

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: Erick J. Coolidge, Mark L. Hamilton, and Roger C. Bunn. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Casey Zuchowski, Marc Rice, Kera Hackett, Kaye Aumick, Deb Crawford, Josh Zeyn, Becky Briggs, Betsy Craig, Christa Hilfiger, Diane Weed, Joy Childs, Bob Goodrich, Cindy Copp, Carrie English, Tara Gordon, James Melko, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments (agenda items) – None

Minutes A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023.

Title IV-D Funds For information – Funds received for the Title IV-D Program by the Tioga County Domestic Relations Section for calendar year 2022 are \$376,651.27. The Domestic Relations Section collected \$4,889,611.05 in support payments in 2022. These payments have a major impact on the families and children of this county, and also reduce the costs of federal and state welfare programs paid for by the taxpayers.

Resignation: M.McIntosh N.Patton For information, the following resignations have been received:
Michelle McIntosh, Prothonotary’s Office, effective 4/3/23
Nicholas Patton, Intake Caseworker, effective 5/22/23

Hire A.Wilbur For information, hired Amanda Wilbur, Clerk, Prothonotary’s Office, \$12.50/hr. with benefits, effective 5/8/23.

Hire M.Potter A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Mackenzie Potter, Maintenance Worker 2, \$16.25/hr. with benefits.

Hire W.DeLong A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Whitney DeLong, Caseworker 1, Intake Unit of Family Services, \$18.00/hr. with benefits.

Hire M.Clemens A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Madelyn Clemens, Caseworker 2, Intake Unit of Family Services, \$18.75/hr. with benefits.

Promotion B.Gail A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the promotion of Brayden Gail, to full-time Corrections Officer, Tioga County Prison, \$20.17/hr. with benefits, effective 5/7/23.

Status Change L.Strain A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a status change for Leah Strain, from Dispatcher-in-Training to Dispatcher, Dept. of Emergency Services, \$17.00/hr. with benefits.

Use of Green A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green by the Wellsboro Town Band on June 14, June 28, July 12 and July 26, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Use of Green A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a request for use of the Green for additional First Friday events on July 7, August 4, September 1, and October 6.

County real estate tax refunds A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the following County real estate tax refunds: Lester & Terri Brion, Liberty Twp., \$97.04; Larry & Lynn Alderfer, Nelson Twp., \$100.81; Carrie Sue Sticklin, Union Twp., \$6.55; Mary Catherine Thompson, Union Twp., \$6.55.

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

Issue Proclamation

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor’s Office

PROCLAMATION
INSTITUTIONAL PAROLE AND CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK
May 7-13, 2023

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 19th Century and the forerunner of modern corrections; and

WHEREAS, today, Pennsylvania faces continued difficult challenges in corrections. With twenty-three state correctional institutions, one motivational boot camp, one training academy, two central office buildings, ten community corrections centers, twenty-three contract facilities, , sixty-three county prisons and jails and ten federal facilities and offices, our correctional facilities house approximately 70,639 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 allows the Pennsylvania correctional system functions; 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

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 7-13, 2023 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 thirty-first day of March two thousand twenty three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.
/s/ JOSH SHAPIRO, Governor

A motion was made by Erick J. Coolidge, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to issue the following Proclamation:

Issue
Proclamation

Proclamation for National Prevention Week

Substance misuse and mental health problems affect all communities nationwide. With commitment and support, substance use and mental health issues can be prevented. The focus of **National Prevention Week** is to change the prevention landscape by providing evidence-based and accessible resources to facilitate collective action and story-sharing. By showcasing the work of our partners in prevention, we can confront the societal challenges surrounding substance misuse together while celebrating stories of prevention.

Through **National Prevention Week**, people become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health and substance use disorders. Equally important, community members from all walks-of-life learn how they can help implement prevention strategies and showcase the effectiveness of evidence-based programs.

We, and others across the United States, need to recognize the seriousness of substance use and mental health issues in our communities, the power of prevention, and the tireless efforts of those working to make a difference. The small, daily actions done by individuals, combined with the actions of families, communities, and coalitions, come together to make up the larger, bold movement of prevention.

This Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May 7-13, 2023, as **National Prevention Week** in Tioga County and call upon our community to join us this week in celebrating the compelling programs and events that support increasing awareness of, and action around, mental health and/or substance use disorders year-round.

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

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

Adopt
Resolution
R-8-23

RESOLUTION
REMEMBER THE USS LIBERTY
R- 8- 23

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, 2023 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/ Erick J. Coolidge
/s/ Mark L. Hamilton
/s/ Roger C. Bunn

A motion was made by Erick J. Coolidge, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to adopt the following Resolution:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF TIOGA
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

**PA 529 COLLEGE AND CAREER SAVINGS PROGRAM RESOLUTION
R-9-23**

Adopt
Resolution
R-9-23

WHEREAS, Tioga County Government is committed to economic development that enhances the lives and livelihoods of residents; and

WHEREAS, Rural economic development commissions have identified workforce training and postsecondary education attainment rates as important factors in attracting new business and industry to an area, particularly rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Data clearly demonstrates the strong positive economic effect that increasing the postsecondary education attainment rate has on individuals, households, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that a child with education savings is three times more likely to enroll in postsecondary education, and four times more likely to graduate; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Treasury Department offers PA 529 College & Career Savings Program accounts that are designed to be accessible to all persons, regardless of income, and can be used for tuition and related qualified expenses at universities, colleges, trade schools, and technical schools, as well as qualified apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the vast majority of employees are more likely to participate in a 529 program for their children or grandchildren if it were offered through their employer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is partnering with the Pennsylvania Treasury Department in an effort to improve postsecondary education attainment rates in our county, and will:

1. Offer county employees the ability to contribute to PA 529 College and Career Savings Program Plans via payroll deductions; and
2. Encourage other employers in Tioga County to follow this example by offering the same option to their employees.

ADOPTED this 9th day of May, 2023. TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ Erick J. Coolidge /s/ Mark L. Hamilton /s/ Roger C. Bunn

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

Resolution R-10-23

Adopt
Resolution
R-10-23

WHEREAS, the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, 72 P.S. Section 5860.101, et. Seq., (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”), authorizes the Tioga County Tax Claim Bureau to schedule the sale of property whose delinquent taxes have been liened into the Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Section 601 of the Act contains specific provisions regarding notice to be given for the sale of owner-occupied property and authorizes the Board of County Commissioners to appoint a person to make all personal services required by said provision; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wish to appoint a person to effect personal service as required.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved and it is hereby resolved that:

1. The Board of County Commissioners do hereby appoint Palmetto Posting, Inc. of Spartanburg, South Carolina, to make all personal services as required by Section 601(a)(3) of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law of 1947, as amended, as legally permissible, and as directed by the Director of the Tioga County Tax Claim Bureau. The County of Tioga shall amend the existing contract for the remainder of the 2023 calendar year for these services with Palmetto Posting, Inc.
2. Fees for these services shall be twenty-seven and 50/100 dollars (\$27.50) for general posting and twenty-seven and 50/100 dollars (\$27.50) for each personal service attempted.
3. This appointment shall be continuing in nature until revoked by subsequent action of the Board of County Commissioners.
4. The Board of County Commissioners, for and on behalf of the County of Tioga, is hereby authorized to execute four (4) duplicate counterparts of the instant Resolution and the Chief Clerk of Tioga County is hereby directed to attest the due execution thereof and to affix the seal of the County of Tioga thereto.
5. Following proper execution, attestation and ensealing of said duplicate counterparts of said Resolution, the Chief Clerk is hereby directed to cause delivery of the same to be made as follows: the original to the Resolution Book of the County of Tioga; one duplicate counterpart to the Tioga County Tax Claim Bureau; and one duplicate counterpart to the Tioga County Solicitor's Office.

Adopted by the majority of quorum of the Board of County Commissioners this 9th day of May, 2023.

ATTEST: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 /s/ Janice Chamberlain /s/ Erick J. Coolidge /s/ Mark L. Hamilton /s/ R. Bunn
 Chief Clerk

Develop Tioga contract – Whole Homes Repair Grant A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement with Develop Tioga, who will administer the Whole-Homes Repair Grant on behalf of Tioga County. (Reference Resolution R-1-23, adopted 2/14/23 – Application for Whole-Homes Repair Grant, \$337,207, to be administered by Develop Tioga).

UGI Energy – DHS complex A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a one-year agreement (June 2023 – May 2024) with UGI Energy Services for natural gas service for the Human Services complex, at a rate of \$5.860/DTH.

Fire Alarm Svc Monitoring Highland Choc. A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn, seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a one-year alarm monitoring service agreement with Fire Alarm Service Technology, Inc. for the Highland Chocolates building - \$691.00.

Wilson Consulting – credit issued A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a revision to an agreement with Wilson Consulting Group for the Marsh Creek Greenway trailhead facility. A credit of \$24,000 is issues for responsibilities that have been transferred to EADS Architects.

H&P Constr. Marsh Creek Greenway trail A motion was made by Roger C. Bunn seconded by Mark L. Hamilton and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a contract with H&P Construction for the construction of the southern section of the Marsh Creek Greenway trail - \$3,961,755.30 (grant funding = \$3,306,390; Act 13 = \$674,265).

DHS – 9 agreements A motion was made by Mark L. Hamilton, seconded by Roger C. Bunn and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve nine agreements for the Dept. of Human Services. A listing is attached.

Public Comment –
 Cindy Copp – map of trail posted at Pinnacle Towers; meeting with Marc Rice re: trail/trailhead plans
 Marc Rice – map at Pinnacle Towers is preliminary only; will coordinate meeting via Sean Sember
 Josh Zeyn – reassessment and mailing of notices

The next meeting of the Tioga County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for June 13, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Attest: _____
 Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

 Erick J. Coolidge

 Mark L. Hamilton

 Roger C. Bunn