

**Warren County Commissioners  
Work Session  
Commissioners Conference Room  
January 11, 2022, 12:00 p.m.**

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin called the Work Session of the Warren County Commissioners to order with Commissioner Tricia Durbin and Commissioner Jeff Eggleston present.

Staff Present: Pamela Matve, Chief Clerk, Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director, Riley Enlow, Dan Glotz and Attorney Nathaniel Schmidt

Citizens Present: Josh Cotton (WTO), Andy Close (Titusville Herald), and Jane Dunshie

**Announcements:**

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin started the meeting by stating that the meeting will be recorded.

**Public Hearings:** None

**Public Comment:**

Jane Dunshie started by thanking everyone who is moving forward on the EMS issues in the county.

She then stated that the PA Senate is asking for 2020 records of the election, and is Warren County doing this? Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated that he had received a call to see if Warren would like to participate and he nicely declined.

**Old Items of Discussion:** None

**New Items of Discussion:**

**Landfill Closure:** Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that he wanted to update everyone on the closure of the landfill and what he is proposing.

During November and December 2021, the landfill was shut down. With this a new permit with the Redevelopment Authority will be done with ANF, and DEP will provide the closure certificate.

The county will address the utilization of the closure fund and continue the mowing each year.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that what he is proposing is the creation of a Recreation/Conservation Authority. The concept is that this authority will address the long-term management of the site and hold the permit with the ANF, they will then also be responsible for the mowing.

The second piece is the management of funding and maintaining the recycling program that is in place. We would roll the closure fund money into an endowment that the Recreation Authority will manage. If we don't do something like this the remaining \$400,000.00 in the closure fund will remain until it runs out and he is not in favor of this.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston went on to state that by using other funds such as Act 13, bed tax etc. the salary for the Recreation Director position could be covered.

With the money in an endowment, it would collect interest and this could then be used for the landfill if remediation is needed down the road.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin asked who currently pays for the recycling?

Dan Glotz, Director of Planning & Zoning stated that the Solid Waste Authority pays for the majority of the recycling program and the sites have diminished over the years.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin asked if there was any obligation to keep the recycling program? Dan Glotz stated that by law any municipality with 5,000 or more residents is required to have a program.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin continued to state that we need to look at this recycling project as Waste Management has raised their rates and municipalities have dropped out of the program, therefore, is it worth our while to keep it going.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston agreed, something has to change. He would like to keep the recycling program, and expand it. We could possibly rebid the contract again or look at what we actually recycle.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that if we continue the program it has to be cost neutral. As far as the Recreation Director she is very supportive.

Dan Glotz stated that Commissioner Jeff Eggleston has laid out some good options with an Authority to be created they could handle the Bike/Hike Trail and do some fundraising etc.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that there are some things that need ironed out, but we need to make a decision within the next month so we can move forward with the closure and dissolution of the Solid Waste Authority.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin stated then that the immediate need is to create the Recreation/Conservation Authority.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin then asked about the Planning Assistant and has this been decided.

Lisa Hagberg, Finance Director stated it was discussed but we do not know the cost of the position.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin then told Commissioner Jeff Eggleston to continue to move forward to create the Recreation/Conservation Authority.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that he will take the closure fund and put it into an endowment and put covenants on it so it can not be used for other things.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that he should think about putting the money in an investment account without great restrictions.

**Covid Testing:** Commissioner Jeff Eggleston apologized for not sending any documentation ahead of time for review. He has been talking with Kenneth McCarrison, Public Safety Director kicking around some ideas.

With the increase in covid, the hospital and the walk-in clinic have been swamped with testing. After talking with a couple of local pharmacies we came up with a couple of options.

First, we could advertise/promote the other testing sites; Gaughn's does the testing that gives results in 30-40 hours, Darlings gives the rapid test where you have the results in 15 min., but the cost is \$50.00. We could use up to \$15,000.00 ARPA funds towards testing.

Secondly, we could use that funding to subsidize Darlings so the cost of the test drops to a more reasonable cost.

Third we could buy home test kits for \$15.00 each and have a site to hand them out.

Short term is to promote the testing sites; by everyone going to the walk-in clinic this is creating havoc.

Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin asked, why is this our scope of work? Through EMS we can help the hospitals.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that he feels that people don't know what testing sites are available and the fundamental goal is to reduce the strain on the hospital and the clinic.

Commissioner Tricia Durbin stated that she is in favor of promoting the other testing sites, and along with this promote that if you have symptoms, quarantine.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston stated that the PCR test that Gaughn's has, takes longer to get the results, but it is more accurate.

Jane Dunshie asked, if the hospital and pharmacies charge for the testing, what if people do not have insurance how are they supposed to pay and get the test.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston explained the difference as to why Gaughn's and Darlings are different in cost.

## **Projects:**

### **Upcoming Commissioner Meeting Review:**

The agenda for the January 12, 2022 public meeting was reviewed. And two items were to be added to the agenda;

Tax milage rate approval and the EMS shared agreement.

### **Department/Committee Updates**

**Finance:** Reilly Enlow stated that currently any expense over \$500 must be signed off by the Commissioners. She is asking for approval to bypass this step if the item was approved in the budget.

Everyone was in agreement with this to save time, but Commissioner Jeff Eggleston asked that the purchasing policy reflect this change and also make sure it is not in the county code that we must do this.

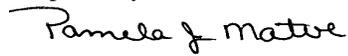
Commissioner Benjamin Kafferlin then stated that we need to pass a resolution to approve certain vendor, such as utilities, be paid with out our approval so that there are no delays.

### **Commissioner's Schedule**

### **General Discussion**

With nothing further, the work session was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully,



Pamela J. Matve  
Chief Clerk

