

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, April 7, 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, April 14, 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 Rebecca Shaffer, Dave Prestopine, Amy McKinney, LeAnn Piatt, Anita McKeever, Rick Telesz, Brian Burick, **Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, County Administrator, Joseph Venasco, 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.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties:

RESOLUTION

R-2026-49

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, Latoya McKnight placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Maryland Ave, Parcel ID No. 04-228900; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, Maryland Ave with a Parcel ID No 04-228900.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Latoya McKnight in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Maryland Ave, and having a Parcel ID No. 04-228900, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2026-50

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, Latoya McKnight placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 915 Maryland Ave, Parcel ID No. 04-036000; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, 915 Maryland Ave with a Parcel ID No 04-036000.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Latoya McKnight in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 915 Maryland Ave, and having a Parcel ID No. 04-036000, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2026-51

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, James Gunn placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Etna Street, Parcel ID No. 06-073500; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, Etna Street with a Parcel ID No 06-073500.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by James Gunn in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Etna Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 06-073500, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2026-52

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, James Gunn placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 17 N Lee Ace, Parcel ID No. 06-008500; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, 17 N Lee Ave with a Parcel ID No 06-008500.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by James Gunn in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 17 N Lee Ave, and having a Parcel ID No. 06-008500, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2026-53

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, James Gunn placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 15 N Lee Ace, Parcel ID No. 06-008400; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, 15 N Lee Ave with a Parcel ID No 06-008400.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by James

Gunn in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 15 N Lee Ave, and having a Parcel ID No. 06-008400, City of New Castle.

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, James Gunn placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Magee Street, Parcel ID No. 34-163100; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, Magee Street with a Parcel ID No 34-163100.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by James Gunn in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Magee Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 34-163100, Union Township.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve Resolutions R-2026-49 up to and including Resolution R-2026-54. Motion carried 3-0.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to amend the agenda to include receipt for bids. Motion carried 3-0.

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals:

- 1. Rich Avenue-CDBG-(3) bids were received
 - a. Wright Asphalt & Concrete-Beaver Falls, PA-\$49,161.57
 - b. Youngblood Paving-Wampum, PA-\$49,523.00
 - c. Protech Asphalt-New Castle, PA-\$43,796.10

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to table said bids for further review. Motion carried 3-0.

- D. Warrant Registers:

- 1. March 31, 2026
- 2. April 2, 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 31, 2026

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:

- 1. CSC, Inc.-Lindy Paving, Inc.-Application for NPDES Permit-546 Martin Kelly Spear Road (Mahoning Twp.)

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

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports: DV,DK,CS
Commissioner Vogler had no comment.

Commissioner Kennedy had no comment.

Commissioner Sainato stated he attended the Howie Mandell Comedy Show at The Cathedral and it was very well attended. There were over 1000 people in attendance. He also attended the Prayer March that was a very nice event.

RESOLUTION

R-2026-55

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence applied to DON Enterprises, Inc for the New Castle Lower East Side Elm Street Business Façade Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, the funds are to be used for Façade upgrades to the Lawrence County Government Center; and

WHEREAS, the County was awarded \$3,500 from DON Enterprises, Inc., with a match requirement of \$3,500.00; and

WHEREAS, funds will be reimbursed once all the required documents are submitted to DON Enterprises, INC.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board Commissioners that the Commissioners hereby enters into an agreement with DON Enterprises, INC. for the New Castle Lower East Side Elm Street Business Façade Improvement Program.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2026-56

WHEREAS, the Adult Probation Office is eligible for a Justice Reinvestment Initiative 2 (JRI-2) Grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD

OF COMMISSIONERS, that authorization is given to execute, submit and sign any necessary documentation required by the PCCD' E-Grants system now and in the future for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative 2 (JRI-2) Grant.

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

RESOLUTION R-2026-57

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Corrections currently has an Inmate Telephone Vending Agreement in place with ViaPath Technologies (formerly Global Tel Link Corporation (GTL)) that provides the use, maintenance, and support of ViaPath inmate telephone system, inmate tablet system, and Offender Management System; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications (FCC) issued its Report and Order, Order and Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WC Docket No 23-62 on November 6, 2025 (FCC Order), which mandated certain rate caps for inmate telephone services and ancillary service charges and other requirements; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Corrections and ViaPath have agreed to amend the current Agreement, at no cost to the county, in order to, among other things implement the FCC Order, and provide technology enhancements, including providing Wireless Tablets at a 1:1 tablet to inmate ratio, so that all eligible inmates will have access; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Corrections and ViaPath have agreed to extend the Agreement for two (2) years from the October 26, 2026 to October 26, 2028, in order to, among other things implement the FCC Order, and provide technology enhancements, including providing Wireless Tablets at a 1:1 tablet to inmate ratio, so that all eligible inmates will have access; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, the authorization is given to execute, submit and sign the necessary Amendment to the Inmate Telephone Vending Agreement with GTL.

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

RESOLUTION R-2026-58

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

WHEREAS, 85% of the additional revenue is set aside in a separate account to be used to fund affordable housing efforts in Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, DON Enterprises, Inc. would like to continue the First Time Low-Moderate Homebuyer or Prospective Homeowner Closing Cost Grant Program for persons obtaining homes in Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, these potential homeowners are often unable to obtain their first home due to insufficient funding for closing costs and a grant program of \$40,000.00 would greatly assist in fulfilling their home ownership dream; and

WHEREAS, DON Enterprises, Inc. staff will administer this program; and

WHEREAS, this program allows the administering organization a fee for these activities;

WHEREAS, DON Enterprises, Inc. intends to charge a \$200 administration fee per grant, e.g. approximately \$3,600.00 will be identified for the administration of the program and a total of approximately \$22,568.00 will be available for the approved participants of the program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 11 new homebuyers or prospective homeowners will benefit from the program and DON Enterprises, Inc. expects the funding will be expended within 24 months of its initiation and DON Enterprises, Inc. would be willing to accept the sum of \$25,000.00 to hold for eligible participants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that DON Enterprises will be allocated \$25,000.00 from the Affordable Housing fund to be used for the First-Time Low/Moderate Homebuyers or Prospective Homeowner Closing Cost Grant Program.

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

Transfers (Administrative)

- a. MHDS from Contingency to Office Equipment for \$25,000.00
- b. MHDS from Contingency to Gas for \$1,250.00
- c. Human Resources from material and supplies to maintenance and repairs for \$1,500.00.

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

ORDINANCES

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| 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 held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 10AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be a Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @ 12 Noon @ Westminster College.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 10:55 AM. Motion carried 3-0.

