

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

June 24, 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, Mary Ann Brownawell, Andrew Burke, Noah Cline, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Rich Fultz, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Charlie Garner, George Gochenaur, Betsy Geesaman, Sarah Geesaman, Dave Hammar, Wayne Leshar, Taira Little, Darla McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Bob Ressler, Craig Sheaffer, Wes Smith, Alyson Thebes, Ashley Weaver, Harold Weibley, Josh Wilson, Kay Witmer, Jonette Zeigler

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 24, 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 repeated that the public comment periods are for the public to offer their opinions on items of interest regarding County government and it is not a question-and-answer period. 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 related to the financial overview will be posted on the County website for everyone's benefit.

Public Comments: Robbyn Metz thanked Jason Finnerty for the comprehensive plan hearing and said he did a phenomenal job on the plan. Ms. Metz further stated that she had submitted a question last week about the financial statement, asking why over \$394,000 was removed from the unrestricted/unassigned fund balance, as it did not show up in any of the other line items. She said she also submitted questions about County youth mental health and collaboration with the school districts. She commented that there may be overlaps and said she would like to see the County and schools collaborate.

Ashley Weaver also thanked Jason Finnerty. She noted that she went Face Book live on free speech with the morning meeting since the County did not provide a virtual option. Ms. Weaver stated that the agenda missed her comment on Pennsylvania Constitution, Article 1 Section 7 on free speech and free press.

George Gochenaur stated that he was sure many people in the room had already seen the video showing several persons in the room. He said he would encourage the person who took the video to sue certain people in the room under 18 U.S. C Section 241. Mr. Gochenaur said this was a violation of people's civil rights and said when he gets ahold of the person who took the video, the Commissioners may be looking at a federal lawsuit.

Larry Reisinger commented that Perry County Fair books are now available. He said that he would be available after the meeting to provide books and he would leave some in the Commissioners' Office as well.

Taira Little said the Perry County Guide publication was now up to 80 pages. She noted that the Chamber is very excited to offer the guide to residents of the County and surrounding areas.

Larry Reisinger stated that the Perry County Fair dates were August 13 through 17, 2024.

Jason Finnerty thanked everyone for attending the PICTURE PERRY meeting held this morning. He encouraged everyone to look at the comprehensive plan and said he hoped to get all municipalities on board with the plan. Mr. Finnerty said to reach out to his office with any questions.

Wayne Leshar said that two things were learned from the video. He said the first that was Bill Bunt gives horrible advice and number two was the poor leadership of Frank Campbell. Mr. Leshar said he hopes they get sued and that he should step down from his position. He asked why Commissioner Campbell thought a cell phone was a safety concern, and why he called Bill Bunt to make a decision on calling the Sheriff.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-05, adopting the amendments and edits to the PICTURE PERRY Comprehensive plan. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell abstained. Motion carried. Commissioner Campbell said he was recusing himself from discussion and vote as he is on the board of the nonprofit Perry Athletic Community Complex which submitted a project for inclusion in the plan.

Employee Status: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Desiree Ebersol to the position of Probation Officer in the Probation Department effective June 25, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$23.27. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Allyson Valentine to the position of Aging Care Management Supervisor I at the Perry County Area Agency on Aging effective June 25, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$28.22. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Kelsi Bailey to the position of Part Time Receptionist in the Chief Clerk's Department effective June 26, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$14.10. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: George Gochenaur said he agreed with Wayne Leshar that Commissioner Campbell and Bill Bunt should step down over the video. He stated that if the Sheriff would have put the person out of the building, he would have sued under deprivation of rights under color of law. Mr. Gochenaur said the Commissioners have to follow the law just like everyone else and all the Commissioners should step down.

Robbyn Metz stated that she was glad the Perry County Times had finally ran an article about the uncertified ballots being in a candidate's office during the November 2023 election. She commented that they must have wanted to beat the article that the Capital Star was going to report on.

Ashley Weaver stated that she agreed with Wayne Leshar and George Gochenaur. She said under Pennsylvania Constitution Article 6 Section 3, the Commissioners are supposed to uphold the law. She commented that she appreciates law enforcement and said how dare the Commissioners use law enforcement against them. Ms. Weaver said she was also glad the ballot article had been published and said it is time to evoke the removal of civil officers.

Betsy Geesaman said she had asked people who talk in this way if they go to church and said it would be nice if things could be handled in a Christian manner. She commented that the Constitution does not give people the right to abuse, harass, or hurt with words.

Jason Finnerty stated that now that the PICTURE PERRY resolution was approved, he would be following up with the municipalities regarding the amendments.

Wayne Leshner said this is a one-sided conversation and the Commissioners do not answer. He said eventually the Commissioners will give in or they won't. He asked why the 2022 and 2023 audits are not completed. Mr. Leshner said the financial document put out is bullshit. He said the Commissioners need to apply the U.S. Constitution to their jobs.

Gabrielle Brandt commented that she had asked if the comprehensive plan meeting could be made available via ZOOM and said it would have been nice for constituents if this option was provided. She said she was thankful a taxpayer held up their phone and live streamed the meeting. She stated that she was disappointed the Commissioners did not offer the meeting virtually and did not understand why. Ms. Brandt said that West Perry School District has a comprehensive plan and they get quarterly updates from the State on the plan. She asked if update meetings on the County comprehensive plan would be happening to provide information on updates.

Jason Finnerty said that work group sessions happen tri-annually and are available for in person and virtual participation. He stated that the morning hearing was advertised as in person, and they did not want to offer the meeting virtually when it was not advertised as such. Mr. Finnerty said virtual participation could be considered for the next amendment hearing.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:21 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary