

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION March 1, 2021

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

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

Present from the Press: Jim Ryan

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone: Karen Anderson, Alane Balchunas, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Kim McMullen, Ann Miller, Rich Pluta, Marty Smith, Bob Ressler, Cindy Roney, Wes Smith and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 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.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Allen provided information on an upcoming COVID testing event. He stated that beginning on March 1, 2021 through March 5, 2021, in cooperation with the PA Department of Health and AMI Expeditionary Health Care, there will be a drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinic. Testing will take place at the Newport Assembly of God, Family Life Center, 27 West Shortcut Rd, Newport, PA 17074, and be available each day from 9am through 6pm. The testing is free of charge and is offered on a first come first served basis with no appointment necessary.

Commissioner Eby provided an update on the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) grant. He said that this grant program provides financial assistance to businesses in the hospitality industry, and applications will begin to be accepted on March 15. He also stated that the County has partnered with CREDC to administer the grant. Commissioner Eby commented that the maximum grant award is \$50,000 and will be granted in \$5,000 increments. He also said that a business must be an NAICS code 721 or 722 hospitality industry business to be eligible. He emphasized that while CREDC is also administering the grant program for Dauphin County, Perry County businesses would be evaluated on their own merit and are not in competition for funds with Dauphin County businesses.

Commissioner Eby stated that the Perry County Board of Commissioners has accepted the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (EARP) grant from the Department of Human Services. He explained that the grant provides financial assistance for eligible housing expenses due directly or indirectly to COVID-19. He commented that applicants must meet household income requirements and provide supporting documentation. Commissioner Eby said that the program is scheduled to open March 8, 2021 will be open until December 31, 2021 or until funds are depleted. Applications and further information will be posted on the website in the near future.

Commissioner Eby commented that Rabbittransit is offering free shared-ride service, regardless of age eligibility, to Perry County citizens for transportation to vaccination appointments. He said that reservations are required and must be schedule no later than noon, the day prior to the vaccination appointment. To make a reservation or for additional information please call 1-800-632-9063.

Commissioner Eby said that a flag retirement receptacle is now located in the Veterans Memorial Building, outside the Veterans Affairs Office, for disposal of American flags that are tattered, torn, or damaged. He stated that flags deposited in the receptacle will be disposed of in the appropriate manner.

Public Comments: Rich Fultz stated that a COVID testing clinic is up and running at the Newport Assembly of God Family Life Center and will be available all week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. He reiterated that this is a testing site and not a vaccination site. Mr. Fultz said that he had made contact with a major retail pharmacy that is interested in partnering with the County to process and distribute vaccines to smaller clinics. He did say this was subject to vaccine availability but would continue to be prepared to stand up clinics once supply was available.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 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 2021 warrant list dated February 25, 2021 in the amount of \$10,123.45. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2020 warrant list dated March 2, 2021 in the amount of \$71,059.52. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2021 warrant list dated March 2, 2021 in the amount of \$451,862.30. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County Hospitality Industry Recovery Program Administration Agreement with the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the County Human Services Plan for Emergency Rental Assistance Program Assurance of Compliance. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion, based on a discussion with the Children & Youth Director, to approve the Children and Youth Services Purchase of Service Agreement with Affinity Forensic Services LLC with rates from \$169.85 to \$173.92. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve Anthony Pepper, relative to the administration of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant, at an hourly rate of \$26.44 effective upon the execution of an agreement between the County and Mr. Pepper. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the transition of Macenzie R. Rohrer to a Part Time 911 Dispatcher in the 911 Center effective March 2, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$16.13. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt stated that the Gutshall litigation had been resolved through the mediation process.

Public Comments: Ann Miller questioned whether the Rabbitransit transportation would be publicized. She also asked if there would be a non-computer alternative to get the information out and suggested

using the Department of Aging to get the information out. Ms. Miller asked Mr. Fultz if he was working through FEMA or PEMA based on the previous meeting minutes.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary