

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
December 21, 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: Jim Ryan

Present from the Public via Phone: Karen Barclay, Andrew Bustin, Frank Campbell, Jared Charles, Noah Cline, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Megan Fortney, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Dawn Lowe, Rich McEnery, Christine McKelvey, Patty McLaughlin, Kim McMullen, Ann Miller, Rich Pluta, Amy Reed, Bob Ressler, Martha Roberts, Cindy Roney, Kevin Shawver, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Morgan Tressler, Bill Wagner, Melanie Wertz, Greg Wirth, and Christina Zook

Maintenance Director, Marty Smith made a statement regarding the passing of team member, Nick Shawver. He asked for prayers for Nick’s family and dog, Colt and expressed how much Nick will be missed. Mr. Smith also asked for prayers for Warden Barclay and her family due to the passing of her father.

Warden Barclay, on behalf of the Perry County Prison, expressed condolences to the Shawver family and shared fond memories of Nick.

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on December 21, 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.

Public Comments: Kevin Shawver thanked all for making Nick’s life better and expressed his appreciation for everything that the County did for his son.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Warrant List(s): Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant list dated December 11, 2020 in the amount of \$752.10. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant list dated December 22, 2020 in the amount of \$362,399.13. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Allen presented certificates of heroism to Sheriff Deputies Andrew Bustin and Jared Charles in recognition of their bravery during a recent fire emergency. Their actions resulted in saving the lives of several individuals.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the reappointments of Rhonda Brunner and Susan Hench to the Drug and Alcohol Commission Community Advisory Board. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion, based on the recommendation of the Sheriff's department and Solicitor, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement – Sheriff/Security regarding security at the Rhinesmith Building. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby, with regrets, made a motion to accept the resignation of Joy Zerance, Part Time Deputy in the Sheriff's Department, effective December 30, 2020. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt presented information on the West Law program contract as provided by the Court Administration Department. He stated that the County will save a considerable amount on the three-year contract if approved during the meeting, as the contract was a substantial saving as compared to the initial proposal by the vendor. Solicitor Bunt said that the contract provided a cost of \$1,413.39/month for the first six months, and then the pricing went to a new charge of \$1,536.08/month. A maximum increase of 3% was outlined in the contract for the remaining two years of the agreement. Solicitor Bunt said this contract would provide licensing for the Judges, District Attorney, Courts, Public Law Library, Public Defender, and the Magisterial District Justices. Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the West Law contract as presented. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed the deficit the County has been operating in for several years and talked about the raising of taxes. They discussed the actions they have taken to trim the County budget. The Commissioners discussed the fact that taxes had not been increased in ten years, while expenses have increased in this time frame. They tasked the Solicitor with preparing two resolutions for consideration. One resolution regarding a 1.0 millage increase and another regarding a 1.25 millage increase.

Public Comments: Melanie Wertz stated that the County should be spending money on County services that are state mandated for citizens. She said that just because an organization, such as the EDA, has received funding in the past does not mean they should continue to receive County funding. She stated that there are much greater needs in the County. Ms. Wertz also commented that Commissioner Watson has a conflict of interest as she sits on the EDA board. She urged the Commissioners to step up and pass a shoe string budget.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary