

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

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**  
**John B. Trescot**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Lawrence M. George**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF CLERK**

**Tammy Moyer**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK**

**Jacquelyn Pfursich, Esquire**  
**COUNTY SOLICITOR**

Also, present were:

**Heather Adams, District Attorney**  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**George Custer, Director of Administration**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH/DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

**Rick Kastner, Executive Director**  
**DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMISSION**

**Tom Lisi, Staff Writer**  
**LNP**

**Marisa Seubert, Director of Marketing and Development**  
**LANCASTER EMS**

**Tim Stuhldreher, Writer and Editor**  
**ONE UNITED LANCASTER**

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 yesterday, Monday, October 3, 2022, at 10:45 a.m. to discuss litigation in the Office of Open Records, Alexis v. Lancaster County case, docket number 2022-2065.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced the approval of the September 27, 2022, Work Session Minutes.

1. Ms. Pfursich, County Solicitor, presented an Amended Agreement.
2. Mr. Custer, Director of Administration, presented Amended and Renewal Agreements.
3. Mr. Kastner, Executive Director, presented Amended and Renewal Agreements.
4. Commissioner Parsons – Opioid Settlement Work Group Discussion.

Commissioner Parsons stated the work group, which consists of Commissioner Parsons, co-chair of Joining Forces along with Alice Yoder from Lancaster General Hospital; District Attorney Heather Adams; Rick Kastner, Director of Drug and Alcohol Commission; Jack Brommer, President of Chiefs of Police Association; Warden Cheryl Steberger; Jacquelyn Pfursich, Solicitor; Lawrence George, County Administrator/Chief Clerk, and Patrick Mulligan, Director of Budget Services, met a number of different times to put together a framework for use of the opioid settlement funds. There was agreement that it would depend how much funding the County receives. The County received the first allotment of \$640,000. The group will have to decide what they want to do, because likely those decisions will have to be built into the 2023 budget. The work group laid out a number of different programs in the framework, and given what they have right now in the bank, they can start some of the programs. The Board was supportive of the following programs: Medically Assisted Treatment, Early Intervention, MDJ Diversion Program, SIP, as well as have a discussion on DTF. The Board will vote on these once there are contracts brought before them in accordance with this discussion.

5. Ms. Moyer, Deputy Chief Clerk – Proposed Community ARPA Requests.

Ms. Moyer, Deputy Chief Clerk, presented 24 new requests for Public Safety totaling \$5.1 million. The Committee has reviewed all of them, and they all met the federal guidelines. There are a few of them that the community guidelines were not met, in that, nine of the 24 did not have any partner funding. What the committee found was that the public discussion that the Board had regarding where they want to see these funds go, that is where they found that a number of the requests fall under Operational Expenses or

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Maintenance Cost, which do not fit into the Board's vision of preserving the county for generations to come and something that has a far reaching impact.

The Board was in agreement that these requests are necessary and viable to the community, but because they are operational in nature, there has not been made a decision, so far, to fund these simply because there are so many of them, and it is hard to choose between them. However, if they get through all of the requests, and if there is some money that is left over and has not been allocated, they can try to make allocations in Operational Expenses.

Commissioner Trescot proposed they look at the two EMS companies requesting stretchers, even though they fall under Operational Expenses, because they are local companies that are providing public services and are known to be in financial distress.

The Board will revisit the requests from EMS once they get through the rest of the requests that have been submitted right now.

- 6. Board Appointment – Lancaster County Conservation District Board
- 7. Commissioner D'Agostino submitted his resignation from the Lancaster County Conservation District Board of Directors. He offered Commissioner Trescot to be the representative. Commissioner Trescot was happy to accept the offer.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner D'Agostino, the new appointment of Commissioner John Trescot was made to the Lancaster County Conservation District Board to finish the one-year term of Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, who has resigned, effective immediately. Commissioner Trescot's term will run through December 31, 2022, at which time he will have to be appointment for a new full-year term.

Commissioner John B. Trescot – Commissioner Representative  
150 North Queen Street, Suite 715  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Lancaster County resident.

- 8. The Commissioners addressed questions raised by media and members of the public.
- 9. There are no changes or additions to the October 5, 2022, Commissioners' Meeting Agenda. There will be a proclamation for Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans, and a proclamation for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Domestic Violence Services.

Commissioner D'Agostino will not be present at tomorrow's Commissioners' meeting because of a personal matter.

Commissioner Parsons expressed his concerns about false information from LNP.

- 10. On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner D'Agostino, the meeting was recessed at 11:08 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. this date, October 4, 2022, in Conference Room No. 701 for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2023 County budget.

Motion passed unanimously.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' RECESSED WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022**

The Board of County Commissioners met today in a Recessed Work Session.

Present at today's meeting were:

**Joshua G. Parsons, Chairman**  
**Ray D'Agostino, Vice-Chairman**  
**John B. Trescot**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Lawrence M. George**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF CLERK**

**Tammy Moyer**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK**

Also present were:

**David Aichele, Executive Director**  
**DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT DISTRICT**

**Troy Clair, Chair President and CEO**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF LANCASTER COUNTY**

**Mak Estill, Land Protection Coordinator**  
**LANCASTER CONSERVANCY**

**Beth Gable, Budget Analyst**  
**BUDGET SERVICES**

**Greg Gnat, Business Operations Manager**  
**PENN STATE EXTENSION**

**Dale Hamby, President**  
**LIBRARY SYSTEM OF LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Mary Henry, Board Chair**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE COUNCIL**

**Patrick Mulligan, Director**  
**BUDGET SERVICES**

**Jonathan Pinkerton, AICP Vice President**  
**SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE**

**Mark Platts, President**  
**SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE**

**Lisa Riggs, President**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF LANCASTER COUNTY**

**Carmen Schnuerle, Manager**  
**BUDGET SERVICES**

**Scott Sheely, Executive Director**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE COUNCIL**

**Stephanie Shirk, Client Relationship Manager**  
**PENN STATE EXTENSION**

**Tim Stuhldreher, Editor**  
**ONE UNITED LANCASTER**

**Christopher Thompson, District Manager**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Karla Trout, Executive Director**  
**LIBRARY SYSTEM AND MEMBER LIBRARIES**

**Phil Wenger, President**  
**LANCASTER CONSERVANCY**

**Jeremy Young, Director of Economic Development**  
**LANCASTER CITY ALLIANCE**

**David Youngs, Council Member**  
**PENN STATE EXTENSION**

Commissioner D'Agostino reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the County's 2023 budget.

**Susquehanna Heritage**

Mark Platts, President  
Jonathan Pinkerton, AICP Vice President

Mr. Pinkerton distributed packets to the Board which include last year's 2021 annual reports for Susquehanna River and Columbia Crossing, as well as information on their progress, projects, and their grant request of \$30,000 again this year. Mr. Platts thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of Susquehanna Heritage's mission and for the County's \$30,000 grant in 2022, which helped leverage \$1.3 million under local, state, federal and private funding, a ratio of 43:1 match.

Going forward in 2023, Susquehanna Heritage is looking forward to expand their programs, so they are requesting \$30,000 in grant funding, the same amount awarded in 2022.

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**Lancaster Conservancy**

Phil Wenger, President  
Mak Estill, Land Protection Coordinator

Mr. Wenger thanked the Board for their support and for the opportunity to present. He shared information about the 77 acres of land that the Conservancy is looking to acquire, which has serious potential for expanding some public access and recreational property. The Conservancy is paying \$24,000 an acre for this property, acquiring it for about \$100,000 less than the appraisal. They are at about \$1.9 million for this 77 acres. The Department of Conservancy and Natural Resources (DCNR) gave the Conservancy a positive commitment that they would fund 50% of this acquisition, and then the Conservancy committed over \$700,000 of private resources that they generate through fundraising. They are asking the County to consider coming in at 13% of that purchase price, which is \$250,000.

**Lancaster County Agriculture Council**

Scott Sheely, Executive Director  
Mary Henry, Board Chair

Ms. Henry thanked the Board for their service to the County and its residents, and for their support of agriculture in this County. Ms. Henry summarized the essence of the Agriculture Council and why it was formed. The measure of accomplishment for the Agriculture Council spans its past 11 years with the ultimate goal to keep Lancaster County farming, and keep the infrastructure strong and viable here in the County. The Commissioners' support over the years has played a vital role in providing the resources necessary for the Council to respond quickly to industry needs, and proactively engage important initiatives. The Agriculture Council, once again, is asking the Commissioners to consider their proposal for 2023 in order to continue to provide strong support to the industry that feeds our world and our communities. They are requesting \$20,000, the same amount as last year.

**Library System and Member Libraries**

Karla Trout, Executive Director  
Dale Hamby, President

Ms. Trout appreciated the solid support that has been provided by Lancaster County to the Library System and the libraries. Ms. Trout provided an update on the status of the Libraries and the Library System.

Ms. Trout stated their request this year brings something that they have not asked before, and that is some increases to help them to deal with inflation. Their request wraps around bringing all of their employees up to \$15 an hour for living wage, and then giving them 5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). They are also looking at benefit cost increases to ease that burden on their employees. In addition to that, they are anticipating a minimum of 45% increase when the contract with their delivery vendor renews in July of 2023. Ms. Trout also shared some challenges they are faced with in their Information Technology, as well as their cyber liability insurance. The total impact of these increases for 2023 is approximately \$68,000.

**Downtown Investment District**

David Aichele, Executive Director  
Jeremy Young, Director

Mr. Aichele gave an update on where they are in their organization and what their plans are. Mr. Young shared about their current and future economic growth. Their request for 2023 is for \$65,900 which is calculated based on the amount equivalent to what the County of Lancaster would pay if it were required to pay the Downtown Investment District annual assessment on the five county-owned parcels within the Downtown Investment District.

**Penn State Extension**

Stephanie Shirk, Client Relationship Manager  
Greg Gnatt, Business Operations Manager  
David Youngs, Council Member

Ms. Shirk, Mr. Gnatt and Mr. Youngs thanked the Board for their continued support, and shared some of their highlights, as well as some key agricultural issues. They are requesting a baseline 2023 total appropriation of \$499,735, which reflects an increase from the flat 2020-2022 Penn State Extension allocations. To further support traditional agriculture education industries in Lancaster County, Penn State Extension proposes an additional full-time 4-H educator position at a rate of \$65,000 cost for salary, fringe, etc. in 2023. With the extended request for an additional educator, the 2023 total allocation request for Penn State Extension Lancaster County equals \$566,235.

**Economic Development Company of Lancaster**

Lisa Riggs, President  
Troy Clair, Chair President and CEO

Ms. Riggs thanked the Board for their continued support over the last couple of years. For 2023, they are requesting an increase in funding from \$100,000 to \$125,000 as they implement new programs, expanding their services to growing business in Lancaster County. The result of EDC's new strategic plan will be a broader and deeper engagement with Lancaster's business community, helping to drive physical expansions in real estate and equipment, and strengthening overall business operations. These activities and investments translate directly to the stability and growth of the County's tax base.

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**Lancaster Conservation District**

Christopher Thompson, District Manager

Mr. Thompson thanked the Board for the support that the County provided over many years. He distributed an outline of why they are requesting \$275,000 for 2023, which is the same amount requested last year. The Conservation District's budget for next year is over \$13 million, which is a significant increase, some of it being ARPA dollars that the County has provided, but also coming from the State through various programs, as well as other funders outside of the County to help support Lancaster County efforts. The allocation, if awarded, of \$275,000 is only 2% of their Operating Budget projected next year. This helps to fill in the gaps in the funding they receive from the state, primarily because the State gives the programs but they do not give the dollars to administer the programs.

The Board appreciated the presentations and will be in touch with each agency after they put the pieces of the budget together.

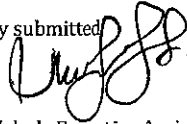
Mr. Mulligan, Budget Services Director, stated the total requested today is just over \$3.9 million, compared to last year's number of \$3.6 million. As of December 31, 2022, there will be almost \$900,000 in Act-13 funds, which they can allocate for some of these requests without dramatically impacting the balance.

The Board will have a discussion at the next budget meeting on how they are going to fund each of these requests.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Kovalchuk, Executive Assistant  
Commissioners' Office