

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
August 23, 2021

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

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

Present from the Press: None

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person: Larry Baum Sr., Polly Eby, Francis Ewing, Jason Finnerty, Rich Fultz, Bryan Keller, Sarah Keller, Dan Kirk, Holly Kirk, Denise Kuntz, N. S. Lippincott, Carl Nace, Jason Nace, Deb Rock, Linda Rock, Susan Washinger, Jim Wilson

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on August 23, 2021 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted in person and via telephone/video conference at the Landisburg Fire Company. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Allen informed the attendees that the Commissioners would be holding an American Rescue Plan Information Session and dinner on August 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the Perry Mennonite Reception Center in Elliottsburg. He said the session was for municipalities and encouraged anyone involved with their township or borough to attend.

Commissioner Eby provided historical information about the Borough of Landisburg to include the fact that Landisburg was originally the county seat, until 1823 when it was moved to Bloomfield.

Public Comments: Jason Finnerty provided an update on the County Comprehensive Plan process. He said that the Picture Perry survey was completed and is available on the County website. Mr. Finnerty said he had reached out to all the municipalities to get an idea of their projects for the next 10 years and he is trying to get buy in from all the municipalities to recognize the County Comprehensive Plan for their own use. He commented that it makes financial sense for municipalities to sign onto the County Comprehensive Plan as it does not require them to go out and develop their own plans. Mr. Finnerty encouraged boroughs and townships to participate in the County Comprehensive Plan.

Jim Wilson asked for a broadband update. He also questions if the tower locations had already been determined.

Mayor Francis Ewing provided information on Landisburg. She reiterated the Landisburg was originally the county seat and said that the town needs funding or the history will be lost. Mayor Ewing said previously the Commissioners, Senator Corman, and SEDA-COG had been instrumental in helping the borough receive funding. She said no recent funding had been received and asked the Commissioners to help them attain funding for the town. She commented that the crosswalks need attention to make them more visible, the sidewalks are in need of repairs, and the sewer plant needs work. Mayor Ewing asked who received the grant information.

Denise Kuntz questioned how a municipality goes about joining the County Comprehensive Plan. Jason Finnerty said each year the County Planning Commission sends out the Local Planning Assistance forms to all boroughs and townships. He said any municipality that is interested needs to fill out the paperwork and provide

payment at which point you are a partner in the plan and receive a copy of the plan. Mr. Finnerty encouraged active participation in the plan creation so that a municipality's projects are part of the plan and are more apt to receive grants. Ms. Kuntz asked if the grant information and communications are sent to the borough's secretary or treasurer.

Larry Baum commented that he is very interested in Wednesday night's ARA Information Session as he has been unable to get clarification from the State.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Eby presented a Proclamation to H.R. Wentzel Sons Inc. for 150 years of continued business in Perry County. Dan and Holly Kirk accepted the Proclamation.

Sarah Keller, from Senator John DiSanto's Office, presented certificates of recognition to the Kirk's for the continued business of H.R. Wentzel Sons Inc.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the reappointment of Matthew Campbell to the South-Central Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the agreement with CGL Companies for an operational review of the Perry County Prison at a cost of \$46,330. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Rich Fultz, EMA/911 Director, provided information on the emergency services cooperation between Perry and Cumberland County and explained that the interface will allow dispatchers in both Counties to communicate more effectively. Carl Nace confirmed the cooperation between the two counties and said the interface would help the process. Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the CAD to CAD Interface with Cumberland 911. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Dominic Fry to the position of Full Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective August 29, 2021 at an hourly rate of \$21.50. Commissioner Watson stated that the Warden said Mr. Fry would be a good addition to the full-time complement. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion and said the appointment was not an addition to the complement but instead replaced a retiree. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: Jason Nace asked if the American Rescue Act funds can be utilized for fire companies and EMS organizations.

Commissioner Watson provided a broadband update and said that work was ongoing to get all four school districts together to talk about broadband. She said the schools are getting broadband funding and the County would like to partner with them to ensure service overlaps do not occur. Commissioner Watson said a township has reached out to join in the broadband project as well.

Jim Wilson questioned if the broadband funds that the local school districts would be receiving, must be used for broadband. He also asked if townships could work with the County on the broadband project.

Commissioner Eby provided an update on the American Rescue Act funds and said that this funding is different than the CARES Act funds since the money must be allocated by 2024, but not spent on the project until 2026. He cautioned on duplicating funding and said additional funding would be rolled out in the future.

Holly Kirk thanked the Commissioners and Sarah Keller for the recognition.

Dan Kirk stated that Jason Finnerty is a true asset to the County and performs many duties that go unnoticed.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary