

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
February 28, 2022

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: Patty Broadwater, Grace Broadwater, Polly Eby, Stan Good, Joyce Lesh, Jim Scott, Rich Stees, and Brian Webster

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on February 28, 2022 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx telephone/video conference at the Marysville Lions Club. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Eby commented that the County had formed a grant committee to assist municipalities and organizations with grants. He said the committee will also act as a clearinghouse and help keep track of grant applications by different organizations throughout the County. He requested that any organization or municipality that has applied for grant funding alert the Commissioners Office so that the committee can keep an inventory of what grants have been applied for. Commissioner Eby stated that there would be a lot of grant opportunities for municipalities through the Infrastructure Bill. He commented that these grants would be competitive and again urged everyone to alert the Commissioners Office of an interest in a grant, as there are times organizations can work together to apply for the grant. He also urged that you give the Commissioners' Office as much notice as possible on grant interest so that assistance can be given.

Commissioner Eby reminded the public that the Homeowners' Assistance Program is available to assist homeowners with mortgage payments, taxes, and utility payments. He said information on the program is available on the County website. He commented that the grant program is being administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, but said that if anyone needs help applying, or has been denied, to please reach out to him directly for assistance.

Public Comments: Jim Scott, Veterans Affairs Director, stated he is attending the evening Commissioners' meetings to make himself available to answer questions on benefits for veterans or their family members.

Stan Good commented that his comments on the February 14th minutes did not capture his entire comments. He said that at the previous meeting, he had stated that County residents could check the Better Business Bureau website for complaints on ZITO media or file a Right to Know request with the Pennsylvania Attorney General Consumer Protection Office to get information. He said these comments were not included in the previous minutes. He also said that Commissioner Watson's comment that she would rather speak face to face with ZITO customers about their complaints, rather than rely on reviews by disgruntled customers, was not included. He requested that this information be added to the February 14th meeting minutes. Mr. Good stated that he had read in previous meeting minutes that Commissioner Watson had provided information on other counties that were merging broadband projects and said this was a good idea and could possibly result in additional companies being interested in the project.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting with the corrections/additions as stated during public comment. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant list dated 3/1/2022 in the amount of \$547,136.94. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Solicitor Bunt stated that bids for a no-till drill for Soil Conservation were opened at 10:00 a.m. that morning, as advertised. He said one bid was received from Zimmerman Farm Service in Bethel for a Esch 5612 at a cost of \$44,000. Solicitor Bunt stated that the bid information had been given to the Soil Conservation District for review and possible action at a future meeting pending funding through the Commonwealth. Stan Good asked if the new drill was in addition to what the District already had or if it was a replacement.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02 authorizing the submission of a RACP grant application for the Clark's Ferry Tavern Restoration Project. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Eby made a motion to accept the resignation of Melissa Strawser, Office Manager in the Probation Department, effective February 23, 2022. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the promotion of Tyler Holmes to the position of Caseworker 2 in the Children & Youth Services Department effective March 1, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$22.48. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: None

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Eby commented on the young person in attendance and said it is a pleasure to see young people taking an interest in local government. He said he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary