

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**September 25, 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:** Craig Bachik, Gabrielle Brandt, Frank Campbell, Crystal Failor, Rich Fultz, Jeff Garman, Charlie Garner, Sarah Geesaman, Jan Gibboney, Dr. Pat Gutheil, Dave Hammar, Randy Kessler, Wayne Leshar, Taira Little, Bill Lyons, Crista Lyons, Dave Magee, Darla McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Rich Pluta, Ryan Prater, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Bob Ressler, Wes Smith, Rob Troxell, Randy Waggoner, Josh Wilson

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on September 25, 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, Paul Wyatt, and Randy Kessler.

**Announcements/Updates:** Commissioner Allen announced that District Attorney Lauren Eichelberger tendered her resignation effective October 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said that First Assistance District Attorney Clay Merris would assume the duties of District Attorney and be sworn in at that time.

**Public Comments:** Robbyn Metz asked how the public can see the warrant list since it is not discussed during the meeting. She questioned if a right to know needs to be submitted to get a copy of it. Ms. Metz requested that the Commissioners explain the county facilities feasibility study when they get to that part of the agenda. She said that the MH/IDD contracts on the agenda are not in enough detail and asked how she can get a copy of those contracts for further review. Ms. Metz requested that the ZITO service agreement be explained in detail as well. She said there is a County Fiscal Officer and asked why there are not routine reports from that office. She questioned if that person is accessible to the public. She commented that Vision took the blame for not issuing the reassessment press release but asked why someone from the County did not ensure it was done.

Wayne Leshar said the contract is a done deal and said his statements are geared towards Commissioner Watson and the two incoming Commissioners. He said the Commissioners have the power to reduce taxes and said the Commissioners need to be better stewards of our money. Mr. Leshar said you should make due with what you have. He stated that in his own business he must find ways to cut costs before raising fees. He asked the Commissioners if they have asked their Department Heads to find ways to cut costs and if there have been staffing cuts. Mr. Leshar also asked if County funds were invested in the best way to get the most return. He said the easiest thing to do is to freeze spending for two years. Mr. Leshar said taxes would not have to be raised and maybe services would need to be cut or staffing reduced but constituents are not happy with the way things are going.

Gabrielle Brandt said she asked at the reassessment townhall why the County relied on Vision to put out the press release and the Commissioner on the panel did not answer. She stated that the Vision staff member said it was a critical piece of the project but the press release was forgotten. She said she is not buying that answer. Ms. Brandt questioned why the County Commissioners did not pick up the phone when they did not see the press release in the newspaper. She said it looks like the information was purposely not put out to public. Ms. Brandt asked if the Commissioners would like to address these questions now.

Jeff Garman stated that the meeting business only takes a few minutes. He said it would be nice to know information on the agenda beforehand and pointed out the county feasibility study. Mr. Garman recommended providing more information before approving the agenda items.

Randy Kessler stated that the reassessment townhall came about because of a lack of transparency, public notification, and oversight. He further said there have been efforts to not answer questions. Mr. Kessler commented that individuals should own up to their mistakes instead of concealing the errors. He said there was an outburst regarding uncomfortable questions at the townhall. He commented that the outburst was an example of trying to conceal information. He stated that integrity, transparency, and performance are all tied together and if you want the respect of the public you need to abide by these ideals. Mr. Kessler said reassessment policies have been changed due to the questions from the public. He commented that he hopes there is more public participation in the future. He stated that going forward we need to look at the long-term effects of raising taxes to cover costs instead of living within our means.

**Ratify Actions Taken at the Prior Meeting:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to ratify the actions taken at the September 18, 2023 meeting at the Shermans Dale EMS building. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Reisinger made a motion approve the minutes from the September 18, 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 \$1,002,417.82. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Employee Service Recognition:** Commissioner Allen recognized Timothy Bassett, Business Manager at the Prison, for his 5 years of service to the County.

**Hunger Action Month Proclamations:** Commissioner Allen noted that September 2023 was Hunger Action Month in Perry County. He recognized the following organizations for their commitment to raising awareness and their dedication to fighting hunger:

- Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
- Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank
- Bread of Life Outreach

**Meeting Business:** Rich Fultz, EMA/911 Director, stated that in accordance with Act 165 the County is responsible for establishing a fee schedule for the recovery and cleanup of hazardous materials. He said these fees are what would be charged to the responsible party for cleanup. He further commented that these fees are in coordination with the Southcentral Task Force to make sure they are in line with current industry standard costs. Mr. Fultz said the LEPC will be able to bill the responsible party based on these fees. Solicitor Bunt said that any changes that the Southcentral Task Force makes to their fees, the County Ordinance will also be updated and stay current. Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1 amending and establishing fees for Hazardous Materials Emergency Response. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the agreement with Nutrition Inc. for the Perry County Area Agency on Aging at a cost of \$5.63/meal. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to solicit a firm to perform a county facilities feasibility study to guide us in the cost concerns we have regarding maintenance, space, and rent before buying a building or land. She said the motion would allow a firm to be selected by possible bid and would provide guidance before taking further action on land acquisition or property purchase. The motion died for a lack of second.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Early Intervention and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities for fiscal year 2022/2023 in the total amount of \$595,370 (attached). Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Mental Health, Early Intervention, and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities for fiscal year 2023/2024 in the total amount of \$4,008,304 (attached). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to table the service agreement with ZITO for fiber internet services for the Children & Youth Services Department at a cost of \$350/month. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried and the item was tabled.

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Kristopher Reed, Probation Officer in the Probation Department, effective September 29, 2023. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Bunt stated that the Prison interest arbitration award had been received on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He commented that the arbitration will be retroactive to January 1, 2022 and go through December 31, 2025. He said that several issues are addressed in the award, but noted that there would be a lump sum payment of \$1,600 for 2022 and noted employment guidelines in order to be eligible for the payment. Solicitor Bunt further said the wage increases for 2023, 2024, and 2025 are 3.25%. He recommended to the Commissioners that anyone that would like a copy of the award be provided with a copy.

**Public Comments:** Ryan Prater, from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, stated that his organization relies on Neighbor Helping Neighbor and Bread of Life Outreach to serving the communities.

Jeff Garman asked if there was a list of actions that were ratified at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. He questioned if the feasibility study was for a building that will be bought in the future.

Randy Kessler asked what is the cost of the feasibility study and who the vendor is for the study. He said Commissioner Watson implied that a building is being considered for purchase and asked for details. Mr. Kessler recommended that the Commissioners do their own legwork and determine costs and square foot utilization before going out for the feasibility study. He said this would provide information to a possible vendor as a starting point.

Dave Magee commended Perry County's Veterans Affairs Director, Jim Scott. He also said Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, is an asset to the County. Mr. Magee further commented Wendy Welfley's Office is good and said there is a lot of good stuff in Perry County.

Robbyn Metz asked Commissioner Allen if he is answering for all the Commissioners and if the other Commissioners have the option to speak or answer questions during the meetings. She said she agreed with Wayne Leshner's comments and the County government is run like the federal government. Ms. Metz said it does not seem like there is any effort to cut costs. She commented that Treasurer Jan Gibboney's resume is impressive and questioned if he is being utilized by the County. She said if he is not being used it is a disservice to the County.

Wayne Leshar agreed with Robbyn Metz’s comments about Treasurer Gibboney and said he is one of his best friends and smartest people he knows. He said that federal grant funds are tax payer dollars. Mr. Leshar said the County needs to focus on infrastructure expansion. He commented that he has had to go outside the County because there is no place to build houses. He commented that infrastructure expansion would allow planned development and increase the tax base.

Gabrielle Brandt asked what the catalyst was for the feasibility study. She questioned if a decision was made to not release information to the press and public regarding the reassessment. She further asked if there was a vote to release information. Ms. Brandt asked when no information released to the press, did it not dawn on the Commissioners to check on this.

Dr. Pat Gutheil agreed with using Treasurer Gibboney more for financial matters.

Taira Little said District Attorney Eichelberger was instrumental in County initiatives and wished her well.

**Comments from the Press:** None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 a.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

**MH/IDD Contracts FY 2022/2023**

<b>Provider / Summary of Services</b>	<b>Contract #</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Previous Contract Total</b>	<b>Current Contract Total</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>
INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE TRAINING & MARKETING LLC	EI22-0071	Increase	\$ 71,460	\$ <b>73,180</b>	\$ 1,720
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on additional services					
EI Services - Language interpretation					
UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF CENTRAL PA INC	ID22-0001	Increase	\$ 505,887	\$ <b>522,190</b>	\$ 16,303
Amendment - Increase for FY 22-23 based on authorized services					
IDD Services - Agency with choice administration; community links/employment					
first administration; in-home and community supports; residential; respite					

**MH/IDD Contracts FY 2023/2024**

<b>Provider / Summary of Services</b>	<b>Contract #</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Previous Contract Total</b>	<b>Current Contract Total</b>	<b>Increase / Decrease</b>
INVO HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES LLC	EI23-0028	Decrease	\$ 137,000	\$ <b>131,456</b>	\$ (5,544)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
EI Services - Evaluations					
THE ADVOCACY ALLIANCE	ID23-0137	Increase	\$ 797,434	\$ <b>833,060</b>	\$ 35,626
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
IDD Services - Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU); Health Risk Screening					
Tool (HRST), IDD certified investigations; independent monitoring (IM4Q)					
Note: Increase is specific to addition of IM4Q service.					
GOODWILL KEYSTONE AREA INC	ID23-0036	No Change	\$ 66,300	\$ <b>66,300</b>	\$ -
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
IDD Services - Supported employment					
PENN STATE HEALTH HOLY SPIRIT MEDICAL CENTER	MH23-0001	Decrease	\$ 2,891,756	\$ <b>2,761,051</b>	\$ (130,705)
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
MH Services - Administrative case management; crisis; forensic case management; outpatient medication management; partial hospitalization;					
targeted case management; teenline					
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND	MH23-0002	Increase	\$ 116,437	\$ <b>216,437</b>	\$ 100,000
New/Renewal for FY 23-24					
MH Services - Housing support					
Note: Increase is specific to addition of bridge housing funding					