

**Lawrence County Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wampum Train Station**  
**November 12, 2025**  
**12:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was held at the Wampum Train Station located at 303 Main Street, Wampum, PA at 12:00 PM on November 12, 2025.

**Attendance**

**Planning Commission**

**Board:** Karolee Loughhead, Chairperson  
Mary Burris, Vice-Chairperson  
Maxwell Frederick - alternate  
Dave Hammond  
John Logue - alternate  
Linda Nitch  
Frank Telesz

**Staff:** Amy McKinney, Director of Planning  
Allen Miller, Deputy Director of Planning  
Rebecca Shaffer, Deputy Director of Community Development  
Chris Conti, GIS Planner

**Guests:** Dan Vogler, County Commissioner  
Dan Kennedy, County Commissioner  
Chris Sainato, County Commissioner  
Nicholas Vercilla, New Castle News  
Rachel Hanson, New Castle Resident

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was called to order at 12:05 PM by Karolee Loughhead.

**Regular Agenda**

1. **Approval of Minutes:** John Logue moved, seconded by Mary Burris to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025, meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
2. **Staff Report:**
  - **Comprehensive Plan/Greenways Plans:** Grant applications that have been submitted: DCED Comprehensive Plan Update and two to DCNR for Stavich Bike Trail (Development) Quaker Falls (Master Site plan for Phase II). Repairs were made at Quaker Falls and park has been reopened. LSA applications from 2024 have not been awarded. Resubmitting the application for the 2025 funding round due at the end of the month.
  - **CDBG:** General administrative duties. Work began November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Shenango Township Park on sidewalks and curbing; Fryer Excavating is performing the work.

Ellwood City Curb ramp project is partially complete with a retaining wall to complete the project in the spring. Working with DCED on FY2025 application.

- **ARPA:** General Administrative Duties.
- **SPC:** Attended TTC meetings. Planning Directors Meeting. Active Transportation meeting. TIP meetings for the TIP Update. SPC Competitive Program Selection Committee for CMAQ applications.
- **NORTHWEST:** Weekly calls with the Core Connect Committee. Working with Northwest representative and 4ward planning on housing study.
- **RALC:** Administering the Side Yard Program and Countywide Housing and Blight Remediation Program. Administering the Ellwood City Façade Program thru DCED. The Union Township Façade program was closed out.
- **GENERAL:** CPDAP meetings. APA-PA Board Meetings. Forward Lawrence Board meetings. Will be attending the Forward Lawrence Annual Reception. Attended the APA-PA Chapter Annual Conference in Harrisburg. Working to schedule the next LOM meeting. City of New Castle Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meetings, Focus Group meeting. Shenango China Brownfield meeting. Forward Lawrence CEO Search Committee

### 3. Commissioner's Comments:

1. **Dan Vogler** – Stated that the commissioners are the Board of Elections and have direct oversight of the Voter's Services Office and the running and conduct of both the primary and general elections. The most recent election went very smoothly due to the hard work and efficiency of the Voter's Services Office. At the first of the year, Sheriff Perry Quahliero, will be retiring and Vince Martwinski will be taking office as the new sheriff. Mr. Martwinski has been serving as a detective in the District Attorney's office. We will also have three new judges going into the new year. Attorney Larry Keith, attorney Bill Flannery and attorney Brad Olsen. They will be sworn in on the first Monday of January and will work with the President Judge, Craig Cox. Also, the county is moving forward with the purchase of the former St. Joseph's Church on the east side of New Castle.
2. **Dan Kennedy** – Updated the board on the end use of the St. Joseph's Church property. They are hoping to have someone on property within the next month to look at turning the classrooms in the school into offices. Hopefully, Children & Youth Services, Conservation, Penn State Extension and the Recycling department will be relocated there by summer. Eventually, the church located next to the Court House will be removed to make more parking available. They have been interviewing for the new director of Forward Lawrence and hope to have the position filled by the end of the year.
3. **Chris Sainato** – States that the acquisition of St. Joseph's church will have minimal effect on the taxpayers and in fact, could actually make revenue in the long run. He also stated that this will be beneficial to the neighborhood as it could likely have set abandoned.

4. **Forward Lawrence:** Maxwell Frederick states they started a hotel study on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ed Sheer toured the county over the course of four days to determine if there is a demand for hotels here in Lawrence County. The floors are currently being poured for the 350,000 square foot Steelite expansion. This expansion is expected to be occupied by March of 2026. They met with Gibson

Thomas and an architectural firm regarding the Whittaker Industrial property. They are putting together three options for the property which will include a complete tear down, a partial tear down and a renovation. Anticipated funding would come from an LSA grant for \$500,000 and a RACP grant for \$500,000. They met with Chris Frye and two EPA consultants regarding the Brownfields Assessment Grant. The consultants met with the City mayor and council. They advised the City that they need to hold ownership of the Shenango China property in order for Forward Lawrence to be able apply for an EPA cleanup grant.

**5. Public Comments:**

None

**6. Old Business:**

None

**7. New Business:**

The 2026 Meeting Dates and locations were discussed. Frank Telesz moved, seconded by John Logue to approve the 2026 Meeting Dates and locations. Motion carried 5-0.

**Action Agenda:**

**Subdivision and Land Developments:** One land development was presented to the Board for review:

**Hillsville Tack Facility – Mahoning Township** - Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Dave Hammond moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Linda Nitch seconded.

Motion carried 5-0.

**Zoning and Municipal Reviews:**

None

**Act 14 Notifications:**

3 Reviews since the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 12:00 PM at Edward's Restaurant located at 909 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA.