

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

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, May 7, 2024, 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, Mike Grippo, Chad Strobel, Scott Baldwin, Denise Zona, Lois Winter-McElravy, David Black, Lori Sniezek, Lee Ann Wawrzynski, EJay Fyke, James Constant, Noone 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.

Mr. Vogler stated that Commissioner Kennedy is absent from today's meeting, as he is attending an SPC meeting in Harrisburg.

**ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

None

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- |                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| A. Repository Properties:        | None |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals:   | None |
| D. Warrant Registers:            |      |
| 1. May 2, 2024                   |      |
| 2. April 30, 2024                |      |
| 3. April 29, 2024                |      |

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve and file said warrant register(s). Motion carried 2-0.

**MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Approval of Minutes:
1. Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications: None

### REPORTS

A. Staff Reports:

1. Scott Baldwin & Denise Zona-MHDS

Ms. Zona gave an update on the report MHDS receives from the Commonwealth. This report is done on site once every (3) years. There are (3) parts to the report and MHDS received 94-100% on all parts.

The Commissioners thanked and congratulated Scott, Denise and their staff for the great work they do and their grade on the report.

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Vogler reviewed the meetings from the week. He further stated he attended the Jack Butz Scholarship meeting over the weekend.

Mr. Sainato also reviewed meeting from the week. He stated the Commissioners visited the Cracker Plant last week. He also attended Conservation's Envirothon, the Lawrence County Humane Society's Homeless Event and the ABATE ceremony.

### NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-89**

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 Vocational & Psychological Services for the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

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 \$135,000.00. for various services shall be adjusted to \$215,000.00. 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, 2023**, between the parties shall remain as heretofore established.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-90**

**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 Crossroads Group Homes and Services, Inc. shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
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:

**Crossroads Group Homes and Services, Inc.  
1243 Roemer Blvd.  
Farrell, PA. 16121**

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

### **RESOLUTION R-2024-91**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety has entered into a planned maintenance agreement with Penn Power Systems, 21260 route 19, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066, (hereinafter “Penn Power Systems”) to provide a three (3) year Maintenance Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”

**WHEREAS**, Penn Power Systems agrees to provide a three (3) year Maintenance Agreement in the amount of Forty-two Thousand Nine Hundred thirty-six and thirty-nine (\$42,936.39). This agreement will not be construed to create a partnership, joint venture or employment relationship between PENN POWER SYSTEMS and LAWRENCE COUNTY. PENN POWER SYSTEMS will not represent itself to be an employee or agent of LAWRENCE and cannot enter into any agreement on LAWRENCE’s behalf or in LAWRENCE’s name without express written authorization from a duly authorized representative of LAWRENCE to do so.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** that authorization is given to execute on behalf of the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety, all documents related to the Penn Power Systems planned maintenance agreement to provide a three (3) year agreement. Penn Power Systems will perform the services not to exceed the total amount of Forty-two Thousand Nine Hundred thirty-six dollars and thirty-nine cents (\$42,936.39).

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

### **RESOLUTION**

### **R-2024-92**

**WHEREAS**, Section 603 of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), which became law on March 11, 2021, establishes a Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“FRF” or “Local Fiscal Recovery Fund”); and

**WHEREAS**, the American Rescue Plan Act requires that Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money be used for expenditures on or after March 3, 2021 (1) to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts; (2) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the applicable local government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the local government; (3) for premium pay for essential workers; and (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is distributing Local Fiscal Recovery Unrestricted Fund money to the following entities for permissible expenditures; and

<u>ENTITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Forward Lawrence	\$250,000.00	Lawrence County Site Assessment Analysis
Marti Park (Wilmington Township)	\$ 35,000.00	Build a Handicapped Accessible Gazebo
Scotland Meadows Park (Union Township)	\$35,000.00	Pave Roads in Park
Lawrence County Humane Society	\$ 28,835.00	Loss of Revenue

**NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED**, by the Lawrence County Commissioners, that the Board of Commissioners approve the above listed entities.

Mr. Vogler and Mr. Sainato gave in depth reviews on the history and background of the ARPA funding sources. He reviewed each project and stated the balance of the ARPA funds will be used in house to fix the Courthouse roof. The ARPA funds are now depleted. There will not be any further allocations through ARPA.

He further thanked all those that worked on the distribution of the ARPA funds, Dave Prestopine, Controller, Amy McKinney, Planning Director, Joe Venasco, County Administrator and Vanessa Bayless, Deputy Chief Clerk.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-93**

**WHEREAS**, Section 603 of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), which became law on March 11, 2021, establishes a Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“FRF” or “Local Fiscal Recovery Fund”); and

**WHEREAS**, the American Rescue Plan Act requires that Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money be used for expenditures on or after March 3, 2021 (1) to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts; (2) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the applicable local government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the local government; (3) for premium pay for essential workers; and (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is distributing Local Fiscal Recovery Restricted Fund money to the following entities for permissible expenditures; and

<u>ENTITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Hickory Township	\$42,711.00	Lawrence Hickory Municipal Authority New Pumps for Sewer
Taylor Township	\$250,000.00	Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade
Wilmington Township	\$900,000.00	Wastewater Sewage Infrastructure
Lawrence County Fair	\$113,000.00	Loss of Revenue
Lawrence County Humane Society	\$71,165.00	Loss of Revenue
New Visions	\$30,000.00	Loss of Revenue

**NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED**, by the Lawrence County Commissioners, that the Board of Commissioners approve the above listed entities.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-94**

**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 the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2024 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2024 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** MISC Refunds General Fund Revenue Account: 01390000.341300 by \$3,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Veterans-Other Services General Fund Expense Account: 01449400.805000 by \$3,000.00

***Reason: Payment from Community Foundation to Cover Expenses for Bridge Dedication***

Mr. Vogler stated there will be a bridge dedication ceremony on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to rename the bridge in honor of Albert P. Gettings.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-95**

**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 \$3,185.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2024-05.

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

**TRANSFERS (Administrative)**

- a. Juvenile Probation from Contingency to Uniforms for \$4,173.50
- b. Jail from Groceries to Maintenance & Repair for 50,000.00 and Temporary Part Time to Equipment Lease/Rental for \$13,800.00.
- c. Human Resources from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$1,150.06.

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

**RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE**

None

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE TAKEN OFF THE TABLE**

None

**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 May 14, 2024 at 10:00AM. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be an Opioid Advisory Committee Meeting today, May 7, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- C. There will be a Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 12:00PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- D. There will be an Election Board Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 8:30AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lois Winter thanked the Commissioners for their allocation to the Lawrence County Humane Society.

Lori Sniezek also thanked the Commissioners for their allocation.

David Black further thanked the Commissioners for their allocation.

Mr. Vogler stated the Humane Society has a huge advocate in Mr. Sainato.

EJay Fike of Vespar Energy stated the company has a Veterans' Program where they will be awarding a Veteran from Lawrence County a new wheelchair with treads that can go anywhere. The celebration will be in Erie, with a concert, on September 11<sup>th</sup>. An invitation will be sent to the Commissioners. He further stated on June 1<sup>st</sup>, (2) \$5,000.00 scholarships will be awarded to (2) Mohawk Senior High School Seniors. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, a \$30,000.00 grant will be awarded



and anyone can apply. Finally, on May 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Firefly Solar New Castle Office located in the old CareerLink Office Building.

Lori Sniezek stated on September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Humane Society will be hosting a Gala Furball Event at The Cathedral.

### ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 11:30 am.