

# COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

June 28, 2021

## Present at the meeting were

### Commissioners:

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

**Present from the Press:** None

**Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person:** Alane Balchunas, Mary Ann Brownawell, Jared Charles, Noah Cline, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Kristin Daneker, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Sara Fritz, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Sarah Keller, Wayne Leshar, Dave Magee, John Matter, Kathleen Niedermeyer, Rich Pluta, PCEDA, Amy Reed, Eugene Shetterly, Ryan Simon, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Richard Teats, Alyson Thebes, Todd Trostle, Susan Washinger, Wendy Welfley, Josh Wilson, Greg Wirth, and Christina Zook

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 28, 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.

A public hearing was held in the Commissioners Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of public input for distribution of the FY 2021-2022 Human Services Development Funds (HSDF). HSDF affords counties the opportunity to develop services tailored to meet particular needs of individuals that may not be met within the categorical fund structure for low-income adults. Four organizations had requested funding through HSDF. Discussion occurred regarding the funding requests received.

The Board of Commissioners presented certificates of recognition to Wes Smith, EMA/911 Center Deputy Director, and John Matter, 911 Dispatcher for their professionalism and service during former Sheriff Steven Hile's medical emergency in 2019.

**Public Comments:** Dave Magee announced that the Marysville Borough and the Marysville Lions Club will be signing a joint lease on the operation and maintenance of the Lions Club Park. He said the signing will be taking place on Wednesday, June 30 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lions Club. He said this partnership is a big step to making the park a better facility for residents.

Richard Teats, Mayor of Liverpool, stated that he had received numerous phone calls regarding the Liverpool Senior Citizens' Center and the lack of a service agreement with the County. He commented that based on his research the contract is for less funding than previous years by a couple hundred dollars. Mr. Teats asked if there could be consideration for an extension or temporary agreement until there could be further discussion on the issue. He questioned if all the senior center contracts were for less funding. He commented that the individuals that had called him said the senior center is a value to the community and he does not want to see the center close. Mr. Teats asked what needed to happen in order to keep the center open. Greg Wirth, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, explained that the new agreement was presented to all the County senior centers a year ago and they were aware of the contract requirements. He further explained that the new contract would actually allow the centers to earn more funding than previously, as it was based on the services provided to residents. Mr. Teats again asked what action needed to happen to keep the center open. Alyson Thebes, from the Area Agency on Aging, said that it was the senior center board's decision as to whether the center closes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the agreement to provide professional consulting services with Maximus for cost allocation plan services at a cost of \$12,500. He commented that Maximus translates cost allocations that are reimbursable back to the County from the State and Federal government. Commissioner Eby further stated that Maximus is the firm the County is required to use, as they have been appointed by the Commonwealth for the services. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Security Microfilm Program Disposition and Release Form with the Pennsylvania State Archives for the Register & Recorder's Office. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the service agreement with Zix for email encryption services at a cost of \$5,025. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Amy Reed, from EDSI, explained the program and the valuable work experience that the students receive from participation with employers. Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve participation in the EDSI Summer Program for student workers. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the following Senior Citizens' Center agreements. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Newport Senior Citizens' Center
- Millerstown Senior Citizens' Center
- Central Perry Senior Citizens' Center
- Duncannon Senior Citizens' Center

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Eby, based upon the recommendation of the Court Administrator, made a motion to approve the appointment of Lori Glatz to the position of Full Time Clerk in the Magisterial District Judge's Office at an hourly rate of \$14.03 effective July 6, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the transfer of Mary Kessler to the position of Full Time Clerk in the Magisterial District Judge's Office at an hourly rate of \$14.03 effective July 6, 2021. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the terminations of Jamie Rapp and Daniel Carlson from the position of Part Time Corrections Officer at the Perry County Prison effective June 28, 2021. Commissioner Watson commented that these individuals have not worked in some time and have been unavailable for work shifts. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby, based on the recommendation of the Department Head, made a motion to approve the termination of Scott Sweger, Part Time Dispatcher Trainee, in the 911 Center retroactively effective June 12, 2019. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Brian Hockenberry to the position of Part Time Dispatcher Trainee in the 911 Center effective June 29, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$11.84. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Bunt stated that Area Agency on Aging Director Wirth would be willing to discuss the senior center issue that was voiced previously after the meeting.

**Public Comments:** Greg Wirth stated that the intention is not to close the senior center, but without a signed contract the Area Agency on Aging is not able to provide funding to the center. Mr. Teats

questioned if there was a way around this issue, as he is willing to work to find a resolution. Commissioner Eby stated that he does not want the senior center to close.

Rich Fultz stated that the demand for COVID vaccines remains low and people continue to slowly get vaccinated. He also commented that the mask mandate has been lifted in Pennsylvania. Mr. Fultz said that the number of positive cases continue to shrink and the number of COVID related deaths remain static.

Dave Magee thanked the Commissioners for approving the participation in the EDSI student program. He said he had a very favorable experience with the program.

Wayne Leshner questioned if the County is actively planning for water and sewer services in the County. Jason Finnerty stated that the boroughs and townships have been contacted for insight on what the needs are throughout the County to include water and sewer needs. Mr. Leshner commented on the tax increases that have occurred. He said if you want to offer more services to County residents than the tax base needs to be increased. Mr. Leshner stated that you cannot increase the tax base by preserving farmland and allowing ten-acre parcels in the clean and green program. He said there is inequity in the taxes and the County needs to spearhead this effort.

Commissioner Watson commented on the recent dedication event for Greenwood Agriculture Educator, Krista Pontius. She said the event was attended by many people and Ms. Pontius was recognized for her impact on students and the community. Commissioner Watson stated that Ms. Pontius absolutely deserved the recognition and award.

**Comments from the Press:** None

Commissioner Allen commented that Salary Board would follow.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Brenda L. Watson, Secretary