

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

March 18, 2024

**Present at the meeting were
Commissioners:**

R. Franklin Campbell – Chairman
Brenda L. Watson – Vice Chairman
William G. Lyons - Secretary
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk
William R. Bunt – Solicitor

Present from the Press: Paul Wyatt

Present from the Public: Shirley Baker, Larry Booker, Jeff Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Jan Gibboney, Gabe Guthrie, Jamie Keener, Wayne Leshar, Robbyn Metz, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Eric Reeser, Larry Reisinger, Dana Rhoads, John Sledziniski, Alyson Thebes, Wes Smith, Josh Wilson

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 18, 2024 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County and Paul Wyatt.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Campbell noted that Larry Booker, from the PA Department of Treasury and Eric Reeser, from DAV Chapter 49, would be presenting information during the meeting. He also commented that the Commissioners had received notification from the PA Department of Human Services regarding a recent audit of the Children & Youth Services Department. Commissioner Campbell stated that the audit went well and thanked the Children & Youth staff.

Public Comments: Alyson Thebes, Director of the Perry County Area Agency on Aging, noted that free COVID-19 and Flu vaccine clinics would be held in the County and said they are hosted by the Center for Independent Living. She said information regarding the event is available online and is posted at the Commissioners' Office. Ms. Thebes also commented that individuals could call her office for more information as well.

Robbyn Metz stated that she had asked if the salary increases from last week's Salary Board meeting were budgeted and the response she received was that they were on line 4 of the budget under contingency. She asked how much was in the contingency budget line. Ms. Metz said that for a \$27 million dollar budget, there is a \$500,000 slush fund that is not identified tax dollars. She commented that at the Salary Board meeting last week, the Commissioners were asked what the impact of the salary increases would be to the budget and they did not answer. She said that the Treasurer stated that it was an average increase of 14% and a yearly cost of \$107,000. Ms. Metz asked how many employees were impacted by the salary action. She questioned if the Commissioners had considered spreading out the salary increases over several years.

Wayne Leshar asked what the contingency fund was earmarked for. He further asked if the budget had not balanced. Mr. Leshar questioned how much money was in the County reserves. He said that the budget was not balanced and noted that Commissioner Campbell had told him while campaigning that he would reduce taxes. He further said there was no due diligence done regarding the salary increases and pay grades were increased. He asked if the pay grade changes increased salaries and said he will continue to talk about individual salaries even if the Commissioner will not.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Eric Reeser, from the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 of Perry and Junita Counties, presented information to the Commissioners regarding the services provided by the organization. He provided information regarding the organization's transportation services and specifically noted that in 2023 213 transports were performed and 287 passengers were transported. Mr. Reeser noted that the total fuel cost

last year was \$1,449.02 and the total cost of maintenance and insurance was \$10,787.01. He explained the Veterans In Need Program that provides funds to aid veterans. He stated that recipients provide information through the County Veterans Affairs Office and said the program runs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. He commented that to date, \$6,192 dollars had been provided to veterans. Mr. Reeser said the two DAV programs rely solely on donations to operate and are staffed by volunteers. He also promoted the upcoming DAV Annual Community Day & Fundraiser. He said the annual event would be held on May 18th at the point in Duncannon where the two rivers meet.

Larry Booker, from the Pennsylvania Department of Treasury, provided information on several savings programs offered through the department. He highlighted the unclaimed property program and noted that Perry County has over \$4 million dollars of unclaimed property. He said he would be around after the meeting to answer questions and help individuals search for unclaimed property. He asked attendees to spread the word about the PA Treasury programs, as the educational programs can be used for technical and trade schools, in addition to colleges. Shirley Baker asked if unclaimed property forms need to be notarized and Mr. Booker said they do not. Dana Rhoads asked questions about the Keystone Scholars program and if heirs can search for unclaimed property funds and then have available funds go to an estate.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03 adopting a Conflict-of-Interest form regarding grants obtained through the Appalachian Regional Commission. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the polling location lease agreements for the following locations. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously

- Tyrone Township – 1204 Montour Road, Loysville
- Toboyne Township 1 – 50 Lower buck Ridge Road, Blain

Commissioners Lyons made a motion to approve the proposal from Interaction Insight Corporation for a new Eventide NexLog recording solution at a cost of \$52,203. Commissioners Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Local Agency Grant Agreement for Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for the Perry County Area Agency on Aging. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the agreement with Nutrition Inc. for nutritional services for the Perry County Area Agency on Aging. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 23/24 Purchase of Service agreement for Children & Youth Services (below). Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

- Community Services Group- Chariots-CYS- \$227.85/day

Employee Status: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Kyle Fake to the position of Ag Resource Specialist in the Soil Conservation District effective May 13, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$17.71. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Adelaide Johnson to the position of Caseworker in the Children & Youth Services Department effective March 19, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$19.94. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None.

Public Comments: Jeff Garman pointed out that the representatives from the DAV Chapter and the PA Department of Treasury can provide information regarding their perspective organizations, while the Commissioners cannot provide a profit and loss statement. He said he knows the Commissioners are working on getting the information, but it is too late.

Dave Pundock asked if a determination had been made on the remaining ARPA funds.

Robbyn Metz stated that the ambulance and fire companies have attended past meetings and brought up the trouble they have getting volunteers. She further said the struggle to get volunteers was brought up last week by the Commissioners. She stated that she did not like the way it was brought up and people were insulted. Ms. Metz said most people volunteer out of the goodness of their heart and not for recognition. She asked what the Commissioners are doing to promote volunteerism in the County.

Larry Booker asked if a fire company volunteer needs to reside in Perry County in order to volunteer.

Shirley Baker invited the Commissioners to the Buffalo Township Supervisors' meeting that evening. She said there will be angry people there and the residents need help. She urged the Commissioners to attend these meeting as outside advice would be appreciated. Ms. Baker said she records the Buffalo Township meetings and stated that she could show the videos to the Commissioners.

Comments from Press: None.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary