

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**September 30, 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:** Malinda Anderson, Mary Ann Brownawell, Andrew Burke, Jeff Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Wayne Leshner, Taira Little, Robbyn Metz, Jed Nessinger, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Wes Smith, Alyson Thebes, Randy Waggoner, Josh Wilson, Kay Witmer

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on September 30, 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 announced that beginning in October there would be an Election Board meeting each Monday at 11:00 a.m.

**Public Comments:** Malinda Anderson, Bloomfield Borough Council President, said she is filling in for Mayor Ed Albright while he is out. She noted that a stop sign at High and Church streets was hit and the Borough is aware of this incident and will repair the sign. Ms. Anderson stated that if anyone has any Borough issues to reach out to her.

Sarah Geesaman stated that ballots are to be shipped from the printing company today. She said once the ballots arrive, they will begin to go out later in the week.

Commissioner Watson recognized the Chamber of Commerce Discover Perry County booklet. She thanked Taira Little for all her hard work putting the publication together and said it was a great project.

Alyson Thebes, Director of the Perry County Area Agency on Aging and Advisory Board member of the Cumberland-Perry MH/IDD Board, stated that September was Suicide Prevention Month. She provided statistics noting that suicide is the second leading cause of death in the age group of 10 – 14-year-olds, third in the age group of 15 – 24-year-olds, and the 12<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death overall. Ms. Thebes said that there have been 69 suicide deaths in Perry County since 2016 and provided additional data. She encouraged everyone to raise awareness of suicide prevention and said educating yourself or others about the warning signs, seeking help for a loved one, or providing support to someone that needs it, are all ways to help. She commented that if you are worried about someone to ask them if they are ok, listen, and offer them support. Ms. Thebes stated that it takes a community to care and said together we can make a difference. She recommended becoming a part of PULSE (Preventing Unnecessary Loss through Suicide Education) if you are interested in doing more and said anyone interested can contact her for information.

Robbyn Metz asked when the public will get a feasibility study update. She said she attended the Election Education Forum last week and thanked Sarah Geesaman for recognizing there was time left in the forum to address submitted questions. Ms. Metz said it was interesting that a question was asked if someone is on the ballot during an election, can they have access to the ballots. She stated that the answer was that there was only one position which was what one of the presenter's, Missy Black, held. Ms. Metz said the question is how could ballots be in a candidate's office for Commissioner for the 2023 election. She also said that it was not mentioned

during the forum, that ballots were ever stored, relocated, or moved to the Veterans Building. She asked if this was a change for the 2024 election, as we know ballots were stored in the Veterans Building in 2023.

Wayne Leshner said he was glad Ms. Thebes brought up the suicide advocacy. He commented that awareness is not enough because when people are diagnosed, there is no help for them. Mr. Leshner said he believes that the group approved last week was just an advocacy group. He stated that money would be better spent hiring a group to advocate but also provide the needed services. He asked the Commissioners if they have visited the mental health group and questioned how many people actually received treatment.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Campbell noted the financial overview as of August 31, 2024 attached to the agenda.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposal from G.R. Sponaule for the replacement of the HVAC unit on the Veterans Memorial Building at a cost of \$65,437 and noted it was a COSTARS. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the proposal from NRG for integration services for the HVAC unit replacement at the Veterans Memorial Building at a cost of \$7,600. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Addiction Recovery Systems and PrimeCare Medical Inc. regarding Medication Assisted Treatment at the Perry County Prison. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and noted there was no cost associated with the MOU. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the following MH/IDD Advisory Board officers: Chairperson – Cynthia Howard, Vice Chairperson – James Hosey, Secretary – Nancy Raudenbush. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion and said the individuals were all nominated at the last advisory board meeting. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the agreement with Jefferson Health for inpatient care services for the Children & Youth Services Department at a cost of \$2,300/day. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell stated he could not comment on this item. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-12 regarding Perry County's America 250PA committee and proposed activities. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County America 250PA activities that will be privately funded or require no funding. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the following activities contingent on funding being obtained. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

- Reading by fifth graders to kindergarten and first graders on Americanism topics (\$1,200)
- Essay contest on Americanism – top prize of \$500 and three additional \$200 prizes

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Luke Benner to the

position of Full Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison effective October 1, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$22.21. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Brandi Beachler to the position of Part Time Custodian in the Chief Clerk's Department effective October 7, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$12.25. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Madison Brosius to the position of Caseworker 1 in the Children & Youth Services Department effective October 7, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$19.94. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the promotion of Adelaide Johnson to the position of Caseworker 2 in the Children & Youth Services Department effective October 1, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$23.27. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Solicitors Report:** None

**Post Comments:** Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, reported that the last round of data verification mailers will be going out in the next couple of weeks. He said Rye Township has requested that he and his Deputy attend their meeting to provide a reassessment update. Mr. Waggoner commented that he will be sending out letters to all municipalities offering to attend their meetings to provide an update. He said if Paul Wyatt needs information on the reassessment to please reach out to him.

Alyson Thebes stated that she and Commissioner Lyons have been advocating for mental health data as they are both part of the advisory board. She further noted that the board is looking to fill three positions which are a psychologist, physician, and an RN. Ms. Thebes said the individuals must be a Perry or Cumberland County resident and the advisory board meets the third Thursday of every month at 12:15 p.m.

Robbyn Metz said she hears Wayne Leshner's frustration and said the school has the same issue. She said there are no agencies or staff to do the warm handoff to which causes children to wait for services. She further stated that she thinks the Commissioners will run into the same issue as the school district has faced. Ms. Metz said it is a total lack of resources and commented that maybe a County service to handle these issues is a possible idea.

Wayne Leshner asked if the Commissioners know at this point in the year if they are going to be in a deficit or a surplus.

Taira Little stated that over the past several months, Mr. Nessinger has refused to sign into the meetings or give his name when making a public comment, claiming protection under the Fourth Amendment. She said that a person's identity is not protected under the Fourth Amendment and commented that the Supreme Court has ruled that people do not have an expectation of privacy in their personal characteristics including their name. Ms. Little further stated that Mr. Nessinger is now claiming to be a member of the press because he makes money as independent press, but he does not have any press credentials. She said the U.S. Constitution does not automatically make a person a member of the press and said his actions are disrespectful to the journalism community.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:28 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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William G. Lyons, Secretary

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

Perry County  
 Cash/Investment Balances as of 8/31/2024

TOTAL Unrestricted Cash/Investment Balances - 29,973,223

2024 General Fund Budget Summary

CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR CASH/INVESTMENT BALANCES:

General Government	YTD	Broadband	6,400,000
Judicial Government	REVENUE	Building (New or Consolidation) plus Feasibility Study	6,900,000
Public Safety	2024	Infrastructure Bank	2,000,000
	15,484,991.62	Digital Records - Various Offices	400,000
	493,333.12	Public Defender's Office Reorganization	250,000
	849,076.21	Economic Development	3,000,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>16,827,400.95</u>	Farmland Preservation	250,000
		New Software System	500,000
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	YTD	Security Measures on County Occupied Properties	500,000
General Government	EXPENDITURES	2024 Budget Deficit	3,100,000
Judicial Government	2024	Fund Balance Policy - Maintain at least 10% of CY General	2,700,000
Public Safety	4,956,320.13	Fund Expenditures on Hand	
Veterans Affairs	2,418,027.48	Unrestricted/Unassigned Funds	3,973,223
AG Extension	5,027,876.93		
	64,462.54		
	7,914.09		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>12,474,601.17</u>	<b>Total Assignments of Cash/Investment Balances</b>	<u><u>29,973,223</u></u>