

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

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

COUNTY of LYCOMING
48 WEST THIRD STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

www.lyco.org
county.commissioners@lyco.org

**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 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

2.0 REPORTS

- 2.1 Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify the invoices due through 5/17/23 to be paid on 5/10/23 in the amount of \$820,888.29.

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

3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 3.1 Mya Toon – Acknowledge the County will be requesting bids for a Flood Mitigation, Acquisition and Demolition Project (HMGP funds).

4.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- 4.1 Jessica Segraves – 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).

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

Recess Commissioners' Public Meeting for the Salary Board

5.0 SALARY BOARD

- 5.1 Convene Salary Board.

5.2 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve the following salary board actions as outlined in Attachment (B).

Krista Rogers moved to approve. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 4-0

Mr. Metzger explained the need for an in-house master fire arms instructor. Having a master Firearms Instructor on staff to do the training saves the county the cost of sending personnel out for training which is very expensive.

5.3 Adjourn Salary Board.

Reconvene Commissioners' Public Meeting

6.0 TDA ACTIONS

6.1 Jessica Segraves – Approve the following TDA actions as outlined in Attachment (C)

Matthew McDermott advised that the Department of Public Safety TDA Action is an error that needs to be removed from the list. There was an error that needs to be corrected for this item. It will be presented at a future meeting.

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

Mr. Mussare asked about part time employee's hours being monitored so they stay within the hour limit. Mr. McDermott responded that he had sent an email out today to all leadership as a reminder to monitor part time employee hours from their start/anniversary date. Jessica responded that there is a report updated biweekly so department heads can see the hours of their part time employees have worked and monitor them.

7.0 ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Mya Toon – Vote to approve Offer of Purchase for Executive Plaza from Horizon Federal Credit Union.

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

Justin Howard, President and CEO Horizon Federal Credit Union thanked the Commissioners and expressed the company's excitement about moving their headquarters to the Executive Plaza. They have outgrown their current facilities which has limited their ability to hire staff. The company has 57 employees now with plans to increase that number. They are looking forward to being downtown where they can walk around and frequent the shops and restaurants.

Mr. Metzger made a motion to hold a discussion. Mr. Mussare 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Mr. Mirabito thanked Mr. Howard for the financial offer, for making the investment in the city and having the faith to put their headquarters here. Mr. Mirabito wants the public to know that this is a game changer for Williamsport to have the company headquarters in downtown Williamsport. This will not only help bring the downtown area back to what it was decades ago it will also help repopulate the area.

Mr. Mussare stated that he had made a promise twelve years ago to get rid of excess buildings owned by the county. He described this as a great day. People will be walking around town seeing the shops and eating in the restaurants. This will help to revitalize the city. Mr. Mussare thanked Mr. Howard for investing in the downtown and in the community. He also thanked all of the downtown businesses for choosing to stay downtown during the efforts to revitalize the area.

Mr. Metzger commented that this is an exciting day for Williamsport and the entire County. Due to a lot of people's time, money, efforts and sweat equity they have built the city back up. This adds to that. The ending of the lease for the Sharwell building will bring an additional hundred workers to the downtown area. At the same time, it puts this building back on the tax rolls. We are also blessed to have a wonderful sale price. It is 1.4 million over the asking price that will go back to the taxpayers. This is a win-win for everyone. It helps us with our strategic plan to put all the county offices in one building so when people go to do county government they can go to one building. Mr. Metzger thanked Mr. Howard and his colleagues.

Mr. Mirabito added that during the discussions they have had they want to earmark the extra money from the sale of the building in some sort of fund for the people of the county that will benefit the future and it becomes a legacy for the community. A way of paying it forward for future generations.

Mr. Metzger agreed. He referenced it to the ARPA funds. We want to put this money aside, so that it's something that has an impact for the community that is generational, it's not just paying a bill.

- 7.2 Mya Toon – Vote to approve and submit the PCoRP grant application to County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$30,000.00 (2023 budgeted item).**

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

Mr. Mirabito commented that this went up \$10,000. Pcorp is our liability insurance. As a result, we get money back. That's what this is.

Mr. Metzger commented on the amount of money in the budget that is made up of grants. It is the hard work of our department heads, professionals and Mya that apply for the many grants to get the extra money so things can get done

- 7.3 Mya Toon – Vote to approve Change Order #1 with Access Control Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$2,715.70 (2023 budgeted item).**

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

- 7.4 Erik Fortin – Vote to approve and submit the Intermediate Punishment Treatment Program grant application to PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency in the amount of \$380,000.00 (2023 budgeted item).**

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

Mr. Metzger commented that the funding for probation and parole services continues to get cut which creates a burden on the counties. This affects all the counties in the state which

CCAP needs to address.

Mr. Mussare questioned whether some of the funds from the Opioid settlement can be utilized for some of the programs. A meeting has been scheduled to discuss this.

Mr. Mirabito hopes that there will be a discussion on using the medical assistance treatment in the prison. It is very circumspect what they allow us to use the settlement money for. This is a good example for citizens that what happens in Harrisburg directly affects your pocketbook. When funding drops down it is not being fair. Crime crosses county borders. It needs a statewide approach to solve the problem. Poorer counties are left in a difficult situation to pick up the costs of probation. He thanked the department for applying for the grant.

7.5 Maleick Fleming – Vote to approve Amendment to Agreement with STEP, Inc. (2021 PHARE funds).

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

7.6 Austin Daily – Vote to approve Change Order #1 for Bridge Bundle Program with Bassett Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$89,113.00 (Liquid Fuel funds).

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

7.7 Beth Baylor – Vote to approve Agreement with EQT ARO LLC (2023 budgeted item).

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

7.8 Beth Baylor – Vote to approve Agreement with EQT AMD LLC (2023 budgeted item).

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

Commissioners thanked EQT for their donation to the community and the Dunkin family for the right away.

7.9 Nancy Ackley – Vote to approve Agreement with Diversified Treatment Alternative Centers (2023 budgeted item).

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

8.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Mr. Mussare reviewed the Sheriff's buildout. He described it as fantastic, great job. Hats off to the maintenance staff and facility director. More important is that they went down to the prison to look at the surplus. Incredible opportunity to get over \$100, 000.00 of gifts to put in the building. Things that were going to be salvaged.

Mr. Mirabito thanked the Facilities Staff and Director for doing that and the Sheriff and staff for their patience during this. He acknowledged that it was not an easy time Mr. McDermott reported that Phase One should be done by end of June or mid-July.

Mr. Mussare reported that he and Mr. Mirabito missed all the excitement during the primary. They understand the stress and wish everyone well.

Mr. Metzger addressed two narratives that are being put out in the public. He hopes the Sun Gazette will address them as well. The first narrative that the Commissioners had anything to do with Shop Vac leaving or the Chinese Company buying Shop Vac is absolutely ludicrous, per Mr. Metzger. We found out Shop Vac was leaving when the public did. The family that owned the company had a bank note of 48 Million dollars with J.P. Morgan Chase in New York. They owed that bank note due to poor management. They then turned it over to Hilco. The bank wanted its money. The bank doesn't care who pays it. There was a hedge fund manager that was interested in Shop Vac. Several elected officials accompanied him on a tour. He was not able to raise the money. They had no idea who was bidding on it. They found out later that there were two U.S. companies bidding on it but were going to move the operations immediately to Mexico. We found out who purchased it at the same time as the public. This is private enterprise. No politician can stop that. Anyone who says that they could have stopped that is misleading the public. Commissioners authority is limited. The Commissioners were directly involved in getting Digger and Associates to buy the land across from the landfill because the County owned the land. The Chamber brought us that buyer. We are working with the Chamber now on another manufacturer coming to that area and selling more land. We are working on a letter of interest now for this purchase. We live in a democracy, we live in a country where people can buy what they want. Again, the Commissioners had nothing to do with the sale, nor could they stop it. Anyone who puts out that narrative, it is false.

The second narrative is an editorial in today's paper. The person wrote about full time responsibilities. The person expressed strong beliefs in the importance of being a full time County Commissioner. Mr. Metzger read a portion of the editorial including that only one candidate has announced if elected that the position would be a full-time position. Mr. Metzger stated that this is inaccurate. He thinks all the candidates have said that and realize that it is a full-time position. I have told anyone that has approached me that it is a full-time position. You must be ready to do things at night and on weekends. I have only taken two vacations in four years and I was working on both of them. Every elected official is full time. Mr. Metzger listed several projects this board of Commissioners has completed and commented that these would have been impossible to complete if they were not working full time. These projects all take time to complete. For this person to say this it is a lie. I have said publicly that it is a full-time job. I called this person out on the phone today. She offered to do a retraction. I have done this job full time for years. I would expect my colleagues to do the same. I take great offense at people who say we haven't done anything, that the County is lazy, that our department heads don't do what they are supposed to do. We have a great team here at the County. We have gotten a lot of things accomplished. All these jobs are full time. I hope the Sun Gazette addresses these two issues so these narratives stop. It is not healthy for the community. Get your facts right before you talk.

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

Marc Sortman, Loyalsock – Commented on Mr. Metzger’s comments. As an elected official you do so many different things. Those that care put the time in. Thanked the Commissioners for the professionalism they display during public meetings, as well as the staff. He appreciates the dedication they have demonstrated to fix the issues of the lease of the Sharwell building and the sale of the Executive Plaza.

John Shireman, Jersey Shore – Commented on the sale of the homes in Jersey Shore that were sold for the West Company coming in, the negative affects the west Company coming into the community will have on the taxpayers, the streets in the borough and the traffic. Feels that the residents are being whacked three times with this. Described it as a double edge sword. He is concerned about the four properties that will no longer be on the tax rolls. Mr. Shireman also commented on information for Veterans, especially those with Agent Orange that he supplied to the local newspapers. He expressed his frustration that the information has not been published

Demitra Moffitt, Loyalsock – She thanked Mr. Metzger for his comments and acknowledged that it is a full-time job. She inquired about the delays she has heard about with people getting MHID services.

Mr. Metzger answered her and explained that there are staff shortages to include Psychiatrists, psychologists as well as an increase in those that need.

Mr. Mirabito explained how the Joinder and MHID services work. The citizens need to understand the relationship between the state and county government. There is a need for more funding for mental health. It is something we have all talked about and at CCAP. We need to understand that anyone can have a mental health issue at any time. Statistics show that more youth are having mental health issues. The new Commissioners will need to continue to advocate for more funding as does the public.

Tom Adams, Williamsport – Commented on the restrictions placed on mental health workers to affirm rather than help them overcome things. This creates more depression, anxiety and violence. He quoted scripture. Tom pointed out the difference between the definition of deists now and earlier in history. He stated it is important to know history. Per Tom when you apply the law of God to a governing system you get greatness.

Adam Welteroth, Williamsport – Commented on the editorial Mr. Metzger referenced. He referenced the editorial and gave his interpretation of the section talking about fully committing themselves to the job of Commissioner. In his opinion this is saying that they don’t have any aspects of running a business or having a different job. Mr. Welteroth’s additional comments were not applicable to the public meeting.

YOU TUBE PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jeff Will Try This also extends to the worthy discussion of mental health! Please keep dialog like this on the forefront!

Lack of access to gender affirming care leads to suicide. Transphobia and similar bigotries should be combated openly with our voices.

10.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 18, 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 follow the link below:

[Lycoming County Commissioner's Meeting - YouTube](#)

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

- Conservation District – Tina Jedrziwski, Administrative Specialist, Full-Time Replacement, \$19.24 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Transfer Date: May 14, 2023.
- Facilities Management – Grace Hubbard, Custodial Worker, Full-Time Replacement, \$13.41 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 15, 2023.
- Department of Public Safety – William Miller, Emergency Management Specialist, Full-Time Replacement, \$45,201.00 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Transfer Date: May 14, 2023.
- Pre-Release Center – Kelly Burkholder, Resident Supervisor I, Full-Time Replacement, \$18.10 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 15, 2023.
- Budget and Finance – Judy Knarr, Payroll/AP Specialist, Full-Time Replacement, \$19.76 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: June 5, 2023.
- Prison – John Wagoner, Correctional Officer II, Full-Time Replacement, \$21.48 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Transfer Date: April 30, 2023.
- Human Resources – Kane Angell, Recruitment Specialist, Full-Time Replacement, \$17.35 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: May 30, 2023.

ATTACHMENT (B)

SALARY BOARD ACTIONS:

- Resource Management Services:
 - Request to move Operations and Support Services Clerk from a Paygrade 5 to a Paygrade 4.
- Adult Probation Office:
 - Request to add a Part-Time Master Firearms Instructor, Paygrade 9, will not exceed 300 working hours in a year.

ATTACHMENT (C)

TDA ACTIONS:

- Resource Management Services:
 - Request to change the job title of Operations and Support Services Clerk to Support Associate.
 - Request to move Operations and Support Services Clerk (Support Associate) from a Paygrade 5 to a Paygrade 4.
- Adult Probation Office:
 - Request to add a Part-Time Master Firearms Instructor, Paygrade 9, will not exceed 300 working hours in a year.