

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, November 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, November 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, Dave Prestopine, Mike Grippo, JR Hardester, Kurt Fryer, Stephen Cardella, Rebecca Shaffer, Rich Hoover 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 Property: None
- B. Advertise for bids/proposals: None
- C. Receipt for bids/proposals:

- 1. ADA-Curb Ramp Improvement Project Bid Opening  
(Ellwood City Borough)

a. (2) bids were received

- 1) Fryer Excavating-Beaver Falls, PA-\$88,426.11
    - 2) M&B Services-Clarion, PA-\$114,899.79

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to table said bids for further review. Motion carried 3-0.

- D. Warrant Registers:

- 1. November 8, 2024
  - 2. November 12, 2024
  - 3. November 13, 2024
  - 4. November 14, 2024
  - 5. November 15, 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. November 12, 2024

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. RAR Engineering-Acts 14, 67, 68 and 127 Ellwood Remelt Steel-A-Space Building Expansion (City of New Castle)
2. GAI Consultants-Acts 14, 67, 68 and 127 National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation Line N12 South Insertion Project (Perry 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

DK, CS, DV

Mr. Kennedy stated he and Mr. Sainato attended the Dyslexia Dinner at the Scottish Rite Cathedral on Saturday evening. It was a nice event.

Mr. Sainato stated the Dyslexia Dinner was very nice. He also attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Westfield Church in North Beaver Township.

Mr. Vogler stated last Thursday, he attended a ceremony in where the New Castle Police received a grant from Lt. Governor Austin Davis. He also attended the Forward Lawrence Dinner @ the Scottish Rite Cathedral. He further stated starting tomorrow at 9AM, all 67 counties in the state of Pennsylvania will begin the recount for the race of the PA Senator. The deadline to recount is next Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> @ 12 Noon and the deadline for the election results to be certified is next Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 12 Noon. Mr. Vogler also stated he attended the Canal Crossing on S. Mercer Street and congratulated the Historical Society on what a wonderful job they did.

**NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION R-2024-348**

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has made one-time funds available to the County of Lawrence for the sole purpose of retaining and attracting vehicle operators for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program; and

**WHEREAS**, these funds were paid to the County of Lawrence in October 2024, in the amount of \$184,675.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County Social Services is the Medical Assistance Transportation Provider Administrator on behalf of the County of Lawrence; and

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence County Social Services wishes to disperse these funds in accordance with directives provided by the PA Department of Human Services to the three (3) transportation providers providing MATP trips.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners, that;

1. The County of Lawrence authorizes payment to Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. in the amount of **\$184,675.00**.
  
2. Lawrence County Social Services, Inc. will disperse these funds to the three (3) transportation providers based on the proportion of trips each provider delivered during Fiscal Year 2022-23 in the following amounts:
  - a. Allied Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc.                   \$154,007.10
  - b. New Castle Area Transit Authority                                   \$ 29,397.17
  - c. Noga Wheelchair Transport Service                                   \$ 1,270.73

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

**RESOLUTION                                   R-2024-349**

**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 Phoenix House, LLC shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2024, through June 30, 2025.
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:

**Phoenix House, LLC  
800 York Road, Cottage 33  
Warminster, PA. 18974**

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-350**

See attached to minutes.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-351**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Commissioners approved Resolution R-2024-334 on November 7, 2024 to implement a Countywide Burn Ban; and

**WHEREAS**, upon the recommendation of the Public Safety Director, the Pennsylvania Department of State and the upcoming weather forecast, the Countywide Burn Ban shall no longer be in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Countywide Burn Ban is no longer effective as of November 19, 2024, upon approval of this Resolution;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, that the Countywide Burn Ban is no longer effective as of November 19, 2024, upon approval of this Resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024- 352**

**WHEREAS**, 53 P.S. Section 8853 states that each county may establish temporary auxiliary appeal boards;

**WHEREAS**, said auxiliary boards shall be composed of three residents of the county trained in accordance with section 8852 on the Consolidated County Assessment law.

