

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



MATTHEW A. McDERMOTT  
*Director of Administration  
and Chief Clerk*  
CHRISTOPHER H. KENYON  
*Solicitor*

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**LYCOMING COUNTY SPECIAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025  
6:00 PM.**

**Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Sortman, Commissioner Mussina,  
Director Matthew McDermott, 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 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only **None**

**2.0 ACTION ITEM**

- 2.1 Matthew McDermott–Set the following salary schedule for Lycoming County Elected Official(s):

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

Office	2026	2027	2028	2029
Sheriff	9.5%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%
	\$ 82,755.54	\$ 85,160.20	\$ 86,863.40	\$ 88,600.67

**Mr. Metzger asked Mr. McDermott for an explanation regarding the different cycles.**

**Mr. McDermott responded that the Sheriff's salary schedule is out of cycle with the rest of the elected officials in Lycoming County since approximately the 1960s. The last time the elected officials' salaries were set, the Sheriff's salary schedule had already been set and approved two years prior. There was a recommendation made to sync the Sheriff's Salary with the other elected officials and ROW officers, but since the schedule had already been set and approved, it was determined that it couldn't be done. To make the Sheriff's salary equal to the other elected officials and all other ROW officers, the increase is set to 9.5% in 2026, then 3% in 2027, which is the same increase all other elected officials will receive. In 2028 and 2029, the increase is set to 2%. To maintain equality and uniformity in the Sheriff's pay schedule, the increase should be set to 2% each year thereafter.**

**Mr. Metzger asked Mr. Lusk to explain the history of the Sheriff's pay schedule.**

**Mr. Lusk shared history on the Sheriff’s cycle: Lycoming County is unique in that all its officers, including the three Commissioners, the controller, the Register Recorder, the DA, the Coroner, the Sheriff, and the Treasurer, are elected in the same cycle. This situation dates back to 1964 when then-Sheriff Pauling, a World War II hero and active county politician, was asked to fill a vacant sheriff position. Due to his compelling circumstances, he requested a four-year term, which was granted, taking the sheriff's position out of the regular election cycle. Over the years, this misalignment has caused salary disparities and when the salaries were last set, the sheriff's salary had already been approved two years prior, making it difficult to synchronize with the other ROW officers. He also added that the salary schedule restructuring process began 4 years ago.**

**2.2 Matthew McDermott–Set the following salary schedule for Lycoming County Elected Official(s):**

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

<b>Office</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
<b>Tax Collectors</b>	<b>\$3.75/bill</b>	<b>\$3.75/bill</b>	<b>\$4.00/bill</b>	<b>\$4.00/bill</b>

**3.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

**Mr. Sortman reiterated that people might be alarmed by the 9.5% increase, but it's important to clarify that this adjustment is to ensure the sheriff's salary is on par with other elected row officers in the county. This correction was long overdue, and he’s proud to be on the board addressing this issue. He thanked Sheriff Lusk for his support, as he won't personally benefit from this pay increase unless he chooses to run. His presence here shows his commitment to the county's best interests, not his own.**

**Mr. Metzger thanked Director McDermott for sitting down with the Sheriff and reviewing the history to ensure that recommendation brought back to us addresses the inadequacy.**

**Mr. McDermott shared information that may help identify or explain the 9.5% increase in 2026 for the sheriff's office. This goes back to 2024 when the adjustments were made to make all the other row officers equal, and there was a six percent increase. By adding the 9.5% it's catching up, and that's where we are now.**

**Mr. Sortman shared that the county has faced a loss of tax collectors, who are supposed to be local and accessible to the community. Many have left because they can't make a living from the position, as they spend more than they earn. This adjustment aims to attract more candidates for the position in the future.**

**4.0 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. **None**

**5.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 33 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

*To watch this meeting click on the link below:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OVMrusfLhg>