

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
August 17, 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: Karen Anderson, Alane Balchunas, Mary Ann Brownawell, Frank Campbell, Noah Cline, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Dave Hammar, Sarah Keller, Kim McMullen, Rich Pluta, Robert Ressler, Cindy Roney, Jim Scott, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Sally Tengeres, and Melanie Wertz

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 17, 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.

Public Comments: Alane Balchunas questioned if there were any secure drop boxes for ballots anywhere on the County properties or throughout the County. She also asked if this issue would be addressed due to her understanding that there was a high demand for mail-in ballot. Ms. Balchunas stated that the Commissioners should be proactive and ensure a safe and secure method for residents to return ballots.

Solicitor Bunt commented on the pending election related lawsuits and stated that the County would follow whatever mandates were issued by the Commonwealth as a result of the lawsuits.

Karen Anderson stated that she had received conflicting responses regarding hand delivered ballots to the County Election Office. She asked if the actual voter must return the ballot, or whether anyone can deliver the sealed ballot.

Melanie Wertz asked if Perry County has had drop boxes for ballots in the past. She stated that Cumberland County had drop boxes and that they are allowed. Ms. Wertz requested that the Commissioners look into acquiring drop boxes so that all votes could be counted and be proactive.

Ann Miller stated that there is a high demand for drop boxes and she had read an article that stated the boxes were between \$4,000 - \$10,000 apiece. She suggested that a secure location for a drop box would be in the Courthouse or somewhere in the New Bloomfield square, due to the surveillance cameras.

Cindy Roney questioned who would be working the polls during the general election due to the pandemic situation, as many of the poll works are of higher risk. She also stated that the President had made the statement that ballots would be thrown away or lost.

Jason Finnerty stated that the public hearing for the County Hazard Mitigation Plan was scheduled for August 18th at 7 p.m. in Courtroom 1 of the Perry County Courthouse.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant list dated August 10, 2020 in the amount of \$852.41. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant list dated August 18, 2020 in the amount of \$418,120.91. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: The following bids were received and opened for advertised, available vehicles:

2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer

- Mary Smith - \$1,051
- Brittany Fisher - \$500
- Ricky Robinson - \$705
- Chad Hall - \$246.44

2001 Chevrolet Tracker

- Ricky Robinson - \$154
- Tammy Hamilton - \$250
- Chad Hall - \$266.44

2003 Ford Excursion

- Brittany Fisher - \$575
- Ricky Robinson - \$527
- Brad, Charlie, Nick Dillman - \$5,659
- Chad Hall - \$2860.44

Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the bid of \$1,051 by Mary Smith for the 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the bid of \$266.44 by Chad Hall for the 2001 Chevrolet Tracker. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to table the 2003 Ford Excursion bid approval until further discussion can occur with the District Attorney. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-12 Adopting the Perry County Emergency Management Agency Communications Manual. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposal from Hershock's for the replacement of three cracked cell window units and a window unit at the Business Managers' Office at a cost of \$3,500. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Wilfred Blosser to the position of Part Time Deputy in the Sheriff's Office effective August 18, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$19.27. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt stated that the Election Board for the upcoming fall election would be comprised of Commissioner Eby, Commissioner Watson, and Patti McLaughlin. He commented that Commissioner Allen provided notice that he would not be available, which was why Ms. McLaughlin was appointed to the Election Board.

Public Comments: Alane Balchunas stated that she could not hear the Solicitor's report.

Ann Miller asked what the public hearing that Jason Finnerty commented on, was about.

Jason Finnerty explained the Hazard Mitigation Plan and what would be discussed during the public hearing.

Karen Anderson questioned if the Election Board was always comprised of the Commissioners.

Solicitor Bunt stated that when a Commissioner is unavailable to service during an election, for various reasons, someone is appointed to the Election Board to take his/her place.

Karen Anderson question how the appointment is made.

Solicitor Bunt stated that typically the person that is unavailable to serve makes the recommendation. He commented that the Director of Elections then submits documentation to the Courts regarding the recommendation. Solicitor Bunt stated that the Court then issues an order appointing the individual.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:32 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Allen reminded the public that CARES Act Block Grant applications are due by August 31st.

Commissioner Watson commented on the importance of the Census and encouraged those that have not reported to please do so. She stated that Tyrone Township's participation is low and asked that everyone spread the word about the Census and be counted.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary