

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

June 14, 2021

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

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

Present from the Press: None

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person: Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Frank Campbell, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Rich Fultz, Wayne Leshner, Dave Magee, Kim McMullen, Rich Pluta, and Craig Sheaffer

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 14, 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 commented that it was Flag Day and to remind everyone to display the American flag.

Commissioner Eby provided an update on the ERAP program. He said that as of May 31, 2021, \$163,140 in rental assistance and \$50,161 in utility assistance, totaling \$213,301 had been distributed. He also commented that \$6,750 had been used for housing stability and \$21,496 was used for program administration.

Public Comments: Dave Magee commented that since it was Flag Day, and also between the Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays, everyone should watch online, the Red Skelton video of the “Pledge Allegiance.” Mr. Magee also stated the Marysville is still dealing with MS4 and doing well. He said that all the County communities in the river valley, are going to get wrapped up in this project and they are not ready. He said there is no funding available for the MS4 project.

Jason Finnerty thanked the Commissioners for putting the Picture Perry survey results on the County website and encouraged everyone to review the results. He stated that he reached out to the municipalities to solicit for projects for inclusion in the County Comprehensive Plan. He said the goal is to get the County’s plan and the municipal plans into one coordinated plan. He said the boroughs and townships can then sign off on one unified plan, similar to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and have it be their comprehensive plan.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Karen Anderson to the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission Community Advisory Board. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion based upon the recommendation of the Drug and Alcohol Commission. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the 2018 and 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement Amendments to add Schuylkill County to the South-Central Pennsylvania Counter Terrorism Task Force. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the appointment of Kimberly Walton to the position of Dispatcher Trainee in the 911 Center at an hourly rate of \$11.84 effective June 15, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: Wayne Lesher asked that due to the recent emergency mandate being lifted by the Legislature, what is the County's position and is the County open. He asked if there are any restrictions and how issues such as individuals that previously had COVID, or verifying employee vaccinations were being addressed.

Rich Fultz stated that since May 30th there were six days with no positive COVID cases reported in the County and all the other days since that date, had confirmed case counts of five or less. Mr. Fultz said no new COVID related deaths have been reported in the County since April 28. He stated that currently 21,904 residents are vaccinated and when you adjust that number to account for the 25% of residents that will not get the vaccine and for the 12 – 18 year old population, the current percentage of eligible County population that have been vaccinated is at 73%. Perry Physicians and Medicine Shoppe can be contacted to get vaccinations for shut-ins.

Commissioner Eby clarified that certain County departments are continuing, at their discretion, admitting certain numbers of individuals in their office at a time to allow for social distancing. He also stated that work release is still not occurring at the Prison. Commissioner Eby did reiterate that the County is open for business.

Commissioner Watson stated that the Commissioners had been notified at the last minute that municipalities needed to submit applications for the ARA funds in order to be eligible to receive the grant funding. She said that the Commissioners reached to each municipality personally to alert them of this requirement and thanked them for their cooperation to get the application process completed.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary