

**LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

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, October 25, 2022, was called to order by **Commissioner Morgan Boyd**, 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 Vogler, Commissioner Loretta Spielvogel, Amy McKinney, Tish Foster, Dave Prestopine, None 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.

Ms. Spielvogel asked that everyone keep the family of Pennsylvania National Guard Spc. Mackenzie Shay in their thoughts and prayers, as she was killed in a training accident over the weekend. Spc. Shay was a native of New Castle.

**ROW OFFICERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

None

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**FISCAL/CONTRACTUAL**

- A. Repository Properties: None
- B. Advertise for Bids/Proposals: None
- C. Receipt of Bids/Proposals:
  - 1. Planning-County Parks and Boat Launch Maintenance Program
    - A. Piatt's Landscaping-New Castle, PA \$64,190.00
    - B. Beyond Corp.-Edinburg, PA \$69,700.00

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to table said bids for further review. Motion carried 3-0.

- D. Warrant Registers:
  - 1. October 19, 2022

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to file said warrant register. Motion carried 3-0.

**MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

- B. Presentation of Written Communications: None

**REPORTS**

- A. Staff Reports
- B. Commissioner Reports

Mr. Vogler stated there are two (2) new restaurants opening in the County. The first one is Corner Stone in the City where Four Brothers used to be; they are opening Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The second restaurant opening is Georgetown Eats in Plain Grove Township. They are opening November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Spielvogel had no comment.

Mr. Boyd had no comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION R-2022-347**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence has received notification from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development of the availability of funding in the projected amount of **\$622,582.00** (\$259,256.00) for the County of Lawrence, \$129,394.00 On Behalf of the Township of Shenango, \$105,608.00 On Behalf of the Township of Union and \$128,270.00 On Behalf of Ellwood City

Borough) for the provision of services eligible under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence wishes to engage in the provision of services eligible under the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Shenango, the Township of Union and Ellwood City Borough have directed and agreed on the purpose of the CDBG funds set aside for their community; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Public Hearing was advertised and conducted on July 18, 2022 (at the County of Lawrence, at and On Behalf of Ellwood City Borough, at and On Behalf of Shenango Township and at and On Behalf of Union Township). The second Public hearing was advertised and conducted on September 26, 2022 (County of Lawrence and On Behalf of Shenango Township, Union Township and Ellwood City Borough) as required by the CDBG regulations, to obtain citizens views and comments concerning the proposed use of these funds.

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

1. The County shall prepare and submit a grant in the projected amount of \$622,582.00, to the Department of Community and Economic Development.
2. The County has chosen to allocate the \$259,256.00 to the following eligible project:
  - a. Housing Rehabilitation \$143,464.00 in non-entitlement communities
  - b. Street Improvements in Mahoning Township \$77,792.00
  - c. Program Administration \$38,000.00
3. The County of Lawrence on Behalf of Shenango Township has chosen to engage in Public Facilities and Improvements and Program Administration.
4. The County of Lawrence on Behalf of Union Township has chosen to engage in Housing Rehabilitation and Program Administration.
5. The County of Lawrence on Behalf of Ellwood City Borough has chosen to engage in Sidewalk Improvements and Program Administration.
6. The said program activities will be administered in accordance with all State and Federal Regulations.
7. The Chairman Commissioner shall have the authority to execute all documents required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pertaining to the application and administration of the 2022 CDBG Program.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **RESOLUTION R-2022-348**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Lawrence (County) is eligible to apply to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Fund (PHARE), which includes the Marcellus Shale Impact Fee, Realty Transfer Tax and the National Housing Trust Fund funding sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, in partnership with the Lawrence County Redevelopment Authority, local municipalities and other county agencies, will use these funds to assist municipalities with neighborhood stabilization efforts, site preparation of blighted or vacant property demolition and housing rehabilitation to ensure resources are used in an effective and efficient manner to meet the housing needs of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, if awarded the above mentioned funds, the Chairman of the Lawrence County Board of Commissioners will sign off on all related documents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** agree to apply to PHARE for targeted neighborhood stabilization efforts, site preparation and blighted or vacant property demolition, façade improvements and housing rehabilitation to ensure resources are used in an effective and efficient manner to meet the housing needs of the County.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

#### **RESOLUTION R-2022-349**

**WHEREAS**, properties were sold at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 29, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, by the law these properties were sold free and clear of all municipal claims; and

**WHEREAS**, after all delinquent taxes are paid, the county and road taxes are to be paid at face for the current year; and

**WHEREAS**, because the properties were sold for \$500.00 and there were no proceeds to pay 2022 taxes, the county and road taxes on the attached list of properties are exonerated for 2022; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**; that the county and road tax be exonerated for 2022.

**RESOLUTION                      R-2022-350**

**WHEREAS**, properties were sold at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 29, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, by the law these properties were sold free and clear of all municipal claims; and

**WHEREAS**, after all delinquent taxes are paid, the county and road taxes are to be paid at face for the current year.

**WHEREAS**, after all delinquent taxes were paid and there were no additional proceeds, the county and road taxes on the attached list are exonerated for 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**; that the county and road tax be exonerated for 2022.

**RESOLUTION                      R-2022-351**

**WHEREAS**, properties were listed to be sold free and clear of all municipal claims at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 29, 2022 ; and

**WHEREAS**, certain properties remain unsold and are currently on Lawrence County's Repository list.

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 county, road and school taxes on these properties remain unpaid and the properties must be removed from the current tax roll;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, that the 2022 county, road and school taxes on the attached list are to be exonerated for 2022 and removed from the current tax roll.

**RESOLUTION                      R-2022-352**

**WHEREAS**, properties were sold at the Judicial Tax Sale held on April 29, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, by the law these properties were sold free and clear of all municipal claims; and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of the proceeds paid all delinquent taxes and part of the county and road taxes for 2022 on the following properties.

Parcel	Municipality	Owner	Situs	New Owner
03-159900	New Castle 3rd Ward	Frederick, Cindy Louise	1006 Loraine Ave	Level Up Management Construction
04-026600	New Castle 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	Miles, Jason David	937 E Washington St	Urena Odalys

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**; that the remaining balance of the county and road taxes be exonerated for 2022.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve Resolutions R-2022-349 through R-2022-352. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION                      R-2022-353**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners are required to provide full-time employees healthcare coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Reschini Group currently provides healthcare administrative services to the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Reschini Group has negotiated an agreement with Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield to provide healthcare and vision insurance coverage to County employees; and

**WHEREAS**, an agreement to renew healthcare and vision insurance coverage at an increase of 3.48% at an annual spend of \$6,081.450.00; and

**WHEREAS**, Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield has offered a loyalty credit to the County as part of the agreement;

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

1. the attached "loyalty credit renewal" with Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, is hereby approved;
2. the term of the renewal shall be two (2) years;
3. the appropriate County Officials are authorized to sign the necessary agreement forms.

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION R-2022-354**

**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 FY2022 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2022 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** the Hotel Tax General Fund Revenue Fund Account: 01311100.360011 by \$80,000.00 and;

**INCREASING** the Hotel Tax General Fund Expense Fund Account: 01451200.931200 by \$80,000.00

**Reason: Hotel Tax**

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTION R-2022-355**

**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 FY2022 Budget; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** to amend the 2022 Lawrence County Budget as follows:

**INCREASING** the Prior Year Balance APO Admin Fee Revenue Fund Account: 53390000.342000 by \$15,000.00 and;

**INCREASING** the Admin Fee Expenses APO Admin Fee Expense Fund Account: 53423500.999900 by \$15,000.00

**Reason: Prior Year Balance Adjustment**

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

**TRANSFERS (ADMINISTRATIVE)**

- a. DJ Cartwright from Contingency to Water/Sewage for \$350.00
- b. Maintenance from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$3,000.00
- c. Maintenance from Contingency to Maintenance & Repairs for \$10,000.00.
- d. Maintenance from Lawncare to Maintenance & Repairs for \$5,000.00.
- e. DJ Amodie from Contingency to Materials & Supplies for \$2,000.00
- f. DJ Nicholson from Contingency to Maintenance & Repairs for \$500.00
- g. District Attorney from Materials & Supplies to Various Accounts for \$9,900.00
- h. Commissioners from ARPA Contingency to ARPA Pub H for \$19,246.00

Moved by Ms. Spielvogel, seconded by Mr. Vogler to approve said Transfers. Motion carried 3-0.

**RESOLUTIONS ON THE TABLE**

1. ***Commissioners (Resolution R-2022-141)***

Resolution for discussion and possible approval to designate Lawrence County Economic Development as the Industrial Development Organization of Lawrence County.

**RESOLUTIONS TO BE TAKEN OFF THE TABLE**

**ORDINANCES**

None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. There will be a Commissioners' meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 1, 2022** in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- B. There will be an Election Board meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 1:30 PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.
- C. There will not be a Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 due to Election Day.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Boyd adjourned the meeting of the Lawrence County Commissioners meeting dated Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 10:25 AM.