



County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County
Government Center
123 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, Pennsylvania
18503

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

10:00 AM

Commissioners' Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10am.

Present 2 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent 1 - Matt McGloin

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

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

No comments.

Resolutions

[25-0013](#)

Approving Current Payables

Attachments: [3H50KRCV.pdf](#)
[3H50KRCU.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0013.pdf](#)
[signed Accounts Payables .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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

[25-0005](#)

Entering into an Agreement with Cornerstone Detention Products

Attachments: [Cornerstone Legislative Cover Sheet.docx](#)
[Cornerstone-Com-Tec Lackawanna SC 2025.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0005.pdf](#)
[signed Prison Cornerstone 2025.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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

25-0006

Entering into a Maintenance and Service Agreement

Attachments: [Legislative Cover Sheet SAVIN.odt](#)
[Lackawanna County 2025 PA SAVIN Contract.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0006.pdf](#)
[signed Prison SAVIN 2025.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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

25-0007

Awarding the Performance of the Lackawanna County Audit

Attachments: [Legislative Cover Sheet 12 13 2024 Audit.docx](#)
[ZA Proposal 12 2024.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0007.pdf](#)
[signed County Zelenkofske Axelrod Audit 2024,25,26,27.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: Can you give us an update on the current audit that's underway?

CFO Dave Bulzoni: I can. I'll know more information on Thursday. There's a meeting with the auditor and the representatives of the Treasurer's office. As you're well aware, the audit has been delayed again this year and it's principally the same cause as the delay from last year. You had changes in personnel in revenue and finance, fairly significant turnover, and importantly as well fairly significant turnover in the treasurer's office. Those are the two critical departments for the completion of the audit so you know unless both of those departments are working relatively seamlessly on the importance of the audit preparation, it's not going to get done on a timely basis. We're certainly aware of it and revenue and finance and the Treasurer is certainly aware of it. We've both taken steps in order to kind of eliminate some of the causes of the

delays going forward. I'm expecting the audit is going to be released this month but again I'll know more on Thursday once we have a meeting. The primary issue has been reconciliation of the general fund and some of the delays in getting that accomplished.

Aye: 2 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

[25-0008](#)

Accepting the Marketing Proposal for the Gun and Gang Reduction and Intelligence Project

Attachments: [GGRIP Marketing Proposal LYON STRATEGIC.pdf](#)
[Legislative Cover Sheet - GGRIP Marketing Campaign.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0008.pdf](#)
[signed DA Marketing GGRIP Lyon.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 thank the District Attorney's office. This is a great program, especially in light of the fact that last year, as we all know, gun and gang violence was front and center in the city of Scranton in Lackawanna County. It's important to make people aware and try to prevent some of these issues from happening in the future. I'm excited for what you have in store.

Aye: 2 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

[25-0009](#)

Accepting the Marketing Proposal for the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

Attachments: [Ryan Leckey OAYI Proposal.pdf](#)
[Legislative Cover Sheet - OAYI Marketing Campaign.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0009.pdf](#)
[signed DA Marketing OAYI Ryan Leckey.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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

[25-0010](#)

Accepting the Marketing Proposal for the Overdose Fatality Review

Attachments: [OFR LYON STRATEGIC PROPOSAL.pdf](#)
[Legislative Cover Sheet - OFR Marking Campaign.pdf](#)
[Res 25-0010.pdf](#)
[signed DA Marketing OFR Lyon.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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

25-0011

Appointment to the Industrial Development Authority

Attachments: [Appt 25-0011.pdf](#)
[signed Appointment Industrial Development 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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

25-0012

Appointment to the Workforce Development Board

Attachments: [Appt 25-0012.pdf](#)
[signed Appointment Workforce.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 - Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan

Absent: 1 - Matt McGloin

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Joan Hodowanitz, Scranton: I hope Commissioner McGloin is not ill. I hope he's gone to the Penn State game. On December 16th, I attended the town hall on the fate of Regional and Moses Taylor hospitals at that town hall meeting. Several of the legislators mentioned that there were two potential buyers to

replace Woodbridge and that we should know something within about two weeks. Now it's been over 3 weeks. Have we heard anything about the fate of those two hospitals?

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: I have not.

Joan Hodowanitz: The reason I ask isn't just whether or not they might be bought and be for profit or not for profit and the tax consequence of such a deal it's a fact that if those two hospitals were actually closed would have a significant impact on healthcare in Lackawanna County so I think this is something you as Commissioners should keep your ear to the ground because it will affect everybody in Lackawanna County one way or the other. The other thing was on December 3, there was an article in the local paper. It was a reprint of an article in the New York Times how AI could reshape the US's economic geography as use of the technology spreads beyond big city limits. This recent study shows once struggling towns across the country who are poised to benefit the most. I got a copy of the actual study. There are 23 small towns that they looked at, metropolitan areas. One of those was Scranton and Wilkes Barre as a metropolitan area and Scranton is one of the four that are mentioned in the article itself so AI might affect us more than people suppose and as Scranton and Lackawanna County in general should be looking for ways to increase revenues, you might want to download this article from December 31st. It's in the business section and take a look at it because if anything, we need to cut costs and increase revenues and this could be the ghost of Wall Street West or it could be something else but it deserves a look and I just want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and keep up the good fight.

Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Chris Chermak: Happy New Year. I wish everyone a very healthy and prosperous New Year. Joan, as far as the hospital thing, I think now that the holidays are over and everybody's back on track hopefully we'll hear something very soon on and other than that, one of our frequent guests here, Mr. Bolus suffered a tragic loss today with devastating fire at his business so hopefully he can recover from that. He's a big contributor to our community and so far nobody got hurt so that's a good thing but it's caused a lot of problems up in the mid valley but if everybody keep them in your thoughts and prayer so thank you.

Commissioner Bill Gaughan: We want to extend a warm welcome to Jeremy Komasz, who is the new superintendent of the Steamtown National Historic Site. Jeremy comes to us with over 30 years of leadership experience including time as a US Navy SEAL and in senior roles within the private sector so we plan on sitting down with him in the near future and we're really excited that he's taking over. As you may have read in the newspaper, the county has dozens of openings on our boards authorities and commissions. If you're interested in serving you can go to www.lackawannacounty.org and on our website under boards and authorities, there's an application and also there's a listing that they posted in the newspaper of all the openings so if you are interested in serving, you just have to fill out the appropriate paperwork and return it no later than January 21st and all the information is on the County's website. Last year when Commissioner McGloin and I took office, as everybody is well aware, the county faced immense challenges both financially and operationally and without checking through every single one of them, the major ones were the \$19 million in unpaid bills the office of Youth and Family Service Agency which was in crisis at the time and a number of other things that we faced, we immediately took steps to start to rectify these problems. We applied for and were accepted into the Strategic Management Planning

Program with the state through DC and we hired financial experts in PFM to do a deep dive on County finances and County operations. Their work in the form of a report is almost complete and the final report will consist of five sections. The first will be an executive summary which kind of highlights the important points and then a financial condition analysis, financial management recommendations, criminal justice recommendations, and workforce and personnel cost recommendations. Once this report is fully complete, we will have a public meeting where the full plan is presented and that will most likely be before the end of January. We will then work to implement the recommendations so that we can continue to make County government more efficient and put the county on stable financial footing. Difficult decisions had to be made last year as everyone is well aware and they'll have to be made most likely again this year. Just want to remind everyone that this process is going to take time but you can be rest assured that after years of mismanagement and years of neglect, the county is on the right track. It's been an eye-opening experience to be a county commissioner the past year but I truly believe that we're making all the right moves but again, this is going to take time and it's going to take a lot of effort which really have been pleased with the people that we have as Department Directors, our Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, all of those people who are working with us that we are moving in the right direction.

Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 10:21am.