

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

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

Present at today's meeting were:

Ray D'Agostino, Chairman
Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman
Alice Yoder
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amy M. Campbell
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK

Jacquelyn Pfursich, Esquire
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Also, present were:

Shaniqua Ballard, Chief Caseworker
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY

Jill Craven, Member
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Robert Devonshire, Director
GENERAL SERVICES

Anna Kennedy, Executive Director
TOUCHSTONE FOUNDATION

Kara Knappenberger, Youth Caseworker
YOUTH INTERVENTION CENTER

Tom Lisi, Reporter
LNP

Tania Maser, Executive Director
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Chief Registrar
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Crystal Natan, Executive Director
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY

Olivia Ortiz, Chief Caseworker
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY

Roger Russin, Site Supervisor
GENERAL SERVICES

Joel Saint, Pastor
Independence Reformed Bible Church (IRBC)

Carmen Simone, Deputy Director
GENERAL SERVICES

Christopher Tallarico, Chief Public Defender
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Julie Weaver, Board Member
MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA

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

**Lancaster County Commissioners' Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

Commissioner D'Agostino announced approval of the May 6, 2026, Commissioners' Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner D'Agostino reannounced that there is no Work Session scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and no Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026.

**Proclamation
Mental Health and Trauma Awareness Month
May 13, 2026**

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential part of overall health and well-being, affecting individuals across the lifespan, including children, adults, older adults, families, workplaces, schools, healthcare systems and communities across Lancaster County; and

WHEREAS, recent data indicates that approximately 1 in 4 adults in Pennsylvania experience a mental health condition each year, with about 6% experiencing a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, data indicates that nearly 1 in 5 adults report having been diagnosed with depression, and nearly 1 in 4 experience symptoms of anxiety or other mental health challenges, reflecting the widespread impact across all age groups, including older adults; and

WHEREAS, mental health is especially important among the youth of our next generation, where a recent Pennsylvania Youth Survey shows that more than one-third of students report feeling persistently sad or depressed, and many report that these challenges interfere with their daily activities and well-being; and

WHEREAS, older adults in Lancaster County often face unique mental health challenges including isolation, grief, chronic health conditions, and barriers to accessing care, underscoring the importance of community connection, early identification, and accessible supports that promote dignity, independence, and overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, Lancaster County has a dedicated system of care that supports thousands of residents each year through Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Office of Aging, Children and Youth, the Drug and Alcohol Commission and community partners working together to provide prevention, treatment, and recovery supports; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Lancaster County's Crisis Intervention services received 33,965 calls through its 10-digit crisis line and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, providing immediate, compassionate support to individuals and families in moments of crisis; and

WHEREAS, these services are often unseen but essential to support individuals and families with mental health challenges; strengthening the overall health of Lancaster County.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA do hereby proclaim May 2026 to be "**Mental Health and Trauma Awareness Month**" and encourage citizens to be part of the solution to prevent and address trauma and to support strong and healthy families in Lancaster County.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Yoder, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, acting on behalf of the Public Defender's Office, to approve the following:

- Grant Renewal With:** Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)
Harrisburg, PA
- Purpose:** To reapply for funding from the Indigent Defense Grant to be used for reimbursement of expenses from 2026-2027 from the use of court-appointed counsel in post-conviction proceedings and salary spent for Social Services Caseworker and Client and Litigation Support Specialist positions.
- Amount/Term:** \$114,544.00 for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- Funding:** 100% State funding.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Lancaster County Commissioners' Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

On motion of Commissioner Yoder, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, acting on behalf of the Children and Youth Agency, to approve Affiliation Agreements with Lancaster Bible College, Messiah College and Elizabethtown College, for student interns for the period June 2026 through May 2027. Interns have been approved by Human Resources.

Motion passed unanimously

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Yoder, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, acting on behalf of the Election and Voter Registration Office, to approve increasing the fee for polling locations for each election to \$100.

Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 29 OF 2026

On motion of Commissioner Yoder, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster to approve the following budget adjustments:

REVENUE ACCOUNT:

Facilities Management - Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program SE0001305 Grant with US Department of Energy 6311-A-A3100-43010	<u>\$411,780.00 (+)</u>
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EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:

Facilities Management - Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program SE0001305 Grant with US Department of Energy 7241-A-A3100-43010 7522-A-A3100-43010	<u>\$246,510.00 (+)</u> <u>\$165,270.00 (+)</u>
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Motion passed unanimously.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Yoder, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, acting on behalf of General Services, to approve the following:

<u>Agreement With:</u>	TRANE U.S. Inc. Mechanicsburg, PA
<u>Purpose:</u>	To approve a preventative maintenance contract for the Chiller Plant at the Youth Intervention Center.
<u>Amount/Term:</u>	\$37,239.00 for the period May 15, 2026, through May 14, 2027.
<u>Funding:</u>	General Services budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Joel Saint made comments regarding socialism, communism, and their consequences.

Shaniqua Ballard, Kara Knappenberger, and Olivia Ortiz, representatives of the Children and Youth Agency and the Youth Intervention Center, presented a petition to the Board requesting recognition of their affiliation with Teamsters Local Union No. 771.

**Lancaster County Commissioners' Meeting
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The Board addressed Tom Lisi's questions regarding Sheriff Leppler's plans to resign.

Commissioner Parsons questioned Tom Lisi about his article in LNP titled "Library Leaders Suggest New Tax." In the article, Mr. Lisi indicated that he had a direct quote from Karla Trout, Executive Director of the Library System; however, Ms. Trout denied speaking with Mr. Lisi. Mr. Lisi responded that he had not heard from Ms. Trout and stated that he stands by his reporting.

Jill Craven, Member of the League of Women Voters, spoke about the League's support for mail-in ballot drop boxes in Lancaster County. She also expressed support for the Commissioners' Proclamation for Mental Health.

Commissioner Parsons addressed the drop box issue, stating that the only time Lancaster County had a drop box was during COVID. Because some people were uncomfortable coming into the office building, the Board placed a drop box near the Sheriff's station. When people became more comfortable entering the building again, the drop box was removed. He explained that walking into the building and placing a ballot in the drop box is not much different than walking a few more steps into the Board of Elections office and returning it there. He stated that there has been little difference to the public whether the drop box is located near the Sheriff's station or inside the Board of Elections office.

Commissioner D'Agostino added that there is no completely secure way to maintain a drop box and stated that the County's chief responsibility is to ensure elections are secure, transparent, and conducted with integrity.

Commissioner Yoder stated that, as she has mentioned previously, she supports the use of drop boxes. She said she believes the Elections Office has systems in place to ensure that every ballot received undergoes appropriate security checks, and she encouraged the County to consider ways to make ballot return more convenient throughout the County.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Yoder, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Kovalchuk, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office