

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION
May 20, 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: Jason Finnerty, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Elizabeth Geesaman, Sarah Geesaman, Jason Harvey, Wayne Leshner, Dave Magee, Darla McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Craig Sheaffer, John Sledzinski, Marty Smith, Randy Waggoner, Ashley Weaver, Josh Wilson

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 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 Lyons announced that a department head meeting was held and Sonya Nace, from Penn State Extension, spoke about mental health awareness.

Commissioner Campbell stated that the public comment periods are for the public to offer their opinions on items of interest regarding County government. He further stated it is not a question-and-answer period. Commissioner Campbell said that comments are limited to three minutes and those exceeding three minutes will be muted. He said questions may be submitted to commissioners@perryco.org and the Commissioners will respond to those questions which are of importance to the general public and to residents in need of County services. Commissioner Campbell stated that questions and answers related to the financial overview will be posted on the County website.

Commissioner Campbell read a statement about questions he had received regarding a potential sports and community complex project in the County. He commented that last year, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Perry Athletic and Community Complex, a non-profit corporation; he, as a member of and at the Board of Directors' request, submitted this project to Tri County Regional Planning for potential inclusion in the Picture Perry comprehensive plan. Commissioner Campbell stated that inclusion of this project, or any project, in the comprehensive plan does not mean that the County is or will fund the project. He further said that inclusion of the complex project has not been decided at this time. He stated that to avoid even a potential conflict of interest, he would recuse himself from any discussion or vote pertaining to the inclusion of the Perry Athletic and Community Complex in the Picture Perry Comprehensive plan

Public Comments: Ashley Weaver stated that at the April 22nd Commissioners' meeting, Wayne Leshner interrupted the meeting after public comment period and was allowed to speak. She said that during the May 6th meeting she was treated differently and was told she had to wait to the next public comment period. Ms. Weaver said she does not understand how this is not against the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article 1 Section 7. She commented that someday the Constitution will be used against us and our children. Ms. Weaver stated that she has reached out to other elected officials about this experience but was told she will basically lose her speech. She said she forgave the Commissioners and said we need to stand up for each other.

Elizabeth Geesaman stated that Ms. Weaver should spend a day with her.

Dave Magee requested a pension increase for retirees. He said many retirees depend on this to live and need the increase.

Robbyn Metz stated that Perry County deserves financial accuracy and accountability. She commented that County towns, boroughs, municipalities, and school districts provide monthly year to date balance sheets and year to date comparisons. Ms. Metz questioned why the County cannot provide this information. Ms. Metz stated that there are mathematical errors on the financial overview documents provided to during the Commissioners' meetings. She said she is not accusing anyone of misappropriation of funds but she said the use of auditing tools could catch these types of errors. Ms. Metz noted the Chief Fiscal Officer's pay raise and the cost of the accounting firm that has oversight on the overview documents and said these types of errors should not occur. She said she does not understand why the document is not accurate.

Wayne Leshar said this is unacceptable. He stated the financial overview document shows nothing. Mr. Leshar called out the current assignments and said those values had not changed. He questioned why the expenses are not listed in detail. He further commented that the document was garbage and the person producing it should be removed immediately. Mr. Leshar said he is attacking the fiscal position, not the person. He stated that the department is not being run properly. He commented that he had challenged the Commissioners to produce something of financial significance and they had failed to do so. Mr. Leshar also said he was glad that Commissioner Campbell had recused himself, but only did it because he was pressured and told to do so by the Solicitor. He further said he understands that the complex would be built on Commissioner Watson's property and noted the Howe Township Planning Commission agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 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 \$632,661.07. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell made note of the financial overview document on the back of the meeting agenda.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the agreement with Advantage Security Inc. for intrusion system upgrade at the Duncannon MDJ Office at a cost of \$1,410. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Holly Hostler, Juvenile Probation Officer in the Probation Department, effective May 24, 2024. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Robbyn Metz thanked Commissioner Campbell for his comments regarding the sports complex committee. She said she was the one asking questions and submitted a right to know request. Ms. Metz said that the response she received to the right to know request was that no document existed, but then on Friday she had been provided with all the supporting documentation. Ms. Metz asked what the nonprofit status of the committee was as she could not find it on the state website. She said this means any organization can submit a plan to the County's comprehensive plan.

Wayne Leshar stated that Commissioner Campbell came forward because he had to and further said that he's waiting to hear the statement from Commissioner Watson next week about the 64 acres she is trying to sell to the nonprofit. He said the government is a club and we're not in it and stated that Commissioner Campbell's and Commissioner Watson's judgement is horrible. Mr. Leshar said Commissioner Campbell used his position to get the project in the County's comprehensive plan so he can try and get grant funds. He said the dirty work has been done. He again challenged the Commissioners to provide a more comprehensive financial document and called for the removal of the Fiscal Officer.

Commissioner Campbell stated that you can go to the Department of State's Business Search to look up business and nonprofit entities.

Jason Finnerty reminded attendees that the annual hearing for the amendment process for the PICTURE PERRY comprehensive plan would be held. He said that any project from a nonprofit organization would need to provide proof they are a qualified non-for-profit. Mr. Finnerty further noted that if proof is not provided it will be held out of the final process.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Campbell noted that there would not be a public Commissioners' meeting on May 27th and reminded attendees to remember the reason for the holiday.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary