



County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County
Government Center
123 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, Pennsylvania
18503

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

10:00 AM

Commissioners' Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am.

James Joyce lead us in the pledge of allegiance. He's currently serving as the Chaplain here at the Lackawanna County American Legion Post 121 in Scranton. He served in the United States Army and Pennsylvania Army National Guard for 21 years from 1980 to 2001. He joined as a private and retired as a sergeant and he currently lives in Scranton. And a fun fact is today is his birthday.

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 public comments

Proclamation Presentation

Proclamation declaring the week of October 5-11, 2025, as "Juvenile Justice Week" in Lackawanna County.

Presented

Proclamation declaring October 24, 2025 as "World Polio Day" in Lackawanna County.

Presented

Ordinances - First Reading

Ordinance 300

First Reading

Authorizing the Issuance of Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes

Attachments: [Ordinance 300.pdf](#)
[ordinance lack county tran bond issue attachments.docx](#)
[Draft Terms Sheet Lackawanna County 2026 TAN.docx](#)
[Legislative Cover Sheet 2026 TAN.docx](#)
[Presentation 10-10-2025.pdf](#)

Introduction of First Reading

Resolutions

Approving Current Payables

Attachments: [3H50MBQ8.pdf](#)
[3H50MBQ3.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0254.pdf](#)
[signed approving current payables](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Approving the submission of a PCCD Grant Application

Attachments: [Grant Application](#)
[Legislative Cover Sheet 10.8.2025](#)
[res 25-0243](#)
[47368 FY2025-26 Improving Justice System Responses to SUD FA](#)
[signed PCCD grant applicaiton](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Approving a Subscription Agreement

Attachments: [Legislative Cover Sheet Updated-Advent eLearning](#)
[Advent eLearning Subscription Agreement - Lackawana County Court \(PA\) 2.0](#)
[Res 25-0244.pdf](#)
[signed subscription agreement advent elearning juvenile prob](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Authorizing the filing of LSA Applications

Attachments: [Legislative Cover Sheet Updated-LSA Monroe 2025-26 Resolution #2](#)
 [res 25-0245](#)
 [signed LSA agreement filing](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Authorizing the Replacement of the UPS Device

Attachments: [All-Lackawanna County Mitsubishi 150kVA UPS with Bronze Service R1](#)
 [Legislative Cover Sheet -UPS Replacement Project 9-18-2025](#)
 [Res 25-0246.pdf](#)
 [signed agreement to replace UPS device](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Entering into an Agreement with EHD

Attachments: [EHG Lackawanna County Contract 2026.pdf](#)
 [StMP Recommendation.pdf](#)
 [EHG Lackawanna County Contract 2026.pdf](#)
 [Res 25-0253.pdf](#)
 [signed agreement EHD](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Authorizing Installment Payments for Real Estate Taxes

Attachments: [Res 25-0248.pdf](#)
 [signed authorization of tax installment](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Approving a Statement of Work

Attachments: [Quarterly Installments.pdf](#)
 [RBA email.pdf](#)
 [Res 25-0255.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Accepting the Commonwealth's Arts and Culture Recovery Grant

Attachments: [2025 PPA Grants Leg. Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
 [Pandemic Payment to artists executed grant.pdf](#)
 [PA DCED PPA Grant Final List.pdf](#)
 [Res 25-0256.pdf](#)
 [signed acceptance arts and culture recovery grant](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Motions

Motion to accept the quote from Scranton Rent-All, 505 Center Street, Throop, for tents, heaters, and lights for the Winter Market, at a cost of \$16,245.

Attachments: [2025 Scranton Rentall WM Tent Leg Cover Sheet](#)
 [Scranton Rentall Tent Quote.PDF](#)
 [motion 25-0247](#)
 [signed agreement Scranton Rent All Winter Market](#)

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

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan

Motion to accept the quote from CLTS for the purchase of a forklift at the cost of \$23,795.

Attachments: [CLTS Fork Lift Quote](#)
 [Fork Lift Leg Cover Sheet.pdf](#)
 [motion 25-0249](#)
 [signed motion CLTS forklift](#)

A motion was made by Chris Chermak, seconded by Bill Gaughan, that this Motion be Passed. 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: You know, Mr. Gaughan, last time I was here, I asked for a moment of silence for Charlie Kirk and you pretty much denied it, which I felt was insulting. I'm inviting the public to American Legion Post 121 and the Commissioners for the annual Veterans Day program at Lackawanna County Courthouse, North Washington Avenue side, November 11th, Veterans Day at 11:00 am. I filed a suit against the tax collector to prevent them, and the suit is a lawsuit for fraud and negligence against tax assessor and Tyler Technologies and two an injunction that stopped the assessor from certifying the tax assessment. You had stated the commissioners couldn't do it, so we did it and it's going to be stopped. So, they're not going anywhere soon. The fraud and the way Tyler did it, they took the church that I have at Holy Cross Church and assessed it at \$3.1 million when the only price for it was \$200 and they were going to tear it the hell down. So, we got a lot of issues to deal with and they're going to be accountable in the courtroom. And if we can't get it locally, we'll ask for an outside judge from another district so our judges don't feel intimidated by doing this. On October 14th was a birthday for Charlie Kirk and General Eisenhower and myself and by special delivery, I received yesterday a birthday letter wishing me a happy birthday from President Trump and First Lady Melania, which I was honored to have received for everything we've done around the country and recognize us, especially somebody from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and not Joe Biden's crony. I ask you to move McGloin's name from this here. Next time I'm going to come in with a marker and do it myself since we own this building. You know, the fun part was what I'm going to laugh at. I was parked out front and you said I was double parked. Well, I think you need a set of glasses because first of all, I was legally parked in the veterans parking and the sign said veterans only. So, I thought I'd just give you some help with that. As a veteran and where I was parked, I felt it was very insulting that you made that comment. And the last thing I'm going to look at, or one of the things anyway, is that what we need to do is strain out some of the things that went on here beyond the taxes. You stood at the no king's rally, which I felt was insulting that you stood there and said, "I'm not here as a commissioner. I'm here as a private citizen with a family." Later on, there was a newspaper article written by one of the reporters that you made the comment, "Once a commissioner, always a commissioner." So, I feel at the time you did that, you basically resigned as a commissioner. And what I'm going to do just to make sure we understand where we're going, I'm going to find an action against you to have you removed from the seat based on your own personal comments. And last, I have a lawsuit being filed when the sheriff grabbed my shoulder here and ripped the muscles on my left shoulder on your orders that I was causing a disturbance and was sitting down. So, thank you for your time.

Joan Hodawantz, Scranton: Excuse me if you discussed some of these issues because I came late, but resolution 0245, the LSA Monroe program for the grant submission. I noticed in the backup that the deadline for submission was September 30th. Were we able to do that?

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: Yes we're just supplementing.

Joan Hodawantz: Good. It's also the middle of October right now and prior years we've seen draft budgets released to the public for their review starting around mid October. Can you tell us when the 2026 budget will be available for review by the public?

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: Yeah, we have a public hearing today at 2 PM in in this room where we'll release the budget. Mr. Bulzoni will have a PowerPoint presentation. He's going to go through everything and then we'll take questions.

Joan Hodowanitz: Good. And the only other question I had when I was looking at the backup, the TAN, now that's a normal thing that's done in many governments year after year. And I noticed in the backup, it said that there was no line item in the budget for TANS. Wouldn't it be a good idea to have a line item for that issue? If we don't use a TAN, you just put big fat zero, but I think it it's a good idea and you have done this in the last two years. You and of course, Mr. Bulzoni since he took over, educating the public with the financial issues that the county faces and how the budgeting process works. And so, you know, maybe you want to have a line item for TANS because it is recurring thing and it's normal. It's not that, you know, okay, we need a TAN and we've done something wrong. It's just to, you know, anticipating the real estate taxes coming in. So, TANS are quite normal and you successfully pay them off by the end of the year. But I just think that I would like to see a line for TANS. Thank you.

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: Thank you very much. And Joan, I just want to thank you for your service on the library board. I know that you're retiring. You did a great job and really one of the champions of the library system. So, thanks for everything there.

Joan Hodowanitz: Oh, which reminds me, when you when we do have the budget ready for release and review by the public, please send a copy, paper copy to the library because a lot of people not having access to the internet will go to the library for that and people should know they just go up to the second floor, the reference librarians and ask for it. Thank you.

Thank you. Okay. Very good. Would anyone else like to address the board? Sir. Hello. Um,

John Earley, Clarks Green: I'm talking about land that we own in North Abington Township. It's located in a failed subdivision with the name of Waverly Heights. When we when we got it, it had an assessed valuation of \$4,597. When it was looked at by Tyler, the magically the land went from \$4,500 to \$87,550. We were just shocked at that. That's not that's a 19 times increase in valuation. My wife and I took an appeal. We talked to Mr. Tobin about it and he said, "Oh yeah, that's wrong. I'll talk to them and we'll work it out." Well, June comes and I get the same number, \$87,500. \$87,550. My wife and I took an appeal, followed the process. We put all our ducks in the line and I thought we had everything taken care of, but your three panel group uh lowered it, but only down to \$32,530. So, it went from 19 times our value down to seven. But again, I thought that was a ridiculous number in that we showed up at the appeal process with a letter from the North Abington Township Supervisors outlining all the things that were wrong with the land. The land, they said, I'll read in part, the land you own in this section does not meet the two acre minimum for a new build. The land quality possesses multiple problems for any intended future development. There's no record of any viable perk testing on this land. There is no discernable road access to this land and there are no utilities at this parcel. We gave that we gave the zoning requirements that it be two acres. We only have an eighth of an acre. The side setbacks which we can't meet. All we can do with this is basically camp on it. We also gave the appeal board a copy of, we tried to donate the land to a group called Cars for Kids. They looked on it on April 2nd at 6:35pm. April 2nd they agreed to look at it and they rejected by April 3rd at 9:14 p.m. They were done with it and said we can't accept land. They said we are unable to take it. We appreciate every donation

officer, but financial and logistical considerations preclude us from accepting such donations. So, we're not even able to give it away. We can't sell it. We can't build on it. Yet, it's still valued by the county at \$32,530. We are not going to pay taxes on something like this. On the other hand, we don't want to walk away and just, you know, just have it go up as some type of a sheriff sale or something. We don't walk away from our bills. I'm right here right now. I'm willing to give the land, the \$32,530 piece of land to the county for your charge as a donation. We can't, the value you put on it makes it ridiculous for us to own it. On the other hand, I'm not going to walk away from the responsibility of paying taxes on it. So, I am donating it to the county right now. Whatever your solicitor wants to submit to us. We will, you know, give you the paperwork and it's yours. Here's paperwork that identifies the parcel. And I will say this, we weren't the only people going to these to the assessors. The township supervisors up there went and pitched to them that the numbers they were putting out were ridiculous. It made no difference to Tyler. They stood with these numbers that make no sense in any real world. So even when the elected officials of the township that are familiar with this knew about it, they couldn't they couldn't get Tyler to move. We couldn't get Tyler to move. Mr. Tobin couldn't get Tyler to move. And as I said, even the panel we dealt with, they were very polite. But in the end, I don't know what more paperwork we could have presented to them that should have convinced them. So, as I said, before the end of the year, I would be more than happy to give this land to you.

Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Chermak: Well, first I know he left, but I want to thank Sergeant Joyce for joining us today and with the pledge of allegiance. And I want to thank all our veterans. They're here today and all our service members, active and retired and gold star families for all their service and sacrifices. I do want to thank the judges and our excellent probation team that were here, juvenile probation team, for all that they do every day and for Joe Riccardo for the work that he does with the Rotary and for World Polio Day. So, thank you to everyone that showed up today

Adjournment

A motion was made by Chris Chermak, seconded by Bill Gaughan, that this be Adjourned at 11:01am. The motion carried by the following vote.

Aye: 2 - Commissioner Chris Chermak and Commissioner Bill Gaughan