

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, October 10, 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, October 10, 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 Brian Burick**, **Commissioner Loretta Spielvogel**, **Joe Venasco**, **JoEllen Thomas**, **Matthew West**, **Mike Grippo**, **John Bout**, **Allen Miller**, **Amy Lamb** and **Debbie Wachter**, **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.

Mr. Vogler asked everyone to keep in their thoughts the family of former State Legislator, Frank LaGrotta, his mother passed away.

**ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

None

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

A. Repository Properties:

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-372**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas Fehrenbach placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Oak Street, Parcel ID No. 04-201200; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Oak Street, with a Parcel ID No. 04-201200; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Thomas Fehrenbach, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Oak Street and having a Parcel ID No. 04-201200, Oak Street, City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-373**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas Fehrenbach placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Oak Street, Parcel ID No. 04-201300; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Oak Street, with a Parcel ID No. 04-201300; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Thomas Fehrenbach, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Oak Street and having a Parcel ID No. 04-201300, Oak Street, City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-374**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomas Fehrenbach placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Oak Street, Parcel ID No. 04-088200; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Oak Street, with a Parcel ID No. 04-088200; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Thomas Fehrenbach, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Oak Street and having a Parcel ID No. 04-088200, Oak Street, City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-375**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Clayton Williams placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at S. Crawford Avenue, Parcel ID No. 03-141200; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at S. Crawford Avenue, with a Parcel ID No. 03-141200; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Clayton Williams, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at S. Crawford Avenue and having a Parcel ID No. 03-141200, S. Crawford Avenue, City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-376**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Rochelle M. Johnson placed a bid of \$750.00 on property located at Smithfield Street, Parcel ID No. 06-037300; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Smithfield Street, with a Parcel ID No. 06-037300; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Rochelle M. Johnson, in the amount of \$750.00 for Repository Property located at Smithfield Street and having a Parcel ID No. 06-037300, Smithfield Street, City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-377**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Rochelle M. Johnson placed a bid of \$750.00 on property located at Etna Street, Parcel ID No. 06-009100; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Etna Street, with a Parcel ID No. 06-009100; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Rochelle M. Johnson, in the amount of \$750.00 for Repository Property located at Etna Street and having a Parcel ID No. 06-009100, Etna Street, City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-378**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Philip Gallo placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at E. Clen-Moore Blvd, Parcel ID No. 02-251000; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at E. Clen-Moore Blvd., with a Parcel ID No. 02-25100; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Philip Gallo, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at E. Clen-Moore Blvd. and having a Parcel ID No. 02-251000, E. Clen-Moore Blvd., City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-379**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Patches Place dba Lawrence County Cares Center placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at W. Washington Street, Parcel ID No. 06-027600; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at W. Washington Street., with a Parcel ID No. 06-027600; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Patches Place dba Lawrence County Cares Center, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at W. Washington Street and having a Parcel ID No. 06-027600, W. Washington Street., City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-380**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Patches Place dba Lawrence County Cares Center placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at W. Washington Street, Parcel ID No. 06-023200; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at W. Washington Street., with a Parcel ID No. 06-023200; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Patches Place dba Lawrence County Cares Center, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at W.

Washington Street and having a Parcel ID No. 06-023200, W. Washington Street., City of New Castle.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-381**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Patches Place dba Lawrence County Cares Center placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at W. Washington Street, Parcel ID No. 06-017700; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at W. Washington Street., with a Parcel ID No. 06-017700; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Patches Place dba Lawrence County Cares Center, in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at W. Washington Street and having a Parcel ID No. 06-017700, W. Washington Street., City of New Castle.

Ms. Spielvogel stated she hopes the properties being purchased are side lots that are being kept up with grass cutting, etc.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve Resolutions R-2023-372 through R-2023-381. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None

C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None

D. Warrant Registers:

1. October 4, 2023

2. September 29, 2023

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

**MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Approval of Minutes:

a. Tuesday, October 3, 2023

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Plain Grove Apartments applying for Act 14 for renewal of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the existing wastewater treatment plant. (Plain Grove Twp.)

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

## REPORTS

### A. Staff Reports

None

### B. Commissioner Reports

Ms. Spielvogel stated Wilbert Meyers was in attendance last week regarding his payments to transport Veterans, he has received his payments. She further stated how the Commissioners very seldomly see JoEllen Thomas from the Law Library at our meetings, but she is in attendance today for contracts to make the Library run smoothly and efficiently.

Mr. Burick reviewed the meetings from the week:

“Last week I attended the annual Ag Encounter conducted by Penn State Extension Lawrence County at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds. Approximately 900 fourth grade students from all the public and private schools in Lawrence County participated. They rotate through twelve stations where educators taught them about local agriculture and livestock. Students learned about agriculture in Lawrence County, its place as the leading industry in the county and the various steps of how food is produced goes from the farm to their table. They also that farming is a specialized business, that preconceived stereotypes of farmers no longer exist and that farmers need to have various roles on their farms such as: accountant/bookkeeper, manager, technician, scientist and laborer. There were twelve workstations the students rotated through: Vegetables; Fruits, Soil/Water; Goat; Poultry; Sheep; Swine; Beef; Dairy; Bees; Meet the Farmer and Grains. Slippery Rock Dairy Farmer Richard Kind, who has now passed away, was the founder of this event. I was very impressed with all the presentations I saw and especially want to recognize the staff of the Lawrence County Conservation District and Penn State Extension. I also want to recognize and thank the high school students from the Future Farmers of America clubs who volunteered to share their time and knowledge to the younger students in attendance.

I also attended, along with my fellow Commissioners, the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners volunteer recognition dinner conducted by

Extension staff member Joy Wilson. Eleven newly certified Master Gardeners were recognized from the class of 2022 and 2023 and thirteen others were recognized for hitting milestones such as exceeding from 100 to 1000 volunteer hours and from 10 to 25 years of service to the community. These Master Gardeners help with several community gardens, they beautify many parks and public locations in our county, and they share their knowledge and best practices with many residents who need help with their gardens. I thank them all for their dedication and service to our county.

Finally, all three Commissioners attended the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Lawrence County Board of Realtors and the Lawrence County Builders Association where we listened to remarks from State Representatives Marla Brown and Aaron Bernstine and staff members of State Senator Michelle Brooks and Congressman Mike Kelly regarding legislative issues affecting realtors and home builders. We also heard from statewide staff from both of those organizations and the Commissioners were thanked for our efforts on expanding public utilities and Broadband access in Lawrence County.”

Mr. Vogler stated the Commissioners will be in Mercer County today to attend the West Central Job Partnership meeting. There is a Planning Commission meeting tomorrow and on this Friday, Dan will be attending the Northwest Commission meeting in Oil City.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION R-2023-382**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Law Library has contracted with Thomson Reuters for the provision of on-line access for legal research for selected County offices and individuals, totaling forty (40) individual password holders, and

**WHEREAS**, Thomson Reuters has determined it necessary to revise and update the current agreement for services with the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomson Reuters will continue to provide access to its on-line library.

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

1. The attached contract, under account number 1000821914, with Thomson Reuters, is hereby approved;

2. The term of the contract at a cost of:  
\$7005.03 per month, for November, 2023 and December, 2023;  
\$7705.58 per month, for year one;  
\$8090.86 per month, for year two;  
\$8495.40 per month, for year three.
3. The appropriate County Officials are authorized to sign the necessary agreement forms.

### **RESOLUTION R-2023-383**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Law Library has contracted with Thomson Reuters for the provision of on-line access for legal research for patron access for public and attorney use in the Lawrence County Law Library; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomson Reuters has determined it necessary to revise and update the current agreement for services with the County; and

**WHEREAS**, Thomson Reuters will continue to provide access to its on-line library.

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

1. The attached contract, under account number 1003637971, with Thomson Reuters, is hereby approved;
2. The term of the contract at a cost of:  
\$785.00 per month, for year one;  
\$824.25 per month, for year two;  
\$865.46 per month, for year three.
3. The appropriate County Officials are authorized to sign the necessary agreement forms.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve said Resolutions R-2023-382 and R-2023-383. Motion carried 3-0.

### **RESOLUTION**

### **R-2023-384**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County Corrections is looking to expand on the current Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) programming at the jail by focusing on meeting the reentry needs of this population of offenders, including the creation of a *Reentry Coordinator position* and focus on vocational training for Intercept and Reentry Program (IRP) participants, including developing a Comprehensive Individualized



Employment Plan (CIEP), preparing participants for their return to the community by delivering and connecting them to appropriate aftercare services, providing ongoing case management and discharge planning; and

**WHEREAS**, The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), using federal Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) funds, announced the availability of funds to be used to establish or expand a jail-based substance use disorder treatment program that supports individuals incarcerated and allows county jails to better equip reentrants as they transition to the community; and

**WHEREAS** The PCCD will fund budgets up to \$200,000 over 24 months beginning January 1, 2024.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that authorization is given to execute, submit, and sign the necessary Grant application through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

**RESOLUTION            R-2023-385**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Jail has the capability to house female prisoners from Mercer County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Jail has the capacity and space to house female prisoners; and

**WHEREAS**, Mercer County shall pay \$50.00 per female prisoner, per day to Lawrence County to house female prisoners; and

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

1. The Lawrence County Jail wishes to enter into the attached agreement with Mercer County to house female prisoners; and
2. Mercer County shall pay \$50.00 per female prisoner, per day to Lawrence County to house female prisoners; and
3. The term of this Agreement shall be from October 10, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Ms. Spielvogel stated how we are very fortunate to have a great staff that works together at the Jail.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve said Resolutions R-2023-384 and R-2023-385. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-386**

**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 Therapeutic Center at Fox Chase (The Bridge) 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:

**Therapeutic Center at Fox Chase (The Bridge)  
1100 Adams Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA. 19124**

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

**RESOLUTION R-2023-387**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence, Department of Planning and Community Development was successful in securing a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources DCNR grant on behalf of the County for Quaker Falls Recreation Area - Phase 2 - Development; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence, Department of Planning and Community Development is requesting bids from contractors to complete the above mentioned project; and

**WHEREAS**, the County will advertise for bids on October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup> with bids being due on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners that the Board of Commissioners will be advertising for bids for “Quaker Falls Recreation Area - Phase 2”, with bids being due on November 13th, 2023.

**RESOLUTION R-2023-388**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LAWRENCE SUPPORTING THE PROPER FOREST MANAGEMENT OF THE LANDS OF QUAKER FALLS RECREATIONAL AREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

**WHEREAS**, 11 dead and dying trees previously standing around the observation areas have been cut down, cut into logs and the logs have been piled adjacent the parking lot of the Quaker Falls County Park, Mahoning Township, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, with an estimated volume of 4,375 board feet referred to as Log Sale 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development negotiated an offer with, and reported that Omega Logging, Inc., PO Box 524., West Middlesex, PA 16159, has offered \$1,800.00 for the Log Sale 2023; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by County Board of Commissioners, that

1. Omega Logging, Inc. was successful in providing an offer for the dead unsafe trees in park area;
2. Omega Logging, Inc. will be onsite for timber removal within the next sixty (60) days;
3. The total amount of \$1,800.00 will be made payable to the County of Lawrence from Omega Logging, Inc.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve said Resolutions R-2023-387 and R-388. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION R-2023-389**

**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



## ORDINANCES

None

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be a Lawrence County Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the Washington Township Municipal Building.
- C. There will be a Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 12:00PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

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

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Lamb asked if the minimum bid for repository properties is \$500.00? The Commissioners stated that is the minimum bid amount.

Debbie Wachter asked about the repository property bidders, if they are from town or out of towners? She further asked if there are houses on these properties being purchased. The Commissioners referred her to the Tax Claim office. She asked about the Planning Grant for Resolution R-2023-387. The Commissioners referred her to the Planning Office.

Mr. Burick stated he will check with Artishia Foster, Director of Tax Claim, to see if she can add vacant lot or structure to the parcel sheet before bringing them to be put on the agenda.

Mr. Burick also stated there is an Election Board meeting today at 11:00AM.

The Commissioners congratulated Amy Lamb on her son receiving an award for the highest ranking public school in the nation.

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to adjourn the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at

10:50 AM. Motion carried 3-0.