

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners met today in their weekly Work Session.

Present at today's meeting were:

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

Lawrence M. George
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF CLERK

Amy M. Campbell
DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK

Jacquelyn Pfursich, Esquire
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Also, present were:

Heather Adams, District Attorney
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Robert Devonshire, Director
GENERAL SERVICES

Tom Lisi, Reporter
LNP

Jennifer Nissley, Deputy Director
ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES

Linda Schreiner, Director
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Jason Perkowski, Pastor
MANHEIM TOWNSHIP

Gail Groves Scott, MPH
HEALTH POLICY NETWORK

Cheryl Steberger, Warden
PRISON

Tim Stuhldreher, Resident
LANCASTER CITY

Commissioner D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced that the Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 2:11 p.m. to discuss a matter of litigation, which is the Melendez case, docket number CI-22-02890, Court of Common Pleas. They also discussed a Personnel matter and Labor matters.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced approval of the May 26, 2026, Work Session Minutes.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced that there is an Evening Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbia Borough Municipal Building, 308 Locust Street, Columbia, Pennsylvania. There is no Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 9:15 a.m.

1. Heather Adams, District Attorney, presented a Transfer of Vehicle to SERT.
2. Jennifer Nissley, Deputy Director, presented a New Grant Application with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

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3. Linda Schreiner, Director, Cheryl Steberger, Warden, and Robert Devonshire, Director, presented an Approval of the Add Alternates for the Lancaster County Correctional Facility (LCCF), and an Approval of the Design Development Value Engineering Options for the Lancaster County Correctional Facility (LCCF).

Linda Schreiner provided a brief recap of last week's LCCF Design Development Phase presentation. The first topic discussed was the Add Alternates, for which the Design Team is seeking direction from the Commissioners as to whether they should be included in the base bid or remain as add alternates.

Commissioner Parsons stated that the only significant savings would come from the Work Release area; however, he does not foresee the courts stopping to sentence individuals to Work Release. For that reason, and because the Work Release beds are essentially integrated into the design, Commissioner Parsons does not support removing that component. The other areas are also integrated into the design or would result in only marginal savings related to the overall project cost; therefore, he does not support removing them.

Commissioner Yoder made the following statement:

"As I mentioned last week's work session, I support including all six add alternates in the project. At this point, many of these elements are difficult to separate from the overall design but even viewed individually, I believe each provides important long-term value.

The additional medical beds will improve our ability to meet healthcare needs within the facility and can help reduce operational and healthcare costs over both the short and long term.

The work release component recognizes that employment is one of the strongest predictors of successful reentry. We are doing this work today, and I believe future innovations will create even more opportunities for individuals to maintain employment while remaining accountable and safely connected to the facility.

The support clusters provide flexibility for expanded programming and services, allowing us to adapt to future needs and continue focusing on rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

The Central Booking component allows us to continue current operations while creating opportunities for future partnerships with municipalities. It will likely create efficiencies, reduce costs through economies of scale, allow officers to spend more time in their communities, and overall streamline the process. It can also help minimize unnecessary disruption to an individual's employment, family connections, and support systems.

Dedicated space for onsite maintenance is a practical investment that should generate operational savings and improve efficiency for years to come.

Ultimately, what these Add Alternates have in common is that they are forward-thinking. They reflect not only what we know and need today, but what we anticipate needing in the future. They support public safety, operational effectiveness, and successful reentry while recognizing the long-term impacts that incarceration can have on individuals, families, communities, and taxpayers. For those reasons, I support moving forward with all five Add Alternates."

Commissioner D'Agostino agreed with his colleagues and added that it was challenging to move from schematic design to design development while shrinking the footprint, using space more efficiently, and still incorporating these elements in a way that reduced costs. Commissioner D'Agostino was pleased that there was consensus on retaining the add alternates.

Linda Schreiner clarified Tim Stuhldreher's questions regarding Central Booking.

Pastor Jason Perkowski shared comments and expressed his appreciation for the work and effort the Commissioners and the Prison Team have invested in moving forward with the add alternates.

Linda Schreiner stated that the team was challenged during the Design Development Phase to identify Value Engineering options for the LCCF. Four items were proposed: eliminating the Warden's restroom, eliminating an ancillary multipurpose room, modifying exterior and interior finishes to identify creative opportunities for cost savings, and reducing the size of the main lobby entrance.

Commissioner Parsons thanked the team for their careful and deliberate efforts to save taxpayer dollars. He stated that most of the proposed items would result in only marginal savings relative to the overall project cost. The only significant savings would come from altering exterior and interior finishes; however, even those savings are relatively small in the context of the overall project. Commissioner Parsons noted that some level of exterior and

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interior finishes will be required regardless, as the goal is to create a professional facility. Therefore, he is hesitant to remove the entire line item, since certain finishes must be included. Commissioner Parsons indicated that he leans toward retaining all of these items in the project; however, he would support eliminating the Warden's restroom if that is the will of the Board.

Commissioner Yoder made the following statement:

"Before getting into specifics on the value engineering suggestions, I think it is important that we remember the new prison is also a place of employment, one that requires us to prioritize supporting staff from a recruitment and retention standpoint. This is hard work. It carries significant physical demands, constant vigilance, and the reality of exposure to trauma, including vicarious trauma over time. The way we design and equip this facility directly impacts staff wellbeing, safety, and our ability to retain experienced professionals.

Given that this facility will likely serve Lancaster County for the next 50 years or more, I believe it is important to evaluate these recommendations not only through the lens of initial cost, but also long-term operations, functionality, and the message we want this facility to convey.

I support retaining the multipurpose room. While it will accommodate Prison Board meetings, its value extends far beyond that purpose. It provides a space for public meetings, family interactions, training, and community engagement without requiring visitors to move through secure areas of the facility. That flexibility will serve the county well for decades.

Regarding the administrative restroom, I support maintaining a warden's restroom.

Finally, I support maintaining the proposed exterior and interior finishes, including the lobby areas. The physical environment of a correctional facility matters. This building certainly represents safety and accountability, but it should also reflect our commitment to rehabilitation, professionalism, and human dignity.

Research and experience from correctional systems across the country have shown that thoughtfully designed, trauma-informed environments can reduce stress, improve staff wellness, support programming efforts, and contribute to safer operations. The appearance and functionality of a facility affect not only those who work and reside within it, but also family members, community partners, and neighboring residents who interact with it.

The facility itself communicates our values. It should project safety and security, but also hope, responsibility, and the belief that individuals can successfully return to their communities. These design elements help achieve that balance and, in my view, are worthy investments in a building that will serve Lancaster County and its residents for generations to come."

Commissioner D'Agostino added his thanks to the team for reviewing the project and identifying areas where costs could potentially be reduced. Commissioner D'Agostino supports eliminating the Warden's restroom and the ancillary multipurpose room. He believes reducing the size of the lobby entrance would eliminate natural light entering the lobby and, for that reason, he supports retaining it. Regarding altering exterior and interior finishes, which represents the bulk of the potential savings of nearly \$1.1 million, Commissioner D'Agostino stated that he needs more information regarding the alternative enhanced finishes. He would like to see a detailed, line-by-line breakdown of those expenditures.

Gail Groves Scott expressed appreciation for Commissioner D'Agostino's request for additional information and offered comments and suggestions regarding the LCCF design.

Commissioner D'Agostino addressed Tim Stuhldreher's questions regarding the Design Development Phase.

The Board welcomed comments and suggestions regarding the LCCF design from Gail Groves Scott and Pastor Jason Perkowski.

The Board also addressed Tom Lisi's questions regarding the LCCF project timeline.

Linda Schreiner provided several closing remarks and a brief overview of the next steps for moving the project forward.

4. June 3, 2026, Commissioners' Meeting Agenda – no changes or corrections.

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5. On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Yoder, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kovalchuk

Lydia Kovalchuk, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office