



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

Minutes
August 20, 2024 Regular Session

The LCFPA Board met for an executive session prior to the August 20th meeting.

Call to Order

On August 20, 2024, at 1:05 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, Fort Fort. It was noted that all meetings are electronically recorded.

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

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Present

Mr. Dominic Yannuzzi, P.E., Chairman
Mr. William Hardwick
Mr. Jay Delaney
Mr. John Maday
Mr. Coray Mitchell

Also Present

Christopher Belleman, PE, Executive Director
Jeffrey Rockman, Esq., Slusser Law Firm, LCFPA Solicitor
Amy Grevera, CPA, Grevera and Associates, LCFPA Accountant
Laura Holbrook, LCFPA Deputy Director
Kayla Roselle, LCFPA Project Engineer
Eric Mark, Reporter, Citizens Voice

Public Input

None.

Regular Meeting

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

Motion by: Mr. Delaney

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

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. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

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. Delaney

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

New Business

2024 Levee Fee Collections Update.

Motion was made to table the "*Forty Fort Levee Maintenance Facility Expansion Project*".

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Delaney

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

Motion was made to terminate the employment of a Levee Maintenance Technician.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

Motion was made to approve the hiring of Joseph Gruver, 15 Guyette Road, Trucksville PA for the vacant Levee Maintenance Technician position at the starting rate of \$18.00/hr. (\$37,440.00 annually) in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by: Mr. Delaney

Second by: Mr. Mitchell

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

Motion was made to approve levee maintenance technician Rayleen Evans to attend CDL truck driving program at the Luzerne County Community College. The cost of training is \$5,100.00 and starts 9/3/24 and ends 9/26/24. A CDL is required for the position and the Commonwealth now requires individuals to attend and pass a 160-hour training class.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

On the question:

Mr. Hardwick: OK, she goes for the 160-hour training and a couple of months from now she takes a job with Swift Trucking. How does that work for us?

Mr. Belleman: Right now, there is nothing that would stop her from doing that. There is nothing in the collective bargaining agreement that would protect the Authority's financial investment in the training.

Mr. Maday: The document you forwarded to us about this, is that the only place where that is discussed?

Mr. Belleman: This new Commonwealth requirement just took effect last year so all of our other levee maintenance technicians received their CDL's under the prior conditions, which didn't require this 160-hour training. So, moving forward, for any new levee maintenance technician without a CDL, because it is part of our requirements for that position, will have to complete this training.

Mr. Hardwick: So, Joe Gruver has his CDL? If it is a requirement.

Mr. Belleman: It is part of the job description. Mr. Gruver does not have his CDL.

Mr. Hardwick: So, he has to get his CDL?

Ms. Holbrook: I think it referenced you have to get it in a certain period of time.

Mr. Belleman: The job description allows six months for an individual to obtain their license.

Mrs. Grevera: The last several hires, none of them had CDL's, but they had a certain amount of time to get it. Previously, it didn't require a \$5,100.00 expenditure for the Authority. This is new. All the Authority pays on an ongoing basis is the difference between their regular driver's license and the CDL.

Mr. Yannuzzi: How many trucks do we have that require a CDL? One? Just the dump truck with the trailer, right?

Mr. Belleman: Also, our Caterpillar backhoe/loader.

Mr. Yannuzzi: Do we have a lowboy?

Mr. Belleman: Yes, we have a lowboy trailer.

Mr. Yannuzzi: What do we tow that with? Our new truck?

Mr. Belleman: Both our new and old dump truck.

Mr. Yannuzzi: So, we have two trucks that require a CDL? And we have seven technicians, right?

Mr. Belleman: Six.

Mr. Yannuzzi: After Rayleen we will have six?

Mrs. Holbrook: No. We currently have four CDL drivers. Rayleen will make five and Gruver will make six if he goes for training.

Mr. Yannuzzi: What I am getting at is maybe we could relax that requirement of the six months potentially. Now because it is \$5100.00 instead of \$50.00.

Mr. Hardwick: Do we need a certain number of technicians certified, or did Rayleen want to get certified?

Mr. Belleman: A little bit of both. We only have six levee maintenance technicians. We don't want to have a situation where only two of them having CDL's because then that is all they are doing, driving equipment back and forth. Also, having all levee techs with their CDL gives the Authority more flexibility when staff is not available due to scheduled vacations, sick leave, and other time off.

Mr. Hardwick: Today you have four.

Mr. Yannuzzi: Today we have four, this will be five. It sounds like Rayleen is interested in being able to drive the truck, right?

Mr. Belleman: She is, she would like to expand her responsibilities and skills.

Mr. Yannuzzi: It has my approval but maybe with a new employee we can relax the requirement that they get their CDL.

Mr. Belleman: Keep in mind, with the current staff, in the next few years we are going to have several levee technician retirements. Rayleen is young and we would like her to stick around, so I think it's important she gets her CDL.

Mr. Hardwick: The only reason I brought this up is because we should think about this as we move into the future. We likely will have a new hire and if they don't have their CDL, we will likely be paying for their licensing. It doesn't seem like we need an "X" amount, if everyone wants to have a CDL, then we get CDL's for all of the employees. So, we just have to consider that in the future as part of the employment cost.

Mr. Belleman: Yes, absolutely.

Mr. Rockman: We could have an MOU stipulating the CDL recipient will be with us for "X" number of months or he/she will have to pay back 50% and 75% of the cost.

Mr. Hardwick: I appreciate it, and I think that is exactly what is needed, whether it is direct contract language or an MOU.

Mr. Yannuzzi: I would like to just approve it as is right now.

Mr. Hardwick: Please, understand, I am not trying to deprive anyone of anything. I just want to make sure we are using the rate payer's money wisely and protect it.

Mr. Yannuzzi: Yes, understood.

Attorney Rockman will draft an MOU regarding future CDL's.

Motion was made to approve the solicitation for "Professional Banking and/or Financial Services" from our current banking institution and at least two (2) others. The appointed committee will be Mr. Yannuzzi, Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Belleman.

Motion by: Mr. Delaney

Second by: Mr. Maday

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY, MITCHELL.

Next Regular Meeting

September 17, 2024 at 1:00p.m.

*1989 Wyoming Ave

Forty Fort, PA 18704

***Please note that the September 17, 2024, regular meeting location could move to the Authority's new Kirby Park Multi-Use Storage Facility. For this to occur the contractor, Mountain Stream, needs to complete the remaining punch-list items and the City of Wilkes-Barre needs to complete the Kirby Park paving project. More on this as it develops but may need to shift to our October meeting.**

The LCFPA Board met for an executive session following the August 20th meeting.

Adjourn

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

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Mitchell

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0. "AYES" – YANNUZZI, HARDWICK, DELANEY, MADAY MITCHELL.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Deana Prochaska
Recording Secretary

