



# County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County  
Government Center  
123 Wyoming Ave  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
18503

## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Commissioners

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Wednesday, June 3, 2026

10:00 AM

Commissioners' Conference Room

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#### Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

#### Reading and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this be Dispense with the Reading and Approve as Prepared. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

#### Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board (Agenda Items Only)

**Joan Hodawanitz:** Joan questions the check registers and why some transactions are still listed as open. Joan wants more information included on these at each meeting, especially if the transactions listed as open at one meeting have been reconciled by the next meeting.

#### Proclamation Presentation

[26-0167](#)

Proclamation declaring June 1-5, 2026, to be "Child Welfare Professionals Appreciation Week" in Lackawanna County.

**Presented**

[26-0168](#)

Proclamation declaring June 2026, to be "Family Reunification Month" in Lackawanna County.

**Presented**

#### Resolutions

[26-0166](#)

Approving Current Payables

**Attachments:**

[3H50NLIS](#)

[3H50NLIQ](#)

[Res 26-0166](#)

[signed approving current payables](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Controller Gary DiBileo: Currently, most of the transactions are reconciled. All have been audited and approved by the Controller's office. From the last meeting, all payables have been reconciled and by the next meeting, all of these will be reconciled.

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

#### [26-0154](#)

Entering into a Cooperation Agreement with the Borough of Jessup

**Attachments:** [Borough of Jessup Resolution No. 8 of 2026](#)  
[Lackawanna County WayCo Agreement](#)  
[Sarah Bratty Park Contract 2026](#)  
[Legislative Cover Sheet Updated - Sarah Bratty](#)  
[Res 26-0154](#)  
[signed Cooperation Agreement Jessup](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

#### [26-0155](#)

Approving Lackawanna County Community Re-Invest Program Applications

**Attachments:** [Legislative Cover Sheet 1st Round 2026 Community Re-Invest Grant Program](#)  
[rES 26-0155](#)  
[signed Lackawanna County Community Re-Invest Apps](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Commissioner Chermak asks if we budgeted 175 or 200 for the two together. Tom Carlucci says he thinks it was 200 in total. Commissioner Welby says we have looked at making this a quarterly thing. There are so many projects that can benefit from this.

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

#### [26-0156](#)

Approving OYFS Provider Contracts

**Attachments:** [OYFS-Legislative Cover-Provider Contracts-Child Welfare-2025-2026](#)  
[OYFS-Legislative Cover-Provider Contracts-Foster Care-2025-2026](#)  
[OYFS-Legislative Cover-Provider Contracts-Group Homes-2025-2026](#)  
[OYFS Contract List 6-3-26](#)  
[Res 26-0156](#)  
[signed OYFS provider contracts FY 25-26](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

[26-0157](#)

Approving OYFS Professional Service Agreements

**Attachments:** [OYFS-Legislative Cover-Professional Contracts- 2026-2027](#)  
[OYFS Contract List 6-3-26](#)  
[Res 26-0157](#)  
[signed OYFS agreements FY 26-27](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

[26-0158](#)

Approving Detention Center Agreements

**Attachments:** [OYFS-Legislative Cover-Detention Beds-2026-2027](#)  
[OYFS Contract List 6-3-26](#)  
[Res 26-0158](#)  
[signed OYFS detention center agreements](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Commissioner Welby says we appreciate every day the work that the OYFS team does and thanks the team for all that they do.**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

[26-0159](#)

Approving the BH/ID/EI Program Allocations

**Attachments:** [L-S BHIEDI FY 2026-27 Provider Contracts Signature Pages](#)  
[L-S BHIEDI Legislative Cover Sheet 5-27-2026](#)  
[Commissioners Report FY 26-27](#)  
[Res 26-0159](#)  
[signed BHIEDI FY 26-27 contracts](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Commissioner Welby is disappointed that we can't provide all of the services we need and hopes that we see some increases in federal and state funding for this.**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

### [26-0160](#)

Entering into an Agreement with the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

**Attachments:** [Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce FINANCIAL AGREEMENT #BEP-02-PY2024-2025 & Payment Schedule](#)  
[Legislative Cover Sheet for Skills in Scranton Entrepreneurship Camp](#)  
[Res 26-0160](#)  
[signed agreement Chamber of Commerce WDB](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Commissioner Welby says this program is awesome and the students will have a busy few days.**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

### [26-0161](#)

Entering into an Agreement with the Scranton School District

**Attachments:** [Legislative Cover Sheet for Scranton School District Career Quest Summer Camp](#)  
[Scranton School District FINANCIAL AGREEMENT #BEP-03-PY2024-2025 & Payment Schedule](#)  
[Res 26-0161](#)  
[signed agreement WDB SSD](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

### [26-0162](#)

Accepting the Proposal from Granicus

**Attachments:**     [Granicus](#)  
[signed Granicus Legistar proposal 25-26](#)  
[Res 26-0162](#)  
[signed Granicus proposal](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

[26-0163](#)

Authorizing a Letter of Support

**Attachments:**     [signed Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Juvenile Detention Berks County](#)  
[Pa General Assembly Juvenile Detention Request](#)  
[Res 26-0163](#)  
[signed Juvenile Detention Center letter of support](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Commissioner Welby says this resolution is being shared with all of the other counties that are participating with us and all those counties will be lobbying our state legislature and our governor to support funding for this. Welby feels since the Kids for Cash scandal, he feels we have had issues in our juvenile detention system and the needs of the system haven't been able to be addressed and we have not been able to incarcerate properly. He thinks maybe real consequences will be able to help curb juvenile crime and notes that the lack of detention beds and space available may have contributed to the rise in juvenile crime in the area.

Chief of Staff Brian Jeffers says after Officer Gilmartin was shot, all parties, the courts, commissioners at the time, etc. got together to really work together to develop this detention center and at that time, the state promised to help get us set up and on our feet.

Commissioner Thom Welby says our state legislature and our governor are appreciative that our counties are working together and he hopes the state can help financially support the endeavor.

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

[26-0164](#)

Ratifying a US Fire Services Invoice

**Attachments:**     [US Fire Service Draeger Invoice](#)  
[Draeger X-Site Legislative Cover Sheet Updated](#)  
[Res 26-0164](#)  
[signed fire services invoice](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by**

Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby

### Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Joan Hodawantiz: Joan wants to remind us that June 14 is Flag Day. She says if you do have an American Flag that is torn or worn, there are plenty of organizations who will dispose of them properly and that they should never be thrown in the trash. Joan says this week through Saturday the Scranton Public Library is having their book sale on the second floor of the Marketplace at Steamtown by Crunch Fitness and tells everyone there are great deals and to check it out. Joan asks about the list she has been requesting. Joan says we need Commissioner Chermak on this board and that she is watching him. Commissioner Chris Chermak says you can bring your flags to our Veteran's Affairs office here and they will properly dispose of the flags.

### Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Bill Gaughan raised serious concerns about the impact of proposed data centers and power plants in Lackawanna County, particularly regarding community health. He noted insufficient attention has been given to how these developments affect local residents, especially children. Gaughan suggested that an independent health impact assessment be conducted to evaluate the potential effects of these projects on public health and community spaces. He pointed to research from Harvard University and Empower Analytics Group, which found significant health risks linked to air pollution from similar projects in Virginia. He highlighted air pollution issues in the county, worsened by its geography and emissions from new projects, which could harm millions of people and actively shorten the lifespan of the general population in the areas near data centers. Gaughan urged for critical questions about health impacts to be asked before construction begins. He expressed concern over the burden on local healthcare services due to increased pollution and emphasized the need for transparency regarding emissions. Gaughan also called for an independent health impact assessment to understand the human costs of these developments better. To address these challenges, he supported a proposed three-year moratorium on new data center projects, allowing time for better regulations and evaluation. He encouraged residents to support this initiative by contacting their state representatives.

Commissioner Chris Chermak expressed hope that developers would fund a study, which he believes is a reasonable request. He thanked the Chomko's for their service and leadership in the community, as well as all service members, including firefighters, EMS, police, and dispatchers, for their daily efforts to keep the community safe. He reminded everyone that the Heritage Fair starts tomorrow, with good weather expected for water slides and activities. The event will run from Thursday to Sunday, although Sunday may have rain, so he encouraged early attendance for better turnout.

Commissioner Thom Welby thanked the Chomko's and all veterans for their service to the community. He mentioned a study shared earlier by Commissioner Gaughan, highlighting some concerning information. The commissioners discussed the possibility of posting the study on the county website or personal pages. They expressed interest in exploring the costs

associated with the study and hinted at the need for guidelines regarding zoning and municipal approvals for certain projects, such as data centers and power facilities. Welby also announced the upcoming Lackawanna County Heritage Fair, starting tomorrow, with a \$15 admission fee that includes parking, rides, and access to the water park. He encouraged everyone to enjoy the fair, regardless of weather conditions. In addition, he noted the ongoing Greek Food Festival this week. Lastly, he mentioned the Marine Corps League's flag retirement service on the Saturday before Flag Day, encouraging participation and support for this significant event occurring on the 13th. Volunteers are needed to assist with the disposal of retired flags at the ceremony.

### Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Bill Gaughan, that this be Adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

This meeting adjourned at 11:16am.

**Aye:** 3 - Commissioner Chris Chermak, Commissioner Bill Gaughan and Commissioner Thom Welby