

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, March 19, 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, March 19, 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, Dorothy Burchett, Bob Burchett, Amy McKinney, Anita McKeever, Robert DiBuono, 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.

Mr. Vogler noted that Marsha Anderson passed away. She was well known in the County and previously served on the Laurel School Board.

ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL

A. Repository Properties:

RESOLUTION

R-2024-53

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

WHEREAS, Sarah Kennedy placed a bid of \$500.00 on property located at 3053 Harlansburg Road, Parcel ID No. 30-903241; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence wishes to accept the above bid for property located at 3053 Harlansburg Road, with a Parcel ID No. 30-903241; 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 Sarah Kennedy in the amount of \$500.00 for Repository Property located at 3053 Harlansburg Road, and having a Parcel ID No. 30-903241, Scott Twp.

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

- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals: None
- D. Warrant Registers:
 - 1. March 15, 2024
 - 2. March 12, 2024

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

MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Approval of Minutes:

- 1. Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

- 1. Evergreen Mobile Home Park ONPDES Permit Renewal-4971
Matthews Road, Edinburg, PA (Mahoning 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. Sainato reviewed the meetings from the last week. He stated that he and Commissioner Kennedy both attended the All Aboard meeting in Ellwood City. He stated the entity is very impressive and positive for the County.

Mr. Vogler stated he attended the Planning Commission meeting and the Lawrence County Fire Fighters Association meeting last week. He also stated that on July 20th Enon Valley has their Community Day. Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 20th is Lawrence County's 175th Anniversary Celebration. Two (2) former Commissioners, Elizabeth Verterano and Brian Burick have co-chaired the committee and all involved have done a wonderful job. Ian Baker, flag designer will be speaking and also Lt. Governor, Austin Davis will be speaking.

Mr. Kennedy agreed with Commissioner Sainato regarding All Aboard in Ellwood City. He further stated that on Channel 11 News this morning a story involving the training of the New Castle Police aired. This is very positive for the City's Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION R-2024-54

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence is using a Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Keystone Communities Program;

WHEREAS, the funds are to be used for the Ellwood City Façade Program;

WHEREAS, eligible applicants can apply and receive up to \$5,000 dollars towards Façade improvement;

WHEREAS, the County has received an application from the attached qualifying business owners and the Façade Steering Committee has reviewed and approved the applications for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board Commissioners that the Commissioners hereby enters into an agreement with the attached businesses for the Ellwood City Façade Grant.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-55

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence County owns and maintains recreational areas throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of these recreational areas include, but not limited to ingress and egress to the park, a culvert replacement is needed to permit the public access to the facility; and

WHEREAS, the County of Lawrence is requesting bids from contractors to complete the above mentioned items at the County owned recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, the County will advertise for bids on March 25, 2024 and March 29, 2024 with bids being due on April 15, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners that the Board of Commissioners will be advertising for bids for "West Park Road Culvert Replacement", with bids being due on April 15, 2024.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-56

WHEREAS, County Ordinance No. 203 of 1996 titled *Increasing the Recording Fees of Deeds and Mortgages to Support and/or Enhance the County of Lawrence Local Affordable Housing Efforts* authorized the Recorder of Deeds to increase the fees charged for recording deeds and mortgages; and

WHEREAS, 85% of the additional revenue is set aside in a separate account to be used to fund affordable housing efforts in Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, DON Enterprises, Inc. would like to start a program for a First Time Low-Moderate Homebuyer or Prospective Homeowner Closing Cost Grant Program for persons obtaining homes in Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, these potential homeowners are often unable to obtain their first home due to insufficient funding for closing costs and a grant program of \$50,000.00 would greatly assist in fulfilling their home ownership dream; and

WHEREAS, DON Enterprises, Inc. staff will administer this program; and

WHEREAS, this program allows the administering organization a fee for these activities;

WHEREAS, DON Enterprises, Inc. intends to charge a \$200 administration fee per grant, e.g. approximately \$4,600.00 will be identified for the administration of the program and a total of approximately \$45,400.00 will be available for the approved participants of the program; and

WHEREAS, approximately 23 new homebuyers or prospective homeowners will benefit from the program and DON Enterprises, Inc. expects the funding will be expended within 24 months of its initiation and DON Enterprises, Inc. would be willing to accept the sum of \$50,000.00 to hold for eligible participants; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that DON Enterprises will be allocated \$50,000.00 from the Affordable Housing fund to be used for the First-Time Low/Moderate Homebuyers or Prospective Homeowner Closing Cost Grant Program.

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

RESOLUTION R-2024-57

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 Transfer from DEA/TFO General Revenue Fund Account: 01391000.391146 by \$20,000.00 and;

INCREASING DA Overtime General Expense Fund Account: 01419400.110400 by \$20,000.00 and;

Reason: Transfer from DEA/TFO

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

RESOLUTION

R-2024-58

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 Prior Year Balance General Revenue Fund Account: 01390000.342000 by \$200,000.00 and;

INCREASING Miscellaneous Allocation General Expense Fund Account: 01457700.999900 by \$200,000.00 and;

Reason: Allocation to New Castle Public Library

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

TRANSFERS (Administrative)

- a. DJ Cartwright from Contingency to Maintenance & Repairs for \$91.50
- b. Tax Claim from Contracted Consultants to Association Dues for \$150.00
- c. Juvenile Probation from Contingency to Office Equipment for \$2,300.00
- d. Various Accounts from Contingency and Postage to Equipment Lease/Rental for \$3,600.00
- e. District Attorney from Staff Overtime to Toxicology for \$20,000.00

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 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be a Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 12:00 Noon in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- C. The 175th Anniversary of Lawrence County Celebration will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 beginning at 4pm in Courtroom #1 of the Lawrence County Government Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dorothy Burchett asked how many do the Commissioners expect to attend tomorrow's 175th Anniversary Celebration?

Mr. Vogler answered 125 tickets were sold.

Bob Burchett feels the County is a cash cow for different entities constantly requesting funds.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:50 AM.