

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**September 18, 2023**

**Present at the meeting were**

**Commissioners:**

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

**Present from the Press:** Paul Wyatt

**Present from the Public in Person or via WebEx:** Missy Black, Ray Bond, Frank Campbell, Holly Feger, Jason Finnerty, Kathy Garman, Jeff Garman, Charlie Garner, Lloyd Geesaman, Sarah Geesaman, Erica Grafmyer, Dave Hammar, Willetta Huth, Matt Kerr, Randy Kessler, Jean Kirk, Josh Kirk, Bill Lyons, Robbyn Metz, Rich Pluta, Jeff Potteiger, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, John Sledzinski, Judy Sledzinski, Mark Smiley, Kathy Stover, Amber Thiemann, Harvey Thiemann, Anita Todd, Steve Todd, Randy Waggoner, Cindy Williams, Gail Zeigler, Jonette Zeigler, and Steve Zeigler

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 18, 2023 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 Shermans Dale EMS Building – 260 Richwine Road, Shermans Dale PA 17090. The meeting was recorded by the County, Paul Wyatt, and Randy Kessler.

**Announcements/Updates:** Commissioner Reisinger said he had attended the Perry County Township Officials Annual Convention over the weekend. He said it was a good event.

Commissioner Watson stated that the Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission is seeking community volunteers from Perry County to serve on its community advisory board. She said the board oversees public-funded substance use disorder prevention, intervention, and treatment services for residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties. Commissioner Watson said anyone that is interested should see her for more information.

Commissioner Allen said that at a previous meeting Robbyn Metz and others had raised concerns regarding a possible conflict of interest by the County’s Chief Assessor, Randy Waggoner. He stated that the Commissioners held a meeting with Mr. Waggoner to discuss the issues raised and after the meeting agreed that Mr. Waggoner does not have a conflict of interest regarding the contracts with Vision Government Solutions. Commissioner Allen commented that he and the Board of Commissioners fully support Mr. Waggoner and appreciate his dedication to his duties as Chief Assessor of Perry County.

**Public Comments:** Robbyn Metz stated that she was made aware that a Joint Management Council was formed for the reassessment and this group was made up of a County Commissioner, staff from the County Assessment Office and Vision staff. She said it is her understanding that this group decided not to put out the press release even though the County website indicates it was put out. She asked why that decision was made to not issue a press release. She said that the council should have discussed this publicly and this is a violation of the Sunshine Law. Ms. Metz further stated that residents are on edge and public safety is important. She questioned if background checks and drug tests are completed on the data collectors and then said data collectors are also put in harms way due to the lack of notification to County residents about the reassessment. Ms. Metz questioned how the County could use ARPA funds for the reassessment because of the use of the funds are limited per the County website.

Randy Kessler said that when the reassessment is complete many of the people involved with the project will no longer be employed with the County and some do not live in the County. He asked if the \$1.7 million dollar contract with Vision will provide fair and accurate property value to the tax payers. He said property values are currently elevated and predicted a market crash similar to 2008. Mr. Kessler said this may make the reassessment unusable. He asked if the number of appeals would be as great as other counties that have rejected the reassessment values. He questioned who will stand behind the reassessment in the future. He commented that he stood behind his comment from the July 17th Commissioners' meeting in which he said spending \$1.7 million dollars on a reassessment at this time is ridiculous. Mr. Kessler said no accountability on the advertising put homeowners and data collectors in harm's way. He encouraged property owner to get a copy of their tax card from the Assessment Office so they have it when they get their reassessed values.

Jason Finnerty said community work group meetings would commence the next day regarding the PICTURE PERRY Comprehensive Plan. He said the purpose of the work groups would be to help shape and formulate the new projects that are coming into the County from the municipalities. Mr. Finnerty said he hoped that the remaining 8 municipalities that did not join the plan will do so. He urged Carroll Township to consider adopting the comprehensive plan and volunteered to speak with the supervisors. He said he hoped to have participation from the municipalities in the community work groups.

Jeff Garman asked for additional information from Mr. Finnerty and asked where the comprehensive plan can be found.

Willetta Huth thanked the Commissioners for holding the meeting in the evening.

Cindy Williams asked what the Commissioners expect to get revenue wise from the reassessment. She further questioned what happens if data collectors are not allowed on a property. She said she could not attend the reassessment town hall meeting and asked where she can get answers to her questions.

Paul Wyatt, from the Perry County Times, said he would be covering the town hall meeting.

Faith Pundock asked what the format for questions and answers will be at the townhall. She also questioned who is on the Board of Appeals.

Erica Grafmyer said through a right to know request there was no evidence of advertising for the reassessment and asked if Randy Waggoner is responsible for ensuring advertising is done correctly. She further questioned if there was a breach of contract by Vision due to lack of advertising and if so, is anyone pursuing this. Ms. Grafmyer asked what the plans are for the remaining ARPA funds and if the public would be notified of the distribution of the funds.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion approve the minutes from the September 11, 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 list totaling \$64,274.04 and noted it was ERAP funds. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to accept the resignation of Graham Dicken, Full Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison, effective September 15, 2023. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Public Comments:** Randy Kessler stated that his main concern is for accuracy from Vision and again encouraged residents to get their tax card to make sure their new reassessed value is correct. He said to look at the value of the property as well to make sure it is realistic. He said after interviewing former data collectors he was told they were instructed to record every building on a property, even if it is portable. Mr. Kessler questioned if portable buildings would be recorded a permanent and taxed.

Robbyn Metz asked the name of the third party that will be reviewing the ARPA applications. She also questioned what the plan was for the remaining \$7.2 million of ARPA funds and when will the plan be released to the public due to deadlines. Ms. Metz asked for an explanation how one business could receive funding from multiple entities when former Commissioner Eby said that could not happen. She questioned why the County website does not include ARPA, CHIRP, and CARES funds distribution information and said this could be a violation of the Sunshine Act. She said this information should be decided on publicly and available publicly. Ms. Metz said the Commissioners initially said they would not comply with Governor Wolf's COVID shut down, but then later did comply and said that by not complying the County could be at risk of not receiving state funding. She said she has a message from a Commissioner defending the decision. Ms. Metz said the County is withholding the COVID funding from businesses that were shut down and then spend \$1.7 million on a reassessment. She asked how this can be justified to the County taxpayers.

Cindy Williams stated that she is very disappointed in what she is hearing as no answers are being provided. She said there should be answers known prior to the town hall meeting.

Holly Fager said there were multiple businesses that were previously awarded ARPA funds in excess of the \$50,000 cap that is now being implemented for new applications. She asked if this would be reevaluated to make it more fair to all the businesses. She said as a business owner hearing about this it is very concerning. Ms. Fager said some entities received funding from multiple sources and others did not received funding. She asked if applicants would be contacted after submitting an ARPA application.

John Sledzinski said the Ambulance Associations have lost two in the County and asked if they can apply for the ARPA funds. He said his organization is a 501c (3).

Randy Kessler said that questions at the town hall must be directly related to the reassessment project and asked Commissioner Allen to make that clear to attendees. He commented that people will have a lot of questions about ARPA and asked how individuals should submit those questions.

Steve Todd asked if there is a timeline for ARPA fund distribution and when that information will be available to the public.

Commissioner Reisinger read a statement from last week's meeting regarding the fact that the County reopened the submission period for small businesses and non-profit.

Faith Pundock questioned how much the third-party vendor, that is reviewing the ARPA applications, is costing the County. She asked where the funds to pay them is coming from.

Kathy Garman stated that the County got grant money and some is being used for the reassessment and then questioned why \$7 million dollars is being put back and not being given to businesses. She asked what the plan is for the remaining funds. Ms. Garman said it seems as though the County is keeping back money and not providing it to local businesses.

Missy Black asked when the public will find out what the plan is for the remaining ARPA funds. She said the Commissioners are in office because the public puts them in office.

Josh Kirk asked why there was a cap of \$1 million for ARPA application distribution and \$50,000 for small businesses, when previously this did not happen and some businesses received more than \$50,000.

Missy Black asked when this will be discussed and when the public can hear the information.

**Comments from the Press: None**

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Larry F. Reisinger, Secretary

**Cumberland/Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission Contracts**

Provider	Service	22/23	23/24	Rate increase	Percent Increase
Language Line Services	Interpretation services for non-English speakers	\$1.15	\$1.15	\$0.00	0%
Gaudenzia, Inc	Case Management - Assessment, GRPA, Coordination	\$84	\$90	\$6	7.14%
	1 Outpatient Activity 861A Adult and Adolescent Individual	\$84	\$90	\$6	7.14%
	1 Outpatient Activity 861A Adult and Adolescent Group	\$32	\$32	\$0	0.00%
	2.1 Intensive Outpatient Activity 861B Adult and Adolescent Individual	\$84	\$90	\$6	7.14%
	2.1 Intensive Outpatient Activity 861B Adult and Adolescent Group	\$28	\$28	\$0	0.00%