

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, January 16, 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, January 16, 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, Michael Occhibone, Dorothy Burchett, Robert Burchett, 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-2024-15**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Simpson placed a bid of \$599.00 on property located at Pearlwood Street, Parcel ID No. 34-286800; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Pearlwood Street, with a Parcel ID No. 34-286800; 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 William Simpson in the amount of \$599.00 for Repository Property located at Pearlwood Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 34-286800, Union Twp.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-16**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Simpson placed a bid of \$599.00 on property located at Pearlwood Street, Parcel ID No. 34-286900; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Pearlwood Street, with a Parcel ID No. 34-286900; 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 William Simpson in the amount of \$599.00 for Repository Property located at Pearlwood Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 34-286900, Union Twp.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-17**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Simpson placed a bid of \$599.00 on property located at Pearlwood Street, Parcel ID No. 34-287000; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Pearlwood Street, with a Parcel ID No. 34-287000; 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 William Simpson in the amount of \$599.00 for Repository Property located at Pearlwood Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 34-287000, Union Twp.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-18**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Simpson placed a bid of \$599.00 on property located at Wood Street, Parcel ID No. 34-338900; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Wood Street, with a Parcel ID No. 34-338900; 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 William Simpson in the amount of \$599.00 for Repository Property located at Wood Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 34-338900, Union Twp.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-19**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Simpson placed a bid of \$599.00 on property located at Wood Street, Parcel ID No. 34-338000; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at Wood Street, with a Parcel ID No. 34-338000; 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 William Simpson in the amount of \$599.00 for Repository Property located at Wood Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 34-338000, Union Twp.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve Resolutions R-2024-15 through Resolution R-2024-19. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-20**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Bowden placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 415 Epworth Street, Parcel ID No. 04-019800; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 415 Epworth Street, with a Parcel ID No. 0-019800; 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 William Bowden in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 415 Epworth Street, and having a Parcel ID No. 01-019800, City of New Castle.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-21**

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

**WHEREAS**, William Bowden placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 1014 Glenn Avenue, Parcel ID No. 06-034800; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 1014 Glenn Avenue, with a Parcel ID No. 06-034800; 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 William Bowden in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 1014 Glenn Avenue, and having a Parcel ID No. 06-034800, City of New Castle.

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

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
  - 1. January 11, 2024
  - 2. January 10, 2024
  - 3. January 9, 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:
  - a. Tuesday, January 9, 2024

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

- B. Presentation of Written Communications:
  - a. Frank B. Taylor Engineering, Inc.-Graceland Road Bridge Replacement-Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit (Neshannock Twp.)

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to file written correspondence.  
Motion carried 3-0.

**REPORTS**

- A. Staff Reports: None
- B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Sainato stated it has been very busy the Commissioners' first two (2) weeks in office. The new Commissioners have visited with some Department Heads and will continue meeting in the coming weeks. It is a very positive atmosphere in the office. Yesterday, Mr. Sainato attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. ceremony where the principal of New Castle High School spoke and gave a very upbeat speech.

Mr. Vogler thanked Mr. Sainato for attending and representing the Commissioners at the ceremony yesterday. The three (3) Commissioners and the three (3) Mercer County Commissioners are on the West Central Board. They must choose a Chairman and Dan Vogler will be the Chairman for six (6) months and then a new Chairman will be chosen.

Mr. Kennedy thanked Mr. Sainato as well for attending yesterday's ceremony. He stated the first couple weeks in office have been very interesting and thanked both Mr. Vogler and Mr. Sainato for working together and thinks the three (3) will be a great team.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**R-2024-22**

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services for a court appointed Truancy Master and;

**WHEREAS, Susan M. Papa, Esquire** desires to provide such services to the County .

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute an agreement with Susan M. Papa, Esquire an attorney at law with offices at 439 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101 for the provision of Truancy Court as assigned by the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas.
2. The agreement shall be effective for the period **January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024** unless terminated sooner by either party.
3. The compensation for such services shall be \$85.00 per hour to be paid on a monthly basis.

All payments will be made by electronic transfer.

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

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**R-2024-23**

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to enter into an agreement for professional legal services for a court appointed Custody Master and;

**WHEREAS, Deborah Shaw Esquire** desires to provide such services to the County.

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to execute an agreement with Deborah Shaw, Esquire an attorney at law with offices at 1906 Wilmington Road, New Castle, PA 16105 for the provision of custody conferences as assigned by the Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas pursuant to Local Rule L. 1915.3.
2. This agreement shall be effective for the period **January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024** unless terminated sooner by either party.
3. The compensation for such services shall be \$85.00 per hour to be paid on a monthly basis.

All payments will be made by electronic transfer.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-24**

**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 the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2024 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2024 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** Grant Disbursement 911 Fund Revenue Account: 50334000.355002 by \$130,818.00; and

**INCREASING** Lawrence NG911 GIS Post Mitigation Project (2024) 911 Fund Expense Account: 50421693.403000.23129 by \$25,000.00; and

**INCREASING** WestCORE ESInet Maintenance Project (2024) 911 Fund Expense Account: 50421693.403000.23129 by \$8,590.00; and

**INCREASING** ICORRS Master Site Maintenance Project (2024) 911 Fund Expense Account: 50421693.403000.23157 by \$63,441.29; and

**INCREASING** Butler/Lawrence Shared Recorder Project (2024) 911 Fund Expense Account: 50424393.403000.23183 by \$13,597.50; and

**INCREASING** Lawrence ILEC Post Mitigation Legacy Project (2024) 911 Fund Expense Account: 50421693.403000.23038 by \$20,188.75

**Reason: WestCORE Upgrade and Maintenance**

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-25**

**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 the intent of the Board of Commissioners to adjust the existing FY2024 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2024 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** Planning-Grants & Programs Revenues General Fund Revenue Account: 01334013.331000 by \$35,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Planning-Grants & Programs Expenses General Fund Expense Account: 01418000.802500 by \$35,000.00

**Reason: PCOMP Safety Grant**

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

**TRANSFERS (Administrative)**

- A. DJ Cartwright from Contingency to Travel & Training for \$475.00
- B. Commissioners from Capital Projects Contingency to Capital Projects Other Improvements for \$54,510.46
- C. Jail from Mat & Supplies to Maintenance & Repairs for \$100,000.00

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

**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 January 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
  
- B. There will be a Prison Board Meeting today at 12:00 noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.

Mr. Vogler noted there was a legal ad placed in Saturday, January 13, 2024 New Castle News for the prison board meeting today, to elect a new chairperson.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 10:45 AM.