

Redevelopment Authority of Lawrence County Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Redevelopment Authority of Lawrence County was held at the Lawrence County Government Center, located at 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA, at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

Attendance:

- Redevelopment Authority:** Frank Telesz, Vice Chairman
Jim Gagliano, Secretary
Jon Natale, Treasurer (arrived 12:07 PM)
Ben Bush, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – Via Teams
- Staff:** Amy McKinney, Executive Director
Rebecca Shaffer, Deputy Director of Community Development (via Teams)
Mary Glass, Office Manager/CDBG Administrator
Ryan Long, Solicitor
- Public:** Rachel Hanson, Neighbors in New Castle

Call to Order

The February 26, 2026, meeting of the Redevelopment Authority of Lawrence County was called to order at 12:02 PM by Frank Telesz.

Public Comments –

Rachel Hanson updated the board on the project proposed for the former First Merit property located at 25 N. Mill Street, New Castle.

Regular Agenda

- a. **Approval of minutes** – Jim Gagliano moved, seconded by Jon Natale, to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2026, meeting. Motion carried, 4-0.
- b. **Secretary/Treasurer Report** – Balance of RALC accounts as of 01/31/2026 was \$1,143,944.78. Staff submitted a review of available funds and funding sources.
- c. **New Business –**
 1. **PA Housing Action Plan** – The Governor just passed the new 2026-2035 Pennsylvania Housing Action Plan. They are currently looking to appoint a Deputy Secretary of Housing. This position will report to DCED and Human Services.
 2. **NWPA Housing Development Toolkit** – Todd Pool from Forward Planning worked with Michael Baker to create this toolkit.
- d. **Old Business –**
 1. **Countywide Blight Removal Program Update -**
 - o **Demolition updates**
 - Round 1 2025 demolitions are near completion. Grading, seed and straw will be done as soon as the weather permits. We have three demolition reimbursements in process with the City of New Castle.
 2. **RACP Update** – Amy McKinney and Rebecca Shaffer met with Diane Richardson and Maxwell Frederick of Forward Lawrence on February 23, 2026. The documents are prepared and have

been signed. The budget is being reviewed one last time and once Amy receives it, she will upload it into the portal. The funds will be moved to the new project, however, it will still be called the Wright Building Project, as they do not change the name of the project.

Action Agenda

- a. Approval of Bills – Checks were presented for payment and signature. Jim Gagliano moved; Jon Natale seconded the approval of Payment of Bills.
Motion carried 4-0.
- b. Ben Bush moved; Jon Natale seconded the approval of Resolution R-2026-05 approving the transfer of one (1) side lot from Tax Claim (repository) to RALC. RALC simultaneously transfers side lot to applicant:
 - Daniel J. WagnerMotion carried 4-0

Adjournment

Jim Gagliano moved, seconded by Jon Natale to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:29 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 12:00 pm in the Commissioner's Meeting Room, located on the first floor of the Lawrence County Government Center.