pennsylvania
OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

FINAL DETERMINATION

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
	:	
AMU BEAN,	:	
Requester	:	
	:	
v.	:	**Docket No: AP 2026-4631**
	:	
SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY,	:	
Respondent	:	
	:	

On September 18, 2026, Amu Bean ("Requester") submitted a request ("Request") to Susquehanna County ("County") pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law ("RTKL"), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq*., seeking records related to bonds, warranties, policies and other information regarding the County, Judge Jason J. Legg, and District Attorney Marion O'Malley.

On October 13, 2026, following a thirty-day extension during which to respond, 65 P.S. § 67.902(b), the County issued its final response, granting the Request in part and denying the Request in part. The County provided records responsive to the insurance policy, risk pool document and oath of office, while asserting that no records for official bond, blanket bond, surety bond or other financial guarantee existed in the possession, custody or control of the County. The County further advised that as Judge Legg is a state employee, the County did not have records in its possession, custody or control with respect to that portion of the Request.

On October 19, 2026, the Requester filed an appeal with the Office of Open Records ("OOR"). The OOR invited both parties to supplement the record and directed the County to notify the OOR if any third parties have a direct interest in this appeal. 65 P.S. § 67.1101(c).

On October 27, 2026, the County provided a position statement. On November 4, 2026, the County provided a supporting attestation of Rebekah Hubbard ("Hubbard Attestation"), the Agency Open Records Officer ("AORO").

Based upon my review of the appeal and evidence, I make the following conclusions of law and findings of fact:

- Upon receipt of the Request, Ms. Hubbard conducted a thorough examination of the files in possession, custody or control of the County for responsive records, including by contacting the insurance carrier and local insurance underwriter. Hubbard Attestation, ¶3. Ms. Hubbard also contacted the Clerk of Courts and Prothonotary's office for a copy of the Oath on file for each official. *Id*. Review of the record shows that the memorandum of coverage of insurance policy, the oath of office for District Attorney Marion O'Malley and President Judge Lagg and the risk pool crime/bond coverage document were provided to the Requester.
- Ms. Hubbard also inquired as to documentation for President Judge Legg. *Id*. at ¶4. However, as President Judge Legg is not an employee of the County, the County did not have responsive records to this portion of the Request. *Id*.
- Ms. Hubbard attests that all responsive records within the County's possession, custody or control were provided to the Requester on October 13, 2026. *Id*. at ¶5. Therefore, the County has met its burden of proof by a preponderance of evidence that a good faith search was conducted, and no further records exist in its

possession, custody or control. *Hodges v. Pa. Dep't of Health*, 29 A.3d 1190, 1192 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2011).

For the foregoing reasons, the appeal is **denied** and the County is not required to take any further action. This Final Determination is binding on all parties. Within thirty days of the mailing date of this Final Determination, any party may appeal or petition for review to the Susquehanna County Court of Common Pleas. 65 P.S. § 67.1302(a). All parties must be served with notice of the appeal. The OOR also shall be served notice and have an opportunity to respond according to court rules as per 65 P.S. § 67.1303, but as the quasi-judicial tribunal adjudicating this matter, the OOR is not a proper party to any appeal and should not be named as a party.[1] All documents or communications following the issuance of this Final Determination shall be sent to oor-postfd@pa.gov. This Final Determination shall be placed on the website at: http://openrecords.pa.gov.

FINAL DETERMINATION ISSUED AND MAILED: November 13, 2026

/s/ Meryl M. Peterman

MERYL M. PETERMAN, ESQ.
APPEALS OFFICER

Sent via OOR E-file appeal portal to: Amu Bean
Rebekah Hubbard, AORO

[1] *Padgett v. Pa. State Police*, 73 A.3d 644, 648 n.5 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2013).