

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, November 28, 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, November 28, 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, County Administrator Joe Venasco, Chad Strobel, Amy McKinney, Courtney Accurti, Joe Bzorek (Michael Baker International), JR Hardester, Bob and Dorothy Burchett, Jeff Bishop, Plain Grove Township Supervisor and noone, 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, with the passing of Lee Silverman, who was on the Neshannock School Board and Gary Razanski and Don Reis, who were on the Ellwood City School Board to keep their families in their thoughts.

Mr. Vogler further stated there was no meeting last week, as the Commissioners were at the CCAP Fall Conference.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None.
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. November 21, 2023
 - 2. November 20, 2023
 - 3. November 17, 2023

4. November 15, 2023
5. November 14, 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, November 14, 2023

A correction was made to the Resolution R-2023-424 for repository property that was rejected and carried 3-0.

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
 1. Shenango Limestone and Storage Co., LLC-Application for an Air Quality Plan Approval for their Bugle Ridge Plant located at 1959 Union Valley Rd., (Shenango Twp.)
 2. Heidelberg Materials-Application for an Air Quality State Only Operating Permit for Midland Mine, Bessemer Quarry (North Beaver Twp.)

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

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Burick stated he attended the following meetings over the last two (2) weeks:

A grant workshop

The University of Pittsburgh-Institute of Politics-Mr. Burick stated Jim Roddey was from Allegheny County and he was a great asset to Western Pennsylvania.

The Holiday Parade on November 18th-it was a great turnout and so nice to see everyone downtown.

CCAP Fall Conference-great to see so many colleagues and attend the workshops.

He also thanked Dan and Loretta for being part of CCAP for so many years. Dan has been the District 2 Chairman and Loretta has been the Chairwoman of the Courts & Corrections Board.

Ms. Spielvogel stated she missed the parade since being at CCAP. She stated there will be 75 change overs across the state with new Commissioners being elected. She stated CCAP drives the priorities towards the legislators and there are many subjects that have been discussed and submitted to the legislators. Some of those are the 911 Department, MH/DS Department, the issues with juvenile cases, the Ag Extension office, Economic Development and Broadband throughout the County.

NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

R-2023-434

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety has entered a proposal to provide Subscription Based Web Application Services or Software as a Service (Saas) with OnSolve, LLC with its principal office at 780 West Granada Boulevard, Ormond Beach, FL 32714.

WHEREAS, OnSolve, LLC agrees to provide a one (1) year license commencing on January 1, 2024, which includes 24/7/365 uninterrupted CodeRed system access as well as other services explained in the Cost Proposal at an annual cost of Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-four Dollars and ten cents (\$8,894.10) annually.

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 OnSolve, LLC proposal to provide Subscription Based Web Application Services or Software as a Service (Saas) procurements not to exceed the total amount of Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-four Dollars and ten cents (\$8,894.10) annually.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2023-435

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Commissioners recognize there is a need for broadband expansion to bring service to currently unserved and underserved areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners directed the Department of Planning and

Community Development to pursue an assessment of gaps, needs, and interests; and

WHEREAS, the County engaged the professional services of Michael Baker International to gather data about the County through research, geographic information service mapping, surveys, public outreach, stakeholder engagement, and a task force; and

WHEREAS, the County documented areas needing service, identified broadband expansion opportunities, outlined potential projects, and provided goals and recommendations for advancing the County's broadband interests.

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

1. support broadband expansion and digital equity throughout the County, demonstrated by an initiative that captured qualitative and quantitative data;
2. documented the voids in existing broadband service to close the digital divide and bring internet access to everyone throughout the county;
3. developed a report outlining the state of broadband, identified project opportunity areas, and established actionable goals and next steps; and
4. hereby adopt the Broadband Expansion Study as prepared by Michael Baker International.

Courtney Accurti and Joe Bzorek from Michael Baker International gave a presentation on the findings of the Broadband Study. They thanked everyone for all involvement and had all positive reviews of the study. Jeff Bishop, Plain Grove Township Supervisor and Amy McKinney, Director of Planning were part of the team with Michael Baker that worked on the study.

The Commissioners thanked everyone involved and hope that all of Lawrence County residents receive the internet access they deserve and need.

Mr. Bzorek thanked the Commissioners for the County's vision and open communication.

