

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

May 6, 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: Gabrielle Brandt, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Jim Frank, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Dr. Pat Gutheil, Wayne Lesher, Taira Little, Robbyn Metz, Judge Ken Mummah, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, John Sledzinski, Judy Sledzinski, Alyson Thebes, Randy Waggoner, Ashley Weaver, Josh Wilson, Christina Zook

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. on May 6, 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 said that the draft HATS Transportation Improvement Program listing of federally funded transportation improvement projects was available online and a hardcopy was available in the Commissioners' Office.

Commissioner Lyons stated that last Wednesday he had attended an Opioid Symposium with individuals from other counties. He also said that he had attended the Mental Health Awareness Walk in Carlisle as well.

Commissioner Campbell commented that it is FFA time and he had attended the Newport FFA banquet last week. He recognized the accomplishments of the students and noted the advisors.

Public Comments: Alyson Thebes commented that May is Mental Health Awareness month. She talked about the importance of raising awareness of mental health and promoting the importance of seeking help. Ms. Thebes spoke about the passing of her grandfather and his struggle with depression. She said that 1 in 5 adults live with a mental health illness and said it is never too late to get help. She reminded everyone that they matter, people love you, and the same person who made heaven and earth, mountains, and oceans, thought it was important to create you too.

Robbyn Metz thanked the Commissioners for inviting her to come into the office to discuss her concerns regarding the County's finances and budget. She noted there was some confusion on the date of the meeting but said she was not available either day due to working. She said her questions are presented in a respectful manner and recognized that the Commissioners inherited the financial mess. Ms. Metz said she went back through meeting minutes and stated that the budget was not presented publicly and this is a red flag. She stated that she must understand the school budget to be in the position she is in and the Commissioners should be the same.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of April 29, 2024 meeting with two corrections. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$557,531.99. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Ashley Weaver noted that she was participating virtually and was not called on during public comment.

Dr. Pat Gutheil also commented that she was participating virtually.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell in recognition of May 2024 Community Action month, presented a proclamation to representatives from TriCounty Community Action. TriCounty Community Action presented the Commissioners with their annual report.

Commissioner Campbell presented Alyson Thebes, Director of the Perry County Area Agency on Aging, with a proclamation recognizing May as Older American Month.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to accept the proposal from Thomson Reuters for CLEAR Proflex software for the Perry County Coroner. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Judge Mummah said that due to an issue with the salary policy he was asking that Michelle Orris be appointed as Action Chief Probation Officer. He noted her tenure of over thirty years and the current policy only allows for a twenty cent pay increase until he can discuss this with the Salary Board. Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint Michelle Orris to the position of Acting Chief Probation Officer. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Nolan Schaff, Adult Probation Officer in the Perry County Probation Department, effective May 10, 2024. She noted Mr. Schaff's participation in a pickleball tournament and his interaction with a young person. She said she was impressed by his interaction with the young person and wished him well. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to accept the resignation of Tammy Troutman, Part Time Custodian in the Chief Clerk's Department, effective May 3, 2024. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Carla Smith, Part Time Receptionist in the Chief Clerk's Department, effective June 27, 2024. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously. Shannon Hines noted Carla Smith's service and said both she and Tammy will be missed.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Judge Mummah commented that Roger Miller, former Chief Probation Officer, had retired and had almost 32 years of service. He said that Roger Miller dedicated his life to the Probation Office and the County and stated that he will be missed. Judge Mummah also commented on the resignation of Nolan Schaaf and said the employees are the heart and soul of the County. He stated that Mr. Schaff does a great job at work and in the community. He noted Mr. Schaaf's leadership skills and said he was leaving due to advancement opportunities not available in the County.

Michelle Orris stated that Nolan Schaaf will be missed and thanked him for his service.

Rich Pluta said that he was making a comment based on a previous comment about the budget not being publicly approved. He commented that during the previous administration of Commissioner Benner and Rudy, public budget meetings were started and continue. He said that these meetings are publicly advertised. He also noted that the budget is then on public display and then publicly approved at a Commissioners' meeting.

Wayne Leshner stated that he received an email from Commissioner Campbell regarding the Fiscal Office. He said that he can only assume that the Commissioners do not feel this is an issue since it is not mentioned publicly. Mr. Leshner said if asking for a public employee to be relieved of their position is an attack, then would asking for Commissioners to be removed be a public attack. He commented that he cannot get a current

financial statement and that is a major concern. He said the statement he received from the right to know he filed was from three years ago. Mr. Leshner challenged the Commissioners to put out a current financial statement and said the financials are a mess.

Ashley Weaver stated that she was upset because in a previous meeting Wayne Leshner interrupted the meeting and was given time to speak but she was not. Ms. Weaver commented that in her research it states that agendas should be published at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. She further commented that the responses she received to her right to know requests asking for chain of custody of ballots was that no documents exist. She said these documents should exist and asked how to write the request to get the documents. Ms. Weaver questioned if Solicitor Bunt's participation in the Board of Election last year would be a conflict of interest when counseling the Board. She said that someone wrote on Commissioner Watson's Facebook page referring to people like her as "cartel." Ms. Weaver said she has by trying to get the word out about sex trafficking and helped West Perry School District host a human trafficking seminar. She encouraged everyone to read the Pennsylvania Constitution Article 1 Section 2.

Comments from Press: None

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

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary