

Cameron County Commissioners
Driftwood Senior Center
7806 Bridge Street, Driftwood, PA 15832
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 17, 2025 @11:00am

Commissioner Herzing called this meeting to order at 11:00 am, with a moment of silence and pledge to the flag.

Visitors: Linda Burrows, Esther Hagg, Debra Johnson, Charles Lowe, Jeffrey Burfield, Randy Chilcote, Scott Yandric, Nancy Fragale, David J. Reed, Cameron Horning, Steve Fingado

Public Comment: nothing

Meeting minutes from July 2, 2025, were presented and approved, with a motion from Commissioner Moate, a second from Commissioner Zucal, all in favor and so carried.

Correspondence:

- Received the Maximus audit/cost allocation plan for CYS and DRO.
- PAPUC application of Windstream D&E, Inc for approval of the proposed installation of a fiber optic wire line by over lashing an existing cable where Castle Garden Road crosses, at grade, the tracks of Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad, Inc in Gibson Township, Cameron County.
- Cameon County recognizes by Proclamation the week of July 20, 2025, through July 26, 2025, as National Pre-trial, Probation and Parole Supervision week by the American Probation and Parole Association, requested by Cameron County Probation/Parole Department.
- ACT 14 Notice Newell Tereska & Mackay Engineering of
SR 0046-A02 over Dodge Hollow Bridge Replacement Project
PADEP Chapter 105GP-11 Permit Application
Municipal Act 14, 67, 68 and 127 Notification

Chief Clerk Report: business as usual

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Zucal

Commissioner Zucal announced that he will attend the Brownfield Conference from August 5–8, representing Cameron County. The county was awarded a \$1.6 million federal grant for environmental assessments and future implementation projects. Montrose, the firm that helped secure the grant, encourages county representation at the event.

He will also attend the CCAP Annual Conference on August 17, highlighting its value for networking and collaboration with other counties, especially those in the region.

Additional updates included:

- A regional maternity care meeting in Bradford next week.
- Plans to address the loss of the local pharmacy (Rite Aid).
- New industrial development opportunities.
- Penn State Extension and engineering students plan to assess the Clear Creek property mid-August, aiming to develop it as a student-led site planning project.
- Collaboration with Harry Crissy, known for working on the Chamber of Commerce's kitchen project, to explore a circular sustainability model for underutilized space.

He noted he will be closely involved in several of these initiatives moving forward.

Commissioner Moate

Commissioner Moate highlighted several key initiatives and updates:

- He's part of the planning committee for the upcoming North Central PA Regional Healthcare Summit at Pitt-Bradford, praising planner Deborah Thompson and the committee for their excellent preparation.
- He met virtually with Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill to discuss broadband expansion through a 10-county Open Access Internet coalition. While federal regulations limit immediate action, Moate continues to advocate for rural broadband access.
- As a member of the CCAP Technology Committee, he is helping to plan the agenda for the upcoming CCAP conference in August.
- He is researching the installation of Purple Heart signs across the county and will provide more details as that project develops.
- Moate attended a Penn State Advisory Council meeting and commended Chi Catalone and the Cameron Elk Suicide Prevention Team for promoting the 988 mental health lifelines through awareness coins, now distributed at multiple locations. A rise in calls is viewed as a positive indicator of outreach success.
- He shared positive news from the Cameron County Ambulance Association, noting improved finances, morale, and infrastructure plans thanks to a grant from the George and Margaret Mee Foundation. She gave special recognition to Jamie Gillen for her leadership.
- Lastly, Moate participated in a CEBAD meeting (community-based anti-drug initiative), acknowledging Chi Catalone's foundational role in that effort.

He concluded by emphasizing his gratitude for all involved, especially the county's first responders.

Commissioner Herzing

Commissioner Herzing provided updates on a variety of county initiatives and developments:

- **County Audit:** The annual audit process has begun, which is a positive step for financial oversight.
- **Green Energy Ordinance:** A draft Windmill and Solar Farm ordinance has been developed by a committee (including the Conservation District, Planning Commission, and legal counsel) to update outdated zoning ordinances from the 1980s. It will soon go to the zoning board and then be opened for public review.
- **Economic Development & Innovation:** Participated in the Radically Rural Roundtable on innovative business models to support artisan entrepreneurs. A project from Tionesta was notably featured.
- **Healthcare Review:** The county is evaluating more cost-effective healthcare options for employees that maintain quality care.
- **911 Outage Response:** Commended Laura Narby and Annette for quickly and effectively responding to a recent 911 outage.
- **Planning Commission Meeting:** Discussed:
 - The Barefoot Subdivision on Vincent Hill (awaiting municipal review),
 - Nittany Minit Mart Project (still on track for August),
 - The sale of the Emporium Sheetz building to Carroll Fuels,
 - Ongoing efforts to attract a new pharmacy.
- **Community Involvement:**
 - Attended the Collaborative Board Meeting, where updates included:
 - QPR Suicide Prevention Training rescheduled for Sept. 11,
 - The LIFT Disability & Senior Expo on Aug. 22 with over 55 vendors,
 - A presentation by the new CYS supervisor explaining child welfare services.
- **Rural Healthcare Hearing:** Observed a public hearing on rural healthcare challenges, focusing on:
 - Retention of medical professionals in rural areas,

- The lack of psychological services and the need to attract mental health providers.
- Upcoming Health Services Public Hearing: Noted the Cameron-Elk County Health Services Hearing is scheduled for August 7 at 9:30 AM, prior to the commissioners meeting, where regional health priorities will be reviewed and submitted to the state.
- Budget Concerns: Warned that many regional health and human services providers are operating on financial reserves due to the lack of a state budget, which may lead to funding challenges if unresolved.

She concluded by noting that, for now, the county remains financially stable despite the state-level budget delay.

Treasurer Report: Expenses for the month of June were \$321,401.24.

Old Business: Motion to approve RFP award of new Website contractor. After discussion and comments given by Commissioner Moate, Commissioner Zucal made the motion to approve Revise as our new and current contractor, Commissioner Herzing seconded the motion all in favor and so carried.

New Business:

- Motion to open Bids and review, for the Wheelchair Lift Project at the Recreation Center. Commissioner Moate made the motion to open the bids for the wheelchair lift, Commissioner Zucal seconded the motion, all in favor and so carried. Commissioner Herzing announced we received one bid for the Wheelchair Lift from Access Elevator.
- Motion to table the Bid award for the Wheelchair Lift for further review. Commissioner Zucal made the motion to table the award of the bid for further review, Commissioner Moate seconded the motion all in favor and so carried.
- Motion to approve Mobilcom quote for tower batteries in the amount of \$1,333.28, these are in preparation for when the current batteries run out of juice. Motion to approve Mobilcom's quote for the batteries was made by Commissioner Moate, seconded by Commissioner Zucal, all in favor and so carried.
- Motion to approve the appointment of Reshawn Shipe, Guy & Mary Felt Manor Administrator, to the Cameron County LEPC board. Motion to approve this appointment was made by Commissioner Zucal, seconded by Commissioner Moate, all in favor and so carried.
- Motion to approve Resolution #2025-7 for the purpose of Recording Cameron County Commissioner Public Meetings. Commissioner Moate made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-7, Commissioner Zucal seconded the motion, all in favor and so carried.
- Motion to approve CWEL (Child Welfare Education for Leadership Program) Agreement between County of Cameron, Alexis Singer, and University of Pittsburgh for educational services in an approved degree curriculum under the auspices of the CWEL Program. Commissioner Herzing made the motion to approve agreement between CWEL, County of Cameron, Alexis Singer and University of Pittsburgh, Commissioner Zucal seconded the motion, all in favor and so carried.
- Motion to approve CYS Needs Base Plan and Budget Data Sharing Agreement. Motion to approve this plan was made by Commissioner Moate, seconded by Commissioner Zucal, all in favor and so carried.

Good of the Order:

Scott Yandric of Driftwood expressed concerns about the lack of representation for the southern part of Cameron County, particularly in areas like tourism, ATV trail planning, and online promotion. He noted that:

- Despite population decline, Southern Cameron County still has high growth percentages (e.g., 3% in Gibson in 2024) but feels underrepresented.

- State officials were unaware that 38 miles of county roads have been open to ATV use for over five years, highlighting a lack of communication and advocacy for the area.
- Discussions about ATV trails have focused on the northern part of the county, excluding the southern region.
- He criticized the "Look Up Cameron County" website, calling it poorly managed and uninformative, and questioned how much money is spent on it.
- He voiced concern about the loss of liquid fuels tax revenue due to residents selling homes to camp owners, which reduces funding for local infrastructure.
- He warned that continued decline without action could lead to higher taxes for southern residents.
- Finally, Yandric acknowledged the political reality that it may be hard to elect someone from the Southern part of the County but insisted there should be better representation on boards and committees to ensure the area's needs are addressed.

Commissioner Zucal acknowledged Yandric's concerns and expressed willingness to have a more in-depth discussion, noting the topics raised would require at least a half-hour conversation. He agreed that southern Cameron County faces underrepresentation, particularly in tourism and infrastructure planning.

Key points from his response:

- The state uses resident population numbers (4,300) for funding decisions, but this fails to account for the significant seasonal population increase due to camps and tourism, which likely triples the real impact on local infrastructure.
- Zucal emphasized that many rural counties face similar struggles, and there's a need to advocate for better funding metrics that reflect seasonal usage.
- Regarding the "Look Up Cameron County" website, he admitted it's outdated and under-resourced since he transitioned from marketing to his commissioner role. An intern is maintaining it, but there's currently no dedicated staff for regular updates.
- On the topic of ATV trails, Zucal was surprised state officials were unaware of the 38 miles of open roads and mentioned that DCNR recently issued a statement against connecting trails within the Elk Range, which encompasses all of Cameron County. He stressed the need to balance conservation with recreation and indicated that deeper advocacy is required to address these challenges.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am made by Commissioner Zucal, seconded by Commissioner Herzing all in favor and so carried.

The next Commissioner Meeting will be Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 11:00am at the Cameron County Courthouse, Commissioner's Conference Room.

Submitted by,

Annette Campbell
Chief Clerk, Secretary to the Commissioners