**WHEREAS**, 53 P.S. Section 8853 (d) states The County Commissioners may create a poll of qualified residents for potential service as auxiliary appeal board members;

**WHEREAS**, the pool shall be subject to revision or rescission at any time by the county commissioners;

**WHEREAS**, pool members shall not be entitled to any salary unless serving on an auxiliary appeal board;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that the pool of auxiliary appeal board members contain the following residents;

**John McConahy**

4841 Matthews Rd

Edinburg, Pa 16116

(Mahoning Township)

**Joseph Carofino**

4647 Ellwood Rd

New Castle, Pa 16101

(Wayne Township)

**Charles T Dean**

2189 State Route 956

Volant, Pa 16156

(Wilmington Township)

**Cheryl Watters-Kelliher**

408 E Hazelcroft Ave

New Castle, Pa 16105

(City of New Castle)

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-353**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners created a five-member Agricultural Land Preservation Board through Resolution R-2004-190; and

**WHEREAS**, said Board was authorized to administer the Lawrence County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program on behalf of the Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, from time to time, the term of these Board members expire and must be filled; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural land Preservation Board has recommended individuals to fill positions on the Board; and

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

1. Debra Kennedy, 2956 State Route 208, New Wilmington, PA 16142 (Wilmington Township) is re-appointed to the Lawrence County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 3 year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 2-0-1 with Mr. Kennedy abstaining.

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-354**

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**WHEREAS**, said Board was authorized to administer the Lawrence County Agricultural Conservation Easement Program on behalf of the Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, from time to time, the term of these Board members expire and must be filled; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural land Preservation Board has recommended individuals to fill positions on the Board; and

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

1. Loren Elder, 4105 Old Mercer Road, New Castle, PA 16105 (Wilmington Township) is re-appointed to the Lawrence County Agricultural Land Preservation Board for a 3 year term to expire on December 31, 2027.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-355**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Planning Department has requested that the name of Larry Lambo be re-appointed as a board member pending the approval of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Lawrence County Planning Department that the name listed above be re-appointed to serve as a board member of the Lawrence County Planning Commission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**; that the following shall be re-appointed to the Lawrence County Planning Commission for the term listed:

1. Larry Lambo, 150 Lakewood Road, New Castle, PA 16101 (Hickory Township) be re-appointed to the Lawrence County Planning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2028.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-356**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Planning Department has requested that the name of James Blundo be re-appointed as a board member pending the approval of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Lawrence County Planning Department that the name listed above be re-appointed to serve as a board member of the Lawrence County Planning Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**; that the following shall be re-appointed to the Lawrence County Planning Commission for the term listed:

1. James Blundo, 3218 Sequoia Drive, New Castle, PA 16105 (Neshannock Township) be re-appointed to the Lawrence County Planning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2028.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-357**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Planning Department has requested that the name of Frank Telesz be re-appointed as a board member pending the approval of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended by the Lawrence County Planning Department that the name listed above be re-appointed to serve as a board member of the Lawrence County Planning Commission; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**; that the following shall be re-appointed to the Lawrence County Planning Commission for the term listed:

1. Frank Telesz Jr., 1421 State Route 956, Volant, PA 16156 (Washington Township) be re-appointed to the Lawrence County Planning Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2028.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-358**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners applied for membership to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission and was accepted; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 7 of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Bylaws authorizes each member county to have the right to appoint five (5) individuals of which two shall be County Commissioners of the member governing body, two of which shall be private citizens residing in the appointing member county, and one shall be an elected official from a local government located in the member county. (This appointment may be a county commissioner.)

**WHEREAS**, Article 9 states that the terms shall be for four years, however, the members shall endeavor to stagger terms to avoid simultaneous termination.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that: the following individuals shall be appointed to serve as a Lawrence County representative to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission:

1. Amy McKinney December 31, 2028

(Lawrence County Planning Director)

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-359**

**WHEREAS**, LeeAnn A. Fulena was re-appointed to the Lawrence County Housing Authority by Resolution R-2019-19 on February 5, 2019, with a term expiration of



December 31, 2023 and by Resolution R-2022-331 on October 11, 2022 (amended to reflect expiration of December 31, 2024); and

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Housing Authority term is five (5) years;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Fulena's term shall expire on December 31, 2029; and

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

1. LeeAnn A. Fulena, 1015 Charles Drive, New Castle, PA 16101 (Union Twp.) term shall expire December 31, 2029 on the Lawrence County Housing Authority.

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

### **RESOLUTION R-2024-360**

**WHEREAS**, the Lawrence County Housing Authority term is five (5) years; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Swogger's term shall expire on December 31, 2029; and

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

1. Kevin Swogger , Borough Manager of Ellwood City, 525 Lawrence County, (Ellwood City Borough), be reappointed on the Lawrence County Housing Authority with a term expiring on December 31, 2029.

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

### **R E S O L U T I O N      R-2024-361**

### **CONSERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, effective January 1, 2025 the term of one commissioner will expire; and

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

1. Daniel Vogler, 3011 Eldogor Lane, New Castle, PA 16105 (Neshannock Twp.), be re-appointed as the Commissioner director to the Conservation Board of Directors for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2025.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motion

carried 2-0-1 with Mr. Vogler abstaining.

**RESOLUTION R-2024-362**

**CONSERVATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, effective January 1, 2025 the term of one (1) farmer director; and

**WHEREAS**, letters of nominations dated October 16, 2024 were sent to various organizations approved by the State Conservation Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, nominations were received; and

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

1. Gary McConnell, 428 Lake Road, Volant, PA 16156 (Washington Twp.), be re-appointed as a farmer director to the Conservation Board of Directors for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2028.

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

**RESOLUTION R-2024-363**

**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 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** ELECTION INTEGRITY Revenue Fund Account: 16390000.342000 by \$15,000.00; and

**INCREASING** Transfer to PAYMENT TO STAFF/POLLING PLACES Expense Fund Account: 16414000.110650 by \$15,000.00

**Reason: ELECTION EXPENSES.**

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

**RESOLUTION**

**R-2024-364**

**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 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 CDBG Revenue Account: 56390000.342000 by \$89,808.00; and

*INCREASING* 2022 Union Rehab CDBG Expense Account: 564180000.999900.57252 by \$89,808.00

*Reason: CDBG*

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

**TRANSFERS (Administrative)**

- a. Voters from post election pro to process voter apps for \$14,000.00
- b. Voters from contingency to pay staff/polling place for \$40,000.00
- c. Treasurer from contingency to postage for \$4000.00
- d. Prothonotary from travel to advertising for \$700.00
- e. Prothonotary from rec. mgmt. contingency to rec. mgmt. maint. & rep. for \$18,500.00
- f. Jail from contracted medical to salaries of staff for \$20,000.00
- g. Jail from contracted medical to fica expense for \$5,000.00
- h. Jail from training to fica expense for \$3,000.00

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

**RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE**

- A. Resolutions on the table: None
- B. Resolutions to be taken off the table: None

## **ORDINANCES**

- |                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| A. Discussion:              | None |
| B. On the Table:            | None |
| C. For Introduction:        | None |
| <b>D.</b> For Final Action: | None |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The next Commissioners' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 @ 10am in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B The Lawrence County Prison Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 12:00 Noon has been **CANCELLED.**
- C. There will not be a meeting on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, due to the Commissioners' CCAP Conference.
- D. The Lawrence County Government Center will be closed on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- E. As of December 31, 2024, there will be (1) opening on the Lawrence County Industrial Development Authority. (2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement)

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Sainato thanked all the board members that were reappointed/appointed to today's various Authorities and Boards, as these members all take their own personal time towards these entities and do not receive any pay for their services. We have good people on our Authorities and Boards.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 11:05 am.