

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 30, 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 30, 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, Dorothy Burchett, Robert Burchett, Joe Gierlach, Neshannock Twp., Leslie Bucci, Neshannock Twp., Rob Eckert, Union Twp., Scott Barth, North Beaver Twp., Grant McKinley, North Beaver Twp., Brian K. Swisher, Wilmington Twp., Al Burick, Shenango Twp., Frank Augustine, Shenango Twp., Brandon Rishel, Shenango Twp., Joe Pascoe, Shenango Twp., Candice Dunmire, Slippery Rock Twp., George Johnson, Slippery Rock Twp., Gary Pezzuolo, Mahoning Twp., Mark Sackin, Mahoning Twp., Dave Allegro, Taylor Twp., Cynthia Hall, Kathryn Rentz, John Logue, Vaughn Crisci, Dan Bailey, Richard Bayer, Janet Tucker, Amy Love, Amy Stapleton, 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

Dan Bailey, Vision Ministries, asked about the Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Board meeting next week.

Leslie Bucci, Neshannock Twp., stated she is not in favor of repealing Ordinance No. 4 of 2020. She stated the Supervisors will have no other choice than to raise taxes.

Grant McKinley, North Beaver Twp., stated he is not in favor of repealing Ordinance No. 4 of 2020. He stated they too will have to raise taxes.

Bob Burchett asked about ARISE.

Dick Bayer asked about the posted property on Pulaski Harbor Rd. in Neshannock Twp and if people can fish at the location. Leslie Bucci and Dan

Kennedy will check into it.

Brandon Rishel, Shenango Twp./South New Castle Borough, stated they are not in favor of repealing the Ordinance. They too will have to raise taxes.

Kathy Rentz asked why the Ordinance is up for discussion to be repealed?

John Logue stated he moved here from Southern New Jersey and found this area to be very fair. However, he feels the Ordinance needs to stay in place.

Scott Barth, North Beaver Twp., asked what Rich Fitzgerald's opinion was on the Ordinance when the Commissioners' met with him last week.

Mr. Vogler stated the funds are earmarked for Allegheny County's roads and bridges.

Brian Swisher, Wilmington Twp., stated he supports keeping the Ordinance in place. He, along with other municipalities have the Amish community that creates issues on the roads with their buggies.

Joe Gierlach, Neshannock Twp., asked why Luzerne, Fulton and Cambria counties rescinded the Ordinance?

Mr. Kennedy stated that Liquid Fuel money has continued to decrease over the years. If this Ordinance gets rescinded, Lawrence County is going backwards.

Gary Pezzuolo, Mahoning Twp., is in favor of keeping the Ordinance in place.

Rob Eckert, Union Twp., is in favor of keeping the Ordinance in place.

Frank Augustine, Shenango Twp., is in favor of keeping the Ordinance in place. He is disappointed in the Commissioners.

Mr. Sainato said he appreciated everyone attending today's meeting and input. He said everyone has a budget that you must stick to. If people are unhappy about the Ordinance being rescinded, they should contact the State representatives and legislators since the money comes from the State.

Janet Tucker stated she lives on social security and has no problem with the \$5 fee.

Dave Allegro, Taylor Twp., is a Supervisor of one of the smallest municipalities and if the Ordinance is rescinded, it will be difficult for them to find funds elsewhere.

Cynthia Hall stated she is very disappointed in the Commissioners that are in favor of rescinding the Ordinance. She stated everyone here today has made

educated opinions and Mr. Vogler and Mr. Sainato are not listening. She stated she is sorry she voted for Mr. Sainato.

Amy Stapleton stated she doesn't understand why the Commissioners would rescind the Ordinance. Why is this even an issue?

Mr. Vogler stated he has weighed both the pros and cons of the subject of the Ordinance but he has not changed his mind. He is consistent in his word and opinion from day one.

Dorothy Burchett stated she feels there are some that are in favor of rescinding the Ordinance.

Discussion was held on whether or not this could be a question to be put on the ballot and because it is a user fee, it cannot be put on the ballot.

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. January 25, 2024
 - 2. January 24, 2024
 - 3. January 23, 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:
 - a. Tuesday, January 23, 2024

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
 - a. Gateway-Living Treasures Wild Animal Park-Water Quality Management Part I Permit Renewal (Slippery Rock Twp.)
 - b. RAR Engineering Group, Inc.-422 Aggregates, Inc., Lacko Mine-14.7 acre Noncoal Surface Mine Permit Amendment (Slippery Rock Twp.)

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

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Sainato had no comment.

Mr. Kennedy had no comment.

Mr. Vogler reviewed the meetings they attended from the week.

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R-2024-28

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made funds available for assuring that transportation services are provided to eligible senior citizens who reside in the County; and

WHEREAS, these funds are made available to Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. through the Shared Ride Program for Older Adults under the provision of the State Lottery Law; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners wishes to provide funding for a portion of the required 15% co-payment for eligible individuals who are at least 65 years of age, and wish to participate in the Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping Program, to be provided by Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that;

1. The County of Lawrence does authorize payment to Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. in the amount of **\$ 5,165.00** as part of the required local co-payment for the Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping Program.
2. Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. will administer these funds and utilize them to provide the balance of the 15% co-payment required for eligible Senior Citizens who receive services through the Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping Program. Eligible consumers will be required to pay \$1.00 toward the required co-payment for each trip.
3. Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. will invoice the 85% balance of each Senior Citizen Nutritional Shopping trip to the PA Department of Transportation.

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

TRANSFERS (Administrative)

None

ORDINANCES

A. Discussion: None

B. On the Table:

1. Ordinance No. 1 of 2024: An Ordinance Rescinding Lawrence County Ordinance No. 4 of 2020

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to remove from the table.
Motion carried 2-1.

C. For Introduction: None

D. For Final Action:

1. Ordinance No. 1 of 2024: An Ordinance Rescinding Lawrence County Ordinance No. 4 of 2020, which implemented a fee for local use as provided by 75 Pa.C.S. §1935, allowing a County, in its discretion, to impose a county fee of \$5.00 for each nonexempt vehicle registered to an address located within its borders.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve Ordinance No. 1 of 2024. Motion carried 2-1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. The next Commissioners' Public Meeting will be held on February 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

B. There will be a Lawrence County Opioid Advisory Board Meeting February 6, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leslie Bucci, Neshannock Twp., stated she is very disappointed.

Dorothy Burchett asked about the warrant register process.

Dick Bayer stated he is very disappointed the Commissioners are not representing the people today and they made a big mistake.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 11:35 AM.