

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Wednesday, November 12th, 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 Wednesday, November 17th, 2025, was called to order by **Commissioner Daniel Vogler**, at 8:30 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners Meeting Room. **Administrative Assistant, Ryan Anderson**, called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Chris Sainato, County Administrator, Joseph Venasco, John Bout, Deputy Warden Simmons, Rhonda Heaney, Donald Andrews, Rebecca Shaffer, 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 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.

Mr. Vogler stated Commissioner Kennedy is out of the office today at a meeting outside of the building.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties:

1. Resolution for discussion and possible approval of Repository Property on Walter Street, Parcel ID # 34231200, Union Township.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to file said resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

DEFEATED

2. Resolution for discussion and possible approval of Repository Property on Lutton St, Parcel ID # 05-069400, City of New Castle.

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

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. October 28, 2025
 - 2. October 30, 2025
 - 3. October 31, 2025
 - 4. November 4, 2025
 - 5. November 5, 2025
 - 6. November 7, 2025

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

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - 1. October 28, 2025

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
 - 1. Ellwood Remelt Steel's intent to file an NPDES permit renewal with the PADEP located on Furnace Street, New Castle, PA.
 - 2. Flowline is submitting an application for plan approval to the PADEP located on New Butler Road, Shenango Township.
 - 3. Amerikohl Aggregates INC proposes to conduct overburden and production blasting in compliance with all state and federal laws at it's surface mining operations located in Wayne Township, Lawrence County, PA.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to file said written correspondence. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

- A. Staff Reports:
- B. Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Sainato stated that he attended the Veteran's Day parade over the weekend, and he said that it was amazing to see the turn out this year

for it. There were numerous supporters in attendance, and he added that he got to ride on a motorcycle with someone from the ABATE organization.

Commissioner Vogler said that he went to the ribbon cutting ceremony in Shenango Township at the Shenango Commons at the North West Cabim Creek Electric facility. Mr. Vogler will be attending the Planning Commission meeting today in Wampum at the Wampum Train Station at noon. Mr. Vogler wanted to recognize and give credit to the Conservation Board, Mary Burris, Freddy Smith, the New Wilmington Supervisors and the Slippery Rock supervisors on their success on the incoming businesses in Lawrence County.

Commissioner Kennedy seconded what both commissioners said about the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Kennedy Also echoed Mr. Sainato's praise for the Veteran's Day parade and commended them for making it extra special this year.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION

R-2025-366

WHEREAS, Lawrence County Corrections and Keefe Commissary Network, LLC entered into an Agreement dated August 28, 2012 to provide canteen/commissary and accounting services for use by the inmate population at the Lawrence County Corrections. The length of the Agreement was for 5 years; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement was amended on June 7, 2016, to extend the base term to August 29, 2022, and to include new services, equipment and system enhancements; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into a Commissary Services Agreement to facilitate the following services which are detailed herein: the ordering of commissary items by inmates, the operation of and payment for commissary, payments to inmate trust accounts, an inmate package program, transferring funds from inmates trust accounts to secure release cards upon their release and vending services; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Corrections and Keefe Commissary Network, LLC agree that the base term of the Agreement is for three years and is extended from November 1, 2025 through November 1, 2028. The Agreement will automatically renew for successive one-year terms thereafter, unless either party to this Agreement gives notice in writing to the other party no less than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of any term or extended term; and

WHEREAS, the authorization is given to execute, submit and sign the necessary Agreement between Lawrence County Corrections and Keefe Commissary Network, LLC

to provide commissary services at Lawrence County Jail. The effective date of this Agreement is November 1, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 367

A Resolution of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing submission of an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, as authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act (42 USC 5301 and 24 CFR Part 570), and further certifying compliance with the requirements of the program.

WHEREAS it is necessary and in the public interest that Lawrence County, Pennsylvania receive funds from the Commonwealth through the Department of Community and Economic Development in accordance with the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners have the legal authority and responsibility under Act 179 to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners have undertaken a considerable citizen participation process including written invitations to municipalities, informational meetings, hearings and legal notices all of which culminated in the prioritization of projects and development of a Community Development Plan; and

WHEREAS the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners are familiar with the requirements of the program as provided for in the Housing and Community Development (HCDA) and the Community Development Block Grant regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners wish to apply for said funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners that the Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development is authorized to have prepared the necessary forms and documents to submit an application to the Department of Community and Economic Development Block Grant funds for the purposes aforesaid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if CDBG funds are determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to be expended on ineligible program costs or do not meet a national objective, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners agree to repay the proportion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community Development Plan was developed in coordination with low and moderate individuals, interested organizations, non-profits and other interested parties through the citizen participation process and municipal information gathered is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the Lawrence County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Dan Vogler is empowered to place his signature on behalf of the governing body on necessary application forms and affix thereto the official seal of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners.

Adopted by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting on November 12, 2025

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-368

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence entered into an agreement with Fryer Excavating LLC to complete the Shenango Township Park Improvement Project under the FY 2023 CDBG program on October 14, 2025; Resolution R-2025-338; and

WHEREAS, the original contract amount was for \$98,045.00; and

WHEREAS, the following changes are hereby made to the contract documents: this change order submission has been developed in conjunction with contract provisions, specifying an adjustment in contract items of work due to additional work for concrete sidewalk and curbing; and

WHEREAS, it has been reviewed by R.A.R. Engineering Group, Inc. to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$9,877.00, for a total contract amount of \$107,922.00; and

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

1. Change Order #1 with Fryer Excavating, LLC., an increase of \$9,877.00 shall be approved for the FY2023 Shenango Township Park Improvement Project in Shenango Township, Lawrence County;
2. A total of \$107,922.00 will be allocated under the CDBG grant line item to complete this project;
3. The Chairman is authorized to execute all documents related to this contract.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025 -369

WHEREAS, Lawrence County, through its Children and Youth Services Department, desires to add a member to the CYS Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the presence of an Advisory Board or Committee is mandated by Section 3130 of the Pennsylvania Code; and

WHEREAS, the CYS Advisory Board operates under the legal name of Lawrence County of PA Child & Youth Services Advisory Board; and

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

1. **Jackie Pontius (Hickory Township)** be appointed a member of the CYS Advisory Board for a period of three (3) years, members may be reappointed by the Advisory Board for additional three (3) year terms.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025 -370

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 Bethany Christian Services 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:

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

**Bethany Christian Services
6600 Brooktree Court, Suite 1000
Wexford, PA. 15090**

RESOLUTION R-2025-371

WHEREAS, the Dept. of Human Services formerly known as Dept. of Public Welfare (DPW) in 1999 initiated statewide implementation of HealthChoices, a mandatory managed care initiative for all Medical Assistance (MA) recipients; and

WHEREAS, behavioral healthcare services (mental health and drug/alcohol services) are part of HealthChoices for counties to manage the MA funds locally for these services; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Lawrence County (mental health and drug/alcohol programs) collaborate with five other county mental health programs and drug/alcohol abuse programs (Butler, Armstrong, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland counties); and

WHEREAS, Southwest Behavioral Health Management, Inc. (SWBHM) agrees to provide administrative support services and oversight services for Lawrence County (and the other five southwestern counties) related to the operations of HealthChoices; and

WHEREAS, HealthChoices funds will be used to pay monthly costs as submitted to SWBHM,

Inc. with no local match required from Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, the current agreement with SWBHM, Inc. needs to be renewed effective **January 1st, 2026 through December 31st, 2027**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that LAWRENCE COUNTY agrees to enter into this agreement with Southwest Behavioral Health Management, Inc. subject to final review by the County Solicitor

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-372

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Commissioners desire to contract certain services; and

WHEREAS, the County has the authority and duty to provide services; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to enter into a contract with Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC to extend auditing services to the County for the years ending December 31, 2025, 2026 and 2027, 2028; and

WHEREAS, the annual fees for these services will be as follows:

Year	Financial and Single Audit	Conservation District Audit
2025	\$85,400	\$3,850
2026	\$88,000	\$3,950
2027	\$90,600	\$4,075
2028	\$93,300	\$4,200

WHEREAS, for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028, a 3% inflationary adjustment above the 2024 fee is included; and

WHEREAS, if additional time is necessary, discussion will be held and a new fee estimate will be provided before Zelenkofske Axelrod LLC incurs the additional costs; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that a contract extension be approved to provide audit services

for Lawrence County for the years ending December 31, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028, with the Commissioners signing the attached acknowledgement sheet.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-373

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Commissioners wish to solicit a Request for Proposal on Qualifications from interested firms for Structural Engineering Services to provide professional services for the assessment, design and oversight of structural improvements for public facilities throughout Lawrence County that is in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 77 of 2024, Act 39 of 2010, 163 of 2016 or other Pennsylvania legislation; and

WHEREAS, for the purpose of this RFQ, any company that is qualified to provide structural assessments and inspections, design and engineering of structural systems, preparation of construction documents cost estimating and value engineering, coordination with architects, contractors and municipal officials and construction administration and site visits; and

WHEREAS, respondents must demonstrate licensure to practice structural engineering in Pennsylvania, experience with public sector or municipal projects, familiarity with applicable codes and regulations and the capacity to meet project timelines and budget constraints; and

WHEREAS responses to this RFQ shall include a cover letter expressing interest, firm profile and relevant experience, resumes of key personnel, examples of similar projects completed within the last 5 years, references from at least 3 clients and proof of insurance and licensure; and

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

1. Lawrence County intends to use this RFQ to qualify and select a structural engineering firm to provide professional services for the assessment, design and oversight of structural improvements for public facilities throughout Lawrence County; and
2. Three (3) sealed paper quotes shall be submitted by Monday, December 1, 2025 at 3pm in PDF format to the Lawrence County Courthouse, Amy McKinney and

David Prestopine, 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101 and one (1) electronic copy shall be submitted to amckinney@lawrencecountypa.gov and dprestopine@lawrencecountypa.gov; and

3. RFQ's shall be opened at the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Lawrence County Commissioners Room.

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

Transfers (Administrative)

- a. Commissioners from Capital Contingency to Capital Buildings for \$600,000.00 for the purchase of St. Joseph's Church Campus.
- b. Adult Probation from contingency to major equipment for \$8,225.00.
- c. Domestic Relations from contingency to office minor equipment for \$727.74.
- d. Public Safety from Radio systems main/psap to radio tower sites maintenance for \$5,000.00.
- e. Public Safety from Office Major to Office Minor for \$3,999.99.
- f. Mental Health from MH Housing Support to MH Social Rehab for \$30,000.00.
- g. Mental Health from MH Housing Support to MH Community Services for \$320,000.00.
- h. Mental Health from MH Housing Support to MH Outpatient for \$40,000.00.
- i. Mental Health from MH Housing Support to MH Community Part for \$30,000.00.
- j. Domestic Relations from contingency to office minor for \$727.74.
- k. Maintenance from contingency to materials & supplies for \$7,300.00.
- l. Maintenance from other improvements to maintenance & repairs for \$20,000.00.
- m. CYS from contracted provider care to gas for \$2,000.00.
- n. Court Admin from contin-go to travel & training for \$500.00.
- o. MDK Amodie from temporary part time staff to staples for \$3,000.00.
- p. Court Admin from Conting-co to maintenance and repairs for \$1,500.00.
- q. District Attorney from DEA TFO to Staff Overtime for \$7,000.00.
- r. District Attorney from DEA TFO to vehicle expense for \$2,000.00.
- s. Veterans from Materials & supplies to Widow Burial for \$2,000.00.

- t. Veterans from other services to telephone for \$500.00.
- u. Jail from Office major equipment to electric for \$5,000.00.
- v. Jail from Office major equipment to uniforms for \$3,500.00.
- w. Solicitor from contingency to special counsel for \$3,000.00.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Administrative Transfers. Motion carried 2-0.

ORDINANCES

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| A. Discussion: | None |
| B. On the Table: | None |
| C. For Introduction: | None |
| D. For Final Action: | None |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. There will be a Commissioners' Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @ 10AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 @ 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- C. There will not be a Commissioners' Meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, due to the Commissioners attending the CCAP Fall Conference.
- D. There will be a Special Election Meeting on Friday, November 21, 2025, at 1pm to certify the election to the state.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Wednesday November 12, 2025 @ 9:40 AM.

