

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION February 22, 2021

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

Brian S. Allen – Chairman
Gary R. Eby – Vice-Chairman
Brenda L. Watson – Secretary via phone
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk

Present from the Press: Jim Ryan

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone: Karen Anderson, Zoe Burd, Frank Campbell, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, John Gerner, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Doug Hockenberry, Sarah Keller, Wayne Leshar, Ann Miller, Kyle Miller, Rich Pluta, Marty Smith, Cindy Roney, Wes Smith and Heather Weisen

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 22, 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.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Eby read a portion of a letter from Duncannon Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Inc. commending the Perry County Area Agency on Aging for the work they do to help senior citizens and for the service the staff has provided to the Duncannon EMS during difficult situations.

Commissioner Eby recognized Jim Scott; Director of Veterans Affairs based on a report he had recently received. He stated that out of 76 Veterans Affairs offices within the Commonwealth, the Perry County Veterans Affairs office ranked 16th overall and 2nd among sixth class counties in total annual retroactive awards from 7/1/2020 through 12/31/2020. He further commented that Mr. Scott is a one-person office and commended him for bringing in benefits totaling \$573,730.30 for the veterans of the County.

Rich Fultz, EMA Director, said his office is working to find a sponsor or partner to come in to do a vaccination clinic. He has been in contact with FEMA groups regarding setting up a vaccination site and stated that FEMA requires a site to meet a minimum of 1,000 people per day. Mr. Fultz said three to four smaller locations have been identified and once a partner has been found that is authorized to distribute, administer, store, and transport vaccines, a site could be implemented. He had participated in a call about setting up a vaccine register and said several counties have done this. He also commented that vaccines are still not available which causing the lack of available appointments. Mr. Fultz said that discussions have begun regarding transportation to vaccine site for seniors once the sites are up and running. He also mentioned that the Medical Reserve Corp has been in contract with West Perry Pharmacy, Perry Physicians, and Newport Family Practice regarding augmenting their staff once they start to receive more vaccine doses. Mr. Fultz stated that currently a million and half vaccines have been administered in Pennsylvania, but again reiterated that everyone is awaiting an increase in the supply.

Public Comments: Wayne Leshar commented that some people getting vaccinated in the County, do not live in Perry County. He also said provided the following Penn State Holy Spirit telephone number that allows a person to schedule a vaccination appointment for anyone who is eligible. The number is 844-774-8883 and press Option 2. Mr. Leshar said you will be on hold for 2 hours, but will be able to schedule a vaccination appointment. He questioned why vaccines are not going to primary care

physicians. Rich Fultz stated the distribution is based on supply and the Department of Health discretion. He said that he had recently read that distribution will be to only retail pharmacies and not to primary care physicians. Mr. Leshner asked if the County had any input into how vaccines in the County are distributed. Mr. Fultz confirmed that the County does not have that authority.

Ann Miller provided the following UPMC vaccine registration number 1-844-876-2822 and said it works well. She also said that using the Department of Health website and clicking on the Holy Spirit location, a friend had been able to make two vaccination appointments. Ms. Miller was also glad to hear that the Aging Department is working on transportation for senior citizens.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2020 warrant list dated February 16, 2021 in the amount of \$21,594.99. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2021 warrant list dated February 16, 2021 in the amount of \$284,112.94. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the CDBG Subrecipient agreement with Oliver Township Municipal Authority for the sewage system rehabilitation project in the amount of \$37,762. Heather Weisen, from SEDA-COG, explained that the agreement was the next step needed in order for the project to move forward. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the agreement with Chrystal Prosser, Esq. for legal services for the Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts at a quarterly rate of \$1,375. Prothonotary/Clerk of Court, Zoe Burd confirmed that the rate did not increase. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the proposal from J.W. Fuller Construction for the replacement of the exterior doors at the Rhinesmith Building at a cost of \$9,800. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Grant contract in the amount of \$524,094. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 approving the submission of the RACP single application. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 approving the submission of the Community Conservation Partnership Program grant. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 approving the submission of the DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund grant. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-04 approving the administration of the

DCED COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program fund to CREDC. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the transition of Steven Gallagher to a Full Time 911 Dispatcher in the 911 Center effective March 1, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$18.23. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the resignation of Stephen Perry, Part Time Corrections Officer, at the Perry County Prison effective January 19, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.
The meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Holly Ruby to the position of Full Time Clerk in the Magisterial District Court effective February 24, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$14.53. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Catrina Gardner to the position of Part Time Clerk in the Prothonotary/Clerk of Court's Department effective February 23, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$14.53. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: Wayne Leshar asked for a commitment from the Commissioners to implore Department Heads to use local vendors or a written policy to Department Heads.

Rich Fultz stated that approximately 25% of County residents have been tested for COVID. He also said that there will be a Department of Health sponsored AMI COVID testing will occur from March 1st through March 5th at the Family Life Center in Newport. He said more details will follow.

Cindy Roney stated that it is disgusting that individuals from out of state are being vaccinated in Pennsylvania. She also said that veterans can go to the VA for vaccinations, if they qualify.

Karen Anderson said she should qualify for vaccination but is unable to get vaccinated. She said the state is trying to get as many people vaccinated as possible, which she said gives her peace of mind, as the more people around her are vaccinated, the safer she is. Ms. Anderson also said the lying in regards to vaccines, is not just out of state or out of County people. She said the vaccines are being distributed to the large retail pharmacies since they have shown they can vaccinate a large amount of people in a short amount of time. She asked if the Commissioners will remain vigilant to the western end of the County, as there are many older individuals that do not have access to computers or transportation to get to vaccination sites.

Ann Miller said she concurred with Ms. Anderson. She commented that the Area Agency on Aging needs to be involved to help coordinate vaccines for the senior citizens. Ms. Miller also suggested a mini task force comprised of staff from the Area Agency on Aging, Emergency Management, and the Commissioners to brainstorm ideas how to reach the elderly. She said it is a very complicated issue.

Comments from Press: Jim Ryan asked which office Holly Ruby, the new Magisterial District Court Clerk would be working in. He also questioned why the Commissioners went into executive session

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary