

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 23, 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, January 23, 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, County Administrator Joe Venasco, Scott Baldwin, Dorothy Burchett, Robert Burchett, Joe Gierlach, Neshannock Twp., Leslie Bucci, Neshannock Twp., Rob Eckert, Union Twp., Virginia Zinza, Pulaski Twp., Scott Barth, North Beaver Twp., Grant McKinley, North Beaver Twp., Bill Hepler, Wayne Twp., Brian K. Swisher, Wilmington Twp., Al Burick, Shenango Twp., Kevin Swogger, Ellwood City Borough, Brad Ovia, Ellwood City Borough 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**

Leslie Bucci, Neshannock Twp., stated a lot of people in Neshannock Twp. are in favor of the \$5 Vehicle Fee. She stated 100% of this money is returned to the township on local roads. She stated that if the Commissioners rescind the Ordinance, the township will have to raise taxes. The costs of paving, supplies, etc., has increased. It is a bonus to receive these dollars and it is in the best interest for everyone to keep the Ordinance in place.

Grant McKinley, North Beaver Twp., stated he agrees with Leslie. He has only had 1 or 2 people have complained/asked about the Ordinance. The township has most definitely used the money from the Ordinance. He also stated the township will have to raise taxes. He asked about electric cars not having to pay the gas tax and how else are the municipalities going to maintain their roads?

Mrs. Burchett asked why is the original Ordinance up for repeal?

Mr. Vogler gave an update and background history on the Ordinance and Liquid Fuels.

Mr. Sainato gave history on Act 89 when he was in legislation at the State as a Representative.

Bridget Zinza, Pulaski Twp., stated the road conditions with the weather in Lawrence County and the Amish community really tears up the roads and the Ordinance helps immensely. She also stated the township will have to raise taxes.

Bill Hepler, Wayne Twp., also stated without the money coming in from the Ordinance, the township will have to raise taxes.

Al Burick, Shenango Twp., stated they will not be able to complete their Transportation Plan for the next 8 years without the Ordinance funds.

Rob Eckert, Union Twp., stated he agrees with keeping the Ordinance in effect.

Kevin Swogger, Ellwood City Borough, stated he agrees with keeping the Ordinance in effect.

Scott Barth, North Beaver Twp., asked why the Ordinance came back up for repeal?

Mr. Vogler, stated the new Commissioners wanted to discuss it.

Scott Barth asked which new Commissioner?

Mr. Vogler stated Chris Sainato.

Joe Gierlach, Neshannock Twp., asked why do you want to repeal the Ordinance?

Mr. Vogler stated there is other liquid fuel money that comes in to distribute to the municipalities.

Mr. Sainato stated it's his principle, he was against it as a Representative and against it now.

Brad Ovia, Ellwood City Borough stated Mr. Sainato is just holding a grudge and is disappointed in Mr. Vogler. He feels Mr. Vogler can change his mind to keep the Ordinance in place.

Mr. Kennedy stated he doesn't need to speak as all the reps from the various municipalities showing up today and speaking said it all. He feels the Ordinance needs to stay in place.

Debbie Wachter asked if the Commissioners were going to refund everyone that has already paid the \$5 fee on their registration if the Ordinance is repealed?

Mr. Vogler stated that is something they would have to review with the Solicitor but does not believe refunds will be issued.

### **FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
  - 1. January 19, 2024
  - 2. January 18, 2024
  - 3. January 16, 2024
  - 4. January 12, 2024

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:
  - a. Tuesday, January 16, 2024

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
  - a. Mineral Processing Specialties, Inc., 502 Poland Avenue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (Bessemer Borough)

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

### **REPORTS**

- A. Staff Reports: None
- B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Vogler reviewed the meetings the Commissioners attended the past week.

Mr. Sainato stated he and Commissioner Kennedy have been meeting with the Department Heads and Elected Officials.

Mr. Kennedy had no comment.

### **NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-26**

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; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Mental Health and Developmental Services currently has a Base contract with Arise dba Crisis Shelter of New Castle for the period from **July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024**; and

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 **\$30,000.00** for various services shall be adjusted to **\$105,000.00**. 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. Kennedy to approve said Resolution.  
Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-27**

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** Election Integrity Grant Revenues Election Integrity Revenue Fund Account: 16334000.3341581 by \$293,418.00; and

**INCREASING** Payment of Staff Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.110200 by \$25,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Payment of Staff/Polling Places Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.110650 by \$55,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Printing of Ballots Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.201070 by \$40,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Post Election Procedures Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.309009 by \$15,000.00 and

**INCREASING** Process Voter Applications Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.309010 by \$10,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Prep, Trans, Store of Voting Equipment Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.403600 by \$5,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Security/Transparency Costs Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.404400 by \$30,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Contingency Election Integrity Expense Fund Account: 16414000.509000 by \$113,418.00

***Reason: Election Integrity Grant***

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

**TRANSFERS (Administrative)**

- A. Courts from Contingency to Minor Equipment for \$187.95
- B. Commissioners from Contingency to Minor Equipment for \$1,186.85
- C. Commissioners from Contingency to Postage for \$350.00
- D. Juvenile Probation from Contingency to Office Equipment for \$1,250.00
- E. MHDS from MH Community Services to Maintenance & Repairs for \$25,000.00
- F. MHDS from Contingency to Subscriptions & Books for \$400.00

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

**ORDINANCES**

- A. Discussion: None
- B. On the Table: None
- C. For Introduction:
  - 1. Ordinance No. 1 of 2024: An Ordinance Rescinding Lawrence County Ordinance No. 4 of 2020 (***Will be tabled for further review and voted on at public meeting on January 30, 2024.***)

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to table said Ordinance. Motion carried 2-1.

D. For Final Action: None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The next Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on January 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 430 Court Street.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 11:20 AM.