

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

November 20, 2023

Present at the meeting were

Commissioners:

Brian S. Allen – Chairman
Larry F. Reisinger – Secretary
William R. Bunt – Solicitor
Gladys Carns – Deputy Chief Clerk

Present from the Press: Paul Wyatt

Present from the Public in Person or via WebEx: Noah Cline, Bob Deihl, Tyler Dombroski, Holly Feger, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Kristie Gantt, Jeff Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Jan Gibboney, Dr. Pat Gutheil, David Hammar, Karen Jones, Randy Kessler, Amber Martin, Robbyn Metz, Jeff Potteiger, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Theresa Ressler, John Sledzinski, Judy Sledzinski, Wes Smith, Michelle Thebes, Randy Waggoner, Josh Wilson, and Jonette Zeigler

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 20, 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' meeting room. The meeting was recorded by the County and Paul Wyatt.

Announcements/Updates: Commissioner Reisinger commented that he had watched a television program about the USS Arizona and the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He noted that an individual he worked with previously at AMP was interviewed on the program as he was the young man on radar duty the morning of Pearl Harbor. Jeff Garman commented that his grandfather was there also.

Public Comments: Robbyn Metz commented that she was looking at the Budgets that are on the Perry County website. She questioned where the summary page was for 2023 as it was for previous years. Ms. Metz stated it was mentioned of the reserve funding in previous years but not currently. She questioned if anyone could make available the current revenues and expenses at this time.

John Sledzinski mentioned the flashing lights of ambulances and the ambulance companies that we have lost due to not having funds to continue. There are other ambulance companies hanging on by a thread.

Bob Deihl commented that the ambulance companies consist mainly of volunteers and when the funds are not coming in it is difficult to continue. Some companies have turned to paid crews due to the lack of volunteers. The volunteers need financial support.

Randy Kessler spoke of the ARPA funds and the need to help the residents of Perry County. He stated what better way to help the residents of Perry County by giving some of the remaining ARPA funds to the struggling ambulance companies. We don't need any more ambulances to shut down.

Jeff Garman commented on the lack of a financial statement for the county.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to ratify the actions taken at the November 13, 2023 meeting and approve the minutes from the same meeting. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$924,200.33. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Hearing was held regarding the Loysville lateral rehabilitation project and to approve the CDBG Budget Modifications. The Hearing was turned over to the SEDA-COG representatives, Tyler Dombroski and Amber Martin for this presentation.

Ms. Martin stated that the proposed modification is for the financial year 2020 and they are looking to take \$61,223 out of the current budget of \$81,223 to modify the budget to \$20,000 for the Loysville Village Municipal Authority Sewer Lateral original project. That \$61,223 will then be diverted to into a new project entailed Loysville Lateral rehabilitation. That is for the financial fiscal year 2020 and for 2021 we need to actually take the \$86,422.68 from the current budget diverted into the Loysville Public Lateral rehabilitation project for a modified budget of 86,422.68 into the new proposed project. For the financial fiscal year 2022 the action will involve taking \$7,138 from the current project for the Loysville Village Municipal Authority Sewer Laterals and will put it into the new proposed project for the Loysville Public Lateral Rehabilitation.

Mr. Dombroski explained why this work needs to be done. There are residents with bad laterals leading into the sewer system and these laterals need to be replaced. The Authority had done a public outreach to let the residents know that grant funds are available and if interested they could apply. It was income based and not everyone could take advantage to have their lateral replaced. The municipal authority had problems with infiltration of storm water into their public system. So, the intention of moving this money around was to keep it in Loysville and use the funds to rehabilitate the public portion of the collection system.

The meeting was opened up for any questions.

Jeff Garman asked where the storm water was coming from and can it be resolved. The Authority is working on this and making upgrades where they can.

Robbyn Metz questioned if the residents are complying to have laterals replaced. She asked how the Public was notified and how do the residents know they need their lateral replaced.

Randy Waggoner offered information on a procedure that he knows has been done. The sewer authority should be able to use a camera that can put into the laterals to see if there is damage and if it needs to be replaced.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the CDBG Budget Modification. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Early Intervention and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for fiscal year 2023/2024 in the total amount of \$207,388. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: None

Commissioner Allen stated that there are new guidelines for the Perry County Real Estate Assessment Interim Assessment. The County will issue interims for the following: New Residential construction, a permanent residence or seasonal (Cabin). A new business structure, with a minimum assessment of \$100,000 and 2 months of occupancy. A new major agricultural building such as a poultry house, or swine house operation. Restoration after a catastrophic loss such as fire, tornado, or flood when as a result of the catastrophic loss the existing bill was exonerated or refunded.

Public Comments: Dave Pundock questioned who determines how the ARPA funds are used.

Robbyn Metz stated that CDBG Grants and ARPA funds should be used to assist EMS and the ambulance companies. She questioned how the ARPA funds are being spent.

John Sledzinski spoke of the price of a new ambulance cost \$350,000 and another 50,000 to equip it. The fundraisers are not covering the expenses. The ambulance companies need help.

Karen Jones spoke of Medicare/Medicaid cutting what they are paying ambulances. They are struggling to keep volunteers and are taking on transports to keep their doors open.

Holly Feger stated that the younger generation are not volunteering and asked what the County can do to get the kids involved with the ambulance companies.

Theresa Ressler stated that there are free EMT training classes available to help get students involved. It would usually cost \$1000 for EMT training.

Robbyn Metz stated that maybe there could be a program started within the schools to get students involved. She will be talking to the Superintendent at their school.

Wes Smith spoke that the EMS council has been working to get an EMS study done. EMS in Perry County is in crisis with staff and funding. The community needs to get involved to help EMS.

Dr. Pat Gutheil stated she will take this need back to her school to get more involvement from students.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to adjourn at 10:51 a.m. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Gladys Carns, Deputy Chief Clerk

Larry F. Reisinger, Secretary