

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

May 16, 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: Jim Ryan

Present from the Public via WebEx Video/Telephone or In Person: Brandi Clendenin, Jason Finnerty, Brian Foster, Jon Fox, Pat Gutheil, Dan Kilgore, and Rob Troxell

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 16, 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 Penn Township Municipal Building. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Eby commented on the Envirothon event held last week in cooperation with the Soil Conservation District and the county school districts. He said the event was held at the Hall Farm in Millerstown and it was a good experience for the youth that participated.

Commissioner Eby stated that Perry County had reached the milestone of having 10,000 acres of land preserved through the Farmland Preservation Program.

Commissioner Eby noted that the PA Department of Agriculture had awarded \$2.45 million of grant funding for 23 projects throughout the State. He said Perry County had 2 projects that received funding through the grant and both were for the LEAF Program. He commented that \$38,124 went for socially disadvantaged youth to cultivate garden plots, and \$79,130 was allotted to diversified vegetable pre-apprenticeship program. Commissioner Eby said only 5 counties in the Commonwealth received funding through the grant. He recognized Spiral Path Farms for being one of the farms to receive funding.

Commissioner Allen reminded attendees that the next day was Primary Election Day and encouraged people to vote.

Jason Finnerty stated that the Picture Perry Comprehensive Plan process is ongoing. He said the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission website has a link to the plan document and information has begun to be posted. Mr. Finnerty said the plan components continue to be compiled. He commented that the purpose of the plan is to have one cohesive comprehensive plan for all County municipalities. He said projects are being collected from municipalities for inclusion in the plan and the deadline is September 30th. Mr. Finnerty encouraged participation in the effort and said non-for-profits should also submit projects so that the plan is all inclusive.

Commissioner Watson said municipalities, school districts, and other organizations should pay attention to the importance of the Comprehensive Plan and sign on. She said that the Commissioners will help those municipalities and organizations that are part of the County Comprehensive Plan. She commented that the Comprehensive Plan will aid municipalities in pursuing grant funding. Commissioner Watson stated that those interested in being a part of the County Comprehensive Plan should reach out to Jason Finnerty.

Public Comments: Dr. Pat Gutheil, Watts Township Planning Commission, said Mr. Finnerty has spoken to their township and the plan is extremely important. She commented that Watts Township is on board with the County Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Eby thanked Watts Township for being proactive and a part of the plan. He said they are one of only 8 municipalities that have signed on to the County Comprehensive Plan to date and encouraged other municipalities to participate.

Dan Kilgore said he has been active in the drug and alcohol community for 40 years and help put in the drug and alcohol systems in York, Pennsylvania and also in Maryland. He provided additional information on his experience. He said he learned about the Just for Today program. Mr. Kilgore presented information to the Commissioners and said he would like to donate his property and personal funds to get a drug and alcohol program started in Perry County. He commented that drawings would follow in 2 weeks. He stated that drug court is extremely important and those that go through drug court have higher sobriety success rates. Mr. Kilgore also presented an article from TIME Magazine. He said the County could possibly be a part of the process.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2022 Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-08 Authorizing the Creation of a Perry County Grants Advisory Group. He said this group will help the Commissioners set priorities and vet submitted grant applications. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson, based on the Department Head's recommendation, made a motion to approve the appointment of Rachael Shott, to the position of Full Time Probation Officer in the Probation Department, effective May 31, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$22.48. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Eby, upon review of the resume and Warden's recommendation, made a motion to approve the appointment of Matthew Shoemaker to the position of Full Time Correctional Officer, at the Perry County Prison, effective May 17, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$20.83. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Karen Kunick to the position of Part Time Law Clerk in the Judges' Chamber effective May 23, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$25.18. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: Pat Gutheil said that due to the large amount of title theft, she questioned if it would be possible for the County to partner with Life Lock and allow the public to opt in or opt out. She said that the County would possibly be able to get a better price.

Jason Finnerty corrected his former comment and said that July 31st would be the deadline to submit projects for the Comprehensive Plan and September 30th was the deadline for municipalities to sign on to the plan.

Comments from the Press: Jim Ryan asked how many individuals would be on the Perry County Grants Advisory Group. He also asked who would be on the group.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Brenda L. Watson, Secretary