

Commissioners:

SCOTT L. METZGER
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



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

J. DAVID SMITH
Solicitor

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**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Mussare Commissioner Mirabito, Director Matthew McDermott, and Solicitor J. David Smith.

1.0 OPERATIONS

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Convene Commissioners' Public Meeting
- 1.4 Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 1.5 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

None

- 1.6 Proclamation: National Domestic Violence Prevention Month

Amber Morningstar accepted the proclamation. Her comments are attached. She announced that on Wednesday, October 18 there will be a Vigil of Remembrance and Hope at 5:30 on the steps of the YWCA which is open to the public. She encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Mirabito commented on the need for everyone to look at how they treat others and recognize that the behavior we model is what our children see. We need to understand the escalation, how it grows and becomes the norm for some relationships.

Ms. Morningstar reported that it takes a domestic violence survivor 8 to 10 times to leave a relationship for good. When they do that's when the risk of lethality is the highest. Ms. Morningstar described the cycle of abuse. She informed everyone that they provided 46,000 safe shelter nights over the last fiscal year. She expressed the urgent need for help from the community, especially financial help.

Mr. Mussare commented on the long-lasting negative effects of domestic violence. He encouraged people to watch for the signs and get back to being neighborly.

Mr. Metzger spoke about his experience in the Domestic Violence Unit. He stressed that the offenders want ultimate control and hate being held accountable. Mr. Metzger recounted an incident and how it impacted the children. Mr. Metzger stressed that this is a problem that touches every walk of life and we all need to work to stop it. He thanked the staff for all that they do to help the victims daily.

2.0 REPORTS

2.1 Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify invoices due through 10/18/23 to be paid on 10/11/23 in the amount of \$1,793,714.68.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

2.2 Kalen Barnes – Vote to approve Juror Panel # 22 Report for payment on 10/5/23 in the amount of \$6,311,60.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

2.3 Kalen Barnes – Vote to approve Juror Panel # 24 Report for payment on 10/10/23 in the amount of \$4,959.20.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Recess Commissioners' Public Meeting for TEFRA Hearing

3.0 TEFRA HEARING

3.1 Convene Hearing.

3.2 Ann Pepperman, Solicitor for the Lycoming County Authority, for Chris Kenyon – Public notice to discuss the issuance by the Lycoming County Authority of tax-exempt revenue bonds for specific projects.

Ms. Pepperman informed the Commissioners that the TEFRA Hearing Approval is good for three years. Due to the volatility of the market the bonds may not be purchased right away.

Solicitor J. David Smith informed the public that this is not an obligation of the County and no tax dollars are involved.

Ms. Pepperman added that the Lycoming County Authority issues the bonds on behalf of Lycoming College and the college assumes the obligation to pay the bonds. This is based on the tax codes.

Mr. Jeff Bennett, Vice President of Financial Affairs and Administration for Lycoming College explained the purpose of the bond issuance to include the construction of the new baseball fields, renovations to two resident halls, renovations to other parts of the college and to refund and pay down existing debts.

3.3 Adjourn Hearing.

Reconvene Commissioners' Public Meeting

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Mya Toon – Acknowledge the County will be requesting proposals for construction management services for the new Coroner Building Project (2023 budgeted item).

- 4.2 Mya Toon – Acknowledge the County will be requesting bids for the Williamsport Levee System Cross Pipes Rehabilitation Project (2023 budgeted item).

Shannon Rossman Director of Planning explained that the project is preventive maintenance and restoration on the pipes. She reviewed the timeline for the project as well as different aspects of the project.

5.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- 5.1 Allison Wolfe – Approve the following Personnel Actions as conditional offers of employment, subject to the successful completion of a background check and all other employment conditions as outlined in Attachment (A).

Director McDermott requested to table the hiring of the Human Resource Director due to a technical issue.

Mr. Mirabito moved to table the hiring of the Human Resource Director. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve the balance of the Personnel actions. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Recess Commissioners' Public Meeting for the Board of Assessment Revisions

6.0 BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVISIONS

- 6.1 Convene Board of Assessment Revisions.

- 6.2 Brooke Wright – Approve the following real estate tax refunds as outlined in Attachment (B)

Penn College of Technology – Mr. Mirabito moved to approve the recommendations to deny the exemption. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0.

Ms. Linda Harboch from the Larry United Methodist Church asked several questions that were answered. She was also given information on how to appeal the decision.

Larry United Methodist Church- Mr. Mirabito moved to approve the recommendations to deny the exemption. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0.

Loyalsock Valley Antiques Machinery – Mr. Mirabito moved to approve the exemption. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0.

- 6.3 Adjourn Board of Assessment Revisions.

Reconvene Commissioners' Public Meeting

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve Resolution 2023-21 supporting the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (AMERICA250PA).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. Metzger stated that we look forward to 2026 when we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation and the role the state of Pennsylvania played in it. It is important to educate our youth about the history and integral role we played in the birth of our country.

Director McDermott read about the role of the Advisory committee.

- 7.2 Mya Toon – Vote to approve Architectural Services proposal for First Floor renovations at Third Street Plaza Building with Anthony Visco, Jr. in the amount of \$85,400.00 (2023 budget funds available).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 7.3 Mya Toon – Vote to approve the list of agreements approved by the Director of Administration for the month of September.

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 7.4 Mya Toon – Vote to approve Amendment to Agreement with GEO Reentry Services, LLC (2023 budgeted item).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 7.5 Mya Toon – Vote to approve Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Hazardous Material Response Fund Grant Agreement in the amount of \$21,675.00 (2023 budgeted item).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 7.6 Maleick Fleming – Vote to approve Amendment to Subrecipient Agreement with First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (Act 13 Legacy funds).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 7.7 Jason Yorks – Vote to approve Agreement with Counsils Appliances (2023 budgeted item).

Mr. Mirabito moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

8.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Mr. Metzger asked the public to keep the people in Israel that have been terrorized by the horrific acts of violence in their thoughts and prayers.

9.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers who wish to address the Board of Commissioners will be limited for no more than three (3) minutes on any particular item. The speaker must state his/her name and address for the record. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board Chairman.

Tom Schaeck, Pennsdale, Muncy Township – Mr. Schaeck read a list of questions regarding the LERTA for FamVest that was voted on at the 10/5/23 meeting. Mr. Schaeck informed that he had not attended the Township meeting but was speaking for township residents. They were under the impression that this was a done deal and no vote was taken

at last night's Township meeting as far as he knows. The township is concerned about the burden of increased costs for EMS, Fire and Police services in the future, legacy costs.

Mr. Mussare informed Mr. Schaeck that the LERTA is presented to all three taxing bodies for a vote.

Discussion was held on various points of encouraging growth in the community.

Tom Adams, Williamsport. Mr. Adams talked about readings from the Bible, how he feels it applies to current times and the events in the middle east. He expressed his views on the events and the responses to the events from different people and groups.

Mr. Mirabito responded to his comments stating that it is important, especially in light of the Domestic Violence Proclamation, not to dehumanize either side of the conflict and there are civilians from both sides of this conflict that are dying.

YOU TUBE PUBLIC COMMENT



KeystoneChieffirst



JD Digger I find it very disrespectful that the Director would choose to get up and walk around and do other task during the opening prayer

10.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 1st Floor, Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

TO VIEW THIS MEETING CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-jzUj8Kwak>

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

- Courts – Sharon Greene, Administrative Specialist, Full-Time Replacement, \$18.83 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: October 15, 2023.
- Human Resources – Mark Condo, Director of Human Resources, Full-Time Replacement, \$90,950.00 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: October 16, 2023.
- Prison – Kayla Mull, Correctional Officer I, Full-Time Replacement, \$20.00 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: October 22, 2023.
- Resource Management Services – Robert Harvey, Recycling Laborer, Full-Time Replacement, \$14.50 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: October 30, 2023.
- Public Defender’s Office – Peter Lovecchio, Assistant Public Defender, Full-Time Replacement, \$60,500 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: October 30, 2023.
- Prothonotary – Alison Hunter, Civil Processing Clerk, Full-Time Replacement, \$17.17 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Start Date: October 30, 2023.
- Prison – Justin Losell, Correctional Officer II, Full-Time Replacement, \$21.48 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Transfer Date: November 12, 2023.

ATTACHMENT (B)

Real Estate Exemption Requests							
<u>PARCEL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SITE LOCATION</u>	<u>REASON FOR EXEMPTION</u>	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DENY</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LOSS IN TAXES</u>
65-009-207	Penna College of Technology	917 Second St	Green Space		X	13,000	\$ -
45-366-152.A-999	Larry United Methodist Church	Rt 287 Hwy	Church Activities		X	33,600	\$ -
29-170-108	Loyalsock Vly Antique Machinery	182 Holly St	Public Education/Museum &	X		373,700	\$ 2,429.05
			Events				
							\$ 2,429.05

Good Morning, Thank you Commissioner's for proclaiming October Domestic Violence Awareness month in Lycoming County.

We step into this room each October for this meeting, to recognize, remember, and support those who have lost their lives due to domestic violence. Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behaviors used by an individual to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner or family member.

The national statistic of 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will be victims of domestic violence at some point in their lifetime has not changed. There are roughly 113 thousand residents in Lycoming County. If that statistic of 1 in 4 and 1 in 7 is accurate, and I believe it is, that equates to 28 THOUSAND WOMEN and 16 thousand men of Lycoming County will or have been a victim of domestic violence.

In program year 2022-2023 Wise Options alone served **1,164 victims of domestic violence**. Domestic violence does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone, and the detriment it has on everyday life is real. Survivors are forced to rebuild their lives, often coming to Wise Options with only the clothing on their backs, no support system, no money, and nowhere to go. Over the last few years Wise Options has endured a significant increase in the amount of time survivors are forced to reside in emergency shelter. Three years ago we were providing on average 5-6 thousand shelter nights to women and children, over the last fiscal year we have provided over 40 thousand safe shelter nights. Housing options for survivors are scarce and the strain on our program is heavy. Often funding for our services is flat, with little to no increase, but a heavier demand on our advocates. In addition to the increase in shelter nights, Wise Options has gone from providing roughly 300 PFAs per year to over 600.

Domestic violence has not stopped, and WE, as a community cannot stop raising awareness, speaking out, pursuing justice, and combatting this tragedy.

Without many of the hardworking men and women in this very room-victims would be forced to face domestic violence alone. I thank you for your service and commitment.

BUT our work is not over.

I challenge each of you when you leave this room today to think about those you love, your family, friends, neighbors, peers, and colleagues. I challenge you to think of ways that you can support survivors.

Id like to thank my advocates at the YWCA, your dedication and service is not only admirable but has a profound impact on those we serve. In closing, I'd like you to take a moment to remember the victims from Lycoming County who have lost their lives due to domestic violence. As you drive down 4th street and see the purple flags, I hope you take a moment to reflect on the great efforts of our county to combat such tragedy. I am hopeful that together we can continue to stand against domestic violence in Lycoming County. Thank you.