

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, February 27, 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 27, 2024, was called to order by **Commissioner Daniel Vogler**, at 10:00 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners Meeting Room. Administrative Assistant, Kristine Venasco, called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, James Constant, Frederick Smith, Michael Grippo, Bill Blose, Judge Motto, John Bout, Jim Bish, Josh Carroll, Dorothy Burchett, Robert Burchett, 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**

None

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

A. Repository Properties:

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-37**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Tiffany Cooper placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Denver Ave, Parcel ID No. 05-110900; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Denver Ave., with a Parcel ID No. 05-110900; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Tiffany Cooper in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Denver Ave., and having a Parcel ID No. 05-110900, New Castle.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-38**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Tiffany Cooper placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 411 Denver Ave, Parcel ID No. 05-106400; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 411 Denver Ave., with a Parcel ID No. 05-106400; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Tiffany Cooper in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 411 Denver Ave., and having a Parcel ID No. 05-106400, New Castle.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-39**

**WHEREAS**, all bids made to purchase property from the Lawrence County Tax Claim Bureau Repository must be approved by the taxing municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Tiffany Cooper placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at Denver Ave, Parcel ID No. 05-153000; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Denver Ave., with a Parcel ID No. 05-153000; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Board is authorized to execute the Bid Acceptance Form accepting the bid made by Tiffany Cooper in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at Denver Ave., and having a Parcel ID No. 05-153000, New Castle.

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

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals:                      None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals:                        None

D. Warrant Registers:

1. February 20, 2024

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

**MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Approval of Minutes:

1. Tuesday, February 13, 2024

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc. – Joshua W. Haynie-801 Friday’s Hill Rd., New Castle, PA 16101- Single Residence Sewage Treatment Plant to replace the Malfunctioning septic system. (Wayne Twp.).

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to accept and file the written communication. Motion carried 3-0.

**REPORTS**

A. Staff Reports:

None

B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Kennedy reported that the Commissioners visited the Lodge at Water’s Edge. He explained that it is a resort on the creek, and he was very impressed with it. He said it was nice to see a young person doing something great in Lawrence County. He also noted that he attended the SPC meeting in Pittsburgh where he met a lot of nice people and enjoyed it.

Mr. Vogler reported that he also enjoyed the visit to the Lodge at Water’s Edge. He noted that is in Perry Township. He also mentioned that the Commissioners attended the Leadership Lawrence County Day which they participated and spoke at. He also attended the Volunteer Fire Dinner this past Saturday. Mr. Vogler also explained that he was asked to tour the Goodwill offices which are based in Youngstown. He noted that Lawrence County has a Goodwill store in Shenango Township on Route 65. Mr. Vogler announced that next week the board will not have a meeting, as the Commissioners will be at the Spring CCAP Conference. Also, March 20, 2024, will be the start

of a year long celebration for Lawrence County's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be a ceremony at 4:00 in courtroom 1.

Mr. Sainato reported that it has been a very productive week. He serves on the Tourist Promotion Agency, so he had the opportunity to meet Gwendolyn Reno, owner of the Lodge at Water's Edge. Mr. Sainato also stated that the Leadership Lawrence County meeting was attended by a lot of young professionals. He also attended the Volunteer Fire dinner on Saturday. He also noted that he and Commissioner Kennedy are still making visits to all the departments in the county and are enjoying learning all the operations. Mr. Sainato also attended SPC and enjoyed it.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION R-2024-40**

**WEST NILE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County has submitted an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for funding the West Nile Surveillance Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to enter into an agreement with an independent contractor to conduct mosquito surveillance within the County to identify and eradicate the West Nile virus; and

**WHEREAS**, Dennis Stich desires to provide the necessary services under the terms and conditions of said grant; and

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

1. Authorization is approved to enter into an agreement with Dennis Stich to conduct mosquito surveillance in Lawrence County for the West Nile virus; and
2. The cost of the agreement shall not exceed \$22,000.00; and
3. Mr. Stich shall be reimbursed mileage at \$.67 per documented mile.

Mr. Vogler asked that the mileage be updated on the resolution from .655 to .67/mile. He also noted that the employees are not county employees.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024 -41**

**WHEREAS**, the commissioners desire to enter into a professional contract with Northwest Media, Inc., with its principal place of business at 326 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene, Oregon, 97401; and

**WHEREAS**, the contract for Foster Parent College Online Training Course for March 1, 2024, will expire on March 2, 2025. The parties want to extend and continue said Contract, through March 1, 2025, contract year providing access to 93 individuals, through our Lawrence County Foster Care Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the fixed annual cost for usage is \$4,650; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners to enter into a professional contract with Northwest Media, Inc.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024 -42**

**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 People R US Community Residential Services, Inc. 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:

**People R US Community Residential Services Inc.  
2101-03 W. Tioga Street  
Philadelphia, PA. 19140**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-36**

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County and Teamsters Local #261 are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that expires on December 31, 2026 and that covers Court appointed employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties agree to the terms of the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the attached amended appendices; and

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

1. Authorization is given to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the amended appendices regarding Teamsters Local #261; and
2. The experienced Court Reporters shall be paid at the Appendix A rate attached to the existing CBA; and
3. The Chairman Commissioner is hereby authorized to execute all documents pertaining to the Memorandum of Understanding.

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

**TRANSFERS (Administrative)**

- a. MDJ Amodie from postage to materials and supplies for \$450.00.

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

**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 March 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will not be a commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, due to the Commissioners being at CCAP.
- C. There will be a Prison Board Meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Burchett asked what was the name of the Air B & B, if the Conservation employees are not employed by the county, why do they still ask for approval, and how many foster parents are there in the county?

Mr. Vogler answered that the name is the Lodge at Water's Edge. He explained that even though the Conservation staff are not employed by the county, it is a formality, and the regulations require that they ask for approval since it is state dollars.

Mr. Bout explained that there are about 25 foster parents that pertain to the foster care program within CYS. They also contract with outside agencies. In total there are around 300.

Mrs. Burchett also mentioned that there is a statue in Italy and there is going to be a replica sent to St. Mary's church that will be dedicated March 9, 2024.

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 11:05 AM.