

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
August 16, 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: Natalie Barkley, Paul Britcher, Dr. Liz Bosak, Erin Comp, Polly Eby, Jason Finnerty, Becky Kaucher, Sarah Keller, Darwin Kitner, Dave Magee, Ayla Miller, Roger Miller, Krista Pontius, Donna Scherer, Jim Scott, Kristie Smith, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 16, 2021 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted in person at the Perry County Fairgrounds, Newport. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Eby provided information on the upcoming American Rescue Plan Information Session that is being hosted for all the County municipalities. He said the meeting will take place on August 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Perry Mennonite Reception Center. He encouraged everyone involved with their boroughs and townships to attend. Commissioner Eby also that additional public meetings will occur throughout the County at future dates, for public input on how the County funds should be allocated.

Kristie Smith, Conservation District Watershed Specialist and Recycling Program Coordinator, said that recycling would be offered at the fair to collect plastic drink containers and aluminum cans. She stated that the recycling was through Cocolamus Creek Disposal. Ms. Smith also commented on the Cocoyam's upcoming Tire War event scheduled for September 18th at the Loysville Community Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and said all tires would be recycled through Mahantango Enterprises. She provided information on the "The Backyard Bunch" and "Toxic Plants" fair displays. Ms. Smith also mentioned that there would be information provided about the spotted lantern fly at the Conservation District booth as well.

Jim Scott questioned when electronic recycling would be held. Ms. Smith said that electronic recycling is available at the Dauphin County Recycling Center located at 1625 S. Cameron Street in Harrisburg and said their phone number is 717-982-6772. She commented that Perry County residents may take their recycling there and provide their zip code. Ms. Smith said this contract is good for the remainder of the year and said that a \$20 fee is charged for refrigerant type items, such as air conditioners.

Donna Scherer, from Penn State Extension, provided information on the Serve Safe Program. She said to call the Extension Office for additional information or to schedule a class. She also said that virtual training on the Spotted Lantern Fly, Swine Health Monitoring, and Pesticide Education are ongoing.

Dr. Liz Bosak, from Penn State Extension, said that Pesticide Applicator Training were held online or via the mail due to COVID. She said many ag businesses continued their winter meetings as well utilizing the videos she had prerecorded. She said 3,900 people participated in the pesticide applicator trainings. Dr. Bosak stated that she coordinates on-farm research sites, in Perry and Dauphin County, which are look at slugs and is funded by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board. She commented that Perry Corn Day would be held on January 28th at the Perry Mennonite Reception Center. She said other in person training is expected to resume. She said spotted

lantern flies are in the adult phase now and swarm. Dr. Bosak said if you see adult spotted lantern flies to please smash them. She said the eggs masses are laid shortly after the adults appear.

Becky Kaucher, representing the 4-H Programs, said there are 84 exhibitors at the fair, and of that number 75 are youth. She stated that the animal entries include: 75 dairy cattle, 28 dairy goats, 8 market steers, 40 market goats, 26 market lambs, 46 market hogs, and 85 rabbits. Ms. Kaucher said the community clubs will also be a part of the fair and exhibits are in the lower red building. She commented that an in-person Day Camp was held over the summer and 23 campers attended. She also said three 4-H Project Fun Days were held at Little Buffalo State Park. Ms. Kaucher also introduced Erin Comp, the Summer Assistant. She said in November the Farm City Program will be held and she hoped that the 4th grade Nutrition Program and the Embryology Program would be able to be held in person in the schools. Ms. Kaucher said the current membership is 130 4-H members, 39 leaders, and 13 team leaders, which she said will hopefully increase face to face activities resume.

Jim Scott asked about the European wasps that he is seeing on his property. Dr. Bosak said she believes they are actually hornets and they do suck sap from plants. She said they can nest in the ground at the base of plants and also in structures. She recommended calling a professional insect exterminator to remove a large nest due to their aggressive nature.

Sally Tengeres, Director of the Perry County Conservation District, stated that the Chesapeake Bay Technician had been tasked with conducting over fifty farm visits per year to evaluate if operators are adhering to state regulations. She said that the technician has found that about 40% of operators are in compliance when she arrives for the visit and 99% are in compliance three months after the visit. Ms. Tengeres said that the District is working on a county-wide Watershed Implementation Plan to help reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus getting into streams. She said the final draft will be presented during a virtual meeting on September 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Ms. Tengeres said the link to the meeting will be posted on the County website as well as the Conservation District website and encouraged participation in the meeting. She said the No-Till Drill Program continues and a new fee structure has been implemented. Ms. Tengeres stated that about twenty farmers participated in a Perry County No-Till meeting in August and a grazing group meeting is in the works. She stated that 69 farms have been preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program to date and she is working on additional donations for 2022 which will put the total number of preserved acres in the County over 10,000. Ms. Tengeres said that Perry County is ranked first in the state for the most farms donated and preserved.

Krista Pontius, Greenwood Agricultural Educator, stated that there are approximately 400 FFA members in Perry County. She commented that Emma O'Toole, a West Perry student, will be participating at the national level for public speaking. Ms. Pontius said that Newport students will be competing in parliamentary procedure and Greenwood would be competing in the conduct of chapter meeting at nationals. She said even with the challenges of last year, the students are resilient and had success. The Perry County FFA Alumni will be holding their Sixth Annual Farm to Fork Dinner on September 18th which raises money for the County FFA students. Ms. Pontius said to speak to any FFA Advisor for additional information and tickets. She also said that the cooperative agriculture program with Susquenita continues, but no students are utilizing the program in the coming school year.

Public Comments: Dave Magee commented on the positive experience he had at the Millerstown Senior Citizens Center.

Jim Scott said that if anyone has family or friends that are veterans to please contact his office for information and assistance. He also provided information on the Military Share Program which occurs the last Thursday of each month at the New Bloomfield VFW. He said the program provided food to veterans and their families.

Darwin Kitner welcomed everyone to the 2021 Perry County Fair. He mentioned that the parking lot grass was not mowed due to the predicted rain for the upcoming week. He reported that water and sewer are now on the fair property and work will continue to keep this project moving. Mr. Kitner provided information on the entertainment that will be happening during the week of the fair. He said the decision to not hold the fair last year was very difficult but was extremely happy to be at the fair this year.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant lists (8/5/21, 8/13/21, and 8/17/21) in the total amount of \$442,212.43. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the happening 2021/2022 Perry County Intermediate Punishment grant with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in the amount of \$98,699. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. Roger Miller, Chief Probation Officer, stated that the grant has been received since 2012 and funds the electronic monitoring program, as well as salary/benefits of a staff member. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Contract for Pass Through Funding with the Perry County Area Agency on Aging for the Pennsylvania Link program. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Greg Wirth, Director the Area Agency on Aging, provided information on the Link program and stated that the funding has been extremely cut since last year.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the reappointment of June Hertzler to the MH/IDD Advisory Board. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Letter of Interest for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Grant Program. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Agenda item 10 (HOME Program) was tabled by Commissioner Allen pending further information.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the retirement of Charles Ruhle, Full Time Correctional Officer, at the Perry County Prison effective September 30, 2021. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Warden Barclay commented on Mr. Ruhle's years of service to the County.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the transfer of Hilary Caldwell to the position of Full Time Clerk in the Probation Department effective August 16, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$15.06. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to table the distribution of CDBG allocations that were awarded at last week's Commissioners' meeting, pending further clarification. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Commissioner Eby stated that none of the projects were in jeopardy, but additional information is needed before distribution can occur.

Public Comments: Commissioner Watson reminded everyone that the next Commissioners' meeting, scheduled for August 23rd, will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Landisburg Fire Hall.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:49 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary