

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
March 2, 2020

Present at the meeting were
Commissioners:

Brian S. Allen – Chairman
Gary R. Eby – Vice-Chairman
Brenda L. Watson - Secretary
Shannon Hines - Chief Clerk
William R. Bunt - Solicitor

Present from the Press: None

Present from the Public: Karen Anderson, Frank Campbell, Mary Colledge, Rich Fultz, Dave Hammar, Wayne Hartzell, Kathy Hoover, Dave Magee, Rich Pluta, Nancy Pote, Robert Ressler, Marty Smith, Michelle Thebes, Melanie Wertz, Joy Zerance, and Christina Zook.

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 2, 2020 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County and Karen Anderson.

Public Comments: Dave Magee commented that discussions about the Corona Virus had happened in Marysville and he questioned how funding works for municipalities during a crisis/emergency situation. He also asked the Commissioners if they had considered this issue.

Melanie Wertz stated that she had looked at PennStrategies online and was concerned that they seem to be an economic development consulting firm. She expressed concerns about funds being spent on surveys and plans and the lack of action. Ms. Wertz commented that she would like to see action on the ground.

Karen Anderson stated that based on last week's meeting she understood that the contract with PennStrategies allowed the County to get out easily, but she questioned if the contract with them included anything tangible for the monthly cost of \$5,500.

Karen Barclay asked if PennStrategies will look for available grants for the County or if she, as a County employee, will need to find the grants. She commented that she hoped that the vendor will help find the grant funding.

Dave Magee questioned if MS4 could be looked into by the grant vendor.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Warrant List: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant list dated March 3, 2020 based on the two-week period for Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of \$744,350.47. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1 to impose vehicle weight restrictions on Perry County bridges 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 13 based on the recommendation of HRG and the Solicitor. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the letter of engagement with Eckert Seamans at a billable rate of \$250/hour for labor law services in relation to the upcoming union negotiations. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Megan Fortney, pending background checks, to the position of Deputy Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts in the Prothonotary's Office effective March 16, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$17.71 based on the recommendation of the Prothonotary. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitors Report: None

Public Comments: Melanie Wertz questioned if Solicitor Bunt was not qualified in labor law and conducting union discussions for the County.

Dave Magee confirmed that Marysville also has separate labor law counsel.

Frank Campbell asked if the restricted bridges listed in the approved ordinance would be posted on the website, as he had a concern about commerce restrictions.

Karen Anderson questioned if the Commissioners had been involved with the census due to federal funding being tied to an accurate count. She commented on the challenges faced by rural counties regarding participation in the census by County residents for a variety of reasons. Ms. Anderson stated that creative measures would have to be taken in order to get an accurate count.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:21 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary