

Commissioners:

R. JACK MCKERNAN  
*Chairman*

TONY R. MUSSARE  
*Vice Chairman*

RICHARD MIRABITO  
*Secretary*



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT  
*Director of Administration  
and Chief Clerk*

J. DAVID SMITH  
*Solicitor*

---

Telephone (570) 320-2124  
Fax (570) 320-2127

COUNTY of LYCOMING  
48 WEST THIRD STREET  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

---

[www.lyco.org](http://www.lyco.org)  
[county.commissioners@lyco.org](mailto:county.commissioners@lyco.org)

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
August 22, 2017  
Board Room, Executive Plaza  
Pine Street, Williamsport**

Commissioner McKernan - Present  
Commissioner Mussare - Present  
Commissioner Mirabito - Absent

Solicitor Smith - Present

**1.0 OPERATIONS**

1.1 CONVENE COMMISSIONERS MEETING. The meeting was convened at 10:02 a.m.

**2.0 ACTION ITEMS**

2.1 APPROVE CASH REQUIREMENTS REPORT. A motion by Mr. McKernan and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (2-0), approved accounts payable cash requirement report through August 30, 2017, for payment on August 23, 2017 in the amount of \$2,224,679.67.

**6.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT.** The floor was opened to commissioner comment and the following were received:

Mr. Mussare clarified the misconceptions regarding the current GEO Reentry Program. The County does not provide free rent and utilities for the GEO Reentry Program. This was done through negotiation for a reduced rate for treatment per person. This savings amounts to approximately \$90,000 annually. In 2007 the County purchased the Sovereign Bank Building for a future government campus. I disagree that this should have been done. This left the county with a lot of excess property. It made no sense to pay a contractor for five years + to house the re-entry program when we have the space. And we did not know if the program would be successful at reduction the prison population. In the five year period, we have saved

about \$250,000 by housing GEO in Executive Plaza. I personally feel it is a tremendous benefit and it reduces the prison population. The cost to house prisoners outside the county is greater than \$1 million. Now we need to negotiate the future location of the program. We need to work together to allow the county departments to do what is right for the people and the businesses in the county. We need to decide to keep it here or move it elsewhere. I feel the program will continue, regardless if it is with GEO or with Firetree. I spoke to local businesses and most feel that the program housed here is invisible.

Mr. Mussare said that the time is now to make our move (sell off the extra property the county owns). He wants feedback from the public and the business community with regard to this.

Mr. Mussare said on another matter, the 22 clients referred by the state that were displaced is costing the county money. For \$5/day by 22 clients is about \$110/day. Averaging three days a week it annualizes to about \$17,160/annually. It is foolish not to take advantage of this. He hates to lose this due to an inability to make a decision. He would like it on the agenda this Thursday for a vote.

Mr. McKernan said he would hate to leave Commissioner Mirabito's comments out of the mix. He has no problem putting it on the agenda. He feels that August 29 would be a better bet.

Mike Boughton from GEO ReEntry voiced his concerns with regards to the 22 individuals who were dislocated due to the Commissioners' directive. He agreed that a decision made sooner is better.

Mr. McKernan stated he felt that the program should continue through the end of the year.

Mr. Mussare asked Mr. Boughton to explain the different programs that resulted in different rates being charged.

Mr. Boughton detailed how the participants are placed and the differences in the state programs versus the county programs.

**7.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.** The floor was opened to public comment and the following were received:

Todd Lauer from Jersey Shore asked questions to Mike Boughton about the state participants.

Mr. Boughton replied.

**8.0 NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.** Mr. McKernan announced the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Thursday, August 24, 2017.

**9.0 ADJOURN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.