

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
March 8, 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: Maryann Brownawell, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Ann Miller, Rich Pluta, Cindy Roney, Marty Smith, Randy Waggoner, Melanie Wertz, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 8, 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 stated that the Pluto Emergency Rental Assistance Program (EARP), opened on March 8. He commented that the program is for rental and utility assistance, directly or indirectly associated with COVID-19, for those that meet the income eligibility thresholds. Commissioner Eby said that he, along with Andy Pepper, are heading up the program and that applications are available on the County website and through the Department of Human Services COMPASS system.

Commissioner Eby said the COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program (CHIRP) grant will begin on Monday, March 15th. He said that this grant program provides financial assistance to businesses in the hospitality industry that have been affected by COVID-19. He commented that a webinar would be held on March 11th at 9 a.m. regarding the program and that anyone interested should contact the Commissioners' Office for information. He also stated that the County has partnered with CREDC to administer the grant. 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 Chamber of Commerce has also agreed to provide assistance to business owners with the program.

Commissioner Eby commented that the Historical Society is working to become part of the 9/11 Memorial Trail at the Clark's Ferry Tavern. He said that becoming part of the trail would help to further develop historical tourism in the County.

Jason Finnerty provided information on the Picture Perry survey. He said there are eight surveys total, which the information will be used in the County Comprehensive Plan. He commented that the anyone interested in taking one or all of the surveys can go to the County website or the Tri-County Regional Planning website to take the surveys. Mr. Finnerty said the surveys could also be shared via social media.

Commissioner Eby said that Sadler Health has a reservation system for eligible Perry County residents for vaccination appointments. He said information is available on the County website as well as at

www.sadlerhealth.org/schedule. Commissioner Eby also said that you can call 717-960-6901 to schedule an appointment as well.

Rich Fultz commented that UPMC had a vaccination clinic in the County for pre-register individuals in their system over the past weekend. He commented that the individuals that were contacted for the clinic were Perry and Juniata County residents. He said it was well run and over 350 vaccines were distributed. He said another clinic is being planned in the next two weeks and County residents can register via the UPMC system. Mr. Fultz said the AMI Testing Clinic concluded last week and 150 people were tested. He said that based on the Department of Health website, 25% of the state population have been vaccinated and approximately 10% of Perry County residents have been vaccinated.

Public Comments: Melanie Wertz asked Rich Fultz if the information he had just provided would be posted on the County website. She said the more information made available the better.

Randy Waggoner said he has received inquiries from individuals that have been contacted by solar companies regarding solar farms on their properties. He stated the inquiries Clean and Green law is written that if any alternative energy source is put on a property, the majority of the energy must be used on the property in order to be eligible for the program. He commented that the solar farms provide the energy back to the grid which causes a Clean and Green violation on the entire property. Mr. Waggoner said he anticipates an amendment to the Clean and Green law, but at this time there is not changes. He said that anyone considering a solar farm on their property should give the Assessment Office 30-day advance notice so that they can calculate what the roll-back taxes would be.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contract amendments for Early Intervention, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Mental Health for FY 2020/2021 in the total amount of \$3,205,266. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion and pointed out the average increase of 7% on the state mandated programs that are required to be funded, and said this is another reason why taxes were increased. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Change Order request for the Elevator Modernization Project at a cost of \$14,351. Commissioner Eby 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 Resolution 2021-01 Amended regarding the RACP Single Application submission. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the amended agreement with Anthony Pepper to update his hourly rate from \$26.44 to \$32.00 retroactively to March 2, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Rachel L. Gabner to the position of Full Time U.P.I. Clerk in the Tax Assessment Department effective March 15, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$14.03. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Cheri L. Appleby to the position of Part Time Receptionist in the Chief Clerk's Department effective March 10, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$13.62. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: None

Comments from Press: Jim Ryan asked what percentage of County funds are used for the MH/IDD programs. He also asked what the total contract price was on the courthouse elevator project.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:33 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Current Contract Total	Increase
EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS INC Amendment - Increase due to additional authorized services EI Services - Nutrition; occupational, physical, and speech therapies; special instruction	EI20-0081	\$ 96,323	\$43,143
MATTIKO PEDIATRIC THERAPIES LLC Amendment - Increase due to additional authorized services EI Services - Speech therapy; special instruction	EI20-0096	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
UPMC PINNACLE HOSPITALS, PINNACLE HEALTH INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Amendment - Increase due to additional authorized services EI Services - Diagnostic evaluations; occupational, physical and speech therapies; special instruction	EI20-0005	\$ 235,922	\$ 46,804
KEON ENTERPRISES LLC Amendment - Increase due to additional authorized services IDD Services - Transportation	ID20-0154	\$ 15,000	\$ 11,430
MERAKEY PENNSYLVANIA New / Renewal - Increase from FY 19-20 IDD Services - Community homes (including residential renovations paid for from prior year retained earnings)	ID20-0176	\$ 23,274	\$ 18,274
AURORA SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES Amendment - Increase due to additional services and extension of contract term to June 30, 2021 MH Services - Social rehabilitation	MH20-0015	\$ 168,767	\$ 60,679
NEW VISIONS INC Amendment - Increase due to additional services (specifically for social rehabilitation) MH Services - Community services; consumer driven services; community residential services; housing support; social rehabilitation	MH20-0006	\$ 2,650,980	\$ 16,393