

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

July 31, 2023

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

Brian S. Allen – Chairman
Brenda L. Watson – Vice Chairman
Larry F. Reisinger – Secretary
William R. Bunt - Solicitor
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk

Present from the Press: Paul Wyatt

Present from the Public in Person or via WebEx: Tim Albright, Kaye Bitting, Douglas Brubaker, Frank Campbell, Kristie Gantt, Sarah Geesaman, George Gochenaur, Dr. Pat Gutheil, Jason Harvey, Douglas Hockenberry, Randy Kessler, David Lanza, Nathan Lesh, Bill Lyons, Crista Lyons, John McNaughton, Michael Pelino, Rich Pluta, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Richard Reisinger, Robert Ressler, Bill Roberts, Chris Sheaffer, Keith Sheaffer, James Swenson, Michelle Thebes, Rob Troxell, and Randy Waggoner

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on July 31, 2023 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 Allen reminded attendees that the Perry County Fair was coming up soon. He also reminded everyone that the Commissioners would be holding their public meeting on August 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

Public Comments: Douglas Hockenberry asked why the Commissioners minutes do not include a Treasurer/financial report or the responses from the Commissioners to public comments. He asked questions about the ARPA funds and questioned what has been done to help businesses and residents, when do the funds need to be used, and are they comingled with other funds. Mr. Hockenberry questioned how drug testing is handled within the County and if contractors fall under that policy. He asked if Vision is using County space and who is paying for it. He questioned what the total was of the County's reserve funds and said he had received a 30-day extension to the right to know that was submitted for the amount.

Chris Sheaffer asked if the contract for the reassessment had been put out for bids prior to being approved. She also questioned if citizens were given notice that the reassessment was taking place through meetings, newspaper, or social media posts. She said having strangers on your property without prior notice can be very alarming. Ms. Sheaffer further stated that a small meeting setting is not the best way to communicate to the residents of the County and does not reach the population.

Richard Reisinger said that PennLive would have been a better way to advise the public of the reassessment. He said a mailer would have been an effective way to notify residents of the reassessment.

Chris Sheaffer asked what the logic was to pick now to do a reassessment due to the real estate market being at an all time high. She further stated that the markets are projected to come down in the near future and said assessing them now is not a true assessment.

Michael Pelino said that \$1.7 million dollars is being spent on the reassessment and asked what type of returns the County is looking to get. He said his property has not changed and asked what the County is trying to catch. Mr. Pelino said the Commissioners' meeting should be held in the evening and asked what it takes to get meetings rescheduled to a more convenient time.

Randy Kessler said a petition is being circulated to move the Commissioners meetings to the evenings. He asked how many signature the Commissioners would require before they reschedule their meetings. Mr. Kessler further asked if the Commissioners would vote to move their meetings to the evening now.

Michael Pelino asked if the agenda for the next meeting could include the topic of rescheduling the Commissioners meeting.

Tim Albright said he was in attendance due to the current reassessment and said he was aware of the benefits of property taxes. He commented that Vision was already on his property and was concerned when they measured his chicken coop. He asked if the reassessment was a check of the permitting process. Mr. Albright said that real estate data is already with the County and it is frivolous to do a reassessment. He asked if the Assessment Office has all the required information to complete a valid assessment of properties. He said what the County contracted out for they already have. Mr. Albright said Perry County should set an example and return all the COVID Relief money.

Randy Kessler said the minutes need to be more comprehensive and include the Commissioners responses to all questions for accuracy and accountability. He asked if the Commissioners or candidates would raise taxes if there is a large amount in the County reserves. He questioned if background checks and drug tests were completed on Vision employees. Mr. Kessler said on November 14, 2022 Commissioner Watson made the motion to approve the Vision contract, but then found when he went to view the minutes that date as well as the dates surrounding that meeting were all deleted from the website. He said the Commissioners should do an investigation into why the minutes were deleted. Mr. Kessler asked who maintains the County website and completes the meeting minutes. He commented on an article regarding the HOME Program that Perry County was not participating in and asked who was responsible for not filing the paperwork to participate in the program. He said Commissioner Watson said a feasibility would be done soon and asked who was completing the study. Mr. Kessler said he wants more comprehensive minutes and the answers from the Commissioners need to be included on the minutes so people want to know what is going on.

Tim Albright asked what a feasibility study was being done for.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Reisinger made a motion approve the minutes from the July 24, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$925,632.55. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the body scanner bid submitted by Tek84 for the Perry County Prison. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the service agreement with Zix for email encryption services at a cost of \$5,025. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Early Intervention for fiscal year 2022/2023 in the total amount of \$379,056 (attached). Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Early Intervention for fiscal year 2023/2024 in the total amount of \$155,708 (attached). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the service agreement with Maximus US Services Inc. for cost allocation services in the amount of \$19,500. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the contract with W.C. Eshenaur & Son Inc. for the purchase and installation of a propane storage tank at a cost of \$5,000. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the quote from IS Decisions for multifactor authentication software in the amount of \$5,054.40. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the proposal from Hershocks for door security upgrades at the Extension Office for a cost of \$1,577. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of the following to the position of Part Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective August 1, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$20.83. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

- Damian Schroff
- Kenneth Lowe
- Eliezel Heredia
- Connor Kibe

Commissioner Resinger made a motion to approve the appointment of Rebecca Radel to the position of Ag Resource Specialist in the Conservation District effective August 2, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$17.11. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: Randy Kessler asked if there were competitive bids for the reassessment project. He further questioned why the County would not ask for competitive bids for such a large expense. He stated that it is ridiculous to use ARPA funds to pay for the reassessment and said businesses and other projects would have been a better use of the funds. Mr. Kessler said he filed a Right to Know for the breakdown of the ARPA funds and was given a 30-day extension response. He stated that he needs that information in order to further question what is happening with the ARPA funds. Mr. Kessler asked if the Commissioners had filed the Statement of Financial Interest forms this year and who maintains the forms. He questioned what the name of auditors or financial advisors of who advises the Commissioners on how to handle the reserve funds. He asked what Zelenkofske Axelrod is hired to do.

Tim Albright asked if the Treasurer advises the Commissioners.

Randy Kessler asked what the Treasurer's duties are and if he is used in accordance with his job description.

Sarah Geesaman said ClearBallot completed a software upgrade on the election machines. She said the upgrade went well and training on the new software is scheduled.

George Gochenaur said he filed a Writ of Mandamus with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and attempted to serve the paperwork.

Solicitor Bunt stated that the paperwork needed to be served according to the rules of court.

George Gochenaur said he would find out how to serve the paperwork and it would be served.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:52 a.m. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Larry F. Reisinger, Secretary

FY2022/2023 MH/IDD Contracts

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
CENTRAL PA THERAPY CONNECTIONS LLC	EI22-0101	Increase	\$ 49,285	\$ 55,296	\$ 6,011
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on authorized services					
EI Services - Language interpretation; occupational and speech therapies					
EASTER SEALS WESTERN AND CENTRAL PA INC	EI22-0037	Increase	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,300	\$ 1,300
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on additional services					
EI Services - American Sign Language (ASL)					
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE TRAINING AND MARKETING LLC	EI22-0071	Increase	\$ 52,080	\$ 71,460	\$ 19,380
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on additional services					
EI Services - Language interpretation					
UPMC PINNACLE HOSPITALS, PINNACLE HEALTH INFANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	EI22-0005	Increase	\$ 191,219	\$ 246,000	\$ 54,781
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on authorized services					
EI Services - Diagnostic evaluations; occupational, physical, and speech therapies; special instruction					

FY 2023/2024 MH/IDD Contracts

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS INC	EI23-0081	Decrease	\$ 117,633	\$ 100,693	\$ (16,940)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
EI Services - Nutrition support; occupational, physical, and speech therapies;					
special instruction					
EASTER SEALS WESTERN AND CENTRAL PA INC	EI23-0037	Decrease	\$ 6,300	\$ 5,000	\$ (1,300)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
EI Services - American Sign Language (ASL)					
SHOVLIN THERAPY SERVICES LLC	EI23-0105	Decrease	\$ 29,647	\$ 23,226	\$ (6,421)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
EI Services - Occupational therapy					
JENA VANDER VELDEN, MSPT	EI23-0021	Decrease	\$ 34,857	\$ 26,789	\$ (8,068)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
EI Services - Physical therapy					

