

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, JULY 13, 2023
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Mussare Commissioner Mirabito, Director Matthew McDermott, and Chris Kenyon, Solicitor

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 Carrie Ekins - DRUMS ALIVE Program

Carrie Ekins shared her personal background and how Drums Alive was created. She was amazed at the power, energy and euphoric feeling she got when drumming. She reports that it is much more than a physical workout. After much research she was amazed to learn what happens to the brain when you drum. Using the combination of drumming, music, rhythm and cognitive applications she put together the program. It was her goal to have a brain program. The program was developed in a brain training program for people of diverse abilities, for all people, of all ages. It improves the quality of life of the participants. The program is not just a fitness program, but a program to help others. "The transformative power of drumming, music, rhythm, cognitive applications that is what changes for everyone."

Mr. Mirabito explained how the program came to fruition locally, the importance of organizations like the YMCA and the importance of engaging people. He thanked all the staff for getting trained, educating the community and the Commissioners about the program.

Diana Logan from the local Drums Alive informed the public that there is no cost to the participant. She explained how the program is expanding locally to the surrounding counties. Diana invited all to attend the event this Friday, 7/14 at 11am at the YMCA.

2.0 REPORTS

- 2.1** Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify invoices due through 7/19/23 to be paid on 7/12/23 in the amount of \$1,347,985.03.

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

- 2.2** Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify wire transfer loan to Famvest XII – Lycoming Mall LLC in the amount of \$5,000,000.00.

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

- 2.3** Kalen Barnes – Vote to ratify Jury Panel 14 Payment Report to be paid on 7/7/23 in the amount of \$5,642.00.

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

3.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- 3.1** 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

4.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1** Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Lycoming County Probation Officers and Domestic Relations Officers Association (2023 budgeted item).

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

Mr. Mirabito commented that the agreement reached is fair to both the employees and the tax payers. It calls for a three percent increase and covers 5 years, being retroactive for 2022. The agreement also dealt with problems associated with recruitment. The on-call rate did not increase.

- 4.2** Mya Toon – Presented by Matthew McDermott -Vote to approve Price Quote and Agreement with EFORCE in the amount of \$244,842.00 (ARPA funded).

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

Mr. Metzger -One million dollars was allocated from the ARPA funds to go toward public safety. At the presentation meeting we were impressed on how this system will be unified across the County. The most important aspect of the program is that it shares information in real time which can save an officer's life.

Mr. Mussare - The EFORCE program is incredible. The record management system will inform officers of high crime and consistent crime areas. It can communicate with other departments in real time. The value of the record management system is that it can tract everything. It will always be serviced. They can build from that service and add additional services in the future. The company will provide the training. The system will save lives.

Mr. McDermott- This is the startup cost to include installation in all the police cars and police stations, as well as the training. After that each department will take care of the annual fees and license. They have all agreed to maintain their own records.

Mr. Mirabito – The old way of reporting was uniform crime reporting which was summary in nature. This uses what is called the National Incident Based Reporting System which is a very comprehensive system. This allows law enforcement to use a uniform way of reporting crime county wide. The upfront cost is for the Lycoming County Regional Police, Lycoming County Sheriffs, South Williamsport Police Department, Montoursville Police Department, Muncy Police Department, Hughesville Police Department and Lycoming County District Attorney Detectives.

- 4.3 Mya Toon –Presented by Matthew McDermott - Vote to approve Agreement with DNA Diagnostics (2023 budgeted item)**

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

- 4.4 Steve Simms – Presented by Jason -Yorks Vote to approve purchase of 2024 Caterpillar D8T Dozer from Cleveland Brother Equipment Co., Inc. in the amount of \$755,730.00 (2024 budgeted item – ordering now due to supply chain issues/lead time).**

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

5.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Mr. Mussare shared an experience he had with a young man from his neighborhood that has Intellectual Disabilities with the point of the story being that there is always something that can stimulate a person and bring something out in them.

Mr. Metzger reviewed their visit at the ICE facility, who attended the tour and reported the following:

- There are up to 20 employees employed at the facility. The facility is currently not open. They moved to this facility from Allenwood due to the need for more room for their employees.**
- This is a processing center, not a detention center. No one can be held for more than 12 hours at this facility.**
- They only process criminal illegal immigrants – those that have committed a crime and they have a warrant for.**
- Once arrested they take them to the facility to process them. Once processed they are then taken to one of three facilities. These facilities are located in Centre County, Clinton County and Pike County.**
- When someone has exhausted their hearings and are being deported they are flown out of Harrisburg, Newark or New York airports. They can be flown out on commercial flights. However, they also have their own planes that they utilize**
- No one is flying in or out of the Williamsport Airport.**
- They have no knowledge of any buses coming here**
- The cells aren't designed for anyone to sleep in or live in.**
- These officers are from our community. They live here and also would like the rumors to stop.**

Mr. Mussare commented on the number of MS 13 criminal being held in the penitentiary in Lewisburg. These are the worst of the worst criminals. During the tour they learned that

when they are looking to deport these people they have to contact the country of origin for permission. If that country doesn't accept them they can't be deported. Once their time is served they are released into the community where they are at. Mr. Mussare is not sure if this is international law or not, but finds it very alarming and unacceptable. He noted that the number of deportations were declining but are now rising again. Mr. Mussare thanked Ice for setting up the tour and their transparency.

Mr. McDermott added that this is a side of Homeland security most people are unaware of. People should look up and understand what their mission is. This is just one portion of Homeland Security. It is not Customs and Border Control.

6.0 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

John Shireman – Jersey Shore. Mr. Shireman commented on the number of prior immigrants that came into the country without papers, slaves that were brought here and the treatment of Indians in response to Mr. Hauser's comments. Mr. Shireman asked where the three federal zones are located and how much hotel tax money would be involved. Mr. Shireman commented that the western and northern ends of the County are ignored and the whole county needs to be included for it to prosper. Mr. Shireman asked what the total amount was for the legal fees for the law suits brought against the County. He asked Mr. Metzger about the housing projects in Loyalsock and Hughesville. In addition, Mr. Shireman commented on the wage increases for the County Commissioners that were voted on and if they can be defended. He pointed out that the members of school boards make as important decisions as the Commissioners, but don't get paid. People on Social Security don't see that kind of money.

Responses:

Mr. McDermott showed Mr. Shireman where the federal zones were located via Google Map and read them for the public.

Mr. Mirabito responded that hotel tax money was not being used for this. The money from the Chamber was coming from the Chamber's Industrial Properties Corp.

Commissioners responded that they did not have the cost of the legal fees but could get that information and provide it at another time.

Mr. Metzger told Mr. Shireman that they are considering proposals for the Housing Initiative Program. These are two of the projects we are looking at.

Mr. Mirabito informed Mr. Shireman and the public that by law the Commissioners set all of the ROW Officers salaries for the next terms so that they are not in office when it is set and it is prior to elections. In determining the salary, the Commissioners consider the level of responsibility for the position and try to determine a fair income to attract people to the job/office. They looked at the numbers. The first set of numbers proposed was higher than the 3% given to the County employees so it was adjusted to the 3%.

Mr. Metzger added that he did not think it was fair to take a higher percentage than that given to the employees. Mr. Metzger stated that he is not here to get rich, but to serve the County. He also stressed that these jobs are all full-time positions.

Mr. Mirabito and Mr. Metzger reviewed many of the responsibilities of the Commissioners.

Tom Adams, Williamsport – Quoted bible verse. Informed the public that he belongs to a nonpartisan group that works to make the community, state and country a better place to live. Anyone is welcome to join. He expressed his opinion on the consequences of not listening to God’s voice. He is hopeful that the days of national prayer will return. Mr. Adams commented on the ICE tour. He asked the Commissioners if they had looked into Arctaris background and if they would influence any Airport activity.

Mr. Mirabito responded that the public should Google and learn about investments in Federal Opportunity Zones and lost capital investments. Mr. Mirabito explained how the first loss capital works. He explained that the federal opportunity zones are in areas where capital typically doesn’t flow.

Mr. Mussare commented that when the Government gets involved the price tag goes up. In his opinion everyone counts too much on the Government. The Government opportunity Zones are often unaffordable, too many loopholes that make the rich richer and no equalization of taxes. We need to streamline the rules and regulations, make things more efficient to encourage people to want to come here and invest. In other communities they have spurred double and triple of their investment. This is just the first stepping stone of future development.

Mr. Mirabito- We have decided to continue to explore the opportunity. He also stressed that they would not be risking tax money.

You tube Public Comment

Em Geels it true that Lycoming County is technically a sanctuary county under the law?
Answered No

7.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners’ Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioners’ Board Room, 1st Floor, Executive Plaza, 330 Pine Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

To View This Meeting Follow the Link Below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dvU7e1Vku0>

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

- Department of Public Safety – Paula Raemsch, EMS Regional Training Coordinator, Full-Time Replacement, \$36,504 per year, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: July 31, 2023.
- Pre-Release Center – Christopher Hess, Resident Supervisor I, Full-Time Replacement, \$18.10 per hour, 80 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: July 17, 2023.
- Facilities Management – Dominick Bracey, Maintenance II, Full-Time Replacement, \$21.00 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: July 24, 2023.
- Facilities Management – Chris Paulhamus, Maintenance II, Full-Time Replacement, \$22.40 per hour, 75 hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: August 14, 2023.