

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
May 4, 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: None

Present from the Public via Phone: Karen Anderson, Karen Barclay, Frank Campbell, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Sarah Keller, Heather Kelly-Weisen, Mary McCarty, Rich Pluta, Bob Ressler, Jim Scott, Wes Smith, Sally Tengeres, Randy Waggoner, Melanie Wertz, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 4, 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: Randy Waggoner stated that the Department of Agriculture has waived the June 1st application deadline to enroll for clean and green for the 2021 tax year. The new deadline is now October 15, 2020.

Mary McCarty, from the U.S. Census Bureau, commented that there was a surge in census responses in Perry County over the last week. The County response rate is now 58%, which is above the national average.

Karen Anderson asked what the Commissioners, in conjunction with State representatives and senators, are doing to get more virus antibody tests available in the County. She stated that there were many residents sick back in January and it would be a benefit to get more antibody tests available to see if the virus had gone through the area previously. Ms. Anderson questioned if pressure had been placed on senators and representatives to get additional testing for the County and also if anyone had reached out directly to them to see what actions are being taken. She stated that she did not want Perry County to be overlooked.

Sarah Keller stated that constituents can reach out directly to Senator DiSanto's office. She also commented that there is not a reliable, widely available antibody test out yet. Ms. Keller also stated that that individuals that believe they have corona virus are being tested, but only 20% of the tests come back positive for the virus. She also stated that there is an e-newsletter available to constituents that would provide updates.

Commissioner Eby stated that May 3rd through May 9th is Conservation District Week. He reminded attendees that the Perry County Conservation District is one of the most active in the state. Commissioner Eby stated that the Director and staff work to ensure there is clean water and soil for future generations and this is something to celebrate. The Conservation District offers administers numerous programs and hosts events throughout the year. Commissioner Eby stated that additional information on the Perry County Conservation District could be found online at perrycd.org He recognized Sally Tengeres, Conservation Director, Oscar Campbell, volunteer Board Chair, and the entire board and staff for their service.

Melanie Wertz stated that when the Commissioners speak to Representative Keller regarding the virus tests, they should also question him on why he is supporting a house bill that was passed that takes away funding for Conservation District projects. Ms. Wertz commented that the corona virus was being blamed, but in reality, she stated that the Republican party was taking away funding for the environment.

Sarah Keller stated that an amendment was made to the bill after Representative Keller introduced it. She stated that he had nothing to do with the amendment and does not support it or funding being taken from the Conservation District

Sally Tengeres thanked Commissioner Eby for his previous shout out for Conservation District Week and the staff. She also commented that her understanding is that the house bill would not be taken further and Representative Keller was not in favor of the amendment to the bill.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Professional & Administrative Services Agreement with SEDA-COG for 2019 CDBG grant administration at a cost of \$52,510 based on a teleconference with SEDA-COG staff regarding the agreement and services provided. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion, based on the information provided by the EMA Director, to approve the termination of Dawn Fowler, Part-Time Dispatcher, in the Perry County 911 Center effective May 5, 2020. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitors Report: None

Public Comments: Karen Barclay stated that it was Corrections Employee Week and urged attendees to thank a corrections officer for the job they do.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary