

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

November 4, 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: Andrew Burke, Kristie Gantt, Sarah Geesaman, Jan Gibboney, Robbyn Metz, Kraig Nace, Michelle Orris, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Craig Sheaffer, Wes Smith, Randy Waggoner, Ashley Weaver, Brian Weidow, Krista Wills, Josh Wilson, Kay Witmer

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on November 4, 2024 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County, Paul Wyatt, and Ashley Weaver.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Watson commented that the Commissioners had attended the Veteran's Day Parade in Newport and the event was well attended.

Commissioner Lyons stated he had the opportunity to sit on a mental health panel last week. He said it was a statewide event with over 700 participants. He commented it was a good event and a lot of information was provided.

Commissioner Campbell said there would be no Commissioners' meeting the following week in observance of Veteran's Day.

Public Comments: Jan Gibboney, Perry County Treasurer, stated his objection to the Juniata Valley Bank payment in the amount of \$500,000 on the warrant list. He said it was a new banking relationship and it was being established without the inclusion of the Treasurer's Office. Mr. Gibboney stated that in his opinion this was a procedural violation of PA County Code Section 1751, 1761, and 1762. He asked if there were any questions.

Robbyn Metz said she was upset that no one made an announcement about the passing of former Commissioner Brian Allen and said it was shameful.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Watson 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 \$1,195,097.49. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Perry MH/IDD contract amendment for FY 2024 - 2025 in the amount of \$31,110 for transitional and community integration services at the Prison. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell said this was reinstating a full year of counselor services at the Prison. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Perry MH/IDD contracts for mental health for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$5,914,501. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell stated that these were amendments to the original contract. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Cumberland-Perry MH/IDD contract for early intervention for fiscal year 2024 – 2025 in the amount of \$12,000. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell noted that this was also an amendment to the original contract. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the proposal from M3T for replacement of the prison intercom at a cost of \$3,444.57. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Marty Smith, Maintenance Director, commented that it was replacement of the panel only and asked that the Commissioners verify they have the correct contract without tax. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the quote from Hershocks for a door with panic hardware at the Newport MDJ at a cost of \$3,658. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Marty Smith stated that this was replacing a wooden door at the request of the Judge and would need to be replaced due to new access control equipment. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the quote from Hershocks for the secure reception area project for the Probation Department at a cost of \$15,971. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Brian Weidow, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, said that this area was noted in a recent building inspection as a safety concern. He commented that the area would be the area separating the reception area from the public and noted AOPC grant funds. Marty Smith said it would be bullet proof glass and was COSTARS pricing. He also noted the cost being covered by an AOPC grant. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Bryan May to the position of Social Services Case Aide in the Children & Youth Services Department effective November 18, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$17.71. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Ashley Weaver said she agreed with Ms. Metz and prayers went out the family and friends of Brian Allen. She commented that she saw a newspaper article about a state grant of \$1.5 million for a new County building. She asked about the location of the building, how much it will cost, will there be a town hall meeting, and if the Commissioners would be establishing a committee to help plan a new building. Ms. Weaver said she was also aware that the Sheriff's Department needs transportation vehicles and it was denied. She questioned why it was denied. Ms. Weaver stated if the County is getting grants, we should get grants for Sheriff Deputies, EMS, and Prison employees because they deserve a little extra with the holidays coming and how hard they work.

Robbyn Metz stated that the Commissioners say to submit questions, but she does and she gets no responses. She asked how she can get questions answered. She said a \$58,000 feasibility study was done for a potential new building and now there is a grant for \$1.5 million to move forward for a new building. She commented that the feasibility study is not completed per the last meeting, and she said it would be silly to not use the grant. Ms. Metz said if the dollars and cents make sense for services to be centralized you can get people on board, but there is no talk about it and that is wrong. Ms. Metz stated an engineering plan was approved for the Rhinesmith porch but her understanding is there is already a cost estimate. She said people are kept in the dark.

Krista Wills asked how many emails were received requesting that virtual meetings be reinstated. She suggested that the Commissioners meet in the middle and broadcast their meetings only. Ms. Wills commented on the Rhinesmith porch appearance and the porta potties in front of the Courthouse. She said it is better to have a response than no response at all.

Marty Smith, Maintenance Director, commented that the porta potties are on site until a sewer replacement project is completed over the weekend.

Randy Waggoner, Chief Assessor, stated that the first municipal reassessment update meeting took place at Penn Township. He said there was a question on calculating mileage and noted that letters would go out to assist with mileage calculation. Mr. Waggoner commented that the next municipal update meeting would be at Saville Township that evening.

Kraig Nace, Duncannon EMS Chief of Operations, provided information on his background and service on the Perry County EMS Council. He stated that he owed no favors to the current Commissioners as he did not vote for any of them. He commented on the third-party review of the EMS in Perry County. Mr. Nace noted that a strategic planning committee was formed regarding the review and each of the nine EMS agencies covering Perry County were given a seat on the committee as a decision maker from that agency. He said that six entities, Blain, Duncannon, Landisburg, Liverpool, Millerstown, and Shermans Dale were participating members of the committee, but noted that Millerstown faded off early. He stated that the study and plan were announced at the July 2024 EMS Council meeting and a revised plan was released in September 2024. Mr. Nace noted that Blain, Duncannon, Liverpool, and Newport voted in support of the plan and Landisburg and Millerstown are expected to vote this month. He stated that Shermans Dale was the only agency not in support of the plan, but said their president attended the majority of the meetings and voiced no objections or concerns with the plan. He commented that he has not seen the gentleman that spoke at last week's meeting at any of the council meetings since 1999. Mr. Nace further asked that local leaders and the community review the plan and said it is available at perrycountyems.com. He closed by stating that his belief is that UPMC and Penn State Health are not the solution to local community emergency medical services.

Kay Witmer stated that at one of the council meetings an individual said that the option to do nothing is not an option. She said the EMS plan may not be perfect but urged everyone to read the plan before making a decision on it.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:23 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary