

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**February 1, 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 via WebEx

**Present from the Press:** None

**Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone:** Alane Balchunas, Andrea Bowersox, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Barb Hench, Ryan Hostetter, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Ann Miller, Rich Pluta, Cindy Roney, Marty Smith, Melanie Wertz, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 1, 2021 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via WebEx telephone and video conference. The meeting was recorded by the County and Melanie Wertz.

**Public Comments:** Rich Fultz provided an update on COVID vaccines. He commented that he has been in contact with Weis Market Pharmacy, Rite Aid Pharmacy, Perry Physicians, and Newport Family Practice and they have a limited number of vaccines available for those in the 1A category. He said online registration is available at weismarkets.com and riteaid.com and individuals will be required to complete a survey to ensure they are eligible for the vaccination. He said individuals may get a message saying there are no appointments available when attempting the online registration. Mr. Fultz stated that each authorized provider receives a limited number of vaccines each week and they must track who will need follow-up vaccines. He commented that the availability and distribution of the vaccine is at the mercy of the Department of Health. He said the big push now is to organize smaller community vaccination centers instead of mass vaccination clinics. Mr. Fultz said this change is only in the planning phases currently. He urged everyone to talk to their doctors and go to the online registration sites, but again reiterated that this is a moving target that changes constantly.

Melanie Wertz thanked Rich Fultz for the update and stated that she was recording the meeting. She asked which of the Commissioners sit on the Prison Board. Ms. Wertz said she had read the articles in the local newspapers and said she was confused by the articles. She said she understood that there would be cooperation with CIS to get Perry County off the sanctuary county list and that detainees were being honored. Ms. Wertz questioned that since ICE detainees were being honored, has the County eliminated the requirement for them to present a warrant issued by a judge for immigrants being held in the Prison for ICE. Solicitor Bunt stated that the question should be directed to the Prison Board. Ms. Wertz stated that she did not understand why the Commissioners could not answer the question.

Ann Miller stated that she has been trying since last Tuesday to register for the vaccine, but has not had any luck getting registered. She urged individuals to try and register and said the process is like the lottery. Ms. Miller said that her understanding was that a mass vaccination site needs to be set up, and then the Department of Health will send vaccines. She recommended the Family Life Center in Newport, as a location for the clinic. Mr. Fultz confirmed that the facility was being considered. Ms. Miller also voiced concerns regarding the aging population and having to use computers to register for the vaccine.

She recommended using the senior centers as a solution to this problem. She thanked Mr. Fultz for all his hard work.

Gene Cohick commented that he had tried from 5:00 a.m. until midnight trying to register for the vaccine, but was not able to get an appointment. He said he has health issues and his doctor said he would have to find another way to get the vaccine, as his doctor did not provide it.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Approval of the Warrant List(s):** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2020 warrant list dated February 2, 2021 in the amount of \$218,337.78. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2021 warrant list dated January 26, 2021 in the amount of \$290,223.16. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2021 warrant list dated February 2, 2021 in the amount of \$252,383.51. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the South Central Pennsylvania Task Force Mutual Aid and Cooperation Agreement to include the addition of Schuylkill County. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission 2020/21 contract. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Provider	Service	19/20	20/21	Rate Increase	Percent Increase	Last Increase
White Deer Run	Partial Hospital (Williamsport)	\$105.00	\$117.00	\$12.00	11%	FY12/13

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission 2021 contract with Substance Abuse Services Inc. (The RASE Project) for Cumberland County opioid intervention court at a contract maximum of \$150,000. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointments of Commissioner Brenda Watson and Larry Reisinger to the 2021 SEDA-COG Board of Directors. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the DCED grant funding for the communications tower project. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Allen acknowledged that Centre Township had acknowledged the Sherman Valley Stone quarry.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposal for architectural services for the Annex building renovations from Reed E. Hoffman Architect LLC at a cost of \$2,400. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointments of Caryn R. Geedey and Matthew A. Maxey to the position of Part Time Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Department effective February 2, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$19.27. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Amber Wolfe to the position of Clerk Typist 1 in the Children & Youth Services Department effective February 16, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$16.13. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the resignation of Kyle Miller, Part Time 911 Dispatcher in the 911 Center effective February 11, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Public Comments:** Ann Miller recommended that a mass vaccination site be set up and the information on the site be communicated to the public. She again urged that information on the vaccine be distributed to seniors in a manner other than online.

Melanie Wertz asked Solicitor Bunt why the Commissioners could not answer her previous question since they sit on the Prison Board. She also questioned what the participation information was for the next Prison Board meeting. Commissioner Eby commented that the issue is complex and is better answered in the presence of the entire Prison Board. Ms. Wertz said that since such a large story was published in the newspaper about the issue, it was ridiculous that she could not get an answer to her question.

Ann Miller suggested that an update on the issue be provided at a future Commissioners' meeting after the Prison Board meeting had addressed the question.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:36 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