

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners was called to order this day at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Sam VanLoon, Marc Rice, and Shane Nickerson. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Casey Zuchowski, Troy Freeman, Mary Wilson, Kera Hackett, Penny Whipple, Jen Cochran, Josh Zeyn, Kaye Aumick, Tim Cleveland, Frank Levindoski, Eric Redell, Saira Olson, Joy Childs, Chris Perry, Betsy Craig, Bob Goodrich, Sean Sember, Dianna Townsend, Roberta Hamblin, Janet Gyekis, William Koury, Mike Holley, Atty. Chris Furman, Vanessa Caswell, Isaiah Erway, and press representative Donna LeSchander.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments (agenda items) –

Roberta Hamblin – Develop Tioga administering County funds; CHIRP

Minutes

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024.

Hire  
D.Thurstin  
S.Haynes

For information, hired the following new employees:

Darby Thurstin – Paralegal, District Attorney’s Office, \$20.75/hr. with benefits  
Sabrina Haynes – Deputy Register & Recorder, \$14.00/hr. with benefits

Promotion  
J.Severa

For information, promoted Jim Severa, from Deputy Sheriff to Detective, District Attorney’s Office, \$52,000/yr.

Resignation  
G.Wagner

For information, received a resignation from Gene Wagner, Dispatcher, Emergency Services, effective 1/11/24

Hire E.Leonard

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 Erica Leonard, full-time Dispatcher-in-Training, Dept. of Emergency Services, \$17.00/hr. with benefits.

Hire H.Stone

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 Helen Stone, full-time Dispatcher-in-Training, Dept. of Emergency Services, \$17.00/hr. with benefits.

Hire J.Williams

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 Jacquelynn Williams, full-time Dispatcher-in-Training, Dept. of Emergency Services, \$17.00/hr. with benefits.

Hire M.Presler

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Maxwell Presler, Emergency Management Planner, Dept. of Emergency Services, \$14.00/hr. with benefits.

Hire Z.Rabb

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

Hire C.Rouse

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

Hire M.Roio

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

Transfer  
C.Connell

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the transfer of Christine Connell, from Caseworker 2, Intake Unit, to Caseworker 2, Foster Care Unit, \$20.09/hr.

P-T Library  
System  
appropriation

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 annual appropriation of \$100,000 to the Potter-Tioga Library System.

Develop Tioga  
appropriation

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an annual appropriation of \$32,000 to Develop Tioga.

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Adopt  
Resolution  
R-3-24

**RESOLUTION NO. R-3-24**

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, that Vice-Chairman be authorized and directed to sign the attached Letter of Amendment.

Date: 2/14/2024

Attest:  
/s/ Janice Chamberlain  
County Chief Clerk

Tioga County  
/s/ Marc Rice  
Vice-Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I, Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk of Tioga County, Pennsylvania do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners held on February 13, 2024.

<SEAL>                      By: /s/ Janice Chamberlain  
Date: 2/13/2024                      County Chief Clerk

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Adopt  
Resolution  
R-4-24

**RESOLUTION R-4-24**

A Resolution of the County of Tioga, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, supporting the 2024 priorities of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania counties have selected eight priority issues that will be the focal point of counties' proactive agenda for 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, these priorities showcase counties' commitment to the core services they provide to the people and communities of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, achieving these eight county priorities underscore the critical need to redefine, reinvigorate and emphasize the state-county partnership in service delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, the top priority for Pennsylvania counties in 2024 is once again securing 911 funding and reauthorization; and

**WHEREAS**, current 911 funding revenues have not kept pace with the increasing costs of the system, which must support our needs into the future, including planning, development and support of Next Gen 911; and

**WHEREAS**, Tioga County is funding 40% of our 911 system costs, which are being used for staffing, radio maintenance, and building maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, with an extension of the surcharge increase of \$1.95 to 2026, counties are calling for discussion among policymakers and stakeholders well before the February 2026 surcharge sunset to ensure any changes to the 911 law or system can be implemented well in advance of the sunset; and

**WHEREAS**, achieving this priority would ensure all Pennsylvania residents and visitors will continue to have a quick and efficient connection to a 911 operator and services in any situation, regardless of geographic location or time of day; and

**WHEREAS**, counties' second priority is advocating for county mental health base funding increase to ensure that residents are able to access the care that they need; and

**WHEREAS**, counties provide community-based mental health services, such as community residential programs, family-based support, outpatient care and crisis intervention, which are critical to the well-being of our constituents and our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Tioga County has invested in community-based mental health services that coordinate and invest in programs and services that meet the needs and challenges of local communities, including a drop-in center, psychiatric rehabilitation, peer supports crisis intervention, outpatient treatment, and community school-based behavioral health programs; and

**WHEREAS**, counties' third priority is addressing county inmates with mental health issues aiming to find ways to better serve those incarcerated experiencing severe mental illness, making it very difficult to address their needs in the jail setting; and

**WHEREAS**, are seeking a much needed and long sought increase in the state prevailing wage threshold as their fourth priority, which has not been increased from \$25,000 since 1961 and adjusted for inflation would be more than \$250,000 in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, this threshold applies to all levels of government, all of which are looking for ways to use limited resources to provide the maximum level of services possible; and

**WHEREAS**, Right-to-Know Law reforms are counties' fifth priority, enabling counties to dedicate time and resources to key services for residents while maintaining integrity and transparency in government; and

**WHEREAS**, counties have seen an influx in large, complex record requests, as well as requests for records with the intent to burden and bog down the records request process, particularly around elections, which can negatively impact counties' ability to appropriately respond to requests; and

**WHEREAS**, counties sixth priority continues to be seeking critical vote-by-mail reforms, including clarifications to current law surrounding drop boxes, ballot curing as well as expanded pre-canvassing time and moving back the mail-in ballot application deadline to 15 days before an election; and

**WHEREAS**, achieving this priority would give counties needed tools to run fair, secure, and accurate elections, restoring public trust in the election system; and

**WHEREAS**, counties chose broadband access and development as their seventh priority in light of the immediate need for infrastructure, partnerships and digital literacy programming critical to expanding access that will increase economic vitality and personal quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Tioga County has partnered with Tri County rural Electric Cooperative, committing \$1,500,000 toward the total match required for a COVID-19 ARPA Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program \$6,998,000 total project to build over 145 miles of fiber optic network and extend high speed internet to over 937 unserved households and businesses in Tioga County; and

**WHEREAS**, counties eighth and final priority for 2024 is addressing the juvenile detention capacity crisis, providing justice-involved youth with timely community-based services and protection in detention for their safety and that of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the state-county partnership across all areas of service delivery must again be prioritized, including a commitment to additional and sustainable funding for all human services and county-administered programs; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County stands ready to work with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and counties throughout the commonwealth in support of these priorities for 2024; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these priorities emphasize the important role Tioga County plays in improving our communities and the well-being of our residents; and

**RESOLVED**, that Tioga County calls upon the General Assembly and the Administration to work together in partnership with counties to jointly determine the most effective ways to continue meeting the needs of Pennsylvanians; and

**RESOLVED**, collaboration between county government and the commonwealth on these priorities will lead to solutions that improve stewardship of taxpayer dollars, reduce cost, increase local flexibility and assure the quality of services counties provide; and

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Tioga County legislative delegation, to Governor Shapiro, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tioga, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

ATTEST: /s/ Janice Chamberlain  
Chief Clerk

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

Amend contract with H&P Constr.

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an adjustment to the contract with H&P Construction for an additional \$13,000, for the removal of 26 trees that need to be removed from both sides of the Marsh Creek Greenway Trail corridor. Act 13.

Agreement w/ Atty Stokes for DA Office

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement with William R. Stokes, III, for providing special counsel to the District Attorney's Office, in the absence of an Assistant District Attorney - \$160/hr. This agreement will be reviewed in three months.

Secureworks agreement

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an expenditure of \$52,140 from Act 13, payable to Secureworks, for cyber security protection for all county equipment.

Wellsboro Elec upgrade for VA 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 a proposal from Wellsboro Electric Company for an electric upgrade for the Veterans Affairs building project - \$6,215.79. Act 13.

