

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 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:

**Janet Bailey**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**Larry Baum**  
**ELIZABETHTOWN RESIDENT**

**Natalie Carlin**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY RESIDENT**

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

**Fern Dannis**  
**COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING VOLUNTEER**

**Tess Feiler**  
**YWCA EQUITY TRAINING COORDINATOR**

**Caroline Herr**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**Dan Herr**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**John Herr**  
**EAST PETERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCILMAN**

**Dunkin Hopkins**  
**LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT**

**Paula Koda**  
**LANCASTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT**

**Sally Lyall**  
**LANCASTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT**

**Cheri Modene, Director**  
**JUVENILE PROBATION**

**Trisha Nabors, President**  
**NABORS COACHING GROUP**

**Crystal Natan, Executive Director**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUTH AGENCY**

**Candace Roper**  
**LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT**

**Joseph Shiffer, Deputy Warden/Inmate Services**  
**PRISON**

**Cheryl Steberger, Warden**  
**PRISON**

**Lancaster County Commissioners' Work Session  
Tuesday, April 12, 2022**

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

**Dan Sweigart  
EPHRATA BOROUGH RESIDENT**

**Diane Topakian  
LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, CHAIR**

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

Commissioner D'Agostino announced that an Executive Session was held today, April 12, 2022, at 9:20 a.m. to discuss personnel matters, Cox vs. Lancaster County Prison case, docket No. 18-08525 and a real estate matter.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced postponing approval of the April 5, 2022, Work Session Minutes.

1. Ms. Steberger, Warden, Mr. Shiffer, Deputy Warden/Inmate Services and Ms. Nabors, President, Nabors Consulting Group, presented an Agreement with Nabors Coaching Group, LLC.

Mr. Shiffer explained that the program is an immersive two-week program in which inmates with a likelihood of recidivism are recruited using an assessment tool. He said the recidivism rate for reentry at two years is currently 35.6 percent which is well below the recidivism rate for general population inmates, which is 60 to 65 percent. There is a full-time case manager which assists inmates after class is over and do referrals for housing, drug and alcohol treatment and other services.

Commissioner Parsons said reentry has been the prison's focus for about the last decade and there was a time when the prison did not do reentry. He said he appreciates Ms. Steberger's focus on leadership since she took over and that she recognizes that every issue the prison has had, such as the high rate of suicides and assaults, touches on leadership.

Commissioner Trescot said he hopes that when it is time for the design phase of the new prison, that space is considered for programs which would help push the recidivism rate further down and improve how inmates can return and be good citizens. In his years of private industry, he said leadership training was always important for staff.

Commissioner D'Agostino agreed and said reentry needs to start while within facility and he is glad to see the progress being made.

2. Mr. Custer, Director of Administration, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, presented an Amended Agreement with Behavioral Health Corporation.
3. Ms. Natan, Executive Director, Children and Youth Agency, and Cheri Modene, Director of Juvenile Probation, presented Service Contracts.
4. Commissioner D'Agostino - Lancaster County Community Application Policy for APRA Funding.

Commissioner D'Agostino explained the changes that occurred as a result of feedback the board has received since the last meeting. Some of those changes include adding US Treasury guidelines on the County website and providing a timeline for applications and prioritization of projects.

Commissioner Parsons did not have any objections to the changes since last week.

Commissioner Trescot said Lancaster is lacking in that other counties have had public meetings on APRA funds and websites soliciting input on ARPA funds.

Mr. Herr, a member of East Petersburg Borough Council, said there is a need for low-cost housing in the County and asked if it would be appropriate for ARPA funds to go towards providing that. Commissioner D'Agostino said that would be an appropriate use. Mr. Herr also asked about using the funds to provide a venue for the arts and was told that is not within ARPA guidelines.

Mr. Stuhldreher had questions about ARPA.

Mr. Hopkins, a Lancaster City resident, asked the board about the percentage of funds they plan to use on different projects. Commissioner D'Agostino said he would like to see what applications the County receives and what uses the County ultimately has before doing something like that.

Commissioner Trescot said it is a reasonable question but wants to wait to see how the submissions for funds come in.

Commissioner Parsons said he does not think it is wise to spend all the money at once because they do not know the

Lancaster County Commissioners' Work Session  
Tuesday, April 12, 2022

full extent of internal county needs and projects. He said there is a proposed bipartisan bill in Congress that would allow the County to spend up to 30 percent of APRA funds on infrastructure projects, which could include the new prison.

Ms. Dannis of the Coalition for Sustainable Housing, asked about projects that would last after the funds need to be expended in 2024. The change allows for the last payment to come into the County would be the end of 2026.

5. Board Appointment – Library System of Lancaster County Board of Directors.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, it was agreed to reappointment Dale Hamby to a second three-year term.

Lancaster County resident.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Ms. Moyer presented the April 13, 2022, Commissioners' Meeting Agenda.

7. Commissioner D'Agostino presented the Election Board Agenda.

About a dozen citizens attended the meeting to express their concern about the status of the drop box where voters deposited mail-in ballots ahead of primary and general elections starting in 2020. Ms. Topakian, the chair of the Lancaster County Democratic Committee, said the drop box provides a service to the citizens and she cannot fathom why the Commissioners would want to remove it. Other speakers argued that moving the box would burden voters – both those who don't have time to go through security and those with disabilities who might find the security process difficult. Others, including Commissioner Trescot, said that the U.S. Postal Service currently cannot be relied on to deliver mail in less than a week.

Commissioner Parsons said the ballot drop box change was an administrative matter that could be done without an official vote of the Elections Board. He cited the Governor and the Legislature for passing a law that essentially encourages voters violate the law without knowing better. He said when Act 77 was passed, almost no one knew that it was illegal to give a mail-in ballot to a spouse or anyone else, unless there is an affidavit explaining why someone else needs to drop it off. However, the Governor certainly knows it is not allowed, because he signed the bill, and yet he went on the radio and admitted to doing it. We do not want someone in Lancaster County getting in trouble for doing it and then pointing to the Governor's example.

Commissioner Trescot said if fraud is the concern, there could be better signage outside where the drop box is located clearly stating that no one can drop off a ballot unless it is their own. He said the drop box should stay and the Commissioners should listen to what the community wants.

Commissioner D'Agostino said he appreciated the feedback from the citizens but that the extra 10 yards or so voters would be required to get to the Voter Registration office should not be a barrier, since up until 2019 that was the way voters could drop off their absentee ballot, and he noted the office is handicap accessible. He said election integrity and voter confidence in the Commonwealth is at an all-time low and the Commissioners take it very seriously.

Other citizens who spoke in support of the drop box remaining included Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Koda, Ms. Carlin, Mr. Baum, Mr. Sweigart, Ms. Feiler, Ms. Roper and Ms. Bailey.

8. On motion of Commissioner D'Agostino, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Commero, Administrative Secretary  
Commissioners' Office