

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, December 23, 2025

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, December 23, 2025, 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 (via phone), County Administrator, Joseph Venasco, Amy McKinney, Chad Strobel, Bruce Peterson, Chrissy Ascione and no one 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.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Vogler stated today is a special day and it is bittersweet with individuals retiring. It is a new chapter in their lives with them dedicating many years of service to our county. Mr. Vogler thanked President Judge J. Craig Cox for joining us to pay our respects & gratitude to Judge Dominick Motto who retired a year ago and is remaining a senior visiting Judge to Jefferson, Washington, Butler & Lawrence counties, which he can do for another 2 years. Judge John Hodge is finishing his term on December 31st of this year. He will also become a visiting Judge for 3 years. Sheriff Perry Quahliero started in 2006 and Judge Acker is also retiring. Mr. Vogler thanked all and wish them the best. He stated how friendships have developed over the years and will miss them all.

Mr. Kennedy stated it has been a pleasure working w/them all for his first 2 years as a Commissioner.

Mr. Sainato echoed all comments. He stated they are all gentlemen.

Judge Cox stated their retirements are bittersweet. He practiced law with Judges Motto and Hodge. He is really going to miss them. He stated the court system will continue to be in good hands with our 3 new judges.

Judge Motto thanked the Board of Commissioners for everything over the years. He is very proud that they could always get along and all the support over the years.

Judge Hodge thanked the Commissioners. He stated he always enjoyed Election Night when he started as the County Solicitor. It has been a pleasure making friends with the other Judges. He is very optimistic for the court system with the 3 new Judges.

Sheriff Quahliero thanked everyone. He stated the employees were always great to work with and the citizens of the county always supported him. He will miss everyone.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. December 16, 2025
 - 2. December 18, 2025

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. December 16, 2025
 - 2. December 18, 2025

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
 - a. Gateway Engineers is applying for a permit through the PADEP to replace a waterline on River Road. (Perry Township)
 - b. North American Forgemasters Co. Act 14 Notification-State only Natural Minor Operating Permit 37-000. (City of New Castle)

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to file written correspondence. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

- A. Staff Reports:
- B. Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Vogler had no comment.

Commissioner Kennedy had no comment.

Commissioner Sainato wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution: R-2025-405

Approving Structural Engineering Services on an As-Needed Basis

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence recognizes the need for professional structural engineering services to support projects and ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence advertised for a Request for Qualification from qualified engineering groups; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence has identified Gibson-Thomas Engineering as qualified to provide such services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County of Lawrence to engage structural engineering services on an as-needed basis to ensure timely and effective support for ongoing and future projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Lawrence hereby approves the engagement of Gibson-Thomas Engineering to provide structural engineering services on an as-needed basis under the terms of the working agreement presented.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-406

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety has entered a proposal to provide Subscription Based Uninterrupted Emergency Notification System with Regroup with its principal office at HQ 3400 N. Central Expy #110-256, Richardson, Texas 75080.

WHEREAS, Regroup agrees to provide a three (3) year Contract commencing on January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, which includes 24/7/365 uninterrupted emergency notification system access as well as other services explained in the Subscription Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as follows: Year 1 (2026) the cost of Ten Thousand Two Hundred seventy-five Dollars (\$10,275.00); Year 2 (2027) and Year 3

(2028 will be paid in 2027 in order to receive the discounted rate) the cost of Fourteen Thousand sixty-seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$14,067.50) for a total amount of Twenty-four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-two Dollars and fifty cents (\$24,342.50).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that authorization is given to execute on behalf of the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety, all documents related to the Regroup proposal to provide a three (3) year Contract commencing on January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, which includes 24/7/365 uninterrupted emergency notification system access as well as other services explained in the Subscription Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", as follows: Year 1 (2026) the cost of Ten Thousand Two Hundred seventy-five Dollars (\$10,275.00); Year 2 (2027) and Year 3 (2028 will be paid in 2027 in order to receive the discounted rate) the cost of Fourteen Thousand sixty-seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$14,067.50) for a total amount of Twenty-four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-two Dollars and fifty cents (\$24,342.50).

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-407

Whereas Wampum Community Revitalization, has filed a tax appeal vs
Lawrence County Board of Assessment Appeals, Wampum Borough
at case number **70124 of 2024, M.D.** ; and

1. **Whereas** All the parties to that action have reached a compromised settlement with the taxable property located at 331 Main Street Wampum Pa 16157. The Property is identified as Tax Parcel No(s). 21012200 in the Lawrence County assessment records.

2. The County of Lawrence, (the "Taxing Districts") and Taxpayer agree for purposes of settlement of the case that the Property shall be as follows: Shall be fully exempt Starting with the tax year of 2026. Under Title 10 P.S. § 375 of the Pennsylvania Statutes, part of the Institutions of Purely Public Charity Act, and will continue receiving preferential assessment as long as they continue to comply with the rules and regulation of the program as well as the statutes.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: that County of Lawrence approves the compromise settlement with the property designated by Parcel ID # . 21012200 Shall be fully exempt pursuant to the consent order.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-408

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) has applied for and received grant funds to implement a SAVIN program in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, PDAI (Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute) has been selected a sub-grantee by PCCD to provide contract administration and maintenance fee collections; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County has committed to implementing and using the PA SAVIN system to meet and enhance its responsibilities for victim notification as well as provide additional notification services to county residents; and

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

1. An agreement is made and entered into by and between PCCD, (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, PDAI, (Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute), and Lawrence County to implement a SAVIN program.
2. Effective for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-409

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, by **Resolution R-1998-55**, created and established the Lawrence County Federated Library System; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution authorized the appointment of a seven (7) member Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, terms of the members will expire and action will be required by the Board of Commissioners to fill such term; and

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

1. Dr. Douglas Lockawich, 704 Argonne Blvd., Ellwood City, PA 16117 (Borough of Ellwood City) representing the Ellwood City Public Library, is hereby appointed to the Lawrence County Federated Library System Board of Directors for a term expiring on December 31, 2028.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-410

WHEREAS, Section 1784 of the County Code, *Supplemental Appropriations Transfer of Funds; Appropriation Limits*, authorizes the Board of Commissioners, by resolution, to make supplemental appropriations for any lawful purpose from any funds on hand or estimated to be received within the fiscal year and not otherwise appropriated; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2025 Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS to amend the 2025 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

INCREASING Project lifesaver Revenue Account: 01337013.337013 by \$11,440.00; and

INCREASING Project Lifesaver Expense Fund Account: 01419400.998500 by \$11,440.00.

Reason: Project lifesaver program

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-411

WHEREAS, Section 1784 of the County Code, *Supplemental Appropriations Transfer of Funds; Appropriation Limits*, authorizes the Board of Commissioners, by resolution, to make supplemental appropriations for any lawful purpose from any funds on hand or estimated to be received within the fiscal year and not otherwise appropriated; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2025 Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS to amend the 2025 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

INCREASING Workmens' Comp Revenue Fund Account: 01390000.341911 by \$15,000.00; and

INCREASING Commissioners' Allocations Expense Account: 01457900.809800 by \$15,000.00; and

Reason: PComP Reimbursement Check

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

Transfers (Administrative)

- a. MHDS from ID Base to cost allocation for \$67,500.00.
- b. MHDS from contingency to transfer to general for \$6,000.00.
- c. Commissioners' from materials & supplies to maintenance & repairs for \$185.00.
- d. Commissioners' from material & supplies to telephone for \$214.12.
- e. Commissioners' from misc. admin expense to land/building for \$850.00.
- f. MDJ Amodie from temporary part-time staff to bond insurance premiums for \$500.00.
- g. Public Defender from contingency to direct image for \$277.00.
- h. Juvenile Probation from uniform to telephone/internet for \$180.00.
- i. Juvenile Probation from vehicle to telephone/internet for \$290.00.
- j. Juvenile Probation from staff overtime to telephone/internet for \$80.00.
- k. Adult Probation from contingency to travel & training for \$1,100.00.
- l. Jail from part-time staff to gas for \$4,900.00.
- m. Jail from part-time staff to land/building rental for \$.91.
- n. Controller from contingency to l/b rental for \$741.00.
- o. Controller from contingency to materials & supplies for \$2,500.00.
- p. Controller from contingency to salaries of staff for \$100.00.
- q. Public Safety from facility supplies to electric for \$2,000.00.
- r. MHDS from contingency to postage for \$200.00.
- s. CYS from contracted provider care to travel and training for \$8,000.00.
- t. Maintenance from materials & supplies to contracted custodial services for \$1,110.00.
- u. Commissioners from contingency to association dues for \$1,547.00.
- v. Veterans from other services to maintenance & repair for \$139.00.
- w. Veterans from other services to postage for \$56.00.
- x. Court Administration from contingency to postage for \$100.00.
- y. Court Administration from contingency to travel & training for \$1,300.00.
- z. Sheriff from office minor to materials & supplies for \$4,500.00.
- aa. Sheriff from salary of deputies to materials & supplies for \$5,000.00.
- bb. Prothonotary from materials & supplies to postage for \$2,078.22.

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

ORDINANCES

- A. Discussion: None
- B.** On the Table: None
- C. For Introduction: None
- D.** For Final Action: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 @ 10AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. The Lawrence County Courthouse will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th through Friday, December 26, 2025, in observance of Christmas.
- C. The Lawrence County Courthouse will be closed on January 1, 2026, in observance of New Years' Day.
- D. The Annual Salary Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026 @ 2PM in the Commissioner's Meeting room.
- E. The swearing in ceremony for newly Elected Officials will be on Monday, January 5, 2026 @ 10AM in Courtroom #2, followed by the ceremony for newly Elected Judges @ 11AM in Courtroom #1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, December 23, 2025 @ 11:00AM.