



# County of Lackawanna

Lackawanna County  
Government Center  
at The Globe  
123 Wyoming Ave  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
18503

## Meeting Minutes

### Board of Commissioners

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Tuesday, January 3, 2023

10:00 AM

Commissioner's Conference Room

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#### Reorganization

##### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM.

**Present** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

##### Reading and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Debi Domenick, to Dispense with the Reading and Approve as Prepared. The motion carried by the following vote.

**Aye:** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

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

None.

##### Motions

##### [23-0001](#)

Motion to appoint a Chairman/Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Debi Domenick to appoint Commissioner Jerry Notarianni as Chairman and that this Motion be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote.

**Aye:** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

##### [23-0002](#)

Motion to appoint a Vice Chairman/Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, seconded by Commissioner Chris Chermak, to appoint Commissioner Debi Domenick as Vice Chairwoman and that this Motion be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote.

**Aye:** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

[23-0003](#)

Motion to follow Robert's Rules of Order for conducting the Board of Commissioner's meetings.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Debi Domenick, that this Motion be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote.**

**Aye:** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

[23-0004](#)

Motion to set the meeting days of the Board of Commissioners, to be held on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10am, unless otherwise specified.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Debi Domenick, seconded by Commissioner Chris Chermak, that this Motion be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote.**

**Aye:** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

### Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Joan Hodwanicz, Scranton: Joan reminded the board that they work for the people and to please be cognizant of their spending since there are a lot of citizens living at or below the poverty level. Also she stated to the board that the citizens are concerned about inflation, recession, reassessment, and COVID. She stressed that the meeting should be serious and professional, not entertaining.

### Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Chermak: I hear your concerns and I appreciate that. I take my job very serious and I can tell you it's a privilege to be here and I will be trying to retain my seat so I will be running this spring. Thank you for your concerns and I will continue to work hard for the residents of Lackawanna County.

Commissioner Notarianni: We all take our job serious and as far as the tax situation and our responsibility to money, there are only two ways to deals with it. Either we raise revenue or decrease spending which is very difficult because of the seven union contracts that we deal with and all the other things that government has mandated to do. Increasing our tax base is part of the reason for the reassessment, not to charge more people taxes but to get people taxed that have not been taxed fairly and those that have not been taxed in the past. Reassessment is not going to hurt people, that is a misunderstanding. It is going to be good for the community, good for the area, attract more business and it's a positive thing going forward. It was politically a can that was kicked down the road for fifty two years and had to be done. We

lost a lot of revenue during the pandemic, we did not spend the money to replace the loss but instead helped the people. We gave millions of dollars to small businesses to help them promote and keep them safe. We can't control inflation, that is the federal government.

Commissioner Domenick: I have to disagree with Jerry only to the extent about the spending. What he said was correct we need to generate recurring revenue or decrease spending but he indicated that decreasing the spending is hard to do. I don't believe it is as hard as everyone makes it to be. We talked about it at the last meeting last year about the budget neutral changes when they eliminate jobs or they reduce the job down in salary to an amount that they are never going to fill and then they take that money and give people raises as opposed to putting that back into the general fund coffer. In my opinion, if all row offices and all department heads cut their expenses and tightened their belts we could substantially decrease our spending. Nobody wants to do that because it's not the most politically pleasant thing to do because when you do that you get back lash. I think this year is the year that we really need to ask the row offices, the court system and then do it to our own departments that fall under our purview to reduce the spending. Just because you eliminated a job it doesn't mean that you should spend it by giving people raises even though I understand that people are not paid a lot in the county but there is a huge disparity in wages. We do need to increase revenue but that is going to take time, reassessment won't be completed until 2026. I am not about to raise taxes when there are expenses that can be cut because there is a lot fat in our budget. Someone has to take the hard cut and not worry about how it's going to hurt them politically.

### Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Debi Domenick, that this meeting be Adjourned at 10:10 AM. The motion carried by the following vote.

**Aye:** 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni