



County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County
Government Center
123 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, Pennsylvania
18503

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

10:00 AM

Clarks Summit Borough Building

Call to Order

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

Present 2 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Reading and Approval of Minutes

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

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

No comments

Resolutions

25-0140

Approving Current Payables

Attachments: [ElectronicFundTransfers05302025.pdf](#)
[GeneralFundPaymentReg05302025.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0140.pdf](#)
[signed Approving Current Payables.pdf](#)
[3H50LL0A.pdf](#)
[3H50LKZZ.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

25-0128

Approving an Amendment to the Prison Commissary Agreement

Attachments: [Lackawanna PA KCN Amendment 5-7-25.docx](#)
[signed Inmate Commissary Keefe Agreement.pdf](#)
[Res 250128.pdf](#)
[signed Prison Keefe Commissary Agreement.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0129](#)

Entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement

Attachments: [Susquehanna County IGA coversheet.pdf](#)
[Intergovernmental Agreement Between Susquehanna County and Lackawanna working copy.docx](#)
[Res 25-0129.pdf](#)
[signed Prison Intergovt Agreement Susquehanna County.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0130](#)

Entering into a Co-Promotion Agreement

Attachments: [2025 Audacy Agreement Leg. Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
[2025 Audacy Co-partnership.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0130.pdf](#)
[signed Agreement Audacy 25 fireworks.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0131](#)

Entering into an Artist Agreement

Attachments: [2025.05.22 NEPA Phil Scranton July 3 Contract_signed.pdf](#)
[NEPA Phil Agreement Leg. Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0131.pdf](#)
[signed Artist Agreement Philharmonic.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0132](#)

Entering into an Agreement with Community Development Properties

Attachments: [2025.05.07 Parking Agreement.pdf](#)
 [CDPS Agreement Leg. Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
 [Res 25-0132.pdf](#)
 [signed Agreement Community Development fireworks.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0133](#)

Entering into a Commercial Lease Agreement

Attachments: [Lackawanna County Reasesment Space # 113 June 2025.docx](#)
 [Res 25-0133.pdf](#)
 [signed Reassessment Lease Agreement Steamtown Mall.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0134](#)

Approving Aging Contract Amendments

Attachments: [Legislative Cover Sheet-Aging Senior Activities.docx](#)
 [Senior Activities Amendment-UNC signed.pdf](#)
 [Signed-Dunmore Senior Activities-Ammendment- FY 2025-2026.doc](#)
 [Res 25-0134.pdf](#)
 [signed Aging Contract Amendments.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0135](#)

Entering into a Cooperative Agreement

Attachments: [2025 Lackawanna-Atty Healey Approval..pdf](#)
 [Title IVD Atty Legislative Cover Sheet Updated.pdf](#)
 [Title IV-D Legal Services Requirement.pdf](#)
 [Res 25-0135.pdf](#)
 [signed Agreement Attorney Domestics.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0136](#)

Awarding the Environmental Consultant Community-Wide Brownfield Assessment

Attachments: [Legislative Cover Sheet Updated-US EPA Brownfield Consultant Professional Services Agr..docx](#)
[AGREEMENT AMO BROWNFIELD ASSESS 5-2025 for signature_gmf_250519.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0136.pdf](#)
[signed Brownfield Assessment Agreement AMO Enviro Dec.pdf](#)

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 Bill Gaughan: On the question, I just want to comment on this, that this legislation is going to allow us to identify and address environmental concerns throughout the county, responsibly paving the way, as Director Magnotta said, for redevelopment, economic growth and really safer and healthier communities. With the support of these funds, we're transforming blight in the opportunity and we're protecting our environment while opening the doors for new investment across the county. So we're very excited about it

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0137](#)

Authorizing CDBG Modifications and Revisions

Attachments: [CDBG Mod Legislative Cover Sheet.docx](#)
[Res 25-0137.pdf](#)
[signed CDBG Modifications Revision.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0138](#)

Approving Lackawanna County Community Re-Invest Program Applications

Attachments: [CR-Applications 2025 June Round 5.22.25.xlsx](#)
[CRP_R1 2025 Legislative Cover Sheet 5.22.25.docx](#)
[Res 25-0138.pdf](#)
[signed Community Re-Invest Program Apps.pdf](#)

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 Bill Gaughan: Just a comment. So two of the projects are in the Abington area, Clark Summit area. The first one is for the borough, excuse me, the Borough of Clark Summit for crosswalk safety initiatives and the addition of pedestrian safety lighting. And the second one is for the Abington Junior Comets Football Club for concession equipment and uniform upgrade. So it's a small amount of money, but for a lot of these programs, it's a very large

amount of money because it helps them finish their projects. So thanks for all your your work on this.

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0139](#)

Authorizing Signatory for Roads & Bridges

Attachments: [Signature Authority.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0139.pdf](#)
[signed Authorized Signatory Roads and Bridges.pdf](#)

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: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0141](#)

Appointments to the Conservation District Board

Attachments: [Appt 25-0141.pdf](#)
[signed Appointments Conservation Board.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0142](#)

Appointments to the Health and Welfare Authority

Attachments: [Appt 25-0142.pdf](#)
[signed Appointments Health and Welfare Authority.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0143](#)

Appointment to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

Attachments: [Appt 25-0143.pdf](#)
[signed Appointment Heritage Valley Authority.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

[25-0144](#)

Appointment to the Lackawanna County Auxiliary Assessment Board

Attachments: [Appt 25-0144.pdf](#)
[signed Appointment Assessment Board.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Bob Bolus, Scranton: My one concern here is about are we going to get hit with a rain tax with this whole new project going on for the storm management or is there going to be legislation put out eliminating any rain tax?

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: So that has absolutely nothing to do with the rain tax. All that is, is the county is required under act and I can't remember the exact number to update its stormwater management plan and hasn't updated it since 1992. So and it's very, very expensive. So in order to do that, if you get all the municipalities to sign on to it, then you get grant funding. So that's what the county's trying to do. It has nothing to do with the rain tax.

Bob Bolus: Good. As long as it's not coming out of our pocket, that could care less. The other issues I have are I was at Scranton City Council last night, and it's upsetting to see a queer flag flying over City Hall instead of an ICE flag or the Ukraine flag or the Israeli flag that I donated both to the county and the city. Yet we're being insulted. As a Catholic, to me, it's an insult. Rule of God takes place and I would ask that the commissioners ask Cagnetti to take down that flag. And more importantly, instead of honoring this group for a whole month, we should honor those that gave us the right under that flag there and call it Veterans Month and honor our fellow veterans that gave everything, those that gave it all, those that came home, but those that gave us the freedom to be sitting here today. That queer group did not give us that, and I don't see any reason why they should be honored for a whole month in our city or in our county. Respect is earned, not demanded. They're demanding respect. They haven't earned it, not like our fellow veterans have. And I asked that the letter be sent to Cagnetti to remove that flag. Put up an ICE flag, one that's meaningful. That's going to help this county correct the issues we have, the drugs, the illegal immigrants, everything else that's going on here and clean up our county, clean up our cities by getting rid of the scum that doesn't belong here and support ICE. Not worry about worrying about a queer organization unless they're going to go ahead and participate in cleaning up our county. I don't see that anywhere. And to watch this going on, our city, our county has an opportunity to grow and continue to grow. But we're not doing nothing to support our law enforcement to get rid of the illegals. You have people going on about, oh, we don't want to see ICE here. Yeah, we do. We want to see them there. And we want to send a message through our state police, our agencies. Don't come here. You're not welcome. If you do, we're going to get rid of you. And that's what we need to do. And we're not doing that. And that's the message we need. We need to put our money where our

mouth is this time and support our law enforcement that there's no doubt in your mind. Don't come around here because we're going to get you and we're going to get rid of you. We're going to put you on a plane, a bus, and send you back. And as far as the senators and those idiots that have been going to El Salvador to bring a criminal back into our country, I filed a federal lawsuit already and asked me for an injunction to prevent any of them from going over there on our taxpayer dollar to bring the scum back to our country. That's where a voice has got to be, and it's got to be the voice of the people. Now that changes things around and just watch what's going on and see how many people we've eliminated out of Lackawanna County or the city or other counties that were illegal aliens because we're not supporting our enforcement and ICE to do their job. And the lastly, Mr. Gaughan, I have a litigation against you and I want to set the record clear with your attorney. I sued you individually, not as a commissioner for using our taxpayer dollars for your legal litigation expenses. And we have that hearing coming on up. And I want to make that very clear that you're not going under the umbrella of you're a commissioner and you can't be sued or pay the money back. I didn't sue you as a commissioner. I sued you as an individual. And we expect you to start paying your own bills now. Use our money for your personal gain.

My name is Allison Wind. I'm the executive director of the Abington Community Library. I just had a quick announcement about our summer reading program. Our summer reading program begins June 30th and runs through August 8th. We have programming for all ages and I like to quote our Lackawanna County Library system head, Sandy Longo, who used to be in my spot until last year. She says we provide programming from the cradle to the grave. So please stop by the library this summer. If you haven't been in a long time, I welcome you back.

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: I have my children in the children's Library downtown in downtown Scranton. And the staff there does a wonderful job and it really is one of the great treasures that we have in Lackawanna County. And I think we have one of the best library systems in the state. You guys do a really good job, so thank you.

Dave Maher, Clarks Summit: I was hoping to get an update on the reassessment at this meeting. I see nothing on the agenda. I don't think there's any Tyler people here. My first question is, why isn't there any Tyler people here? I mean, it's a hot topic. There's always a lot of questions going on, at least a progress report on what's happening. I don't know if anybody can give us, give us a rundown on what's happening currently.

Chief of Staff Brian Jeffers: Everything is online. All of the status reports are online.

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: Yeah, they issue status reports, I think monthly, right, weekly or weekly that they put online that tells you everything on the Tyler side.

Dave Maher: I know they were at, they were at the last meeting I was at to answer questions. So I, I was surprised that they weren't here either today.

Commissioner Chris Chermak: So we have some sort of some dates that I have here in front of me. So dates to appeal, it was from April 1st to July 1st for the reassessment year of 20 for 2026 dates to appeal for clean and green or yeah, clean and green is 620 to August 1st. And no, I think that goes till October 15th. Clean and green on top of that, if there's I, I held a town hall a few weeks ago at Lackawanna College. So I'm going to do that again at Abington Heights High School, the 30th, 5:30, same format, just with some attorneys and appraisers to do the same thing, answer questions, answer questions on the process, what you need to do, you know how you need to go about it.

Dave Maher: So their semi formal reassessment is supposed to be July 1st. Is that when they're supposed to be set on that? So they what they think the actual assessment should be.

Chief of Staff Brian Jeffers: Formal appeals start August 1st and run through the 31st. Tyler has handed over the file to the county. The county now possesses the file letters of the new assessment when we go on out in the mail by June 20th. The letter will tell you everything and there'll be a website there to click into our website where they can, where they can apply to appeal for their formal hearing.

Michelle Tierney, Glenburn Township: But I'm also here to welcome all of you. I'm the secretary of the Abington Heights Board of Education and I, I welcome all of you. And I think the hot topic is reassessments. One of the responsibilities of governing the school district is levying taxes. So I am here to commend you for this daunting task. And as you see, there's still many questions, but to complete this reassessment is the most important thing that we can do as a community to make sure that every municipality or school district has the proper formulas to levy their taxes and understand what the property values are at A, at a balanced, A balanced figure in formula. So I although it, it, there's obviously many questions, there's a lot of frustration. Transparency and meetings and individual contacts is vital to make this process go forward. So I commend you for what you're doing. Please stay on course and help us district and municipalities, so we have the proper formulas to levy taxes the way we need to.

Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Chris Chermak: Well, I'm sure you'll talk about this too, but we have the Heritage Fair coming up this weekend. Starting starts Thursday and it runs through Sunday. Hopefully the weather cooperates and we have a good turn out. If you have an opportunity to go down and visit the Heritage Fair at Montage Mountain. A couple other things that are going on. 10 AM at the courthouse square. the US Army folks are going to be raising the Army flag in celebration of the 250th birthday of the of the Army. So that'll be 10 AM at the courthouse. And following that at the Marine Corps League on East Mountain, we're going to be having the ceremony where they retire the flags, US flag. So we have a Boy Scout troop that does it every year. So they go through the ceremony and then they have where they burn the flags and, and take care of that. So that's an interesting thing. So if anybody has the opportunity come up to the Marine Corps League and, and you can, you can be there. That's 11:00.

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: I just want to thank the Borough of Clark Summit for hosting us this morning. Thank you very much for having us. The next Board of Commissioners meeting is going to be held Wednesday, June 18th at 10 AM in the 5th floor boardroom at the Government Center, 123 Wyoming Ave in Scranton. And I also just want to acknowledge the passing of Paul Hart. Paul Hart passed away this past week, and Paul Hart was from Scranton and was one of the first members of the railroad authority and a big, big, big, big train enthusiast.

Commissioner Chris Chermak: And one of my favorite teachers from Abington. Commissioner Bill Gaughan: Right. And it's sad to see him go. And he really was the person who we want to see on the on the train from Scranton, NY city. So we're sad to see him go. And the last thing I'll say is I know this is my own personal opinion, but illegal immigration was brought up today at this meeting. It's not the illegal immigrants we have to worry about. It's the racists. It's the bigots, and it's the homophobes. They're the ones we should be

concerned about, not the illegal immigrants. They're not the problem.

Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 10:41am.

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan