



County of Lackawanna

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

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

10:00 AM

Taylor Borough Building

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM

Commissioner Domenick: I would like to thank Taylor Borough officials for allowing us to have our meeting here today: Council President Ken Mickavcz, Council Vice President Chuck McKeel, Councilman Jim Digwood, Councilman John Tigue, Councilman Fran DeAngelo, Councilman Brian Fallon, Councilman Robert Naro, Mayor Ted Praschak, Tax Collector Luann Krenitsky and Borough Manager Dan Zeleniak.

Present 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Minutes from last Commissioners' meeting will be presented at the next Commissioners' meeting

Present 3 - Chris Chermak, Debi Domenick and Jerry Notarianni

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

No Comments

Ordinances

[21-0241](#)

Ordinance #273
Emergency Ordinance
Plank Road Bridge, Clifton Township

Attachments: [Owner Contract Plank Road](#)
[Ordinance 273](#)
[signed Emergency Ordinance 273 Plank Road Bride Clifton Township](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, seconded by Commissioner Chris Chermak, that this Ordinance be Adopted. The motion passed by the following vote.

Chief of Staff Jeffers: We decided to put a temporary bridge in Clifton township due to the emergency situation. We decided to purchase a bridge to use in the future instead of renting one like we did in the past.

Engineer Frank Summa: We got a price to lease and to purchase the temporary bridge. It will cost \$40,000 to purchase and then we would shed the \$1,000 per month lease.

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

Resolutions

21-0252

Approving Current Payables

Attachments: [3H50EFRZ](#)
[3H50EFRY](#)
[Res 21-0252](#)
[signed Accounts Payables](#)

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

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

21-0242

Accepting Gifts of Coal Mining Equipment

Attachments: [Deed of Gift](#)
[Res 21-0242](#)
[signed Coal Mining Gifts Taylor Borough](#)

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

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

21-0243

Authorizing the Filing of Applications for Local Share Account Grants

Attachments: [Res 21-0243](#)
[signed LSA Grant Applications 2021](#)

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

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

21-0244

Authorizing the Filing of a Grant Application for a Comprehensive ATV Feasibility Study

Attachments: [Res 21-0244](#)
[signed ATV Study Grant Application](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by

Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, that this Resolution be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

[21-0245](#)

Approving a Juvenile Probation Grant

Attachments: [Juvenile GRANT 2021-2022](#)
[Res 21-0245](#)
[signed Juvenile Probation Grant](#)

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

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

[21-0246](#)

Entering into an Agreement with Siemens

Attachments: [SIEMENS](#)
[Res 21-0246](#)
[signed HVAC Trolley Siemens](#)

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

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

[21-0247](#)

Approving an Agreement for The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Attachments: [TEFAP](#)
[Res 21-0247](#)
[signed TEFAP Emergency Food Assistance 2021-2026](#)

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

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

[21-0248](#)

Approving a Contract Addendum

Attachments: [INFO-MATRIX SUPP FY 21-22](#)
[Res 21-0248](#)
[signed OYFS Contract Addendum InfoMatrix](#)

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

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

[21-0249](#)

Approving Provider Agreements for OYFS

- Attachments:** [OYFS Contracts FY 21-22](#)
[BETHANY HOME SERV AGRMT FY 21-22](#)
[CHILDRENSERVICE CENTER SERV AGRMT](#)
[COMMON SENSE SERV AGRMT 21-22](#)
[VALLEY YOUTH HOUSE AGRMT 21-22](#)
[Res 21-0249](#)
[signed OYFS Provider Agreements 21-22](#)

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

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

[21-0250](#)

Approving Professional Service Agreements for OYFS

- Attachments:** [OYFS Contracts FY 21-22](#)
[INSPIRED STUDIO PROF SERV CONTRACT](#)
[PARTH SAI LLC SERV AGRMT 21-22](#)
[UNIVERSITY AGRMT 21-2023](#)
[Res 21-0250](#)
[signed OYFS Professional Agreements 21-23](#)

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

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

[21-0251](#)

Entering into an Agreement with the University of Pittsburgh

- Attachments:** [CWEL AGRMT](#)
[Res 21-0251](#)
[signed OYFS CWEL Agreement Univeristy of Pittsburgh](#)

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

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

[21-0253](#)

Entering into Memorandum's of Understanding

Attachments: [AAA- Contract List for Commissioners Meeting October 6 2021](#)
[RICCARDO'S MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING](#)
[GERRITYS MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING](#)
[SHOPRITE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING](#)
[Res 21-0253](#)

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

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

[21-0254](#)

Approving an Agreement with Scranton Fringe

Attachments: [AAA- Contract List for Commissioners Meeting October 6 2021](#)
[SCRANTON FRINGE AGRMT](#)
[Res 21-0254](#)

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

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

[21-0255](#)

Approving Professional Service Agreements for AAA

Attachments: [AAA- Contract List for Commissioners Meeting October 6 2021](#)
[ARVONIO PROF SERV CONTRACT FY 21-23](#)
[HOWELLS PROF SERV CONTRACT FY 21-23](#)
[DAMAGE CONTROL INC](#)
[Res 21-0255](#)

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

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

[21-0256](#)

Approving a Contract Amendment

Attachments: [Neighborworks](#)
[AAA- Contract List for Commissioners Meeting October 6 2021](#)
[Res 21-0256](#)

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

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

[21-0257](#)

Appointing Members of the Board of Health and Fixing their Terms of Office

Attachments: [ResAppt 21-0257](#)

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

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

Motions

[21-0258](#)

Motion to accept the quote from Center City Print, 119 Penn Ave, Scranton, PA for the Lackawanna County 'Beautify the Building' project at the Government Center, at a cost of \$5,419.70.

Attachments: [Motion 21-0258](#)
[Center City Quote](#)

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

[21-0259](#)

Motion to award the Central Scranton Expressway Retaining Wall Repairs to Fabcor, Inc., 1205 Mid Valley Drive, Jessup, PA, the lowest and most responsible bidder at \$44,870.00 for the base bid.

Attachments: [Scranton Expressway Retaining Wall Fabcor](#)
[Motion 21-0259](#)

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

[21-0260](#)

Motion to award the delivery and managing of tents, heaters, lighting, tables, and chairs for the three day outdoor Winter Market to L&A Tent Rentals Inc., 200 Whitehead Road, Hamilton NJ, the lowest and most responsible bidder at \$62,130.00.

Attachments: [Tent1](#)
[Tent2](#)
[Tent 3](#)
[Motion 21-0260](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Chris Chermak, seconded by Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, 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

No comments.

Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Domenick: We were going to have a job fair. Rick Notari, obviously, is the one who actually pulled it together for us. It's going to be October 28th from 12PM to 4 PM, it's free, and it's open to the public and will be at PNC field, montage. Free parking. Candidates of all ages and experience levels and industries are encouraged to attend. Companies are offering full time, part time seasonal and internship positions. Please come and come prepared to interview, bring your resume and dress professionally. I believe that we're going to probably have a couple departments from the county there.

Rick Notari: We have over 40 employers signed up. I think the last count was 40 and over 1500 jobs will be available. The response has been great and almost immediate from when we sent the invitations out. We're going to be in the lower level on the concourse, it's open air. We'll be social distant. We're also going to try to do a vaccination clinic as well.

Commissioner Chermak: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Very important to schedule your screening. Early detection is key to overcoming this horrible disease. Help spread the word anybody you know to get them to screen. I have an email from a resident from Greg Linko:

"Greg Linko, Jessup: I want to know why you want to raise the price of vehicle registrations? We pay gas tax, tire tax, go for road repair, yet you want to raise this also? How are people supposed to survive with rising price of inflation? Here's another bill thrown on top of everything else. I have a daughter in college in her second year, every penny I have extra goes towards her tuition. I know there are others out there in similar situations."

Commissioner Debi Domenick: This is something that I was interested in when I first took office, but because taxes were raised at the beginning of our term, we didn't think it was a feasible time to do it. Now it's getting to the point where our bridges are in such disrepair that if we don't do something, we are going to have a lot of closed bridges and a lot of inconvenienced residents, and it could be a dangerous situation if people are in an area where they can't get emergency services to their home in the event of an emergency. Lackawanna county is being grandfathered in Penn Dot's program because of an interest we expressed previously. I think it would be not only financially

irresponsible for us not to take advantage of it but foolish because they're willing to under the program, meet and match up to \$2 million for bridges over 20 feet.

Penn Dot does a great job of helping but we're one of 67 counties in Pennsylvania and it's a process to get money to fix these bridges over 20 feet. We have to think about 12 or 13, that are literally heading for closure, about 14 that are in really bad shape, each one of those are going to cost us in excess of \$1.2 million, they could be higher, but the average is 1.2. It's a \$5 fee and pay it just one once a year when you renew your registration for your vehicle. You have to send a letter, a 90-day notice before enactment of the ordinance, which Attorney Frank Ruggiero did, then the ordinance is going to have to be read twice. We will read the first ordinance at the December 1st meeting and the 2nd reading will be on December 15th. We'll take a vote at that point. We will have Larry Lukasik here who was our director of roads and bridges as well as our engineer that can provide very detailed information to the public as to why we really need to do this. This is our last chance to take advantage of it the matching funds with Penn Dot.

Commissioner Chermak: I was opposed to the use of the drop boxes because I believe there's no way to make sure that they are secure. After the primary election, I received an anonymous tip that on Monday, May 17, 2021, at approximately 2:20pm someone had allegedly placed two handfuls of ballots in the drop box at the Government Center, which to me is clearly illegal. I filed the right to know request and was finally able to have access with the help of the chief deputy of the sheriff's department. We took a look at the video it was clear that the drop box was being used illegally. Since the video is a public document, I will be releasing that shortly. The state law allows voter themselves to mail or personally drop off their ballot but may not carry multiple ballots that they have collected from others. I've been on record opposing use of drop boxes. I don't believe they are consistent with current law and because there's potential for fraud. I now have proved that my concerns were legitimate.

We were all assured that these boxes would be under constant video surveillance to prevent anything illegally from happening. Though keep in mind there's six boxes they're out for almost a month that's over 4000 hours of video and now I find out that the sheriff's only have access to the video surveillance from our box at the government center and not from the other five. I'm not aware of anybody actually monitoring or viewing these boxes. I think this evidence will show that it's definitely a problem. We need to take this serious and I'm just still I am not for these drop boxes. Our voter office does a phenomenal job. I have all the trust in the world with them. They do a great job keeping everything secure, but this isn't in their hands. We don't know what goes on in these other buildings. I don't know who has the key to find some of our old buildings. That's what I have to say about drop boxes.

Commissioner Domenick: The right to know you filed was that for May election? Or is it for drop boxes that are in now?

Commissioner Chermak: For the previous, the primary.

Commissioner Domenick: The date of the video was this from May 17, 2021. I just wanted to know because we want to follow all protocols. Was the sheriff's office reimbursed for their time and reviewing the video with you as well as giving you a downloaded copy?

Commissioner Chermak: They didn't ask me for anything.

Commissioner Domenick: That is part of the protocol, and the check has to be made out to the treasurer's office, so ensure that that is done.

Attorney Frank Ruggiero: The video can be released, however, Commissioner Chermak pursuant to the June 7, 2021, response to the right to know request, the request with granted in part and denied in part but in order to release the video, you'd be required to redact any identities on the video under the right to know and particularly under pursuant to Section 708. And there's a number of sections in there but, particularly section 16. I just want to tell you, so you understand that if you are planning on release, we need to ensure that any identities are redacted.

Commissioner Chermak: I understand.

Commissioner Domenick: You have to drop off your own ballot or mail them.

Chief Of Staff Jeffers: We are a tire recycling October 15 and 16th at the Scranton DPW building , October 22nd and 23rd at PNC field.

Commissioner Domenick: We will be having a Women's Resource Drive; everyday essentials are needed. There will be drop boxes.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Jerry Notarianni to adjourn and Commissioner Chris Chermak seconded the motion. Adjourned at 10:59

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