

## COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION

August 17, 2026

### **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:** Lloyd Byers, Tara Collier, Jennifer Dykert, Rich Fultz, Sarah Geesaman, Brooke Holley, Ashley Isaacson, Chandlar Kern, Charlotte Klunk, Elias Klunk, Jason Klunk, Michelle Koslap, Anne Miller, Ayla Miller, Rich Pluta, Krista Pontius, Nancy Pote, Wes Smith, Jason Snyder

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on August 17, 2026 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by the County.

**Updates/Announcements:** Commissioner Campbell thanked the Perry County Fair Board for providing the venue for the meeting. He said that over the weekend the Commissioners had the opportunity to participate in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for two scouts in Troop 92. Commissioner Campbell recognized Sergeant Jason Klunk for 20 years of service to the County. He concluded by alerting attendees that a ribbon cutting ceremony would be taking place at 11:00 a.m. to unveil the newly renovated Dairy Promotion milkshake trailer.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agriculture Updates:** Annie Miller, Operations and Client Relationship Manager from Penn State Extension, thanked the Commissioners for their support and noted the loss of Becky Kaucher. She said they are very close to a replacement for the 4H program. She said the Master Gardner Program has tripled in size over the last two years. She commented that the most popular workshop is the safe water drinking clinic, and also mentioned that food preservation classes were also held. Ms. Miller stated that the Food Preservation staff had visited kindergarten classes and would be collaborating with People's Provisions.

Ashley Isaacson, Penn State Extension Agronomy Educator, discussed the current season yields and said weed control, horse pasture renovation, and poison hemlock have been hot topics. She also said two new weed invasions in Perry County include water hemp and palmer amaranth. Ms. Isaacson stated that an Organic and Regenerative Ag Conference would be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> in Harrisburg and said it would feature topics such as grain crops, livestock, horticulture and dairy. She also noted that she will be hosting a study session in December for individuals that will be taking their pesticide exam, as it will now be closed book in 2027.

Chandlar Kern, Penn State Extension Livestock Educator, provided information on issues affecting the beef industry including new world screw worm, disease caused by the Asian longhorned tick, and the closure of the JBS Souderton facility. She said the beef industry is in a unique situation currently as beef is at the highest prices ever seen, and consumer demand continues to be high. Ms. Kern stated that a Building Better Beef System program will be held at the Brummer Farm on October 24. She also said there would be pasture walks in Adams and Centre Counties, an informal beef meeting in Lancaster on October 28<sup>th</sup>. She highlighted the upcoming

Lancaster Cattle Feeders meeting to be held on January 26 in Lancaster. Ms. Kern thanked the County for their support of Penn State Extension.

Jennifer Dykert, Penn State Extension 4-H Area Educator, stated that she was covering and looking forward to attending the Perry County Fair. She said the 4-H member number has increased and the total is about 200. She also said there are 16 new volunteers. Ms. Dykert commented that there are over 300 4-H project exhibits at the fair and commented that they are in the final steps to hire a replacement 4-H Educator for Perry County.

Tara Collier, Perry County Conservation District Manager, stated that the District has received State funding through the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program. She said ten projects had been completed through this funding, as well as three currently under construction and more applications have been received. She commented that there is County Action Plan funding received and two lawn to meadow projects had been completed. Ms. Collier highlighted the Lynn Sheaffer Dum Park meadow project which is actively blooming. She noted the installation of two silvopasture projects in the County. She provided information on several dirt road and stream crossing projects as well. Ms. Collier commented on the three new technicians and intern at the District, as well as the move to a new building.

Krista Pontius, Agriculture Educator at Greenwood, thanked the Commissioners for their support of the youth. She stated that there are approximately 400 FFA members in Perry County. She said that each FFA Chapter is slightly different, but they all have the common goal of instilling a love of agriculture in youth and educating them on where their food comes from.

Ayla Miller, Agriculture Educator at West Perry, stated that Draven Stout had been selected as Pennsylvania FFA Treasurer and noted he was also showing goats at the fair. She also said that they will have a new teacher for the upcoming school year, Richard Bollinger. She mentioned that Draven Stout will also be representing the State in extemporaneous speaking. Ms. Miller noted that West Perry also has two American degree recipients.

Ms. Pontius noted that Greenwood had one American degree recipient. She said that Newport student, Lizzie Hoover, will represent the State in senior prepared speaking. She reminded attendees to come to the milkshake trailer for the ribbon cutting ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Pontius also said the Farm to Fork Dinner would be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Campbell recognized the Grange organizations in the County. He said Friday evening the Perry Valley Grange held their meeting and a trivia event.

