

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, June 3, 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, June 3, 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, Scott Baldwin, Bruce Peterson, Rebecca Shaffer, Mike Grippo, Melissa Colalucca, Attorney Michael Joanow, Annabelle Chips 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 Deputy 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

Mayor Mark Elisco attended today's meeting to formally put in his request to be appointed to the Redevelopment Authority.

FISCAL AND CONTRACTUAL

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| A. Repository Properties: | None |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals: | |
| D. Warrant Registers: | |
| 1. May 23, 2025 | |
| 2. May 27, 2025 | |
| 3. May 28, 2025 | |

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve and file said warrant register(s). Motion carried 3-0.

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Approval of Minutes:
1. May 27, 2025

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications: None

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None
B. Commissioner Reports CS,DK,DV

Commissioner Sainato stated last Thursday there was a grand opening for a new antique store on East Washington Street. On Friday, he was in Green County at a coal mine tour where 15 Commissioners attended.

Commissioner Kennedy stated he attended the IBEW Grand Opening of the office in Beaver.

Commissioner Vogler stated on Sunday he went to Slippery Rock Township for the Rosepoint Campground where the Yeagers have worked with Conservation for a boat launch. It was a very nice ceremony.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS **RESOLUTION R-2025-103**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to retain an independent contractor to provide supervisory Assessment services for the County; and

WHEREAS, it is the wish of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to enter into an agreement with Mr. Charles "JR" Hardester to provide independent contractor services to the Assessment Department; and

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

1. Authorization is given to contract with Mr. Charles "JR" Hardester of 190 Eric Drive, Edinburg, PA 16116 as an independent contractor to provide services in the Assessment Department of the County at \$40 per hour and/or for an annual amount not to exceed \$12,000.00; and
2. The Agreement is effective June 3, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION
R-2025-104

WHEREAS, the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 allows for the purchase of appropriate services; and

WHEREAS Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services contracts for certain services; and,

WHEREAS the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of County residents who are mentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, from time to time it is necessary to make amendments to the original Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services currently has a Base contract with **Patches Place** for the period from **July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.**

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

1. It is specifically understood and agreed that the stated maximum of **\$587,100.** for various services shall be adjusted to **\$597,100.** Revised budget page(s) is/are attached to support these changes. There is no language change to this contract.
2. All provisions of the agreement dated **July 1, 2024,** between the parties shall remain as heretofore established.

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

Resolution R-2025 -105

Lawrence County,

Pennsylvania

A Resolution of Lawrence County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, appointing the Environmental Review Certifying Officer for the County's Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Program, Emergency Solutions Grants Program, and other Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development/U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded grant programs.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Program, Emergency Solutions Grants Program, and other Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development/U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded grant programs and the National Environmental Policy Act, it is necessary for Lawrence County to designate a Certifying Officer to serve as the “responsible” official to oversee Lawrence County’s environmental requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Certifying Officer will represent Lawrence County for environmental matters as they relate to the Community Development Block Grant Program, HOME Program, Emergency Solutions Grants Program, and other Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development/U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded grant programs, and shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal courts in the case of environmental litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Certifying Officer will assure that all environmental, procedural, and record requirements are fully and properly satisfied; and

WHEREAS, the Certifying Officer will oversee or perform all necessary functions required for environmental reviews, including consultations with all appropriate agencies directly concerned with environmental issues or having environmental responsibilities associated with Lawrence County’s projects, and the public comment process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LAWRENCE COUNTY’S GOVERNING BODY hereby appoints DANIEL VOGLER, CHAIRMAN as the Certifying Officer.

Adopted by the LAWRENCE COUNTY’S GOVERNING BODY at their regular meeting on JUNE 3, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-106

WHEREAS, Lawrence County, through its Children and Youth Department, desires to contract certain social services; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority and duty to provide social services to children and youth subject to the regulations established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (DHS) and the Juvenile Code:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The Purchase of Service Agreement under the provider Avanco International, Inc. (AFCARS) shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
2. Costs are incurred only if the provider or service is being used by Lawrence County per the Agreement.
3. Authorization is hereby given to execute an Agreement with the following service provider:

**Avanco International, Inc.
12685 Wiltonshire Drive
Clifton, Virginia 20124**

RESOLUTION R-2025 -107

WHEREAS, Lawrence County, through its Children and Youth Department, desires to contract certain social services; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority and duty to provide social services to children and youth subject to the regulations established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (DHS) and the Juvenile Code:

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The Purchase of Service Agreement under the provider Steven C. Braden (Check Your Mate Investigations) shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2025, through June 30, 2026.
2. Costs are incurred only if the provider or service is being used by Lawrence County per the Agreement.
3. Authorization is hereby given to execute an Agreement with the following service provider:

**Steven C. Braden (Check Your Mate Investigations)
220 S. Main Street, Suite E
Butler, PA. 16001**

RESOLUTION

R-2025-

WHEREAS the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services and representation to shall provide legal service/representation to Lawrence County Children and Youth Services (Agency); and

WHEREAS these cases and duties shall be assigned by and at the sole discretion of the Agency Director while under the direct supervision of the Agency Solicitor and shall include all dependency matters assigned; and

WHEREAS three agreements to provide such services to the County shall be authorized and executed.

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute this agreement with an unlimited number of juvenile dependency cases, as assigned by the Director of Children and Youth Services, to the following attorney for professional legal services in juvenile dependency cases:

A. Kevin Lorello

2. Agreement shall contain the following provisions:
 - a. As consideration for the services to be rendered under this Agreement, County agrees to pay Contractor a fixed rate not to exceed \$20,000/year to be paid in twelve (12) equal monthly payments on or about the 10th day of each month. All payments will be by electronic transfer.
 - b. The agreement shall be in effect for the period **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**, unless terminated sooner by either party.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Vote: Yeas _____ Nays _____

CERTIFIED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Joseph Venasco, County Administrator

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-

WHEREAS the County desires to enter into an agreement for advanced professional nurse consultant services to Lawrence County Children and Youth Services (Agency); and

WHEREAS duties shall be assigned by and at the sole discretion of the Agency Director and shall include professional consultation about intake, ongoing, foster care / kinship, and training as assigned; and

WHEREAS this agreement to provide such services to the County shall be authorized and executed.

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute this agreement with an unlimited number of cases, as assigned by the Director of Children and Youth Services, to the following professional nurse consultant:

A. Jayne Sheehan

2. Agreement shall contain the following provisions:
 - a. As consideration for the services to be rendered under this Agreement, County agrees to pay Contractor \$96/hr. not to exceed \$29,952 annually with payments on or about the 10th day of each month. Invoices will be submitted electronically with an accounting of hours worked. All payments will be by electronic transfer.
 - b. The agreement shall be in effect for the period **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**, unless terminated sooner by either party.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Vote: Yeas _____ Nays _____

CERTIFIED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Joseph Venasco, County Administrator

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-110

WHEREAS, Lawrence County has been named as a defendant in Innovative Construction, Inc. v. County of Lawrence, et. al., Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County-No. 10545 of 2024 CA in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Rules of Professional Conduct, Jones Passodelis have no conflicts and would be able to assist Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, Jones Passodelis will defend Lawrence County in the proceeding initiated by Innovative Construction, Inc., Innovative Associates, Sandro, LLC, the Sandro Trust, Caravan Recovery and Rehabilitation Center, LLC, Caravan II, LLC and Andrews Sanctuary Christian Youth Center, Inc.; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Commissioners that the Lawrence County Commissioners execute the attached Engagement Letter to retain Jones Passodelis as counsel for the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners in the above described lawsuit. The Board of Commissioners further authorizes the Chairman to execute the letter on behalf of the Board.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-111

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the Lawrence County Detectives Association and the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners will terminate on December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, through the negotiation process, an agreement between Lawrence County Detectives Association and the Board of Commissioners has been reached;

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

1. authorization is given to execute a CBA with the Lawrence County Detectives Association; and.
2. the CBA shall be for three (3) years, commencing January 1, 2026 and terminating on December 31, 2028.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to table said Resolution for more information. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION

R-2025-112

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 Grant Disbursement 911 Revenue Fund Account: 50334000.355002 by \$6,687.57; and

INCREASING Statewide Project-Lawrence ILCE Post Migration 911 Expense Fund Account: 50421693.403000.23038 by \$6,687.57

Reason: ILEC Post Migration Legacy Project

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-113

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 CCAP Grants General Revenue Fund Account: 01337007.337004 by \$4,552.00; and

INCREASING Materials & Supplies General Expense Fund Account: 01415500.201000 by \$4,552.00

Reason: CCAP Grant for Fitbits

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion

carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION

R-2025-114

WHEREAS, budgets cannot always anticipate every extraordinary, ordinary, or contingency situation which arises throughout the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Section 1784 of the County code permits the Commissioners by resolution to authorize budget transfers from any encumbered balance; and

WHEREAS, the need to provide additional appropriations to certain accounts now exists; and

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to the appropriate administrative officials to transfer a total of \$3,000.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2025-07.

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

TRANSFERS (ADMINISTRATIVE)

- a. MHDS from ID Services-Base to ID Case Management for \$25,000.00

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve administrative transfer(s). Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

- | | |
|---|------|
| A. Resolutions on the table: | None |
| B. Resolutions to be taken off the table: | None |
| C. Motion to amend the agenda: | |

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 held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 @ 10:00 am in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

B. There is a vacancy on the Lawrence County Redevelopment Authority (1st Announcement).

C. There is a Special Election Board Meeting on Monday, June 9th @ 9AM to certify the Primary Election Results.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debbie Wachter asked if we are closed on Flag Day? She further asked how many people have applied for the Redevelopment Authority vacancy? She asked who filed the lawsuits and what is the nature of them for the Engagement Letter the Commissioners approved with Resolution R-2025-110 Jones Passodelis. Solicitor Medure stated he would speak to Debbie after the meeting regarding the lawsuits.

Annabelle Chipps asked about the CCAP/Fitbit Budget Amendment. Mr. Vogler stated he would get her the nurse's name at CCAP, so Annabelle could discuss the matter with her.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 10:55 am.