

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Commissioners was called to order this day at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Shane Nickerson, Sam VanLoon, and Marc Rice. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Jen Cochran, Casey Zuchowski, Kera Hackett, Lisa Rice, Saira Olson, Nancy Clemens, Sandra Olson, Betsy Craig, Joy Childs, Rachel Courtney, Kaye Aumick, Melissa Underwood, Josh Zeyn, Bill David, Mike Spencer, Ron Stephens, Wayne Gray, Thomas Roslund, Bob Goodrich, Barbara Gile Tracy Haas-Ungard, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – None

Minutes 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 minutes of August 11, 2026.

Resignations For information, the following resignations were received:
D.Clark Dru Clark, Tioga County Prison, effective 8/7/26
M.Estock Max Estock, Tioga County Prison, effective 8/17/26
S.Smith Shelby Smith, Custodian, effective 8/21/26
J.Meade Jensen Meade, Prothonotary Office, effective 9/4/26

Retirement For information, the following retirement was received:
T.Cleveland Timothy Cleveland, Director Veterans Affairs, effective 10/9/26

Hire M.Rush For information, hired Matthew Rush, Deputy School Resource Officer, Sheriff’s Office, \$21.75/hr. with benefits, effective 8/31/26.

Hire K.Smith For information, hired Karena Smith, Clerk, Prothonotary & Clerk of Courts Office, \$16.00/hr. with benefits, effective 9/21/26.

Promotion A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Kera Hackett and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes
M.Boyce and no nays to table the promotion of Marena Boyce from Judicial Line Staff to Probation Aide. Further discussion needed on salary.

Hire D.Pierce A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Dylan Pierce, Dispatcher-in-training, Emergency Services, \$19.00/hr. with benefits, effective 9/8/26.

Hire P.Whipple 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 Paiton Whipple, Family Support Provider, Family Services, \$17.00/hr. with benefits, effective 9/8/26.

Hire C.Massaro 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 Casandra Massaro, Family Support Provider, Family Services, \$17.00/hr. with benefits, effective 9/8/26.

Hire D.Copp A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve the hire of Dylan Copp, part-time on-call Corrections Officer, Tioga County Prison, \$18.00/hr., no benefits, effective 9/8/26.

Promotion A motion was made by Sam VanLoon seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes
A.Dunkel and no nays to approve the promotion of Anthony Dunkel, from ACE Summer Staff to Youth Diversion Services Program Provider, Family Services, \$16.50/hr. with benefits, effective 8/10/26.

Promotion A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes
J.Stevens and no nays to approve the promotion of Jodi Stevens, from Deputy Director to Director, Veterans Affairs office, \$55,000/yr. effective 9/28/26.

Termination A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes
L.Deming and no nays to approve the termination of Lindsey Deming, Truancy Caseworker, DHS, effective 8/28/26.

Termination A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes
A.Kilburn and no nays to approve the termination of Alycia Kilburn, Drug & Alcohol Case Manager, effective 9/2/26.

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

Adopt
Resolution
R-19-26

RESOLUTION NO. R-19-26

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF TIOGA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (“BeST TRANSIT”) TO EXTEND ITS TERM OF EXISTENCE FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 50 YEARS FROM THE EXPIRATION OF THE LAST ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT AND TO TAKE ANY AND ALL OTHER ACTIONS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains Transportation Authority (“BeST Transit”) (hereinafter “Authority”) is a body corporate and politic, incorporated the County of Bradford, County of Sullivan, and County of Tioga, and is existing under and is governed by the provisions of the Municipalities Authorities Act, 53 Pa.C.S.A. § 5601 et seq., which codifies and amends the Municipalities Authorities Act of 1945, as amended and supplemented (hereinafter the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution the Authority proposed to amend its Articles of Incorporation by adding a provision to extend its existence for a period not to exceed 50 years from the date of the last Amendment to the Articles of Amendment pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Authority submitted the proposed amendment to its Articles of Incorporation to the County of Bradford, County of Sullivan, and County of Tioga for adoption in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Act; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Board of Commissioners of Tioga County, Pennsylvania hereby adopts this resolution proposed by the Authority to amend its Articles of Incorporation to add a provision to extend its existence to a date not to exceed a period of 50 years from the date of the expiration of the last Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation.
- 2. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Tioga County held on September 8, 2026.

TIOGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ Shane Nickerson, Chairperson

Attest: /s/ Janice Chamberlain, Tioga County Chief Clerk

Proclamation

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

Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

WHEREAS, twenty-five years ago, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives during the September 11, 2001 terrorist air attack on the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City; followed by another air attack that struck the Pentagon; and yet another attack that crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, resulting in the death of all on board; and

WHEREAS, the nation came together as civilians, first responders, firefighters, law enforcement, emergency services personnel – all who risked their lives to save others from crumbling buildings and raging fires – and as members of our Armed Forces who responded to the call of duty to defend our Nation and protect the American people; and

WHEREAS, survivors of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks continue to lose their lives due to the toxic exposure they endured on that day; and

WHEREAS, by a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the United States Congress has designated September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day” and by Public Law 111-13 approved April 21, 2009, the United States Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized “National Day of Service and Remembrance”; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Commissioners pays tribute to all those who perished during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and to those who lose their lives from related illness; and honors the bravery of first responders, law enforcement, and those individuals who selflessly risked their lives to assist others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Board of Commissioners of Tioga County, commemorates September 11, 2026, known as Patriot Day, as the 25th Anniversary of terrorist attacks on the United States of America, and as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

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

Proclamation

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

**2026 Hunger Action Month Proclamation
Tioga County**

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are issues of vital concern in Pennsylvania where, according to Feeding America, over 1.7 million individuals, 13.5% of Pennsylvanians, experience food insecurity and one in every five children do not know where their next meal will come from; and

WHEREAS, in Tioga County, one in seven residents are food insecure and one in four children are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, adequate nutritious food has become more expensive and out-of-reach for many neighbors with food costs rising more than 33% between 2019 and 2026, leading to record demand for charitable food; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity, the condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food, is associated with numerous adverse social and health outcomes and is a critical public health issue; and

WHEREAS, Tioga County is committed to taking steps to combat hunger in every corner of our Commonwealth and to providing additional resources to those in need; and

WHEREAS, Tioga County is committed to working with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to educate people about the role and importance of food banks in addressing hunger and raising awareness of the need to devote more resources and attention to hunger issues; and

WHEREAS, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank distributed over 61.3 million pounds of food in Fiscal Year 2026 to Pennsylvanians experiencing food insecurity. In Tioga County alone, over 961,000 pounds were distributed, over 191,000 pounds of this being produce; and

WHEREAS, public and private entities, including policymakers, business leaders, community activists, farmers, concerned citizens, and hunger relief organizations must collectively work to address food insecurity within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the month of September has been designated “Hunger Action Month” in order to bring attention to the issue of food insecurity in our communities and to mobilize the public in the movement to end hunger;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize September 2026, as **HUNGER ACTION MONTH** in Tioga County of Pennsylvania, and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

Date: September 8, 2026

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

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

Proclamation

TIOGA COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER
September 29, 2026

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our Nation, Commonwealth, and local communities, people have turned to prayer in times of thanksgiving and celebration, as well as in times of hardship and uncertainty, seeking wisdom, strength, comfort, and guidance and

WHEREAS, Tioga County is home to approximately 40,500 people spread across more than 1,100 square miles, including more than 3,300 veterans who have served our Nation, and nearly 1,000 farms caring for more than 204,000 acres of our land; and

WHEREAS, the strength of Tioga County has always been found in its people, in families raising the next generation, farmers working the land, businesses creating opportunity, churches and community organizations serving their neighbors, and first responders, healthcare workers, educators, veterans, volunteers, and public servants answering the call to serve; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that many among us face illness, grief, loneliness, addiction, financial hardship, family struggles, and other challenges, and we pray that they may find hope, healing, strength, and the support of a caring community; and

WHEREAS, at a time when division can too easily separate neighbors, prayer reminds us of our shared responsibility to seek wisdom over anger, understanding over division, compassion for those in need, and the strength to work together for the good of our communities; and

WHEREAS, we pray for our children and families, our farmers, our first responders and veterans, our churches and community organizations, and all those entrusted with positions of leadership, asking that they be granted wisdom, humility, courage, and a spirit of service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we, the **Board of Commissioners of Tioga County, Pennsylvania**, do hereby designate **Tuesday, September 29, 2026, as**

TIOGA COUNTY DAY OF PRAYER

and invite the people of Tioga County, according to their own faith and conscience, to join together in prayer and reflection, to give thanks for the blessings of our community, to pray for our neighbors and those in need, and to seek Almighty God's continued guidance, protection, healing, and peace for Tioga County.

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

Use of Green

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve use of the Green on September 11-13, 2026 for the annual Wellsboro Wilds Plein Air event.

County tax
refund

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a County real estate tax refund for Randy H. & Bridget Grimm, Delmar Twp., \$81.04.

- Larson Design Group

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a proposal from Larson Design Group for three Tioga County dam inspections and report submission, \$12,250. Pay from Landfill Escrow account.
- Motorola Solutions

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve a proposal from Motorola Solutions for a frequency license study - \$64,976. Act 13.
- Delta Dev Group

A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an agreement with Delta Development Group for grant administration for Crary Hose; one-year term, not to exceed \$3,000/month. Act 13.
- DHS – 19 agreements

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve 19 agreements for Department of Human Services. A listing is attached.
- August 2026 A/P, Payroll

For information:

August 2026 Payroll & Benefits: \$1,625,848.57

August 2026 Accounts Payable: \$1,582,548.11
- Add agenda item

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to add the following item to the agenda.
- Proclamation

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

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WHEREAS, since the founding of our Nation, generations of American men and women have served in the United States Armed Forces to defend the freedoms and liberties we enjoy, and throughout our history, some have been held as prisoners of war or declared missing in action; and

WHEREAS, National POW/MIA Recognition Day was first formally observed in 1979 and is commemorated each year on the third Friday of September as a time to honor former prisoners of war, remember those who remain missing, and recognize the families who continue to await answers regarding their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the POW/MIA flag stands as a symbol of our Nation’s concern and commitment to achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans who remain unaccounted for and bears the solemn reminder, **“You Are Not Forgotten”**; and

WHEREAS, the United States has demonstrated its continuing commitment to our prisoners of war and missing service members by providing for the display of the POW/MIA flag at designated federal buildings, national cemeteries, military installations, veterans facilities, and other locations; and

WHEREAS, Tioga County has a long and proud tradition of military service, and the citizens of our County remain deeply grateful to those who answered our Nation’s call, those who endured captivity, those who never returned home, and the families who have carried the burden of their absence; and

WHEREAS, the Tioga County Board of Commissioners believes it is our responsibility to ensure that the sacrifice of our prisoners of war and missing service members is never forgotten and that future generations understand the tremendous price that has been paid for the freedoms we enjoy today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we, the **Tioga County Board of Commissioners**, hereby recognize **Friday, September 18, 2026, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in Tioga County**, and encourage all citizens to pause in remembrance of those who were held captive, those who remain missing, and the families who continue to wait for their return or a full accounting.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Tioga County reaffirms its commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of America’s prisoners of war and missing service members and joins communities across our Nation in declaring:

“YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.”

PROCLAIMED this 8th day of September 2026.

Tioga County Board of Commissioners

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

Public Comment – None

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Attest: Janice Chamberlain

Shane Nickerson

Sam VanLoon

Marc Rice

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Salary Board was called to order this day at 10:31 a.m. with the following members present: Shane Nickerson, Sam VanLoon, Marc Rice, and Kera Hackett. Also present was Janice Chamberlain, Jen Cochran, Casey Zuchowski, Lisa Rice, Saira Olson, Nancy Clemens, Sandra Olson, Betsy Craig, Joy Childs, Rachel Courtney, Kaye Aumick, Melissa Underwood, Josh Zeyn, Bill David, Mike Spencer, Ron Stephens, Wayne Gray, Thomas Roslund, Bob Goodrich, Barbara Gile Tracy Haas-Ungard, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

- 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 August 11, 2026.
- Reclassify position

A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to reclassify the Planning Specialist position as an exempt position due to the nature of the position, \$49,920/yr., effective 8/31/26.
- Create position

A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to create a temporary part-time Clerk, Public Defender’ office; salary to be determined by Salary Board.
- Create position

A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to create a part-time Nurse position at the Tioga County Prison; salary to be determined by Salary Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Attest:

Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

Shane Nickerson

Sam VanLoon

Marc Rice

Kera Hackett