

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, March 12, 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, March 12, 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 Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, Don Kemerer, Dave Alters, Michael Mahlmeister, Howard Simmons, James Constant, Dorothy Burchett, Bob Burchett, Jack Piatt, Randy Dufford, Dave Gettings, Dave Prestopine, Allen Miller, Mike Grippo, Jesse Putnam, Chad Strobel 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

Dave Alters asked how he goes about getting a salary board matter for the judicial aides on the agenda.

Mr. Vogler responded that the Salary Board consists of the three (3) County Commissioners and the County Controller. A request from the Department Head or Elected Official would need to be brought to the Board's attention. However, the Salary Board does not make decisions on Union matters.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties:

RESOLUTION

R-2024-43

WHEREAS, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

WHEREAS, Robert DiBuono placed a bid of \$526.26.00 on property located at S. Jefferson Street, Parcel ID No. 08-041700; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at S. Jefferson Street, with a Parcel ID No. 08-041700; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Robert DiBuono in the amount of \$526.26 for Repository Property located at S. Jefferson Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 08-041700, City of New Castle.

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

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals:
 - 1. County Parks & Boat Launch Maintenance
 - a. Beyond Corp., LLC-Mahoning Twp.-\$76,670.00
Base Bid
 - b. Piatt Landscape-West Pittsburg-\$70,620.00
Base Bid

Mr. Prestopine stated this is our first bid opening with the new software we are using called Pennbid.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to table said bids for further review. Motion carried 3-0.

- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. March 9, 2024
 - 2. March 6, 2024
 - 3. February 29, 2024
 - 4. February 28, 2024
 - 5. February 26, 2024

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. Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
 - 1. Wabtec Corporation-Pennsylvania Storage Tank Spill Prevention Act-General Electric Transportation Facility (Grove City and downstream municipalities)

2. Book & Proch Well Drilling, Inc.-Act 14 Notice Requirements Sarah Heinz House Camp-Wastewater Treatment Plant 2534 Heinz Camp Road (Wayne Township)

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to accept and file the written communication. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Vogler reported the Commissioners attended the spring CCAP Conference last week. Governor Shapiro spoke at one of the sessions regarding the budget. Mr. Vogler also read a letter from the New Castle Public Library regarding their intention to submit an application request \$2 million in funding through the COVID-19 ARPA PA Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program.

Mr. Sainato reported that he attended a session on taxation of solar projects. JR Hardester, County Assessor, spoke at the session. Mr. Sainato also attended a Judiciary session. He also attended the ceremony on Sunday for St. Mary's Church with the dedication statue.

Mr. Kennedy reported that he attended different sessions at CCAP. It was a very nice conference. He also spoke about the former YDC building, which now LCCAP owns and utilizes for schooling of special needs children.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

R-2024-44

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 Equipment Lease Agreement under the provider Direct Image Copy Systems, Inc. shall be in effect for the period of April 01, 2024, for 60 months.
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:

**Direct Image Copy Systems, Inc.
1054 Butler Ave.
New Castle, PA. 16101**

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-45

See attached to minutes.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-46

WHEREAS, CPL Albert P. Gettings was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine regiment, 2nd MARDIV stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 2006 CPL Albert P. Gettings USMC was killed in action in Fallujah, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2024 the North Street Bridge in New Castle, PA will be renamed in honor of CPL Albert P. Gettings; and

WHEREAS, there will be a short wreath laying ceremony at the Courthouse starting at 12:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, a small parade will proceed to the North Street Bridge where the dedication ceremony will start at 1:00 p.m.; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the North Street Bridge will be renamed to CPL Albert P. Gettings Bridge.

Mr. Gettings spoke on behalf of his family and thanked the Commissioners for their support of renaming the bridge in honor of his son. He stated the bridge is very special to his family.

Mr. Vogler stated the County could put a marker similar to the one on the Leslie Sabo Bridge in Ellwood City Borough. Mr. Gettings stated he would like that to be considered.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Gettings and his family for everything they've done for keeping their son's memory alive. They thanked them for their son's ultimate sacrifice.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-47

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety has entered a professional service agreement with MCM Consulting Group, Inc. ("MCM"), 2595 Clyde Avenue, Suite #1, State College, Pennsylvania, to provide Consulting Services to update the 2021 Lawrence County Hazard Mitigation Plan that will result in the 2025 Lawrence County Hazard Mitigation Plan, see attached Exhibit "A".

WHEREAS, MCM will perform the services as an Independent Contractor, and this agreement will not be construed to create a partnership, joint venture or employment relationship between MCM and LAWRENCE. MCM 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; and

WHEREAS, the Term of this Agreement shall commence upon the date of the Agreement has been executed by both parties and shall continue for fourteen (14) months, unless terminated earlier.

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 MCM Consulting Group, Inc. agreement to provide Consulting Services to update the Lawrence County Hazard Mitigation Plan and complete the update by July 31, 2025. MCM will complete the project forty-eight (48) months after the start of the project and will perform the services as an Independent Contractor as follows:

MCM can complete these projects for the total project price of \$83,320.00. This price includes all staff hours, travel, printing of documentation and

insurance. Invoicing will be monthly based on percentage of completion of grant items.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-48

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence has entered into a Contract with Schneider Electric/Gemco-Renmark Sales or Gen-Mark, Sunset Building, 2559A Brandt School Rd, Suite 101, Wexford, PA 15090 (hereinafter the “CONTRACTOR” or “Schneider”).

WHEREAS, the County and Schneider/Gemco-Renmark have entered into a Contract, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and price quote attached hereto as Exhibit “B”.

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

1. The services to be provided by Schneider/Gemco-Renmark pursuant to this Contract are set forth in the document attached hereto and identified as the Contract Billing Frequency; and
2. Schneider/Gemco-Renmark agrees to provide the services set forth in the Price Quote attached hereto and marked as Attachment B;

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-49

WHEREAS, Act 165 Hazardous Material Response Fund (HMRF), administered by Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, provides funds for development of emergency response capabilities to the dangers which hazardous material releases pose to the general public; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for funding, the grant application must be submitted to Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency by March 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Emergency Management’s disbursement of funds in the amount of \$8,382.00 expended during the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

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 Hazardous Materials Response Fund (HMRF Grant Application and Grant Program for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-50

WHEREAS, Act 147 Radiation Emergency Response Fund (RERF) administered by Pennsylvania Emergency management Agency provides funds for Lawrence County Department of Public Safety to improve response capability and to serve as a support County for the Beaver Valley Nuclear Plant Facility; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County is eligible for a grant allocation of \$7,392.00 in Act 147 funds for fiscal year 2024-2025; and

WHEREAS, an application and grant agreement for funds has been prepared in the amount of \$7,392.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that authorization is given to execute on behalf of Lawrence County Department of Public Safety, all documents related to Act 147 Radiation Emergency Response fund application and grant funding for grant period of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$7,392.00.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-51

WHEREAS, County Ordinance No. 203 of 1996 titled *Increasing the Recording Fees of Deeds and Mortgages to Support and/or Enhance the County of Lawrence Local Affordable Housing Efforts* authorized the Recorder of Deeds to increase the fees charged for recording deeds and mortgages; and

WHEREAS, 85% of the additional revenue is set aside in a separate account to be used to fund affordable housing efforts in Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, the Carpenter's Group is a non-denominational intergenerational program in Ellwood City that assists homeowners with repairs that they are unable to complete themselves with no charge to the homeowners and no requirements for homeowners to provide financial information; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the Carpenter's Project will be given \$15,000.00 from the Affordable Housing fund to be used to repair housing in the Ellwood City area.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-52

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between TEAMSTERS #261 (Corrections) and the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners has terminated; and

WHEREAS, through the negotiation process, an agreement between TEAMSTERS #261 (Corrections) and the Board of Commissioners has been reached; and

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

1. authorization is given to execute a CBA with TEAMSTERS #261 (Corrections); and.
2. the CBA shall be for five (5) years, commencing retroactively on January 1, 2024 and terminating on December 31, 2028.

Warden Mahlmeister and Deputy Warden Simmons reviewed the changes that have been made to the CBA. He further thanked Solicitor Medure, County Administrator Venasco and Deputy Warden Simmons for all their hard work on the CBA.

Mr. Kennedy stated that after his visit to the jail, he respects everyone working at the jail. Warden Mahlmeister stated they truly are a team at the jail.

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

TRANSFERS (Administrative)

- a. Domestic Relations from Contingency to Office Minor for \$1,500.00
- b. Jail from Contingency to Lease/Rental for \$14,050.00
- c. Jail from Contingency to Major Equipment for \$15,735.00
- d. DJ Amodie from Postage to Materials & Supplies for \$1,200.00

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

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 March 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be a Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 12:00 Noon at the Taylor Township Municipal Building, 218 Industrial Street, West Pittsburg.
- C. There will be a Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- D. The 175th Anniversary of Lawrence County Celebration will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 beginning at 4pm in Courtroom #1 of the Lawrence County Government Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 11:30 AM.