

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 7, 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, January 7, 2025, was called to order by **Commissioner Daniel Vogler**, at 10:00 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners Meeting Room. Administrative Assistant Ryan Anderson called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, Judge Cox, Mary Kelly, Amy DiMuccio 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

NONE

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| A. Repository Property: | NONE |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals: | None |
| D. Warrant Registers: | |
| 1. December 30, 2024 | |
| 2. December 31, 2024 | |
| 3. January 3, 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. December 31, 2024

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc.-application to the PA DEP to obtain a General Permit, BWEW-GP-11 for Scott Township 1492 Eastbrook Harlansburg Road, New Castle (Scott Twp.)
2. First Energy-letter of notification filing of American Transmission Systems for 138 kV Transmission Line Loops top Carol Substation Project (Pulaski Twp.)

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

REPORTS

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

Commissioner Vogler wished everyone a happy New Year and is looking forward to another new year. He said that tomorrow at 12pm they're meeting at Ryder's for the Conservation meeting. Mr. Vogler will also be attending the West Central Workforce Development meeting in Crawford County. He also announced that the Planning Commission meeting is cancelled.

Commissioner Kennedy stated that he can't believe that it's been a year already of him being in office.

Commissioner Sainato said that the Chairman had covered a lot. He stated that he will be attending the Annual strategic meeting on Friday. He stopped into a new restaurant in New Castle called the Strawberry Café, he wishes them well in their future. Mr. Sainato said that tourism is very important for our community and looks forward to this next year.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R-2025-01

WHEREAS, the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services for a court appointed Truancy Master and;

WHEREAS, Susan M. Papa, Esquire desires to provide such services to the County.

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute an agreement with Susan M. Papa, Esquire an attorney at law with offices at 439 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101 for the provision of Truancy Court as assigned by the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas.
2. The agreement shall be effective for the period **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025** unless terminated sooner by either party.
3. The compensation for such services shall be \$85.00 per hour to be paid on a monthly basis. All payments will be made by electronic transfer.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-02

WHEREAS, the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services and representation to indigent defendants who are in need of court-appointed counsel for Juvenile cases; and

WHEREAS, these cases shall be assigned by and at the sole discretion of the Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County and shall include all juvenile matters assigned by the Court; 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 four separate agreements each with an unlimited number of juvenile cases, as assigned by the Court, to the following attorneys for professional legal services in juvenile cases:
 - A. **Paula J. Cialella**
 - B. **Larry J. Puntureri**
 - C. **Eugene P. Tempesta**
 - D. **Elizabeth A. Gribik**

2. Each Agreement shall contain the following provisions:
 - a. The compensation for such services shall be Forty Thousand Dollars **(\$40,000.00)** per contract 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. Each agreement shall be in effect for the period **January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025** unless terminated sooner by either party.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-03

WHEREAS, the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services and representation to indigent defendants who are in need of court-appointed counsel for criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, these cases shall be assigned by and at the sole discretion of the Court of Common Pleas of Lawrence County and shall include matters excluding murder cases assigned by the Court; and

WHEREAS, five 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 five separate agreements each with an unlimited number of criminal cases, excluding murder cases, as assigned by the Court to the following attorneys for professional legal services in criminal cases:

- A. **Robert Barletta**
- B. **John Bongivengo**
- C. **Michael Bonner**
- D. **Joseph Kearney**
- E. **Kevin Lorello**

- 2. a. The compensation for such services shall be \$28,000 per contract 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. Each agreement shall be in effect for the period: **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025**, unless terminated sooner by either party.
- b. Murder cases shall not be covered by this agreement.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2025-04

WHEREAS, LAWRENCE COUNTY desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services for a court appointed Custody Master and;

WHEREAS, DEBORAH SHAW, ESQUIRE desires to provide such services to the County.

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

- 1. Authorization is hereby given to execute an agreement with Deborah Shaw, Esquire, an attorney at law with offices at 1906 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA 16105 for the provision of custody conferences as assigned by the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas pursuant to Local Rule L. 1915.3.
- 2. This agreement shall be effective for the period **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025** unless terminated sooner by either party.
- 3. The compensation for such services shall be \$85.00 per hour to be paid on a monthly basis. All payments will be made by electronic transfer.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-05

Whereas, Lawrence County wishes to contract Shred America for shredding documents located at Lawrence County Domestic Relations; and

Whereas, Shred America agrees to perform all shredding services, provide secure bins and bonded personnel for these services to the Lawrence County Domestic Relations; and

Whereas, Shred America is an independent contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THAT: THE County approves Shred America, to begin shredding services at the Lawrence County Domestic Relations, with the minimum charge of \$75.00 per stop for a 24-month period. Starting January 2, 2025 until January 30, 2027.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-06

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

WHEREAS, it is the wish of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to enter into an agreement with Mrs. Artishia Foster to provide independent contractor services to the Tax Claim Department; and

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

1. Authorization is given to contract with Mrs. Artishia Foster of 919 Williams Street, New Castle, PA 16101 as an independent contractor to provide

services in the Tax Claim 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 January 6, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION R-2025-

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Board met in the fourth quarter of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Advisory Board voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the list of grant applicant(s) to receive grant money; and

WHEREAS; the Board of Commissioners will allocate funds to the following list of grant applicant(s):

Lawrence County DUI Services \$100,000.00

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; that the above listed allocation(s) will be distributed.

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

Transfers (Administrative)

NONE

RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

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

C. ORDINANCES

- A. Discussion: None
- B. On the Table: None
- C. For Introduction: None

D. For Final Action:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 @ 10:00AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. Monday January 20th the Courthouse will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 10:43 am.