

LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Tuesday, September 15th, 2026

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 September 15th, 2026, was called to order by **Commissioner Dan Vogler**, at 10:00 AM at the Lawrence County Commissioners' Meeting Room. **Office Support Coordinator Ryan Anderson** called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, County Administrator Joseph Venasco, Scott Baldwin, Amy Mckinney, Controller David Prestopine, John Emerson, Donald Andrews, Alex Kay, Kevin Crawford, Amy Stapelton, Teagan Merriman, and no one 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 Chief Clerk at another time, and he 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:

Advertise for bids/proposals: None

Receipt for bids/proposals:

1. Opened Bids for the Humphry Center for the General Contracting.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Sainato. Motion carried to table the Bids to further review. Motion Carried 3-0.

2. Opened Bids for the Humphry Center for the Electrical Contracting.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Sainato. Motion carried to table the Bids to further review. Motion carries 3-0.

Warrant Registers:

1. September 4th, 2026

2. September 9th, 2026

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. September 8th, 2026

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

B. Presentation of Written Communications:

1. From the Lawrence County Department of Planning and Community Development to the Surface Transportation Board regarding Docket No. FD 36873, the proposed acquisition of Norfolk Southern by Union Pacific. The communication provides comments concerning the potential environmental impact on a four-mile section of rail line located in Enon Valley Borough, New Beaver Borough, and Little Beaver Township, including potential impacts on wetlands, flood zones, abandoned mine lands, natural heritage areas, conservation greenways, air quality, and noise.

Notification from the United States Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding an application submitted by Union Pacific Railroad to acquire Norfolk Southern Railroad. As part of its review and approval process, the STB must evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed acquisition.

Although the proposed acquisition is national in scope, a segment of Norfolk Southern rail line located in the southwestern corner of Lawrence County has been identified as potentially experiencing operational changes, including an increase in the number of trains per day, that would exceed the STB's threshold for environmental review. The notification also provides access to an interactive map identifying the rail lines, rail yards, and intermodal facilities that may experience these operational changes.

2. The Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation is proposing to reclaim abandoned mining hazards in Scott Township and are applying for a General NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities from the DEP. 180 Rock Springs Road, Scott Township.

Moved by

VI. REPORTS

REPORTS

A. Staff Reports: None

B. Commissioner Reports: DK, CS, DV

Commissioner Kennedy: No Comment

Commissioner Sainato stated that he had a busy weekend despite the weather. On Saturday he visited Shenango Township for the fall festival and they had some nice vendors and food trucks. Mr. Sainato also attended Pulaski Township's Fall Festival as well. Sunday Mr. Sainato went Downtown to the Riverplex for a grand opening for Wildwood Photography Studio.

Commissioner Vogler stated that Thursday there's Agriculture Preservation Board meeting in Neshannock Township Wednesday at Noon.

RESOLUTION

R-2026-235

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 FY2026 Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS to amend the 2026 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

INCREASING Universal 911 Surcharge Revenue Fund Account: 50334000.355000 by \$14,000.00; and

INCREASING GIS Hardware/Software/Workstation Expense Fund Account: 50421685.201100 by \$14,000.00

Reason: GIS SERVER PROJECT

RESOLUTION R-2026-236

WHEREAS, Lawrence County has received opioid settlement funds to support programs and services addressing opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, and related community needs; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Opioid Settlement Advisory Board reviewed a funding request submitted by Growing Wellness LLC for the program titled **"Succulents & Self-Care. A Holistic Approach to Opioid Use Disorder Prevention & Recovery"**; and

WHEREAS, the Lawrence County Opioid Settlement Advisory Board recommended approval of funding for Growing Wellness LLC in the amount of **\$94,523.00** for one year of program services; and

WHEREAS, the approved reimbursement includes program personnel, contractual services, travel, supplies, indirect costs, and other eligible expenses necessary to satisfy applicable opioid settlement and Exhibit E requirements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that the recommendation of the Lawrence County Opioid Settlement Advisory Board is hereby approved, and funding in an amount not to exceed **\$94,523.00** is authorized for Growing Wellness LLC for the implementation of **"Succulents & Self-Care™: A Holistic Approach to Opioid Use Disorder Prevention & Recovery,"** subject to the completion of all grant requirements and compliance with all applicable opioid settlement funding guidelines.

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

RESOLUTION**R-2026 - 237**

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 Families United Network, Inc. shall be in effect for the period of July 01, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
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:

Moved by Commissioner Sainato, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve said Resolution. Motioned Carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION**R-2026-238**

WHEREAS, budgets cannot always anticipate every extraordinary, ordinary, or contingency situation which arises throughout the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Section 1784 of the County code permits the Commissioners by resolution to authorize budget transfers from any encumbered balance; and

WHEREAS, the need to provide additional appropriations to certain accounts now exists; and

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

1. Authorization is hereby given to the appropriate administrative officials to transfer a total of \$28,00.00. Described in detail on the attachment(s) designated as T-2026-06.

Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Sainato to approve said Resolution. Motioned Carried 3-0.

TRANSFERS- (ADMINISTRATIVE)

- a. Commissioners from contingency to land/building rental for \$1,119.00.
- b. Commissioners from contingency to other improvements for \$650,000.00.
- c. Commissioners from contingency to contracted services for \$40,000.00.
- d. CYS from contracted provider care to vehicles for \$86,000.00.
- e. Domestic Relations from staples to materials & supplies for \$1,000.00.
- f. Domestic Relations from Office Minor to equipment maintenance for \$296.95.
- g. Domestic Relations from staples to equipment maintenance for \$1,500.00.
- h. Domestic Relations from contingency to contracted services for \$1,500.00.
- i. Coroner from software to vehicle expenses for \$2,500.00.
- j. Coroner from contingency to maintenance and repairs for \$1,450.00.
- k. Court Administration from contingency to uniforms for \$800.00.
- l. Veterans from flags and markers to maintenance and repair for \$450.00.
- m. Maintenance from salary of staff to maintenance and repairs for \$10,000.00.
- n. Human Resources from materials and supplies to land/building rental for \$300.00.

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

ORDINANCES

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. It was announced that the next Commissioners' meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
2. The next Prison Board Meeting will be held on September 16th at NOON in the Commissioner's Meeting Room.
3. There are two openings on the Airport Authority Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to adjourn the Lawrence County Commissioners' meeting dated Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 @ 10:37 AM. Motion carried 3-0.