

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION  
December 14, 2020**

**Present at the meeting were**

**Commissioners:**

Gary R. Eby – Vice-Chairman  
Brenda L. Watson – Secretary  
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk  
William R. Bunt – Solicitor

**Present from the Press:** Jim Ryan

**Present from the Public via Phone:** Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Christine McKelvey, Ann Miller, Rich Pluta, Bob Ressler, Cindy Roney, Wes Smith, and Melanie Wertz

Commissioner Eby opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on December 14, 2020 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via telephone conference. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Commissioner Eby read the following statement:

Please be advised that the information that was in Perry County newspapers entitled “Budget deficit of \$2.78 million will be covered by reserves” December 10, 2020 is not accurate.

The commissioners did not make the statement “The deficits could be covered with the county’s reserve funds, which total \$14.7 million, the commissioners said.”

Further there was no statement made by the Board of Commissioners that led to the statement “The budget for next year holds the line on taxes, with projected revenue at \$19.1 million.”

The Perry County Board of Commissioners are researching options, gathering statistics, and looking at options before making knee jerk reactions. At this point, the Perry County Board of Commissioners have not decided on what action will be taken on this matter until all information we are seeking is accumulated.

From this date forward, the Perry County Board of Commissioners will publish further accurate official information concerning this subject on the County website Perryco.org.

**Public Comments:** Melanie Wertz commented that last year there was a deficit in the County budget and this coming year there would also be a deficit. She said that based on comments from the last meeting, there is \$4 million in the reserve funds, as \$10 million had already been earmarked for projects. Ms. Wertz said she sees no choice but to raise taxes and while looking at line items on the Commissioners’ budget, there are organizations that are receiving money that should not be. She said she does not see why the County has to provide funding to organizations that do not help the County. She asked the Commissioners to look hard at the budget.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD amendments for Early Intervention and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities in the total amount of \$15,000 for FY 2020/2021. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

<i>Early Intervention</i>			
Mattiko Pediatric Therapies LLC	EI20-0096	\$ 5,000	\$3,000 increase

New/Renewal - Increase from FY 19-20			
EI Services - Speech therapy			
<b><i>Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</i></b>			
Alchera Inc DBA SafeinHome	ID20-0178	\$ 10,000	New Contract
New			
IDD Services - Assistive technology/home monitoring			

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the CCAP UC Trust Agreement to Participate regarding the unemployment compensation program. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission 2020/21 contract as a not to exceed amount. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Cost</u>
JFT Recovery & Veterans Support Services Inc.	Law enforcement diversion program	\$109,911.20 not to exceed amount

**Solicitor’s Report:** Solicitor Bunt stated that a tentative agreement has been reached with the Court Appointed/Court Related and Residual bargaining units. He said that contracts will need to be prepared so that the involved parties can see the terms of the contracts. He added that the County will need to vote on the new contracts, as well as the union members. Solicitor Bunt stated that once the contracts had been ratified by all parties, the contracts would go into effect, most likely retroactively due to the late timing in the year and the COVID situation delaying the union voting process. The contacts would take effect 1/1/21 and would be for a three-year term. He said that a red line agreement would go out this week.

**Public Comments:** Ann Miller asked who the benefactors are for the MH/IDD contracts that were approved, as well the CCAP UC Trust agreement and the Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commissioner contract. She said that the programs seem to be good and she was glad to know there are programs that will help individuals.

**Comments from Press:** None

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

Commissioner Eby reminded everyone to stay safe and continue to mask and social distance.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Brenda L. Watson, Secretary