

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
September 11, 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: Gabrielle Brandt, Mary Ann Brownawell, Frank Campbell, Mellon Campbell, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Charlie Garner, Sarah Geesaman, Jan Gibboney, David Hammar, Jason Harvey, Randy Kessler, Scott Klingenberg, David Lanza, Bill Lyons, Darla McNaughton, Joe McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Patrick Port, David Pundock, Faith Pundock, Jim Scott, Michelle Thebes, Rob Troxell, Randy Waggoner, and Josh Wilson

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on September 11, 2023 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. Commissioner Allen reminded attendees that it was Patriot Day and asked that we remember them and their families. The meeting was conducted in person and via WebEx telephone/video conference in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County, Paul Wyatt, and Randy Kessler.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Allen asked that anyone doing a video or audio recording please identify themselves for the record.

Commissioner Allen stated that due to a scheduling conflict, the previously announced November Commissioners' evening meeting will now be held on November 13, 2023. He said the meeting will still begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Duncannon Borough building. Commissioner Allen commented that the information is available on the County website and in the local newspapers.

Commissioner Reisinger stated that as announced previously, the Commissioners have decided to reopen the submission period for ARAP applications. He further commented that a third party had been retained to review submitted applications. He said that eligible entities for funding include: 501c(3) nonprofits and small privately owned business, with less than 500 employees in Perry County. Commissioner Reisinger stated that interested entities complete and submit the ARPA Non-Governmental Business Interruption Grant Application available on the County website. He said the deadline to submit applications is October 13, 2023. He further commented that the program will be capped at \$1 million dollars, with up to a maximum award of \$50,000 per business/nonprofit. He stated that eligible entities must be in business and operational at the time of application submission and must demonstrate revenue loss and expenditures during the years 2020 and 2021. Commissioner Reisinger stated that an expanded listing of guidelines and application submission instructions would be available on the County website following the meeting.

Public Comments: Jeff Garman asked if a business must have employees in order to be eligible for ARPA funds.

Robbyn Metz said she has no paid political aspirations and said her goal is to ask questions and get honest answers for the residents of the County. She stated that on the County reassessment website timeline, it states that on January 11, 2022 an RFP was approved by the Commissioners for issuance. She asked when the RFP was approved, as there was no mention of it in any meeting minutes. Ms. Metz further said there is no mention

of reassessment until November 2022 when the contract was approved. She asked if an RFP did go out in January 2022 or was Vision the sole source. She commented that she knows, based on Randy Kessler's Right to Know response, that Vision was the only proposal for the reassessment project. Ms. Metz asked when the Commissioners publicly voted on using ARPA dollars to pay for the reassessment and said this may be a violation of the Sunshine Act. She commented that ARPA funds cannot be used for tax revenue generation. She further said an employee in the Tax Assessment office had personal ties to Vision and questioned if this was disclosed to the Commissioners. She wanted to know why this was not disclosed publicly. Ms. Metz asked who was responsible for getting the reassessment press release out to the public and when a refund would be received from Vision since this was not completed.

Mellon Campbell stated that she had reached out to the Commissioners in 2021 regarding homeowner deed theft but that was told to homeowners should get their own insurance regarding this issue. She said that Montgomery County has a fraud sleuth system that alerts residents that register, if someone tries to steal your property. She recommended that Perry County reach out to the Recorder of Deeds in Montgomery County to get more information about the system and see if it is feasible. Ms. Campbell said that in Representative Stambaugh's recent newsletter it was noted that Juniata County initiated a no cost housing repairs program for eligible residents. She commented that the newsletter provided income guidelines as well as additional information on the program. She recommended reaching out to the Juniata County Commissioners about the home repair program. She said that it may be possible to hook onto the current Register of Deeds system

Charlie Garner asked if there is a checklist or information on what the reassessment staff does when they come to a property. He asked if they will ask to come into the home and will they verify current tax records or create new records.

Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, said that data collectors will never request to come into the residence, even if they are invited by the homeowner. He also commented that the data collector is verifying tax records and photographing structures.

Randy Kessler said Rick Teats from Liverpool Borough told him Vision employees were looking into windows and Mr. Teats would provide a written statement. He thanked the Commissioners for reopening ARPA. He said that \$8.2 million dollars of ARPA funds remain and only \$1 million was being allotted for small businesses. Mr. Kessler questioned if there was a plan for the remaining ARPA funds. He said he did some research on Vision Government Solutions and stated that it was formerly known by other names such as 21st Century Appraisers and Evaluator Services. He said reassessments have not always gone without complications and provided information from several articles he found. He said in 1997 Adams County threw out reassessment results performed by 21st Century Appraisers. Mr. Kessler further said that in Tioga County in 2008 reassessment results done by 21st Century were thrown out and after an independent evaluation they sued 21st Century Appraisers. He commented that in 2010, Freedom Township threatened to sue 21st Century Appraisers. He said that in the first year after new values are set it will be revenue neutral but said in order to be revenue neutral values that go up will go up dramatically to compensate for those that stay the same or are lower. Mr. Kessler said former Vision employees, County employees, and County residents have reached out to him expressing concerns about the reassessment. He stated that he has statements and text messages saying that data collectors were told to go past no trespassing signs. Mr. Kessler said there have been policy changes regarding entering posted properties and there was a lack of advertising. He said he predicts there will be a lot of appeals and recommends that the County take action so that the reassessment is not a failure like in other counties.

Jim Scott, Veterans Affairs Director, said it is the 22nd anniversary of 9/11. He thanked every person that served and the family members of those that served. He said this day is a reminder of how fragile our freedom is and it is due to our service men and women.

