



County of Lackawanna

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

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

10:00 AM

Archbald Borough Building

Call to Order

Meeting called to order 10:00 AM

Commissioner Jerry Notarianni thanked the Archbald Borough Officials:

Council President- Brian Gilgallon

Council Vice President-Michael Ossant

Councilwoman-Erin Owen

Councilman-Dave Moran

Councilman Tom Mancuso

Councilman Francis Burke

Councilwoman Kim Simon

Mayor Shirley Barrett

Solicitor James J. O'Connor, Esq and special thanks to

Borough manager Robert Turlip.

Present 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent 1 - Debi Domenick

Reading and Approval of Minutes

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

Aye: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Aye: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

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

No comments.

Proclamation Presentation

[21-0281](#)

Proclamation Declaring November 2021 as "United Way Month" in Lackawanna County.

Resolutions

[21-0273](#)

Approving Current Payables

Attachments: [3H50ELDA](#)
[3H50ELD9](#)
[Res 21-0273](#)
[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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0269](#)

Authorizing the Submission of a PCCD Grant

Attachments: [PCCD County Adult Probation & Parole Grant](#)
[Res 21-0269](#)
[signed PCCD Grant Adult Probation](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0270](#)

Authorizing a PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application

Attachments: [Multimodel PENNDOT Resolution](#)
[Res 21-0270](#)
[signed PennDOT Multimodel Plank Road Bridge](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0271](#)

Authorizing the Filing of a RACP Grant Application for the Lackawanna County Parks Improvement Project

Attachments: [Res 21-0271](#)
[signed RACP Grant Parks](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0272](#)

Authorizing the Filing of a RACP Grant Application for the Treatment Court Advocacy Center

Attachments: [Res 21-0272](#)
[signed RACP Grant Treatment Court](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0275](#)

Authorizing the Filing of a RACP Grant Application for the Jarett Yoder Foundation

Attachments: [Res 21-0275](#)
[signed RACP Grant Jarett Yoder](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0276](#)

Authorizing the Filing of a RACP Grant Application for Montage Mountain Resorts

Attachments: [Montage - CONF CENTER HOTEL DRAFT \\$12MM RACP RDA](#)
[Forms 10-24-12](#)
[Res 21-0276](#)
[signed RACP Grant Montage Resorts](#)

Brenda Sacco: It's a competitive grant program through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the budget, supporting economic development community development projects. Recently opened and they are all due November 1st. They will apply for it through us and then the Commonwealth of PA will come back and state if the applicants can afford it or not. If they are, then we will administer on their behalf.

Commissioner Chermak: For something like Montage, the development of that hotel can increase in revenues for the county.

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0277](#)

Authorizing the Filing of a RACP Grant Application on behalf of Scranton-Jefferson 321, LLC

Attachments: [333 Jefferson - DRAFT \\$4MM RACP RDA Forms 10-24-12](#)
[Res 21-0277](#)
[signed RACP Grant Srcanton-Jefferson](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0279](#)

Approving Area Agency on Aging Amendments

Attachments: [AAA-Scranton Chamber-Skills In Scranton Amendment- through June 30 2022-signed](#)
[AAA-Professional Services Amendment with CEO Weinberg for Home Delivered Meals through June 30 2023](#)
[Res 21-0279](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0280](#)

Entering into a Lease Agreement

Attachments: [AAA-Jefferson Township Senior Ctr-Lease-2 yr Term- Nov 3 2021](#)
[Res 21-0280](#)
[signed AAA Lease Agreement Jefferson Township](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

[21-0278](#)

Appointments to the Workforce Development Board

Attachments: [WDB Re-Appointment Letters for A. Luyster, J. Wansacz to Accompany Resolution 10-20-2021 Appt 21-0278 signed Workforce Appointment](#)

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: 2 - Chris Chermak and Jerry Notarianni

Absent: 1 - Debi Domenick

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Jennifer Spiller, PA Department of Military Veterans Affairs: I was asked by Mr. Dave Eisele come and make an introduction. I cover a region of 13 counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania with the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs. I just wanted to thank you guys and setting an example of how we're supporting our veterans and what we're doing. Not only is Lackawanna County a great example for the region that I cover, but throughout the state. You guys are doing great work and supporting the veterans and I just wanted to commend that. Dave is an amazing resource that we rely on heavily as you probably know, but just so you know, an example like the Jarett Yoder foundation we work with many of those individuals' organizations throughout the area. Commissioner Chermak, thank you for including me in the Suicide Prevention Coalition. That's been great. You know, as we look at this next couple of years, suicide prevention is going to be kind of something that we'll be moving forward with and promoting. In addition, looking at our aging veterans partnering with all of our area agency on aging, partnering with those on how to care for as our aging veteran population grows.

Mike Giannetta, Scott Township: I just wanted to comment on the proposed budget for 2022. Going through it, I know that it appears that there's a \$8.8 million dollar shortfall in the budget this year, and that's going to be covered with taking money from the county surplus so that there would be no tax increase. I know we all recall last year, taxes were raised 11.3% for an additional \$6.5 million of revenue, to cover the deficit and to cover pension obligations. Commissioner Chermak had asked, what if we do nothing? I think Mr. Durkin said that the deficit would probably go from 6 million to probably 9 million next year. Taxes were raised. We got six and a half million dollars in additional revenue and here we are with an \$8.8 million raise. So, the nice thing about budgets is that sometimes there is a red flag or a warning of a problem on the horizon. I think it's probably time to start cutting. There seems to be a spending problem in the county, not a revenue problem. We raised taxes last year and we are still now we still have any point \$8 million deficit. So, I would recommend that there'll be a reduction across the board in every department of expenses, probably the hiring freeze, and really there should be no raises for management employees when the county's running a deficit of 8.8 million for this year. It's nice that we've got the surplus to take the money from for this year. Probably that'll happen next year. At some point surplus

runs out and then you're looking at a big tax increase.

Commissioners' Other Business

Commissioner Chermak: We looked at the increase that was going to solve the problems for the next few years and it didn't even make a dent in it. We have an increase of \$8.8 million. I put together a budget study committee we've looked at things over the last year, but it was very difficult during the pandemic to get people together. I have different things that we can look at. We can look at the prison we were supposed to be saving money at the prison, but yet there's a million dollar increase in their budget for next year. IT was several million dollars increase in their budget. The list goes on and on. It's something as simple as an average across the board of cutting. It basically becomes a 6.86% cut across the board. So, an average of about 7% we can balance the budget. With a \$148 million budget, I think we can find that, and I would encourage us to try it. I think we could balance the budget moving forward. 2023 is going to be another issue. This is just like Mike just said it's an indicator it's not going away. I'm not raising taxes. We have to look at increasing revenues with these grants coming out and then projects like what Charlie Jefferson and John Basalyga is doing and numerous other developers. That's where our money is going to come from, our increased revenues. But for the taxpayers, I'm a taxpayer, we're all taxpayers, I think we need to really take a deep look and make the cuts that are necessary and move forward with a balanced budget.

Commissioner Jerry Notarianni: Thank you Chris. Part of it is simple as far as expanding our tax base, and that's what we're trying to do. We have a better relationship with economic development and the chamber. It's not as simple is cutting departments. We have to deal with seven unions. We have collective bargaining agreements we have to live up to, we have no option if we don't then we end up in the same situations. We have to fund pensions. You can't decrease the budget by cutting expenses that much. It just doesn't work. Everyone's got great ideas except they'd never bring it to the table. The bottom line is we have to increase revenue and that's what we are trying to do with Brenda Sacco and the whole economic development community as the driving force of Lackawanna County. Everybody gets a 6% decrease doesn't work. It's impossible and it's costing more money than you can imagine. So therefore, we're working on it, and we've been working on it actually very hard. Part of what we got into first year with the tax increase was what we were left with, and you have to deal with it. You can't kick the can down the road forever. Eventually you have to do your job, and this is what we're trying to do.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM.