WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

A WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026, AT 10:00 AM. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN THE COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON OR JOIN TODAY'S MEETING VIA ZOOM.

ATTENDING: COMMISSIONER LARRY PADORA; COMMISSIONER BARRON HETHERINGTON; COMMISSIONER GARY HESS; COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BENDER; DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES JOHN BLICKLEY; SHERIFF SHAWN BUTLER; ASSISTANT COORDINATOR / COMPLIANCE OFFICER CHERYL FUSS; FINANCE DIRECTOR GLENN GEISSINGER; HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN; BLOCK GRANT MANAGER SHARON LOVE; DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING / REAL ESTATE LISA MAHALL; DISTRICT ATTORNEY MICHAEL O'PAKE; ASSISTANT COUNTY SOLICITOR DAVID RICE; CHILDREN & YOUTH ADMINISTRATOR 3 CARL RUMBEL; SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COORDINATOR KYLE SWETZ; CONTROLLER SHARYN YACKENCHICK; COUNTY TREASURER LINDA YEICH; CHIEF ASSESSOR CHRISTINE ZIMMERMAN; AND CHIEF CLERK KIM MASHACK.

SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER PADORA.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD

THERE WERE NONE TO REPORT.

MANDY FITZPATRICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHUYLKILL CONNECTS, CAME TO TODAY'S MEETING REPRESENTING SCHUYLKILL KEEP IT PRETTY (SKIP).

MANDY REPRESENTS KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL WITH SCHUYLKILL COUNTY BEING AN AFFILIATE. SHE IS THE CHAIRPERSON FOR SKIP AND KYLE SWETZ (SOLID WASTE OFFICE) IS THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON. SHE GAVE AN AWARD TO HIDDEN RIVER CREDIT UNION FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO HELP KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL.

COMMISSIONER PADORA THANKED THE AWARD RECIPIENT FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE COUNTY PRETTY.

COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON ALSO THANKED THE AWARD RECIPIENT FOR THEIR HARD WORK TO KEEP SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PRETTY.

COMMISSIONER HESS THANKED THE COMMUNITY FOR GETTING YOUTH INVOLVED. HE ALSO THANKED HIDDEN RIVER CREDIT UNION FOR THEIR HARD WORK.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CHRIS MELUSKY, NORWEGIAN TOWNSHIP, COMMENTED ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTY.

CAROL COONEY-SYZDAK, BARNESVILLE, COMMENTED ON DATA CENTERS.

DR JILLIAN MULLEN, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, COMMENTED ON THE PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE.

BERNIE KARPOVICH, BUTLER TOWNSHIP, COMMENTED ON DATA CENTERS.

CLAIRE KEMPAS, NORTH MANHEIM TOWNSHIP, COMMENTED ON DATA CENTERS.

MELINDA DEIBERT, NORTH MANHEIM TOWNSHIP, COMMENTED ON DATA CENTERS,

JEFF DUNKEL, PALO ALTO, COMMENTED ON REGISTER OF WILLS, CHILDREN & YOUTH AND SALARY BOARD.

COMMISSIONER PADORA REPORTED ON WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ON MAY 28, 2026. THE DISCUSSION INCLUDED NATURAL SOIL PRODUCTS, THE BRADS LANDFILL IN ST. CLAIR AND THE PROPOSED ICE FACILITY IN TREMONT TOWNSHIP.

CHILDREN & YOUTH – TWO (2) AGREEMENTS

ADMINISTRATOR 3 CARL RUMBEL REQUESTED APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL COUNTIES YOUTH CENTER, BELLEFONTE, PA, FOR DETENTION SERVICES AT A PER DIEM RATE OF $667. THE TERM IS JULY 1, 2026, TO JUNE 30, 2027.

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH JUSTICEWORKS YOUTHCARE, PITTSBURGH, PA, FOR IN-HOME PREVENTION AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES WITH RATES AS FOLLOWS: JUSTCARE AT $85.51 PER HOUR, STOPP AT $91.21 PER HOUR, PLANS OF SAFE CARE AT $73.43 PER HOUR, FAMILY FINDING AT $73.43 PER HOUR, VISIT COACHING AT $85.51 PER HOUR, TRUANCY

REMEDIATION AT $85.51 PER HOUR, TRIPLE P AT $93.49 PER HOUR, TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM AT $459.29 PER DIEM, AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICE PROGRAM AT $30,000 PER MONTH AND $58.23 PER HOUR. THE TERM IS JULY 1, 2026 TO JUNE 30, 2027.

CORONER'S OFFICE – ONE (1) AGREEMENT

ON BEHALF OF COUNTY CORONER DR MOYLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BENDER REQUESTED APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH PARTNERS IN SPECIALTY PATHOLOGY PC FOR SPECIMEN TESTING FOR THE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE. THE TERM IS JANUARY 1, 2026, TO DECEMBER 31, 2026. RENEWABLE IN ONE (1) YEAR INCREMENTS UNLESS OTHERWISE TERMINATED. COST IS PER THE FEE SCHEDULE.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE – TWO (2) AGREEMENTS

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES JOHN BLICKLEY REQUESTED APPROVAL OF AN GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) IN THE AMOUNT OF $62,657. THE GRANT PROVIDES FEDERAL FUNDS, THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, TO COVER SALARIES AND BENEFITS OF APPROVED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. **IMMEDIATE APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REQUEST.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMISSIONER PADORA – YES *COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON – YES*

COMMISSIONER HESS – YES

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGREEMENT WITH DAUPHIN COUNTY AS REQUIRED BY THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE ACT (ACT #1990-165). SCHUYLKILL COUNTY MUST DESIGNATE A PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY CERTIFIED HAZMAT TEAM. SCHUYLKILL COUNTY WILL FACILITATE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE RESPONSE COSTS DUE FROM THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY. IN THE EVENT OF A SITUATION WHERE NO RESPONSIBLE PARTY IS IDENTIFIABLE OR IS UNRESPONSIVE, THE COUNTY WILL REIMBURSE DAUPHIN COUNTY THROUGH THE HAZMAT FUND. THIS IS AN ANNUAL RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT AND SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL AUGUST 31, 2027. **IMMEDIATE APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REQUEST.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMISSIONER PADORA – YES *COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON – YES*

COMMISSIONER HESS – YES

GRANT WRITERS – ONE (1) CONTRACT, ONE (1) ADVERTISEMENT

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR / COMPLIANCE OFFICER CHERYL FUSS REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF $30,370 TO TRIPLE A SERVICES LLC FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT PROJECT IN WAYNE TOWNSHIP.

REQUESTED APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2026 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

HUMAN SERVICES – FOUR (4) AGREEMENTS

BLOCK GRANT MANAGER SHARON LOVE REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A RATE AGREEMENT WITH CULTURE2CULTURE (DBA BLUE SKY TRANSPORTATION), POTTSVILLE, PA, FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AT THE RATE OF $57.37 PER ONE-WAY TRIP. THE TERM IS JULY 1, 2026, TO JUNE 30, 2027.

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A RATE AGREEMENT WITH GOOD WILL FIRE COMPANY NO. 1, MINERSVILLE, PA, FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AT THE RATE OF $143 PER ONE-WAY TRIP. THE TERM IS JULY 1, 2026, TO JUNE 30, 2027.

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A RATE AGREEMENT WITH PENN KASHAR, POTTSVILLE, PA, FOR AFTER HOURS ANSWERING SERVICES FOR THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AT THE RATE OF $145 PER MONTH FOR UP TO 100 CALLS. ADDITIONAL CALLS WILL BE CHARGED AT $.45 FOR EACH CALL. CHARGES FOR LONG DISTANCE WILL BE MADE AT THE PREVAILING RATE FOR VERIZON. THE TERM IS JULY 1, 2026, TO JUNE 30, 2027.

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A RATE AGREEMENT WITH SCHUYLKILL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, ST. CLAIR, PA, FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION (MATP) AND HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND (HSDF) SERVICES. RATES FOR MATP ARE $46.25 PER ONE-WAY TRIP RATE AND RANGE FROM $3.60 (0-4.99 MILES) TO $6.45 (25 PLUS MILES) FOR A ONE-WAY SENIOR SHARED RIDE TRIP. ESCORTS FOR MATP ARE ALSO CHARGED THE $46.25 ONE-WAY TRIP RATE. HSDF RATES RANGE FROM $1.75 FOR A SINGLE USE BUS TICKET TO $86 FOR A ONE-WAY TRIP FOR 25 PLUS MILES WITH AN ESCORT. THE TERM IS JULY 1, 2026, TO JUNE 30, 2027.

OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES – ONE (1) ADDENDUM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES DEANNA ORLOWSKY REQUESTED APPROVAL OF AN ADDENDUM TO CONTRACT NUMBER 2024-95 (FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026) WITH DIAKON CHILD FAMILY & COMMUNITY MINISTRIES OF MIDDLETOWN, PA, TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT CAP FOR SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTERS, SENIOR CENTER NON-COMPETITIVE GRANT, PA MEDI, HEALTH & WELLNESS, IN-HOME MEALS AND VOLUNTEERS SERVING SENIORS IN THE AMOUNT OF $359,689 FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING. THE REVISED CONTRACT CAP WILL BE $1,374,598. **IMMEDIATE APPROVAL REQUESTED**.

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REQUEST.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMISSIONER PADORA – YES *COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON – YES*

COMMISSIONER HESS – YES

REAL ESTATE / ENGINEERING – ONE (1) PURCHASE ORDER, TWO (2) LEASE RENEWALS

ON BEHALF OF LIQUID FUELS

DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE / ENGINEERING LISA MAHALL REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A PURCHASE ORDER TO SIGNAL SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF $37,936 TO INSTALL A NEW CABINET AND CONTROLLER AT THE ROUTE 61 / 183 TRAFFIC SIGNAL DUE TO RECENT ISSUES WITH THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS MALFUNCTIONING. THIS PRICE INCLUDES THE COST OF PARTS, LABOR, THE SERVICE VEHICLE, AND THE INSTALLATION OF A TEMPORARY BOX UNTIL THE NEW ONE IS BUILT. **IMMEDIATE APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REQUEST.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMISSIONER PADORA – YES *COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON – YES*

COMMISSIONER HESS – YES

ON BEHALF OF COAL LANDS

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF THE RENEWAL OF JOE KUPERAVAGE COAL COMPANIES' RESTORATION LEASES R07C2 AND R8A. BOTH LEASES ARE IN THE RESTORATION PHASE WITH NO ACTIVE MINING OR FUTURE MINING TO BE DONE ON BOTH LEASES. THE FEE WILL REMAIN $1,200 PER LEASE FOR THE YEAR LONG TERM.

TAX CLAIM – FIVE (5) REPOSITORY SALES

ON BEHALF OF TAX CLAIM, ASSISTANT COUNTY SOLICITOR DAVID RICE REQUESTED APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE (5) REPOSITORY SALES PURSUANT TO 72 P.S. § 5860.625.

REPOSITORY SALES

Parcel Number	Owner(s) of Record	Description	Bid Amount	Bidder(s)
*^45-05-0036.000	Robin L. Stayathome	343 W. Mahanoy Ave. Girardville Borough	$1.00	Girardville Borough
*^45-05-0037.000	Robin L. Stayathome	0 W. Mahanoy Ave. Girardville Borough	$1.00	Girardville Borough
48-05-0548.000	Atlantic Carrier Systems, Inc.	531 E. South Street Mahanoy City Borough	$1,717.00	AK Prpoperties PA, Inc
^48-08-0697.014	James Brady	0 W. Maple Street Mahanoy City Borough	$400.00	Julio Altuna
^48-08-0697.015	James W. & Irene Bennett	0 W. Maple Street Mahanoy City Borough	$500.00	Julio Altuna

All parcels were previously approved by municipalities and school districts.

*****Parcels noted with an asterisk are demolitions

^The bids are less than Repository price and approved by Municipalities & School Districts

FINANCE OFFICE

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – THREE (3) BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR CURRENT YEAR:

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF $150 TO PAY FOR AN OUTSTANDING INVOICE FOR MEETINGS.

PRISON

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,350 TO COVER TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR CORRECTION OFFICER SCHOOL.

OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES

ADJUST BUDGETARY AUTHORITY IN THE AMOUNT OF $115,000 TO COVER MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES EXPENDITURES.

ON BEHALF OF DRUG & ALCOHOL

REQUESTED APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION FOR THE **CURRENT** YEAR: #**2026-11**; FOR $398,661. **IMMEDIATE APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REQUEST.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMISSIONER PADORA – YES *COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON – YES*

COMMISSIONER HESS – YES

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BENDER REQUESTED APPROVAL TO RATIFY THE DESIGNEE APPROVED CONTRACTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2026. **IMMEDIATE APPROVAL REQUESTED.**

