

COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

March 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

Present from the Press: None

Present from the Public: Emily Book, Owen Brofee, Charles Brown, Michele Comp, Jeff Garman, Sarah Geesaman, JR Hardester, Brenda Iliff, Ashley Issacson, Linda Jones, Becky Kaucher, Taira Little, Donna McMillen, Darla McNaughton, Michelle Orris, Kelly Palmer, Bob Ressler, Rachel Seeley, Wes Smith, Brian Weidow, Kay Witmer

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2025 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Updates/Announcements: Commissioner Campbell stated that there would not be a Commissioners' meeting on March 17, 2025.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 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 \$678,165.19 and noted that \$281,832.83 was 2024 expenses and \$396,332.36 was 2025 expenses. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell presented a Proclamation to 4-H Extension recognizing 4-H week. He stated that the Commissioners are very proud of the 4-H program and noted that Becky Kaucher, Rachel Seeley, Ashley Issacson, and Linda Jones were in attendance representing Penn State Extension. Owen Brofee introduced himself as President of the 4-H Dairy Club. Becky Kaucher stated that there are approximately 52 volunteers and noted that there are several new 4-H leaders as well. Ms. Kaucher thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and said that next week is 4-H week. She also stated that the spring kickoff will take place next Tuesday evening at Newport Elementary School.

Kelly Palmer, from PPL Electric, presented the STEM Teacher Award to Emily Book from Greenwood School District. She commented that the STEM Teacher Award is very competitive and she was honored to recognize Ms. Book with the award. Ms. Palmer noted that Ms. Book would receive \$1,500 for her classroom. She further explained that STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Emily Book stated that this was her second full year teaching STEM and the program provides a lot of hands-on learning experiences for students. She noted several projects that were completed in her classroom such as a tower garden, the design of a prosthetic leg, and coding. Ms. Book said several of her students attended PA Invention Convention competition and said the school would be hosting its first STEM camp in June. Michele Comp, Greenwood Elementary School Principal, stated that Ms. Book has a passion for teaching and the school is fortunate to have her. Commissioner Campbell thanked all teachers for their work and PPL for having the STEM award program.

Brenda Iliff, Executive Director of Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Commission, presented an update on the opioid settlement funds for the last six months. She said all opioid funding must be utilized per Exhibit E and reports must be submitted to the opioid trust on the funding usages. Ms. Iliff stated that the Commissioners

approved the new program, Perry County Emergency Services Naloxone Leave Behind Program. She further said the legally mandated Medical Assisted Treatment at the Prison is an expenditure and \$23,108 was spent. Ms. Iliff said \$6,741 was spent on Narcan Program distribution. She commented that other grant funds were used for Evidence Based Prevention/Early Intervention Services and Prevention Services, but opioid funds will be used in the future for these programs. She stated that last year there were five overdose deaths and to date there were no overdose deaths in 2025.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the Perry County America 250PA proposed activities (attached). Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Status: Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the appointment of Kelly Markham II to the position of Part Time Correctional Officer at the Perry County Prison, effective March 11, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$22.93. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Solicitors Report: None

Post Comments: JR Hardester, from Vision Government Solutions, stated that the third batch of preliminary reassessment notices will be mailed on March 13th. He said the remaining notices for commercial, exempt, and special purpose properties, will be mailed out by the end of the month. Mr. Hardester stated that property owners should schedule an informal review by calling the 800 number on the notice or visiting the website. He said the preliminary reviews are to review property data not valuation. He noted that valuation can be discussed during formal reviews after the final notice is received by property owners. Mr. Hardester stated that final notices will be mailed by the end of June or statutorily by July 1st.

Charles Brown said he was told it was against the law to tell him how his property amounts were calculated. He provided the definition of capital gain. He stated that because he has not sold his property, he has unrealized gains, and now we're trying to figure out how to tax it. Mr. Brown said he submitted a freedom of information act request and is awaiting a response. He commented that the methods that can be used to assess value are square footage, building costs, or expected sales value of property/real estate. He stated that he is not against farmers or clean and green, but said land in clean and green gets preferential treatment compared to residential property owners. Mr. Brown said he needs to get a response to his freedom of information act request, so he can understand how the valuation was done. He commented that the State has allowed the Ponzi scheme on valuation to take place, based on future data. Mr. Brown stated it is unfair to tax unrealized gains and the Federal government has recognized this. He said he is worried about unrealized capital gains being taxed.

Darla McNaughton, from the Assessment Office, said to trust the process. She stated that property owners should do the informal review first, and if they do not get a resolution file a formal appeal. She said the formal appeals will be held with boards from Perry County and the Assessment staff. Ms. McNaughton said to please ask questions as they want people to understand the process.

Charles Brown said his issue is that he is told to trust what the government is giving him. He further stated that he was told that it was against the law to tell him the mathematical calculation.

Commissioner Campbell encouraged everyone to read through the entire reassessment letter.

Charles Brown said it is a shock when reading the letter.

Sarah Geesaman stated that the last day to file petitions was tomorrow, to get your name on the primary ballot. She said there have been 100 petitions filed to date. She commented that she is very happy with this turnout.

Commissioner Watson stated that historically municipal elections are not well represented. She said a lot of work went into educating the public on the process and thanked the Election Office for the outreach.

Ms. Geesaman thanked Deputy Chief Clerk, Angela Schlegel, for handling all the notary work on the petitions.

Comments from Press: None

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn at 10:34 a.m. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

William G. Lyons, Secretary

Perry County America 250PA Proposed Activities*

Flags/Plaques for Revolutionary War Veterans	\$1,000
Reading events at all six County Elementary Schools	
Books & Materials	\$3,000
Tree Planting/Plaque	\$1,000
Perry County Celebration	
Programs, supplies, venue, refreshments	\$1,450

*Contingent on funding being obtained