

**Lawrence County Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Slippery Rock Township Municipal Building  
February 11, 2026  
12:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was held at the Slippery Rock Township Municipal Building located at 4334 US 422, New Castle, PA at 12:00 PM on February 11, 2026.

**Attendance**

**Planning Commission**

**Board:** Karolee Loughhead, Chairperson  
Mary Burris, Vice-Chairperson  
Cindy Morabito – Secretary  
Everett Bleakney  
Maxwell Frederick – alternate  
Dave Hammond  
John Logue – alternate

**Staff:** Amy McKinney, Director of Planning  
Allen Miller, Deputy Director of Planning  
Rebecca Shaffer, Deputy Director of Community Development  
Chris Conti, GIS Planner  
Mary Glass, Office Manager/CDBG Administrator

**Guests:** Dan Vogler, County Commissioner  
Chris Sainato, County Commissioner  
Marla Brown, State Representative  
Chip Abramovic, Forward Lawrence  
Rachel Hanson, Neighbors in New Castle  
Candice Dunmire, Slippery Rock Township  
George Johnson, Slippery Rock Township  
Al Burick, Shenango Township Manager  
Jeff Burns, Flowline  
Brad Seidel, Flowline  
Larry Renninger, LC Renninger Group  
Matt Malagise, IBEW LU 712  
Declan Pape, IBEW LU 712

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Lawrence County Planning Commission was called to order at 12:00 PM by Karolee Loughhead.

**Regular Agenda**

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Everett Bleakney moved, seconded by Cindy Morabito to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
2. **Staff Report:**

- **Comprehensive Plan/Greenways Plans:** DCED Comprehensive Plan Update – awarded \$75,000 from DCED to update the County Comp plan. The 2026 County Comprehensive Plan RFP will be advertised on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Proposals are due on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are securing bids for electric service at Quaker Falls. Project meeting with DCNR to finalize the Planning and Development grants that were awarded. Those contracts should be finalized soon and the contract start date will be January 1, 2026. Still waiting to hear if we were successful with our 2025 LSA application.
- **CDBG:** General administrative duties. Ellwood City Curb ramp project is partially complete with a retaining wall to be completed in the spring. Meeting with Gregg Delprincipe to discuss the Mahoning Township CDBG project that we will start this year.
- **LEAD Hazard Reduction Grant:** Working with LCCAP on budget negotiations for the 2025 Lead Hazard Reduction Grant that the County received. All required information was submitted to HUD on 2/5, and the budget negotiation call was held on 2/11.
- **ARPA:** General Administrative Duties and quarterly reporting.
- **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.
- **GENERAL:** CPDAP meetings. APA-PA Board Meetings. Forward Lawrence Board meetings and site committee meetings Next LOM Meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> –representatives from DCED, DCNR, and Forward Lawrence will present.

### 3. Commissioner's Comments:

**Dan Vogler** – Introduced the new Executive Director of Forward Lawrence, Albert “Chip” Abramovic. Mr. Vogler stated that he has known Mr. Abramovic for several years as they served together on the board of the Northwest Commission. He also stated that the South New Castle Borough voting precinct has been eliminated as the Borough has now been merged with Shenango Township. The Commissioner’s consulted with Shenango Township, held a public hearing and proposed adding South New Castle Borough to the Shenango 3 precinct. All that is left is to have a meeting to discuss where the third polling location should be.

**Chris Sainato** – Also welcomed Mr. Abramovic and commented that the bi-monthly meeting of the board of the Northwest Commission was held recently. He stated that Mr. Abramovic chaired that board twice during his time on the commission and has been very active in CCAP, County Commissioners Assoc. of PA and NACO, National Association of Counties. Mr. Sainato will be in Washington D.C. the week of February 16<sup>th</sup> to represent Lawrence County for NACO.

### 4. Forward Lawrence:

**Chip Abramovic** – States he is from Franklin, PA, Venango County; and was a commissioner there for ten years. Prior to running for office, he sat on the Planning Commission for a few years. He was president of the County Commissioner’s Assoc. of PA, vice-chair of the National Rural Action Caucus, vice-chair of their economic development committee, and was also a financial advisor for ten years. He looks forward to his future here in Lawrence County and feels there are a lot of opportunities for growth.

**Maxwell Frederick** – The staff is looking forward to working with Mr. Abramovic and he feels they are off to a good start.

- Shenango China – Their EPA consultants are working tirelessly to get a cleanup application submitted through the EPA. They are close to having this part of the process completed.
- Hotel Study – The study is completed and will be released soon.
- Sheridan Lots Project – On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the LCEDC closed on six city lots located on Sheridan Avenue. The lots were donated to them by the City Rescue Mission. The LCEDC are going to meet with representatives of the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Cooperation to discuss ideas for the Sheridan Lots Project and funding sources.

#### 5. Public Comments:

**Representative Marla Brown** – States the Governor addressed the legislature last week with his budget proposal, a 54 billion dollar spend. She is on the appropriations committee, and they are now entering into their budget hearings. She asked if local agencies are requesting grants, to please let her know because if she doesn't know about them, she will pass over them.

**Jeff Burns, President of Flowline/EZFLOW USA** – They are rebranding as EZFLOW USA. The expansion of the company is necessary for the machinery needed to manufacture forge components for the Mark 48 torpedoes that go into U.S. submarines as well as special piping for U.S. submarines and aircraft carriers. Everything they are doing in the expansion will directly impact our countries' defense. They have also received a Pennsylvania First grant that they will be making an announcement about soon.

**Larry Renninger, L.C. Renninger Group** – Addressed the board and acknowledged that construction had begun before filing the necessary land development plan. He expressed regret for the oversight and apologized to the Planning Commission. He then provided an overview of the project and described the details of the intended development.

#### 6. Old Business:

State Ethics Forms – Request was made that all members who have not submitted their Statement of Interest forms do so as soon as possible.

#### 7. New Business:

Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) has received Final Approval from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for its BEAD funding, clearing the way to deploy high-speed broadband networks across the Commonwealth. CoreConnect Community Broadband—the organization that grew out of the Northwest Commission's CEDS Broadband Action Team—CoreConnect Community Broadband announced that they have been awarded \$90,661,771 in BEAD funding to expand high-speed fiber broadband to 10,327 locations across 10 counties in Northwest Pennsylvania, including Lawrence County. This funding allows them to bridge the digital divide at scale, providing the reliable, high-speed backbone necessary for: Economic growth and workforce development, education and remote learning, healthcare and telehealth, innovation, entrepreneurship, and quality of life. Thanks to years of collaboration, planning, and advocacy by regional partners, local leaders, and community stakeholders, Northwest PA is positioned to turn this investment into lasting impact.

#### Action Agenda:

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

**EZEFLOW USA Inc. – Shenango Township** - Allen Miller reviewed the County Comments on the plan. Everett Bleakney moved that the Township take the County comments presented into consideration before approval. Dave Hammond seconded.  
Motion carried 5-0.

**Subdivision Modification Request:**

**Graham-Newton-Celli Sub/Cons. Plan** – Request was made for acceptance of lot width less than 100 feet wide. Mary Burris moved that the request be approved, Cindy Morabito seconded.  
Motion carried 5-0.

**Zoning and Municipal Reviews:**

None

**Act 14 Notifications:**

Four reviews since the January 14, 2026, meeting.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 12:00 PM at the Hutchinson Center, located in Pearson Park at 293 Pearson Park Drive, Neshannock Township, PA.