

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

June 17, 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: Genna Brownback, Jason Finnerty, Jim Frank, Rich Fultz, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Betsy Geesaman, Sarah Geesaman, Dave Hammar, Candice Neff Hull, Taira Little, Darla McNaughton, Robbyn Metz, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Megan Sellers, Craig Sheaffer, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Alyson Thebes, Randy Waggoner, Ashley Weaver, Kay Witmer

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on June 17, 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 stated that June was Elder Abuse Awareness Month and said that June 15th is recognized annually as Elder Abuse Awareness Day. He commented that the Commissioners and the Perry County Area Agency on Aging staff are wearing elder abuse awareness shirts to increase public awareness. He stated that the elder abuse is the intentional act or failure to act that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult and can include self-neglect, caregiver neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, mental abuse, abandonment, and financial exploitation. Commissioner Lyons provided statistics on elder abuse and said the Perry County Area Agency on Aging is staffed to receive reports 24/7 by calling 717-582-5128.

Commissioner Lyons also stated that last week was the Pennsylvania FFA Convention at State College. He said members of the County's FFA chapters were recognized for state awards. He commented that Nathan Lesh was selected to serve as the State Vice President for the next year and noted the honor of having a Perry County FFA member serve in this capacity.

Alyson Thebes, Director of the Perry County Area Agency on Aging, thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Campbell thanked the Area Agency on Aging, and all other County departments for the service they provide to County residents.

Commissioner Campbell noted that bicyclists on the 9/11 Memorial Trail stopped in the County and noted they were from as far away from Canada. He also said a group of kayakers from outside the area stopped in the County for lunch and commented that it's nice to see individuals from different areas enjoying Perry County's natural resources.

Commissioner Campbell stated that the public comment periods are for the public to offer their opinions on items of interest regarding County business 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: Taira Little commented that the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Authority had been working on a Perry County guide since the beginning of the year. She said it will be a 64-page book promoting the County and will be coming out midsummer. She said there will be 10,000 copies will be going out and it will be available online.

Megan Sellers stated she is confused by Commissioner Campbell's statement on public comments as she sends emails but do not receive responses. She said the Commissioners actions can be construed as tyranny. Ms. Sellers commented on voter intimidation and said there is no reason for security at the polling locations as there have been no acts of violence. She stated that individuals have reached out to her via social media to try and get her to change her mind regarding election reform. She said she takes off work to make her comments and does not benefit from participating in the meetings. Ms. Sellers called for the Commissioners resignations.

Kathy Garman thanked the Commissioners for removing one drop box and urged them to remove the other ballot drop box. She said she is holding other comments.

Robbyn Metz stated that she is hoping there will be an explanation on the financial statement attached with the agenda.

Jeff Garman said the audio for virtual participates needed to be fixed as the comments were cutting in and out.

Robbyn Metz asked if the decrease in the unrestricted cash balance would be explained. She questioned how the Commissioners can reduce the unassigned fund balances without it going to a vote.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Warrant List(s): Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the warrant lists totaling \$427,200.82. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell stated that the financial overview document was attached to the agenda.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the agreements with Join Hands Ministry and the Perry County Literacy Council to act as the environmental review responsible entity. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Campbell noted that these organizations provide services county wide and it is appropriate the County is involved.

Employee Status: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to amend the effective date of Michelle Orris' appointment to the position of Chief Probation Officer to June 17, 2024. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of the following to the position of Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective June 18, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$22.21. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

- Kristen Maurer – Part Time
- Nolan Schaaf – Part Time
- Tyler Sherman Ebersole – Full Time
- Jesse Babcock – Full Time

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Gavin Dobyms to the position of Part Time Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Department effective June 18, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$19.94. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Betsy Geesaman stated that ballot boxes should be the least of Ms. Garman's concerns. She said she is concerned about the applications for mail in ballots, being sent by superPACs, to the elderly population. Ms. Geesaman said this is confusing to these voters which results in them not voting. She commented that this should be a bigger concern than having a ballot drop box in the Voter Registration building.

Jeff Garman asked how superPACs can send out valid ballots.

Betsy Geesaman said they are sending out applications for mail in ballots that are identical to what the Voter Registration Office provides.

Jeff Garman said he wanted Megan Sellers to be aware that only about a third of what she said was heard.

Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, said residents from Wheatfield Township may be calling in regarding reassessment data collectors in the area. He said when the Assessment Office becomes aware of the area the data collectors will be in, they alert Wes Smith, Deputy Director EMA/911 and the township secretary. Mr. Waggoner noted that Wheatfield Township does not currently have a secretary and their website was down. He said they attempted to talk with the supervisors and an email was sent to the tax collector. He stated that information regarding the work location of the reassessment data collectors is not put into the newspapers because it tips off criminals of the areas where unfamiliar individuals are and can make that area a target for crime. Mr. Waggoner said he put the information in the newspaper one time, but law enforcement informed him of the implications of doing so, as he had mentioned previously.

Kathy Garman said the audio for the meeting keeps going in and out. She thanked the lady who made the comments about the ballots and said she is calling for paper ballots and hand counting. Ms. Garman said she wanted to thank whomever removed the ballot drop box from the courthouse. She stated she wants the drop box removed from the Voter Registration Office as it is not secure and said she has information that she will be reviewing with Sarah Geesaman.

Ashley Weaver reiterated that the audio was going in and out. She said she applauded the madam who spoke because we should have a fair and safe election. She wished all the fathers a happy belated Father's Day and spoke about the role of a father. Ms. Weaver said the Commissioners have the same role that was bestowed by the people. She commented that individuals have reached out asking that the meeting on 6/24 at 8:00 a.m. regarding the comprehensive plan be made available via ZOOM. Ms. Weaver provided information from the Pennsylvania Constitution and the duties under the Constitution. She again asked that ZOOM be available for the comprehensive plan meeting on 6/24.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary

Perry County
 2024 Final General Fund Budget and Revenue and Expenditures
 31-May-24

Perry County
 Cash/Investment Balances as of 5/31/2024

TOTAL Unrestricted Cash/Investment Balances - 34,068,325

2024 General Fund Budget Summary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR CASH/INVESTMENT BALANCES:

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>2024</u>		
General Government		13,354,933.09		Broadband	6,400,000
Judicial Government		291,613.83		Building (New or Consolidation) plus Feasibility Study	6,900,000
Public Safety		605,615.31		Infrastructure Bank	2,000,000
				Digital Records - Various Offices	400,000
Total Revenue		<u>14,252,162.23</u>		Public Defender's Office Reorganization	250,000
				Economic Development	3,000,000
				Farmland Preservation	250,000
				New Software System	500,000
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2024</u>	Security Measures on County Occupied Properties	500,000
General Government		3,236,993.87		2024 Budget Deficit	3,100,000
Judicial Government		1,484,940.42		Fund Balance Policy - Maintain at least 10% of CY General	
Public Safety		3,379,005.69		Fund Expenditures on Hand	2,700,000
Veterans Affairs		42,151.60		Unrestricted/Unassigned Funds	8,068,325
AG Extension		3,958.56			
Total Expenditures		<u>8,147,050.14</u>		Total Assignments of Cash/Investment Balances	<u>34,068,325</u>