

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
June 15, 2020

**Present at the meeting were
Commissioners:**

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

Present from the Press: None

Present from the Public via Phone: Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Frank Campbell, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Sarah Keller, Jeannine Matulevich, Rich Pluta, Marty Smith, Randy Waggoner, Melanie Wertz, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 15, 2020 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via telephone conference and the meeting was recorded by the County.

Public Comments: Melanie Wertz asked if a review of the grant program would be shared at the meeting. Commissioner Allen reviewed the grants and Ms. Wertz questioned if the Greenways and Trails grant was coordinated through Jason Finnerty and the Recreation Committee, as she is a part of the committee and was not aware of the grant. She also asked for specifics on the economic authority grant in the amount of \$150,000. Ms. Wertz questioned if the county recreation committee was still in existence as she had not been informed of any meetings.

Jason Finnerty stated that if Ms. Wertz is not receiving the committee emails to please contact him. Ms. Wertz asked that her email address be included in communications going out to the committee.

Alane Balchunas questioned the lack of a COVID-19 update on the meeting agenda and asked about the dashboard on the State website. She stated that Perry County is not listed on the site regarding nursing homes. Ms. Balchunas asked why information is not provided on the site and who is reporting the information. She also questioned why the state stopped reporting Perry County nursing facility information.

Rich Fultz, from the Perry County Emergency Management Agency, stated that he tracks the nursing home information on a weekly basis and is also in contact with the nursing facilities. He stated that at this time there are no positive confirmed cases in any of the three nursing facilities in the County. Mr. Fultz also commented that there have been no deaths or positive employee cases either. He stated that the state requires strict reporting guidelines, but he was unsure why the state did not include the zero numbers regarding nursing home cases for Perry County on their website.

Greg Wirth, from the Perry County Area Agency on Aging, commented that initially Perry County was reported as having nursing facility COVID cases on the state website. He stated that Mr. Fultz found that the statistics were incorrect and the inaccurate information was removed from the state website. Mr. Wirth said that COVID testing in nursing facilities will start July 24th. He also commented that once the County enters the green phase, nursing facilities will remain locked down for an additional 28 days. Mr. Wirth also stated that facility residents can refuse the testing, but could be quarantined if they refuse.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County Area Agency on Aging contracts listed on the agenda. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion based on information he had received from the Aging department. All agreed. Motion carried.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Contract Dates</u>
Ben Yoffee Esq	Backup legal services to eligible consumers	\$80/hour	No change	7/1/20 - 6/30/23
Kevin Prosser Esq	Legal services for older adults	\$80/hour	No change	7/1/20 - 6/30/23
Karen Pelton	Tai Chi for Arthritis Program	\$35/session	No change	7/1/20 - 6/30/24
Mona Lemanski	Dietician for congregate and home delivered meal program	\$150/monitoring \$100/education program + mileage	Reduction due to paying per event	7/1/20 – 6/30/23
Valued Relationships Inc.	Personal emergency response services provider.	\$25/month thru \$50/month	No change	7/1/20 – 6/30/23

Commissioner Watson made a motion to take the first step and apply for the COVID-19 CARES Act Block Grant and authorize Penn Strategies to apply on the County’s behalf. Commissioner Watson stated that this is a multiple step process. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion and stated that Penn Strategies would provide an overview opinion on the grant application. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby provided information on the COVID Rental Relief Grant program. He stated that eligible applicants would be able to receive up to \$750 per month in rental relief. Commissioner Eby stated that the opening of the program is slated for June 28th. He commented that Perry County must state our intent to participate and assign a designee to handle the administration of the grant program.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to appoint a designee so that Perry County can accept the program for the citizens of the County. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the following 2019/2020 Purchase of Service Agreement for Children & Youth Services. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. Commissioner Eby asked if the Solicitor had reviewed the contract. Solicitor Bunt stated that if there is no change to the contract he does not review, but new provider contracts are reviewed. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Central Counties Youth Center---CYS/JPO---\$280.00/day (Avg. Inc. of 3.7%)

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the resignation of Sean McFadden, unpaid intern in the EMA/911 Center effective June 10, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Brett Jacobs, Part-Time Corrections Officer, at the Perry County Prison effective June 5, 2020. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion, based on his previous work knowledge, to approve the appointment of Matthew Kilheffer-Brightbill, to the position of Dispatcher Trainee in the 911 Center effective June 16,

2020 at an hourly rate of \$11.84. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion, after a discussion with the Sheriff and current Chief Deputy, to approve the appointment of Noah Cline, to the position of Chief Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office, effective June 22, 2020. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion, again based on the information provided by Sheriff Hammar and the sensitivity of the position. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitors Report: None

Public Comments: Melanie Wertz asked that as the County is successful in receiving grant funding the information be shared at the Commissioners meeting so that it can be tracked.

Commissioner Eby provided additional information on the pending grants. He stated that the County is proactive and coordinating with the grant writer to ensure Perry County is applying for available grant funding. Commissioner Eby stated that grants are available for small businesses and recommended that small businesses owners look into the available grants and apply for them as soon as possible and not rely on possible COVID block grant funding that comes into the County. He also provided information on the RTP and ARLE grants that are available for municipalities, as the grants could be used for infrastructure improvements.

Commissioner Allen urged participants to reach out to their boroughs and townships regarding the grant options.

Rich Pluta stated that small business that have sales revenue under \$1 million dollars are eligible for grant funding. He stated that the EDA and Chamber websites have additional information, but that you must apply through CDFI.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary