

**COMMISSIONERS GENERAL SESSION**  
**May 20, 2019**

**Present at the meeting were  
Commissioners:**

Brenda K. Benner-Chairman  
Paul L. Rudy Jr.-Vice-Chairman  
Stephen C. Naylor- Secretary - Absent  
William R. Bunt- Solicitor  
Shannon Hines – Chief Clerk

**Present from the Press:** None

**Present from the Public:** Ingrid Albright, Brenda Albright, Karen Anderson, Harva Owings Baughman, Miriam Briscoe, Frank Campbell, Mary Colledge, Gary Eby, Rich Fultz, Jan Gibboney, Steve Hile, Audra Hunter, Sarah Keller, Bill Lyons, Chris McKelvey, Rita Metcalf, Roger Miller, Rich Pluta, Craig Sheaffer, Marty Smith, Wes Smith, Michelle Thebes, Randy Waggoner, Wendy Welfley, Melanie Wertz, Christina Zook

Commissioner Benner opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2019 with the Pledge to the Flag and a moment of silence. The meeting was recorded by Melanie Wertz and the County.

**Public Comments:** Miriam Briscoe commented that she has taken issues up through the Governor’s Office and will be cycling back through again. She encouraged candidates to consider the boroughs. Ms. Briscoe expressed concerns regarding Landisburg Borough practices. She stated that she no longer receives borough announcements. She encouraged people to attend local meetings.

Karen Anderson questioned what the approximate annual cost, including benefits, of the new position in the Sheriff’s Office would mean to the County for the remainder of this year and also next year. She also questioned how a department can be over-budgeted and expressed concerns regarding poor budgeting. Ms. Anderson recommend that all department budgets should be looked and stated that a surplus in a budget does not represent good budgeting. She stated that a budget should be at a more even level.

Gary Eby stated that due to his previous experience working for the County he understands that there are variables you cannot always plan for in a budget and gave the example of fuel costs. Mr. Eby commented that budgets are a good tool to set guidelines but it is a difficult task.

Rich Fultz commented that as a department head, he must anticipate needs when budgeting for the next year. He stated that if you do not anticipate for certain needs the money is not available in the budget.

Karen Anderson questioned what happens when unforeseen costs arise and a budget surplus has been used.

Sheriff Hile explained that he takes a year’s worth of data to compile his budget. He stated that he invited members of the public to his office to discuss his budget. He commented that he has one shot to propose his budget and then it is produced. Sheriff Hile indicated sometimes a department head must come back to request additional funding to meet the needs of his/her office and he has had to do this.

Marty Smith stated that he was attending the meeting as a taxpayer and using a personal day. He commented on the rental fee for the Office of Aging and provided additional information regarding why the decision was made to move the department to a different location.



Commissioner Rudy made a motion to accept the letter of resignation for Robert Kranz, Law Clerk, for the Perry County Courts effective May 29, 2019. Commissioner Benner seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rudy made a motion to approve the appointment of Heather Heckert to the position of Case Administrator Clerk in the Domestic Relations Office at an hourly rate of \$19.27 effective June 3, 2019. Commissioner Benner seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Solicitors Report:** Nothing that required action.

**Public Comments:** Melanie Wertz questioned whether the two new appointments, excluding the Sheriff's Office position, were funded through pass through money from the state or whether they were additions to the budget.

Brenda Albright commended Jim Scott on the veteran banner dedication ceremony he facilitated in New Bloomfield square and commented that it would have been nice to see a larger turnout of people at the dedication.

Karen Anderson questioned the funds allocated for furniture purchase in the Sheriff's Office and asked if the funding was part of the 2018 or 2019 budget. She also questioned if additional money was allocated after January 1, 2019 for new or used furniture in the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Hile stated that the furniture was purchased through a safety grant. He commented that no new or additional money was allocated for furniture. He also stated that he received no budget funding to move and raised money to purchase surplus furniture.

Miriam Briscoe commented that individuals should pay attention to the meaning of the pledge of allegiance and be vigilant on current issues not the past. She also stated that the \$11 million-dollar project that would provide services to 92 homes should be looked into.

Marty Smith provided statistics on the number of county employees that have left county employment. He questioned the location of a bullet proof office. He also commented that the Maintenance Department staff performed a large amount of the work in the courthouse which resulted in a cost savings to the county. Mr. Smith also provided information on the budget reserve and stated that department heads and employees do a good job.

Rich Pluta commented on the recent ad that indicated Commissioner Benner was the deciding vote to eliminate Perry County Transportation Authority and switch over to Rabbit Transit. Mr. Pluta read the meeting minutes from March 27, 2016 which indicated it was a unanimous vote to pass.

Gary Eby questioned whether the South Central Pennsylvania Transportation Alliance contract is reviewable or renewable. He also asked about county representation on the board and how often the contract is reviewed by the board representative. Mr. Eby also questioned whether the board representative receives input from the Commissioners. He questioned the complaint process when a citizen calls in with an issue regarding Rabbit. Mr. Eby questioned the purpose of the board representative.

Marty Smith wished good luck to all candidates running in the election.

Miriam Briscoe thanked all candidates for running.

**Comments from Press:** None

Commissioner Rudy made a motion to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Benner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Shannon Hines, Chief Clerk

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Stephen C. Naylor, Secretary