

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION August 31, 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 via Phone/Onsite: Karen Anderson, Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Andrea Bowersox, Mary Ann Brownawell, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Jason Finnerty, Kristie Gantt, Dave Hammar, John Holman, Sarah Keller, Joe Kemper, John McTernan, Rich Pluta, Cindy Roney, Jim Scott, Marty Smith, Greg Wirth, Rick Wood, and Ken Zimmerman

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 31, 2020 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via telephone conference and in person at the Extension Office Meeting Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Public Comments: John Holman commented on his allegations that the Perry County Area Agency on Aging is not complying with state and federal laws pertaining to elder abuse investigations. He stated that Mr. McTernan could speak on his behalf. Mr. Holman questioned why the County has refused to conform to state and federal law and enforce it to protect elderly citizens. He stated that the law had been provided to the County and the County has not provided the required policies and procedures. He demanded that the policies be provided today.

John McTernan stated that he was filing a complaint directly with Commissioner Allen and Commissioner Eby regarding a previous investigation and presented documentation. He said that PCAA refused to take his complaint. Mr. McTernan stated that the County is not following the law. He provided details on the previous investigation and stated that he is making the complaint for a second time. Mr. McTernan asked that Solicitor Bunt be dismissed.

Karen Anderson asked for clarification on agenda item #10 regarding the broadband strategic plan development. She also asked about the fee amount of \$62,500.

Alane Balchunas asked what the purpose of the broadband project is. She stated that she is glad to know that the County is working on this initiative and that it is being paid for by CARES Act funding. Ms. Balchunas questioned how quickly Phase 2 would happen.

Cindy Roney voiced her concerns regarding phone calls she had received from the Republican National Committee and Donald Trump Jr. She stated that after receiving a phone call she then received 2 mail-in ballot applications. Ms. Roney commented that the following day she received another phone call from the Republican National Committee and Donald Trump Jr. reminding her to fill out the applications and mail them in. She stated that she had already registered on-line for her ballot and that this is very confusing. Ms. Roney stated that this issue, is in addition to the problem with deceased individuals receiving mail-in ballot applications.

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

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant list dated September 1, 2020 in the amount of \$503,162.28. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Solicitor Bunt opened and read the following bids that were received for the Courthouse Elevator Modernization project:

- Simplex - \$8,620.76 Fire alarm system
- Hadfield Elevator LLC – Base Bid: \$142,600
 Alternate #1 (Add cab interior refurbishment): \$23,000
 Alternate #2 (Add cylinder removal & drill new holes) – \$48,000
- Thyssenkrupp Elevator – Base Bid: \$70,661
 Alternate #1 (Add cab interior refurbishment): \$15,122
 Alternate #2 (Add cylinder removal & drill new holes) – \$46,251

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the extension agreements for the Newport, Marysville/Rye, and Liverpool Senior Citizen Centers. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby, based on the extensive meeting conducted with the Director, made a motion to approve the County Assurance of Financial Commitment and Participation for Children & Youth Services Fiscal Year 2021/22 Needs-Based Plan & Budget. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Child Welfare Information System Data Sharing Agreement. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby, based on the recommendation of the 911 Director, made a motion to approve the quote from Priority Dispatch for EPD and EFD dispatching protocol software in the amount of \$127,734. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Broadband Strategic Plan Development proposal with Mission Critical Partners in the amount of \$62,500. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointments of Dominic Fry and Stephen Perry to the position of Part Time Corrections Officer at the Perry County Prison at an hourly rate of \$20.32 effective September 1, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: John Holman requested that he and Mr. McTernan's comments be entered into the minutes. He asked if the Commissioners or the Solicitor had read the documentation, they provided regarding elder abuse investigation law. He stated that Commissioner Eby had said the County is in compliance. Mr. Holman discussed the Right to Know requests that he had submitted and stated that he has received different responses to each. He questioned which of the responses were correct.

John McTernan stated that the County has 10 days to respond to his complaint. He requested that all interactions be in writing or recorded. Mr. McTernan recommend that the County get a Solicitor that will comply with the law. He stated that the previous investigation was not done to his satisfaction and he commented that he wants Perry County to comply with the law. He offered to sit down and meet with the Commissioners and explain the issue. Mr. McTernan also stated that the State is out of compliance as well. He asked if the complaint was being accepted.

Karen Anderson asked when the Commissioners had started discussing the strategic broadband plan with Mission Critical Partners. She stated that Commissioner Watson had said she started working on the plan eight months ago. She also asked if there was a deadline for spending the CARES Act grant funds. Ms. Anderson also asked how the broadband project will be financed after the CARES Act grant funding period is over. She commented on the fact that broadband will not be in place to help students during this school year and questioned if the County was looking to help with the current issue. She said she was glad to see the broadband initiative happening and said now is the time to move forward due to available grant funding.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary