

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, July 28th, 2026

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, July 28th, 2026, was called to order by **Commissioner Dan Vogler**, at 10:00 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting Room. **Office Manager Colleen Daughtry** called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Dan Kennedy**, **Commissioner Chris Sainato**, **County Administrator Joseph Venasco**, **Jacque Graziani**, **Mary Kelly**, **Fred Yeager**, **Tammy Crawford**, **Jodi Klabon-Esoldo**, **Amy McKinney**, **Justin Byers**, **George Johnson**, **Debbie Wachter** & **Kat Dickey** 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 Chief Clerk at another time, and he 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

Commissioners honoring Tammy Crawford and Jodi Klabon-Esoldo. Jodi Klabon-Esoldo Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts, for serving as President of the Pennsylvania Clerk of Courts Association. Tammy Crawford, Register of Wills and Recorder of Deeds, for her recent election as President of the Pennsylvania Register of Wills and Clerks of Orphans' Court Association. Commissioners commended both officials for their professionalism, leadership, commitment to efficient county government, and service to taxpayers. Both officials thanked the Commissioners for their recognition.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bridge Concerns – Slippery Rock Township. Fred Yeager, owner of Rose Point Park Campground, expressed concerns regarding the deteriorating "Iron Bridge" (also referred to locally as the Pipe Bridge), noting reduced weight limits and the potential impact on businesses, residents, school transportation, and emergency services.

Planning Director Amy McKenna reported:

The bridge has been placed on the 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Preliminary funding for design, utilities, and right-of-way has been secured. Construction is currently anticipated for 2030. The project is eligible for Act 13 funding. The County will continue discussions with PennDOT regarding opportunities to accelerate the project schedule. Commissioners agreed to continue advocating for the project and encouraged communication with state legislators.

Online Court Records. Justin Byers requested consideration of an online system allowing public access to county court documents, like state and federal court systems.

Commissioners explained that: The Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts is an independently elected office and is responsible for implementing such systems. The Commissioners' role would primarily involve budgetary support if requested. Mr. Byers was encouraged to discuss the proposal directly with the Prothonotary's Office.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:

1. July 20th, 2026

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. July 21st, 2026

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:

- a. Joe Baumgartner- County Notification of Planned Land Development for a Chapter 102 permit. The project consists of the construction of single-family residential home and driveway. Stormwater runoff will be controlled via one underground detention facility at 200 Muddy Creek Road. New Castle, PA. (Slippery Rock Township).

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to accept said written correspondence. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

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

Commissioner Vogler stated that The Lawrence County Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet on July 29th at the Hutchinson Center in Neshannock Township.

There will be no Commissioners' meeting on August 4 due to attendance at the County Commissioners' Association conference.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 11, 2026.

Commissioner Kennedy had no additional report.

Commissioner Sainato highlighted several community events he attended during the weekend, including downtown New Castle Friday night concert series. Seeing all the talented musicians and all the different segments of music. Farmers Market. Commissioner Sainato commended Rachel Hanson who is Community Connection Coordinator for continuing the tradition of the farmer's market. Commissioner Sainato also went to Chewton to attend the Carters Car Cruise. Elks Lincoln 18 South Side Family Day/Back-to-School Bash. He also stopped at the Wilmington Amphitheater and enjoyed some performances. Commissioner Sainato ended the weekend by stopping at Edwards Restaurant for the Lawrence County ARF Relief Fund fundraiser. It was a very successful fundraiser.

Resolution R-2026-160

Whereas, Lawrence County Domestic Relations needs a maintenance Agreement to cover the fire alarm system; and

Whereas, Lawrence County Domestic Relations currently uses the services of Johnson Controls to provide maintenance to the fire alarm systems.

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

1. Johnson Controls of 3159 Unionville Road, Cranberry Township, 16066, will provide a Maintenance Agreement for the Lawrence County Domestic Relations Department's Fire Alarm System; and
2. Costs will not exceed \$716.93 for a one-year period 9/01/2026 through 8/31/2027.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Resolution.

Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026- 161

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, by **Resolution R-1998-55**, created and established the Lawrence County Federated Library System; and

WHEREAS, said Resolution authorized the appointment of a seven (7) member Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, terms of the members will expire, and action will be required by the Board of Commissioners to fill such term.

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

1. Andrea Houk, 7 Grant Road, Ellwood City, PA 16117 (North Sewickley Township, Beaver County) representing the Ellwood City Public Library, is hereby appointed to the Lawrence County Federated Library System Board of Directors for a term beginning July 28th, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution.

Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026- 162

WHEREAS, William Humphrey of New Castle was employed for many years by Taylor Engineering, Inc., and served as his company's primary contact with the County of Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Humphrey, along with his many other engineering responsibilities, focused on the ongoing inspection, maintenance, repair and, at times, replacement of Lawrence County's 28 bridges; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Humphrey unexpectedly passed away on March 21, 2026, leaving his family, business associates and many friends; and

WHEREAS, The Lawrence County Commissioners wish to honor Mr. Humphrey's memory; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the county-owned bridge on Stoughton Road in Scott Township be named the William Humphrey Memorial Bridge and that a dedication ceremony take place at the bridge on Thursday, September 24, 2026

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Resolution.

Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026- 163

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 is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2026 Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS to amend the 2026 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

INCREASING CCAP Grants General Revenue Fund Account: 01337007.337004 by \$4,268.55; and

INCREASING Maintenance Office Minor Account: 01417000.201100 by \$4,268.55 and

Reason: CCAP Grant for Water Filling Stations

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution.

Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2026- 164

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 \$1,286.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2026-02.

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

Transfers (Administrative)

- A. CYS from contracted provider care to vehicle expenses for \$12,000.00
- B. CYS from contracted provider care to telephone for \$10,000.00.
- C. Voters from material & supplies to travel & training for \$375.00.
- D. MDJ Nicholson from contingency to equipment maintenance for \$880.00
- E. Public Defender from contingency to subscriptions & books for \$211.00

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

ORDINANCES

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| A. Discussion: | None |
| B. On the Table: | None |
| C. For Introduction: | None |
| D. For Final Action: | None |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Public Commissioners' Meeting will be on August 11th, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. Commissioners' meeting on August 4th will be cancelled due to CCAP conference.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 @ 11:02 AM. Motion carried 3-0.