

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Formally approved October 14, 2025 meeting

PRESENT Chairman Rebecca Dressler, Commissioner Trevor Finn; Commissioner Scott Lynn was present by phone; Also present: Norma Bird, Treasurer; Will McKenna, Sheriff; Ryan King, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Keith Rine, Zoning Officer; Jillian Brandon, Human Services; Leslie Hosterman, SEDA-COG; Beth Burleigh, Sam Burleigh, Melissa Beachel, Steve Shupp Jr., Linda Shupp, Sharon Waltman, Chip Watson, Janet Watson, Beth Goldman, Kristina Yarish, Tara L. Cummings, Lawrence Forker, Emily Houtz, Karen Milheim, Barb Rhoades, Roger Milheim, Jacob Zook, Donald Kuziak, Marilyn Pickett, Kip Armstrong, John Zaktansky, Kit Kelley, Mark Giesen, Craig High, Jeff Solomon, Nikki Burrows, Kelly Smith-Wells, James Tanner, public; Drew Mumich, Press Enterprise.

Ms. Dressler asked those so inclined to rise for a prayer led by Solicitor Robert L. Marks. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison. The meeting was then opened.

Mr. Finn moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

General Account Disbursements	\$422,819.84
General Account Receipts	\$99,302.04
General Account Checking	\$1,833,661.12
Capital Reserve Fund	\$44,742.63
Operating Reserve	\$1,534,454.16
Total Checking	\$3,412,857.91
Act 13 Highway-Bridge	\$226,788.82
Act 44	\$124,089.37
Act 89	\$281,416.55
Children and Youth Checking	\$949,194.96
Debt Service Fund	\$1,109,760.33
Flood Mitigation	\$2,901.73
Hazardous Material Account Checking	\$13,135.29
Human & Community Services Checking	\$111,339.75
Improvement Fund Checking .01%	\$17,131.14
Liquid Fuels Checking	\$282,770.82
Offender Supervision Account Checking	\$66,546.32
Opioid Settlement Fund	\$235,351.87
Storm Water Ordinance Escrow	\$57,049.55
Uniform 911 Surcharge	\$1,083,029.78
Whole Homes Repair	\$9,395.57

Mr. Finn moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to add a proclamation for Hunger Awareness Month to the agenda. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler called for public comment. Ms. Goldman thanked the Board for attending the dedication of the America250 bell at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. She noted the public is invited to attend the dedication of the Geisinger Bell at 9 a.m. October 21 at Canal Park.

A number of County residents spoke to the Board concerning Talen's petition to re-zone acreage in Anthony and Derry townships for industrial usage. Sam Burleigh presented correspondence to the Board outlining his concerns. He acknowledged it will be a hard decision for Commissioners, and one based on dollars and cents or common sense. He said he hoped the decision will be in the best interest of the people they represent.

As not much has been publicly disclosed to date, Marilyn Picket asked if the Board will make sure that Talen is required to disclose all the specifics of its plans for the property. Mr. Finn said the Board will ask those questions and the public will be invited. He cautioned that the Board will try to make things as transparent as possible within the confines of the law, but that Commissioners must take an impartial view going into things.

Kelly Smith-Wells, a retired ag science teacher, said she came to speak for future agriculturists. Noting good ag land is shrinking, she said changing zoning of 1,300 acres to industrial will change lives and affect not only agricultural families, but employers such as Boyd's Station. She said many township supervisors are her former students, stating "They're living here and driving the economy."

Ms. Dressler said she has roots in the agricultural community, growing up herself on a farm in Valley Township and now living on her husband's family farm in Mayberry Township.

Craig High asked if the County received a letter from Anthony Township about starting a data center ordinance.

Melissa Beachel spoke to represent her family who has five farms in Anthony and Limestone townships. The family lives next to the power plant. Noting there has been a lot of chatter about her family's farmland, she said agriculture is near and dear to her heart, but it is not realistic to think the next generation will be able to make a living from farming. Talen owns the 1,300 acres in question. It's their land, she said, but there needs to be a happy balance.

She read an email from her son, Dallas Beachel, who said that ne never felt the need to move because of the plant and that he likes to know where his power comes from. His email stated Talen has a right to make more power, that A.I. is an essential tool, and it creates jobs.

Sharon Waltman from Limestone Township said she grew up in the shadow of the power plant. Some of the soil here is among the best in the Northeast for productivity. She voiced concern over inadequate water resources.

In answer to a question on who writes the zoning code, Mr. Finn said Montour County does, most recently a solar ordinance, which became a model for the state. Anthony, Liberty and Mayberry township and Washingtonville Borough fall under Montour County zoning. The rest of the municipalities chose to have their own zoning.

Citing the NDA signed by Mr. Finn, Kit Kelley asked how the Board would deliberate if Mr. Finn is the only Commissioner with information. Ms. Dressler said information will be learned when questions are asked at a public hearing. Mr. Kelley voiced concern over the loss of open space, adding that he would not want to be in the Board's shoes as he sees a divide.

Kristina Yarish, who grew up on a farm in Montour County, said quality of life comes from fresh air and good soil, adding agriculture supports thousands of jobs and for every \$1 invested in farming, there's a \$2 return.

As a third-generation farm family, Steven Shupp Jr. said he fully understands hardships in farming, noting "if we continue to take our farmlands, we'll back ourselves into a corner and have nothing to eat."

Ms. Beachel observed that her family's farmlands are enrolled in the Clean and Green program and they are still paying over \$50,000.00 in taxes.

Emily Houtz has lived in Montour County for six years. She said when she went to school in New Orleans she would call her parents every day and ask, "How are the deer?" She said she has travel across the United States and other countries doing conservation work and Montour County is unmatched.

Chip Watson, who is involved in farmland preservation, recalled that 60 years ago, PP&L built an energy park in Montour County, and if it wasn't for the backbone of the Commissioners serving at that time "having a backbone" then, there would have been six units built instead of two.

Commissioners Dressler and Finn thanked those in attendance for their comments.,

Under correspondence, a letter was received from the Danville Area Halloween Parade Committee seeking donations for the October 30th event. Ms. Dressler moved to provide \$1,000.00 from the County tourism account. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Mr. Finn moved to approve the CDBG 2024 Professional Services Agreement with SEDA-COG at a cost of \$46,900.00. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve a Fair Housing Resolution for the CDBG program with Ms. Dressler as signatory. Mr. Lynn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to adopt Resolution R-9-23-2025 naming Holly Brandon as Section 504 Compliance Officer and establishing a grievance procedure. Mr. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Finn moved to approve an amendment to the CDBG Professional Services Agreement with SEDA-COG to include the elevator project at the Administration Center with costs not to exceed \$71,900.00. Ms. Dressler seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to approve a natural gas agreement with Snyder Brothers with Mr. Finn as signatory. Mr. Finn seconded, stating under the three-year contract, Montour County is expected to realize savings of \$10,221.00. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to approve the lease of a 2025 Ford Explorer for Children & Youth Services with Enterprise Fleet Management at \$914.93 per month for five years. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to approve a tourism Fund grant proposal from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League for \$27,000.00 over a three-year period for a coach retreat and adventure weekends sponsorship. The events in Danville are expected to bring in 125 to 375 participants. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to affirm the resignation of Danielle Pisanti as a Juvenile Probation Officer effective September 30. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Ms. Dressler moved to adopt a proclamation recognizing the achievement of Abigail Smith on becoming Montour County's first female Eagle Scout. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor. Miss Smith is only the second female Eagle in the Columbia-Montour Scout Council. Her Eagle Scout project was designing and painting an original mural for the Danville Middle School.

Mr. Finn moved to designate the month of September as Hunger Action Month in Montour County. Ms. Dessler seconded. Mr. Finn introduced Casework Manager Jillian Brandon who said the Montour County Food Bank serves 150 households each month, representing 300 individuals, including 100 senior citizens and 80 children. She noted the majority of her clients with food insecurity are working families. On called vote, all voted in favor.

Mr. Lynn moved to pay the following bills: General Account, \$368,574.21; Children & Youth, \$75,466.76; Liquid Fuels, \$34,419.15; Human and Community Service, \$846.15; Operating Reserve, \$41,478.00; Other, 476,059.13. Mr. Finn seconded. On called vote, all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By:

Holly A. Brandon, Chief Clerk