

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**January 11, 2021**

**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 Anderson, Karen Barclay, Andrea Bowersox, MaryAnn Brownawell, Frank Campbell, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Barb Hench, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Kim McMullen, Ann Miller, Earl Mumma, Rich Pluta, Bob Ressler, Cindy Roney, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2021 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:** Karen Anderson questioned if the allocation amount of \$47 on the CDBG agenda item was the correct amount. She also asked how many members are on the Economic Development Authority board. Michelle Jones stated that there are 11 board members after the resignations. Ms. Anderson stated that it looked like a large number of resignations on the agenda. Michelle Jones stated that the resignations were due to new jobs, lack of availability, health issues, and retirement. Ms. Anderson asked when the Commissioners' meetings would be live streamed and encouraged the Commissioners to look into this option.

Earl Mumma asked why the meetings are not available via Zoom. He questioned what the Commissioners looked at cutting in the budget, before raising taxes. Mr. Mumma said that the County should be run like a business and it was a poor year to raise taxes as many residents are out of jobs. Mr. Mumma asked what the amount of the budget items that were cut totaled and he questioned if County staff were cut. He stated that most other governments were hiring outside contractors to do work, so as not to pay salary and benefits. Mr. Mumma recommended that the Commissioners put out an RFP to all County contractors and he wanted to know what the County does with a plumber when there is no work. He stated that he wanted to know what options were considered before raising taxes and asked to hear from Commissioner Allen and Watson. Commissioner Watson encouraged Mr. Mumma and the public to make an appointment to come in and talk further on the issue.

Karen Anderson stated that all conversations regarding the budget and taxes should happen during a public meeting and recommended a longer, extended meeting on Zoom as a solution.

Greg Wirth, Perry County Area Agency on Aging Director, commented that virtual conference options, such as Zoom, limits the aging population from participating. He stated that many older residents do not have the option to participate in this way.

Barb Hench asked what the procedures were for people age 72 and older, to get the COVID vaccine in the County. She questioned Commissioner Allen on how he proposed to pay the County bills without a tax increase, since he did not vote for the milage increase. She asked if Commissioner Allen would be

willing to forgo his annual raise to help with the County finances. Ms. Hench also questioned why Commissioner Allen did not serve on the Election Board.

Ann Miller stated that the information Commissioner Watson provided on the COVID vaccine plan is on the Pennsylvania Department of Health website. She commented that vaccine distribution centers are needed and asked if the Commissioners had plans for them. Ms. Miller also said that there is a need for vaccine locations within the County.

Wes Smith, 911/EMA Deputy Director, stated that the Emergency Management Office is in contact with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and have sites and plans in the works. He commented that the community will be informed once the plans have been finalized.

Ann Miller commented that the Board of Commissioners need to be in the loop on the plans as well.

Barb Hench asked if there would be a vaccine distribution location in the western end of the County, as not everyone can drive to Newport or New Bloomfield.

Rich Fultz, 911/EMA Director, said that the Pennsylvania Department of Health has not been very forthcoming with information, and has asked the County to identify possible mass distribution sites. He stated that the County is currently in Phase 1A of the plan in which medical personnel and first responders are vaccinated. Mr. Fultz stated that no information has been provided as to whether there will be mass vaccination sites in the County or if the vaccination process will follow the same distribution process as the regular flu vaccine. He stated that as that information becomes available from the Department of Health, it will be announced to the public.

Kim McMullen said she had heard Commissioner Eby and Watson's reasons for raising taxes, but she asked Commissioner Allen to elaborate on what he believed the alternatives to raising taxes would be. She further questioned Commissioner Allen by asking what his top two alternatives were to pay County bills, instead of raising taxes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the reappointments and resignations to the Perry County Economic Development Authority Board. Commissioner Eby, based on the recommendation of the Economic Development Authority, seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Reappointments 5-year term: Martha Roberts and Kevin Fitzpatrick

Resignations: Mike Lawler, Jim Fuller, Emery Yoder, Derek Whitesel, and Greg Gordon

Commissioner Eby, based on conversation with the Children & Youth Services Director, made a motion to approve the 2020/2021 Children & Youth Services Purchase of Service Agreements. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

- KidsPeace Corp - CYS – Levels from \$61.00 - \$367.00/day
- Pentz Run Youth Services Inc. – CYS – Levels from \$121.86 – 159.00/day (New)
- Ward Home – CYS - \$216.44/day (New)

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2020/2021 Children & Youth Services In-Home

contracts (attached). Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the CDBG allocation of \$47 to the Loysville Village Municipal Authority Lateral project. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Mission Critical Partners Broadband Phase 1 RFP Agreement in the amount of \$75,000. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Wes Smith explained that the Hazardous Material Emergency Response grant is a yearly grant that helps fund the Local Emergency Planning Commission which is responsible for maintaining records of what hazardous materials are in the County to protect emergency responders and citizens. Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the submission of the Hazardous Material Emergency Response grant. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Public Comments:** Karen Anderson stated that previously public budget meetings were held by the County, so that the public could understand the budget, but due to COVID this was not possible. She said this made her question how much thought was put into the budget. Ms. Anderson said that Commissioners Eby and Watson had provided budget information, but questioned if Commissioner Allen was involved in the budget process. She said that none of the Commissioners had considered giving up their pay increases in order to help with the budget. Ms. Anderson asked Commissioner Allen which candidate he worked for during the election, since he did not participate on the Board of Elections and said he did not answer any questions.

Earl Mumma asked how much money the County gives to the Economic Development Committee. He asked how much money goes into the complex beside Mutzabaugh's Market. Mr. Mumma asked what the funds are used for that are given to the Economic Development Authority.

Kim McMullen questioned if Penn Strategies was still being used by the County and if many people have used the service. She recommended a periodic update on the grants would be helpful and show that the services are a benefit to the County.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Eby commented that due to the background noise issues, other virtual options would be explored for the weekly public meetings.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 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

## **20/21 In-Home Contracts----PERRY CO. CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**ABC Alternative Behavior Consultants, LLC** – rate inc from \$3.00 for FAST Assessments & SKILLS  
– rate inc by \$1.50 for Visitation  
– rate inc by \$3.00 for Behavioral Support

**Avanco International** ---CAPS Data Program--- Increase of 6%. - \$24,976.60/ year

**Benjamin Yoffee** – Contract to provide legal services “back up” to Bill Bunt—No Increase \$82.50/hour  
–Additional rate of \$150.00/hr (no increase) for appeals and termination preparation and proceedings

**Children’s Resource Ctr.**-Abuse Med. Eval. –No increase - \$525.00/evaluation

**Chrystal Prosser**—Guardian Ad Litem—no rate increase \$75.00/hour

**David G. Ray** – Counseling – Rate increase of \$10.00 – \$120.00/hour

**Diakon** – Project Care - \$9,070.33/month - \$108,844 annual. No increase.

**Diakon** -SPIN – no rate increase - \$96.70  
-PFI – no rate increase - \$71.40  
-Perry Hope – no rate increase - \$91.80  
-Weekend Alternative Program- no rate increase - \$173.43  
-Center Point –no rate increase \$169.22  
-Bridge Program – no rate increase -\$47.07

**Family Link Services** – No Rate Increase- 90.00/hour – Coordinate/Facilitate FGDM  
-No rate increase - \$20.00/hour - Child Care during FGDM  
-No rate increase - \$3,500.00 Flat Rate for successful FGDM conference  
-No rate increase - \$1,000.00 Flat Rate for successful referral  
-No rate increase - \$250.00 Flat Rate for unsuccessful referral

**Julie Martzall** ---Quality Assurance – no rate increase - \$50.00/hr.

**JusticeWorks** - No rate increase- \$77.00/hour – Truancy Programs  
- No rate increase - \$82.00/hour – STOPP Program  
- No rate increase - \$80.00/hour – VIP Program (JPO)  
- No rate increase - \$60.00/hour – Community Service Program (JPO)  
- No rate increase - \$150.00/group - Thinking for a Change Program  
- (New Program) - \$250.00/referral - \$3,000.00/conference – Family Group Decision Making

**Kevin Prosser** – Guardian Ad Litem –no rate increase -\$75.00/hr.

**Newport Counseling Center** – rate increase from \$60.00 to \$70.00/hr for Individual Outpatient Therapy

-Rate increase from \$90.00 - \$105.00/hr for CANS

**Tandem, LLC** – Family Preservation/Reunification---No Rate Increase --\$10,041.67/month

**Timothy Czekaj** – Guardian Ad Litem – no rate increase - \$75.00/hr.

**Tri- County Community Action** – New Contract- \$200/Ages & Stages Screening

**William R. Bunt** – Agency solicitor – No rate increase - \$62,400/yr.

-Additional rate of \$150.00/hr.(appeals and termination)- (No Increase)

- Additional rate of \$20.00/hr (for intern work) –(New)

**Valley Youth House** --- Independent Living ---Increase of 11% (includes addition of services) -  
\$12,862.42/mo