

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
August 10, 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/Onsite: Andrew Bustin, Frank Campbell, Noah Cline, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Jason Finnerty, Jan Gibboney, John Holman, Sarah Keller, Heather Kelly-Weisen, John McTernan, Rich Pluta, Ryan Simon, Marty Smith, and Melanie Wertz

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 10, 2020 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via telephone conference and in person at the Extension Office Meeting Room. The meeting was recorded by the County and John McTernan.

Public Comments: John McTernan provided documentation to the Commissioners. He stated that former District Attorney Chenot made an opinion that the rights of the elderly were violated by the County in a previous meeting. He commented on a report containing information on the previous meeting that transpired between a Perry County Area Agency on Aging employee and a specific violation. Mr. McTernan stated that he had written permission from the individual to be in attendance during the investigation, but the Aging employee would not talk to him about the situation. He stated that he had met with the Aging Director and Solicitor Bunt previously about the situation. Mr. McTernan requested that the Commissioners remove Solicitor Bunt from his position.

John Holman stated that he has submitted Right to Know requests annually and the responses all say that Perry County is in compliance regarding elder abuse. He said that public hearings should be held on Aging policies. He demanded that the Chairman hold a public hearing regarding this issue. Mr. Holman also provided documentation to the Commissioners and also requested that Solicitor Bunt be terminated.

Melanie Wertz asked for additional information on COVID relief funding information that was provided by the Chamber of Commerce at a previous meeting. She specifically asked how much funding was received, was the funding in the form of grants or loans, how was it determined who received the funds, and how could she get a list of who received funds.

Rich Pluta, representing the Chamber of Commerce, stated that he had provided information regarding the PPP loan program (Paycheck Protection Program) at a previous meeting and the information he had provided came from The Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He stated out of 500 County business, 425 businesses/non-profits had received a loan from the federal government through the PPP program. Mr. Pluta also stated that it was federal funding administered by the State.

Melanie Wertz questioned if businesses that did not belong to the Chamber were informed about the program.

Rich Pluta stated that the local banks, the County, the Chamber, and the EDA all provided information to local businesses.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Heather Kelly-Weisen, from SEDA-COG, presented information regarding the proposed project selections for the FFY 2020 CDBG grant funding. She stated that the total amount of project funding available is \$ 222,352. Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the presented projects for CDBG funding, based on the review of the information provided and the community impacts (listed below). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Newport Borough Water Authority Well #1 Technology Upgrade & Rehabilitation - \$81,176
- Loysville Village Municipal Authority Inflow & Infiltration Project - \$81,176
- Newport Borough Sidewalk and Curbs Improvements Project - \$60,000

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the CDBG Budge Revision Certification to allocate remaining funds in the amount of \$4,374.97 to the Loysville Village Municipal Authority 2018 Inflow and Infiltration project. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Ryan Simon, from Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission provided information on the grant agreement with the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Commission. Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 5-year grant agreement with the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol programs, based on information provided by Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission and after review by Solicitor Bunt. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion the approve the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commissioner 2020/2021 contracts (listed below). Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>19/20</u>	<u>20/21</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Teen Challenge Training Center	Adult Detox	\$284	\$322	13%
Teen Challenge Training Center	Adult Rehab	\$184	\$204	11%
Bowling Green Inn, Brandywine	Detox	\$269	\$294	9%
Bowling Green Inn, Brandywine	Adult Rehab ST	\$203	\$205	1%
Bowling Green Inn, Brandywine	Co-occurring	\$267	\$270	1%

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Hershocks quote for the replacement of a Courthouse door at a cost of \$1,396. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the service proposal from Clear Ballot for logic & accuracy testing and election support in the amount of \$7,500. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve, based on the contract decreases, the MH/IDD amendments for Early Intervention and Mental Health in the total amount of \$47,512 for FY 2020/2021 (listing below). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
Early Intervention					
Stacy Foreman, MS, CCC-SLP	EI20-0061	Decrease	\$ 24,900	\$ 21,327	\$ (3,573)
New/Renewal - Decrease from FY 19-20					
EI Services: Speech therapy					
Mental Health					
Perry County (Prison)	MH20-0019	Decrease	\$ 30,941	\$ 26,185	\$ (4,756)
New/Renewal - Decrease from FY 19-20					
MH Services: Transitional and community integration services					
(half of salary and benefits for counselor position at prison)					

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Anthony Pepper to the position of Temporary, Full Time CARES Act Block Grant Funding Administrator effective August 11, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$19.27. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitors Report: None

Public Comments: John McTernan stated that the information he provided demonstrates Perry County’s part in the systemic violation to the elderly. He stated that he will not give up and wants Perry County to be in compliance with the law. He commented that each year he would be sending the law requirements. He also commented that he wanted a meeting with Commissioner Watson and Solicitor Bunt to explain discrepancies. Mr. McTernan said that he would be participating in a radio program this coming Thursday to bring out these issues. He stated that the County would be torn apart during the radio show and requested representation from the County on the program.

John Holman stated that Commissioner Allen was present during a previous meeting and again requested a public meeting which would allow for more time to discuss the elder violations. He commented that he would like Commissioner Allen to chair the public meeting and provided all the necessary information.

Mr. Holman asked for proof that the County is in compliance with the law and demanded participation on the radio program.

Comments from Press: Jim Ryan asked for confirmation on the CDBG grant projects presented earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Eby reminded the public of the importance of the Census and encouraged those that have not reported to please do so. He also provided information on the CARES Act Block Grant funding and stated that the applications and guidelines are available on the County website at www.perryco.org. He said anyone with questions could contact the Commissioners' Office. Commissioner Eby provided a reminder that the deadline for grant application submission is August 30th.

Melanie Wertz asked if the CARES Act Block Grant information would be in the local newspapers.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary