

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

February 7, 2022

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

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

Present from the Press: Jim Ryan

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person: Malinda Anderson, Karen Barclay, Mary Ann Brownawell, Frank Campbell, Crystal Failor, Rich Fultz, Taira Little, Rich Pluta, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Rob Troxell, Randy Waggoner, and Susan Washinger

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 2022 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: None

Public Comments: Malinda Anderson with the Bloomfield Borough attended the PCEDA meeting last week in which they talked about the Main Street initiative launch. One of the first steps is to initiate green space to allow for community connection while enhancing our downtown. Ms. Anderson wanted to plant the seed that there may be a possibility the borough and the county could work together for a lease of the green space in the park for events. PCEDA had design plans for the borough but some of the property was neither borough nor county. They need to work with businesses to enhance parking and without parking people will not come. Just getting to started to launch their grant in a month or so. This is something to consider.

Taira Little stated that there will be a meeting on February 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber office for the Chamber and PCEDA. People are encouraged to stop by and meet with the board members to learn more about these organizations. Please call the Chamber office to register for this meeting.

Susan Washinger asked for information on how the ARPA funds are being spent, how the decision process is handled for the funding and how the funds can be spent in the future.

Rob Troxell asked about the Broadband expansion.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to award the bid for the Prison washers and dryers to CILS, Inc. in the amount of \$35,400.00. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the Clear Ballot proposal for the Spring Election services. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None. Solicitor Bunt did note that the Bargaining Unit at the Prison did not approve the contract at the last bargaining session.

Public Comments: None

Comments from the Press: Jim Ryan questioned the Broadband research in the western part of Pennsylvania. Commissioner Watson answered by saying there are counties that went together to form 501C3's and are working together to provide Broadband to their counties. They not only are pulling funding together but resources which is proving very successful in other counties. Mr. Ryan asked if the Commissioners expect to make a decision to award the contracts in the near future concerning the ARPA funding.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn at 10:18 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Gladys Carns, Deputy Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary