

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners was called to order today at 10:00 a.m. at the Tioga County Courthouse with the following members present: Roger C. Bunn and Mark L. Hamilton. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Marc Rice, Casey Zuchowski, Kera Hackett, Josh Zeyn, Scott Zubek, Christa Hilfiger, Bob Goodrich, Paul Garrett, Chris Eckert, Julian Stam, Geryl Stabley, Becky Briggs, Chris Perry, Erica Tomlinson, Erik Coolidge, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments (agenda items) – None

For information – Electronic poll books will be in use at the Primary election on May 17<sup>th</sup>. These e-poll books are part of the original package of equipment purchased from ES&S, and have just recently been received. Voters will be required to sign both the paper and electronic poll books; the paper poll books will be used as a backup method if needed.

For information – The Tioga County Hazard Mitigation plan has received “Approved Pending Adoption” status from FEMA and PEMA, and have adopted a resolution sanctioning the plan. Since all municipalities in Tioga County have agreed to participate in the County Plan, each municipality must individually adopt their own resolutions. This is a critical step in finalizing the process as the allocation of many disaster relief funds depend on municipal adoption of a renewed Hazard Mitigation Plan (5-year cycles).

For information – The National Moment of Remembrance is an annual event that asks Americans, wherever they are at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day<sup>6</sup>, to pause for a duration of one minute to remember those who have died in military service to the United States.

Minutes A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022.

Resignations: For information, the following resignations have been submitted:  
K.Pacific Katey Pacific, 911 Dispatcher, effective May 9, 2022  
T.Taylor Todd Taylor, Intake Caseworker, effective May 9, 2022

Hire J.Fiske A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the hire of John Fiske, part-time on-call Corrections Officer, Tioga County Prison, \$13.81/hr., no benefits.

Promotion A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the promotion of Isabella Cook, from part-time to full-time Corrections Officer, I.Cook Tioga County Prison, \$19.58/hr. with benefits effective April 24, 2022.

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

**Proclamation  
Conservation District Week 2022**

**Whereas**, conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs; and

**Whereas**, conservation districts work with landowners and local governments to help them manage and protect land and water resources on private and public lands; and

**Whereas**, Conservation districts were created in PA in 1945 in response to the dust bowl of the 1930's to improve soil and water conservation; and

**Whereas**, each county in PA has a conservation district except for Philadelphia; and

**Whereas**, local municipalities rely on conservation district staff to plan development in a way that conserves and protects the local environment; and

**Whereas**, districts also work with many partners, including government agencies, private organizations, businesses, and others, to accomplish their mission of helping landowners to conserve natural resources; and

**Whereas**, the districts are each led by a volunteer board of directors with farmers, public members, and a member of county government, which identifies local conservation needs, decides which programs and services to offer, and develops a strategic plan.

**Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Tioga County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2022, as Conservation District Week to commemorate the great work accomplished by Pennsylvania's 66 Conservation Districts.**

Tioga County Board of Commissioners

/s/ Roger C. Bunn

/s/ Erick J. Coolidge

/s/ Mark L. Hamilton

A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Governor's Office**

**PROCLAMATION  
INSTITUTIONAL PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK  
May 1-7, 2022**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's correctional system is the oldest in the nation, evolving from the establishment of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Jail in 1773 and the Eastern Penitentiary in 1829; and

WHEREAS, the "Pennsylvania System", as it became known, was the leading influence in the development of penology throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the forerunner of modern corrections; and

WHEREAS, today, Pennsylvania faces continued difficult challenges in corrections. With twenty-three state correctional institutions, one training academy, two central office buildings, ten community corrections centers, twenty-three contract facilities, one motivational boot camp, sixty-three county prisons and jails and ten federal facilities and offices, our correctional facilities house approximately 73,350 inmates; and

WHEREAS, the secure and safe operation and management of those facilities rests in the hands of nearly 31,500 trained, skilled, and dedicated corrections professionals. They are corrections administrators, corrections officers, counselors, treatment specialists, educators, clerical support staff, business administrators and purchasing agents, personnel and labor relations specialists, re-entry specialists, social workers, clergy, medical professionals, food service specialists, computer technicians, parole agents, parole supervisors and administrative positions, planners and research analysts, and skilled craftspeople upon whose skills, efficiency, and professionalism the functions of the Pennsylvania correctional system depends; and

WHEREAS, although each of these dedicated professionals works in a different field and specializes in a specific area, all are committed to a common goal: the secure, safe and humane operation of our commonwealth's correctional facilities where employees work to reduce future crime through the delivery of programs to change an individual's criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2020, the commonwealth was faced with its first public health pandemic emergency in over 100 years with the discovery of COVID-19. Individuals who work in the parole and correctional fields exhibited exceptional levels of dedication to protecting the health and welfare of all the inmates, prisoners, parolees, and re-entrants across the commonwealth.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 1-7, 2022 as INSTITUTIONAL PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK in Pennsylvania. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize the vital role these dedicated professionals play in ensuring the effective operation of our correctional system in the interest of public safety.

<SEAL> GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this eleventh day of April two thousand twenty-two, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-sixth.  
/s/ TOM WOLF, Governor

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

**NATIONAL NURSES WEEK  
May 6-12, 2022  
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the nearly 3.1 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession; and

WHEREAS, professional nurses in Pennsylvania work hard to keep our families healthy and to provide high quality care to patients; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing is an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, the demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever due to the aging American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technologies and the explosive growth of home health care services; and

WHEREAS, more qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in this community; and

WHEREAS, the cost-effective, safe and quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an increasingly important component of the U.S. health care delivery system in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the week of May 6 - 12, 2022, as

**NATIONAL NURSES WEEK**

and ask all residents of this community to join us in honoring the professional nurses who care for all of us, celebrate their efforts to improve our health care system and show our appreciation for the nation's nurses not just during this week, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

Signed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
/s/ Roger C. Bunn  
/s/ Erick J. Coolidge  
/s/ Mark L. Hamilton

Resolution  
R-9-22

A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

**REMEMBER THE USS LIBERTY  
R- 9 -22**

Whereas, the USS Liberty AGTR5, a US Navy intelligence gathering ship, was operating in international waters off the Sinai Peninsula on June 8, 1967; and

Whereas, the Israeli/Arab 6-day War was in progress; and

Whereas, the USS Liberty was clearly marked and flying the American flag; and

Whereas, Israeli military forces, strafed, napalmed and torpedoed the USS Liberty at will with only token resistance from Liberty machine guns; and

Whereas, the commanding officer, Captain William L. McGonagle, and the valiant crew attempted to save the ship from total destruction while awaiting US Navy assistance; and

Whereas, the fighter aircraft launched from the USS Enterprise to rescue the Liberty were recalled under orders from Washington; and

Whereas, 34 non-combatant men, military and civilian, lost their lives in the performance of their duty as well as 172 wounded; and

Whereas, the Israeli government labeled this assault on a US Navy ship as an "accident" and "mistaken identity" even though the USS Liberty was clearly marked with hull markings and flying the American flag in a stiff breeze; and

Whereas, the US Navy and National Security Agency intelligence chiefs familiar with this unprovoked attack by an "allied government" have stated unequivocally that Israeli forces had clearly identified the Liberty.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Tioga County Commissioners do hereby declare June 8, 2022 as "Remember the USS Liberty Day" and order the flag at the Tioga County Courthouse and other County facilities to be flown at half-mast in memory and support of the officers, crew and their families.

Tioga County Board of Commissioners  
/s/ Roger C. Bunn  
/s/ Erick J. Coolidge  
/s/ Mark L. Hamilton

A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution  
R-10-22

**Tioga County  
Resolution No. R-10-22**

Be it RESOLVED, that the County of Tioga hereby requests a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant of \$250,000 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the construction of Phase II of the Pine Creek Rail Trail Extension (Marsh Creek Greenway).

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Debra Bigley, Planning Specialist and Erick J. Coolidge, Commissioner, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the County of Tioga and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Janice Chamberlain, duly qualified Chief Clerk of the County of Tioga, Tioga County PA, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on May 10, 2022, and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the County of Tioga and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attached the seal of Tioga County, Pennsylvania, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

Applicant: County of Tioga  
/s/ Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

Resolution  
R-11-22

A motion was made by Mark L Hamilton seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. R-11-22**

**RESOLUTION BY THE TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REQUESTING APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE CRUMBLING  
MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM IN THE FY 2022-2023 STATE BUDGET**

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

**WHEREAS**, as the providers of community-based mental health services, counties are seeing demands for mental health services in communities that far exceed state funding levels and without adequate and sustainable funding, counties may not be able to meet the mental health needs of some of our most vulnerable residents; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the commonwealth cut \$84 million that counties used to fund programs for people with intellectual disabilities, mental health challenges, and other needs forcing programs to close and putting the human services system into a vulnerable state; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) made the top priority of the association's advocacy in 2022 the "Appropriate Funding to Support the Crumbling Mental Health System"; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding has lagged far behind needs and caseloads for years, which has negatively affected services while also putting tension on communities and local budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Rural Progress published a report on Suicide Trends and Prevention in Rural Pennsylvania Counties and Schools and key findings included the steep rise in suicides in Pennsylvania over the past two decades and that the increase was greater in rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Wolf's initial budget proposal included supporting the behavioral health needs of Pennsylvanians by investing \$36.6 million additional funds in county mental health base funds on top of \$75 million in federal funds for recruitment and retention payments to qualifying home and community-based service providers, as well as \$18.8 million to provide services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism currently on the emergency waitlist; 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; and

**WHEREAS**, counties will need collaboration between the legislature and administration to work closely with them on a targeted, strategic investment of dollars into community mental health services at the county level in order to continue the existing safety net and bolster the availability of mental health services to those who need them as vital steps in the right direction.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tioga County Board of Commissioners do hereby support an increase in funding for community mental health base programs in accordance with the priorities of the County Commissioner Association of Pennsylvania by the General Assembly and Administration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tioga County Board of Commissioners will submit this resolution and accompanying letter of support to the regional state representatives and senators, and provide copies to the state Department of Humans Services and the Governor's office as well as regional commissioners in an effort to respectfully request the administration and General Assembly take steps to address our crumbling mental health system.

ADOPTED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

**TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Attest:  
/s/ Janice Chamberlain  
Chief Clerk

/s/ Roger C. Bunn  
/s/ Erick J. Coolidge  
/s/ Mark L. Hamilton

County real estate tax refunds

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the following County real estate tax refunds: Chateau Rod & Gun Club, Duncan Twp., \$76.61; Ernest, Dorothy Ann, David & Agnes Norman, Liberty Twp., \$3.90; Rebecca Colegrove, Nelson Twp., \$76.34; Stephen & Patricia Ollock, Sullivan Twp., \$446.64; Chris & Beatrice Renner, Chatham Twp., \$77.86.

TK Elevator emergency repair

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve an emergency repair work order from TK Elevator, for the courthouse lobby elevator - \$4,697.57.

Maximus contract renewal

A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve a three-year contract renewal with Maximus, \$19,500, for the development and delivery of a central services cost allocation plan to identify the various costs incurred to support and administer federal programs.

WC Eshenaur contract      A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve a contract with W.C. Eshenaur & Son to install new heating/cooling unit and indoor wall-mounted units at the Tioga County Historic Jail, for the Penn State Extension office and work area - \$16,200. Act 13.

MUPSTI Funding      A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve funding of \$30,000 to the Mansfield University Public Safety Training Institute, to be used toward training, supplies, technology maintenance, etc. Act 13.

ArcGIS Velocity      A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve the purchase of a one-year license for ArcGIS Velocity with ESRI, \$19,540. Act 13.

Use of Green      A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green by the Wellsboro Town Band on June 8, June 22, July 13, and July 27, 2022, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Use of Green      A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green for the Wellsboro Comic Con event, August 13-14, 2022.

DHS – 13 agreements      A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of two ayes and no nays to approve 13 agreements for the Dept. of Human Services.

Public Comment –

Paul Garrett – questioned “no winter maintenance” road signage on Rattler Road in Morris Township, where his son was killed this past winter.

The next meeting of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for June 14, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger C. Bunn

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark L. Hamilton

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Salary Board was called to order today at 10:57 a.m. with the following members present: Roger C. Bunn, Mark L. Hamilton, and Kera Hackett. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Marc Rice, Casey Zuchowski, Josh Zeyn, Scott Zubek, Christa Hilfiger, Bob Goodrich, Paul Garrett, Chris Eckert, Julian Stam, Geryl Stabley, Becky Briggs, Chris Perry, Erica Tomlinson, Erik Coolidge, and press representative Natalie Kennedy

Minutes

A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

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Roger C. Bunn

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark L. Hamilton

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