



MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 1, 2026

The regular meeting of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room at the Monroe County Administrative Center with the following present: Chairman John D. Christy, Vice-Chairman David C. Parker, Commissioner Sharon S. Laverdure, Solicitor Deborah L. Huffman, Chief Clerk/Administrator Robert J. Gress and Administrative Secretary Cindy Cook.

Chairman Christy opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

There was no public comment on agenda items.

M-2026-180 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the minutes of June 17, 2026, Commissioners' Meeting.

M-2026-181 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to amend Motion **2026-172** dated 06/17/2026 to reflect payment of \$5,900.00 instead of \$6,700.00 to Read & Associates for Geologist Services at the new well at MCCF.

M-2026-182 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to acknowledge receipt of the Request for Proposals for Drug & Alcohol and Counseling Services at the MCCF opened on 06/18/2026 @ 2:00pm as follows:

• PA Treatment & Healing (PATH)	Year 1 \$92,500.00 Year 2 N/A Year 3 N/A
• PsychPlus Associates of New Jersey, LLC	Year 1 \$162,000.00 Year 2 \$169,290.00 Year 3 <u>\$176,908.00</u> Total \$508,198.00
• Pyramid- did not follow bid requirements	

M-2026-183 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to present the following certificates of special recognition:

Crafting Creations- Grand Opening
Jessica Delfino – America250PA Keystone Art Initiative
Emmitt Derrick – America250PA Keystone Art Initiative
Haley Lopez – America250PA Keystone Art Initiative
Kalahari Resorts- Grand Opening of Sensory Calming Room with Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital
Certificates of Citizenship/Naturalized Person:
Maria Forgione
Sibel Ozdemir Akkay
Amanda Christina Agostinho Lourenco
Arely Altagracia Acosta
Lisbet Price
Rosy Angelica Ortiz Rosa
Karam Lochan
Maygon Jacobs
Anna Christine Davis
Pamela Ann Villavicencio
Cherry Lynn Prietos Haney
Ozden Sera Nikes
Guzin Sherman
Deborah Ann Lee Sam Dass
Luisa Fernanda Wintermute

Dianne Melafior Gana Blanco
Nidia Josefina Ramirez
Denia Sofia Marrero
Carolina Clavijo Molina
Mouli Sharavana Bhat
John Tailor
Karon Dona John
Soo Mi Jeon
Johel Abreu Sanchez
Clara Ybett Quispe
Alexander Filtsev

M-2026-184 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the actions listed below:

a) Personnel Agenda

FIRST NAME	DEPARTMENT:	POSITION:	STEP:	DATE:	REASON:	
NEW HIRES:						
Harrison, Barbara	Jury Management	Tipstaff	N/A	7/13/26	New Hire/Replacement	
Michael, Patricia	Jury Management	Tipstaff	N/A	7/13/26	New Hire/Replacement	
Lopez, Ashley	Courts	16 Court Recorder/Transcriptionist	N/A	7/6/26	New Hire/Replacement	
Visconti, Kodie	Courts	16 Court Recorder/Transcriptionist	N/A	7/6/26	New Hire/Replacement	
Gupko, Christopher	District Attorney	17 Detective/DA	N/A	7/6/26	Did not Start	
Williams, Christine	Maintenance	1 Tradesworker I (Night)	1	7/6/26	New Hire/Replacement	
Dowland, Alex	Public Defender	20 Law Clerk*	N/A	6/22/26	Correct Department	
SEPARATIONS:						
Landstrom, Eddy	C&Y	35 Casw 2	N/A	7/24/26	Resigned	
Kalinowski, Adrian	Conservation	10 Reso Conserv Specialist*	1	7/10/26	Resigned	
Karaman, Tristan	Correctional Facility	CO	N/A	6/19/26	Resigned	
Thomas, Randa	Correctional Facility	CO II	N/A	6/18/26	Resigned	
Medrano, Paola	Pretrial Services	16 Pretrial Services Director*	6	7/13/26	Resigned	
CHANGES:						
Hunter, Tiffany	C&Y	35 Casw 2	N/A	6/5/26	975 hours Probation Complete	
Perez, Michael	C&Y	12 Supervisor*	8	6/15-7/24/26	LOA	
Escourse, Dwight	Correctional Facility	CO II	N/A	6/22-8/17/26	LOA	
Estrada, Brandon	Correctional Facility	CO	N/A	6/4-7/10/26	Extend LOA	
Frank, Kristijan	Correctional Facility	CO II	N/A	6/24-7/28/26	Extend Mod Duty	
Manfre, Patti	Correctional Facility	9 Work Release Coordinator	9	5/20-11/17/26	Intermittent LOA	
Ortiz, Diana	Correctional Facility	CO II	N/A	6/16/26	RTW Full Duty	
Poinasek, Christopher	Correctional Facility	CO II	N/A	6/1-7/3/26	LOA	
Shay, Jennifer	Correctional Facility	7 Records Administrator	1	6/17-7/21/26	Extend Mod Duty	
Schiller, Blake	Correctional Facility	13 Lieutenant*	7	6/17-6/26/26	LOA	
Groves, Justine	Probation- Adult	20 Probation Officer Sr. Adult	N/A	6/25-7/10/26	LOA	
Rivera-Guzman, Samuel	Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts	4 Deputy (P)	2	6/8-6/19/26	LOA	
Rivera-Guzman, Samuel	Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts	4 Deputy (P)	2	6/20-6/28/26	Extend LOA	
Rivera-Guzman, Samuel	Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts	4 Deputy (P)	2	6/29/26	RTW Full Duty	
May Silfee, Sara	Voter Registration	19 Director Voter Reg/Elections*	10	6/22-7/5/26	LOA	
MISCELLANEOUS:						
Approve request by Maryellen Keagan, Director of OEM to float William Edinger's Juneteenth holiday from Friday 6/19 to Monday 6/22						
Approve request from Sheriff Cirranello to replace one vacant 4 Administrative Specialist III position with a 4 Records Tech position						
Approve request from Chief Clerk, Bob Gress to allow Sara May Silfee to float her Juneteenth Holiday from 6/19 to Monday 6/22						
A PT Caseworker 1/2 position was incorrectly listed on the January 5, 2026 Salary Board Reorganizational Agenda at 37.5 hours/week. The correct weekly hours for this position are 22.5						
A PT SSA 1/2/3 position was incorrectly listed on the January 5, 2026 Salary Board Reorganizational Agenda at 25 hours/week. The correct weekly hours for this position are 22.5						
Approve request from Director of Aging, Mary Claire Megargle, to pay CW2 Beverly Braxton Cannon out of class to work as a CW3 in Protective Services from 7/6/26 – 9/6/26						

- b) Approve/Ratify Requests to work additional hours:
- i) Sheriff's Overtime Report for pay period ending 06/14/2026:
 - (1) Deputies – 160.75 hours
 - (2) Security – 116.75 hours
 - (3) Clerks – 20.75 hours

M-2026-185 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve/ratify the actions listed below:

- a) Vouchers Payable:
- i) Dated 06/18/2026 in the amount of \$961,253.88
 - ii) Dated 06/26/2026 in the amount of \$1,807,510.01
- b) Gross Payroll:
- i) For Pay Period ending 06/14/2026 in the amount of \$1,543,231.94
- c) Healthcare Benefits Payments:
- i) Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield:
 - (1) Dated 06/17/2026 in the amount of \$129,847.94

- (2) Dated 06/23/2026 in the amount of \$76,013.49
- (3) Dated 06/26/2026 in the amount of \$5.15
- ii) Geisinger:
 - (1) Dated 06/17/2026 in the amount of \$73,659.26
 - (2) Dated 06/22/2026 in the amount of \$167,212.76
 - (3) Dated 06/29/2026 in the amount of \$101,562.06
- iii) Dental Claims:
 - (1) Dated 06/17/2026 in the amount of \$7,298.49
 - (2) Dated 06/22/2026 in the amount of \$6,292.76
 - (3) Dated 06/26/2026 in the amount of \$6,691.06
 - (4) Dated 06/29/2026 in the amount of \$1,119.60
- iv) Flexible Spending Account:
 - (1) Dated 06/17/2026 in the amount of \$209.00
 - (2) Dated 06/17/2026 in the amount of \$1,989.58
 - (3) Dated 06/22/2026 in the amount of \$1,346.39
 - (4) Dated 06/26/2026 in the amount of \$1,609.86

M-2026-186 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve/ratify the Travel Requests for the following: Clerk of Courts, Commissioners, Emergency Services, and Prothonotary.

M-2026-187 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the actions listed below as requested by the Area Agency on Aging:

- a) Approve a Contract for Professional Services with Melissa Lear, RN, for the period 07/01/2026-06/30/2027 with a contract limit of \$10,000.00 with a paid retainer in the amount of \$500.00
- b) Ratify submittal of the 2022-2027 Agreement with PA Department of Agriculture for the distribution of farmer market vouchers

Chairman Christy noted the farmer market voucher is \$5.00 this year.

