

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
June 8, 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: Karen Anderson, Karen Barclay, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Bonnie Delancey, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Kathy Hoover, Sarah Keller, Rich Pluta, Nancy Pote, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Alyson Thebes, and Melanie Wertz

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 8, 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: Karen Anderson commented on the nursing home/long term care facility update provided at the previous meeting. She stated that after the meeting she went on the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s website, and the site had reported numbers of resident cases, staff cases, and deaths associated with COVID-19 at the Perry Village facility. Ms. Anderson commented that as of this morning, the numbers were updated to another facility in the state, but questioned how this type of error could be avoided. She voiced a concern that this could result in panic within the County and wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the error.

Rich Fultz, EMA/911 Director, stated that he has been in contact with the Department of Health regarding errors on their website over the past several months. He commented that the error on the website was most likely a data input error made by the Department of Health.

Alyson Thebes, from the Perry County Area Agency on Aging (PCAAA), gave an update on the communication they had received from the Department of Health dated June 2nd. Ms. Thebes stated that as counties move into the green phase, congregate care facility restrictions remain in place. She stated that even after moving into the green phase, the County’s nursing facilities will remain restricted for at least 28 additional days. The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services is recommending testing for staff and residents. PCAA has started to reach out to County facilities regarding a plan for testing. As of this morning, Ms. Thebes stated that there were no cases of COVID-19 in the County facilities. She also provided an update on the senior centers. Per the Governor and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, during the yellow phase the centers are to remain closed. Ms. Thebes commented that congregate meals continue to be available via take out daily. Also, home delivered meals have continued to be delivered by volunteers and Rabbit Transit. She stated that once the County moves into the green phase, the senior center board will then decide whether the senior centers will reopen.

Jason Finnerty provided information on the Regional Transportation Plan Implementation Grant Program. He stated that the grant was developed by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commissions in conjunction with the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study, to focus funding on transportation projects in our region. This a \$3 million grant split equally between Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties. He stated that the grant focuses on the following goals/objectives:

- Provide an efficient, seamless and reliable transportation system
- Improve the performance and operation of our transportation system for all modes and all users
- Expand transportation choices
- Improve quality of life, promote human health and provide a safe experience for all users
- Reduce environmental impacts
- Encourage livable communities and efficient land use
- Efficiently utilize existing transportation funds and pursue other funding opportunities for transportation system improvements

Information on this grant program will be forwarded to the municipalities.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Warrant List: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant list dated June 9, 2020 in the amount of 428,763.73, based on the recommendation of the Fiscal Office and review of the list. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County Procurement Policy for CDBG grant funding. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the resignation of Nathan Beaston, Part-Time Corrections Officer, at the Perry County Prison effective June 13, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. The Commissioners thanked Nathan for his service. Warden Barclay also recognized Nathan for his service to not only Perry County, but for his total corrections service of over 40 years.

Solicitors Report: None

Public Comments: Melanie Wertz asked for an update on the grant program due to retaining Penn Strategies. She also asked if the County had applied for any grants and if so, what specific grants had been applied for. Ms. Wertz also questioned if there is a priority in the way the grants are being pursued and asked if Penn Strategies was applying for the actual grants. Commissioner Allen stated that he would provide a list and disposition on all grants and provide that at the next meeting.

Rich Fultz stated that he has been working with Penn Strategies on two grants for the radio tower projects.

Commissioner Watson stated that the Commissioners meet with Penn Strategies each week to discuss grant opportunities and strategize the way in with the grants are pursued.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary