

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020

The Board of County Commissioners met today for a Commissioners' Meeting.

Present at today's meeting were:

Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman
Ray D'Agostino, Vice-Chairman
Craig E. Lehman
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lawrence M. George
CHIEF CLERK

Lisa Johnson
ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK

Christina Hausner, Esquire
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Also present was:

Carter Walker, Reporter
LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS

Commissioner Parsons called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Parsons announced the postponement of approval of the January 15, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes and March 25, 2020 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Parsons announced that the Commissioners' meetings, as well as the Salary Board meeting scheduled for Monday, will be held in person for now; however, they are working on the process for doing them remotely.

The Board thanked everyone in County government, especially the 24-Hour departments like the Prison, the Youth Intervention Center, the 911 Center, the Crisis Intervention Center and the Emergency Management Team for being on the job 24/7 doing the work that must be done. They also thanked IT and Purchasing staff for keeping County government running, and were appreciative of those employees who are coming into work and those working from home.

The Board appreciates the way Lancaster County has come together during this difficult time, and said that we will emerge stronger after this COVID-19 pandemic.

Lancaster County Property Tax Collection Discussion

Christina Hausner, Esquire, County Solicitor

Ms. Hausner announced that they had a Lancaster County Property Tax Collection discussion at their previous meeting where they talked about giving a little bit of relief to taxpayers in Lancaster County. Ms. Hausner stated she drafted a Resolution that the County Commissioners can use to reduce the penalty rate imposed on real estate taxes, paid after June 30th, to zero through the remainder of 2020, noting this does not change the discount period. She explained that this could only be implemented if the County and municipalities are on the same page, and that all government entities would need to enact a resolution by June 30th to extend the base period. The Commissioners expressed comments in support of this approach.

Commissioner Parsons summarized the discussion they had explaining that normally, if a taxpayer pays their taxes by June 30th, they are paying within the base period. If they are paying their taxes after that date, there is a 10% penalty. The Board is talking about extending that base period throughout the year. There would be no 10% penalty, as long as the taxpayer paid their taxes by the end of the year.

The next step in this process would be to get feedback from all municipalities. Treasurer Martin will take the lead in disseminating the information to municipalities

Commissioner Parsons made the following announcements:

- Announcement regarding future Commissioners' Meetings.
- The Commissioners' Work Sessions scheduled for April 7, April 14, and April 21, 2020 have been cancelled.
- The location of the Salary Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. has been changed from Conference Room No. 703 to Conference Room No. 701, Lancaster County Government Center.
- There is no Work Session scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020, and there is no Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

Commissioner Parsons announced that the Board of Commissioners met in an Executive Session on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss labor and personnel matters.

**Lancaster County Commissioners' Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

On motion of Commissioner D'Agostino, seconded by Commissioner Lehman, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster to approve the appointment of Reed Smith LLP as Special Counsel in connection with insurance coverage matters at the fixed fee of \$3,000.00 for an initial analysis and assessment. Said appointment is to be effective as of April 1, 2020.

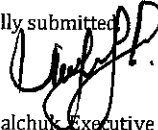
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board stated they will be doing virtual Commissioners' Meetings starting Wednesday of next week which will also allow for public questions and comments.

On motion of Commissioner D'Agostino, seconded by Commissioner Lehman, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Kovalchuk, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office