

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

Mr. Vogler asked that everyone keep in their thoughts the passing of Ken Shiderly, who was a former Mohawk Area School Board Member and Richard Ceni, who was a former County Controller.

The Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting of Tuesday, September 19, 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**, **Lisa Zarilla**, **Warden Mahlmeister**, **Andrew Henley**, **Terri Squeglia**, **Phil Tramdack**, **Ray Stouffer**, **Carissa Neary**, and **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**

Andrew Henley thanked the Commissioners and the community for their support to the New Castle Public Library. In a little over 3 weeks, the Library has fundraised \$50,000.00.

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- A. Repository Properties:           None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals:   None
- D. Warrant Registers:
  - 1. September 14, 2023
  - 2. September 13, 2023
  - 3. September 12, 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, September 12, 2023

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
  - a. Mohawk Area School District-County Notification of Planned Land Development for Chapter 102 Permits-Proposing to construct a new girls softball field with synthetic turf, renovate the existing boys baseball field infield with the addition of new synthetic turf and regraded grass outfield and construct a new concession stand/restroom building. Additional storm water management and collection facilities are also proposed. (North Beaver Twp.)

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

### REPORTS

- A. Staff Reports None
  
- B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Vogler stated this weekend there are two (2) businesses with ribbon cutting events; the Union Street Distillery on E. Washington Street and the Neshannock Creek Brewery on S. Mercer Street. He further stated McConnell's Mill Heritage Festival is this weekend as well. The Commissioners attended the New Castle Public Library and The Hoyt Center Events last week as well. He will be attending the PCOMP board meeting this week in Harrisburg. He further stated the Commissioners received a Press Release from Norfolk Southern regarding the Value Assurance Program (VAP). He congratulated Commissioner Spielvogel on winning the Venti Se sauce and meatball trophy.

Mr. Burick's comments were as follows: All 3 commissioners attended the Forward Lawrence Annual Impact Awards ceremony and luncheon last Friday- I want to publicly congratulate the awardees: 5 businesses received awards. They were New Castle Playhouse, Classi-co Food/Pizza Joes/Daystar Marketing, Pyrotecnico, Avalon Field Club at New Castle, Bruce & Merrilees. Also honored were two individuals: Kimberly Koller-Jones who received the Robert Del

Signore, Sr. Award for Leadership in Public Service and Justin Kirkwood who got the Sam B. Biasucci Leadership Award for Board Service.

I also wanted to note for the record that a former county elected row office has passed away. Richard Cini was elected as County Controller in November 1991 and served one term from 1992 to January 1996. His election indirectly benefitted me and my political career because he previously had worked as a legislative aide to State Representative Thomas J. Fee. When he took office at the courthouse, that created an opening on Rep. Fee's legislative staff and I was hired to fill that role. That job with the PA House of Representatives helped me to learn first-hand how government and the political process worked and the many people I met and assisted through that office helped me later win election to the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Spielvogel stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Drug & Alcohol Event will be held Friday, September 29, 2023 from 10-2 at the Drug & Alcohol Office. September is National Recovery Month. There are 40-50 people representing Lawrence County in Washington DC for the National Recovery Day. She further stated the Visit Lawrence County Board had their meeting last week at a new business in Perry Township, The Inn at Water's Edge. It is a very beautiful, scenic and rustic retreat that will be opening within the next couple of months.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-348**

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**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County Corrections will currently, or have retroactively, establish(ed) and implement(ed) activities which are designed to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 infections and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in confinement facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of the PA Department of Health (PADOH), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) is now accepting applications for funding to be utilized for the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 in local and county confinement facilities through the performance of COVID-19 testing and analysis for staff and inmates of facilities; and

**WHEREAS** The PCCD will fund a budget, via a formula that is based on the population size of Lawrence County, of \$94,418.00 for a 24 month with a retroactive start date of August 1, 2022, and an end date of July 31, 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 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2023-349**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO CASTLE ASPHALT AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR THE LAWRENCE COUNTY PAVEMENT SEALING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF NEW CASTLE AND HICKORY TOWNSHIP, LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Commissioners' Engineering Firm, Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc. publicly advertised for the receipt of proposals for the completion of the Lawrence County Parking Lot Sealing Project in the City of New Castle and Hickory Township on August 29 and September 1, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Castle Asphalt and Construction, LLC., submitted a proposal to complete the project, such proposal being reviewed and recommended by Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc.; and

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

1. Castle Asphalt and Construction, LLC., 402 Sampson Street, New Castle, PA 16101, is authorized to complete the Lawrence County Parking Lot Sealing Project in the City of New Castle and Hickory Township, Lawrence County as specified in the attached bid documents and Agreement; and
2. The contract is for 30 calendar days and the total base bid contract amount is \$117,790.46 for the Lawrence County Courthouse Campus (City of New Castle), the Lawrence County Children and Youth Services Facility (City of New Castle) and the Lawrence County Department of Public Safety Facility (Hickory Township).

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

**RESOLUTION R-2023-350**

**WHEREAS**, Section 603 of the federal American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"), which became law on March 11, 2021, establishes a Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("FRF" or "Local Fiscal Recovery Fund"); and

**WHEREAS**, the American Rescue Plan Act requires that Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money be used for expenditures on or after March 3, 2021

(1) to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts; (2) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the applicable local government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the local government; (3) for premium pay for essential workers; and (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is distributing Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money to eligible entities for permissible expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has allocated two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) to the New Castle Library for Infrastructure; and

**NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED**, by the Lawrence County Commissioners, that the Board of Commissioners approves an allocation of two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) to the New Castle Library.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-351**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1784 of the County Code, *Supplemental Appropriations Transfer of Funds; Appropriation Limits*, authorizes the Board of Commissioners, by resolution, to make supplemental appropriations for any lawful purpose from any funds on hand or estimated to be received within the fiscal year and not otherwise appropriated; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2023 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2023 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** Veterans Transportation Grant General Revenue Fund Account: 01334021.334162 by \$10,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Other Services General Expense Fund Account: 01449400.805000 by \$10,000.00; and

**Reason: Veterans Transportation Grant**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2023-352**

**WHEREAS**, Section 1784 of the County Code, *Supplemental Appropriations Transfer of Funds; Appropriation Limits*, authorizes the Board of Commissioners,

by resolution, to make supplemental appropriations for any lawful purpose from any funds on hand or estimated to be received within the fiscal year and not otherwise appropriated; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2023 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2023 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** CDBG Revenues CDBG Revenue Fund Account: 56331000.331000.14228 by \$10,000.00; and

**INCREASING** County Admin 2020 CDBG Expense Fund Account: 56418000.999900.54384 by \$10,000.00; and

***Reason: CDBG Budget Correction***

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

**TRANSFERS (ADMINISTRATIVE)**

- a. MHDS from ID Services Base to ID Case Management for \$12,000.00
- b. MHDS from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$5,000.00
- c. Public Defender from Contingency to Client Transportation for \$500.00
- d. Jail from Part/Temp Guards to Telephones for \$4,300.00
- e. CYS from Contracted Services to Court Related Costs for \$10,000.00
- f. APO from Contingency to Vehicle Expense for \$1,010.00
- g. Courts from Contingency to Uniforms for \$300.00
- h. Prothonotary from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$3,000.00
- i. DJ Nicholson from Contingency to Subscriptions for \$163.00
- j. Coroner from Contingency to Telephone for \$1,304.00

Moved by Mr. Burick, seconded by Ms. Spielvogel to approve said administrative transfer(s). 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**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will a Prison Board meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Andrew Henley thanked the Commissioners for their contribution today. Mr. Burick thanked everyone from the Library for attending today and their hard work within the Library. He further stated there is a Narcan training at the Courthouse from 1-3 Thursday. He thanked the Visit Lawrence County Board for inviting the Commissioners to The Inn at The Water's Edge and wishes the new business well.

Mr. Vogler stated the main house at The Inn at The Water's Edge was built In 1940 by a wealthy businessman from Pittsburgh, PA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Burick to adjourn the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 11:00 AM.