

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, September 2, 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, September, 2, 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, John Bout, Howard Simmons, Michael Mahlmeister, Kevin Drapola, Amy McKinney, Chris Conti, Brian Burick, Scott Baldwin, Mary Kelly, Ronald Kruouslar, Tyler Coushenour and no one 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 he 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-2025-276

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

WHEREAS, Amy Mitchell placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 159 Gary Lane, Parcel ID No. 24-900492; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at, 159 Gary Lane with a Parcel ID No. 24-900492; 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 Amy Mitchell in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 159 Gary Lane, and having a Parcel ID No. 24-900492, Mahoning Twp.

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

B. Advertise for bids/proposals: Lawrence County Corrections Elevator
Modernization Project of Lawrence, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Warden Mahlmeister recommended the bid award to TKE Elevator. A resolution will
be formally passed at next week's Commissioners' meeting.

C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None

D. Warrant Registers:

1. August 25, 2025

2. August 27, 2025

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. Tuesday, August 26, 2025

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications: None

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports:

Brian Burick read the attached announcement.

B. Commissioner Reports:

Mr. Kennedy stated last Thursday CYS was awarded a one year evaluation, rather than
weekly or monthly evaluations, which shows how well things are being ran at CYS. He
stated everyone that is working there is doing a great job. He further thanked the first
responders regarding the explosion of former Walnut Ridge School in Ellwood City
Borough last night. There were no injuries.

Mr. Vogler stated John Bout, Director of CYS has been asked by the State to help
another Director in another County. Mr. Vogler thanked Mr. Bout for his knowledge
and kindness to help.

Mr. Sainato stated he was impressed with the tour of Mitcheltree Brothers Logging last week. Mitcheltree employs about 35 people. He attended the Memories Car Cruise on Sunday and thanked Phil Sunseri and his team that puts on the show. He also commended Le Resto restaurant downtown.

NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

R-2025-277

Whereas, the Lawrence County Domestic Relations is in need of a maintenance Agreement to cover the Kardex Lektriever File System; and

Whereas, the Lawrence County Domestic Relations currently uses the services of Hruska Enterprises, Inc. of Youngstown, Ohio to provide maintenance to the Kardex Lektriever File Sytem.

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

1. Hruska Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 3409, Youngstown, Ohio 44513-3409 will provided a Maintenance Agreement for the Lawrence County Domestic Relations Department's Kardex Lektriever File System; and
2. Costs will not exceed \$1,530.00 for a one-year period 10/01/2025 through 9/30/2026.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-278

Whereas, the Lawrence County Domestic Relations is in need of an Intergovernmental-Sheriff/Security Agreement with Lawrence County Sheriff Department.

Whereas, the Lawrence County Domestic Relations is in need of law enforcement personnel to provide security and perform various other duties on behalf of the DRS; and

Whereas, the Sheriff has agreed to assign Deputy Sheriffs to perform such duties; and

Whereas, the DRS will seek reimbursement for the child support enforcement services rendered by the Sheriff/Deputy Sheriffs to the DRS; and

Whereas, the Sheriff and the DRS desire to set forth the terms and conditions necessary to effectuate this assignment of and reimbursement for child support enforcement services of the Sheriff/Deputy Sheriffs;

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

Lawrence County Sheriff's Office shall maintain and improve the effectiveness of the Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program by outlining those duties that the Sheriff shall perform on behalf of the DRS and the terms by which those duties shall be performed. Subject to the availability of federal funds, the effective dates of this agreement shall be October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2030 .

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-279

Whereas, Lawrence County wishes to contract Equifax Verification Services located at Lawrence County Domestic Relations; and

Whereas, Equifax Verification Services A Social Service verification report provided via the Service ("Verification Report") will include, without limitation and as available, the Consumer's (i) employer name, (ii) employment status, (iii) employer address, (iv) employment dates, (v) position title, (vi) medical and dental insurance information, (vii) employer wage garnishment address, (viii) pay rate, (ix) up to three (3) years of year-to-date gross income details, and (x) up to three (3) years of pay period detail. Data provided may be from current or prior employers to the Lawrence County Domestic Relations; and

Whereas, Equifax is an independent contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THAT: THE County approves Equifax service at the Lawrence County Domestic Relations, with the minimum charge of \$5.60 per search for a 12-month period. Starting July, 1 2025 until July 31, 2026.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-280

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence is using a Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities Program;

WHEREAS, the funds are to be used for the Ellwood City Façade Program;

WHEREAS, eligible applicants can apply and receive up to \$5,000 dollars towards Façade improvement;

WHEREAS, the County has received an application from the attached qualifying business owners and the Façade Steering Committee has reviewed and approved the applications for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board Commissioners that the Commissioners hereby enters into an agreement with the attached businesses for the Ellwood City Façade Grant.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-281

A RESOLUTION OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING AN ALLOCATION FROM THE ACT 137 FUNDS TO LAWRENCE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES, INC.

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Ordinance No. 203 of 1996 authorized the Recorder of Deeds to increase the fees charged for recording deeds and mortgages and to set aside a portion of those fees in a separate account to be used to fund affordable housing efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Social Service, Inc. (LCSS) a non-profit corporation that works closely with the County of Lawrence to provide low-income families the opportunity to improve their living conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. 241 West Grant Street, New Castle, PA, 16101, is hereby awarded \$45,000.00 from the Affordable Housing Fund to be used for the County's Lead Remediation program.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-282

WHEREAS, Lawrence County is a member of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC); and

WHEREAS, as a member of SPC, Lawrence County is required to establish a Public Participation Panel.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Lawrence County Commissioners have established a Public Participation Panel and would like to add the following County residents to serve on this panel for a two-year term:

1. Robert Eckert
2. Mark Elisco
3. Matthew Frederick

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-283

WHEREAS the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled, and

WHEREAS Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services, desires to contract for certain services; and

WHEREAS the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 and the Department of Public Welfare fiscal regulations provide for the purchase of office equipment and services, and

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

1. The agreement listed in item 2 shall be approved starting **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**
2. Authorization is hereby given to execute the following addendum:
GSK Enterprises LLC - as detailed in attachment designated **2025-2026**
Program description and rates are also listed within the attachment.

Be it further resolved those payments be made from the MH/DS fund.

RESOLUTION R-2025-284

WHEREAS the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled, and

WHEREAS Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services, desires to contract for certain services; and

WHEREAS the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 and the Department of Public Welfare fiscal regulations provide for the purchase of office equipment and services, and

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

1. The agreement listed in item 2 shall be approved starting **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**
2. Authorization is hereby given to execute the following addendum:
 Lawrence County Social Services IM4Q - as detailed in attachment designated **2025-2026** Program description and rates are also listed within the attachment.

Be it further resolved those payments be made from the MH/DS fund.

RESOLUTION R-2025-285

WHEREAS the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled, and

WHEREAS Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services, desires to contract for certain services; and

WHEREAS the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 and the Department of Public Welfare fiscal regulations provide for the purchase of office equipment and services, and

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

1. The agreement listed in item 2 shall be approved starting **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**
2. Authorization is hereby given to execute the following addendum:
 LaCasa Personal Care Home - as detailed in attachment designated **2025-2026** Program description and rates are also listed within the attachment.

Be it further resolved those payments be made from the MH/DS fund.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve Resolutions R-2025-283 up to and including Resolution R-2025-285. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION

R-2025-286

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 IRP GRANT Revenue Fund Account: 01331065.93669 by \$3,590.00; and

INCREASING Transfer to IRP GRANT Expense Fund Account: 01423065.201000 by \$3,590.00.

Reason: IRP GRANT EXPENSES

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-287

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 \$182,000.00 to address the obsolescence of Windows 10, as further detailed in the attachment(s) designated T-2025-14.

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

Transfers (Administrative)

- a. Courts from contingency to cable for \$240.00.
- b. Court Admin from jurors to maintenance & repair for \$7,500.00.
- c. CYS from contracted provider care to hauling refuse for \$3,500.00.
- d. Sheriff from contingency account to salary overtime for \$15,000.00
- e. DA from vehicle expense to travel and training for \$2,000.00.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Administrative 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 on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025, at 10am in the commissioner's meeting room.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, September 2, 2025 @ 11:00 AM.