

Commissioners
SCOTT L. METZGER
Chairman
MARC C. SORTMAN
Vice Chairman
MARK MUSSINA
Secretary



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**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Sortman, Commissioner Mussina, Michael Hagen Director of Human Resources, and Solicitor Christopher H. Kenyon.

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. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 1.5 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

None

- 1.6 Proclamation – Jess Miller– Mental Health Awareness –

Comments Attached- Jessica Miller

Commissioner Metzger expressed concern over the alarming increase in suicide rates, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic. He urged community members to reach out to one another and serve as a supportive, listening presence emphasizing the importance of checking on loved ones and recognizing signs of distress. Sharing a personal story about losing a close friend to suicide, he emphasized the importance of understanding that individuals may hide their struggles and urged citizens to check on loved ones, especially if they seem out of character, to prevent tragic outcomes. He highlighted that everyone has value.

Commissioner Mussina acknowledged progress in mental health awareness but noted that significant challenges remain. He highlighted the differences in diagnosing physical versus mental illnesses and pointed out societal ability to empathize more readily with physical health issues. Commissioner Mussina expressed hope that future generations would become more knowledgeable and comfortable seeking help. He emphasized that mental health conditions, including suicidal tendencies, are illnesses that can improve over time. He praised initiatives within the county prison system addressing mental health and emphasized the importance of recognizing mental health as equally vital as physical health.

Commissioner Sortman acknowledged the difficulties in understanding mental health conditions for those who do not experience them. He shared a personal experience involving a loss due to suicide and pointed out the difficulty in knowing what thoughts lead someone to make that decision. He encouraged proactive care by asking loved ones about their well-being and commended society's increasing efforts to address suicide. Commissioner Sortman expressed hope that these efforts would make a positive difference, recognizing the complex nature of suicide as a challenging disease.

- 1.7 Proclamation – William Miller – Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Medical Services for Children –

Comments Attached- William Miller

Commissioner Metzger extended gratitude to EMS personnel, referencing recent emergencies requiring their assistance. He acknowledged the trauma EMS workers often encounter and encouraged the community to inquire about their well-being. Sharing a personal story about how pediatric EMS providers saved his son, Commissioner Metzger praised EMS staff and volunteers for their daily work supporting families. He also commended the quality of hospitals in the region, highlighting their vital role in community health.

Commissioner Sortman addressed the decline in volunteer numbers within the EMS field and recognized the difficulties associated with this type of work. He expressed appreciation for those committed to the field and highlighted the positive impact of the EMS program on the community.

Commissioner Mussina recognized the demanding nature of EMS work, emphasizing the professionals' ability to make rapid decisions in emergencies and the vital role they play in saving lives. He expressed gratitude for their selfless service and their essential role in community health, recognizing their dedication and the critical nature of their work.

2.0 REPORTS

- 2.1 Nicki Gottschall – Vote to ratify the accounts payable cash requirement report for invoices due through 5/20/25 to be paid on 5/14/25 in the amount of \$1,538,859.18.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

3.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 3.1 Mike Hagen – Elected Officials Personnel Actions:
- Controller – Noah Hunt, Accountant I, 9, Full-Time, \$44,533.71 per year, 75 Hours per pay period, Anticipated Transfer Date: May 25, 2025.
 - District Attorney – Zoey Stauffenberg, Adult Victim Witness Coordinator, Grant, Full-Time, \$18.50 per hour, 75 hours per pay period, Anticipated Transfer date: May 25, 2025.
- 3.2 Jeffrey Hutchins – Announce the new public warning software by OnSolve – CodeRed. See Attached for Information and Instructions.

