

Commissioners
SCOTT L. METZGER
Chairman
MARC C. SORTMAN
Vice Chairman
MARK MUSSINA
Secretary



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**LYCOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

10:00 A.M.

Present: Commissioner Metzger, Commissioner Sortman, Commissioner Mussina, Nicki Gottschall, Controller and Solicitor Christopher H. Kenyon.

1.0 OPERATIONS

- 1.1 Opening Prayer
- 1.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.3 Convene Commissioners' Public Meeting
- 1.4 Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 1.5 Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

None

- 1.6 Proclamation – Community Action Month – Rachelle Abbott, President & CEO
STEP- Comments attached

The Commissioners voiced their appreciation for the staff at STEP, all the work they do and the variety of programs the organization offers for the community.

Commissioner Metzger acknowledged what an honor it is to sit on the board and commented on the success stories he hears at the meetings showing how lives have been impacted through the services.

2.0 REPORTS

- 2.1 Nicki Gottschall – Vote to ratify accounts payable cash requirement report for invoices due through 5/20/26 to be paid on 5/13/26 in the amount of \$575,825.68.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 2.2 Nicki Gottschall – Vote to approve the credit card cash requirement report of purchases from 3/26/26 through 4/24/26 in the amount of \$7,766.49.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

Recess Commissioners' Public Meeting for the Salary Board

**3.0 SALARY BOARD -SALARY BOARD MINUTES CAN BE FOUND ON
LYCO.ORG>ELECTED OFFICIALS>CONTROLLER**

- 3.1 Convene Salary Board.

- 3.2 Vote to approve the Salary Board minutes from the April 30, 2026 meeting.
- 3.3 Vote to approve the following Salary Board Actions:
RMS:
- Eliminate Clerk III/AR position from the TDA.
 - Eliminate Operations & Support Service Clerk position from the TDA.
 - Add PT Weighmaster position to the TDA.
- 3.4 Adjourn Salary Board.

Reconvene Commissioners' Public Meeting

4.0 PERSONNEL ACTIONS

- 4.1 Nicki Gottschall for Michael Hagen – Approve the following Personnel Actions as conditional offers of employment, subject to the successful completion of a background check and all other employment conditions as outlined in Attachment (A).

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 5.1 Mark Davidson - Vote to approve the Agreement with Agarian Associates, LLC in the amount of \$3,700.00. (2026 approved budgeted item – Grant funds)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 5.2 Forest Rothchild – Vote to approve the Agreement with Priority Dispatch in the amount of \$19,200.00 for the first year and \$21,600.00 yearly for the next four years. (2026 approved budgeted item - Operating Expenses.)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 5.3 Jenny Picciano– Vote to accept the DEP Grant Agreement for the Countywide Action Plan in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 5.4 Emily Mrochko– Vote to approve the Agreement with Miller's Fence in the amount of \$3,267.00. (Not an approved 2026 budgeted item – Funds available through the Act 13 Legacy funds.)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 5.5 Shanean Edmonds – Vote to approve the 2025-2026 PCORP Grant Application in the amount of \$30,000.00.

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

- 5.6 Shanean Edmonds – Vote to approve the Agreement with McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall. (2026 approved budgeted item - Operating Expenses.)

Mr. Mussina moved to approve. Mr. Sortman 2nd the motion. Approved 3-0

6.0 COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Sortman informed that Mr. Best had written him a letter after his comments last week regarding the costs of the Right to Know request. He thanked Mr. Best for the letter and informed that he will be responding but there were some questions asked that the information needed to be verified.

Commissioner Mussina spoke about the programs in place within the legal system that assist people transition back into society and are aimed at reducing recidivism. He noted his appreciation for the Judges and boards that have continued these programs over the years. Commissioner Mussina expressed that he is looking forward to speaking at the GEO Reentry Program Graduation.

Commissioner Metzger announced that there will be a meeting on May 27th in the Commissioners Board room that is open to the community to discuss the issues with Juveniles in the community and possible solutions to these issues. All are invited including parents, school administrators, City council, the mayor, and those organizations dealing daily with juveniles. Commissioner Metzger emphasized that government will not solve the crisis. The community needs to be involved, as do parents. Partnerships are needed to work towards solutions. Commissioner Metzger pointed out that the Youth Commissions that were run in the 1980's was very successful and described how they worked. This is one idea that could be initiated as part of the solution. Commissioner Metzger pointed out how the issue itself affects all county taxpayers as well as the rising cost of the Juvenile Probation Department's budget. Commissioner Metzger also pointed out that this meeting will be able to connect parents with organizations that can provide support and assistance to them.

Commissioner Sortman commented on the costs to the current system and the juveniles currently incarcerated, as well as ideas that have been suggested.

7.0 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers who wish to address the Board of Commissioners will be limited for no more than three (3) minutes on any particular item. The speaker must state his/her name and address for the record. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board Chairman.

None

YOU TUBE PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8.0 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next Commissioners Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21st, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Board Room, 3rd Floor, 33 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

*To View This Meeting and For More Detailed Information Click
on The Link Below:*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixRV-X_UWAI

ATTACHMENT (A)

PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

Prison – Jennifer Gies, Correctional Officer II, Full-Time, Union, \$24.76 per Hour, 80 Hours per Pay Period, Effective Date: May 24, 2026.

Resource Management – Patrick Racey, Equipment Operator, Full-Time, PG6, \$20.34 per Hour, 80 Hours per Pay Period, Anticipated Start Date: June 8, 2026.

Comments – Rachelle Abbott

Good morning Commissioners!

My name is Rachelle Abbott, and I am the President & CEO of the Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc. Thank you for having us here to recognize Community Action Month in Lycoming County on STEP's 60th Anniversary Year!

Today I have with me:

Aron Haefner, STEP Chief Operations Officer, Molly Steel, Chief Human Resources Officer, Nikolina Cleaver, STEP Office of Aging Director, Jamie Williams and Nichole Miller, Administrative Coordinators.

For STEP, this year is more than a milestone on a calendar; it is a moment to pause, reflect, and feel proud of what we have built together through the decades. Sixty years ago, a small group of determined local leaders petitioned the Federal Government under the Economic Opportunities Action for the creation of **Lycoming-Clinton Counties Commission for Community Action (STEP), Inc.** to meet the community needs in a direct, efficient, and effective way. Their focus was action over talk, partnership over isolation, and hope over cynicism. That decision started STEP and carried us through decades of change, and it lives on today in all our programs.

When people hear “STEP,” they may think of only a small part of our programs, likely the STEP vans. But it's often far bigger than that—It's a child thriving in **STEP Head Start**. It's a family getting connected to quality child care and support through the **Early Learning Resource Center**. It's an older adult assisted with dignity through our **STEP Office of Aging** services. It's a neighbor moving toward stability through **STEP Housing & Building Initiatives**. It's a person who feels less overwhelmed because **Service Navigation** helped them find the right next step. And it's the simple, powerful fact that people can get where they need to go because of **STEP Transportation**. Impact isn't just what we provide—it's what becomes possible because of it.

I would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for their steadfast support of STEP, an organization born from the set of Commissioners six decades ago. It is through their vision and heart STEP has carried forward 60 years, powered by partnership, and focused on innovation and outcomes. And simply put STEP is People Helping People!

STEP appreciates the partnership with Lycoming County, as through our relationship we are truly impacting the residents. Over the years, this partnership has grown to address community needs and find innovative solutions to challenges. I look forward to the future and how STEP can even further support the County of Lycoming.

Join us in Celebrating STEP at its upcoming Fundraising Event: STEP Through the Decades on Saturday, May 30th at Bald Birds Banquet Hall in Jersey Shore. Tickets are still available and can be purchased by stopping in, through our website www.stepcorp.org or by calling the 570- 601-9545.

Happy Community Action Month!

