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 Opioid Billboard Winner, Anika Rastogi.

Opening Commissioners’ Comments
Chair Winder:

First 100 Days
- In April, we celebrated our first 100 days and I’d like to reflect on our achievements as a new Board to date
- When we were sworn in together in January, we agreed on some top priorities that we knew we needed to tackle first
- I’m proud that not only have we been able to work together to make strides in these areas, but that we also have a blueprint for the future
- We have launched multiple initiatives that directly impact the families who live and work in Montgomery County
- This includes:
  ✓ Financial support for our first responders through the EMS and Fire tax rebate
  ✓ Helping people stay in their homes with the Whole Home Repairs Program
  ✓ Giving County employees more time with new family members with the strongest government parental leave program in the state
  ✓ Investing two million dollars into the County’s record management system to improve public safety and make law enforcement more transparent
This is just the beginning of what we hope to accomplish together. We hope to keep celebrating and sharing our successes with you in these meetings and through our social media platforms, news releases, and email communications. Thank you to our community, Commissioners Makhija and DiBello for their service so far and I look forward to celebrating our one thousandth day achievements in the future.

**Housing Summit**

On Monday, we hosted over 150 elected officials, community advocates, municipal managers, thought leaders, and housing experts at a special summit on housing affordability and homelessness in Montgomery County. We hosted this program to discuss the next steps we need to take to end the homelessness crisis and support increased opportunities for affordable housing. I’d like to thank everyone who participated, especially our panelists who led valuable sessions on important topics related to the challenges and opportunities we face, such as:
- Zoning
- Working with developers
- Shelters, and more

I’d also like to extend special thanks to our keynote speakers:
- Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, Pennsylvania Secretary of Human Services and former Commissioner
- Garry Gilliam, Jr. Founder and CEO of the Bridge Eco-Village
- Peter Urscheler, Mayor of Phoenixville

The Homes for All Summit was a valuable space for collaboration and creating solutions around funding, housing, and other local needs. The County is willing to invest in the resources needed to solve these complex problems and we are actively working in partnership with every level of government and community leadership.

Through collaboration like this, we can all work together towards solutions. In addition, we are proud to announce the launch of a new ‘Homes For All’ website. This website is a resource for municipalities who want to join us in providing more affordable housing alternatives while sharing in the successes and needs of our partners at.

This Board is committed to continuing this work together with our municipalities. Additional information and resources can be found at: [homesforallmontco](#)

**2024 Opioid Awareness Billboard Winner**

Since 2017, the Office of Drug and Alcohol has coordinated an annual contest with the goal of raising awareness about opioid overdose prevention. Each year, Montgomery County high school students are invited to submit artwork displaying a positive message discouraging substance abuse and encouraging healthier lifestyles.
This year we received over 50 submissions from 10 school districts, which received 1,000 public votes.

My family has been affected by addiction, so I understand the importance of bringing awareness to opioid and substance abuse disorders to hopefully prevent someone from falling into addiction.

Anika Rastogi is our first-place winner this year and an 11th grader at Wissahickon High School.

Congratulations, Anika—your artwork will be displayed on billboards around Montgomery County.

Thank you to Anika, Family Services, coordinators and community partners for your continued advocacy and awareness to this issue.

Vice Chair Makhija thanked Anika for taking time out to contribute to the opioid awareness campaign and hopes she continues to advocate for the substance abuse crisis.

**Prevention Day - May 14th**

- Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Alliance for Prevention invite the public to attend the Prevention Day Block Party to raise awareness for substance misuse and mental health.
- This event takes place on Tuesday, May 14th at 10:30 a.m. at the Upper Merion Township Building in King of Prussia.
- This event is held to observe National Prevention Week, which takes place from May 12th to May 18th.
- This week showcases the work of communities and organizations across the country dedicated to raising awareness of substance misuse prevention and positive mental health.

**May 23, 2024 - Board Meeting in Limerick**

- Just a reminder that the next Board of Commissioners meeting will be on the road at Limerick.
- The May 23rd meeting will take place at 6 p.m. at the Limerick Township Office at 646 West Ridge Pike.
- We hope to see some new faces, as well as familiar ones.
- This will be the first of several meetings we are hosting across the County to be more accessible to the public.

Chair Winder acknowledged Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) month and commended Vice Chair Makhija for becoming the first Asian American County Commissioner. Chair Winder added that she is honored to have made history with Commissioner Makhija and appreciates having the opportunity to serve alongside him.

Vice Chair Makhija:

- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI) Month
May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
I am proud to be the first person of Asian American descent elected to a Board of Commissioners in Pennsylvania
Asian Americans are underrepresented in our organization and I really want people to think about public service and what specific issues you can tackle and accomplish in local government
Please join me in recognizing both AAPI and Jewish American Heritage Month
I'm looking forward to celebrating with our residents, employees, and community all month long

**Commissioner DiBello:**

*Commissioner DiBello congratulated Anika for winning the Opioid Billboard contest while continuing to carry the message for substance abuse awareness, and hopes she considers becoming an ambassador for this work.*

- **First 100 Days**
  - Our first 100 days have been really exciting with what we have been able to successfully accomplish by working well together as a tight and cohesive Board
  - We finally got the Mill Creek Bridge opened in Lower Merion which makes our residents in that neighborhood happy to have ease of access reinstated to their community

- **J. P. Mascaro Site Visit**
  - I had the opportunity to visit Mascaro’s Waste Management operations in Birdsboro
  - Mascaro uses a mostly automated system to dispose of solid waste and uses single-stream or commingled recycling services to decrease contaminants in our environment
  - Glad to see this big job being done by a small business providing quality removal services to keep our neighborhoods free of waste, streets clean, and communities safe

- **She-Fest Event**
  - This event was a fundraiser for Laurel House which is a Montgomery County Community partner and resource for those impacted by domestic violence
  - I was happy to attend and support this event of at least a dozen female performers entertaining the community and bringing awareness to Laurel House services
  - Please check out the [Laurel House website](#) for additional information and ways to support this agency

- **New Businesses Acknowledgment & Support**
  - KMM Group opened its new global HQ in Hatboro, PA recently with a ribbon cutting ceremony highlighting their state of the art facility that fosters new technology and efficiency in manufacturing
In Lower Merion, About Beyond Autism Centers of Pennsylvania (ABA) also had a ribbon cutting ceremony to open its collaborative care facility that provides early diagnosis, autistic behavioral analysis, speech and occupational therapy to families living with autism.

Commissioner DiBello added that it’s exciting and rewarding to see these services come to our community.

Announcements, Commendations, Presentations & Reports

1. Norristown Dam Hydropower Project Overview – Jon Lesher, Environmental Planning Assistant Manager

Vice Chair Makhija mentioned that he is excited about this project enabling county operations to run on renewable energy to decrease our emissions and is looking forward to project completion.

Chair Winder thanked Mr. Lesher for the robust overview and is looking forward to when this project will come to fruition.

Commissioner DiBello questioned the turbines longevity, the ROI, additional factors, water-river flow rates, the hydroelectric power, the cost projection data, and if other energy sources are needed as the county would not be 100% reliant on this hydro-dam.

2. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week Proclamation – David Brown, Deputy Director of Emergency Medical Services

Chair Winder acknowledged the EMS workers, their selfless service, the implementation of the tax rebate to help these unsung heroes of our community, and that this administration would like to provide additional ways to advocate for those working in this capacity.

Vice Chair Makhija added that we will do everything to support the EMS workers and hopes that this Board’s implementation of the tax rebate ordinance will carry over with more municipalities.

Commissioner DiBello echoed the sentiment that EMS workers are unsung heroes and hopefully the implementing of this Board’s tax rebate ordinance carries over to other municipalities in show of support.

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 RFP for equipment rental services, lowering residential taxes, and would like to see more ways in which the county can reduce spending.

   Commissioner DiBello mentioned that the county is working to do more in-house projects instead of bidding them out; additionally, there may be equipment or resources needed for this work where it’s easier to rent equipment than to buy it out right in today’s economic market.

Approval of the Minutes
Chair Winder made a motion to approve the April 18, 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. A copy of the minutes can be found here.

Resolutions
1. Authorization of an award of an Open Space Grant to Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust for the Acquisition of Parcels in Upper Moreland Township – Scott France, Executive Director of Planning

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

   Vice Chair Makhija seconded the motion.

   Commissioner DiBello commented on the comprehensive breakdown of all the monies going into the purchasing of this parcel and the County’s role in this transaction to support preserving it for the community.

2. Approval of Amendments to the Collective Bargaining Agreements with AFSCME Local 676, AFSCME Local 1582, SEIU 668, Teamsters Local 384 and the County Detectives – Maureen Calder, First Assistant Solicitor

   Chair Winder made a motion to approve resolution number two as described by Ms. Calder.

   Commissioner DiBello seconded the motion.
Chair Winder expressed that she is happy to see the work being done to support our union employees.

Vice Chair Makhija expressed that the county has a commitment to ensure that important policy created here applies to every employee.

There was no further Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought resolutions #1-2 to a vote, and they were adopted with all in favor and none opposed. The full text of the resolutions 24.C 47-48 can be found [here](#).

**Personnel**

**May 2, 2024, Personnel List – Maureen Calder, First Assistant Solicitor**

Chair Winder made a motion to approve the May 2, 2024, Personnel presentation as given by Ms. Calder.

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 the Personnel List 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-49 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.

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-50 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*
1. Jim Mullich commented on election integrity, mail in ballot discrepancies, adjudication of provisional votes, receiving ballots in a timely manner, and maintaining voter rolls.

   Chair Winder thanked Jim for bringing these concerns to the Board’s attention so we can collectively work to rectify any election day challenges; and, the county will perform an after action report to address any concerns.

   Vice Chair Makhija added that we are systematically reviewing the mail in ballot process, that here at the county we will make sure our vendors and staff are operating optimally and efficiently; and that voter roll maintenance is a state level issue.

2. David Morgan commented in support of Mother’s Alive, the Montco Mamas programs, and adoption awareness.

Closing Commissioners’ Comments
There were no closing Commissioners’ comments.

Upcoming Meeting Dates
1. Retirement Board Meeting – today at 1pm in the Board Room
2. Election Board Meeting – Friday, May 3, 2024 at 11am
3. Board of Commissioners’ Meeting – Thursday, May 23, 2024 - 6pm at Limerick Township Building, 646 W. Ridge Pike, Limerick, PA 19468

Adjournment
On motion of Chair Winder, seconded by Commissioner DiBello, the May 2, 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 May 2, 2024, Salary Board presentation as given by Ms. Maureen Calder.

Controller Sanchez seconded the motion.
There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Winder brought the motion to a vote and the May 2, 2024, Salary Board was adopted with all in favor, and none opposed.

Adjournment
On motion of Chair Winder, seconded by Controller Sanchez, the May 2, 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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