

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, December 12, 2023

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, December 12, 2023, was called to order by **Commissioner Brian Burick**, 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 Vogler, Commissioner Loretta Spielvogel, County Administrator Joe Venasco, Chad Strobel, John Bout, Mike Grippo, Robert and Dorothy Burchett, Debbie Wachter, 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

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties:

RESOLUTION

R-2023-461

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

WHEREAS, 2vin Home Investments placed a bid of \$808.00 on property located at 400 13th Street, Parcel ID No. 11-010200; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 400 13th Street, with a Parcel ID No. 11-010200; 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 2vin Home Investments in the amount of \$808.00 for Repository Property located at 400 13th Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 11-010200, Ellwood City Borough.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2023-462

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

WHEREAS, Jeanne and Michael Robinson placed a bid of \$2,500.00 on property located at 827 Harrison Street, Parcel ID No. 04-204800; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 827 Harrison Street, with a Parcel ID No. 04-204800; 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 827 Harrison Street, in the amount of \$2,500.00 for Repository Property located at 827 Harrison Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 04-204800, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2023-463

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

WHEREAS, Abdul Mansour placed a bid of \$999.00 on property located at 415 E. Sheridan Avenue, Parcel ID No. 02-297400; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 415 E. Sheridan Avenue, with a Parcel ID No. 02-297400; 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 Abdul Mansour, in the amount of \$999.00 for Repository Property located at 415 E. Sheridan Avenue, and having a Parcel ID No. 02-297400, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2023-464

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

WHEREAS, Kristin Ericksen placed a bid of \$1,100.00 on property located at 415 E. Sheridan Avenue, Parcel ID No. 02-297400; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 415 E. Sheridan Avenue, with a Parcel ID No. 02-297400; 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 Kristen Ericksen, in the amount of \$1,100.00 for Repository Property located at 415 E. Sheridan Avenue, and having a Parcel ID No. 02-297400, City of New Castle.

RESOLUTION

R-2023-465

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

WHEREAS, Kristin Ericksen placed a bid of \$1,100.00 on property located at 225 Pearson Street, Parcel ID No. 04-232900; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 225 Pearson Street, with a Parcel ID No. 04-232900; 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 Shannon Cearfoss, in the amount of \$501.00 for Repository Property located at 225 Pearson Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 04-232900, City of New Castle.

Moved by Mr. Vogler, seconded by Ms. Spielvogel to reject Resolutions R-2023-462 through Resolution R-2023-465. Motion failed 0-3.

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. December 7, 2023
 - 2. December 5, 2023

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

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Tuesday, December 5, 2023

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
 - 1. R. Cunningham Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. filed application with PA DEP Air Quality on December 1, 2023 for renewal state only

operating permit #37327 for cremation units.

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

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports

Ms. Spielvogel had no comment.

Mr. Burick stated the passing of Frank Parrish, who wrote for The New Wilmington Globe. He will be sadly missed. Mr. Burick enjoyed reading his articles. Mr. Burick further stated he had the opportunity to speak at the Lawrence County Tourist Promotion Agency's Annual Meeting last week. He spoke about Lawrence County's 175th Anniversary next year. Lastly, he spoke about Rich Fitzgerald as the new Executive Director at SPC.

Mr. Vogler stated he thinks Mr. Fitzgerald will do great things for SPC as the new Director. He further stated the Shenango Choir will sing Christmas carols at the Courthouse this Friday.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

R E S O L U T I O N

R-2023-466

WHEREAS, the County currently has an agreement for Professional Legal Services and Representation to indigent defendants who are in need of Court-Appointed Counsel for Juvenile Cases: and

WHEREAS, the County on behalf of the Courts requests desires to replace the existing contract with Attorney John Bongivengo with Attorney Paula Cialella, effective November 6, 2023.

WHEREAS, All other existing conditions of the Contract shall remain the same.

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

A. Attorney Paula Cialella

This Agreement shall contain the following provisions:

a. The compensation for such services shall be \$28,000 per contract year to be paid in pro-rated effective November 6, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Payments will be by electronic transfer.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-467

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence has entered into a professional agreement with BearCom (hereinafter the “CONTRACTOR” or “BearCom”) with its principal address of P.O. Box 670354, Dallas, TX 75267.

WHEREAS, the County and BearCom have entered into a Service Agreement, identified by County and BearCom as Contract 30150, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

WHEREAS, BearCom agrees to provide a one (1) year Service Agreement in the amount of Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-eight (\$70,398.00) Dollars to be paid annually, commencing January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024. This agreement will not be construed to create a partnership, joint venture or employment relationship between BEARCOM and LAWRENCE. BEARCOM 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 BearCom service agreement. BearCom will to provide a one (1) year Service Agreement in the amount of Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Ninety-eight (\$70,398.00) Dollars to be paid annually, commencing January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024. The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign all documentation.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-468

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 Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. (Nurturing Parenting Program) shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
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:

**Lawrence County Social Services, Inc.
241 W. Grant Street
New Castle, PA. 16103**

RESOLUTION

R-2023-469

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 Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. (Making Parenting a Pleasure) shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
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:

**Lawrence County Social Services, Inc.
241 W. Grant Street
New Castle, PA. 16103**

RESOLUTION

R-2023-470

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 Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. (Brain Wise) shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
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:

**Lawrence County Social Services, Inc.
241 W. Grant Street
New Castle, PA. 16103**

RESOLUTION

R-2023-471

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 Glade Run Lutheran Services shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
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:

**Glade Run Lutheran Services
P.O. Box 70 Beaver Road
Zelienople, PA. 16063**

RESOLUTION R-2023-471

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Advisory Board voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to allocate funds to different entities; and

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

1. District Attorney
 \$140,450.00

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

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolutions R-2023-468 through R-2023-471. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2023-472

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Board met on Tuesday, September 5, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Advisory Board voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to allocate funds to different entities; and

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

1. District Attorney
 \$140,450.00

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

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-473

WHEREAS, effective December 31, 2023 several positions on the Conservation District Board of Directors shall expire; and

WHEREAS, letters of nominations dated September 15, 2023 were distributed to various organizations approved by the State Conservation Commission for nominations; and

WHEREAS, nominations were received by the deadline date of November 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R-2023-455 was approved on December 5, 2023, listing Don Hoye as a Farmer Director; and

WHEREAS, in fact Don Hoye is a Public Director Member; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the following is hereby appointed as a Public Director, to the Conservation Board of Directors for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

1. Don Hoye, 32 Wynfield Lane, New Wilmington, PA 16142
(Wilmington Township)

RESOLUTION R-2023-474

WHEREAS, effective December 31, 2023 several positions on the Conservation District Board of Directors shall expire; and

WHEREAS, letters of nominations dated September 15, 2023 were distributed to various organizations approved by the State Conservation Commission for nominations; and

WHEREAS, nominations were received by the deadline date of November 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R-2023-455 was approved on December 5, 2023, listing Bruce Badger as a Farmer Director; and

WHEREAS, in fact Bruce Badger is a Public Director Member; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the following is hereby appointed as a Public Director, to the Conservation Board of Directors for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

1. Bruce Badger, 748 Gashouse Road, Wampum, PA 16157
(Wayne Township)

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve Resolutions R-2023-472 and R-2023-473. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2023-475

WHEREAS, the Commissioners by resolution number R-2003-18 created a Redevelopment Authority of Lawrence County and requested a Board of Directors shall exist; and

WHEREAS, said board shall exist and operate for the public purposes of the elimination of blighted areas through economically and socially sound redevelopment of areas under the provisions of the Urban Redevelopment Law; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that: the Lawrence County Commissioners do hereby reappoint the following to the Redevelopment Authority of Lawrence County Board.

1. Robert Donadio, 267 Crimson Circle, New Castle, PA 16105, for a term that will expire January 1, 2027. (Neshannock Twp.)

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-476

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 \$145.72 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-48.

. RESOLUTION R-2023-477

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 \$1,374.80 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-49.

RESOLUTION R-2023-478

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 \$5,000.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-50.

RESOLUTION R-2023-479

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 \$156.97 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-51.

RESOLUTION R-2023-480

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 \$15,000.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-52.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve Resolutions R 2023-476 through R-2023-480.

TRANSFERS (ADMINISTRATIVE)

- a. Treasurer from Materials & Supplies to Maintenance & Repair for \$1,000.00
- b. Treasurer from Various Accounts to Various Accounts for \$7,927.38
- c. DJ Amodie from Contingency to Gas for \$300.00
- d. Domestic Relations from Contingency to Cost Allocation for \$4,100.00
- e. Domestic Relations from Salaries of Staff to Cost Allocation for \$22,900.00
- f. Register & Recorder from Travel & Training to Employee Insurance for \$2,200.00
- g. Various Accounts for Internet & Direct Image for \$229.28
- h. DJ Nicholson from Contingency to Equip Maintenance for \$300.00
- i. Jail from Temp Part Time to Equip Lease & Rental for \$7,000.00
- j. Jail from Temp Part Time to Maint Repairs for \$1,500.00
- k. CYS from Purchase Services to Hauling Refuse for \$100.00
- l. Comms. from Travel & Training to Materials & Supplies for \$500.00
- m. Public Defender from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$600.00
- n. Controller from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$700.00

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said administrative transfers. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

1. Resolution for discussion and possible approval to designate Lawrence County Economic Development as the Industrial Development Organization of Lawrence County.

Moved by Mr. Burick, seconded by Mr. Vogler to remove from the table. Ms. Spielvogel would request to leave it on the table for further review from our Solicitor.

Moved by Mr. Burick to withdraw his motion, seconded by Mr. Vogler. Motion carried to remain on the table 3-0.

2. Resolution for discussion and possible approval of Tremco Roofing to develop specifications and obtain roofing proposals for the reroofing projects at the Courthouse, Youth Services Building & the DA Operational Center.

The resolution remained on the table.

3. Resolution for discussion and possible amendment of the UPI Ordinance. Moved by Mr. Vogler, seconded by Ms. Spielvogel to remove from the table. Motion carried 3-0.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution, R-2023-481. Motion carried 3-0.

ORDINANCES

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| A. Discussion: | None |
| B. On the Table: | None |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to adjourn the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 11:30 AM. Motion carried 3-0.

