



**Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority**  
1989 Wyoming Avenue  
Forty Fort, PA 18704

**Minutes**  
**February 20, 2024 Regular Session**

**Call to Order**

On February 20, 2024, at 1:00 P.M., the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board convened their regular monthly meeting at the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Administrative Offices, 1989 Wyoming Ave, Forty Fort. It was noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

Mr. Yannuzzi, Chairman, called to order the February 20, 2024 meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Present**

Mr. Dominic Yannuzzi, P.E., Chairman  
Mr. William Hardwick  
Mr. Jay Delaney  
Mr. Gordon Dussinger - *Absent*  
Mr. John Maday

**Also Present**

Christopher Belleman, P.E., Executive Director  
Jeffrey Rockman Esq., Slusser Law Firm, LCFPA Solicitor  
Amy Grevera, CPA, Grevera and Associates, LCFPA Accountant  
Laura Holbrook, Mitigation & Outreach Specialis  
Deana Prochaska, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)  
Eric Mark, Reporter, Citizens Voice  
Jen Andes, Reporter, Times-Leader  
Dr. Gere Reisinger, Public

**Public Input**

Dr. Gere Reisinger gave a brief statement of the conditions behind Kirby Park and surrounding area, regarding drugs, crime, homelessness, and encampments. He asked that LCFPA work with local law enforcement to clean it up. He also advised that he believes those are to blame for the ongoing vandalism of the pedestrian barrier fencing where the levee crosses NSRR tracks in Edwardsville.

**Regular Meeting**

**Motion was made to ratify the minutes of the Authority meeting held on January 16, 2024.**

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**On the question:**

**Mr. Delaney:** As part of our minutes, I asked the Executive Director to look into one issue, that is on the last page and I would like to get a response by the end of the meeting today, if he has it.

**Mr. Yannuzzi:** Which item?

**Mr. Delaney:** Go down to on the question, I asked the Chairman for some direction, and I asked Chris a question about the Forty Fort levee vs. the Wilkes Barre and the \$800,000. I would just like a better explanation of that money and why it wouldn't be used to evaluate the boils off Gordon Ave.? So that is all, just a report.

**Mr. Yannuzzi:** Chris, were you able to look into that?

**Mr. Belleman:** Yes, I did contact them with regard to Chief Delaney's concern. The amount they have allocated for Forty Fort is about a third (\$253,658) out of their total NSF \$757,974 grant. There are other activities they are going to be involved with as part of their research effort. I will inform the Board in our March "Staff Activities/Projects Update" of that breakdown.

The Penn State researchers are scheduled to be here the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> to start their site evaluations. The researchers are aware that the Wyoming Valley system experienced problems in Forty Fort, Wilkes-Barre, and Plymouth during the September 2011 Lee flood event. At this time they are solely focusing on Forty Fort but that effort could expand with additional grant awards.

**Mr. Yannuzzi:** Alright but during that meeting at Chief Delaney's request, we are going to let them know that there were issues on Gordan Ave. in 2011 and if they have any extra time, they are free to investigate that as well.

**Mr. Belleman:** Of course. They are aware of the other areas in our system. I will request that if there are any existing grant funds left over, or new grant funds, if they could focus on some of the issues we have experienced on the levee in Wilkes Barre.

**Mr. Yannuzzi:** Alright, very good.

**LCFPA Activities/Projects**

- A. Staff Activities/Project
- B. Board Activities/Project

**Bills and Communications**

**Motion was made to approve the payment of the bills as presented.**

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**Report of the Treasurer**

**Motion was made to submit the report of the Treasurer into the record as stated.**

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**New Business**

**2023 Levee Fee Collections Update.**

**Motion was made to approve the updated job description for “Deputy Director”.**

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**Motion was made to approve the updated job description for “Project Engineer”.**

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**Motion was made to approve the promotion of Laura Holbrook from “Mitigation and Outreach Specialist” to “Deputy Director” at an annual salary of \$63,000.00.**

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**Motion was made to approve the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority to apply with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to formally and officially create three (3) public crossings on right-of-way currently owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway Company. The locations are as follows:**

- **At-grade crossing atop the levee crest in Edwardsville adjacent to Kirby Park;**
- **Where the levee passes beneath the railroad bridge in Kingston near the Kingston Public Works facility;**
- **Where the levee access ramp passes beneath the railroad bridge in Wilkes-Barre near the end of Riverside Drive.**

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**Edwardsville homeless encampment discussion.**

**Motion was made to approve 3% raises for 2024 to professional staff as follows (provided in adopted Operations Fund budget):**

- **Christopher Belleman: from \$93,097.30 to \$95,890.22**
- **Peter Bacumpas: from \$62,862.66 to \$64,748.54**
- **Deana Prochaska: from \$31,499.52 to \$32,448.00.**

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. “AYES” – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

**On the question:**

**Mr. Hardwick:** I assume this will be retroactive.

**Mr. Yannuzzi:** Yes, retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mr. Belleman:** Yes, raises were approved by the Board in the adopted budgets for this year.

**Next Regular Meeting**

March 19, 2024 at 1:00p.m.  
1989 Wyoming Ave  
Forty Fort, PA 18704

**The LCFPA Board met for an executive session following the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss litigation.**

**Adjourn**

**Motion was made to adjourn the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board.**

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

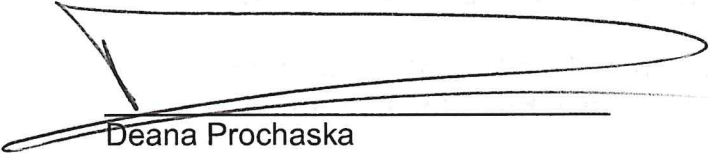
Second by: Mr. Delaney

Motion passed by a vote of 4-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, MADAY, DELANEY.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 P.M.

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Respectfully submitted,



Deana Prochaska  
Recording Secretary