

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

February 10, 2025

**Present at the meeting were
Commissioners:**

R. Franklin Campbell – Chair
Brenda L. Watson – Vice Chair
William G. Lyons - Secretary
Shannon Hines - Chief Clerk
William R. Bunt - Solicitor

Present from the Press: Paul Wyatt

Present from the Public: Gladys Carns, Noah Cline, Tara Collier, Gary Eby, Polly Eby, Jason Finnerty, Kristie Gantt, Sarah Geesaman, David Hammar, Donna McMillen, Darla McNaughton, Hilary Nace, Rich Pluta, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Larry Reisinger, Wes Smith, Kay Witmer

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 10, 2025 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 said the Eagles won the Super Bowl and she was ecstatic.

Commissioner Campbell stated that there would be no meeting on Monday, February 17th due to the President's Day holiday.

Jim Swartz stated that several years ago issues with the emergency medical services in the County was recognized. He further said that there is concern that in the future you could call 911 and there would be no one available to respond. Mr. Swartz stated that former Commissioner Gary Eby recognized this issue and put forth an effort to organize all the EMS organization in the County together to resolve the problem. He commented that in recognition for Mr. Eby's work towards a solution, the EMS Council voted to name the project the Gary Eby EMS Plan in honor of him. Mr. Swartz presented Mr. Eby with a trophy for his hard work and dedication towards the EMS plan. Gary Eby expressed regrets that he had to step out of the project but said there was a skeleton plan put out to the County. He said CARES funding was used to support the EMS situation as all the Commissioners at the time understood it was a priority. Commissioner Campbell thanked all involved with the EMS Plan project and for Mr. Eby's support of the project. He further said a meeting would be held on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the West Perry High School for anyone interested in learning more about the plan. Commissioner Watson thanked the EMS Committee and said they had to push through major adversities to get the project moving forward.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025 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 \$584,450.67 and noted that \$232,102.30 was 2024 expenses and \$352,348.37 was 2025 expenses. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the PICTURE PERRY projects (attached). Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Jason Finnerty stated that this was part of the second annual amendment cycle to PICTURE PERRY. He said there are three additions to the plan and explained the additions. He commented that the other projects are already in the plan. Mr. Finnerty explained the joint public hearing process and commented that there are 22 municipalities signed onto the plan. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the quote from Emergency Management Consulting, LLC for commodity flow study at a cost of \$7,500. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Wes Smith stated on behalf of the L.E.P.C., a commodity flow study is required every five years and will the committee understand what hazardous materials are coming through the County. He also said that 80% of the study will be paid for by grant funding. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the lease agreement for the Newport 911 tower site. Commissioner Lyons second the motion. Commissioner Campbell stated that the lease was a 20-year extension and there is a rider for an additional 20 years. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the letter of engagement with Korn Ferry for actuarial services at a cost of \$7,500. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell noted that the engagement letter was in regards to actuarial services for County retirement funds. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the lease addendum for the Children & Youth office space at a cost of \$3,908.23/month. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell noted that this is a 2-year extension of the current contract with the potential for an extension of time. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to accept the resignation of Eugene Menear, Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison, effective February 2, 2025. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Josh Lahr to the position of Deputy Director, Domestic Relations, effective February 11, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$30.20. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of David Foose to the position of Part Time Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office effective February 18, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$20.64. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the resignation of Kyle Fake, Resource Specialist in the Conservation District, effective February 21, 2025. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: Faith Pundock asked when the next Election Board meeting would be. She asked if petitions were available that day. Ms. Pundock requested that Jason Finnerty mention the upcoming hazardous mitigation meeting at the Courthouse.

Jason Finnerty stated that the hazardous materials mitigation meeting would be held on February 18th at 6 p.m.

Faith Pundock said that many people do not know about the Perry County website and said a welcome packet would be helpful. She stated that a recycling event was coming up and wanted the newspaper to be aware. She asked if there was any reconsideration for the dollar pay raise for 911 staff. Ms. Pundock said this issue is very important and would help keep people here.

Jason Finnerty said the eight municipalities that are not participating in PICTURE PERRY include the following townships: Penn, Wheatfield, Carroll, Rye, Liverpool, Juniata, Northeast Madison, and Toboyne. He went through the projects for inclusion in the amendment cycle for PICTURE PERRY to include a Buffalo

Township bridge study, Meck's Corner improvement project, redesign of the 11/15 and Market Street intersection in Duncannon, Howe Township guiderail replacement project, Penn Township interchange project 11/15 and route 849, Spring Township route 74 and 274 intersection redesign, Tuscarora Township road widening project, Centre Township storage facility project, and Join Hands Ministry emergency housing project.

Sarah Geesaman stated that petitions are available to be picked up. She thanked Paul Wyatt for his recent article as it has sparked a lot of interest in the petition process. She commented that the first day to collect signatures is February 18th. Ms. Geesaman said a petition packet was sent to each school district as well.

Larry Reisinger wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and said he got his wife something expensive this year and commented he got her eggs.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Campbell thanked Paul Wyatt for his recent articles.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:26 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary

PICTURE PERRY Projects

Already included:

Project/Action Item
1. Continuation of Agricultural Preservation
2. County Bridges Maintenance
3. County Buildings Maintenance
4. Creation of Tourism Board
5. Expansion of Broadband Service
6. Inventory of Municipal Equipment
7. Main Street Program Initiatives
8. Newport to Little Buffalo Trail
9. Solid Waste Management Plan
10. Stormwater Management Plan
11. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
12. Sewerage Plan Update
13. Water Supply Plan Update
14. Wayfinding Signage
15. Land and Water Trails Master Plan

New Projects:

Project/Action Item
1. County partnership with the Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging to participate in the ECHO (Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity) program
2. Countywide EMS System Improvements
3. Western Perry County Area Shelter