

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
December 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
Shannon Hines –Chief Clerk

Present from the Press: Paul Wyatt

Present from the Public in Person or via WebEx: Donna Berry, Frank Campbell, Hayden Coy, Jim Frank, Dominic Freschet, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Sarah Geesaman, Jan Gibboney, Dave Hammar, Jason Harvey, Karen Jones, Bill Lyons, Dave Magee, Darla McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Bob Ressler, Donna Rhoads, Jim Scott, John Sledzinski, Judy Sledzinski, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Alyson Thebes, Rob Troxell, Randy Waggoner, Josh Wilson

Commissioner Allen opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on December 18, 2023 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. Marty Smith, Maintenance Director, asked that attendees remember former Maintenance employee, Nick Shawver who passed away on December 18, 2020. 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 wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Watson announced that all ERAP program funds have been expended with the approval of today's ERAP warrant list and further stated that the program is now closed.

Commissioner Allen also wished all a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Public Comments: Judy Sledzinski asked when the next Commissioners' meeting would be.

Donna Rhoads stated that she was attending the meeting and had questions regarding a proposed solar farm in Buffalo Township. She said there is opposition to the solar farm due to the fact it is being built on prime farm land. She commented that she has questions on where the project is in the process and what township residents can do. Ms. Rhoads said she asked questions regarding a moratorium and a public hearing on the issue as many residents are not yet aware. She stated that she has been to township meetings and planning commission meetings. She asked if there are any county tax credits for this type of project.

Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, said he is not aware of any tax credit or abatement programs. He said he could provide the township planning commission contacts to Ms. Rhoads if needed.

Dave Magee said he is very disappointed in Commissioner Allen and Watson because they did not increase the life insurance and pension for retirees. He said health insurance costs continue to rise and pensioners depend on their retirement to live. He stated that even though he likes Commissioner Allen and Watson, he considers these as two black marks on their terms.

Jim Scott thanked the Commissioners for their cooperation and help through the year. He also recognized the Area Agency on Aging, Tax Assessment, and the Register & Recorder's Office for their support over the year. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and joyous New Year.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 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 \$1,415,957.38 and noted that \$53,008.49 was the final ERAP payments. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Employee Service Recognition: Commissioner Allen recognized the following employees for their service to Perry County:

Jessica Miller (Children & Youth Services) – 5 years

Donna Berry (Domestic Relations) – 30 years

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to adopt the 2024 proposed county budget as placed on public display with the following amendments:

- Increase general fund expenses to \$27,001,838 due to the inclusion of FICA (expense increase of \$498,457)
- Allocate \$3,108,681 from the 2023 fund balance to balance the 2024 budget

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-15 which sets the 2024 millage rate on taxable real estate at 4.5625 mills. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to set the medical insurance premium share for non-bargaining unit employees at 10%. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Allen announced that the Perry County Board of Commissioners reopened the ARPA application period with a submission deadline of October 13, 2023 to Perry County 501c(3) nonprofits and small privately owned businesses. He said they instituted a funding cap of \$1 million for the submission period, with up to a maximum award of \$50,000 per eligible entity and 37 ARPA applications were received.

Commissioner Allen said that they utilized the services of Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC. to review the submitted applications and financial documents. He commented that lost revenue from the year 2019 versus 2020 and 2021, and other COVID relief funding was taken into consideration when determining applicant funding. He said after review of the applications and supporting documentation, 18 entities were approved for funding totaling \$646,211.

Commissioner Allen stated that the following entities will receive funding:

Joys Barber Shop	\$	40,261
Sutton Contracting	\$	50,000
G.L. Zeigler Associates	\$	20,055
Millerstown Motors	\$	50,000
Simply Country LLC	\$	50,000
Sweger Bus Lines	\$	50,000
Brown's Printing	\$	26,111

The Podium Awards	\$	34,706
Newport American Legion	\$	50,000
Curl up and Dye with Style	\$	50,000
First Class Family Fun Company	\$	50,000
Newport Ambulance League	\$	6,260
Anita Reisinger	\$	34,693
Richard Centola	\$	50,000
David and Wanda Cupp Rentals	\$	17,405
H.R. Wentzel Sons Inc.	\$	50,000
Sisson-Boyer Eyecare LLC	\$	2,842
Perry County Literacy Council	\$	13,878

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adopt the ARPA funding as presented. Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposals from Harris for new security camera system:

- Perry County Prison - \$368,618.78
- Perry County Buildings - \$289,616.53 (7 County buildings)

Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts for Mental Health, Early Intervention, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for fiscal year 2023/2024 in the total amount of \$17,697,404 (attached). Commissioner Reisinger seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. Commissioner Allen noted that this list of contracts included the new walk-in crisis center that was a joint venture with Cumberland and Dauphin counties.

Employee Status: Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to approve the appointment of Scott Bamford to the position of Part Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective December 19, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$21.51. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to accept the resignation of Alisa Davidson, Assistant District Attorney, in the District Attorney's Office effective December 12, 2023. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Bunt provided an election update. He said that on Election Day the Department of State instructed counties that mis-dated ballots should not be counted, but then after election day were instructed to count the mis-dated ballots. He further stated that as of this morning, communication was received that says those ballots should not be counted. Solicitor Bunt said he hopes a decision on mis-dated ballots will soon be determined. He also thanked the Board of Commissioners for allowing him to serve over the past four years. He also thanked the Chief Clerk for her service to the County.

Public Comments: Marty Smith said that when the County initially received the proposal for the new security camera system came, it included having the vendor install all the required wiring. The County then got a proposal that did not include wire installation by the vendor, as the Maintenance Department staff could run the wire. He noted that the savings by having County Maintenance Staff complete the wiring for the project was \$478,018.99. Mr. Smith said that per the COSTARS contract the vendor should provide pricing that is 10% off MSRP. He commented that he verified all items were COSTARS and that the required discount was received and noted that in many instances the County received a 25% discount off MSRP. He said that these projects were included in the 2024 County budget.

Dave Magee asked how it works should the new Board of Commissioners choose to open the budget. Sheriff Hammar thanked the Board of Commissioners for the good working relationship over the past four years. He also thanked the Chief Clerk for her cooperation with he and his department.

Comments from the Press: None

Commissioner Reisinger made a motion to adjourn at 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

Larry F. Reisinger, Secretary

FY 2023/2024 MH/IDD Contracts

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
DAUPHIN COUNTY Amendment for FY 23-24 MH Services - MOU between Cumberland, Perry, and Dauphin Counties for regional crisis program development. <i>This amendment recognizes the additional funding of \$4,500,000 from HealthChoices reinvestment dollars for life safety renovations at the site as well as two mobile crisis team staff positions. Total project funding is \$17,593,364.</i> Cumberland-Perry received \$13,093,364 from the State via CMHBG for this project and will continue to manage the funding for this joint venture with Dauphin County.	MH23-0096	Change	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CONNECTIONSPA LLC New for FY 23-24 MH Services - Regional crisis program	MH23-0097	New	\$ -	\$ 17,593,364	\$ 17,593,364
BARBARA WEBER, MS, CCC-SLP, BCBA Amendment for FY 23-24 EI Services - Speech therapy	EI23-0080	Increase	\$ 5,997	\$ 10,826	\$ 4,829
THERAPLAY LLC DBA IVY REHAB FOR KIDS New for FY 23-24 EI Services - Speech therapy	EI23-0097	New	\$ -	\$ 12,214	\$ 12,214
MARANATHA-CARLISLE Amendment for FY 23-24 HC Services - Social Determinants of Health program <i>Extension of contract to June 30, 2024. No change to dollars.</i>	HC23-0012	Change	\$ 81,000	\$ 81,000	\$ -