LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, October 27th, 2026

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

Those in attendance were Commissioner Vogler, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Sainato, County Administrator Joe Venasco, Office Manager Colleen Daughtry, Controller Dave Prestopine, Rich Hoover, Amy McKinney, Mary Kelly, Bruce Peterson, Brian Burick, Jerry Zona and Debbie Wachter of the New Castle News.

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting of October 27th, 2026, was called to order by Commissioner Dan Vogler at the Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting Room. Commissioners Sainato, Kennedy and Vogler were present. A quorum was present. Office Manager Colleen Daughtry called the roll.

It was stated for the record that the meeting was being livestreamed and recorded. Those wishing to speak were asked to limit their comments to County government matters and approximately five minutes. Public comment opportunities were provided at the beginning and conclusion of the meeting.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Controller Dave Prestopine was present to conduct the Public Safety HVAC bid opening. No additional report was given.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties: None.

B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None.

C. Receipt of bids/proposals:

1. Public Safety HVAC Replacement

Controller Dave Prestopine opened the following bids for replacement of three HVAC units at radio tower sites:

Bidder	Bid Amount
Central Heating and Plumbing, New Castle, PA	$57,700.00
Heirloom Mechanical, Glassport, PA	$74,988.00
Pathway Construction, Terra Alta, WV	$79,930.97

Acting Public Safety Director Rich Hoover explained the purpose of the replacements.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to table the bids for review by Mr. Hoover and appropriate staff. Motion carried 3–0.

D. Warrant Registers:

1. October 20th, 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to accept and file said warrant register(s). Motion carried 3–0.

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. October 20th, 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said minutes. Motion carried 3–0.

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Notification submitted on behalf of Reed Oil Company regarding an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a state-only air operating permit for petroleum distribution equipment at its New Castle facility.
2. Notification from Dairy Farmers of America regarding renewal of its facility-wide state-only air quality permit for the facility at 925 State Route 18, Wilmington Township.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to accept and file said communications. Motion carried 3–0.

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: Presented in connection with the resolutions below.

B. Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Kennedy reported that:

Commissioners Kennedy and Sainato attended a Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission meeting in Pittsburgh concerning the regional long-range transportation plan. A public participation meeting is planned for November 16 at the Hutchison Center in Neshannock Township.

Commissioner Sainato reported that:

Residents were encouraged to participate in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's "Build to Thrive" survey, open through October 31, to provide input on the regional long-range transportation plan.

He attended several community events, including the Marine Corps League breakfast, Victory Church's fall festival, Laurel High School's craft show, a car show at the Scott Township fire hall and the Lawrence County YMCA's trunk-or-treat event.

Commissioner Sainato also offered condolences to the family of Donnie Iris and recognized his contributions to the community.

Commissioner Vogler reported that:

The Board of Elections will hold a public meeting on Monday, November 2, at noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

No Commissioners' meeting will be held on Election Day, November 3. The courthouse will remain open.

The Board expressed sympathy to former County Controller Mary Ann Ryder and her family following the passing of her husband.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION R-2026-262

Public Safety – Non-Emergency Telephone Service

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety has entered into a professional service agreement with ZITO Business, 120 South Main Street, P.O. Box 665, Coudersport, PA 16915, to provide telecommunications-related services for a three (3) year term, as outlined in the Master Services Agreement attached as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, ZITO Business agrees to provide these services for an initial payment of Two Thousand Six Hundred Dollars ($2,600.00) for equipment, setup and installation,

as outlined in the quote attached as Exhibit "B," with monthly billing thereafter of Four Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Fifty Cents ($473.50); and

WHEREAS, this agreement shall not be construed to create a partnership, joint venture or employment relationship between ZITO Business and Lawrence County. ZITO Business shall not represent itself as an employee or agent of Lawrence County or enter into any agreement on the County's behalf or in its name without express written authorization from a duly authorized County representative;

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 three (3) year ZITO Business service agreement for telecommunications-related services, with an initial payment not to exceed Two Thousand Six Hundred Dollars ($2,600.00) for equipment, setup and installation, as outlined in Exhibit "B," and monthly billing thereafter of Four Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Fifty Cents ($473.50).

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-263

Public Safety — Electricity Supply Agreement

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence has entered into an agreement with Interstate Gas Supply, LLC, hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor" or "IGS Energy"; and

WHEREAS, the County and IGS Energy have entered into an Electricity Purchase Contract, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," whereby IGS Energy will provide electricity at a fixed price for twelve (12) months to mitigate against future price increases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, in consideration of their mutual promises, covenants and agreements, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree and consent for themselves, their successors and assigns as follows:

1. IGS Energy agrees to provide electricity services to the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety at a fixed rate for twelve (12) months, as described in the Electricity Purchase Contract attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-264

Planning — Fiscal Year 2026 Community Development Block Grant Application

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 certifying compliance with program requirements.

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 has the legal authority and responsibility under Act 179 to apply for Community Development Block Grant funds; and

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

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners is familiar with the program requirements established by the Housing and Community Development Act and Community Development Block Grant regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners wishes 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 prepare the necessary forms and documents and submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for Community Development Block Grant funds for the purposes stated above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development determines that CDBG funds were expended on ineligible program costs or activities that do not meet a national objective, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners agrees to repay the portion deemed ineligible from non-federal sources.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that **Mr. Dan Vogler, Chairman of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners**, is authorized to sign the necessary application forms on behalf of the governing body and affix the official seal of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-265

Planning – PHARE Funding Application

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence is eligible to apply to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Fund (PHARE), which includes the Marcellus Shale Impact Fee, Realty Transfer Tax and National Housing Trust Fund funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Blight and Housing Rehabilitation Program is a high funding priority for the County, and the County wishes to use Marcellus Shale funds to support this application; and

WHEREAS, the County, in partnership with the Lawrence County Redevelopment Authority, local municipalities and other County agencies, will use these funds to assist municipalities with neighborhood stabilization efforts, site preparation, demolition of blighted or vacant properties and housing rehabilitation, ensuring resources are used effectively and efficiently to meet the County's housing needs; and

WHEREAS, if awarded these funds, the Chairman of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners will sign all related documents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the County is authorized to apply for PHARE funding for targeted neighborhood stabilization efforts, site preparation, demolition of blighted or vacant properties and housing rehabilitation to ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently to meet the housing needs of Lawrence County.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-266

Planning – CDBG Program Income Reuse Policy

A RESOLUTION BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, LAWRENCE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A POLICY REGULATING THE

RE USE OF PROGRAM INCOME GENERATED IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) RELATED PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County administers CDBG Programs for Lawrence County and On Behalf of Ellwood City Borough, Shenango and Union Townships; and

WHEREAS, from time-to-time municipalities allocate a portion of their entitlement to projects that have the potential to generate Program Income (PI); and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County established a Program Income Reuse Policy in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County has reviewed the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Program Income and Cash Management Policy CHD-01-2017 that was revised in September of 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the Program Income Reuse Policy has been reviewed and meets the requirement of DCED's Program Income and Cash Management Policy as revised.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-267

Domestic Relations — Equifax Verification Services

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 while waiving the service fees for a 12-month period. Starting August 1, 2026 until July 31, 2027.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-268

Assessment — Tax Assessment Appeal Settlement

WHEREAS, Rosecroft Center, LLC has filed a tax assessment appeal involving the Lawrence County Board of Assessment Appeals, Neshannock Area School District and Neshannock Township at Case Nos. 70125, 70126 and 70127-2025, C.A.; and

WHEREAS, all parties to the action have reached a compromise settlement concerning the taxable property located at 3300-3342-3334 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA 16105, identified in the Lawrence County assessment records as Tax Parcel Nos. 25409500, 25409600 and 25409602; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree, for purposes of settlement, to the following assessed values for Tax Year 2026:

Parcel Number	Assessed Land	Assessed Improvements	Total Assessed Value
25409500	$223,500.00	$234,360.00	$457,860.00
25409600	$704,600.00	$3,004,066.00	$3,708,666.00
25409602	$245,700.00	$166,374.00	$412,074.00
TOTAL	**$1,173,800.00**	**$3,404,800.00**	**$4,578,600.00**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the County of Lawrence approves the compromise settlement for Tax Parcel Nos. 25409500, 25409600 and 25409602, establishing a total assessed value of **$4,578,600.00**, pursuant to the consent order.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-269

Tax Claim – Repository Property Tax Exonerations

WHEREAS, properties were sold at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, by law, these properties were sold free and clear of all municipal claims; and

WHEREAS, after all delinquent taxes are paid, County and road taxes for the current year are to be paid at face value; and

WHEREAS, after payment of all delinquent taxes, no additional proceeds remained to pay the 2026 County and road taxes on the properties identified in the attached list;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the 2026 County and road taxes on the properties identified in the attached list are hereby exonerated.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-270

Tax Claim – Mobile Home Tax Exonerations

WHEREAS, properties were sold at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 23, 2026;

and **WHEREAS**, by the law these properties were sold free and clear of all

municipal claims; and

WHEREAS, after all delinquent taxes are paid, the county and road taxes are to be paid at face for the current year.

WHEREAS, because the properties were sold for $500.00 and there were no proceeds to pay 2026 taxes, the county and road taxes on the attached list of properties are exonerated for 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; that the county and road tax be exonerated for 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-271

Tax Claim – Judicial Sale Tax Exonerations

WHEREAS, properties were listed to be sold free and clear of all municipal claims at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, certain properties remain unsold and are currently on Lawrence County's Repository list; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 County, road and school taxes on these properties remain unpaid, and the properties must be removed from the current tax roll;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the 2026 County, road and school taxes on the properties identified in the attached list are hereby exonerated, and said properties are to be removed from the current tax roll.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

RESOLUTION R-2026-272

Recycling and Solid Waste – Recycling Collection Contract

Resolution of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners awarding the recycling drop-off program collection, processing and marketing service contract.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provided funds under the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of July 28, 1988; and

WHEREAS, the County received grant funding and established the Big Blue Bin Countywide Paper and Glass Recycling Drop-off Program to meet the goals of its Solid Waste Management Plan and address its municipalities' desire to expand recycling access for their residents; and

WHEREAS, the countywide recycling drop-off program includes awarding a service contract; and

WHEREAS, the County advertised for bids for the collection, processing and marketing of recyclables collected through the program; and

WHEREAS, following analysis, Tri-County Industries' proposal was found to be complete and acceptable as the lowest responsible bidder;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the service contract for the collection, processing and marketing of recyclables through the County's recycling drop-off program is hereby awarded to Tri-County Industries.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3–0.

TRANSFER (ADMINISTRATIVE)

a. District Judge Russo: From Property Tax to Unemployment Insurance for $350.00.

b. Commissioners' Office: From Capital Contingency to Capital Expenditures for $84,000.00, to cover Humphrey Center expenses, including building permit and utility fees.

c. Tax Claim: From Contingency to Contracted Consulting for $3,000.00.

d. Tax Claim: From Advertising to Contracted Consulting for $6,000.00.

e. Tax Claim: From Materials and Supplies to Contracted Consulting for $4,700.00.

The Tax Claim transfers total $13,700.00 and will cover payments to the Sheriff's Office for required personal service and posting associated with the upset tax sale.

Moved by Commissioner Sainato and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said administrative transfers. Motion carried 3–0.

ORDINANCES

A. Discussion: None.

B. On the Table: None.

C. For Introduction: None.

D. For Final Action: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Elections will meet Monday, November 2, 2026, at noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. The meeting is open to the public.

No Commissioners' meeting will be held on Election Day, November 3, 2026. The courthouse will remain open.

The next regular Commissioners' meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

The courthouse will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2026, in observance of Veterans Day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A representative of Gibson-Thomas introduced Construction Manager Mike Bradley, who will provide inspection and construction management services for the Humphrey Center project.

A member of the public requested confirmation of the November 16 Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission public meeting time. The Commissioners indicated that the time would be confirmed with the Planning Office.

ADJOURNMENT : 11:00 A.M.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, October 27th, 2026. Motion carried 3–0.