

## COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

October 7, 2024

### **Present at the meeting were Commissioners:**

R. Franklin Campbell – Chairman  
Brenda L. Watson – Vice Chairman  
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk  
William R. Bunt - Solicitor

**Present from the Press:** Paul Wyatt

**Present from the Public:** Malinda Anderson, Gabrielle Brandt, Brandi Clendenin, Rich Fultz, Kristy Gantt, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Jason Harvey, Scott Martin, Robbyn Metz, Rich Pluta, David Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Craig Sheaffer, Megan Sellers, Marty Smith, Alyson Thebes, Ashley Weaver

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on October 7, 2024 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County and Paul Wyatt.

**Updates/Announcements:** None

**Public Comments:** Malinda Anderson reported that Mayor Ed Albright is improving and moving to rehab. She asked for an update on the Rhinesmith Building repairs as the Borough is receiving calls on it. Ms. Anderson stated that there have been several car break-ins in unlocked cars within the Borough, as well as kids vandalizing the Borough building and wanted to alert the public.

Larry Reisinger stated it has been one year since the Israel/Hamas situation started and it still no better.

Sarah Geesaman stated that ballots were received on October 1<sup>st</sup> and they began to go out in the mail on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. She said the mass mailings will be done today and then ballots will continue to go out each day as needed.

Megan Sellers said she emailed the Commissioners and Sarah Geesaman a couple of weeks again but did not receive a response from anyone. She stated that she was treated differently at the Election Education Forum than other participants. She commented that asking questions that you do not know the answers to is not being combative or argumentative, but a way to hopefully make you curious to find the answers. Ms. Sellers said that many times she already knows the answers to the questions, but wants the people to know the answers. She stated that when she asks questions about the COTS in the machines and you cannot answer the questions, she said she would hope this would make you want to make sure the machines are safe and open your mind. She commented that she is being told the elections are safe, but she said they are not. Ms. Sellers stated that until the COTS question is answered you cannot really answer the question about the machines being connected to the internet. She commented that she is owed an apology for how she was treated at the forum and said she was told information by Sarah Geesaman and then publicly made a liar. She said that the Department of State information stated that Clear Count utilizes Microsoft which is why she brought up the issue at the forum, but was told that the County's system does not utilize Microsoft. Ms. Sellers stated that America has a problem with minding its own business and should focus on what's going on in our Country, not what's going on halfway across the world.

Ashley Weaver stated that she agrees with Ms. Sellers that she was treated a little different than others at the Election Forum. She thanked Sarah for answering her questions at the forum, especially the one regarding if a candidate is on the ballot are they allowed to have access to ballots. She said there should be a way Perry County can help support the people in North Carolina and Tennessee as they are suffering.

Robbyn Metz commented that she was also at the Election Education Forum and said Ms. Sellers was treated differently as well. She again thanked Sarah Geesaman for recognizing there was time remaining at the forum and answered questions. She said it would be a wonderful idea if the Commissioners could spearhead something

to get communities involved to get items down to the affected hurricane victims. Ms. Metz said the people need help and even the schools could get involved.

Commissioner Campbell stated that Buddy Boy Winery is collecting items to take down to the hurricane victims.

Kathy Garman thanked Commissioner Campbell for the information about hurricane assistance. She thanked Larry Reisinger for recognizing the Israel/Hamas situation and said it is extremely important. Ms. Garman thanked the Commissioners for starting to spearhead something for the hurricane victims, because we do take care of our own.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Campbell 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 \$723,535.35. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Business:** Commissioner Campbell recognized the following employees for their years of service to the County:

- Barry Lowe (Prison) – 5 years
- Brandi Clendenin (Fiscal) – 5 years

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the MH/IDD contracts renewals for intellectual & developmental disabilities and mental health for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$4,098,153 (attached). Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Contract for Pass Through Funding with the Center for Independent Living Opportunities for the Perry County Area Agency on Aging for Link services. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Gabriel Guthrie, District Manager of the Perry County Conservation District, effective October 11, 2024 and thanked Gabe for his service to the County and wished him well. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion and the comment. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Ruth Lawler, Dispatcher Trainee in the Perry County 911 Center, effective October 2, 2024. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of the following to the position of Dispatcher Trainee in the Perry County 911 Center effective October 8, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$15.61. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

- John Christensen
- Alex Kolivras

**Solicitors Report:** Solicitor Bunt stated that he would be providing on some recent changes to the election law at the Election Board meeting.

**Post Comments:** Alyson Thebes commented that Blain Hotel is also collecting items for the hurricane victims in North Carolina and Tennessee and will be sending the items down with former Blain residents that now live in the affected area.

Megan Sellers stated that the County should do something for North Carolina and Tennessee and said if businesses can do it the County can do it. She said America needs to focus on America right now and cannot focus on other countries. She stated that the County should put information online about help for the hurricane victims. Ms. Sellers commented that she noticed in Newport there are businesses that are not American owned and called out a gas station and a new gas station opening selling liquor. She said that gas stations and franchises are being purchased by foreigners and further said she is not racist but is America first. Ms. Sellers asked who is responsible for when Dunkin Donuts was bought, as it is owned by a foreigner. She questioned if it is a priority to making sure Perry County is America first. Ms. Sellers further stated that the gas stations are selling casino machines and vape products which are not good for the County and asked what kind of rules are in place regarding this type of service.

Ashley Weaver said she agrees with Ms. Sellers about putting something on the website about helping Tennessee and North Carolina. She also commented that Ms. Metz's mention of the schools would be great because it would show our children empathy, compassion, and unity. Ms. Weaver said if the Commissioners would want, she can message all the school districts and report back. She stated that Perry County can be the light, as the light always prevails over the darkness.

Kathy Garman said she stands corrected, as she thought the County was collecting the items for North Carolina and Tennessee but now realizes it is Buddy Boy Winery. She stated the County needs to spearhead an effort and is willing to do it if the Commissioners do not have time to do so.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:22 a.m. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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William G. Lyons, Secretary

## MH/IDD FY 2024/2025 contracts

Provider / Summary of Services	Contract #	Status	Previous Contract Total	Current Contract Total	Increase / Decrease
THE ADVOCACY ALLIANCE Renewal for FY 24-25 IDD Services - Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU) administration; Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) administration; ID certified investigations; Independent Monitoring - IM4Q; Pediatric Complex Care Resource Center (PCCRC)	ID24-0137	SAME	\$ 1,118,870	\$ 1,118,870	\$ -
VISTA AUTISM SERVICES Renewal for FY 24-25 IDD Services - Supported employment <i>Decrease is the remaining funding from prior FY</i>	ID24-0159	DECR	\$ 23,776	\$ 15,700	\$ (8,076)
AURORA SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES Renewal for FY 24-25 (6-mo contract) MH Services - Social rehabilitation	MH24-0015	DECR	\$ 145,708	\$ 71,116	\$ (74,592)
CONSUMER SATISFACTION SERVICES INC Renewal for FY 24-25 (6-mo contract) MH Services - Community support	MH24-0094	DECR	\$ 50,000	\$ 25,000	\$ (25,000)
LIVING UNLIMITED INC Renewal for FY 24-25 (6-mo contract) MH Services - Family support	MH24-0051	DECR	\$ 11,883	\$ 4,722	\$ (7,161)
NHS STEVENS CENTER Renewal for FY 24-25 (6-mo contract) MH Services - Administrative case management; assertive community treatment; consumer driven; family based; housing support; outpatient; partial hospitalization; peer support; psychiatric rehabilitation; residential; social rehabilitation; supportive employment; targeted case management	MH24-0012	DECR	\$ 2,945,311	\$ 1,469,285	\$ (1,476,026)
PENN STATE HEALTH HOLY SPIRIT MEDICAL CENTER Renewal for FY 24-25 (6-mo contract) MH Services - Administrative case management; community services (teenline); crisis; forensic case management; outpatient; partial hospitalization; targeted case management	MH24-0001	DECR	\$ 2,761,051	\$ 1,393,460	\$ (1,367,591)
<b>Total All Contracts</b>				<b>\$ 4,098,153</b>	