

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, December 10, 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, December 10, 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 (by phone), County Administrator Joe Venasco, Chrissy Montague, Amy McKinney, Chad Strobel, Bob Burchett 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

Sheriff Perry Quahliero wished a Merry Christmas to everyone.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Grossman & Amy Hawkins introduced themselves & offered their services from DON Services.

Bob Burchett stated he does not believe dollars should be given to entities, like #7 on the agenda, Vision Ministries by spending taxpayers money.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| A. Repository Property: | None |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals: | None |
| D. Warrant Registers: | |
| 1. December 3, 2024 | |
| 2. December 5, 2024 | |
| 3. December 6, 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. December 3, 2024

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications: None

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports DV, DK, CS

Mr. Vogler stated on Saturday he will attend the Ellwood City Fire Dept that will be honoring (2) firefighters that perished a couple of years ago. With Mr. Vogler being a Wampum native, he is happy that Mr. Dick Allen has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kennedy stated the Wampum Christmas Parade was very nice. He also attended the Lawrence County Tourist Promotion agency luncheon at Stone Castle Abbey which was very nice.

Mr. Sainato stated how wonderful it is that Mr. Allen has been inducted and the parade in Wampum was great. He further stated that last Saturday he presented a Citation on behalf of the Commissioners to Pastor Mounts.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS
RESOLUTION R-2024-369

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) has applied for and received grant funds to implement a SAVIN program in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, PDAI (Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute) has been selected a sub-grantee by PCCD to provide contract administration and maintenance fee collections; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence County has committed to implementing and using the PA SAVIN system to meet and enhance its responsibilities for victim notification as well as provide additional notification services to county residents; and

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

1. An agreement is made and entered into by and between PCCD, (Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, PDAI, (Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute), and Lawrence County to implement a SAVIN program.

2. Effective for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-370

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence is using a Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities Program;

WHEREAS, the funds are to be used for the Ellwood City Façade Program;

WHEREAS, eligible applicants can apply and receive up to \$5,000 dollars towards Façade improvement;

WHEREAS, the County has received an application from the attached qualifying business owners and the Façade Steering Committee has reviewed and approved the applications for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board Commissioners that the Commissioners hereby enters into an agreement with the attached businesses for the Ellwood City Façade Grant.

Mr. Sainato is voting no on this resolution because when he was running his campaign he promised not to vote for any elected officials for contracts or grant dollars awarded.

Motion made by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 2-1.

RESOLUTION R-2024-371

WHEREAS, the 9-1-1 Statewide Interconnectivity Funding Grant Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ("Commonwealth"), acting through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ("PEMA"), and Lawrence County ("Subgrantee") and attached hereto as Exhibit "A"

WHEREAS, the Act of June 29, 2015, P.L. 36, No. 12, as amended, 35 Pa. C.S. §§ 5301- 5399, established the 9-1-1 Fund. Money in the 9-1-1 Fund and the interest the money accrues is appropriated to PEMA to be disbursed by PEMA. Up to 15% of the amount in the fund shall be used by PEMA to establish, enhance, operate or maintain statewide interconnectivity of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), hereinafter referred to as statewide interconnectivity funding;

WHEREAS, statewide interconnectivity funding made available to PSAPs will be distributed through a grant process in accordance with the guidelines and application procedures published by PEMA;

WHEREAS, PSAPs may apply for statewide interconnectivity funding to complete specific projects that align with the objectives and priorities set by PEMA, in consultation with the 9-1-1 Advisory Board, for the use of statewide interconnectivity funding;

WHEREAS, PEMA has identified the Subgrantee as an eligible recipient of statewide interconnectivity funding to establish, enhance, operate or maintain statewide interconnectivity of PSAPs; and the purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the responsibilities between PEMA and the Subgrantee for the distribution and use of statewide interconnectivity funding for the Lawrence County, Butler/Lawrence Recorder Maintenance, 2024-0138; ICORRS Master Site Maintenance 2024-0130; NG911 GIS Post Migration 2024-0042; and WestCORE ESInet Maintenance 2024-0112.

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 2024

9-1-1 Statewide Interconnectivity Funding Grant Agreement as follows:

AWARD AMOUNT

1. PEMA shall award \$94,732.14 from the 9-1-1 Fund to the Subgrantee for the following projects:
 - a. \$11,885.00 for Butler/Lawrence Shared Recorder, project number 3120240138;
 - b. \$49,257.54 for ICORRS Master Site Maintenance, project number 3120240130;
 - c. \$25,000.00 for Lawrence NG911 GIS Post Migration, project number 3120240042; and
 - d. \$8,589.60 for the WestCORE ESInet Maintenance, project number 3120240112;
2. The period of performance of this Agreement is January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-372

WHEREAS the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled, and

WHEREAS Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services desires to contract for certain services; and

WHEREAS the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 and the Department of Public Welfare fiscal regulations provide for the purchase of office equipment and services, and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The agreement listed in item 2 shall be approved starting January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and
2. Authorization is hereby given to execute the following agreement:

SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT- as detailed in attachment with description and rates listed within the attachment.

Be it further resolved those payments be made from the MH/DS fund.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2024-373

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2025 LAWRENCE COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the fiscal year of the County begins on the first day of January; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County are required by County Code to adopt a budget by the end of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the County Code requires the proposed budget be available for public inspection at least twenty (20) days prior to its adoption; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has collaborated with each County department to formulate a preliminary spending plan for the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THAT: in accordance with §1782 of the County Code, a proposed budget is hereby introduced for public review until December 31, 2024, the day set for final adoption.

The Commissioners and Mr. Venasco thanked all those individuals, Controller Prestopine, Mr. Albert Antonelli and all the Department Heads and Elected Officials, involved in helping Mr. Venasco with creating the budget. This is a balanced budget and property taxes are not increasing for 2025. Mr. Venasco stated the department heads and elected officials were all great to work with. The (2) biggest increases in the budget were union negotiations and a decrease in our healthcare of 1%. Our workers compensation insurance also decreased by 27%.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-374

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LAWRENCE COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2025 AND APPROPRIATING SPECIFIC SUMS, ESTIMATED TO BE REQUIRED, FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, HEREINAFTER SET FORTH.

BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AN ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISISONERS OF THE COUNTY OF LAWRENCE, COMMONWELATH OF PENNSYLVANIA, that:

SECTION 1: a tax be, and is hereby levied, on all real property within the County subject to taxation for County purposes for the Fiscal Year 2025. The tax rate for County purposes shall be as follows:

- a. For ***General Purposes***, the sum of seven and five hundred, twenty eight-thousandths **(7.528) mills** and on each dollar of assessed valuation (or the sum of seventy-five and twenty eight-hundredths cents [75.28¢] per each one hundred dollars [\$100.00] of assessed value.)
- b. For ***Debt Purposes***, the sum of six hundred and forty-six thousandths **(.646) mills** on each dollar of assessed valuation (or the sum of six and forty-six hundredths cents (6.46¢) per each one hundred dollars [\$100.00] of assessed value.)
- c. For ***Special Purposes*** (libraries), the sum of one hundred and thirty-five thousandths **(.135) mills** on each dollar of assessed valuation [or the sum of one and thirty-five hundredths cents [1.35¢] per each one hundred dollars [\$100.00] of assessed value.)

The ***total millage*** for all County purposes shall be eight and three hundred and nine thousandths **(8.309) mills** (or the sum of eighty three and nine hundredths cents [83.09¢] per each one hundred dollars [\$100.00] of assessed value.)

SECTION 2: for the expenses of the County for the **Fiscal Year 2025**, the amounts are hereby appropriated from the revenues available for the specific purposes set forth above, which amounts are more fully itemized in the **County Budget** on file in the office of the Commissioners.

SECTION 3: any resolution, or parts thereof, conflicting with this Resolution shall be repealed, insofar as the same affects this Resolution.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-375

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Board met on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Opioid Advisory Board voted to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to accept the grant applicant to receive grant money; and

WHEREAS, Vision Ministries of Lawrence County, PA received \$78,750.50 on May 9, 2023 through Resolution R-2023-141; and

WHEREAS, once funds/programs are approved by the State, it is an automatic renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners will allocate funds to Vision Ministries of Lawrence County for \$78,750.50; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that Vision Ministries of Lawrence County shall be allocated \$78,750.50.

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

RESOLUTION R-2042-376

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to post the sale of a 2015 Ford Explorer SW; and

WHEREAS, the vehicles are a 2015 Ford Explorer SW, white in color with mileage at 113,264 in fair condition; and

WHEREAS, the vehicle is worth less than \$2,500.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the County post the sale of the Ford Explorer SW at the Lawrence County Courthouse for bids on the vehicle.

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

RESOLUTION R-2042-377

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to post the sale of a 2015 Ford Explorer SW; and

WHEREAS, the vehicles are a 2015 Ford Explorer SW, white in color with mileage at 135,999 in fair condition; and

WHEREAS, the vehicle is worth less than \$2,500.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED that the County post the sale of the Ford Explorer SW at the Lawrence County Courthouse for bids on the vehicle.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-378

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 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 EMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation General Revenue Account: 01331058.331000.97047 by \$13,250.00; and

INCREASING EMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation General Expense Account: 01421500.999900.97047 by \$13,250.00

Reason: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

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

TRANSFERS (Administrative)

- a. Sheriff from travel & training to uniforms for \$1,000.00
- b. Sheriff from salary of staff to uniforms for \$1,000.00
- c. Sheriff from vehicle expense to overtime for \$8,000.00
- d. APO from contingency to materials & supplies for \$4,000.00
- e. APO from contingency to staples for \$2,000.00
- f. Courts from law clerks to master fees for \$4,500.00
- g. Commissioners from general administration to subscriptions & books for \$27.00
- h. Commissioners from staples to telephone/internet for \$350.00
- i. Commissioners from staples to cable for \$320.00
- j. Commissioners from contracted services to equipment lease/rental for \$247.23
- k. Voters from contracted services to equipment lease/rental for \$675.00
- l. Coroner from lease to vehicle expense for \$600.00
- m. Prothonotary from travel & training to postage for \$600.00
- n. Public Safety from radio system maintenance to radio tower maintenance for \$17,600.00
- o. Public Safety from contingency to pre-disaster mitigation for \$1,311.41
- p. Public Safety from travel & training to pre-disaster mitigation for \$1,122.59
- q. CYS from contracted provider care to hauling refuse for \$550.78
- r. IT from contingency to unemployment insurance for \$100.00
- s. Public Defender from contingency to equipment for \$370.83
- t. Central Court from maintenance to staples for \$600.00
- u. Central Court from telephone to staples for \$500.00
- v. Central Court from contingency to equipment/lease for \$100.00
- w. Central Court from travel to equipment/lease for \$200.00
- x. Prothonotary from contingency to postage for \$1,000.00.
- y. Prothonotary from contingency to office supplies for \$7,400.00.
- z. Courts from contingency to constables for \$300.00.
- aa. Courts from contingency to interpreter for \$1,000.00.

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

RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

- A. Resolutions on the table: None
- B. 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' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 @ 10:00AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. The Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 @ 12:00 Noon has been **CANCELLED**.
- C. There will be a Salary Board Meeting on Friday, December 20, 2024 @ 9:00AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- D. The Lawrence County Government Center will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th through Thursday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday.
- E. The Lawrence County Government Center will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day holiday.
- F. The Annual Salary Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025 @ 10:00AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- G. The first Commissioners' Meeting of 2025 will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 @ 10:00AM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 11:15 am.