

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**April 19, 2021**

**Present at the meeting were**

**Commissioners:**

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

**Present from the Press:** None

**Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person:** Karen Anderson, Alane Balchunas, Frank Campbell, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Sarah Keller, Wayne Lesher, Marty Malone, Rich Pluta, Cindy Roney, Marty Smith, Sally Tengeres, Susan Washinger, Josh Wilson, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 19, 2021 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted via WebEx telephone/video conference and in person. The meeting was recorded by the County.

**Announcements/Updates:** Jason Finnerty stated that all municipalities had participated in the Picture Perry surveys. He also provided preliminary evaluation data on some of the survey responses regarding a library tax, economic development, and transportation.

Rich Fultz provided statistics on two vaccination clinics that occurred during the past weekend. He stated that recent first dose vaccination clinics are not being filled. Mr. Fultz commented that there will be five upcoming UPMC clinics in the Newport area and mentioned that registration is required. He said approximately 42% of County residents have received their first dose of the vaccine. He commented that this number takes into account the 25% of residents that refuse the vaccine, but does not include children under 18 or those that have the antibodies and are not eligible for the shot. Mr. Fultz also said the County is at a 7% positivity rate and 0.002% COVID death rate. Mr. Fultz provided information on the FEMA Funeral Assistance for COVID related deaths. He stated that interested individuals must call FEMA to register. He commented that all funeral directors have been provided with information on the program. Commissioner Eby stated that information is also on the County website.

Commissioner Allen stated that DCED has approved \$265,699 to the County through the 2020 CDBG Block Grant Program.

**Public Comments:** Wayne Lesher stated that the County has done a poor job communicating COVID vaccine clinic information. Rich Fultz stated that clinic information had been distributed to all municipal offices, the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, local law enforcement, EMS, and Fire organizations. Mr. Fultz also stated that due to the short notices on clinics, he could not get ads in the local newspapers. Mr. Lesher stated that County planning needs to be a priority. He said that as long as the County is focused on ag land preservation, there will not be business growth.

Commissioner Watson encouraged individuals to check the County website or call the Commissioners' Office for current vaccination information.

Sally Tengeres stated that the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives have declared the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> to be Conservation Week. She said the Perry County Conservation District was formed in

1951 and is led by a local Board of volunteers and the District is also part of the County. Ms. Tengeres thanked the Directors, Associate Directors, the Commissioners, and all the partners the District works with, for their dedication to protect and maintain clean water and healthy soils in Perry County.

Cindy Roney commented that other counties have promoted their COVID vaccination clinics on local television news channels and said this was a good option to spread the word about upcoming clinics.

Susan Washinger, from Rye Township and works with Pennsylvania Health Access Network, said that her understanding is that under the America Rescue Act, approximately \$9 million dollars of aid would be allotted to the County. She questioned what opportunities would be available to the public to weigh in on how the funds would be utilized.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to table the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission agreement with the Family Health Council of Central PA, until further information can be obtained. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the Coroner van bid from Lawrence Chevrolet for a 2019 Chevrolet 2500 Express van in the amount of \$25,937. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion tabled.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointments of William Lyons, to the position of Chairman of the Board, and Daniel Cauffman, to the position of Director, on the Ag Land Preservation Board. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of the Treasurer's Office as a Pennsylvania Boat Launch Permit Sales Agent. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Rich Pluta to the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Board. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

Commissioner Eby urged landlords and tenants to take a look at the ERAP Program for rental and utility relief. He commented that information on the assistance program is available on the website and will be ongoing through the end of the year. He also stated that funding will be forthcoming for homeowner mortgage and utility support. Commissioner Eby said when the information becomes available on the new program, it will also be posted on the County website.

**Public Comments:** None

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Watson encouraged residents to look at the County website for current information, and called out the Sunshine Meeting Schedule information for public meetings. She stated that the Prison Board would be meeting to discuss an efficiency study of the facility. She also commented that during the Salary Board meeting scheduled for April 26th, a discussion would occur regarding the creation of

new County positions. Commissioner Watson stated that individuals can also call the Commissioners’ Office for information as well.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 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