November 5, 2026
Elk County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes **Elk County, Ridgway, PA**

The Elk County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 10:00 AM, Elk County Courthouse Annex, Conference Room 1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Commissioners M. Fritz Lecker, Matthew G. Quesenberry, and Gregory J. Gebauer. Also present were Rick Brown, Solicitor; Patrick Straub, Chief Clerk; Emily Anders, Office Administrator; Calvin Moore, IT Director; Matthew Frey, Treasurer; Nancy Baker, CYS Director; Todd Caltagarone, Sheriff; Derick Morey, Chief of Probation; Kathy McClelland, PHARE Officer; Becki Taylor, CDBG Coordinator; Kim Frey, Elections Director; Gary Anderson, Elk County Healthcare Authority; Cortney Pahel, Dickinson Center; Matt Marusiak, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Ryan Miller, ARS Engineering; Jessica and Hayden Detsch, guests; and Marilyn Secco, Press.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES– October 15, 2026 Commissioners Meeting

Motion by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition of November 8th as National Parents as Teachers Day in Elk County with Cortney Pahel from the Dickinson Center.
2. Mr. Gary Anderson of the Elk County Healthcare Authority gave an update on the progress being made by the Authority.

RESOLUTIONS –

1. Resolution 2026-08 – Request by Planning, to partner with NTCAC to facilitate and administer the PHARE Homeless Prevention Program in the amount of $100,000.00. **Motion to approve by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request by Planning, bid opening for CDBG FY 2024 Project: Bridge Street Sidewalk Replacement in Johnsonburg Borough. **Bids received:**
    a. **Bucktail Excavating Inc.**
        i. **$14.55/ sidewalk** **$15.20/ driveway**
    b. **Pro-Dig Enterprise**
        i. **$17.90/ sidewalk** **$19.90/ driveway**
    c. **North Ridge Construction and Excavating**
        i. **$19.50/ sidewalk** **$20.50/ driveway**
    d. **Steger Masonry**
        i. **$12.00/ sidewalk** **$14.00/ driveway**

2. Request by Planning, bid opening for CDBG FY 2025 Project: Johnsonburg Community Center Accessible Entrance Improvement in Johnsonburg Borough. **Bids received:**
    a. **Bucktail Excavating Inc.** **$38,521.00**
    b. **Pro-Dig Enterprise** **$41,565.00**
    c. **Steger Masonry** **$21,950.00**
    d. **North Ridge Construction and Excavating** **$22,280.00**

    Items 1 and 2 were voted on together. Ryan Miller, representing the Johnsonburg Borough, requested these items be tabled until the next meeting to allow time to take the bids to a Johnsonburg Borough meeting for review. Motion to table until next meeting by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.
3. Request by Probation, for new contract with Utilitac Equipment and Upfitting to purchase a 2025 Chevrolet Tahoe PPV in the amount of $61,081.92. This will be paid through Supervision Fund fees. **Motion to approve by M. Fritz Lecker, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
4. Request by Sheriff, for new 5-year contract between County of Elk and Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of eleven (11) TASER 10 Kits, including weapon, holsters, cartridges, and docking station. Total cost $40,011.19; $8,002.24 annually beginning January 1, 2027.
5. Request by Sheriff, purchase of G.L.O.V.E (Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter) from Compliant Technologies. This is an approved law enforcement recognized non-lethal compliance and de-escalation device. Total cost $3,062.75, including 2-year subscription to log all recorded use. This is a 2027 budgeted expense, paid in 2027.
6. Request by Sheriff, purchase of two EBR (E-Band Restrictor) arm/ ankle bracelet from Compliant Technologies. This is an approved law enforcement recognized non-lethal compliance and de-escalation device. Total cost $5,557.75, including 2-year subscription to log all recorded use. This is a 2027 budgeted expense, be paid in 2027.

    Items 3, 4, and 5 were voted on together. Motion to approve by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.
7. Request by CYS, renewal contract with The Summit Academy, Inc. from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 for institutional placement provider. Cost is dependent on services provided and increased by up to 5%. The County's share is 40%. **Motion to approve by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
8. Request by Planning, in conjunction with Resolution 2026-08; Memorandum of Understanding between Elk County Commissioners, Northern Tier Community Action Corporation, and Elk County Planning Office for application to Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency – Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) to establish the Elk County Housing Partnership. **Motion to approve by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
9. Request by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, new Trail Construction and Maintenance Agreement with KN Forest Conservation LLC for Conservation Easement for the Clarion Little Toby Creek Trail Extension. **Motion to approve by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
10. Recommendation by Retirement Board, for approval of contract with Gabriel, Roeder, Smith, and Company (GRS) for pension software. One-time start-up fee of $14,000.00 and the yearly cost of $15,500.00. This was approved at the October 27, 2026 Retirement Board meeting. **Motion to approve by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**

11. Request by Veteran Affairs, approval of benefits for 3 Veteran burials, 2 spouse burials, and 2 headstones. **Motion to approve by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
12. Request by Johnsonburg Borough, approval of Liquid Fuel Funds in the amount of $7,500.00 for winter rock salt. **Motion to approve by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.**
13. Approval of 2027 Meetings and Holiday Calendar. **Motion to approve by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
14. Request by Elk County Conservation District, reappointment to the Board of Directors:
    a. Greg Gebauer as Commissioner Director for a one year term from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. **Gregory J. Gebauer abstained from this vote. Motion to approve by M. Fritz Lecker, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.**
    b. Joe Labant as Public Director for a four year term from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030.
    c. Tom McMann as Public Director for a four year term from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030.

    Items 14b and 14c were voted on together. Motion to approve both candidates by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.
15. Request by Elk County Healthcare Authority, reappointment to the Board of Governors:
    a. Nathan Higgins for a five year term January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2031.
    b. Zach Pontious for a five year term from Jan 1, 2027 through December 31, 2031.

    Motion to approve both candidates by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.
16. Request by Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
    a. Accept resignation immediately of Tom Jesberger as Industrial Representative.
    b. Appoint Harley Ramsey as Industrial Representative to replace Tom Jesberger and complete his term which expires on December 31, 2026.

    Motion to approve 16a and 16b by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.
17. Request by Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) reappointment of three year terms from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029:
    a. Tracy Gerber, Planning Representative
    b. Matt Pfeufer, Economic Development Representative
    c. Harley Ramsey, Industrial Representative

    Motion to approve all candidates by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.
18. Request by Elk County Planning Commission, reappointment of Planning Board Members for a four year term from January 1 2027 through December 31, 2030:
    a. Ron Minnick, Spring Creek Township
    b. Bill Chiesa, Johnsonburg Borough

    Motion to approve both candidates by Matthew G. Quesenberry, second by Gregory J. Gebauer and carried unanimously.
19. Request by Elk County Redevelopment Authority, reappointment of Jennifer Hibbard as Board Member for a five year term from January 1 2027 through December 31, 2031. **Motion to**

approve by Gregory J. Gebauer, second by Matthew G. Quesenberry and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE – (The following correspondence, if any, is available in the Commissioner's office for further review.)

1. Domtar Paper Company (received September 25th) regarding its intent to submit to the PA DEP a Plan Approval application (PAA). Domtar operates under Title V Operating Permit # 24-00009. The PAA is being submitted for the proposed Lime Kiln Shell Replacement Project. No increase in capacity is proposed. A 30-day public comment period is required under Title 25, subpart C, article III 127.43 on the PA code.
2. Stiffler McGraw (received October 6th) regarding Ridgway Twp Municipal Authority's intent to submit a Water Quality Management Permit (Part II) to the PA DEP. Project location is Evergreen Dr., Ridgway, PA. This notice is provided in accordance with PA Acts 14, which requires a 30-day public comment period.
3. SWCA Environmental Consultants (received October 19th) regarding intent of Enterprise TE Products Pipeline Company LLC to apply to the PA DEP for a Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit for proposed maintenance on their LID P40 AID 696 natural gas liquids pipeline in Benezette Twp., Elk County, and Gibson Twp., Cameron County. This notice is provided in accordance with Act 14, and PA Acts 67, 68, which requires a 30-day public comment period.
4. Dauch (GKN Sinter Metals) (received October 21st) regarding GKN's Sinter metal's intent to apply to the PA DEP for a renewal of existing NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharge associated with industrial activities at 104 Fairview Rd. Kersey PA. This notice is provided in accordance with PA Act 14 which requires a 30-day public comment period.

GOOD OF THE COUNTY

- We welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings.
- Thank you to the Election's office and all staff who worked to facilitate a successful election process on November 3rd.
- County of Elk business offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th in honor of Veteran's Day.
- The PAGO Board approved a $3,500.00 marketing grant for Keystone Elk Country Alliance for the 2027 Great American Outdoor Show.
- Please continue to pray for our military personnel, our families and our children, their teachers, all elected officials and peace in the world.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

1. Marilyn Secco requested clarification on attendees' names and bid amounts.

COMMENTS FROM TAXPAYERS

1. Public comment was received by Hayden Detsch.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM on a motion by Gregory J. Gebauer.

Next Meeting:
10:00 A.M. Thursday, November 19, 2026
Thomas G. Wagner Conference Room, Courthouse Annex

Attest: 