

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, July 11, 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, July 11, 2023, was called to order by **Commissioner Dan 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 Loretta Spielvogel, Commissioner Brian Burick, Scott Baldwin, Vanessa Lovlie, Mike Grippo, Jesse Putnam, Robert Burchett, Dorothy Burchett, 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**

Mr. Burchett commented he feels people should better manage and prioritize their money so the government isn't paying for transportation, doctor visits, etc. He doesn't feel taxpayers should be paying for others' needs.

Mrs. Burchett agreed and voiced her concern as well.

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- |                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| A. Repository Properties:        | None |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals:   | None |
| D. Warrant Registers:            |      |
| 1. June 30, 2023                 |      |
| 2. June 29, 2023                 |      |
| 3. June 28, 2023                 |      |

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

**MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Approval of Minutes:

1. June 27, 2023

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Act 14 Notification-Scott & Jessa Fabian application for a NPDES permit for sewage (Mahoning Twp.)
2. Act 14 Notification-Steve Zoccoli application for a NPDES permit for sewage (Mahoning Twp.)

Moved by Mr. Burick, seconded by Ms. Spielvogel to file said written correspondence(s). Motion carried 3-0.

### **REPORTS**

- A. Staff Reports None
- B. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Ms. Spielvogel had no comment.

Mr. Burick thanked the Burchett's for their comments. Mr. Burick stated the programs such as Medicare/Medicaid/medical assistance are set by the federal government and the County administers the funds. We have to provide services for those that cannot provide for themselves.

Mr. Vogler stated former Commissioner Frank Vitril was a good honest man. He did vote no on quite a few issues during his time as Commissioner.

Upon review with the Lawrence County Solicitor, the Commissioners have the right to amend the agenda for an emergency that occurs within 24 hours of the Commissioners' meetings. The Commissioners received an email from Director of Public Safety, Chad Strobel this morning about the Commissioners approving a Declaration of Disaster Emergency for the County, due to the flooding that occurred over the weekend. Currently, there are eight (8) homes that have significant damage, in Shenango and Wayne Townships. With the County approving the Declaration of Disaster, this allows the municipalities and the County to apply for funding from the State.

The Commissioners commend Chad Strobel and his staff for all their hard work.

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER  
EMERGENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF  
LAWRENCE, PENNSYLVANIA  
RESOLUTION-2023-218**

WHEREAS, on or about July 8, 2023 a flash flood has caused or threatens to cause injury, damage and suffering to the persons and property of the County of Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, the flash flood has endangered the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of person residing in the County of Lawrence and threatens to create problems greater in scope that the County of Lawrence may be able to resolve; and

WHEREAS, emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in the County of Lawrence; and

NOW THEREFORE, we, the undersigned Commissioners of Lawrence County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, (35 PA C.S., Section 7501), as amended, do hereby declare the existence of a disaster emergency in the County of Lawrence; and

FURTHER, we direct the County of Lawrence Emergency Management Department to coordinate the activities of the emergency response, to take all appropriate action needed to alleviate the effects of this disaster, to aid in the restoration of essential public services and to take any other emergency response action deemed necessary to respond to this emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, we authorize officials of the County of Lawrence Emergency Management Department to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies of this emergency, namely: by the employment of temporary workers, by the rental of equipment, by the purchase of supplies and materials and by entering into such contracts and agreements for the performance of public work as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.

This Declaration shall take effect immediately.

## RESOLUTION R-2023-202

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SIGNING A Consent Agreement with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (“PEMA”) FOR funding Cybersecurity (Albert Sensors) from Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (“SLCGP”) .**

**WHEREAS**, the County has an existing agreement with the PA Department of State (DOS) for two years starting on 07/28/2022 for Cybersecurity using Albert Sensors paid for by DOS; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will apply funding to continue Albert Sensors using Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Consent Agreement is to authorize on behalf of Lawrence County, PA;

1. Utilize 80% of the FY 2022 SLCGP, or \$4,164,051.20 in federal funds to LGEs as follows:
  - a. Intrusion and Detection Service MS-ISAC Albert Sensors, to be provided to counties in the Commonwealth at no cost to the counties; and
  - b. Cofense security awareness services, to be provided to those eligible LGEs that were solicited by the Commonwealth in its SLCGP Baseline Survey and that responded to the Survey, at no cost to the LGEs.
2. The Commonwealth will provide the required matching funds, 10 percent of the FFY 2022SLCGP award, to eliminate any financial burden on the LGEs receiving these services; and
3. This Consent Agreement shall be retroactive to June 30, 2023.

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

## RESOLUTION R-2023-203

**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 application for funding.

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

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-204**

**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 Am-Gard, Inc. 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:

**Am-Gard, Inc.  
600 Main Street  
Pittsburgh, PA. 15215**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-205**

**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 Steven C. Braden (Check Your Mate Investigations) 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:

**Steven C. Braden (Check Your Mate Investigations)  
220 S. Main Street, Suite E  
Butler, PA. 16001**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-206**

**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 Family Care for Children and Youth, Inc. 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:

**Family Care for Children and Youth, Inc.  
25 Belford BLVD  
Milton, PA. 17847**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-207**

**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 Belmont-Harrison Juvenile District 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:

**Belmont-Harrison Juvenile District  
68131 Hammond Rd.  
Saint Clairsville, OH. 43950**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-208**

**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 Crossroads Group Homes and Services, Inc. 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:

**Crossroads Group Homes and Services, Inc.  
1243 Roemer Blvd.  
Farrell, PA. 16121**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-209**

**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 Perseus House Inc. 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:

**Perseus House Inc.  
1511 Peach Street  
Erie, PA. 16501**



**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-**

**WHEREAS** the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services and representation to Lawrence County Children and Youth Services (Agency); and

**WHEREAS** these cases and duties shall be assigned by and at the sole discretion of the Agency Director while under the direct supervision of the Agency Solicitor and shall include all dependency matters assigned; and

**WHEREAS** three agreements to provide such services to the County shall be authorized and executed.

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute this agreement with an unlimited number of juvenile dependency cases, as assigned by the Director of Children and Youth Services, to the following attorney for professional legal services in juvenile dependency cases:

**A. Cassandra Litzenberg**

2. Agreement shall contain the following provisions:

- a. As consideration for the services to be rendered under this Agreement, County agrees to pay Contractor a fixed rate not to exceed \$20,000/year to be paid in twelve (12) equal monthly payments on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> day of each month. All payments will be by electronic transfer.
- b. The agreement shall be in effect for the period **July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024**, unless terminated sooner by either party.

**APPROVED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Vote:        Yeas \_\_\_\_\_        Nays \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFIED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Venasco, County Administrator

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve Resolutions R-2023-204 through R-2023-210. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION R-2023-211**

**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; and

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

1. Joseph Ambrosini, 2304 Highland Avenue, New Castle, PA 16105 (City of New Castle) representing the New Castle Public Library, is hereby reappointed to the Lawrence County Federated Library System Board of Directors for a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

**RESOLUTION R-2023-212**

**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 and;

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

1. John Long, 727 Mt. Jackson Road, New Castle, PA 16102 (North Beaver Twp.) representing the F.D. Campbell Memorial Library, is hereby appointed to the Lawrence County Federated Library System Board of Directors for a term expiring on June 30, 2025.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve Resolutions R-2023-211 & Resolution R-2023-212. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION R-2023-213**

**WHEREAS**, the County entered into a reimbursement agreement with PennDOT in May of 2012 for the Preliminary Engineering phase for the Wallace Road Bridge Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the effective date on the agreement is May 3, 2012 and the agreement remains in effect for three (3) fiscal years, beginning with the state fiscal year in which it takes effect and continuing for the two (2) succeeding fiscal years; and

**WHEREAS**, the agreement stated that if any design activity occurs prior to the end of the third fiscal year, which it had, the agreement is automatically extended for a fourth fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 the County requested and received a three (3) year fiscal extension due to the historic structure/environment studies required; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the County requested and received a two (2) year fiscal extension; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, the County requested and received a three (3) year extension; and

**WHEREAS**, the current expiration date for this agreement is June 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, PennDOT has informed Frank B. Taylor Engineering, that the PHMC is willing to consider a hybrid option for this bridge replacement project; and

**WHEREAS**, an extension must be granted to the municipality if the agreement period is to be exceeded; and

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

1. The agreement with Frank B. Taylor Engineering, shall be extended to allow for the completion of all of the required historic bridge documentation and reports, completion of the remaining preliminary engineering tasks, final design and construction for the Wallace Road Bridge Project, with the revised completion date of June 30, 2026.

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

#### **RESOLUTION R-2023-214**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desires to preserve continuity in the Office of County Solicitor; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney Emily Sanchez-Parodi holds the legal knowledge and expertise to efficiently conduct the duties of Assistant Solicitor; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney Emily Sanchez-Parodi has experience in all legal aspects of Lawrence County, including knowledge of past litigation and current legal issues before Lawrence County; and

**WHEREAS**, duties shall include providing consulting services and legal representation as requested by the County, including, without limitation, those services related to Right

To Know Requests and aiding the County Solicitor in court appearances. Consultant shall report regularly to the County Solicitor with updates regarding pending issues and shall be supervised directly by the County Solicitor; and

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute a one (1) year consulting agreement with Attorney Emily Sanchez-Parodi for legal services; and
2. The total cost is \$.00 made payable in 12 monthly installments; and
3. This agreement will be retroactive to May 31, 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-215**

**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 FY2023 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2023 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** Prior Year Balance Capital Expenditures Revenue Fund Account: 80390000.342000 by \$42,003.00; and

**INCREASING** IT Other Improvements Capital Expenditures Expense Fund Account: 80416000.703000 by \$42,003.00

**Reason: Horizon Contract**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-216**

**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 FY2023 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2023 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** Crisis Program Grant General Fund Revenue Fund Account: 01334017.334157 by \$60,000.00; and

**INCREASING** DA Crisis Program Vehicles General Fund Expense Fund Account: 03431324.201100 by \$60,000.00

**Reason: Vehicles for Co-Responder**

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

**RESOLUTION R-2023-217**

**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 \$13,053.27 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-22.

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

**TRANSFER (ADMINISTRATIVE)**

- a. ARPA Contingency to Transfer to Other Govt. for \$135,000.00
- b. Prothonotary from Automation-Contingency to Maint & Repair for \$13,000.00
- c. Coroner from Act 182-Contingency to Act 182-Maint & Repair for \$485.00
- d. Assessment from Contingency to Advertising for \$87.52

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve the Administrative Transfer(s). Motion carried 3-0.

## RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

1. **Boards (R-2023-198)**

Resolution for discussion and possible approval to appoint/reappoint Tammy Barbati, Joseph Miller, Dr. Susan Lautenbacher and Benjamin Bush to the West Central Workforce Development Board.

2. **Commissioners (R-2022-141)**

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

The resolution(s) will stay on the table.

### 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, July 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. The Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for today has been **CANCELLED**.
- C. There will be a Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 12:00 Noon at the Mahoning Township Building.
- D. There will be a Prison Board meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to adjourn the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 11:25 AM.

