



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

Minutes
March 18, 2025 Regular Session

Call to Order

On March 18, 2025, 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 March 18, 2025 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 - Absent

Also Present

Christopher Belleman, P.E., Executive Director
Christopher Slusser Esq., Slusser Law Firm, LCFPA Solicitor
Amy Grevera, CPA, Grevera and Associates, LCFPA Accountant
Laura Holbrook, LCFPA Deputy Director
Deana Prochaska, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)
Kayla Roselle, LCFPA Project Engineer
Jen Andes, Reporter, Times Leader
Public Members

Public Input

Michael Tay(?) Forty Fort: I understand that part of this building is set to be leased to DHS in the near future and several of us are here to address our concerns. Particularly, in light of recent high-profile cases of ICE violating due process, violating people's rights and detaining people unlawfully. Which is in fact an ongoing problem in ICE's operations since their existence in early 2000's. That includes the illegal detainment of lawful current residents, detainment and deportation of US citizens, as well in many cases when ICE had full evidence of these people's legal status. We are concerned about this organization's flagrant and often intentional violations of the law and people's rights, and that being so close to home.

Mr. Yannuzzi: We are simply entering into a lease agreement with the federal government to lease our vacant space for revenue, and HSI is going to occupy that space.

Michael T.: May I ask why you entered into this agreement?

Mr. Yannuzzi: We have empty space within the building, and they responded to our public advertisement interest in leasing it.

Michael T.: So, this was public?

Mr. Yannuzzi: Yes, we contracted with a real estate firm to help us advertise the space and find us a suitable tenant.

Michael Micterra(?) Mountain Top: Do you feel that any of the recent ICE arrest of legal permanent residents, detainments without due process or access to attorneys etc. should be taken into account in terms of moral ramifications of allowing this space to be leased out to them or potentially facilitating that sort of activity in our communities?

Mr. Slusser: Thank you for attending today. The format for this meeting, at this point in time is not meant to be a debate or a question and answer. It is public comment. We are opening the floor to take comments on any items that are before the board, you can certainly provide your positions, comments but the board does not typically entertain in a question and answer.

Michael M.: So, no public question?

Mr. Slusser: Correct.

Michael M.: OK. I suppose this just seems like a facilitation. I know the Board member said it's simply just letting out space, public available space, but this appears to be a direct facilitation regardless of the process, and facilitation of unconstitutional breaches of rights, breaches of human rights etc. We have seen plenty of those just within the last week, this sort of facilitation almost seems like a lax endorsement in a lot of ways, of those activities. The Board here should bear that in mind given the gravity of recent events and events to come because everything that goes on in the future is also going to reflect on this decision that Board has decided to make now or at the time of agreement and have not done anything to cancel it. Thank you.

Mr. Yannuzzi: Thank you.

Jay Liber(?) Pittston: I just wanted to ask who the real estate agent is that you said offered the space to DHS?

Mr. Yannuzzi: We advertised with Hinerfeld Commercial Real Estate. Hinerfeld helped us advertise the vacant space, we were approached by the federal government, and we have been working on the lease agreement for a couple years now.

Jay (?): I just wanted to make a comment that ICE (DHS) is a white supremacist, racist, "inaudible" organization. It should be unacceptable in our communities here, which we pride on for being diverse and inclusive of all types of people wherever they may come from. I think it is very shameful that you are offering the space to such unacceptable organization.

Regular Meeting

Motion was made to ratify the minutes of the Authority meeting held on February 18, 2025.

Motion by: Mr. Delaney

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

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

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, DELANEY, MADAY.

Report of the Treasurer

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

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

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

New Business

2024 Levee Fee Update.

Motion was made to table the Cost Amendment No. 1 in the amount \$220,247.50 to an existing agreement with Greenman-Pederson Inc. (GPI) , 53 Glenmaura National Blvd., Scranton, PA for their services on the "*Duryea Levee Rehabilitation Project*". The original agreement was approved on September 16, 2021 in the amount \$450,170. This work will be paid through the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project Mitigation Program Fund.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Delaney

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

Motion was made to table the proposed Resolution R-2025-01 “A Resolution by the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority to Amend the Fee Schedule on Occupancy License Agreements.”

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Delaney

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

Motion was made to formally reject all bids from the August 19, 2024 bid-opening for the “Forty Fort Levee Maintenance Garage Expansion Project” for Contract No. 1 Site Construction, Contract No. 2 General Construction, Contract No. 3 Mechanical Construction, Contract No. 4 Fire Protection, and Contract No. 5 Electrical Construction and to seek new bids based on the new scaled back design. This project will be re-bid in the coming weeks.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

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

Motion was approved to move the LCFPA Board regular April public meeting from the 15th to the 22nd, same 1:00PM starting time.

Motion by: Mr. Yannuzzi

Second by: Mr. Maday

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

Motion was made to amend the existing agreement with the Slusser Law Firm, 1620 North Church Street, Hazleton, PA to increase the solicitor hourly rate from \$90.00 per hour to \$110.00 per hour. The original agreement for legal services was approved March 19, 2019.

Motion by: Mr. Hardwick

Second by: Mr. Maday

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

Next Regular Meeting

April 22, 2025 at 1:00p.m.

1989 Wyoming Ave

Forty Fort, PA 18704

Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the March 18, 2025 meeting of the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority Board.

Motion by: Mr. Maday

Second by: Mr. Hardwick

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Deana Prochaska
Recording Secretary

