

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**November 9, 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:** None

**Present from the Public via Phone/Onsite:** Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Jasmine Colbert, Evelyn D’Elia, Donna Ellenberger, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Dave Hammar, John Holman, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Heather Kelly-Weisen, Dave Magee, Kim McMullen, John McTernan, Ann Miller, Andy Pepper, Rich Pluta, Craig Sheaffer, Jim Scott, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Randy Waggoner, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 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 Holman.

Commissioner Allen read a Certificate of Appreciation acknowledging the sacrifice and service of veterans.

**Public Hearing:** Heather Kelly-Weisen, from SEDA-COG, provided information on the re-budgeting of CDBG funds from the Oliver Township Sewerage System Rehabilitation project to the Duncannon Borough Water Metering project. She stated that there was \$101,115.04 left over from the Oliver Township project that would be reallocated to the Duncannon project. Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the reallocation of funds to the Duncannon Borough Water Metering project, pending further investigation into the cost of the water meters. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** John Holman asked if he and Mr. McTernan could be granted five minutes for public comment.

John McTernan stated that he would he was looking at the 2020 Aging Area Plan and would be addressing Commissioner Allen as he had signed the plan. He commented that in August 2020 he has submitted a complaint to Commissioner Eby regarding the violation of the elderly rights at Kinkora Nursing Home. Mr. McTernan said that he had provided the law but had not received a response as required. He stated that he would like to work with Commissioner Allen on the complaint and asked if he should resubmit the complaint to Commissioner Allen or Mr. Wirth. He stated that he wants the law followed and does not want to work with Commissioner Eby anymore.

John Holman commented that the law states that the County must investigate complaints made by or on behalf of residents. He said that there was no response to the complaint that was previously submitted. Mr. Holman asked if the County had an exemption that they did not have to follow the law. He stated that the date of the incident in question was not relevant to the situation. He asked who had killed the complaint several times.

Donna Ellenberger stated that she was the victim of elder abuse. She said that the Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) in Watts Township was removed from his position two years ago, and now another MDJ in Newport was removed. She said that child protection falls under federal law the same as protection for seniors. Ms. Ellenberger asked if the phone number to report abuse related to the ongoing MDJ case would be posted by the County. She said she had the press release on the matter she would provide a copy. She questioned how many children had been affected and said the Commissioners took an oath to protect residents. Ms. Ellenberger said she would like to use her last thirty seconds for silent prayer for all the victims in the County that had not been addressed.

Alane Balchunas asked if Jason Finnerty could comment on agenda item #8, appointing Dana Cotton to the Perry County Planning Commission. She asked if Mr. Finnerty could provide information the selection process and the candidate’s credentials.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Warrant List(s):** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the warrant list dated November 10, 2020 in the amount of \$433,773.79. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant list dated November 10, 2020 in the amount of \$200.00. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the subrecipient agreement for allocation of FY 2019 CDBG funds to Newport Borough Water Well Authority Well #1 Technology Upgrade project in the amount of \$113,307. Heather Kelly-Weisen stated that the project had been funded with FY 2019 CDBG funds. She said the environmental review had just been cleared and the agreement was the next step needed to move forward with the project. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the CARES Act Grant funding allocations based on Andy Pepper’s review. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Name - Organization-Business-Applicant	1st Installment	Approved Amount
Amethyst Foundation	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,651
Miller Township	\$ 550	\$ 550
Perry County Animal Rescue	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,600
Espresso Yourself Café	\$ 3,888	\$ 7,525
New Bloomfield EMS	\$ 152,125	\$ 163,362
Blain Ambulance Club	\$ 135	\$ 135
Millerstown Ambulance League	\$ 15,107	\$ 15,107
Newport Ambulance League	\$ 41,949	\$ 41,949
Duncannon EMS Inc.	\$ 42,084	\$ 42,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 265,438</b>	<b>\$ 282,963</b>

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Dana Cotton to the Perry County Planning Commission. Jason Finnerty provided information on the selection process and Ms. Cotton’s experience and credentials. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Oscar Campbell, Farmer Director, and Gary Eby, Commissioner, to the Perry County Conservation District. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Eby made a motion, based on the recommendation of the Warden and Business Manager, to approve the appointment of Kimberly Briggs to the position of part Time Cook at the Perry County Prison effective November 15, 2020 at an hourly rate of \$13.62. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Public Comments:** John McTernan stated that he would be resubmitting the complaint directly to Mr. Wirth, Area Agency on Aging Director, and would no longer communicate with Commissioner Eby. He said he would like to keep in touch with Commissioner Allen if the County did not comply with the law. Mr. McTernan stated that he did not understand how Commissioner Eby had the authority to kill a complaint or investigation. He stated the Commissioner Eby was out of order. Again, Mr. McTernan asked who killed the complaint.

Donna Ellenberger asked if someone was tasked to do the investigation on the complaint. She said it should have been tasked by the Commissioners and there should have been documented official paperwork. She said everyone will be in a nursing home one day and the laws are very important. She again stated that someone should have been tasked and there should have been a package of the investigation documentation provided.

John Holman asked if the Board of Commissioners play a part in the investigation of elder abuse. He said that Commissioner Eby played a part and asked if he had discussed the investigation with Mr. Wirth or Solicitor Bunt.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Watson thanked all the volunteers who came in to help during Election Week.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:38 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Brenda L. Watson, Secretary