Call to Order
Chair Winder called the meeting to order.

Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Winder, Vice Chair Makhija, and Commissioner DiBello were all present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Olivia Brady.

Opening Commissioners’ Comments
Chair Winder:

- **Perkiomen Watershed**
  - Last Friday Commissioner Makhija and I joined State Representative Joe Webster in Collegeville to announce the launch of the Perkiomen Watershed Initiative
  - This project is funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and will study the watershed with the goals of:
    - Identifying locations most at risk from flooding;
    - Documenting *why* those areas are at risk; and
    - Proposing solutions to mitigate flooding and the destruction it causes
  - This initiative is going to be crucial for effective flood preparation, mitigation, and response efforts
  - We saw the destruction and loss that flooding caused during Hurricane Ida in 2021, and experts predict these extreme weather events will only become more common
  - Hopefully we can prevent these events from being so costly
The Perkiomen Watershed Initiative will be administered through Montgomery County with our colleagues in the Montgomery County Planning Commission alongside Bucks, Berks, and Lehigh Counties. This initiative will be coordinated through a steering committee comprised of the four counties, Representative Webster’s office, and the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. I hope in the near future we will be able to use the work from this study to implement solutions that will protect our waterways, prevent colossal damage and destruction—and ultimately—save lives.

**Black History Month Breakfast with Staff**

Yesterday, I hosted a Black History Month Panel and Breakfast with Montgomery County Staff. It was an uplifting and empowering way to start our Wednesday morning.

Thank you to our panelists:
1. Terrance Barnes, Analyst, Recovery Office
2. Angela Bell, Director, Youth Aid Panel Program, Office of the District Attorney
3. Charles Clark, Recovery Coordinator, Office of Drug & Alcohol
4. Doug Coppin, Chief of Pre-Trial Services, Supervision Services
5. Lora Gonzalez, Administrative Assistant, Department of Health & Human Services
6. Lauren Hughes, Senior Solicitor, Solicitor’s Office

We were also joined by:
1. Donna Richemond, Chief of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer
2. Dr. Tamra Williams, Director of Health and Human Services
3. Tina Lawson, Register of Wills
4. Dr. Janine Darby, Coroner
5. As well as both of my governing partners, Commissioner Makhija and Commissioner DiBello

I want to give special thanks to Judge Garrett Page for singing ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’, and to all the staff who joined us in-person and online.

It was very inspirational to hear from our speakers and panelists as they shared their stories, their role models, and their paths to working here at the County.

I hope that we can host more similar gatherings throughout the year, and not just during Black History Month.

I would also like to share a reminder that everyone is invited to attend the final Black History Month Program next week:
- **Wednesday, February 28 at 11:30 a.m.**
- **In the Community Room, 1st floor, at 1430 DeKalb Street, Norristown**
- This will be a Celebration of African American contribution to the arts and will include music, singing, and food
Whole Home Repairs Program

Today we are excited to announce the launch of the Whole Home Repairs Program in Montgomery County.

As County Commissioners, we are committed to supporting the most vulnerable among us.

The Whole Home Repairs Program strategically targets Montgomery County’s low-income households who may have deferred repairs in order to simply keep a roof above their heads.

This state-funded program will allow Montgomery County to provide grants of up to $50,000 to homeowners.

For example, the grants could be used for:

- Accessibility modifications for a homeowner living with a disability;
- To repair a damaged and exposed roof; or
- To upgrade old, inefficient windows; or
- To repair broken and unsanitary plumbing.

This is an opportunity to help people upgrade their homes for more structurally sound, energy efficient, accessible, safe, and having the support to stay in the homes they love.

Vice Chair Makhija:

Whole Home Repairs Program

- The Whole Home Repairs Program is a groundbreaking plan for the County, with Pennsylvania leading the way.
- I want to thank Senator Nikil Saval of the 1st Senatorial District for his leadership in introducing this program to the Pennsylvania Legislature.
- Housing stock is just one of the many areas that we’ve seen impacted by changing climates.
- Our homes need to be safe from extreme heat, extreme cold, and extreme rain.
- The Whole Home Repairs Program will give Montgomery County homeowners an opportunity to access the funds needed to weatherize their homes for a safe place to live.

Way to Go Montco! - February Winners

1. Christopher Berrang
2. Matthew Mease
3. Suzanne Mudrick
4. Megan Weigand
5. Walter Wood

Congratulations and thank you for all you do!
Commissioner DiBello:

- **Whole Home Repairs Program**
  - Whole Home Repairs will make an efficient impact on some of our older homes in the community
  - A hug thanks to our staff here at the County and everyone who has worked on making this happen so far
  - We want to successfully keep homeowners in their houses for the long-term through this initiative

- **Parks and Trails Community Events**
  - Our Parks, Trails, and Historical Sites around the County have some upcoming family events to participate in during the month of March:
    
    1. [Green Lane Park](#) - Maple Sugar Magic, Waterfowl Watch Program, and Color your Eggs Naturally
    2. [Penny Packer Mills](#) - Spring Crafts Workshop for Kids
    3. [Pottsgrove Manor](#) - The Free Black Ironworkers of Mount Joy Forge – Talk & Exhibit Opening

  - Visit our [calendar events](#) for more community friendly fun throughout the year

- **Sheriff Deputy News**
  - We have a great Sheriff’s Deputy Office-staff and one bad actor does not taint our department from the great work they do every day to serve our community
  - I stand with our Sheriff’s Department and encourage our residents to do the same

- **Mission Kids & Laurel House**
  - Child and human trafficking awareness needs to be brought to the forefront of our community at Montgomery County Board meetings
  - This issue affects all of us locally and nationally

- **9-1-1 Communications Dispatch Center**
  - Special shout out to our Telecommunicators/Dispatchers managing a stressful job while keeping our community safe
  - It’s not always easy, but they do it proudly and effectively
  - If you would like to give back to our community through this level of rewarding public service, please click [here](#) for more information

- **Prison Tour**
  - I’m happy to report that our prison population is down
  - Thanks to the staff that works extremely hard and sometimes under difficult conditions
Commendations and thanks to these workers and our first responders; who are our family, friends, co-workers and neighbors
We appreciate all you do

Announcements, Commendations, Presentations & Reports

1. Proclamation for Dr. Frank Boston Legacy Foundation - George Whitehair, Executive Director of the Boston Legacy; Dr. Francis Jeyaraj
2. Protection From Abuse (PFA) Presentation – Noah Marlier, Prothonotary
3. Whole Home Repair Program – Kayleigh Silver, Office of Housing and Community Development Administrator
4. Montgomery County Justice Center Presentation – Jesse King, Director of Assets & Infrastructure; Tom Bonner, Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Public Comment – Limited to 3 Minutes
(Speakers may comment on matters that are or may be before the Board of Commissioners. All public comments must be relevant, or “germane,” to County business. This means that the subject matter of all comments must be limited to items or issues which are currently before the Commissioners for consideration, or which may come before the Commissioners for consideration at a future meeting. Speakers may present comments once during the meeting.)

1. Ed Moye commented on the protection from abuse process; making sure victims are protected from intimidation, sets clear boundaries for the plaintiff's, and keeps the parties involved separated at all times.
2. David Morgan commented on the increase to public comment time, and the Justice Center project budget.
3. Karen Bramblett commented on the new protection from abuse procedure, the nuances to expedite the process to make it more comprehensive and accessible to vulnerable populations, and commends Prothonotary, Noah Marlier for his work on this plan.
4. Adrienne Seltzer commented on the protection from abuse presentation and the great work the Prothonotary and staff are doing, bringing awareness to mental health services, and thanked the Commissioners for their leadership.
5. Deb Spence commented on the new protection from abuse process, her personal family experience with the county at the Prothonotary’s Office, protecting plaintiffs with disabilities from their abusers and supports the Whole Homes Repair program.

Approval of the Minutes
Chair Winder made a motion to approve the February 7, 2024 minutes of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners’ meeting.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote, and it was adopted with all in favor and none opposed.
Resolutions

Authorization to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for the Regional Vision Zero Plan – Matt Edmond, Asst. Director of Transportation and Long-Range Planning

Chair Winder made a motion to approve resolution number one as described by Mr. Matt Edmond.

Vice Chair Makhija seconded the motion.

Authorization to enter into a Trail Easement Agreement with Auto Properties Fort Washington, LLC – Bill Hartman, Trails & Open Space Planning Manager

Chair Winder made a motion to approve resolution number two as described by Mr. Bill Hartman.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

Commissioners’ Appointment to the Montgomery County Conservation District

Chair Winder made a motion to appoint Commissioner Neil Makhija to the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Conservation District from January 2, 2024 through December 31, 2024 to serve as the County’s representative; and to serve at the pleasure of the County Commissioners and in accordance with the State Conservation District Law

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

Commissioners’ Appointment to the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association

Chair Winder made a motion that Jamila Winder of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners be appointed to the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) to serve at the pleasure of the County Commissioners.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought resolutions #1-4 to a vote, and it was adopted with all in favor and none opposed. The full text of the resolutions 24.C 25-28 can be found here.

Personnel
February 22, 2024, Personnel List – Chief Human Resources Officer, Catherine Halen

Chair Winder made a motion to approve the February 22, 2024, Personnel presentation as given by Chief Human Resources Officer, Catherine Halen and to authorize the proper County Officials to execute the same.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote, and it was adopted with all in favor and none opposed.

Advertisement of Bids, RFP’s, and RFI’s – Exhibit A

Chair Winder made a motion to approve the Advertisement of Bids and RFP’s for Montgomery County on attached Exhibit A, and to authorize the proper County Officials to execute the same, subject to the approval of the County Solicitor.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote, and it was adopted with all in favor and none opposed. The full text of the resolution 24.C-29 can be found here.

Awards of Contract – Montgomery County – Exhibit B

Chair Winder made a motion to approve the Contract Awards, Amendments, and Renewals for Montgomery County on attached Exhibit B with the exception of contract award #14, and to authorize the proper County Officials to execute the same, subject to the approval of the County Solicitor.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

There was no further Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote, and it was adopted. The full text of the resolutions 24.C-30 can be found here.

General Public Comment – Limited to 3 minutes

(Speakers may comment on matters that are or may be before the Board of Commissioners. All public comments must be relevant, or “germane,” to County business. This means that the subject matter of all comments must be limited to items or issues which are currently before the Commissioners for consideration, or which may come before the Commissioners for consideration at a future meeting. Speakers may present once during the general public comment period.)
1. Arthur Herring commented on his personal experience with Orphan’s court and concerns with the court’s operations and his mother’s health and welfare.

2. Olivia Brady commented on the Airy Street Prison revitalization, the intentionality of the RFI, and withdrawal of the building demolition permit.

3. Peggy Dellisanti commented on the Airy Street prison, withdrawal of the building demolition, bringing awareness to domestic violence, and the Laurel House’s commitment to advocating for victims-survivors of abuse.

4. David Morgan commented on the increase in public comment time, supports the Emergency Medical Service ordinance, commented in support of Black History Month, and advocates for children.

5. Ted Josey congratulated the Commissioners, commented on retirement payments, pension funding, economic inflation, and cost of living needs not being met for retirees.

6. Jeanne White commented on voter roll maintenance, election law, procedures and policies.

7. Marlene Laska commented on election transparency, auditing voter rolls and maintaining them, diversity and inclusion, and the new protection from abuse procedures and policies.

Chair Winder made a comment on supporting everyone in our communities, creating an inclusive County, and respecting our friends and neighbors.

8. Deb Spence commented on the protection from abuse process for disabled victims, the EMS Ordinance tax rebate credit, her personal experience being an LGBTQIA+ woman, and the Airy Street Prison.

Closing Commissioners’ Comments
There were no closing Board comments.

Commissioner DiBello spoke on the election board process with mail in ballots and needs clarity on what’s being proposed in the newspapers.

Vice Chair Makhija commented on the bipartisanship award of contract for eviction prevention, which was awarded to YWCA of Pottstown.

Upcoming Meeting Dates
1. Retirement Board Meeting, today at 1pm in the Board Room
2. Board of Commissioners’ Meeting – Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 10am

Adjournment
On motion of Chair Winder, seconded by Commissioner DiBello, the February 22, 2024 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners was adjourned.
There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote, and the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned with all in favor and none opposed.

**Salary Board**

**Public Comment on Salary Board – Limited to 3 Minutes**

There was no public comment.

**Salary Board**

Chair Winder motioned to approve the February 22, 2024, Salary Board presentation as given by Chief Human Resources Officer, Catherine Halen, and to authorize the proper County Officials to execute the same.

Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote and the February 22, 2024, Salary Board was adopted with all in favor and none opposed.

**Adjournment**

On motion of Chair Winder, seconded by Commissioner DiBello, the February 22, 2024, meeting of the Montgomery County Salary Board was adjourned.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote, and the Montgomery County Salary Board meeting was adjourned with all in favor and none opposed.

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➢ MontgomeryCountyPAChannel

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