

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

October 21, 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, Zoe Burd, Andrew Burke, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Jason Harvey, Michelle Jones, Crystal Kessler, Randy Kessler, Taira Little, Jed Nessinger, Michelle Orris, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Robert Ressler, John Sledzinski, Randy Waggoner, Ashley Weaver, Wendy Welfley, Krista Wills

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on October 21, 2024 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County, Paul Wyatt, Jed Nessinger, and Ashley Weaver.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Campbell reminded attendees of the meeting protocols and said there were copies available. He also said that the first public comment period was reserved for agenda items and stated that shouting, personal insults, or attacks would not be tolerated.

Commissioner Watson said the County is working on getting a BEAD funding application together and commented that the County would be asking for approximately \$22 – \$25 million. She stated that route mapping is being worked on to reach the most amount of residents. Commissioner Watson further said she is working with the schools to ensure broadband comes to the schools, as well as permitting, poles, and right of ways. She said the feasibility study cannot be rushed, as the Commissioners want a good base before moving forward. She commented that there has been one meeting and the vendor went back to look at some future departmental needs.

Public Comments: Jed Nessinger stated that on the August 26th minutes his comment was placed in the public comment section, even though he made his comment during the press section of the meeting. He further noted that on the September 30th minutes he was listed as present at the meeting, but he did not participate. Mr. Nessinger said could not do as good of a job of writing minutes as it's a lot to keep track of.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 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 \$578,684.19. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the software support agreement with Optical Storage Solutions, Inc. for the 2024-2025 Landex system at a total cost of \$19,340. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Wendy Welfley stated that the agreement was for software support for her department's system from November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the quote from NeoGov for PowerDMS software for the Prison at a cost of \$10,979.17. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Warden Harvey stated that the software will digitize SOP's and has a training component. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Tymika Moore to the

position of Caseworker 3 at the Perry County Area Agency on Aging effective November 4, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$26.06. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to accept the resignation of Bailey Miller, Watershed Specialist in the Conservation District, effective November 8, 2024. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Sarah Geesaman stated it was the last day to register to vote and the Election Office was open until 5:00 p.m. that day.

Larry Reisinger said the three schools that have FFA in the County held their Farm to Fork Dinner over the weekend at the fairgrounds. He said about 270 people attended and it was a good event.

Malinda Anderson, from Bloomfield Borough, commented that the park project will be completed on Friday and then a DCNR audit will happen. She said a dedication will be planned for mid-November. Ms. Anderson also said that the borough is adding about 10-15 two-hour parking spaces in the Borough to accommodate local businesses. She further stated that she would be providing a map of the spaces to the County, so everyone can find the best place to park.

Randy Waggoner said the Assessment Office will be sending out letters to all the municipalities offering to attend their meetings to provide an update on the reassessment. He commented that he would be at Wheatfield Township on November 12th.

Ashley Weaver stated that on October 14th Commissioner Campbell stated that Commissioner Lyons was in agreement with agenda items. She said she wondered how Commissioner Lyons can be in agreement if he did not hear from the people he serves. She further commented that all three Commissioners agreed to terminate virtual meetings. Ms. Weaver provided information from an October 2nd Harrisburg Open Records YouTube video on open meeting laws regarding the right of the public to be at public meetings. She quoted Martin Luther King Jr. that an unjust law is no law at all. She suggested that virtual meetings should be brought back to accommodate those that work, people with disabilities, or those that have children as it is vital for the public.

Jed Nessinger said it was awesome how many people attended the meeting as they had to take time out of their day and were losing money. He commented that no good reason was given as to why virtual meetings were ending, especially since virtual meetings were still available for the Election Board and Salary Board. Mr. Nessinger said it was done to silence the constituents or a punishment. He asked Commissioner Lyons if he agreed with the meeting protocols before they were brought forth to the public for public comments.

Krista Wills stated that she has seen a lot of commentary on line and said she is a West Perry School Board Director. She commented that she started watching when the reassessment came out as people were coming to her thinking that the school was in cahoots with the County to get more money. Ms. Wills stated that transparency is key and said there are many questions being asked but few answers. She commented that as a School Board Director she takes a lot of heat, but the Commissioners get paid by tax payer dollars and its very concerning to get no answers. She said it seems like the people are getting shut down and talked about West Perry's virtual meeting issues. She stated you cannot complain if you don't show up.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary