

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
May 18, 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, Zoe Burd, Frank Campbell, Dave Hammar, Kathy Hoover, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Sarah Keller, Mary McCarty, Ann Miller, Rich Pluta, Nancy Pote, Jim Scott, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Sally Tengeres, Wendy Welfley, Melanie Wertz, and Joy Zerance

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 18, 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: Mary McCarty, from the U.S. Census Bureau, provided an update on the 2020 Census. She stated that the national response rate is 69.5% and Perry County's response rate was 62.6%. Ms. McCarty also commented that response rates are low in the western end of the county.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Eby made a motion to open the county buildings effective Friday, May 22 at 8:00 a.m. by appointment only and with additional guidelines forthcoming. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion with the guidelines being sent out later in the week. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to recall furloughed employees based on consultation with department heads on a case by case basis and encouraged employees, if permitted, to work from home during the yellow phase. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion based on a case by case basis. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of April Skethway to the position of Part-Time Administrative Assistant in the Perry County Conservation District effective May 27, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$14.03. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitors Report: None

Public Comments: Karen Anderson stated that she was having trouble hearing Commissioner Watson. She asked if the Commissioners had additional information pertaining to the 5 new cases of COVID-19 posted on the Department of Health's website. Ms. Anderson also questioned if nursing homes are reporting their numbers due to this being an issue in other parts of the state.

Ann Miller recommended that decision makers read and study the 1918 pandemic. She suggested viewing information on the 1918 pandemic via YouTube.

Melanie Wertz questioned if the Commissioners had thought about how all the mail-in ballots will be counted and tracked. She stated that due to her past participation on election night, she voiced concerns on how all the mail-in ballots could be counted in one evening.

Wendy Welfley thanked the Commissioners and the Chief Clerk for being available and helping with making virtual services available during this time.

Commissioner Allen stated that there would be no meeting the week of May 25th.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:19 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary