

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners was called to order this day at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Marc Rice, Shane Nickerson, and Sam VanLoon. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Casey Zuchowski, Josh Zeyn, Kaye Aumick, Kera Hackett, Lisa Rice, Penny Whipple, Joy Childs, Chris Perry, Sara Rice, Diane Weed, Tim Cleveland, Melvin Hall, Jennifer McCarthy, MaryAnne Heston, Barbara Biddison, Hilma Cooper, Bob Borzok, Heather Keeney, Taylor Leach, George Butler, Alyssia Neal, Bob Goodrich, Ken VanSant, Mike Spencer, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments (agenda items) –
George Butler – Develop Tioga increased appropriation; increased spending

Minutes A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of February 11, 2025.

Hire R.Penzone III For information, hired Robert Penzone, III, Clerk in the Prothonotary & Clerk of Courts of Office, \$14.50/hr. with benefits, effective 3/3/25.

Hire T.Corwin For information, hired Tyler Corwin, full-time Deputy Sheriff, \$18.50/hr. with benefits, effective 3/10/25.

Resignation J.Roseheck For information, resignation received from Jeffrey Rosenheck, Emergency Services Training Coordinator, effective 3/6/25.

Hire G.Field A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Grace Field, Foster Care Caseworker Assistant, \$16.15/hr. with benefits.

Hire C.Smith A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Christopher Smith, Emergency Management Coordinator, \$58,000/yr. with benefits, effective 3/24/25.

Hire E.Owlett A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Emily Owlett, part-time on-call Corrections Officer, Tioga County Prison, \$13.81/hr., no benefits.

Hire B.Streich A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Brady Streich, full-time telecommunicator-in-training, \$19.00/hr. with benefits, effective 3/24/25.

Hire C.Johnson A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Chester Johnson, Maintenance Worker 1, \$17.50/hr. with benefits.

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

PENNSYLVANIA 4-H WEEK PROCLAMATION

Proclamation WHEREAS, 4-H is America’s largest youth development organization, supporting nearly six million youth across the country; and

WHEREAS, 4-H has helped 226 youth in Tioga County to become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders as they learn by doing; and

WHEREAS, 4-H in Pennsylvania is delivered by Penn State Cooperative Extension in rural areas, small towns, and cities in all 67 counties of the Commonwealth to more than 77,000 youth ages 5–18; and

WHEREAS, 4-H youth in Pennsylvania are served by a network of staff members and more than 6,000 adult volunteers who engage and mentor youth in learning activities and hands-on projects in topics such as animal science, civic engagement, STEM, and health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania 4-H Week showcases the incredible ways that 4-H inspires kids to achieve and highlights the remarkable 4-H youth in Tioga County who work each day to make a positive impact on those around them; and

WHEREAS, 4-H’s network provides youth with opportunities for leadership development, career exploration, problem solving, friendships, community involvement, passion, and purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, we do hereby proclaim March 16-22, 2025, as PENNSYLVANIA 4-H WEEK throughout Tioga County and encourage our citizens to acknowledge and celebrate 4-H for its valuable service and continued efforts to empower youth with a foundation of success for a lifetime.

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ Marc Rice /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

Problem Gambling Awareness Month Proclamation

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling has designated March 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month;

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public health issue affecting millions of Americans of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds;

WHEREAS, problem gambling has a significant societal and economic cost for individuals, families, businesses and communities;

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable, and treatment is effective in minimizing this harm to both individuals and society as a whole;

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals and organizations have dedicated their efforts to the education of the public about problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of treatment;

WHEREAS, the National Council on Problem Gambling and Tioga County SCA invite all residents of Tioga County PA to participate in Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

THEREFORE, We, the Tioga County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of March 2025 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Tioga County PA and encourage all citizens to support the National Council on Problem Gambling and Tioga County SCA in their efforts to mitigate gambling-related harm nationwide.

/s/ Marc Rice /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

**Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
March 2025**

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities come from diverse racial, ethnic, educational, social, religious, and economic backgrounds, and are valued members of Commonwealth who strive to enjoy an everyday life; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities and their families are working for inclusion, equality, recognition, and appreciation of their skills, views, abilities and contributions like all Pennsylvanians; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania continues its focus on person-centered approaches, community integration, personal choice, quality in service delivery, health and safety protections, competitive integrated employment, accountability in the utilization of resources, and innovation in service designs; and

WHEREAS, the rate of individuals with developmental disabilities enrolled for services engaging in competitive integrated employment has reached 18% in the Commonwealth through the increased provision of training, resources, services and supports that allow more individuals to pursue their desire for employment; and

WHEREAS, opportunities for training, education and skill-building for those with developmental disabilities continues to grow with the implementation of training programs and inclusive secondary education certificate programs at Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services continues to offer opportunities to individuals and family members through accessible training initiatives and services that allow them to increase their knowledge and participation in advocacy, supports and disability services; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania continues to build an inclusive Commonwealth where we all can live and work as part of their community and continue to enjoy their everyday lives.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March, 2025 to be

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

in recognition of the many accomplishments and contributions made by those with developmental disabilities. I encourage al Pennsylvanians to support those with a developmental disability and their families in all aspects of community life.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this fourth day of February two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

/s/ Governor Josh Shapiro

Proclamation

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

TIOGA COUNTY DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025 AS
PENNSYLVANIA 811 SAFE DIGGING MONTH

WHEREAS, the month of April 2025 is recognized as “Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month”, and the initiative supported by Pennsylvania 811, a utility notification information center with 53 years of continuous service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania 811 received a million excavation notifications in 2024, over 3,000 construction projects in Coordinate PA, and transmitted approximately 6 million notifications to their member facility owners and operators allowing essential utility and construction crews to provide vital underground services and repair of critical infrastructure to communities throughout Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, when contacting 811, at least three business days before digging, a homeowner or a contractor is connected to a unique service that notifies the appropriate underground utility operators in the municipality in which the work will be performed; and

WHEREAS, by notifying 811 of their intent to dig, the homeowner or contractor is knowingly helping to protect the underground utilities, themselves, the work crew, and their neighbors from any unsafe digging practices within their community; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving the notification from Pennsylvania 811, the facility owners and operators disperse to the said work site to mark the approximate location of their underground utility lines with flags, paint, or both, to establish an eighteen-inch tolerance zone of the outside wall or edge of their line or facility; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Tioga County, in support of the Pennsylvania Underground Utility Line Protection Law, PA Act 287 of 1974, as amended, we do hereby proclaim April 2025 as “Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month”, and encourage all Pennsylvanians to visit the Pennsylvania 811 website at www.paonecall.org for information about digging safely.

Tioga County Board of Commissioners /s/ Marc Rice /s/ Shane Nickerson /s/ Sam VanLoon

Use of Green

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a request from the Dept. of Human Services to use the Green for a child abuse prevention event, May 31, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Use of CH parking lot

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a request from the Sheriff’s Office to use the courthouse parking lot, April 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. for a Bunny Trunk Hop event.

UPMC SANE funding

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a funding request from the UPMC Forensic Nurse Examiner Team, to continue and grow the program - \$20,000. Act 13.

Potter Cty detention agreement

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a detention agreement with Potter County for housing inmates at Tioga County Prison - \$85/day.

Develop Tioga appropriation

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement between Tioga County and Develop Tioga, for assistance in advancing community and economic development with Tioga County. Term is one-year, effective January 1, 2025, and will renew automatically. \$60,000/yr. Act 13.

Potter Cty agreement for 911 dispatching

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an Inter-County Cooperative Communications Agreement between Tioga County and Potter County, for Tioga County to provide Potter County E-911 dispatching services and receive both wired and wireless 911 calls. Term effective 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2030. Total contract: \$1,052,106.

Gila LLC for online tax payments

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement between Tioga County and Gila, LLC, d/b/a Municipal Services Bureau, for on-line payment processing of tax payments for those municipalities that Tioga County collects for. Convenience fees will be paid by the user. Term is three years, effective February 12, 2025, and will automatically renew for an additional two years.

Wilson Consulting – RR removals

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement with Wilson Consulting Group for engineering services for the removal of six former railroad crossings in Wellsboro Borough and Delmar Township, \$23,350. The majority of this expense is grant funded, through Penn DOT MTF, and a portion will be paid with Liquid Fuels.

Ehrlich – pest control DHS

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement with Ehrlich for bed bug control at Human Services, \$995/quarter.

- VanHook –
HVAC PM

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement with Van Hook Service Co., Inc. for HVAC preventative maintenance at the following locations: Courthouse, armory, document retention building, Tokishi training center, Dept. of Human Services, and Tioga County Prison. Term is one-year, \$6,600/yr.
- Tri-Co
Connections –
dark fiber
project

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement with Tri-Co Connections to run dark fiber from the courthouse to the Patterson Trailhead building, and the courthouse to Park Hill tower to Tower Hill tower. Installation charge: \$6,000; monthly recurring charge \$400.
- DHS – ten
agreements

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve ten agreements for the Dept. of Human Services. A listing is attached.
- February
Payroll/AP

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve February 2025 payroll/benefits \$1,421,041.34, and February 2025 Accounts Payable, \$1,936,438.44.

Public Comment –
George Butler – Act 13
Hilma Cooper – thanked the Board for their contribution to the Library System
Ken VanSant – balanced budgets
Melvin Hall – ABATE Proclamation for May

The next meeting of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for April 15, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Marc Rice

Attest: _____
Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

Shane Nickerson

Sam VanLoon

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Salary Board was called to order today at 10:44 a.m. with the following members present: Marc Rice, Shane Nickerson, Sam VanLoon, and Kera Hackett. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Casey Zuchowski, Josh Zeyn, Kaye Aumick, Lisa Rice, Penny Whipple, Joy Childs, Chris Perry, Sara Rice, Diane Weed, Tim Cleveland, Melvin Hall, Jennifer McCarthy, MaryAnne Heston, Barbara Biddison, Hilma Cooper, Bob Borzok, Heather Keeney, Taylor Leach, George Butler, Alyssia Neal, Bob Goodrich, Ken VanSant, Mike Spencer, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Minutes A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Kera Hackett and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of February 11, 2025.

P. Rarig
increase A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve a salary increase for Patrick Rarig for taking on the role of HVAC Coordinator, \$18.50/hr., effective 3/9/25.

N. Fitch
increase For information, Noah Fitch, Probation Officer, has successfully completed his probationary period and satisfied training requirements to be placed in Fully Qualified status. Pay rate increase of \$1.50/hr. per union contract, effective 2/28/25 pay date.

R. Baldwin
grant A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a correction to the February 11, 2025 Salary Board minutes: Reva Baldwin’s grant, in the corrected amount of \$3,363.62/year will be divided out and paid monthly. This grant amount will not be added to her base salary.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Marc Rice

Shane Nickerson

Sam VanLoon

Kera Hackett

Attest: _____
Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk