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 Montgomery County’s Clerk of Courts, Lori Schreiber.

Opening Commissioners’ Comments
Chair Winder:

Commissioner Winder thanked colleagues, friends and the Montgomery County community for the overwhelming support, comforting words, and kind gestures towards her family during this difficult time, and gave reflections of her Mother and Grandmother passing.

Welcome Ben Field
- We are delighted to welcome Mr. Benjamin Field as the newest County Solicitor
- As Commissioners, we work hand-in-hand with the Solicitor, who ensures that our various policy goals and initiatives are aligned with the laws of the County and the Commonwealth
- Ben is a brilliant attorney who joins us after seven (7) years with the City of Philadelphia’s Affirmative and Special Litigation Unit
- In Philadelphia, Ben earned a reputation as a rigorous problem-solver whose legal expertise served to protect the rights of citizens while working toward the City’s policy goals
- Ben worked extensively on the City’s opioid lawsuit and a suit against Wells Fargo for discriminatory mortgage practices
- He will be a tremendous asset in Montgomery County
Thank you to our interim solicitor Ray McGarry, who stepped in to serve the County beginning in July, 2023

- **Paid Parental Leave**
  - The County announced our new paid parental leave policy, which offers up to 16 weeks of paid leave for County employees when they become new parents.
  - Supporting working families in Montgomery County has been a priority for us, and this enhanced policy reflects our commitment to helping families thrive both in work and at home.
  - Montgomery County wants to set a standard for others to follow by leading the way as the first county in the Commonwealth to offer this benefit.
  - We hope others are inspired to follow suit, as this is a society-wide need for parents to be able to bond with their new baby without the financial worries of taking time off.
  - There will be more to come on how the County is working to support our employees.

- **Norristown Public Library Meetings**
  - The County will be hosting two public meetings to discuss the rebuilding of the Norristown Public Library.
  - There will be two sessions held at the library on **Monday, April 29th**: a daytime session at 1 p.m., and an evening session at 6 p.m.
  - The library team has stressed the importance of community involvement in the design of the new library.
  - The goal is to make significant upgrades to convert the library into a modern facility.
  - A lot has changed since the library was built in 1976, both in terms of the services libraries offer and the technology behind those services.
  - We want residents to help us reimagine how the library campus can be reconstructed to serve the widest possible audience, regardless of socioeconomic status.
  - Spanish language translators will be present at each public input session on April 29th.

- **Mothers Alive Conference**
  - On **Tuesday, April 30th**, the Montgomery County Maternal and Early Childhood Consortium is hosting a conference called Mothers Alive.
  - This conference is the first time we’re bringing together experts, practitioners, policymakers and innovators to share best practice to reduce disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity.
  - The County is proud to partner with non-profits such as the Maternity Care Coalition, to improve birth outcomes and improve family stability and well-being.
  - Dr. Tamra Williams, our Director of the County’s Department of Health and Human Services, is one of the speakers, along with folks from CHOP, Maternity Care Coalition, plus city, state and federal agencies.
According to the CDC, the maternal mortality rate for Black women is 2.6 times higher than the rate for White and Hispanic women.

Exploring these disparities and reviewing approaches to advance equality in maternal health is incredibly important for saving lives.

Thank you to all partners collaborating to address this very critical issue.

Way to Go Montco, April Winners

✓ Robert Cartier, Planning Commission GIS Cartographer
✓ Dylan Feldman, Correctional Facility Sergeant
✓ Eric Giera, Security Officer
✓ Ed Greet, Park Ranger
✓ Stacey Richardson, Courts Office Support Person (OSP VII)

Thank you for your continued service to Montgomery County.

Vice Chair Makhija:

Welcome to Solicitor Ben Field and thank you to Interim Solicitor Ray McGarry for your service.

Election on Tuesday

✓ Next Tuesday, April 23rd is Pennsylvania’s Primary Election
✓ For those of our constituents who applied to vote by mail but have not received your ballot yet, it is on the way.
✓ Many people began receiving their ballots earlier this week. Anyone who received an email on April 12th stating their ballot was on the way, should receive it by tomorrow, April 19th.
✓ We are urging voters to use one of Montgomery County’s 12 secure drop boxes located throughout the County are now open 24/7 to add to the convenience of the voter experience.
✓ Ballots delivered to a secure drop box are picked up daily by a Montgomery County Sheriff's Deputy and delivered directly back to Voter Services.
✓ If you are voting by mail, don't forget to sign and date the outer envelope of your ballot, and you can only deliver your own ballot, unless you have a completed designated agent form.
✓ In order to open more opportunities for voters, we've also added additional hours to our satellite office hours:
  ✓ Voters can come to One Montgomery Plaza anytime today and tomorrow before 8 p.m. to drop off their mail-in ballots.
  ✓ If you would like to receive a replacement ballot, you can come to Norristown and fill out a cancel and replace form.
  ✓ When you pick up your replacement ballot, you can complete it and return it before leaving the satellite office to complete the voting process, or you can take it home to complete and return via one of the County's 12 secure drop boxes before Election Day on Tuesday, April 23rd.
If you’re voting in-person, polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Find your polling place at montgomerycountypa.gov/voters

**Letter of Commendation for Montco Master Watershed Steward Program**

Next week is not only Primary Election Day – it is also Earth Day on Monday, April 22nd.

So today, I have the pleasure of announcing a commendation for the program staff, partners, and volunteers of the Montgomery County Master Watershed Steward Program.

Each year a select group of people are chosen for the program, which is coordinated at the county level through Penn State Extension where participants attend training classes on various topics including:

- Stream ecology
- Wetlands
- Invasive plants
- Water recreation
- Stormwater management, and more

To become a certified Master Watershed Steward takes 40 hours of training and 20 hours of volunteer service, plus the completion of a project such as tree planting, streambank restoration, or creating a rain garden.

In 2023, Montgomery County’s program had 64 volunteers who committed 3,991 volunteer hours.

We commend the dedication of these volunteers who devote their time to protecting our watersheds and the health of our natural resources, and acknowledge the work of:

- Master Watershed Steward Coordinator, Kathleen Connelly
- Extension Client Relations Manager, Jennifer Wendling
- State Coordinator, Erin Frederick
- MCPC Environmental Planning Manager, Drew Shaw

**National Autism Month**

April is Autism Acceptance Month.

This is a time to raise awareness, as well as promote inclusivity and further understanding of autism and neurodiversity.

In Pennsylvania, there are over 55,000 people who receive services for autism.

Pennsylvania is one of few states that gathers this data, as part of the Pennsylvania Autism Census.

Early diagnosis and early intervention, plus a connected network of services for families, results in positive outcomes for family and community members.

Thanks to our County employees in our Health and Human Services Offices, especially those who work in Early Intervention and those providing services to individuals with autism.

Your work to support children and families in Montgomery County is incredibly valuable.
Laurel House Gala
- This past weekend I attended Laurel House’s 25th Annual Gala
- This event brought together community leaders, supporters, and people with lived experience, to raise funding for the crucial work that Laurel House carries out for domestic violence and homelessness as well
- Congratulations for another tremendous event, and for the thousands of hours of support you provide to families in Montgomery County every year

Passover
- Passover begins at sunset on Monday, April 22nd, and lasts for eight days
- To all those who celebrate, Happy Pesach and Chag Sameach

Commissioner DiBello:

Fair Housing Month
- April is nationally recognized as Fair Housing Month
- This year is the 56th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and familial status
- The Office of Housing and Community Development in Montgomery County’s Department of Health and Human Services hosts Fair Housing trainings throughout the year for non-profit housing providers, developers, shelters, local municipalities, and service providers to ensure full understanding of the law
- Residents can also reach out to the Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania for free resources

2024 Housing Fair
- This Saturday, April 20th, the Montgomery County Partners for Home Ownership is hosting its annual Housing Fair
- This event takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Colonial Middle School in Plymouth Meeting
- This is for anyone who is thinking of buying a home and is a great starting point to have your questions answered by experts
- Montgomery County’s Office of Housing and Community Development will be there to share information on first time home buyer grant opportunities
- The event is free to attend - for more information and to sign up, visit the website

International Spring Festival
- This Saturday, I will be at the International Spring Festival, which I have gone to for the last few years
- It’s a great event where thousands of attendees every year get to experience the diversity of cultures in Montgomery County, with dance, music, food, demonstrations, and much more
- It’s happening from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at North Penn High School
The County will have several tables there and my fellow Commissioners will be in attendance.
This is a great opportunity to see different cultural items and I look forward to seeing many of our residents there.

**Board of Commissioners’ Meeting in Limerick**
- Happy to finally announce the Commissioners are going on the road.
- On **May 23rd**, our Board of Commissioners meeting will be the first of several evening meetings we are hosting across the County, in order to be more accessible to our constituents.
- The **May 23rd** meeting will take place at **6 p.m.** at the Limerick Township Office at 646 West Ridge Pike.
- This is the first of many Board meetings that we will host around the County.
- We hope to see you in Limerick.

**Upcoming Primary Election**
- Polls will be open from 7a.m. - 8p.m.
- There are various drop boxes located around the county open 24/7, which I’m not entirely supportive of, but are available for voter convenience to get your ballots back in time.

**Laurel House Gala**
- This is a great event and amazing group of people doing wonderful things for our community and beyond to address domestic violence and other issues plaguing our community.
- I highly recommend supporting Laurel House in any way that you can, when you can, and as generously as you can.
- Visit the Laurel House website for more information on how to support individuals and families along their journey.

**Bucks County Tour of Honor for Veterans**
- This tour was a special opportunity for me and our community to recognize the courage and sacrifice of our veterans.
- Volunteer groups transport veterans from the Bucks County area to Washington DC to tour war memorials.
- There were over 100 vets from Montgomery County who participated.
- It was an overwhelmingly grateful experience to see the support of our vets from the community in appreciation for everything they’ve sacrificed and done for us and this country.
- Our vets are an amazing group of individuals who fought hard for our country so it was an honor to be a part of this event.
- It was also a pleasure to meet one of the original Rosie the Riveters who worked tirelessly to ensure all Rosie Riveters were recognized and received their Medals of Honor.
Announcements, Commendations, Presentations & Reports
1. Second Chance Month Resource Fair – Lori Schreiber, Montgomery County Clerk of Courts
3. National Public Safety Tele-communicators Week – Department of Public Safety: Kevin Rairdon, Assistant Director of Emergency Communications Operations and Tori Rosa, Platoon Commander of Emergency Communications

Public Comment on Today’s Pending Votes, Resolutions, Bids, RFP’s, and Contracts – Limited to 3 Minutes
(Speakers may comment on matters that appear on today’s agenda that the Commissioners will consider at this meeting, listed in items F through J. 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. Speakers may present once during the comment period on agenda items.)

1. David Morgan commented on the Justice Center furniture contract, itemization on the function of the 18 W. Airy Street building and costs, tax increases, and review of the County budget to reduce spending.

Approval of the Minutes
Chair Winder made a motion to approve the April 4, 2024, minutes of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners’ meeting.

Vice Chair Makhija 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.

Personnel
April 18, 2024, Personnel List – Megan Brown, Assistant Director of Human Resources

Chair Winder made a motion to approve the April 18, 2024, Personnel presentation as given by Assistant Director of Human Resources, Ms. Megan Brown.

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.

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-44 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.

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-45 can be found [here](#).

**Awards of Contract – Southeast PA Regional Task Force – Exhibit C**
Chair Winder made a motion to approve the Contract Awards, Amendments, and Renewals for Southeast PA Regional Task Force on attached Exhibit C.

Vice Chair Makhija 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-46 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. Joe Rooney commented on postal delivery times for mail in ballots, drop box security, implementing the monitoring of these boxes, concerns with people dropping off multiple ballots at a time, and connecting with voter services for responses to inquiries.
   
   *Chair Winder mentioned that Voter Services will look into persons dropping off multiple ballots, review the videos, and get the DA involved if necessary.*

2. Arthur Herring commented on OMP security, filing a petition with the Register of Wills/Orphans Court for guardianship, and having his email and phone numbers blocked by IT to various public services offered by the county.

3. Jenny Reimenschneider commented on her mother’s treatment, personal experience with guardianship-Orphans Court, lack of proper care at her mother’s living facility, concerns with the county’s role with assisting seniors and older
adults, proper caregiver support and programs, and would like assistance to address these concerns.

4. Earl Murphy commented on guardianship concerns with the Orphan’s Court processes, providing support and services for ageing adults, and readily finding programs and resources to assist caregivers.

Chair Winder mentioned that we have work to do—understanding the operations of the Office of Senior Services and will investigate processes and procedures.

5. David Morgan gave Chair Winder condolences, commented on the possible fire department consolidation in Norristown, supporting Laurel House, the augmentation of the parental leave policy, the Mothers Alive event, reproductive resource centers, housing concerns, and offering additional parental services.

Commissioner DiBello commented on Norristown figuring out the best location to provide the most efficient emergency services for their benefit and that of the community; fire departments are already interacting and communicating with one another to accurately dispatch the best care and resources.

6. Robert Gaultieri commented on the purpose of the Montco Forward Committee, how to join, would like to know if it’s a bipartisan committee and how it affects the county.

Commissioner DiBello mentioned that the Montco Forward Committee initiative is not a part of Montgomery County’s official business, and is associated with political party affiliation. Commissioner DiBello added this Board handles anything that comes before us from our managed departments and scope of oversight; however we have outside sources that give recommendations and shared information that we may consider as a Board.

Vice Chair Makhija concluded that the Montco Forward initiative precedes being elected as a Board member, and typically when a majority is won, a team invested in our success is set in place to assist with recommendations and the transitioning process.

7. Sandra Levine commented on the satellite offices hours of operations, ease of access to location change information that can be mailed for people who don’t have internet access or email, supports signature and voter roll verification, and expressed interests in holding multiple positions in service to the county’s community without certain limitations.

Closing Commissioners’ Comments
Commissioner DiBello would like clarification on the issue of holding multiple public service positions, and the effects, if any that has on serving as a poll worker.
Commissioner DiBello concluded that if you received a mail in ballot, but would like to vote in-person instead, just bring your mail in ballot packet to the polling location and hand it in to the judge of elections, and the provisional aspect is that we will verify that your mail in ballot was not cast since you only get one legal vote.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**
1. Election Board Meeting – Monday, April 22, 2024 at 2pm
2. Board of Commissioners’ Meeting – Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 10am

**Adjournment**
On motion of Chair Winder, seconded by Commissioner DiBello, the April 18, 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 made a motion to approve the April 18, 2024, Salary Board presentation as given by, Ms. Megan Brown.

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 April 18, 2024, Salary Board was adopted with all in favor, and none opposed.

**Adjournment**
On motion of Chair Winder, seconded by Commissioner DiBello, the April 18, 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.

To watch videos of Montgomery County Board meetings and additional County content on YouTube – click the link below.

> MontgomeryCountyPACchannel

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