

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**RE-ORGANIZATIONAL/PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 2, 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 2, 2024, was called to order by **Commissioner Daniel Vogler**, at 2:00 PM 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, JR Hardester, Bill Humphrey, Noone 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**

Mr. Vogler stated today is an important day, as we have two (2) new Commissioners, Dan Kennedy and Chris Sainato that were sworn into office this morning.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carissa Neary thanked the Commissioners for their support on behalf of the New Castle Public Library, Inc.

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
  - 1. December 28, 2023
  - 2. December 22, 2023

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, December 28, 2023

The Commissioners noted Mr. Myers and Mr. Swogger are both good men that have served/will serve on the Housing Authority.

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Shenango Twp and South New Castle Borough municipal merger notification.

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

**REPORTS**

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Vogler congratulated and welcomed Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Sainato. He feels both men will do a great job as the new County Commissioners. Today is moving in day and it will take some time to get everyone acquainted.

Mr. Sainato stated it was a very nice ceremony this morning and he looks forward to moving the County forward and working together. He feels the Commissioners need to promote the positivity that is in Lawrence County.

Mr. Kennedy stated he is honored to serve with Mr. Vogler and Mr. Sainato. He echoes Mr. Sainato's comments about promoting the positivity and changing the negative perception about the County.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION            R-2024-01**

**WHEREAS**, 53 P.S. Section 8851 states that each county shall Appoint a "Board of Assessment Appeals"; and

**WHEREAS**, said Board of Assessment Appeals/Revisions consists of the three county commissioners in each county unless the county commissioners appoint a board consisting of **three members to serve a term not exceeding two (2) or four (4) years**; and

**WHEREAS**, 53 P.S. Section 8852 states The County Commissioners shall appoint a chairman of the board unless the County Commissioners serve as the Board of Revisions,

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners will appoint Three (3) Lawrence County Residents to the Lawrence County Board of Assessment Appeals for a term not exceeding two (2) years; and

**WHEREAS**, said Board of Assessment Appeal will delegate the responsibility of managing the Assessment Office to the Chief Assessor/Director of Assessment in Accordance to Act 93 of 2010.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board of Assessment Appeals shall be appointed to serve for 2024 thru 2025 as follows:

**John McConahy**

4841 Matthews Rd  
Edinburg Pa 16116

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Signature

**Charles T Dean**

2189 State Route 956  
Volant Pa 16156

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Signature

**Joseph Carofino**

4647 Ellwood Rd  
New Castle Pa 16101

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Signature

Discussion was held on whether the term should be two (2) or four (4) years; Mr. Hardester will ask the members and get back to the Board with a Resolution possibly for next week, if they wish to be appointed for four (4) years.

All three (3) Commissioners agree the appointees are very knowledgeable people in real estate that should be re-appointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-02**

**WHEREAS**, 53 P.S. Section 8851 states that each county shall Appoint a “Board of Assessment Appeals”; and

**WHEREAS**, said Board of Assessment Appeals/Revisions consists of the three county commissioners in each county unless the county commissioners appoint a board consisting of **three members to serve a term not exceeding two (2) or four (4) years**; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners appointed Three (3) Lawrence County Residents to serve as the Lawrence County Board of Assessment Appeals for a term not exceeding two (2) years; and

**WHEREAS**, 53 P.S. Section 8852 states The County Commissioners shall appoint a chairman of the board unless the County Commissioners serve as the Board of Revisions,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that Charles “Tom” Dean shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals for the current term of 2024 and 2025.

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

**RESOLUTION                      R-2024-03**

**WHEREAS**, Section 502 of the County Code requires that the Board of County Commissioners organize once every four (4) years; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the recent election of a new Board of County Commissioners it is appropriate that said organization occur on January 2, 2024; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board shall name a Chairman for this Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Vogler stated he feels he can and would like to continue as Chairman.

Mr. Sainato and Mr. Kennedy feel Mr. Vogler has the knowledge and experience to keep him as Chairman.

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

**RESOLUTION                      R-2024-04**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACCEPTING A QUOTE FROM PENN LINE SERVICE, INC., FOR THE WORK AT MCCONNELL’S MILL BRIDGE IN SLIPPERY ROCK TOWNSHIP, LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Commissioners’ Engineering Firm, Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc. received two (2) quotes from guide rail contractors for the services required to replace/repair damaged guide rail sections, posts, offset

blocks, etc., on the near approach to the County owned McConnell's Mill Bridge in Slippery Rock Township, Lawrence County; and

**WHEREAS**, Penn Line Service, Inc., submitted a quote to complete the project, such quote being reviewed and recommended by Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc.; and

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

1. Penn Line Service, Inc., 300 Scottdale Avenue, P.O. Box 462, Scottdale, PA 15683-0462, is authorized to complete the guide rail repair work at McConnell's Mill Bridge; and
2. The quote is for 30 calendar days and the total base quote amount is \$7,000.00 for the guide rail repair work at McConnell's Mill Bridge.

The Commissioners discussed having another bridge tour the first week of May 2024 to show the new Commissioners all of the bridges in the County.

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

#### **RESOLUTION R-2023-05**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence has received notification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education of the availability of funding from the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund for the provision of services eligible under the Keystone Grants for Public Library Facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence allocated \$200,000.00 to the New Castle Public Library, Inc. through Resolution R-2023-350 on September 19, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence will allocate the above stated funds to the New Castle Public Library, Inc. through the unrestricted ARPA funds, in such of an event where the grant match is not awarded to the Library; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that;** the County of Lawrence allocate the above stated funds to the New Castle Public Library, Inc. through unrestricted ARPA funds for their capital improvement needs.

Both Mr. Sainato and Mr. Kennedy stated they support the work of the Library and it's great to see young people working there, as this is our next generation.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said Resolution. 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 Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on January 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
  
- B. The annual Salary Board will be held today at 2:00PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
  
- C. There will be a West Central Job Partnership meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 2023 at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dorothy Burchett congratulated all three (3) Commissioners. She asked if the bridge tour would be open to the public to follow along. Mr. Vogler stated that he would need to check with our Solicitor for liability issues and would let her know.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Sainato , seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Re-Organizational/Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 2:05 pm..