

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

April 29, 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: Ed Albright, Andrew Burke, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Rich Fultz, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Betsy Geesaman, Sarah Geesaman, Taira Little, Darla McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Megan Sellers, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Randy Waggoner, Ashley Weaver, Galene Weller, Josh Wilson

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on April 29, 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 Watson stated that she was glad to see some new faces at the meeting. She further said that the requests for qualifications (RFQ) that were put out for broadband had been previously delayed. She commented that now that the second round of BEAD funding was just announced, the RFQ will be extended as the County does not want to compete with vendors that may be putting funding for broadband into Perry County. Commissioner Watson said the RFQ information will be posted on the County website.

Commissioner Lyons commented that since Larry Booker, from the PA Department of Treasury, had attended the Commissioners meeting, he had reached out to many on the Perry County unclaimed funds list. He said that tens of thousands of dollars had been recovered and distributed to organizations and individuals in the County. He encouraged everyone to check the PA Department of Treasury website regarding unclaimed funds.

Commissioner Campbell said that the Commissioners had attended the West Perry FFA banquet on Friday. He congratulated the students for their achievements and thanked the advisors for their work guiding the students.

Public Comments: Jason Finnerty stated that the second of three work group sessions would be held in May regarding the PICTURE Perry Comprehensive Plan. He said the agenda is posted on the PICTURE Perry website. He commented that in June the first annual update to the Comprehensive Plan will be happening and a joint public hearing will be held. Mr. Finnerty noted that the required notifications regarding the update will be going out as well.

Ed Albright, on behalf of the Borough of Bloomfield, thanked the County for maintaining their buildings, as well as taking care of the square.

Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, commended Solicitor Bunt for all his help on some difficult Clean and Green issues. He said that during a meeting with his peers he made the recommendation to them to consult their Solicitors on an issue and they responded that their Solicitors were not responsive. Mr. Waggoner stated that this made him realize how responsive Solicitor Bunt is and how lucky he is to have him as Solicitor.

Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, thanked all the helpers throughout the recent election.

Megan Sellers stated that she filed a complaint with the PA Department of State regarding the bags of ballots in Commissioner Watson's office. She said she was concerned that if the PA Department of State forwards the complaint to the Board of Elections and the District Attorney, would Commissioner Watson be investigating herself or had she recused herself. Ms. Sellers requested that a townhall be set up since questions are not being

answered by the Commissioners and Ms. Geesaman. Solicitor Bunt acknowledged that complaints were filed and commented that he had advised the Board of Commissioners, the current Election Board, and past Election Board, to not respond until an investigation, if there will be one, is conducted. Ms. Sellers asked if a question to the Director of Elections, asking if ballots can be printed via the voter machines could be answered. Ms. Sellers provided information from Election Code and said she is very concerned about the 2024 elections and the Election Board's capability. She commented that by the Commissioners keeping their mouths shut it makes it seem like they have something to hide.

Robbyn Metz asked if questions emailed in over and above the financial questions would be answered. She said she had emailed questions about plans to expand Children & Youth services and asked if they would be answered.

Ashley Weaver thanked the Commissioners for including her comment about upholding law and God in the April 22nd meeting minutes. She commented on Commissioner Watson's statement during the April 22nd Election Board meeting about a person's rights including innocent until proven guilty. She quoted information from the Pennsylvania Constitution and Pennsylvania Election Code. Ms. Weaver stated that if Commissioner Watson was off on the date being questioned, then she should do a sworn affidavit that she was off that day. She further stated that she will stand by her comments from the previous meeting requesting that Commissioner Watson abstain from the Election Committee and the budgets of the Sheriff and District Attorney.

Kathy Garman said she did not realize there were election drop boxes in Perry County. She strongly suggested that they not be put out as she said they are not secure. She commented that she is still checking into other counties using paper ballots and hand counting and would email that information to Sarah Geesaman. Ms. Garman stated that the County can make their own decisions and the drop boxes should not be used.

Larry Reisinger stated that he needed to attend a funeral for George Schreiber so he would be excusing himself after making his comments. He said he fully supports Sarah Geesaman and the Election Office. He commented that he was shocked by what he is hearing and stated he had not seen the pictures being discussed. Mr. Reisinger again said he supported Sarah Geesaman and the work done during the 2023 fall general election.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2024 meeting with two corrections. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Perry County STOP Coordinating Team. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County STOP Grant Pass Through Agreement with the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the quote from Advantage Security Inc. for intrusion system upgrade at a cost of \$1,645. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to accept the engineering proposal from Aquatic Facility Design Inc. for the Liverpool Area Recreation Association Pool Project at a cost of \$32,500. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Damian Schroff, Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison, effective May 10, 2024. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Taira Little, from the Perry County Chamber of Commerce, thanked Commissioner Watson for her work on broadband. She also thanked the Board of Commissioners for being in attendance and putting forth an effort in the County.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary