

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, October 17, 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 17, 2023, was called to order by **Commissioner Dan Vogler**, at 10:00 am at the Lawrence County Commissioners Meeting Room. Administrative Assistant, Kristine Venasco, called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Brian Burick Commissioner Loretta Spielvogel, Joe Venasco, Jerry Zona, John Kulnis, Vince Martwiniski, Rebecca Shaffer, Scott Baldwin, Dorothy Burchett, Bob Burchett, and New Castle News, none**. 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**

None

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- A. Repository Properties:
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals:      None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals:      None
- D. Warrant Registers:
  - 1. October 10, 2023
  - 2. October 11, 2023

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

**MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to approve said minutes with the correction of two grammatical errors in Mr. Burick's comments. Motion carried 3-0.

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. Mourice Waltz Planners & Consultants on behalf of the Wampum Borough Council, submission of two PENNVEST applications for financial assistance for installation of new potable water service lines and to replace potable water main lines (Wampum Borough).

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

## **REPORTS**

A. Staff Reports

None

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Burick stated that there was an Election Board meeting this week. He explained that Election Board requested that the Court of Common Pleas issue an order to change the canvassing date from November 10, 2023, to November 13, 2023, due to the courthouse being closed in observance of Veteran's Day. He attended the West Central Job Partnership meeting in Mercer County. He also attended the Lawrence County Learning Center meeting. They invited him to be a board member. Other meeting that he attended were the Lawrence County Planning Meeting, participated in a call with CCAP, the Lawrence County Career Fair, a reception for the recognition of a CYS employee, and a meeting with the insurance brokers for the County.

Ms. Spielvogel attended the Career Fair; she is a member of the board. She reported that there were a record number of vendors at the fair this year. Also, she reported that she is on the executive committee for interviewing candidates for the director for SWPC.

Mr. Vogler reported that there will be a new grocery store located in Call's Plaza, Bargain Market. This is the first store in Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Vogler also met with the County's insurance brokers. He reported that they presented cost estimates and proposals. There will be a 2% increase for the County. Mr. Vogler stated that the Commissioners were pleased with that number as other Counties are seeing double digit increases. Ms. Spielvogel added for clarification that the County will be absorbing that increase for the employees.

## **NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION R-2023-391**

**AGREEMENT TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE POLICING INITIATIVE  
BETWEEN THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION OF THE  
LAWRENCE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**AND**

**THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE**

WHEREAS, an Agreement has been entered into between the Office of the Lawrence County District Attorney and the City of New Castle to coordinate policing efforts between the Lawrence County District Attorney's Office Criminal Investigations Division and the New Castle City Police Department Detective Bureau. The terms of the agreement have been attached to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree and understand the need for uniformity and continuity in investigative policing activities throughout the City of New Castle, the County of Lawrence, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree and understand that a coordinated policing effort between the Lawrence County District Attorney's Office Criminal Investigations Division and the New Castle City Police Department Detective Bureau will increase and improve productivity, provide a framework for the sharing of information, and reduce the duplication of investigative policing services throughout the City of New Castle and the County of Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree to enter into an agreement of cooperation and partnership to establish the administrative framework for carrying out investigative policing services and activities in a coordinated countywide program as part of the Lawrence County District Attorney's Criminal Investigation Division.

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

1. The Agreement between the City of New Castle and Lawrence County as detailed in the attached agreement be accepted and ratified by the Lawrence County Commissioners.
- 2.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2023-392**

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to advertise an intent to adopt a Solid Waste Management Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence is directed through its Solid Waste Management Plan to implement said Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Solid Waste Management Plan includes provisions to address solid waste and recycling violations, and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of the ordinance will enable Lawrence County to address subsequent legislative and program changes and needs, and establish a sliding penalty scale for violations,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT BE RESOLVED** that the County advertise its intent to adopt a Solid Waste Management Ordinance.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2023-393**

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to apply for an Act 101, Section 901 County Planning Grant.

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection has provided for funds available under the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of July 28, 1988, and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence has embarked on a program to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection mandate to complete a county municipal solid waste management plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the County has begun the county recycling program, and

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has funding available to assist counties evaluate and plan recycling and solid waste programs, and

**WHEREAS**, the County intends to make an application to receive Act 101, Section 901 Grant funds from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that an application for funding an Act 101, Section 901 County Planning Grant be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

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

**RESOLUTION R- 2023-394**

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Lawrence County to apply for an Act 101, Section 904 Municipal Recycling Performance grant.

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Environmental Protection has provided for funds available under the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act of July 28, 1988, and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence has embarked on a program to comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection mandate to complete a county municipal solid waste management plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the County has begun the county recycling program, and

**WHEREAS**, The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has funding available to reward municipalities on their recycling performance, and

**WHEREAS**, the County intends to make an application to receive Act 101, Section 904 performance grant funds from the Department of Environmental Protection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that an application for funding an Act 101, Section 904 Recycling grant be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the materials collected during 2022.

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

#### **RESOLUTION R-2023-395**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence has contracted with Pitney Bowes for the operation of Electronic Return Receipt (ERR) Pro Shipping Software and PitneyShip Cubes for PitneyShip Pro for selected County offices, totaling ten (10) individual offices, and

**WHEREAS**, Pitney Bowes has determined it necessary to revise and update the current Software Agreement for services with the County for the ERR Pro Shipping Software and PitneyShip Cubes; and

**WHEREAS**, Pitney Bowes will continue to provide hardware, software, maintenance, rate updates, support, freight, delivery and installation with the Pro Shipping Software and PitneyShip Cubes; and

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute a sixty (60) month lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for the "PitneyShip Pro Shipping Software and PitneyShip Cubes" for ten (10) individual offices; and
2. The term of the contract is at a cost of:
  - a. \$302.00/month for a total of \$3,624.00/year; and
  - b. A savings of \$8,460.00 to the County per year compared to using the green card for certified mail pieces as we do today; and

3. The appropriate County Officials are authorized to sign the necessary agreement forms.

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

### **RESOLUTION R-2023 - 396**

**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.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023 - 397**

**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 Forget Me Knot Children & Youth Services 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:

**Forget Me Knot Children & Youth Services  
1628-30 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA. 19121**

Motin made by Mr. Burick, seconded by Ms. Spielvogel to approve said resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023 - 398**

**WHEREAS** the Mental Health and Developmental Services is responsible for the diagnosis, care, treatment, and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled, and

**WHEREAS** Lawrence County, through its Mental Health and Developmental Services desires to contract for certain services; and

**WHEREAS** the Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 and the Department of Public Welfare fiscal regulations provide for the purchase of office equipment and services, and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that:

1. The agreement listed in item 2 shall be approved starting July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023
2. Authorization is hereby given to execute the following addendum:  
**Thoughtful Needs, LLC** - as detailed in attachment designated 2023- 2024  
Program description and rates are also listed within the attachment.

Be it further resolved those payments be made from the MH/DS fund.

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

### **TRANSFERS (ADMINISTRATIVE)**

- a. Coroner from Act 182-Contignecy to Act 182- Maintenance & Repair for \$50.00
- b. MHDS from Drug & Alcohol to Contingency for \$26,001.00

### **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**

1. Recycling/Solid Waste  
Ordinance No. 2 of 2023- Municipal Waste Management Ordinance. (Tabled for further review and adoption of Ordinance shall take place on October 31, 2023

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. The Prison Board meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023 @ 12:00 noon is cancelled.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dorothy Burchette asked which homicide trial was taking place.

Mr. Burick announced that due to the resignation of Union Township supervisor, Vincent Gentile, the supervisors appointed Vince Fulena. Mr. Vogler noted that the Pulaski township supervisors appointed Lew Grell to fill a vacancy until the end of the year. Slippy Rock Township supervisors appointed Fred Yeager to fill the vacancy of Sonny Proch.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to adjourn the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 11:01 AM.