

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**March 30, 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 via telephone

**Present from the Press via Phone:** Jim Ryan

**Present from the Public via Phone:** Karen Anderson, Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Andy Bender, Zoe Burd, Donna Cohick, Jason Finnerty, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Kathy Hoover, Sarah Keller, Ann Miller, Roger Miller, Donna Scherer, Jim Scott, Wes Smith, Sally Tengeres, Melanie Wertz, Greg Wirth,

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 30, 2020 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via telephone conference and the meeting recorded by the County.

**Public Comments:** Alane Balchunas requested additional information on the confirmed case of COVID-19 in Perry County.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2020 meeting and the emergency meeting held on March 23, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Warrant List:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant list dated March 18, 2020 in the amount of \$34,142.04 and the warrant list dated March 31, 2020 in the amount of \$730,268.22. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Interconnectivity Agreement between the Department of Corrections and the County of Perry. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion based on the recommendation of the Warden. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion, based on the EMA's direction, to designate Rich Fultz as Perry County's agent for the Stafford Act Reimbursement process. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitors Report:** Solicitor Bunt commented on the fact that the primary election has been moved from April 28<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. He stated that the County has not yet received information from the Department of State on all the changes that were contained in the law that was recently passed. The legislation did change the deadlines for registration and shortened the time frame from 30 days to 15 days. Solicitor Bunt stated that there has been no change to the fall election which is scheduled for November 3, 2020. The law does allow counties to consolidate polling locations and make staffing changes at the polling locations. He stated that this is brand new legislation and additional guidance from the Department of the State is being awaited.

Solicitor Bunt also commented on the guidance from the Office of Open Records regarding public meetings and that the County was conducting the meeting via telephone conference based on the guidance received. He also stated that the Office of Open Records put on their website that unless there is an

urgent need for records, requestors should refrain from filing new Right to Know requests at this time. The Office of Open Records indicated that their staff is currently working remotely and the County is down in staff as well. Solicitor Bunt stated that individuals not proceed with Right to Know Requests at this time unless there is an urgent need during the COVID-19 emergency situation.

**Public Comments:** Karen Anderson, from Landisburg, questioned if the County has purchased a vehicle in the last month. She also asked if this purchase was included in the 2020 budget and whether it went out for bid.

Melanie Wertz, from Newport, asked that since Right to Know requests are not to be submitted, she wanted to know what was in the CCAP report and if any changes were recommended for the Fiscal Office.

**Comments from Press:** Jim Ryan asked, in light of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Perry County, had thought been given to health care options, especially emergency options for residents in our rural County. Mr. Ryan asked for clarification, as to whether Commissioner Allen was urging County residents take social distancing guidelines seriously and to not travel unnecessarily to areas where infection is more prevalent.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:22 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Brenda L. Watson, Secretary