

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

December 6, 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: Jim Ryan

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person: Alane Balchunas, Rich Fultz, Sarah Keller, Wayne Leshner, Rich Pluta, Marty Smith, Josh Wilson, and Greg Wirth

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on December 6, 2021 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx telephone/video conference in the Commissioners Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Eby reminded everyone of the Be Heard, Be Healthy survey and encouraged participation. He said information on the survey was available on the County website and stressed the importance of the survey in ascertaining the healthcare needs of the County.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 29, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant lists dated December 3, 2021 and December 7, 2021 in the total amount of \$515,525.62. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the amended agreement with Nutrition Inc. for congregate, home-delivered, frozen, and shelf stable meal services. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program agreement. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby, with regrets, made a motion to accept the retirement of Shirley Knisley, Full Time Cook, at the Perry County Prison effective December 18, 2021. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Emily Swann to the position of unpaid intern in the District Attorney's Office effective January 3, 2022. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt commented on the passing of former County employee, Pat Prosser. He said she worked for the County for many years, in the Prothonotary's Office and also as the Director of Domestic Relations.

Public Comments: Alane Balchunas said she had read in the local newspaper about the broadband project being paused and thanked Commissioner Watson for her thoughtful, careful approach to the project.

Commissioner Watson thanked Alane for her comment and said she wants to ensure the broadband funds are used in the best way possible. She commented that she was still reviewing information from another county. She also stated that CenturyLink is not moving out of the County, but they have been bought out by another company. Commissioner Watson said she is hoping to have additional information in the future and will provide updates.

Wayne Leshner stated that it may be in the best interest of the Commissioners to form an advisory committee from different areas of the County with individuals that deal with the broadband issues every day. He said the people that deal with the issues should have input into the project.

Comments from the Press: Jim Ryan stated that he noticed that the County had dramatically closed the deficit in the published draft budget. He asked how this had been accomplished. Mr. Ryan also questioned if there are any anticipated changes to the tax rates.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:13 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary