

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
August 19, 2013

**Present at the meeting were
Commissioners:**

Brenda K. Benner-Chairman
Stephen C. Naylor-Vice-Chairman
Paul L. Rudy Jr.- Secretary
William R. Bunt-Solicitor
Kathy Burkholder-Chief Clerk

Present from the Press: None

Present from the Public: Stacey Nybeck, Todd Brajkovich, Ayla Detweiler, Krista Pontius, Peggy Roadifer, Ira Rodapifer, Isabelle Lee, Paul Britcher Jr., Dave Swartz, Darwin Kitner, Jack Hess.

Commissioner Benner opened the meeting at 10:00 AM on August 19, 2013 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was held at the Perry County Fairgrounds. Commissioner Benner thanked the fair board by allowing them to hold the meeting there.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Rudy made a motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2013. Commissioner Naylor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Naylor made a motion to approve the warrant list for the week of August 19, 2013, in the amount of \$135,033.32. Commissioner Rudy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Todd Brajkovich, Director of the soil conservation office, gave a report for an update of the year for the conservation district. They currently purchased another grain drill for county residents bringing a total of 4 for rent. 2 Farms have been preserved for 2013 and they are actively working on preserving 2 more by the end of the year making a total of 52 farms and 8,000 acres. Todd noted that Federal funding has remained strong for programs and State funding has been adequate thanks to Marcellus Shale funding. Commissioner Rudy asked Todd to explain the Dirt & Gravel Road Project. Todd explained this project was started in 1950 to allow the county conservation district to help Townships with dirt or gravel roads to prevent run off into the streams and field erosion from happening. \$27,000 has been used in state funding so far for these projects. On Saturday, September 14, 2013 the Tire Recycling Challenge will occur at the Loysville Community Center Ball Field where tires will be taken for a nominal fee and Perry County will be competing with Huntingdon, Mifflin, Bedford and Juniata County to see which County can collect the most tires.

David Swartz, Director of the co-operative extension office thanked the fair board for all their hard work that they voluntarily put in for this event. Dave noted this is the 43rd year for the fair which started in 1970. Dave gave a comparison of the agriculture industry from 1970 to the present showing the importance of agriculture in the county and its continuing growth. Total Ag receipts have grown to \$126,137,000.

Stacey Nybeck, Director of the Perry County Transportation Authority gave an update on the Ecolane system that has been running in the office since August 8, 2013. Lancaster, Berks, Dauphin and Adams County have also gone live with this system. Ecolane allows the department to run more efficiently by using computer tablets in county vehicles instead of paper reports. They can also see where the drivers are at all times by using a GPS system. Stacey is very proud of her staff, many of her drivers are retired and have been very receptive to the new system.

Employee Status: None.

Solicitors Report- Tomorrow the county should receive a report from the Teamsters Business Agent to see if the contract for the Perry County Prison will be accepted.

Public Comments: Darwin Kitner, Perry County Fair Board President, thanked the Commissioners for their continuing support. Darwin stated that last year Perry County received recognition that Perry County was the number one Fair in the state. There has been no cost increase as far as parking and the shows and exhibits are

still free to the public. On Tuesday, August 20th, the Secretary of Agriculture will be attending, on Wednesday, August 21st, Representative Keller will be doing judging and also, Eric Finkenbinder, ABC news 27 will be doing a live broadcast. Darwin noted that what makes the fair such a huge success is the Perry County Pride and over 250 volunteers who help each year.

Commissioner Rudy thanked all the Fair volunteers who make the fair so successful. It is certainly a “Perry County Pride” event.

Commissioner Naylor gave an update on farm visits with the Farm Bureau to the O’Toole Farm to see the robotic milk operation and Spiral Path Farms for organic farming with Senator Toomey, a representative from Congressman Barletta’s office and Senator Teplitz, who will represent Perry County with the redistricting replacing Senator Corman.

Commissioner Rudy made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Naylor seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Kathy Burkholder, Chief Clerk

Paul Rudy Jr., Secretary