

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, April 8, 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, April 8, 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 Chris Sainato, Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Dorothy Burchett, Bob Burchett, Brian Burick, Amy McKinney, Joe Olivia, Larry Keith, Linda Abraham 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

Bob and Dorothy Burchett asked about forfeiture monies from the District Attorneys office. Attorney Olivia answered their questions.

FISCAL AND CONTRACTUAL

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| A. Repository Properties: | None |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals: | |
| D. Warrant Registers: | |
| 1. March 31, 2025 | |
| 2. April 2, 2025 | |
| 3. April 4, 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. April 1, 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,DV,DK

Commissioner Sainato stated he attended the Northwest Commission meeting last Friday and it was a good meeting.

Commissioner Vogler met last Wednesday with the Conservation Board. Today the Commissioners will be attending the West Central Job Partnership meeting in Mercer County at 1:30PM. Tomorrow, the Planning Commission Board is meeting at 12:00 Noon at the Mohawk Coffee House (MoCo House) in Bessemer Borough. This Thursday, there is a meeting at the Lawrence County Career & Technical Center, as well as a Ag Preservation Meeting at Elder Farm. This weekend an Eagle Scout, Lainey Todd is being celebrated.

Commissioner Kennedy stated the Commissioners attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the convenient store downtown. This Friday, the Economic Development is holding it's Impact Awards Breakfast. He further stated that over the last couple of months, the Commissioners have met with architects and engineers that graciously offered their opinions at no cost to the County to explore the route of the Church next door. The Church is in disrepair and would cost the County more to restore it than we can afford. Commissioner Kennedy mentioned this to let the public know that something will be done in the future with this building and possibly tearing it down and moving offices around to a new location(s).

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R-2025-71

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD),has an application Indigent Defense Grant Program Funds; and _____

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Commissioners are requesting \$96,596.00 to maintain and improve the quality and effectiveness of indigent defense services in Lawrence County through the continued retention of current indigent defense counsel and staff and through the creation of some financial parity between the Prosecutor's office and the Public Defender's office; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used for the following: salaries and benefits for full time attorneys; efforts to retain existing attorneys and purchase of electronic devices such as laptops for remote use by attorneys and for use in court proceedings; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that authorization is given to execute, submit and sign the necessary Grant application through Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-72

WHEREAS, the County entered into a lease agreement with Pitney Bowes to provide equipment and maintenance for the postal machines located in the Central Court Office; and

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute a sixty (60) month lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for Central Court; and
2. The Chairman Commissioner is hereby authorized to execute all documents pertaining to the attached Lease Agreement.

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. R-2025-73

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LAWRENCE,
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING
THE SUBMISSION OF A REQUEST FOR FUNDING
THROUGH THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT – STATEWIDE
PROGRAM THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH
FINANCING AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, Resolution R-2024-341 was approved on November 12, 2024 that read as follows: that Lawrence County hereby requests a Local Share Account Statewide Program grant for \$661,685.00 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be used for the Stavich Bike Trail Rehabilitation Project.

WHEREAS, Resolution R-2024-341 needs amended to read as follows: that Lawrence County hereby requests a Local Share Account Statewide Program grant for \$661,685.00 from the Local Share Account to be used for the Stavich Bike Trail Rehabilitation Project.

WHEREAS, that the Applicant does hereby designate Dan Vogler, Chairman of the Lawrence County Commissioners and Dan Kennedy, Commissioner, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between Lawrence County and the Commonwealth Finance Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Joe Venasco,
duly qualified County Administrator of Lawrence County, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Lawrence County Commissioners at a regular scheduled meeting held on April 8, 2025 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of Lawrence County and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of Lawrence County, this 8th day of April 2025.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-74

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development submitted an application to DCED under the FY2023 CDBG program; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development requested funds for the implementation of the CYS Transportation Program working with CYS and Lawrence County Social Services; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Social Services shall administer the program, working directly with Lawrence County CYS to identify foster children in need of transportation services.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners approves the agreement between the County of Lawrence and Lawrence County Social services to administer the CYS Transportation Program.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-75

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 MISC Income 911 Revenue Fund Account: 50390000.341900 by \$250.00; and

INCREASING Telecommunication Recognition 911 Expense Account: 50421687.201010 by \$250.00

Reason: Donation from Del's Garage

The Commissioners thanked Del's Garage for their donation.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

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| A. Resolutions on the table: | None |
| B. Resolutions to be taken off the table: | None |

ORDINANCES

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| A. Discussion: | None |
| B. On the Table: No. 1 of 2025 (Table until April 8 th Meeting for Final Action/Adoption) | |
| 1. Planning-An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, Pursuant to Act 48 of 2024, Establishing a County Demolition and Rehabilitation Fund and Imposing a Fee to be Collected by the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau from Purchasers at Sales Under the Real Estate Tax Sale Law and by the Lawrence County Sheriff from Judicial Sales in Mortgage Foreclosure Actions. | |

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to take said Ordinance off the table for final action and adoption. Motion carried 3-0.

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| C. For Introduction: | None |
| D. For Final Action: | |
| 1. Planning-An Ordinance of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, Pursuant to Act 48 of 2024, Establishing a County Demolition and Rehabilitation Fund and Imposing a Fee to be Collected by the Lawrence County Tax | |

Claim Bureau from Purchasers at Sales Under the Real Estate Tax Sale Law and by the Lawrence County Sheriff from Judicial Sales in Mortgage Foreclosure Actions.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Ordinance No. 1 of 2025. Motion carried 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 10:00 am the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

B. There will be a Lawrence County Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 @ 12 Noon at the Mohawk Coffee House (MoCo House) in Bessemer Borough.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Burchett asked if the Ordinance includes the City and all townships and boroughs? Amy McKinney answered yes it does.

Debbie Wachter asked if the \$250 fee charge per Ordinance No. 1 of 2025 will be added to the minimum bid amount to make the new minimum bid amount from \$500.00 to \$750.00 for Repository Properties? The Commissioners stated yes that is correct.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 10:45 am.