Recess Commissioners' Public Meeting for the Salary Board

**4.0 SALARY BOARD SALARY BOARD MINUTES CAN BE FOUND ON
LYCO.ORG>ELECTED OFFICIALS>CONTROLLER**

- 4.1 Convene Salary Board.
- 4.2 Vote to approve the Salary Board minutes from the May 15, 2025 meeting.
- 4.3 Vote to approve the following Salary Board Actions:
- Planning and Community Development:
- Delete 1 Clerk IV position from the TDA
 - Reclassify the Administrative Coordinator position (PG 6) to non-exempt
- RMS
- Delete 1 Full time Equipment Operator position from the TDA
 - Add 2 Part time Equipment Operator positions to the TDA
- DPS
- Add 1 Part time Telecommunicator II position (PG8) to the TDA
- Controller's Office
- Delete 1 Part time Accountant position from the TDA
 - Take 1 Full time Accountant I position off of hold.
 - Reclassify Full time Accountant I position to PG9
- 4.4 Adjourn Salary Board.

Reconvene Commissioners' Public Meeting

5.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- 5.1 Mike Hagen – 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. Metzger moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion.

Mr. Mussina requested an executive session

Meeting was adjourned for an executive session.

Public meeting was reconvened.

The vote was taken. Motion Approved 3-0.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Gary Staggett – Vote to approve the Agreement with Cummins Power System (2025 approved budgeted item).

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.2 Gary Staggett– Vote to approve the Amendment to the Agreement with Petro Choice. (2025 approved budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.3 Gary Staggett – Vote to approve the Net Energy Metering Rider Application for service.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.4 Kelsey Green– Vote to approve the Subrecipient Agreement with West Branch Regional Authority in the amount of \$28,235.90. (2025 approved budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 6.5 Kelsey Green – Vote to approve the Change Order #1 with Shiloh Excavating in the amount of \$237,561.00 for the Regional Cross Pipe Rehabilitation. (2025 approved budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Kelsey Green clarified that, due to ordering delays, the project's resumption date was uncertain. She also indicated that the BABA waiver for Phase I had not yet been received.

- 6.6 Kelsey Green– Vote to approve the Change Order #1 with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for the EDA Phase II. (2025 approved budgeted item)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

7.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Sortman acknowledged efforts in community development recognizing advancements in mental health and EMS services. He also highlighted the arrival of spring, noting the blooming trees as a positive sign of the season's onset.

Commissioner Metzger reminded citizens that primary day was scheduled for Tuesday, May 20th, 2025. He emphasized the importance of exercising their right to vote and highlighted the significance of each individual's vote in shaping the community's future.

Commissioner Mussina urged citizens to exercise their right to vote and emphasized the importance of each individual's vote in influencing outcomes.

8.0 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.

YOU TUBE PUBLIC COMMENT

L

LycosecretsHello County Commissioners, I have public comments on the Proclamation – Jess Miller– Mental Health Awareness.

L

LycosecretsNAMI doesn't oppose involuntary commitment, which can cause significant patient encumbrances with medical debt,

L

LycoSecretstrauma, and even poorer mental health for the consumer post commitment. I know from personal experience.

L

LycoSecretsIt's OK to have been civilly committed. Your life doesn't end and there is hope. However, NAMI doesn't support ending the practice.

L

LycoSecretsThere are plenty of other good mental health charities which solicit donations—respectfully I'd donate to them before I donated to NAMI NCPA. Thanks.

T

Thomas Adamsstatements and behaviors of such a person and those incidents being a part of the daily life of everyone involved (family or neighbors or coworkers) are not enough to have someone committed

L

LycoSecretsDo the commissioners have a comment on what occurred at the Project Blue Whale meeting in January 2025 with Famvest? Any official county business? Thanks.

T

Thomas Adamsinvoluntarily is a travesty! This creates an heightened atmosphere of distress and mental anguish; creating a greater probability of a serious violent criminal activity. Then when an actual crime is

T

Thomas Adamscommitted, then the individual can be involuntarily held...after unnecessary increased damage and harm, which creates an ever growing challenge to heal from those incidents, living in the memories of

T

Thomas Adamsall involved; especially knowing the experience could have been completely avoided from the beginning, if common sense and decency and real care and concern were a part of our legal system! Abandoning

T

Thomas Adamstraditional American values based on America's Godly Christian Heritage leads us into a world of danger and darkness! Thank-you for your dedication and work to our county!

9.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 3rd Floor, 33 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

*To View This Meeting and For More Detailed Information
Click on The Link Below:*

<https://www.youtube.com/live/bWKOIBjgRPs?si=bg8WsWOXV9iofCUu>

ATTACHMENT (A)

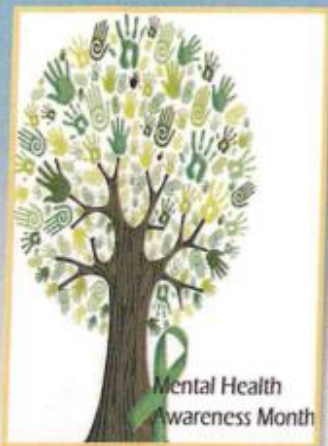
PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

Public Safety/9-1-1 Center – Alexander Haefner, Telecommunicator II, 8, Part-Time, \$22.561 per Hour, Not to Exceed 1000 Hours Annually, Anticipated Transfer Date: June 8, 2025.

Resource Management – Michael Poorman, Equipment Operator, 6, Part-Time, \$18.00 per Hour, Not to Exceed 1000 Hours Annually, Anticipated Start Date: May 27, 2025.

Resource Management – David Cotner, Equipment Operator, 6, Part-Time, \$19.62 per Hour, Not to Exceed 1000 Hours Annually, Anticipated Start Date: May 27, 2025.

JPO – Matthew Minnier – Acting Chief, Juvenile Probation Officer, PG11, Full-Time, \$85,764.504, 75 Hours per Pay Period, Adjustment Date, May 11, 2025.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being; it affects people in our communities, how we think, feel, and act; it also affects how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) among other organizations report that fifty percent (50%) of all lifetime mental health disorders commonly begin at the age of 14 in adolescence and seventy five percent (75%) by the age of 24; Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 and the 3rd leading cause of death among those aged 15-24 in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, A lack of mental health awareness leads to devastating impacts on the wellbeing of individuals and communities; Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.; and 46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, Mental illness, unlike physical illness, cannot be diagnosed with a blood test; while each mental illness condition has a unique set of symptoms, those symptoms often overlap between different conditions which makes exact diagnosing difficult; treatment for mental illness is voluntary and takes time and persistence to see results; and often an individual suffering with a mental illness is not aware they are ill; and

WHEREAS, Early warning signs often emerge at the onset or worsening of mental illness symptoms; and these warning signs include thoughts, feelings, or behaviors that significantly impair day-to-day functioning (i.e., feeling excessively sad or low); and early identification and treatment can make a profound difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and

WHEREAS, People with mental illness are overrepresented in our nation's jails and prisons; and about 2 in 5 people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness; and seventy percent (70%) of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition; and approximately 3 in 5 people with a history of mental illness do not receive mental health treatment while incarcerated in state and federal prisons; and

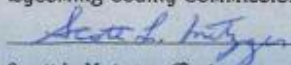
WHEREAS, Individuals in rural communities often face unique challenges when receiving and managing their mental health care; and rural Americans may travel two times as far to their nearest hospital or provider to receive treatment; and rural individuals are two times more likely to have limited access to broadband internet, limiting access to virtual care; and are more likely to reside in a Mental Health Professional shortage area, where there are too few providers to meet mental health demands; and

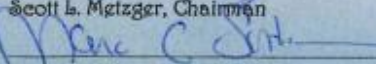
WHEREAS, Greater public awareness, education, and civic activities in our communities, can address the challenges facing people with mental illness; and can support, empower and assist in improving the lives of individuals, family, and communities affected by mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Lycoming County Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 2025 as
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

throughout Lycoming County to increase public understanding of the importance of mental health and promote the identification and treatment of mental illness.

Lycoming County Commissioners


Scott L. Metzger, Chairman


Marc C. Sortman, Vice Chairman


Mark Musina, Secretary



Jessica Miller – Comments

On behalf of the Board of Directors of NAMI North Central Pa., I would like to thank the Lycoming County Commissioners for proclaiming May as Mental Health Awareness Month. With your support, we at NAMI can continue to provide advocacy, education, resources, and peer support for those who are impacted by mental health. By reducing the stigma, we remove the isolation for those who struggle and create a community of help, awareness, acceptance, and support.

In 2024, 22 Lycoming County residents died via suicide. Suicide rates among people living in rural areas are 64% higher than those in urban areas, yet typically we have 20% fewer primary care physicians and a significant shortage of mental health programs and professionals. In addition, there is a mindset among us living in rural areas that we take pride in being strong, self-reliant, independent- which makes it harder for us to ask for help. Fear of judgement from others can prevent us from reaching out for help. Not recognizing mental health conditions as valid health issues can add to the stress and struggle an individual is already facing. **How can we help each other?**

Normalize conversations about mental illnesses as you would other diseases.

- Talk openly about lived experiences with mental health challenges.
- Ask those who are struggling, how can I help? They may not even know what they need, but offer to go for a walk, have coffee together, and be a support so they know they aren't alone.
- Encourage them for having the courage to reach out, stay the course, and persevere and remind them they can help others with their own story.

At NAMI, we are helping by

- Providing support groups for survivors of suicide, peer support groups, and mental health professional support groups.
- We've recently re-established our quarterly Suicide Prevention Committee with local stakeholders and will be developing a collaborating task force.
- We are active in the community providing resources and education. We have done presentations and trainings this past year in workplaces, parks, Kiwanis & Rotary Clubs, and school groups. WE have committed to re-establishing our connections with the community so call on us, collaborate with us, or join us to volunteer

That being said, Volunteer agencies can only do so much. We are only a piece of the puzzle. Professional mental health services and programs are essential to providing treatment those with mental health illnesses. Strong mental health programs impact not just the individual, or their families, but also our communities, and our society. By providing programs for mental health we are building a more productive, confident, viable community. This collaboration with the Lycoming County Commissioners and their awareness only strengthens the programs we can provide, and we appreciate your ongoing support and commitment.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services fill healthcare gaps by providing important, out-of-hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

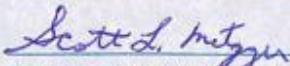
WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating the Emergency Medical Services Week.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Commissioners of Lycoming County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 18th – 24, 2025 as

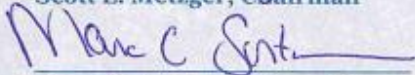
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

The 51st anniversary of EMS Week theme is **EMS WEEK: We Care. For Everyone.** We encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of the EMS profession and the essential service it provides.

Lycoming County Commissioners



Scott L. Metzger, Chairman



Marc C. Sortman, Vice Chairman



Mark Mussina, Secretary



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025



We Care. For Everyone.



PROCLAMATION



EMSC
Emergency Medical
Services for Children

WHEREAS, 35 million children receive emergency medical care each year due to illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the needs of children are different than the needs of adults in medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Emergency Medical Services for Children is to help states and communities prepare for an emergency involving a child by helping emergency medical services (EMS) agencies, and emergency departments, become Pediatric Ready; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program supports research and improvement science to drive transformation of emergency care systems, including the prehospital setting; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children relies on its established partnership within the EMS community, as well as multidisciplinary teams of providers across the emergency care continuum, to help states and communities reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children, the hundreds of thousands of prehospital and hospital-based clinicians it serves, the professional organizations and federal agencies with which it partners, and the patients and families it engages, are committed to collaborating to ensure high-quality emergency care for children; and

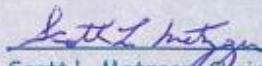
WHEREAS, it is proper and timely to bring recognition to the value and accomplishments of Emergency Medical Services for Children and the dedicated personnel who work tirelessly to improve the delivery of pediatric care across emergency care systems.

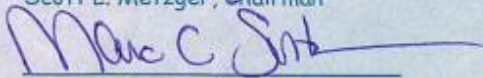
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Commissioners of Lycoming County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 18th -24th

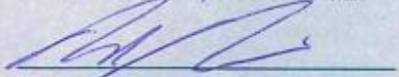
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC) DAY

as part of National EMS Week and urge all citizens and health care professionals serving the pediatric population to celebrate **EMS Week's 2025** theme: **"We Care. For Everyone."**; to become familiar with Emergency Medical Services for Children, its programs and activities in our state and nationally; and to support and participate in educational and outreach programs to increase their knowledge of best practices in pediatric medical care.

Lycoming County Commissioners


Scott L. Metzger, Chairman


Marc C. Sortman, Vice Chairman


Mark Mussina, Secretary



William Miller's Comments

Good Morning Commissioner's,

Thank you for both proclamation's this morning.

Although EMS week is only one week out of the year, it is extremely important to recognize our Pre-hospitals providers and hospital providers. The LTS EMS Region has about 75 agencies, 800 providers and 6 hospitals across the Lycoming, Tioga and Sullivan Counties. Volunteering is still decreasing across the nation, so appreciation weeks like this are extremely import to take a moment to thank our EMS providers.

LTS EMS continues to host EMS certification classes, and use the funding from the commissioners to help with these programs to get certified providers trained and out in the work force to help. On Monday night we just hosted an EMT psychomotor test, where we had 18 students test and pass, and of them 16 have taken the National Registry written and passed to become certified already. These programs and providers could not happen if it was not for the support and funding assistance from the county commissioners.

EMS for Children Day, specializes in the young individuals we have. If we do not take time to learn and educate on the skills and equipment needed to care of these children then we would have no future and no life to continue.

In LTS EMS we have about 12 agencies that specialize in the EMS Children ready response program which is an above and beyond state recognized certification where the agencies carry additional and some specialized equipment for pediatrics.

Thank you again and happy EMS week.



LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Jeffrey L. Hutchins

Director
Section Break (Continuous)

Beth A. Baylor, Deputy Director
9-1-1 Communications

William D. Miller, EMS Program Manager
Lycoming, Tioga, & Sullivan
Emergency Medical Services

Stacey Folk, EMA Manager
Emergency Management Agency

Lycoming County Launches CodeRed Emergency Notification System

Lycoming County is pleased to announce the implementation of the **CodeRed Emergency Notification System**, powered by **OnSolve**. This high-speed mass notification system is designed to keep residents and businesses informed of emergencies and critical community alerts.

What is CodeRed?

CodeRed is a reliable and secure communications platform that allows county officials to quickly deliver important messages via phone call, text message, email, and/or TDD/TTY for the hearing impaired.

Why Sign Up?

By enrolling in CodeRed, you will receive real-time alerts about:

- Severe weather warnings
- Emergency evacuations
- Major road closures
- Public health notifications
- Other critical incidents

How to Enroll:

Residents and businesses are strongly encouraged to sign up online. It's fast, free, and secure.

Visit: <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/lycomingcountyps>



Stay Safe. Stay Informed. Stay Connected.

For additional information or assistance with registration, please contact the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety at 570-433-4461 or ema@lyco.org.



ONSOLVE[®]
CODERED

Lycoming County is now using **CodeRed**, a high-speed emergency notification system powered by OnSolve!

Get real-time alerts for:

- Severe Weather
- Emergency Evacuations
- Road Closures
- Health Alerts & More

Sign Up Today — It's FREE, FAST & SECURE!

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://accountportal.onsolve.net/lycomingcountyps>

Questions? Contact Lycoming County Department of Public Safety:
ema@lyco.org | 570-433-4461

Stay Safe. Stay Informed. Stay Connected.

#LycomingCounty #CodeRedAlerts #EmergencyPreparedness #StayInformed

