Lawton, Secretary, Adult Probation, Hire, 4/20/26

Motion by Karchner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

K. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENTS:

- Jeffrey Jenkins, Caseworker 1, CYS, Resignation, 4/17/26
- Alexis Mundorff, Caseworker 1, CYS, Resignation, 4/24/26
- Brandon Batiuk, Deputy, Sheriff, Resignation, 4/6/26
- Drake Richard, FT CO, Jail, Resignation, 5/23/26
- Bessie Batiuk, Telecommunicator, ECEN, Resignation, 4/15/26

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Commissioners received notification of transfers of surface mining permit No. 49070101 from D. Molesevich & Sons construction to Blaschak Anthracite Corporation. General NPDES Stormwater Permit No. 125019 to address the handling and containment of runoff within the site Mine No.1764-49070101-01 & 02 in Mount Carmel and Conyngham Townships in both Northumberland and Columbia Counties.
- The Commissioners received notification of an approved permit General NPDES Stormwater Permit No. PA124014 to address the handling and containment of runoff within the site Mine No. 37007-49240201-01 Mount Carmel Prep Plant in Mount Carmel and Conyngham Townships in both Northumberland and Columbia Counties.
- RT Environmental Services notified the Commissioners of their intent to submit application for a new general permit WMGM043 to PA DEP for a beneficial use at Tristate Corporate Recycling LLC, Berwick.
- Lisa Meade notified the Commissioners of a Public Meeting to be held by DEP to discuss their investigation of the PFAS groundwater contaminant plume in Columbia County. Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, 7:00 PM, Central Columbia High School Auditorium. Additionally, DEP will host an open house at 5:00 PM at the same location. At 6:00 PM/6:15PM, a slide presentation providing background and progress of the investigation will begin prior to the public hearing portion of the meeting.

BILLS:

- Approve the bills for 4/14/26 for \$605,373.84

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ell Adams questioned why two CYS caseworkers were leaving. It was explained one was relocating to Maryland and the other decided to make a career change.

AJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner. The motion passed.

Attest: _____
Marcie Strachko