

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

MINUTES OF Tuesday, March 24, 2026

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting of Tuesday, March 24, 2026, was called to order by Commissioner Daniel Vogler, at 10:00 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners Meeting Room. Deputy Chief Clerk, Vanessa Bayless, called the roll. Those in attendance were, Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, County Administrator, Joseph Venasco, Jennifer Elliott, Amy McKinney, Vanessa Lovlie, Scott Baldwin, Chad Strobel, Freddy Smith and Debbie Wachter from the New Castle News. It was stated for the record that the meeting is being taped. Those wishing to speak shall be given five minutes. If they need more time, they are to see the Chief Clerk at another time, and she will arrange for them to meet with the Commissioners. Those speaking are to state for the record their names, addresses and the nature of their business. Commissioner Sainato is out of the office today.

The Commissioners and some attendees each spoke about how sad the passing of Bill Humphrey has been for the entire community. He was a tremendous engineer, always professional and knowledgeable. He was a kind man, a decent human being. He passed away far too soon and will be greatly missed. A big hole has been left in the community. He was a very good friend to so many people in the Courthouse. He was also very active in his Church and the New Castle basketball teams.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. March 9, 2026
 - 2. March 10, 2026
 - 3. March 12, 2026
 - 4. March 17, 2026

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve and file said warrant register(s). Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - 1. March 10, 2026

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Gibson-Thomas Engineering-United Pickle Products Corp.-NPDES Permit Application for Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant Installation (Scott Twp.)

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports:

1. Planning-County Comprehensive Plan RFQs

Amy McKinney stated the Planning Department received (4) RFQs for their Comprehensive Plan. Those include Strategic Solutions, Mackin Engineering, HRG and Michael Baker. She will review these and recommend at a future meeting.

2. Tax Claim-Free & Clear Tax Sale Review

Brian Burick reviewed the Free & Clear Tax Sale. It is scheduled for April 23rd and the sale is online. The details of the sale are on the County's website.

B. Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Sainato had no comment.

Commissioner Vogler stated a special retirement board meeting will be held today at 1:30pm to select a hearing officer for a retiree.

Commissioner Kennedy stated he attended CCAP last week and the SPC long range planning meeting yesterday.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

R-2026-39

WEST NILE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Lawrence County has submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for funding the West Nile Surveillance Program; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to enter into an agreement with an independent contractor to conduct mosquito surveillance within the County to identify and eradicate the West Nile virus; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Stich desires to provide the necessary services under the terms and conditions of said grant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that:

1. Authorization is approved to enter into an agreement with Dennis Stich to conduct mosquito surveillance in Lawrence County for the West Nile virus; and
2. The cost of the agreement shall not exceed \$30,000.00 (\$28,800.00 mosquito hours & \$1,200.00 tick hours); and
3. Mr. Stich shall be reimbursed mileage at the current standing IRS rate per documented mile.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-40

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made funds available for assuring that transportation services are provided to eligible senior citizens who reside in the County; and

WHEREAS, these funds are made available to Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. through the Shared Ride Program for Older Adults under the provision of the State Lottery Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners wishes to provide funding for a portion of the required 15% co-payment for eligible individuals who are at least 65 years of age, and wish to participate in the Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping Program, to be provided by Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that;

1. The County of Lawrence does authorize payment to Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. in the amount of **\$ 9,381** as part of the required local co-payment for the Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping Program.
 - a. \$7,689 would be ear-marked for 2026 trips
 - b. \$1,692 is towards the 2025 deficit as 843 more trips were provided than projected.
2. Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. will administer these funds and utilize them to provide the balance of the 15% co-payment required for eligible Senior Citizens who receive services through the Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping Program. Eligible consumers will be required to pay \$1.00 toward the required co-payment for each trip.
3. Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. will invoice the 85% balance of each Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping trip to the PA Department of Transportation.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-41

RESOLUTION TO AMEND R-2026-33-AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners approved Resolution R-2026-33 on March 10, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County will be undertaking a project to complete a Phase II Master Site Plan at Quaker Falls Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development makes available grants-in-aid to such projects through the Municipal Assistance Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Commissioners of Lawrence County hereby authorizes submission of an application to the Municipal Assistance Program; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT that Resolution R-2026-33 shall be amended to reflect the County Commissioners of Lawrence County hereby commit an amount not to exceed thirty-six thousand (\$25,000.00) from our DCNR C2P2 grant award and eleven thousand (\$11,000.00) from County General Funds, contingent upon the award of the DCED Municipal Assistance Program.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-42

WHEREAS, Lawrence County was awarded a LEAD/HHI Contract on the 16th of March 2026 in the amount of \$5,750,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the County would like to utilize the services of Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. (LCSS) to complete the scope or work approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that

1. Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. is awarded the LEAD/HHI Contract;
2. Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. will complete LEAD/HHI Service items by July 16, 2030, as outlined in the scope of work approved by HUD;
3. The Chairman is authorized to execute all documents related to this contract.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-43

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence has entered into a professional agreement with The Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team 100, 120 McCune Drive, Butler, PA 16001 (hereinafter the "CONTRACTOR" or "Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team").

WHEREAS, the County and Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team, have entered into an agreement, identified by County and Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team as Act 165 Emergency Response Renewal Opportunity for 2026 (Exhibit "A").

WHEREAS, Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team have agreed to notify Lawrence County if the team has not received state re-certification or can no longer provide HAZMAT response coverage for the County.

WHEREAS, The County Emergency Management Agency and 9-1-1 Center will comply with requirement established in Act 165 and the current Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Emergency management Directive for Certified Hazardous Material Response Teams in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, a copy of the official contract between the parties shall be maintained with the County Emergency Management Coordinator.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS in consideration of their mutual promises, covenants, and agreements, the parties hereto intending to be legally bound, do hereby agree and consent for themselves, their successors and assigns as follows:

1. Butler County Hazardous Materials Response Team located at 120 McCune Dr, Butler, PA 16001, will provide services to Lawrence County as the ACT 165 Emergency Response Emergency Contractor;
2. A copy of the official contract between the parties shall be maintained with the County Emergency Management Coordinator; and

3. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign all documentation. Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-44

WHEREAS, the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 allows for the purchase of appropriate services; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services contracts for certain services; and,

WHEREAS, the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of County residents who are mentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary to make amendments to the original Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services currently has a Base Agreement with Northview Estates Limited Partnership for the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. It is specifically understood and agreed that the stated maximum of \$25,000.00 for various

services shall be adjusted to \$95,000.00. Revised budget page(s) is/are attached to support these changes. There is no language change to this contract.

2. All provisions of the agreement dated **July 1, 2025** between the parties shall remain as heretofore established.

In witness whereof, intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereunto set their seals this ___ day of _____, ____.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-45

WHEREAS, the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 allows for the purchase of appropriate services; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services contracts for certain services; and,

WHEREAS, the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of County residents who are mentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary to make amendments to the original Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services currently has a Base Agreement with Community Alternatives for the period from **July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026**; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

1. It is specifically understood and agreed that the stated maximum of \$120,000.00 for various services shall be adjusted to \$300,000.00. Revised budget page(s) is/are attached to support these changes. There is no language change to this contract.
2. All provisions of the agreement dated **July 1, 2025** between the parties shall remain as heretofore established.

In witness whereof, intending to be legally bound hereby, the parties hereunto set their seals this ___ day of _____, ____.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-46

WHEREAS, County Ordinance No. 203 of 1996 titled *Increasing the Recording Fees of Deeds and Mortgages to Support and/or Enhance the County of Lawrence Local Affordable Housing Efforts* authorized the Recorder of Deeds to increase the fees charged for recording deeds and mortgages; and

- C. For Introduction: None
- D. For Final Action: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 @ 10AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. The Courthouse will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2026 in observance of Good Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 11:00 AM. Motion carried 3-0.