

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

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, AUGUST 8, 2024
10:00 A.M.**

**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 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**

2.0 BID OPENING

- 2.1 Nicki Gottschall – Open the following bid:
 - Landfill Gas Well drilling

3.0 REPORTS

- 3.1 Krista Rogers – Vote to ratify invoices due through 8/14/24 paid on 8/7/24 in the amount of \$5,544,732.50.

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

- 3.2 Krista Rogers – Vote to ratify report of purchases from 6/27/24 through 7/25/24 in the amount of \$ 33,445.13.

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

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1 Austin Daily, Sal Vitko – CCAP Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Award recipients

- 4.2 Michael Hagen – Elected Official Personnel Actions:

Sheriff – Jordan Baier, Deputy Sheriff 1st Class, Union, Part-Time, \$27.913 per Hour, not to exceed 1000 hours annually, Anticipated Transfer Date: September 1, 2024

5.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Michael Hagen–Approve the Amendment to policy 508, Section E, Lycoming County Government Service Awards to:
Service Pins for 10, 20, 30, 35 and 40 Years of Service
County of Lycoming Mantle Clock for those retiring with 20 or more years of full-time service

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

- 6.2 Matthew McDermott – Vote to approve the Sullivan County Intergovernmental Agreement.

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

- 6.3 Nancy Schenck– Vote to approve Agreement with Kidspace National Centers. (2024 approved budgeted item)

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

- 6.4 Nancy Schenck – Vote to Approve Agreement with Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC (2024 approved budgeted item)

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

- 6.5 John Lavelle – Vote to approve Grant and Monitoring Agreement with the City of Williamsport for the Shaw Park mountain bike skills park project in the amount of \$250,000.00 in ARPA funding. (2024 approved budgeted item)

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

- 6.6 Jason Yorks – Vote to approve the purchase of replacement parts from Excelsior Blower Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$17,151.35. (2024 approved budgeted item).

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

- 6.7 Jason Yorks– Vote to approve purchase in the amount of \$46,130.00 to build new PPL high voltage line into the Unicor Building – new weld shop. (2024 approved budgeted item).

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

- 6.8 Forrest Lehman – Vote to ratify grant application for Election Integrity Grant Program funds in the amount of \$370,882.37.

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

8.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Mr. Metzger reminded the community about Saturday's events: the 1st Annual Disability Pride 'CIL'ebration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a parade kicking off at 10 a.m. behind Wegmans and we look forward to celebrating with them. For more information, visit disabilitypridepa.org. The Purple Heart Monument Dedication Ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at The Veterans Memorial Park on Wahoo Drive. Lycoming is the third county in Pennsylvania to be designated a Purple Heart County, and we are grateful to receive the beautiful sign recognizing us, located at the courthouse. For more information visit northcentralpa.com/community.

Mr. Metzger expressed his concern regarding Mr. Huffman's statement in the Sun Gazette and responded by presenting a detailed log of interactions from April 24, 2024 until August 2024, documenting attempts to communicate with him about updating his office in response to his urgent need for more space. "It's we not us," stated Mr. Metzger, who pleaded to move forward as a team on the renovations for the Register and Recorder's Office. The log shared is summarized as follows: Mr. Metzger stated that Mr. Huffman visited the Register and Recorder's office in Carbon County on May 21. Despite reassurances about modern storage, he declined a follow-up meeting to discuss new office designs between May 21 and June 3 due to an audit. On June 4th, Mr. Huffman attended a row officers' meeting but left when his questions were not answered. Multiple attempts to meet with him in June failed, and he insisted on hiring his own architect and mediator in a letter dated July 2, which the commissioners rejected to avoid unnecessary expenses to the taxpayers. His main issue was square footage, but blueprints showed his new space would be 923 square feet larger. Despite this, Mr. Huffman did not respond to further communications, including an invitation on July 24 to review the blueprints. Furthermore, Mr. Metzger shared that Huffman once closed the door in their director's face, calling his behavior uncooperative. Metzger emphasized that Huffman's actions were delaying plans to move the Adult Probation Office and complete the Sheriff's Department. Despite countless efforts to schedule a meeting, Mr. Huffman was a no-show, leading the commissioners to consider filing a court action to ensure communication with his staff without fear of retaliation. Metzger reiterated the desire for cooperation, noting that Mr. Huffman's objections about square footage had been addressed, but he still has refused to engage. He noted that these requests and plans are all in compliance with County Code & Ordinance, stating that the commissioners are responsible for providing adequate space and furnishings, among other duties. Nonetheless, Mr. Metzger expressed his hopes for Mr. Huffman and his team to feel included in the process, as they work hard and deserve to be involved.

Mr. Sortman stated that he is concerned about an elected official making comments in the paper that are simply untrue.

Mr. Mussina stated that we are trying to do what's best for everyone.

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.

Sheriff Lusk thanked the Board for being flexible in the approval to transfer a full-time deputy to part-time. Lusk also commented on the move, reminding the community how in the 1970s the inmate count was in the double digits. Today we have hundreds of inmates and having additional space is critical.

YOUTUBE COMMENT

*Thomas Adams: good morning, I am curious as to whether there are fines imposed upon motor vehicle operators that are responsible for causing accidents at the Route 15 spur? I think the county and the city should be able to recoup all expenses associated with rescue, clean-up and traffic control due to reckless driving. the warnings are there. this should apply to private and commercial operators. I suppose the county may not have power to fine, but I suspect the city does, unless PennDOT has the sole authority? Hopefully, if PennDOT is the sole authority they will/do include costs to the county and city for reimbursement; including any necessary volunteer companies for expenses and a stipend for services.
pray for America*



LycoSecrets: who will maintain liability for the mountain bike park?

Harper Will Try: Very glad to hear the commissioners are expressing support for progress, diversity, and accessibility! Stagnation and homogenization are not paths to long term success.

10.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 3rd Floor, 33 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701.

To view this meeting click on the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-NjbMrWb5c>

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

Prison – Samuel Hostrander, Correctional Officer, Union, Part-Time, \$20.70 per Hour, Not to exceed 1000 hours annually, Anticipated Transfer Date: August 18, 2024

Prison – Michael Grosso, Correctional Officer, Union, Full-Time, \$20.00 per Hour, 80 Hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: August 19, 2024

Prison – Alexis Carey, Correctional Officer, Union, Full-Time, \$20.00 per Hour, 80 Hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: August 26, 2024

Pre-Release Center – Bashirah Doamaral, Resident Supervisor I, Union, Full-Time, \$18.64 per Hour, 80 Hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: August 26, 2024

Juvenile Probation Office – Jesse Wagner, Juvenile Probation Officer, Union, Full-Time, \$21.81 per Hour, 75 Hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Transfer Date: August 18, 2024