MAY DESIGNEE LIST

DESIGNEE LIST - MAY 2026

Department/Agency	Vendor	Date/Term	Amount	Date Approved
Prison Prison yard extension	Bane Excavation Tamaqua	4/15/26-6/30/26	$9,885	4/15/26
Election Bureau Election Day Delivery of machines and supplies	Robert Corcoran Jr Ashland	5/6/26-11/30/26	$320	5/7/26
Engineering Summer maintenance at area 4,5,6,7 & 8 bridges	S&S Trimming Donaldson	4/17/26-10/31/26	As per the fee schedule on a per cut basis	5/8/26
Engineering Summer maintenance at area 1 bridges	Finky's Contracting and Landscaping Drums	4/17/26-10/31/26	$1,400 per cut for 4 cuts	5/8/26
Engineering Summer maintenance at area bridges 1, 78,80,81 and 86	Rangers Fire Company Girardville	4/17/26-10/31/26	$200 per cut for up to 4 cuts	5/8/26
Engineering Summer maintenance at area 2 & 3 bridges	Browns Maintenance Pine Grove	4/17/26-10/31/26	As per the fee schedule on a per cut basis	5/8/26
Ag. Land Conservation Board Updated review and appraisal	Agrarian Associates	5/4/23-6/30/26	$1,400	5/11/26
Prison Stone driveway	Bane Excavation Tamaqua	5/12/26-6/30/26	$13,199.47	5/12/26
Election Bureau Election delivery of machines and supplies	Stephen Querengasser Schuylkill Haven	5/15/26-11/30/26	$14/hr for machines and $320 for Election Day	5/20/26
Election Bureau Election Day Rover and assist with election day delivery	David Briggs Ringtown	5/15/26-11/30/26	$12/hr for Rover plus mileage and $14/hr for machine delivery	5/20/26
Prison Razor wire installation	ProMax Fence Systems Reading	5/20/26-6/30/26	$12,070	5/20/26
Engineering Mowing at County dams	Ted Butler's Lawnmowing	5/26/26-11/20/26	$20,000	5/27/26
Public Works HVAC service @ Mahanoy Senior Center	Antz Energy Systems Shenandoah	5/20/26-5/20/27	$2,510	5/28/26
MH/DS Community service program	Roller Roost Pottsville	5/21/26-5/26/26	$800	5/28/26

MOTION

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HESS TO APPROVE THE ABOVE REQUEST.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

COMMISSIONER PADORA – YES *COMMISSIONER HETHERINGTON – YES*

COMMISSIONER HESS – YES

HUMAN RESOURCES

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

CHILDREN & YOUTH – ONE (1) PROMOTION

HUMAN RESOURCES ANTHONY KERN REQUESTED APPROVAL TO PROMOTE KAYLA BOHR, POTTSVILLE, PA, FROM COUNTY CASEWORKER I TO COUNTY CASEWORKER II, PSSU, PAY RANGE 35, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF $23.7467. RATE IS PER UNION CONTRACT. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2026.

PRISON – THREE (3) APPOINTMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN REQUESTED APPROVAL TO APPOINT HANNAH KRUPPENBACH, POTTSVILLE, PA, TO A CORRECTION OFFICER PART – TIME POSITION, TEAMSTERS, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF $26.4555. RATE IS PER UNION CONTRACT. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2026.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN REQUESTED APPROVAL TO APPOINT CRAIG STERNER, CRESSONA, PA, TO A CORRECTION OFFICER PART – TIME POSITION, TEAMSTERS, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF $26.4555. RATE IS PER UNION CONTRACT. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2026.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN REQUESTED APPROVAL TO APPOINT DANIEL WALTZ, PALMYRA, PA, TO A CORRECTION OFFICER PART – TIME POSITION, TEAMSTERS, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF $26.4555. RATE IS PER UNION CONTRACT. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2026.

INFORMATIONAL

DOMESTIC RELATIONS – ONE (1) APPOINTMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN REQUESTED APPROVAL TO APPOINT JEFFREY GRIFFITHS, LYKENS, PA, TO A SECRETARY I POSITION, COURT RELATED I. RATE IS PER UNION CONTRACT. EFFECTIVE JUNE 8, 2026.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY – ONE (1) APPOINTMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR ANTHONY KERN REQUESTED APPROVAL TO APPOINT CRAIG B. STINE, WAYNE TOWNSHIP, PA, TO A DETECTIVE II – PER DIEM POSITION, NO BENEFITS. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2026.

*ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE PENDING DRUG TEST AND PHYSICAL.
*ALL ACTIONS INVOLVING SALARY OR FOR POSITIONS BEING CREATED ARE PENDING SALARY BOARD APPROVAL.

NEW BUSINESS

THERE WAS NO NEW BUSINESS FOR TODAY'S MEETING.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSIONER PADORA ADJOURNED THE MEETING.

ATTEST: _____