November 5, 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, Solicitor McDonald, David Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Treasurer Creveling, Jean Lapinski, and Michelle Frye. Via Zoom: MJ Mahon.

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 Brewer; all approved

Commissioner Brewer called for a report of the work session: In attendance was Commissioners Brewer, Karschner, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, David Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Treasurer Creveling, Angie Kemberling, Jean Lapinski, Abby Frey, Register & Recorder Lupini, Rich Kisner, MJ Mahon, and Michelle Frye. Via Zoom: Don Coleman, Jodi Cook, Stacey Knobel, Denise LaBuda, Tom Frace, Jeremy Brown, and Tim Murphy. The work session started with Rich Kisner discussing the letter to DCED for the request to change $237,733 from acquisition to construction for the Briar Creek Homeless Shelter. He also discussed the construction of transitional housing with Adult Probation for the construction of a four-unit apartment building that is requiring an additional 200K to complete the project. He is going to ask opioid funds for this project. Angie then discussed the professional service agreement and resolution for the DCED LSA Grant for the West End Flood Wall. Commissioner Kovach asked that the payment of $1,350 be added to the agenda and will be paid by the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau for the rededication of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument. This was previously approved on the Commissioners 10-1-2026 agenda to be paid, but the exact amount was not know at that time.

There was a motion by Commissioner Kovach and seconded by Brewer to add the application to the 2PM agenda. All approved.

After which the rest of the agenda was reviewed, Marcie reviewed the personnel moves and Jeannie went over cash and bills.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Sheriff Revenue – October Report

Interest:	$ 722.97
Civil	$ 4,284.00
Lic To Carry	$ 2,185.00
Lic to Sell Firearms	$ 57.00
Lic to Sell Precious Metals	$ 50.00
Personal Prop	$ 293.00
Real Estate	$ 2,476.23
Transports	$ 275.00
Warrant	$ 550.00
Total	$10,943.20

Register & Recorder – October Report:

Total remitted to the County was $37,909.64
Total business all sources was $1,382,207.03

Number of Deeds recorded for October was 151
Number of Mortgages recorded for October was 142

Treasurer – October Report:

County Commission $2,127.00

Sheriff Screener – October Report:

Courthouse:

Visitors		6,319
Alarms		2,815
Weapons:	Guns	1
	Knives	16

	Misc	9
Annex:		
Visitors		6,029
Alarms		2,734
Weapons:	Guns	2
	Knives	42
	Misc	1

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve the Professional Services Agreement between the County and SEDA-COG for the DCED $500,000 Local Share Assessment Grant

   Motion by Kovach and seconded by Karschner; all approved

B. Approve the Resolution 11-2026 for the Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for the West End Flood Mitigation Project

   Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

C. Approve the letter to DCED to reallocate $237,733 of acquisition funds of Home ARP to construction costs for the Briar Creek Homeless Shelter

   Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

D. Approve the bid for parcel 05E06 03000000, the property will be sold for $500 to West End Housing LLC

   Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

E. Approve the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau payment of $2,100 to Larson Design Group for the bell tower services thru October 17, 2026, and approve to pay any future bell tower bills to ensure that the bills are paid in a timely manner

   Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

F. Approve the recommendation for the Farmer Director for the Conservation District Aaron Young

   Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

G. Approve the County's Investment Policy & Guidelines

   Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

H. Approve the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau to pay for advertising to the press enterprise for $1,300 for the rededication of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument

   Motion by Kovach and seconded by Brewer; all approved

I. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:
   - Timothy Witter, Caseworker 2, CYS, seven (7) year step, 10/22/26
   - Devon Haag, Caseworker 1, CYS, Hire, 11/30/26
   - Lexi Rhoads, Caseworker 2, CYS, six (6) month step, 9/30/26
   - Adell Munson, Paralegal, PD, transfer, 10/26/26
   - Jessica Tineo, Admin Asst, PD, transfer, 10/26/26
   - Bryce Yoder, Medical Staff, Jail, Hire, 11/8/26
   - Patrick Rooney, Promotion to Sergeant, Jail, 11/8/26
   - Matthew Horrax, Promotion to Sergeant, Jail, 11/8/26

   Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

J. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS and COURT EMPLOYEE HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:
- Hollie Stewart, Chief Deputy, Reg/Recorder, seven (7) year step, 11/4/26
- Leonard Branz, Counselor, Adult Probation, two (2) step increase, 11/25/26

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Kovach; all approved

K. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENT:
- Cody Hess, Caseworker 1, CYS, resignation, 11/3/26
- Harry Masker, Laborer, Parks, Seasonal furlough, 11/5/26
- James Karhnak, Laborer, Parks, Seasonal furlough, 11/5/26
- Michelle Michaels, PT CO, Jail, Resignation, 11/2/26
- Sidney Springer Training & Ops Coordinator, EMA, Resignation, 11/12/26

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

L. Approve the Columbia County Redevelopment Authority application for the 2026 CDBG Funds for the following projects:
- Town of Bloomsburg removal of barriers at Town Hall
- Blight
- Catawissa Fire House to repair doors

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

M. Approve the Resolution 10-2026 for the Children's Museum letter of support for their state grant application for LSA

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

N. Discussion with JD Stanley & Don Coleman regarding the Columbia County SWAT Team

O. Approve the 2027 payroll dates

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

P. Approve the 2027 budgetary dates

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

Q. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES, STEP INCREASES, and PROMOTIONS:
- Lauryn Higgins, HR Asst, Jail, two (2) year step, 4/18/25
- Susan Farr, PT Medical, Jail, four (4) year step, 9/21/26
- Stephen Kirwin, CO, Jail, transfer, 10/11/26
- Austin McCormick, CO, Jail, six (6) year step, 10/25/26
- Evan Pinchak, CO, Jail, six (6) year step, 10/25/26
- Teresa Simon, Medical, Jail one (1) year step, 11/9/26
- James Dent, CO, Jail, eight (8) year step, 11/11/26
- Ryan Gajkowski, CO, Jail, ten (10) year step, 11/13/26
- Lottie Neiswender, Lead Medical, Jail, four (4) year step, 11/30/26
- Payton Aucker, CO, Jail, eight (8) year step, 12/2/26
- Matthew Horrax, CO, Jail, four (4) year step, 12/4/26
- Kristyn Stump, CO, Jail, eight (8) year step, 12/9/26
- Joselyn Matias-Sepulveda, CO, Jail, two (2) year step, 12/9/26
- Maverick Ferrara, CO, Jail, two (2) year step, 12/9/26

Motion by Karschner and seconded by Brewer; all approved

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

- Jonathan Broadt, Deputy, Sheriff, 4 year step, 4/13/26

Motion by Brewer and seconded by Karschner; all approved

S. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, AND RETIREMENT:
   - None

CORRESPONDANCE:

- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission notified the Commissioners that an Application from PPL was applied to install two replacement poles at Catherine Street where it crosses one track of Seda-Cog Joint Rail Authority.
- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission notified the Commissioners that an Application from Verizon PPL was applied to install a replacement pole at Catherine Street where it crosses one track of Seda-Cog Joint Rail Authority.
- Commonwealth University submitted Notice of Intent for Consumptive Use for Bloomsburg University for the use of water not to exceed 99,999 gallons per day from Veolia.

BILLS:

- Approve the bills for 11/06/26 for $122,934.82

  Motion by Karschner and seconded by Kovach; all approved

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

AJOURN:

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

Attest: _____
David J. Witchey