Ms. Pontius said that the Pomona Grange will be holding a celebration of century farm families at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening during the fair. She commented on the heritage and legacy that will be celebrated that evening.

Jason Snyder, Perry County Fair Board President, stated that the planning for the fair began last year.

**Meeting Business:** Solicitor Bunt opened the following firearm bids:

- Barry Lowe:
  - \$210.00 Mossberg M500 ATP6 Pump Action 12 Gauge
- Ricky Lowe:
  - \$215.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$215.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
- Joshua Lahr:
  - \$251.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP

- Alan Holley:
  - \$209.87 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$209.87 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$153.87 Mossberg M500 ATP6 Pump Action 12 Gauge
  - \$163.27 Winchester Model 1500 Defender Pump Action 12 Gauge
  - \$225.79 Remington 870 Express Super Magnum Pump Action 12 Gauge
  - \$237.27 Remington Semi-Automatic Shot Gun12 Gauge
- Nick Campbell:
  - \$301.50 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$301.50 Winchester Model 1500 Defender Pump Action 12 Gauge
  - \$301.50 Remington Semi-Automatic Shot Gun12 Gauge
- Rodney Keller:
  - \$302.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$302.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
- Jason Klunk:
  - \$245.00 Remington 870 Express Super Magnum Pump Action 12 Gauge
- Glenn Barkley
  - \$231.75 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$231.75 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$231.75 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$151.22 Mossberg M500 ATP6 Pump Action 12 Gauge
  - \$178.77 Remington 870 Express Super Magnum Pump Action 12 Gauge
  - \$211.70 Remington Semi-Automatic Shot Gun12 Gauge
  - \$211.70 Remington Semi-Automatic Shot Gun12 Gauge
- Wayne E. Orris
  - \$100.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$250.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$300.00 Spring Field Armory 45 Cal Hand Gun XD45 ACP
  - \$300.00 Remington Semi-Automatic Shot Gun12 Gauge
  - \$450.00 Remington Semi-Automatic Shot Gun12 Gauge

Solicitor Bunt stated that the bids would be reviewed by the Warden and awarded at the next meeting.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Michelle Koslap, from SEDA-COG, stated that one project application had been received from the Newport Borough Water Authority and said the project includes hydrant replacement, leak detector installation, and booster station repairs. She noted that a survey still needed to be completed. Commissioner Campbell called for the vote. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the 2025 CDBG Professional & Administrative Services Agreement with SEDA-COG. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Michelle Koslap stated this is the regular agreement for each CDBG grant cycle. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve Amendment 1 to the Professional & Administrative Services Agreement for 2023 CDBG. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried

unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the Affordable Housing Trust Fund requests totaling \$13,618.35. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell noted that these were a few new projects and one project amendment. He thanked Join Hands for their continued partnership. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the tower site license agreement for the Lambs Gap Tower. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the quote from Everound for a PDF/A conversion tool project for the Register & Recorder's Office at a cost of \$3,600. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell noted that this project would bring the conversion process in house which is now done by an outside vendor. He said this would save the yearly vendor cost and would come out of the Register and Recorders Records Improvement Funds. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the renewal agreement with Everound for County-wide IT support and services. Commissioners Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Employee Status:** Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the appointment of Wes Smith to the position of Director – EMA/911 effective August 23, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$38.84. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. Commissioner Campbell recognized Mr. Smith's years of service to the County and looked forward to years of success in the new position. He also recognized Rich Fultz for his service and wished him well in retirement. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the transition of Dawn Montgomery to Clerk at the Newport Magisterial District Justice effective September 14, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$17.33. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

**Solicitor's Report:** None

**Post Comments:** Lloyd Byers welcomed the Commissioners to the fair and thanked them for their support including their involvement in obtaining a grant for the fairgrounds and helping apply for a second. He said the EDA was also heavily involved in the grant and noted that building 6 would be renovated. Mr. Byers again thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Taira Little, from the Perry County Economic Development Authority (EDA), acknowledged fellow EDA representative, Rich Pluta and invited everyone to visit their booth at the fair to see the proposed plans for the fairgrounds and the continued fundraising efforts. She noted that there are a lot of funds to raise to make the project happen. Ms. Little also said the Perry County America 250 liberty bell was beside their booth.

Commissioner Watson said if anyone sees Senator Greg Rothman at the fair to please thank him, as he was instrumental in obtaining the fairgrounds grant funding. She also stated that on Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the fair grandstand stage, a presentation and thank you regarding the grant funding would be held.

Taira Little stated that the fairground project is not just a renovation project, but a reinvestment in the Perry County community.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to adjourn at 10:42 a.m. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried unanimously.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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William G. Lyons, Secretary