

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**April 26, 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, Brandi Clendenin, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Rich Pluta, Bob Ressler, Marty Smith, Logan Swartz, Susan Washinger, Melanie Wertz, Josh Wilson, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 26, 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:** Commissioner Eby provided information on the Emerging Healthcare Professionals: Science of Surgery program available to girls in grades 10 – 12 who are interested in the health careers or research field. The program runs August 9 – 13 at the Whitaker Center. He stated that additional information will be on the County website.

Commissioner Allen read a communication from Glenn Holliman, of the Historical Society of Perry, announcing a grant award of \$38,722 for engineering and architectural planning for the historic green that surrounds the Clark's Ferry Tavern. He also announced that the Watts-Buffalo Community Center had been awarded \$4,250 for rehabilitation projects at the community center.

Rich Fultz stated that currently approximately 16,000 County residents have received some level of vaccination and retail pharmacies continue to administer the vaccine. He said that Perry Physicians had been selected as one of the primary care offices that will continue to stock and administer COVID vaccines. He commented on the five upcoming UPMC clinics and said that clinic information is available on the EMA Facebook page and the County website. Mr. Fultz stated that permission is needed by the organizations holding the clinics as to whether communications, such as press releases, may be released to the public. He said that 46% of those eligible in the County to receive the vaccine have and that this number was very close to the State percentage of 48%. Additionally, Mr. Fultz commented that the positivity rate for the County remains at 7%.

Jason Finnerty stated that 865 Picture Perry surveys have been returned. He said that the Community Facilities and Economic Development surveys have had over 100 responses each. He commented that thirteen municipalities have not yet completed all nine surveys but he has reached out to them to hopefully get their participation. He mentioned that New Buffalo Borough, Millerstown Borough, and Tuscarora Township had the most outstanding surveys. Mr. Finnerty commented that 67% of respondents indicated that more funding needs to be spent to preserve open spaces in the County. He stated that the survey is available on the Perry County Planning Commission website and hardcopies may also be requested through the Commissioners' Office or the Planning Commission Office.

**Public Comments:** Melanie Wertz asked if the Election Board had been selected and who the members and chair of the board would be. She also questioned when the public would receive their mail-in ballots.

Karen Anderson questioned when the Election Board would meet. She said prior notice would be appreciated, since plans were made last minute during last year's election. Ms. Anderson also asked if each party would have an assigned observer on Election Day or would authorization letters from the State be required in order to be an observer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Warrant List(s):** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2020 warrant list in the amount of \$28,556.11. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2021 warrant lists in the total amount of \$754,330.04. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion and mentioned that the warrants lists contained ERAP grant payments. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission agreement with Family Health Council of Central PA for the implementation of a housing program for individuals with substance use disorders in the amount of \$492,468. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and commented that Perry County does not receive housing out of this agreement. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Sheriff's Solicitor Agreement with Robin Holman Loy Esquire at an annual cost of \$14,000. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the lease agreement with Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank Inc. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the engagement letter from Smith, Elliott, Kearns & Company, LLC (SEK) for auditing services in an amount not to exceed \$32,500. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Allen opposed and stated that while he has confidence in SEK, he preferred the Z&A accounting firm due to their experience with other counties and their faster turnaround time. Commissioner Eby stated that he was taking into account the recommendation of the Fiscal Office when making his choice. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Generator Services Proposal with Premium Power Services, LLC for the Prison generator for a total cost of \$1,375. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Children & Youth Services 2020/2021 Purchase of Service Agreement with Twin Family Services, LLC at a rate of \$70/day. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Pennsylvania Department of Human Service - Plans of Safe Care Support Grant Agreement and stated that after the grant funding ends, but consideration on future funding needs to be discussed before taking funds out of the County general fund. Commissioner Watson 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:** Melanie Wertz asked for information on the \$9 million dollars of funding coming to the County through the American Rescue Act. She asked if the public would have input on how the money is spent and when the funding would be coming to the County. Ms. Wertz urged the Commissioners to reach out to the public with information on the funding when it becomes available and stated that many residents will have questions due to the large tax increase County residents received.

Alane Balchunas questioned if the municipalities will receive their own funding through the American Rescue Act.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:38 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