Sarah Geesaman stated that Secretary of the Commonwealth, Al Schmidt, and Jonathan Marks, Deputy Secretary for Elections, stopped in for a visit last week. She said they toured the Freedom Building and solicited feedback from she and her staff on election procedures.

Patrick Port stated that he recently built a home on Hickory Ridge and had received an interim tax bill which was unexpected. He said he was told that his builder or the bank should have told him about the bill. Mr. Port said his bill was for about \$10,000 and was received about 2 weeks after he moved in. He said the interim bill is on top of his other tax bill in the amount of \$10,000. He asked the Commissioners to consider an amendment to interim tax bills. He said the Tax Assessment staff was helpful but ultimately the tax bills still fall to him to pay.

Solicitor Bunt said he had been directed by the Commissioners to meet with Randy Waggoner to draft a resolution to abolish interim taxes prospectively from January 1, 2024. He said the resolution would be presented to the Board in October.

Randy Waggoner said Mr. Port had filed an appeal.

Patrick Port asked what the timeline is once an appeal is filed.

Randy Waggoner explained the appeal process and said the tax bills are still due.

Joe McNaughton asked who was notified about interim tax bills. He questioned how a contractor would know about interim tax bills. Mr. McNaughton said that as a contractor he feels he was thrown under a bus and drive over multiple times.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion approve the minutes from the August 28, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$551,286.73. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Mental Health and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities for fiscal year 2022/2023 in the total amount of \$265,936 (attached). Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Mental Health and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities for fiscal year 2023/2024 in the total amount of \$63,374 (attached). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the quote from Tyler Technologies for VetraSpec Software in the amount of \$449. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the consulting extension with Mission Critical Partners. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission contracts (attached). Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the appointment of Glenn Holliman to the America250PA Perry County Advisory Committee. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Casey Kibe, Clerk in the Court Administration Department, effective September 15, 2023. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the promotion of Damian Schoff to the position of Full Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective September 12, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$20.83. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Public Comments: Robbyn Metz said the Commissioners hold meetings and make decisions to spend tax payer dollars with no Treasurer's report. She said she is sure the County has funds set aside in interest bearing accounts and someone watching those accounts and moving money based on rate changes. Ms. Metz said she had not heard this discussed in meetings or seen this topic in minutes and said this may be a Sunshine Act violation. She said money should not be moved without public discussion and votes. She said there is no County budget transparency. She commented that this results in distrust by the public. Ms. Metz recommended a monthly Treasurer report be presented and said this should not be a Right to Know request.

Kathy Garman said she is amazed to see rubber stamping of contracts and there is no explanation to the public on what is being voted on. She stated it is time to let the public know what is going on and provide information on contracts that are being approved. Ms. Garman said similar public awareness is taking place with the West Perry School Board and they are making an impact.

Jeff Garman said he had reviewed a County budget report for the first half of the year and said he was surprised to see that the correctional facility was such a large part of the budget. He commented that there should be a way to recover some of those funds and asked if there was a possible way to recoup prison costs. Mr. Garman said he was also surprised that only \$10 million was spent out of the County's \$26 million dollar budget through the first half of the year. He asked if the second half of the year is more expensive than the second half of the year.

Randy Kessler asked if any of the Commissioners participated in the data collector trainings. He asked if Commissioner Watson recalled the initial policy regarding no trespassing signs.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:46 a.m. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Larry F. Reisinger, Secretary

MH/IDD Contracts 2022/2023

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
INVO HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES LLC	EI22-0028	Increase	\$ 122,473	\$ 137,000	\$ 14,527
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on authorized services					
EI Services - Evaluations					
YORK COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY DBA RABBITTRANSIT	MH22-0075	Increase	\$ 124,531	\$ 128,936	\$ 4,405
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on authorized services					
MH Services - Transportation					

MH/IDD Contracts 2023/2024

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
FOCUS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INC	ID23-0189	Increase	\$ 4,277	\$ 25,659	\$ 21,382
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
IDD Services - In-home and community supports					
Increase is due to contract being full year contract. Last FY was only a few months.					
LIVING UNLIMITED INC	ID23-0121	No Change	\$ 3,439	\$ 3,439	\$ -
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
IDD Services - Supported employment					
VISTA AUSTIM SERVICES	ID23-0159	Decrease	\$ 40,000	\$ 23,776	\$ (16,224)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
IDD Services - Supported employment					
Decrease is due to provider not using all funding for last FY. Remaining balance carried over to current FY. Provider has until December 31, 2023 to use remaining funding.					
CARE OPTIONS RX LLC	MH23-0089	Decrease	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000	\$ (500)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					

MH Services - Outpatient (pharmacy services)					
GENEVA WORLWIDE INC	MH23-0090	No Change	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ -
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
EI/IDD/MH Services - Language interpretation					

Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission Contracts

Provider	Service	22/23	23/24	Rate increase	Percent Increase
Teen Challenge Training Center	3.5 High Adult Activity 823B	\$205.00	\$205.00	\$0.00	0%
Teen Challenge Training Center	3.7 WM Activity 823A	\$354.00	\$354.00	\$0.00	0%
Positive Recovery Solutions, LLC	Vivitrol New Patient Assessment	\$200	\$200	\$0.00	0%
	Vivitrol Follow-up Assessment	\$120	\$120	\$0.00	0%
	Vivitrol Urinalysis	\$60	\$60	\$0.00	0%
	Vivitrol Injections	\$1,089	at cost		