

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, Rachel Courtney, Kaye Aumick, Sara Rice, Mary Wilson, Lindsey Chambers, Jeanette Salevsky, John Lundgren, Joy Childs, Betsy Craig, Chris Perry, Mike Spencer, Jim Douglass, Ron Stephens, June Teague, Roger Bunn, Bob Goodrich, Erin Stadler, Cindy Alexander, Wayne Gray, Dave Thompson, Leslie Murin, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment – None

Title IV-D Funds	For information –Funds received for the Title IV-D Program by the Tioga County Domestic Relations Section for calendar year 2025 are \$345,172.46. The Domestic Relations Selection collected \$5,444,744.83 in support payments in 2025. These payments have a major impact on the families and children of this county, and reduce the costs of federal and state welfare programs paid for by the taxpayers.
Minutes	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 minutes of April 14, 2026.
Resignations M.Roio A.Newman N.Spencer T.Nobles K.McConaghy B.Mathers	For information, the following resignations were received: Mackenzie Roio, Human Services, effective 4/17/26 Adelaide Newman, Tioga County Prison, effective 4/23/26 Nehemiah Spencer, Tioga County Prison, effective 4/28/26 Tiffany Nobles, Tioga County Prison, effective 5/1/26 Kelly McConaghy, Human Services, effective 5/8/26 Bret Mathers, full-time Training Coordinator, Emergency Services, effective 5/16/26
Hire M.Roio	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 Mackenzie Roio, part-time on-call Corrections Officer, Tioga County Prison, \$18.00/hr., no benefits, effective April 19, 2026.
Hire B.Mathers	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 Bret Mathers, part-time Training Coordinator, Emergency Services, \$19.57/hr., no benefits, effective 5/17/26.
Hire B. Scharborough	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 Brock Scharborough, ACE Supervisor, \$62,025.60/yr. with benefits, effective 5/18/26.
Hire R.Brewer	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 Randy Brewer, Independent Living Supervisor, \$57,782.40/yr. with benefits, effective 5/18/26.
Hire A.Brown	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 Anna Brown, Independent Living Caseworker Assistant, \$16.50/hr., with benefits, effective 5/18/26.
Hire D.Killgore	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 Douglas Killgore, Maintenance Worker 1, \$17.50/hr. with benefits, effective 5/18/26.
Hire K.Harkness	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 Kelly Harkness, Caseworker 1, Family Services, \$18.80/hr. with benefits, effective 5/18/26.
Hire S.Stine	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 Shaye Stine, YDS Supervisor, \$45,000/yr. with benefits, effective 5/18/26.
Hire A. Zebrowski	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 Adriana Zebrowski, ACE summer staff, \$16.00/hr., no benefits effective 5/26/26.
Termination Z.White	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 termination of Zoe White, 911 Dispatcher, effective 4/28/26.
F. Gorg contract	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 Independent Contractor Agreement with Fred Gorg for the Maintenance department on an as needed basis - \$20.00/hr., no benefits, for the term 5/4/26 – 12/31/26.
W.Stokes III Contract	A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to approve an Independent Contractor Agreement with William R. Stokes, III, Esq. for the limited purpose of legal services working on the case of Commonwealth v. York 347 CR 2023 - \$175,00/hr., no benefits.
NTSWA appt.	A motion was made by Marc Rice, seconded by Sam VanLoon and unanimously carried upon vote of three ayes and no nays to appoint Ted Dehaven, Jr. to the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority (NTSWA) Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

2026/27 HSS
Allocations

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 following 2026/2027 Human Services and Supports allocation recommendations:

- AAA – Meals on Wheels, \$20,000
- AAA – Emergency Services, \$2,000
- Family Services Assoc. of NEPA – Helpline, \$7,500
- Partners in Progress – PIP Camp, \$10,431
- Tioga County Partnership for Community Health – On-line Director, \$7,000
- Trehab – Housing Specialist, \$5,000
- Wellspring – Mobile Social Rehabilitation, \$41,395

Central PA
Food Bank

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 Subrecipient Contract Agreement between Tioga County and the Central PA Food Bank, for FY 25/26.

County real
estate tax
refunds

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 following County real estate tax refunds: Luke & Rita Reisinger, Westfield Borough, \$1,152.15; Thomas & Lisa Cooper, Westfield Borough, \$132.88.

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, Friday, August 7, 2026, for the annual Children's Business Fair.

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:

Resolution
R-7-26

**RESOLUTION
REMEMBER THE USS LIBERTY
R- 7-26**

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, 2026 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/ 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:

**NATIONAL NURSES WEEK
May 6-12, 2026
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association has proclaimed 2026 as "The Year of the Power of Nurses" to mark its 130th anniversary, recognizing the profound impact of nurses on healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the nearly five 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
May 6 - 12, 2026, 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 12th day of May 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

**MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 2026**

WHEREAS, the safety of all Tioga County motorists is an issue of the highest consequence and all highway users should unite in the safe sharing of roadways throughout the County of Tioga; and

WHEREAS, motorcycle riding is a popular form of recreation and transportation for thousands of people in our county and our nation. Licensed motorcyclists are required to keep their vehicles inspected and obey current laws relative to operator safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, it is especially important that the citizens of our county be aware of motorcycles on the streets and highways and recognize the importance of staying alert, practicing safe driving techniques and promoting motorcycle safety; and

WHEREAS, during the month of May, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE) of Pennsylvania will continue their advocacy of motorcycle safety and awareness and stay active in promoting motorcycle safety through both motorist and rider education; and improving the image of motorcyclists to the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of motorcycle safety on our county's roads and highways, the Tioga County Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2026 as MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH. All motorcyclists are encouraged to continue their efforts to promote safety and motorcycle awareness and all drivers to share the road and respect the unique safety needs of motorcyclists.

DATE: May 12, 2026

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

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

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Governor's Office

Proclamation

PROCLAMATION
CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES WEEK
May 3-9, 2026

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's correctional system, originating under the leadership of William Penn in 1682, was the first to suggest changes in punishments for crimes, and continued to evolve 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-two state correctional institutions, one training academy, two central office buildings, seven community corrections centers, twenty-two contract facilities, the Commonwealth's state-level correctional facilities house over 38,000 incarcerated people, the Parole Field Service supervises approximately 29,000 reentrants, and the Bureau of Community Corrections provides treatment and programming for approximately 2,680 reentrants; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's correctional services also extend to the county level with sixty-three institutions housing nearly 22,640 incarcerated people and the federal level with ten facilities housing nearly 9,000 incarcerated people; and

WHEREAS, the secure and safe operation and management of those facilities rests in the hands of approximately 30,000 trained, skilled, and dedicated professionals; from corrections officers to treatment specialists to parole agents to reentry specialists, and many more workers in various areas, these workers are committed to a common goal: the effective and humane operation of our Commonwealth's correctional facilities.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim May 3-9, 2026 as CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES WEEK. 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 twenty-fourth day of April two thousand twenty-six, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fiftieth.
/s/ Governor Josh Shapiro

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

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH-TIOGA COUNTY
MAY 2026**

WHEREAS, the family, serving as the primary source of love, identity, self-esteem and support, is the very foundation of our communities and our State and

WHEREAS, family is more than blood, it is the people who surround you in moments of joy and grief, who celebrate and comfort you, people who in a time of crisis step up to support their family, friends, neighbors and community.

WHEREAS, there are 80 children in Tioga County experiencing foster care, and 40 of families who have stepped up to love, support and guide them through it,

WHEREAS, all young people in foster care need and deserve a meaningful connection to someone who can be a support a lasting presence in their lives, and

WHEREAS, foster and kinship families who open their hearts and homes to children whose families are in crisis, play a vital role in helping children and families heal and reconnect, thereby launching young people into successful adulthood, and

WHEREAS, there is also a never-ending need for more foster families and more support for foster families and the children they care for,

WHEREAS, there are numerous individuals as well as public and private organizations who work to increase public awareness of the needs of children, in and leaving foster care, as well as the enduring and valuable contribution of foster parents,

NOW THEREFORE, the Commissioners of Tioga County do hereby proclaim May as National Foster Care Awareness Month in Tioga County and urge all citizens to come forward and do something positive that will change a lifetime for a young person in foster care.

ADOPTED THIS 12th day of May 2026. /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

**PROCLAMATION
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 2026**

WHEREAS, the mental health of every Tioga County citizen is essential to the prosperity and well-being of the families and communities throughout our County, and mental health conditions are common and impact people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds in Tioga County; and

WHEREAS, mental health advocacy is crucial to raising public awareness, breaking down stigma and discrimination, encouraging self-advocacy, delivering timely and quality mental health services, and supporting people with mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, early identification, intervention, and treatment of mental health conditions can improve and even save lives, and it is important to learn the signs and symptoms of these conditions in order to seek and receive help when it is needed; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the significant role that the dedicated network of advocates, professionals, county leaders and agencies, and community providers play in the delivery of services and support for individuals, their families, and our communities; and

The regular meeting of the Tioga County Salary Board was called to order this day at 10:45 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, Kera Hackett, Rachel Courtney, Kaye Aumick, Sara Rice, Mary Wilson, Lindsey Chambers, Jeanette Salevsky, John Lundgren, Joy Childs, Betsy Craig, Chris Perry. Mike Spencer, Jim Douglass, Ron Stephens, June Teague, Roger Bunn, Bob Goodrich, Erin Stadler, Cindy Alexander, Wayne Gray, Dave Thopson, Leslie Murin, and press representative Natalie Kennedy.

Minutes A motion was made by Kera Hackett, seconded by Marc Rice and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to approve the minutes of April 14, 2026.

C&Y Intern 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 creation of a temporary intern position in Children & Youth, \$15.00/hr. no benefits, 480 hours.

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

Planning Intern A motion was made by Sam VanLoon, seconded by Kera Hackett and unanimously carried upon vote of four ayes and no nays to add a summer intern position in the Planning office; \$15.00/hr. (to be capped at \$2,400), no benefits, 20 hr./week, through end of August 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Attest: _____
Janice Chamberlain, Chief Clerk

Shane Nickerson

Sam VanLoon

Marc Rice

Kera Hackett