Use of county property

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green, courthouse steps, and parking lot for the 2024 PA State Laurel Festival activities beginning June 7 through June 16; the Green June 28 & 29 for the Waste Management STPR; and the Green for the February 8, 2025 Winter Celebration.

Use of Green

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green for the Wellsboro Wilds Plein Air Competition and Festival, September 13 & 14, 2024.

County real estate tax refunds

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the following County real estate tax refunds: Todd Berguson, Bloss Twp., \$126.32; Highland Field Services LLC, Blossburg Borough, \$159.40; Dale & Sharon Douglas, Jackson Twp., \$29.9; Luanne & Kenneth Stocum, Lawrence Twp., \$180.87; Trinity Holding Group LLC, Mansfield Borough, \$119.80; Todd & Robert Houser, Morris Twp., \$54.51; Kenneth Bramm, Sullivan Twp., \$29.77; E&J Property Holdings Tioga LLC, Tioga Twp., \$568.15; Mitchell Creek Sportsman Club Inc, Tioga Twp., \$88.36; Tioga Boar Hunting Preserve Inc, Tioga Twp., \$36.36; Eckman Trust c/o Carl & Cathy Eckman, Ward Twp., \$45.92; George & Barbara Miller, Ward Twp., \$58.61; Revocable Living Trust of Rebecca Lea McLeod, Westfield Twp., \$39.43.

NTRPDC  
Committee  
Appointments

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission 2024-2025 Tioga County Advisory Committee appointments:

- Economic Development – Kristin Hamilton, Chris Bull, Rachel Hauser
- Loan Review Committee – Jeff Wilson, Ryan Satalin, Rob Fitzgerald
- Rural Transportation Committee – Sam VanLoon, Marc Rice, Al Quimby

Appoint  
M.Rice to  
Planning  
Commission

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Sam VanLoon and carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays (Marc Rice abstained) to approve the appointment of Marc Rice to the Tioga County Planning Commission, term ending December 2025.

18 agreements  
– DHS

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve 18 agreements for the Dept. of Human Services. A listing is attached.

Public Comment

Mike Holley – Grand Canyon Chapter ABATE of PA, Proclamation for May meeting; community event

The next meeting of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for March 12, 2024.

A motion was made by Shane Nickerson, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam VanLoon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Rice

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shane Nickerson

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Salary Board was called to order today at 10:30 a.m. with the following members present: Sam VanLoon, Marc Rice, Shane Nickerson, and Kera Hackett. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Casey Zuchowski, Troy Freeman, Mary Wilson, Penny Whipple, Jen Cochran, Josh Zeyn, Kaye Aumick, Tim Cleveland, Frank Levindoski, Eric Redell, Saira Olson, Joy Childs, Chris Perry, Betsy Craig, Bob Goodrich, Sean Sember, Dianna Townsend, Roberta Hamblin, Janet Gyekis, William Koury, Mike Holley, Atty. Chris Furman, Vanessa Caswell, Isaiah Erway, and press representative Donna LeSchander.

Minutes            A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024.

Create Paralegal position            A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve a request to create Paralegal position in the District Attorney's Office, \$20.75/hr. with benefits. This new position is with the agreement that this position replaces the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant District Attorney position.

Create Screener Supervisor position            A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve a request to create a Screener Supervisor position at the Dept. of Human Services, with a starting rate of \$23.15/hr. with benefits. This is due to the transfer of the position back to the County from SAM, Inc. in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law.

Reclassify Foster Care CW position            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 reclassification of the vacant Foster Care Caseworker position to a Foster Care Caseworker Assistant, \$15.00/hr. with benefits. The position is being reclassified due to a lack of candidates for the Caseworker position.

Salary correction – T.Kendrick            A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve a salary correction for Tamora Kendrick, part-time 911 Dispatcher. Her 2024 hourly wage should be \$29.00/hr., not the \$28.00/hr. that was approved at the 1/1/2024 Organization meeting.

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Shane Nickerson and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam VanLoon

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Rice

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shane Nickerson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kera Hackett