M-2026-188 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the actions listed below as requested by Children and Youth Services:

- a) Approve Subsidized Permanent Legal Custodian Agreement for A.L.
- b) Execute the following Purchase of Service Agreements for the period 07/01/2025 – 06/30/2026:
 - i) Dynamic Counseling Associates with a contract limit of \$20,000.00 (Individual and family counseling services)
 - ii) Justice Works Youth Care with a contract limit of \$1,000,000.00 (In-home intervention services, family group decision and supervised visitation services)
 - iii) Pinebrook Family Answers with a contract limit of \$50,000.00 (Foster care services)

M-2026-189 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the actions listed below:

- a) Approve the Budget Adjustment Report dated 07/01/2026 totaling \$355,939.00
- b) Authorize the chief clerk to advertise for the 2026/2027 Implementation Plan and 2027-2028 Needs Based Budget for Children & Youth
- c) Approve C/O #3 with Verdantas in the amount of \$34,300.00 for Bridge #12 due to utility easement changes made by Met-Ed
- d) Approve Professional Services Agreement with Deano Graham/Love Light Consulting, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$33,000.00 for the period 7/01/2026 through 12/31/2026 for treatment court for Public Defender to be paid from Opioid Settlement Funds
- e) Add the following Vendors to the County List of Approved Vendors:
 - i) District Attorney:
 - (1) Abigail Medina
- f) Approve C/O with W.H. Lane, Inc. in the amount of \$177,221.00 for courthouse construction project completion
- g) Approve/Ratify the following Opioid Grants from the Opioid Settlement Funds consistent with the uses allowed under the Opioid Settlement Agreement, Exhibit E:

- i) Memorandum of Understanding with Synchronicity Recovery in the amount of \$100,000.00 for county-wide support initiative
- ii) Memorandum of Understanding with Guardian Angel Recovery House in the amount of \$60,000.00 for recovery house rental assistance
- iii) Memorandum of Understanding with Nehemiah Sober Living, Inc. in the amount of \$4,750.00 for recovery house rental assistance and transportation
- h) Approve the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budgets as follows:

Children & Youth	\$ 25,897,253.00
Area Agency on Aging	<u>\$ 3,781,388.00</u>
Total	\$29,678,641.00

M-2026-190 Motion by Vice-Chairman Parker, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure and carried to amend **Motion 2026-188** to reflect corrected time periods for the following Purchase of Service Agreements for Children and Youth Services:

- a) Dynamic Counseling Associates for the period 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2026
- b) Justice Works Youth Care for the period 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
- c) Pinebrook Family Answers for the period 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027

M-2026-191 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to execute the Local Law Enforcement Grant MonroeCountyDA2026, totaling \$250,000.00 from the PA Gaming Control Board for 2026 year as requested by the District Attorney.

M-2026-192 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the following actions as requested by the Fiscal/Grants department:

- a) Ratify Authorization for Ashley Kerrick, Grants Manager, to electronically sign the PCCD 2026 Medicated Assisted Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program for the period 04/01/2026 – 03/31/2028 in the amount of \$133,017.00
- b) Approve the 2026-2027 Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) and the Human Services Development Fund (HSDF) sub-recipient allocations as recommended by the Community Services Administrative Board as follows:

HAP Allocation 2026-2027

Pocono Area Transitional Housing	Bridge Housing Services	-	\$12,736
The Salvation Army	Emergency Shelter Services	-	\$12,736
Resources for Human Development	Case Management	-	\$6,444
Family Promise of the Poconos	Emergency Shelter	-	\$12,736
Safe Monroe	Emergency Shelter Services	-	\$12,736
TOTAL			\$57,388

HSDF Allocation 2026-2027

CMP MH/DS	Adult Services	-	\$48,000
Sights for Hope	Generic Services	-	\$10,157
Pocono Services for Families & Children	Children & Youth	-	\$26,000
TOTAL			\$84,157

M-2026-193 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to execute Cooperation and Funding Procedures Agreement for the Great Wolf Lodge of the Poconos Densification Project for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) in the amount of \$2,500,000.00 as requested by the Industrial Development Authority.

M-2026-194 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to ratify agreement with Norstar Networks in the amount of \$6,600.00 for phone system migration as requested by Information Technology and Services.

M-2026-195 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to approve the following Professional Consulting Services Agreements with UTRS for

boundary surveys for agricultural conservation easements with the cost being reimbursed to the county through the States’s Farmland Preservation Program as requested by the Planning Commission:

- a) Lands of Matthew Gould #02.9B.1.23-4 in the amount of \$7,300.00
- b) Lands of Lynn & Kristen Rudelitch #13.93324 in the amount of \$5,900.00
- c) Lands of Gorden & Diane Rudelitch #13.12.1.31 in the amount of \$5,000.00

M-2026-196 Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Parker and carried to ratify the Capital Purchases Report dated 07/01/2026 as follows:

DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	QTY	ITEM	Vendor	AMOUNT
APPROVED CAPITAL:						
TOTAL APPROVED CAPITAL						\$ -
REQUESTS WITH TRANSFER: (see Budget Adjustment Report)						
TOTAL REQUESTS W/TRANSFER						\$ -
GRANT FUNDED & OTHER:						
Correctional Facility	101.4232.7122.0000	Maintenance Supplies	10	Rechargeable Flashlights	Amazon - Lowest Quote	\$ 2,643.30
TOTAL GRANT FUNDED & OTHER						\$ 2,643.30
TOTAL CAPITAL REQUESTS						\$ 2,643.30

M-2026-197 Motion to approve the Computer Capital Purchases Report dated 07/01/2026 as follows:

DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	QTY	ITEM	Vendor	AMOUNT
APPROVED CAPITAL:						
TOTAL APPROVED CAPITAL						\$ -
REQUESTS WITH TRANSFER: (see Budget Adjustment Report)						
Correctional Facility	101.4232.5522.0000	Minor Equipment	2	Scanners	Government Connection -Lowest Quote	\$ 2,022.36
TOTAL REQUESTS W/TRANSFER						\$ 2,022.36
GRANT FUNDED & OTHER:						
TOTAL GRANT FUNDED & OTHER						\$ -
TOTAL CAPITAL REQUESTS						\$ 2,022.36

Vice-Chairman Parker spoke about today’s history two hundred and fifty (250) years ago. Vice-Chairman Parked noted that the first pass of passing the resolution for independence took place with nine (9) states voting for the resolution, two (2) voting against it including South Carolina and Pennsylvania and Delaware was a draw. On July 2, 1776, it was passed and then on July 4, 1776, The Declaration of Independence was approved.

Vice-Chairman Parker highlighted the Independence Day parade being held on July 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. kicking off from the Stroudsburg High School with the All American Picnic at Miller Park and Crystal Street following the parade. Vice-Chairman Parker also stated Celebration Fest will be held at the West End Fair Grounds beginning Thursday, July 2, 2026, with fireworks taking place at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Celebration Fest will be also held on Friday and Saturday as well.

Vice-Chairman Parker announced all the Keystones are now being displayed in their respective townships and boroughs around the county.

Vice-Chairman Parker thanked the MCTA for providing buses at the parade to be used as cooling stations and transportation to the end of the parade route if needed due to the extreme heat.

Commissioner Laverdure invited everyone to a summer chorus concert that she will be participating in featuring patriotic music under the direction of Dr. James Maroney. The concert will be held July 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Church on North Ninth Street in Stroudsburg.

Chairman Christy reminded everyone on the advice of his hand surgeon to leave the launching of fireworks to the professionals.

Chairman Christy asked if there was any public comment.

Rollie Member stated his concerns about data centers and the effect they are having on electric bills and if they are being addressed on the county level. Mr. Member also questioned where information can be obtained about proposed data centers.

Chairman Christy stated land decisions are made at the township or borough level as we are a Commonwealth. The Monroe County Planning Commission does review the plans and makes comments for the township or borough to review. Chairman Christy noted services are available through the Planning Commission to assist the township or borough if they request them. Chairman Christy stated there are also other agencies that deal with regulations for data centers, for example Delaware River Basin Commission can say how much water is allowed to be taken from the watershed.

Gregory Apkarian asked if the travel requests being approved are required travel.

Chairman stated the travel is required.

Gregory Apkarian asked for clarification on change order #3 with Verdantas and the Memorandum of Understanding with Guardian Angel Recovery House.

Chairman Christy and Chief Clerk Gress provided clarification.

Gregory Apkarian asked for more information on the Cooperation and Funding Procedures Agreement for Great Wolf Lodge.

Chairman Christy stated the county is a pass through for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant and the grant is funded by the state in this case to assist in encouraging tourism which is a key industry in Monroe County.

Gregory Apkarian asked if he had the right, ability and authorization to draft a petition to not allow the data center to be built and would it be honored.

Solicitor Huffman explained he can draft a petition, but most municipalities have ordinances that they must follow pertaining to data centers.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Robert J. Gress, Chief Clerk/Administrator

M-2026-180 through M-2026-197