

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, February 20, 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, February 20, 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, James Constant, Amy Stapleton, Amy Love, JoEllen Thomas, Al Burick, 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. Sainato introduced Antonio Nye, a Senior from Shenango High School who is job shadowing the Commissioners today.

Mrs. Burchett asked who and what does the Mission Barn do?

Mr. Vogler answered Mrs. Burchett by telling her the Mission Barn builds ramps for those that need them. There is a fund through the Register & Recorder's Office that was created by the State that dollars can be used towards these projects.

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- |                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Repository Properties:        | None                 |
| B. Advertise for bids/proposals: | None                 |
| C. Receipt for bids/proposals:   | None                 |
| D. Warrant Registers:            |                      |
|                                  | 1. February 15, 2024 |
|                                  | 2. February 12, 2024 |

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



2. The monthly cost and term of the contract is as follows:  
\$1,330.00 per month, for year one;  
\$1,409.80 per month, for year two;  
\$1,494.39 per month, for year three.
3. The appropriate County Officials are authorized to sign the necessary agreement forms.

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

### **RESOLUTION R-2024-34**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZING AN ALLOCATION FROM THE ACT 137 FUNDS TO MISSION BARN**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County Ordinance No. 203 of 1996 authorized the Recorder of Deeds to increase the fees charged for recording deeds and mortgages and to set aside a portion of those fees in a separate account to be used to fund affordable housing efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mission Barn is an independent non-profit corporation that works closely with The United Methodist Church in providing modular access ramps to individuals who need assistance in accessing their homes; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that the Mission Barn of 181 Columbus Drive, New Castle, PA, 16101, is hereby awarded \$15,000.00 from the Affordable Housing Fund to be used for the construction of access ramps to those in need throughout Lawrence County.

Mr. Sainato stated he has visited the Mission Barn many times and commends them for the work they do. The Mission Barn also helped residents during COVID with masks and supplies.

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

### **RESOLUTION R-2024-35**

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

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Coroner Scott Penwell holds the knowledge and expertise to efficiently conduct the duties of Deputy Coroner; and

**WHEREAS**, Deputy Coroner Scott Penwell has experience, including knowledge of past and current deaths Lawrence County; and

**WHEREAS**, duties shall include providing Coroner services and as requested by the County, Deputy Coroner shall report regularly to the County Coroner with updates regarding pending deaths and shall be supervised directly by the County Coroner; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; that:

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute a one (1) year consulting agreement with Scott Penwell for Deputy Coroner services from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; and
2. The total cost is \$35,000.00 made payable in 12 monthly installments.

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

**TRANSFERS (Administrative)**

None

**RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE**

None

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE TAKEN OFF THE TABLE**

None

**ORDINANCES**

- |                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| 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 February 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. The Prison Board Meeting is ***CANCELLED*** for tomorrow, Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 12:00 Noon.
- C. There will be a Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

- D. There will be a Special Election Board Meeting on Friday, February 23, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Constant stated he visited the Law Library for rental agreements and JoEllen Thomas, Law Librarian was more than helpful, she helped him immensely.

Mrs. Burchett asked if the Coroner and Deputy Coroners have other employment? Mr. Vogler stated they do.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 10:45 AM.