Mr. Bishop stated COVID was really the eye opener for showing the necessity of internet for kids needing internet access to do school work from home.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-436

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence has received notification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development of the availability of funding in the projected amount of **\$622,739.00** (\$259,339.00) for the County of Lawrence, \$129,442.00 On Behalf of the Township of Shenango, \$105,641.00 On Behalf of the Township of Union and \$128,317.00 On Behalf of Ellwood City Borough) for the provision of services eligible under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to engage in the provision of services eligible under the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Shenango, the Township of Union and Ellwood City Borough have directed and agreed on the purpose of the CDBG funds set aside for their community; and

WHEREAS, the First Public Hearing was advertised and conducted on June 12, 2023 (at the County of Lawrence, at and On Behalf of Ellwood City Borough, at and On Behalf of Shenango Township and at and On Behalf of Union Township). The second Public hearing was advertised and conducted on September 26, 2023 (County of Lawrence and On Behalf of Shenango Township, Union Township and Ellwood City Borough) as required by the CDBG regulations, to obtain citizens views and comments concerning the proposed use of these funds.

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

1. The County shall prepare and submit a grant in the projected amount of \$622,739.00, to the Department of Community and Economic Development.
2. The County has chosen to allocate their allocation to the following eligible projects:
 - a. Housing Rehabilitation \$105,781.00 in non-entitlement communities
 - b. Public Services \$107,558.00
 - c. Program Administration \$46,000.00
3. The County of Lawrence on Behalf of Shenango Township has chosen to engage in Parks and Recreation and Program Administration.
4. The County of Lawrence on Behalf of Union Township has chosen to engage in Housing Rehabilitation and Program Administration.
5. The County of Lawrence on Behalf of Ellwood City Borough has chosen to engage in Curb Ramps, Housing Rehabilitation and Program Administration.
6. The said program activities will be administered in accordance with all State and Federal Regulations.

7. The Chairman Commissioner shall have the authority to execute all documents required by the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pertaining to the application and administration of the 2023 CDBG Program.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-437

Whereas DON ENTERPRISES INC has filed a tax appeal **DON ENTERPRISES INC vs LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS**, County of Lawrence at case number **70128 OF 2022** ; and

Whereas, all of the parties to that action have reached a compromised settlement regarding the value of the property, and

Whereas, the compromised settlement with the property designated by Parcel ID # **29-097100** will have a **ASSESSED** value of **LISTED BELOW** for **2023**. The value for this property is as follows:

Tax Year	Parcel Number	Land	Improvement	Total
2023	03018500	\$10,600	\$42,452	\$53,053
2023	03033000	\$8,300	\$45,990	\$54,290
2023	04145700	\$12,000	\$62,967	\$74,967
2023	03113300	\$27,000	\$85,337	\$112,337
2023	03113200	\$19,500	\$2,702	\$22,202

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: that County of Lawrence approves the compromise settlement with the property designated by Parcel ID ('s) **above** will have a **Assessed** value of **\$316,848** pursuant to the consent order.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-438

WHEREAS, **CYS Solicitor Nora DiBuono** has tendered her resignation;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to appoint Attorney **John Bongivengo** as the **CYS Solicitor**; and

1. Authorization is hereby given to the appropriate administrative officials to transfer a total of \$11,000.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-42.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-441

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 \$3,550.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-43.

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

RESOLUTION R-2023-442

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 \$9,980.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-44.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2023-443

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 \$5,000.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-45.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2023-444

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 \$9,980.00 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-44.

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

RESOLUTION

R-2023-445

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 \$1,145.91 described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2023-47.

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

TRANSFERS (ADMINISTRATIVE)

- a. JPO from Contingency to Telephone/Internet for \$1,000.00
- b. DJ Amodie from Contingency to Lease/Rental for \$570.00
- c. Public Safety from Travel & Training to Association Dues for \$1,212.00
- d. Commissioners from Contingency to Cable for \$327.60
- e. Prothonotary from Contingency to Staples for \$2,500.00
- f. CYS from Various Accounts to Various Accounts totaling \$401,200.00
- g. DJ Russo from Mat & Sup to Bond & Insurance for \$100.00
- h. Courts from Contingency to Various totaling \$4,931.00
- i. District Attorney from Transcripts to Toxicology for \$1,112.00
- j. Various Contingency Accounts to Access Land & Building totaling \$1,003.86

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

RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE

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

The resolution was left on the table.

ORDINANCES

- A. Discussion: None
B. On the Table: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be a Planning Commission Board meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 12:00 at The Crane Room.
- C. There is a vacancy on the Lawrence County Housing Authority. (1st Announcement)
- D. There are four (4) vacancies on the Lawrence County Industrial Development Authority. (1st Announcement)
- E. There is a vacancy on the Lawrence County Redevelopment Authority. (1st Announcement)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bishop thanked the Commissioners for the Broadband Study. He further stated that Pulaski Township uses tablets for their meetings, no paper packets to save paper and costs.

Mr. Burick stated this may be something for the new Board to look into and use technology instead of paper packets. Although, technology is always changing and updating.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Burick, seconded by Ms. Spielvogel to adjourn the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 11:20 AM. Motion carried 3-0.