

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

May 23, 2022

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

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: Karen Barclay, Mary Ann Brownawell, Brandi Clendenin, Crystal Failor, Jason Finnerty, Jan Gibboney, Stan Good, Michelle Jones, Sarah Keller, Heather Kelly-Weisen, Taira Little, Dave Magee, Wes Smith, Rob Troxell

Commissioner Eby opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 23, 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: Commissioner Eby provided information on the Housing Assistance Program for Homeowners that need help with mortgage and utilities. He said the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Authority is administering the program. He encourages anyone that experiences delays with the program to please contact him directly for assistance.

Commissioner Eby provided information on the following Memorial Day celebrations occurring over the upcoming holiday weekend:

Saturday, May 28, 2022

Blain event – 10:00 a.m.

Ickesburg Memorial Gardens – 10:30 a.m.

Eschol Parade – paraded kicks off at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Newport Square – 3:00 p.m.

Monday, May 30, 2022

New Bloomfield Parade – parade kicks off at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Eby reminded attendees that there would be no meeting on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

Public Comments: Dave Magee commented that his nephew, Mike Rudy, would be a speaker at the New Bloomfield Memorial Day ceremony. He also complimented Veterans Affairs Director, Jim Scott, for the work he did to help a family member of his family. He said the County is lucky to have Mr. Scott. Mr. Magee said that grant approval from DEP was recently received. He said he was told that an extension of the project would probably not be possible. He said that Heather Kelly-Weisen, SEDA-COG, has not approved the funding yet.

He said that nothing can be done until the June meeting, which will push back the project until the last week of August. Mr. Magee said that it will be difficult to finish the project by October and hoped that consideration of the project will be taken into account.

Michelle Jones stated that meeting of the Downtown Committee for the revitalization project would be resuming in New Bloomfield on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the EDA Office. She said the schedule of all meetings are on the EDA website and are open to the public.

Commissioner Watson reminded everyone that the Commissioners' Roundtable event was scheduled for May 25th at the Ranch House restaurant at 8:30 a.m.

Commissioner Eby urged attendance at the Chamber of Commerce sponsored roundtable event.

Stan Good, from Buffalo Township, said his township was already creating a comprehensive plan and asked if the township need to eliminate their plan and go on the County Comprehensive Plan.

Jason Finnerty, from Tri-County Regional Planning, explained that the County is not obligating the municipalities to participate and eliminate their local comprehensive plans. He commented that it is being offered to unify the planning approach in the County and facilitate all municipalities falling under one plan. He said Buffalo Township is already working with him and he mentioned that he recently sent a letter out to all municipalities soliciting inclusion in the County Comprehensive Plan.

Stan Good asked if the townships have the opportunity to comment on the plan if they do not agree with certain aspects of it.

Jason Finnerty confirmed that the municipalities have every opportunity to comment. He said the draft documents are on the website and he welcomes feedback. Mr. Finnerty said that he has reviewed the municipalities' individual comprehensive plans to include information from them in the County plan.

Commissioner Eby encouraged municipalities to participate. He said a comprehensive plan is a vital element in being considered for grant funding as grantors are looking for projects that are consistent with a comprehensive plan.

Heather Kelly-Weisen, from SEDA-COG, said that she would be discussing a Professional and Administrative Services Agreement later in the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to ratify the actions taken at the May 16, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$559,206.10. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion and said \$463,024.58 of the total was from the general fund. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-09 Supporting the Application and Participation in the Main Street Designation with the Perry County Economic Development Authority. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Michelle Jones stated that this was the last step before submitting the application.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Michael Hartley to the Perry County Planning Commission. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Jason Finnerty commented that Mr. Hartley will be an asset to the Commission.

Heather Kelly-Weisen, SEDA-COG, provided information to the Commissioners regarding the Professional & Administrative Service Agreement for CDBG-CV and 2021 CDBG.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to the Professional & Administrative Services Agreement with SEDA-COG for CDBG-CV. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Professional & Administrative Services Agreement with SEDA-COG for FY 2021 CDBG. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 21/22 Children & Youth Purchase of Service Agreement. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Alternative Rehabilitation Communities, INC.- JPO Rates from \$217-72 - \$431.68/ day- NEW CONTRACT

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the retirement of Bradley Lesh, Full Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison, effective June 6, 2022. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Warden Barclay thanked Mr. Lesh for his 31 years of service.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt stated that he had received multiple emails on how election results should be counted and he is awaiting further guidance from the State. He said the issue centers around the outside envelope of mail-in and absentee ballots. He also provided an update on the opioid litigation. Solicitor Bunt said a national administrator had been appointed and petitions are in front of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania asking for consent decrees to be confirmed, but it is unknown when this will happen. He said that after the decrees are confirmed the Attorney General's Office will be in touch regarding distribution of the funds. He reiterated that there is no time frame on this process.

Public Comments: Stan Good asked if the information Solicitor Bunt provided regarding the election will interfere with the recount for two Republican candidates.

Michelle Jones, from the Perry County Economic Development Authority, thanked the Commissioners for approving Resolution 2022-09 and supporting the Main Street Program.

Commissioner Eby stated that a fundraising dinner to benefit the Clark's Ferry Tavern would be held on June 3rd. He said tickets cost \$50 and anyone interested should reach out to him.

Commissioner Watson commented on the FFA banquets they had attended over the past several weeks. She recognized the public speaking and leadership skills demonstrated by the students. She said the invitations to each event were much appreciated and the students in the FFA programs should be recognized for their accomplishments and skills.

Commissioner Eby seconded Commissioner Watson's remarks and said he looks forward to working with the FFA students as they go into their communities and take on leadership roles.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary