

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

May 13, 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: None

Present from the Public: Judy Bentz, Denise Bidwell, Christie Caswell, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jeff Garman, Elizabeth Geesaman, Sarah Geesaman, Jason Harvey, Wayne Leshner, Taira Little, Robbyn Metz, Judge Ken Mummah, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Bob Ressler, John Sledzinski, Marty Smith, Randy Waggoner, and Josh Wilson

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 13, 2024 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County and for Paul Wyatt.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Lyons recognized the Perry County 4H Dairy Bowl Team and noted they had won a competition at Penn State and would be representing the State at Louisville, Kentucky.

Commissioner Campbell stated that the meeting was being recorded by the County and for the newspaper, as the reporter was not able to attend. He also commented that he had attended the graduation at Transition Healthcare. He said that one of the goals when Transition took over Kinkora was to establish a CNA Program and this was their first graduating class. Commissioner Campbell noted that they had attended the Greenwood FFA banquet and extended his appreciation to the schools for the programs and to the teachers and advisors.

Public Comments: Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, said the State had provided “Register to Vote” flyers and anyone that would like one should see her.

Robbyn Metz thanked the Commissioners for reaching back out regarding the confusion on the meeting invite. She said her questions are not pertaining to the budget, but instead are about monthly statements of the financial position of the County. She stated that the response she received from the Commissioners regarding her questions was that the Commissioners would answer questions at their discretion. Ms. Metz asked if all questions would be handled this way.

Josh Wilson wished Commissioner Watson a happy birthday.

Ratify Prior Meeting Actions: Commissioner Watson made a motion to ratify the actions taken at the May 6, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2024 meeting. 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 \$30,517.56. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Kristie Carl, Director of Children & Youth Service, provided information on the Zone Program. She said the program has been sponsored previously, and noted that about four years ago the program was expanded to include students in the whole County. She further stated that the program is an education, social, and emotional enrichment program to help Perry County students stay on track over the summer months and keep up with their schooling. Ms. Carl said that the goal this summer is 100 participants and commented

that they partner with the Perry County Literacy Council. She stated that this year the program was piloting having the parents in each week to participate and said it was funded by a grant.

Judy Bentz noted that it was her 23rd year running a summer program in the County and said it was open to any student in Perry County that had completed kindergarten. She stated that studies show that kids lose two months of what they have been taught if they do not participate in educational activities. Ms. Bentz provided information on the activities provided during the program and said the program keeps kids off the streets. She thanked the staff and commented that it is a great summer program.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the 2023/2024 Children & Youth In-Home contract with the Perry County Literacy Council for the Summer Zone Program at a cost of \$60,000/year. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Kristie Gantt, is stated that the CAPs program is the data management system the Children & Youth staff use to store case notes and plans. She noted the program has been used since 2007 and is crucial to the job her department does. She commented that the system is web based which allows her staff to access it offsite while on call.

Commissioner Lyons approve the 2024/2025 Children & Youth In-Home contract with Avanco International CAPS Data Program at a rate increase of \$817.79/year for a total cost of \$28,07725/year. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to appoint the following individuals to the position of Part Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective May 14, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$22.21. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

- Rian Peters
- Kyle Parrish
- Eugene Menear

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Taira Little thanked Commissioner Campbell for attending the grand opening for Lindgren Craft Brewery. She also thanked all the Commissioners for getting out in the community and doing more for the County.

Christie Caswell thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Zone summer program.

Wayne Leshar stated that the Commissioners have an obligation to be transparent. He said he has requested on multiple occasions financial information but cannot get it and said his opinion is that the finances are a mess. Mr. Leshar said that he sent in a question asking what specifically was being done to address the Fiscal Office and the response he received was that questions will be answered as the Commissioners deem appropriate. He further said not answering a question continuously means that you don't have a handle on it or you don't know what's going on. He said the Commissioners have never commented on what is being done to correct fiscal issues. Mr. Leshar said he does not have inside information and challenged the Commissioners to comment on what is being done to address fiscal issues by the next meeting. He stated he does not want to have to force the Commissioners to do it.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:18 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary