

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

October 28, 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, Tim Bassett, Mary Ellen Campbell, Noah Cline, Laura Fedder, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Rich Fultz, Kristie Gantt, Jeff Garman, Kathy Garman, Sarah Geesaman, Jason Harvey, Jeannine Matulevich, Jed Nessinger, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, David Pundock, Faith Pundock, Michelle Rayborn, Larry Reisinger, Megan Sellers, John Sledzinski, Alyson Thebes, Randy Waggoner, Brian Weidow

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on October 28, 2024 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County, Paul Wyatt, Jed Nessinger, and Megan Sellers.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Lyons stated that the Commissioners had attended Senator Rothman's Veterans' Breakfast on Saturday and noted that over 400 veterans participated. He highlighted the keynote speaker who resides in Carroll Township.

Commissioner Campbell said the County had changed auditors. He noted that the 2023 audit is moving along and should be completed by mid-December. He further said that the 2024 audit is projected to be completed by June 30, 2025. He stated that the first public comment period is limited to agenda items.

Public Comments: Mary Ellen Campbell questioned when she could comment on deed theft.

Megan Sellers commented on the financial overview document. She requested that the document be explained in good detail and said it is incomplete and unbalanced. Ms. Sellers questioned what the Commissioners were doing as they did not seem to be very productive. She discussed the financial document and said there is approximately \$2.5 million not accounted for on the document. She commented that the financial questions and answers on the website are not updated and only four financial overview documents are posted online. Ms. Sellers asked why the information is not up to date and the documents are not online.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell stated that the financial overview document attached to the agenda showed accrual basis accounting on the left side and cash basis on the right side. He said the document is not meant to reconcile. Commissioner Campbell stated repetitive financial questions were not posted online but commented he will review.

Solicitor Bunt opened the sealed Prison food service proposals. The following proposals for food service were received:

Summit: 120 meals and above - \$3.629
100 – 119 meals - \$4.014
80 – 99 meals - \$4.581
60 – 79 meals – \$5.492
Below 60 meals – To be determined

Trinity: 120 meals and above - \$9.328
100 – 119 meals - \$6.940
80 – 99 meals - \$5.629
60 – 79 meals – \$4.801
Below 60 meals - \$4.230

Nutrition Group: 120 meals and above - \$4.43
100 – 119 meals - \$4.83
80 – 99 meals - \$5.50
60 – 79 meals – \$6.39
Below 60 meals – \$7.59

No action was taken.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Agreement for Services with Vigilnet for the Probation Department. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Michelle Orris, Chief Probation Officer, stated that the amendment was switching to a different monitoring bracelet that reduces cost by \$0.60 per day. She also said the expense is covered by the IP grant. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Agreement. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Rich Fultz, EMA/911 Director, said the agreement was a state required agreement for a Hazmat Response Team. He commented that the County had completed a one-year trial with Dauphin County's team, and this new agreement was to continue the service and update the term. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Perry Housing Partnership for the Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity (ECHO) Program. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Alyson Thebes, Area Agency on Aging Director, commented that her department, in partnership with Perry Housing Partnership, wants to apply for phase 6 grant funding for the senior housing cottage opportunity. She stated that the houses are small, separate manufactured residences that can be placed on the property of a family member or friend. She said the cottages would provide safety and maintain a senior's privacy by allowing them to stay with friends or family in their own cottage. Jeannine Matulevich, from the Perry Housing Partnership, stated that the program has been successful in other counties. She noted that there are challenges, but providing a cottage for seniors would keep them from entering nursing facilities. Alyson Thebes said she is working with the Planning Commissioner regarding zoning and ordinances. Malinda Anderson asked how sewage and water would be handled. Ms. Matulevich stated that sewer/water/etc. would be connected through the primary residence and would need to be authorized by the municipality. She further said the grant covers the cost for this. Malinda Anderson questioned and if Mr. Finnerty would be providing a report to the municipalities. Alyson Thebes stated that grant is for one cottage only. Ms. Matulevich said the cottage can be reused. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Russell Marks to the position of Assistant District Attorney in the District Attorney's Office effective October 29, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$33.65. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Denise Bidwell to the position of Care Manager 2 at the Perry County Area Agency on Aging effective November 18, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$23.27. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to accept the resignation of Brandi Beachler, Part Time Custodian in the

Chief Clerk's Department, effective October 25, 2024. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Alyson Thebes provided clarification on comments regarding transportation provided by the Area Agency on Aging. She stated that transportation by her department is through Rabbit, is paid for by state and federal funding, and her department would pay for transportation for seniors to attend the Commissioners' public meetings.

Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, corrected his comment from last week's meeting. He said that he would be at Rye Township on November 12th. He further stated that eleven municipalities have expressed interest in having his staff provide a reassessment update at their meetings. Mr. Waggoner noted that he would be at Penn Township on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Campbell spoke about deed theft. She requested the Commissioners be proactive and look at Montgomery and Bucks counties regarding the issue. She talked about house bill 2230 and said there is a system that can be used to notify residents and notary publics electronically if a deed is touched. Ms. Campbell stated that there is no cost to residents and only a small cost for the software access. She further commented that non-occupied properties are often targeted, as well as the elderly. She stated that one person losing their home is one too many. Ms. Campbell provided information to the Commissioners for review.

John Sledzinski, with the Shermans Dale Ambulance, stated that he had a copy of the \$50,000 emergency service study and said 99% of it will not work. He said Shermans Dale Ambulance will not be part of the plan and they voted on it. He commented that the study was a waste of money and the biggest issue for all organizations is payroll, as the pay for the individuals is extremely low. Mr. Sledzinski spoke about the hard work and situations the ambulance staff experience. He stated that Shermans Dale has purchased an automatic loader to make the staff's job easier and he also said paving was just completed and he donated \$10,000 to help pay for the project. He also commented that he wanted to see everyone in the room donate to their local EMS organization.

Jed Nessinger commented that it was awesome to see the meeting room filled again. He asked the Commissioners what their plan was to address large crowds at the meetings and if they would invest in a PA system.

Megan Sellers stated that the people are not being heard, and the people of Perry County are not stupid. She said people are doing their research and commented that there is no community outreach, which is a big problem. She stated if the right people were in the Commissioners' seats the people would see more outreach. Ms. Sellers said she was first angry and now sad that virtual participation was ended and noted that she was missing out on a \$100 of pay to attend the meeting. She commented on her appeal to take photos of documents. She commented that God is on her side so she will always conquer. Ms. Sellers recited an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence.

Larry Reisinger stated that he had learned that there would be bathrooms at the Perry County Fairgrounds per grant funding. He said we worked together to get the grant. Mr. Reisinger stated that the large red building at the fairgrounds has potential to be used for more and this will be addressed.

Rich Pluta congratulated the Commissioners and the County for all the grants Perry County recently received. He said Perry County received approximately \$2.6 million dollars in grant funds and said he thought it was the highest per capita grant award in the region. Mr. Pluta said grant funds are tax dollars, but if Perry County doesn't use it another county will. He also commented on his attendance at the State of the Region Breakfast and noted the good response to Perry County.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary

Perry County			Perry County			
2024 Final General Fund Budget and Revenue and Expenditures			Cash/Investment Balances as of 9/30/2024			
30-Sep-24						
			TOTAL Unrestricted Cash/Investment Balances -			31,240,579
2024 General Fund Budget Summary			CURRENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR CASH/INVESTMENT BALANCES:			
		YTD	Broadband			6,400,000
		REVENUE	Building (New or Consolidation) plus Feasibility Study			6,900,000
		2024	Infrastructure Bank			2,000,000
General Government		15,958,735.83	Digital Records - Various Offices			400,000
Judicial Government		543,700.81	Public Defender's Office Reorganization			250,000
Public Safety		1,010,675.73	Economic Development			3,000,000
			Farmland Preservation			250,000
Total Revenue		<u>17,513,112.37</u>	New Software System			500,000
			Security Measures on County Occupied Properties			500,000
		YTD	2024 Budget Deficit			3,100,000
EXPENDITURES		EXPENDITURES	Fund Balance Policy - Maintain at least 10% of CY General			
		2024	Fund Expenditures on Hand			2,700,000
General Government		5,362,681.82	Unrestricted/Unassigned Funds			5,240,579
Judicial Government		2,713,662.42	Total Assignments of Cash/Investment Balances			31,240,579
Public Safety		5,573,095.23				
Veterans Affairs		70,882.09				
AG Extension		8,845.57				
Total Expenditures		<u>13,729,167.13</u>				