

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

ALL PRESENT

President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **approves the April 8 and April 11, 2024 Erie County Commission Meeting minutes;** Roll Call:
All Aye

Public Comment.

Citizen, Rick Geisert, 1310 Weihur Drive, Sandusky, was present because he thought today was a public hearing regarding the City of Sandusky's water rate increases. Mr. Shenigo apologized and stated that the public hearing was last week. Mr. Shenigo gave a brief review of what was discussed at the public hearing. Mr. Geisert asked when the rate increase will be effective, with Mr. Shenigo stated June 1st. Mr. Old mentioned the point of these hearings are to stay transparent with citizens and he was hoping that someone from the City would be present to explain where the money from the water and sewer fund have disappeared. Mr. Old stated the City should not be increasing rates by 15%. He noted that Erie County has planned for water rate increases until 2025, and after that year, the County will struggle to cover the increase.

Mr. Geisert asked if the Erie County Water Department could lower the minimum water charge per ccf and help the residents that pay their water bills consistently. Mr. Geisert mentioned that he uses less than the minimum amount of water and lowering the minimum charge could help the older residents who are on a budget. Utilities Director John Rufo was present and he stated that he can calculate the number of citizens this would affect to see if it is cost effective enough to assist some of the citizens of Erie County.

Mr. Geisert asked if a waterline replacement in Westchester Estates is on the schedule for this year. Mr. Geisert is concerned with the waterline in that area, as there have been two water main breaks within the last six weeks. John confirmed that the section of pipe he is referring to is an older section of waterline, but it currently is not on the replacement schedule. Mr. Shenigo noted that the County has been able to accomplish many waterline replacements, due to the fact the County has been able to save money for these types of projects. Mr. Shenigo mentioned that the County has been accused of hoarding money. He stated there are 366 miles of water pipes in Erie County, costing millions of dollars to fix each year.

Mr. Old stated that County water lines need to continue to be upgraded. While the County is trying to replace older water pipes, it will also be paying an additional \$2 million per year to the City, with no accountability on why. The County has saved funds for years and were able to pay down debt. Now, with little notice of this large increase per year, the County has no way to plan for the future.

Resident Chris Wiedle asked if the City has provided explanation of the revenue loss. He stated that the City has continued to move money out of the water and sewer fund to use for other projects. Mr. Wiedle believes that the City will stonewall the County until the attorney's get involved.

Mr. Shenigo stated that County Administrator Hank Solowiej has been in contact with the City of Sandusky's Finance Director and is still waiting for some of the public records to be provided. Mr. Wiedle noted he is a member of a group called Watch Dog Agency. Members of this group have requested records from the City but the request was declined, due to the group not being a public entity. Mr. Old ensured that the Commissioners are committed to finding answers.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **cancels** the following **May Commission Meetings**: Thursday, May 2; Wednesday, May 8; Wednesday, May 15; Monday, May 20; Thursday, May 23; Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day); and Thursday, May 30, 2024; Roll Call; All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution declaring certain items surplus and ordering same to be **discarded or salvaged**; Roll call: All Aye (#24-138)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to **make budget modifications and supplemental appropriations** re General Operating Fund; Commissioners General and Board of Elections; Capital Improvements - Municipal Court Fund; CCA 2.0 2024-2025 Grant Fund; and County Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-139)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make an **interfund transfer** re Erie County Sewer Fund; and Bay View Sewer Revenue Bond Payments Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-140)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **interfund transfers** re Childrens Services Fund; Child Support Enforcement Agency Fund; and Public Assistance Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-141)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Participation Agreement with the **County Risk Sharing Authority, Inc. (CORSA)**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-142 - providing a joint self-insurance pool)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Software Maintenance Agreement with **Courtview Justice Solutions**; Roll call: All Aye (#24-143 - providing software maintenance on the Courtview system for Clerk of Courts, Juvenile Court, and CPC Civil - Judges Binette, Tone and McGookey - \$128,358)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a maintenance agreement with **Micrographic Technology Services, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-144 - maintenance services on a ScanPro 1100 microfilm scanner for Clerk of Courts - \$795.00)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing Memorial Day appropriations** under Section 307.66 of the Ohio Revised Code; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-145)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution executing payment of **Then and Now Certification** presented by the County Auditor pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.41(d)1, and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract or order; Roll call: All Aye (#24-146)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Subgrant Agreement Amendment No. 2 with the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-147 - increase amount an additional \$17,812.50 for SFY 24 for Family & Youth Voice Program through FCFC)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution adopting a **Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-148 - implementation of county's allocation of CDBG and CHIP funds)

Board approves Preliminary Estimate of Cost in the amount of \$1,780,000.00 for 2024 Erie County Microsurfacing Program through County Engineer's Office.

Board authorizes expenses for **Brooke Hankins and Aaron Pearson**, Adult Probation, attending 2024 Ohio Bailiffs & Court Officers Association Spring Conference in Newark, Ohio, on 5/15 - 5/17/24 in an estimated amount of \$379.00 each.

Board authorizes expenses for **Keith Williams and Tiffany Moore**, Adult Probation, attending 2024 OCPOA Line Officers Training in Columbus, Ohio, on 5/30 and 5/31/24 in an estimated amount of \$350.00 each.

Board authorizes expenses for **Barb Knapp**, Dog Warden, attending National Animal Control/Humane Society of the United States Conferences in San Antonio, Texas on 5/12 - 5/16/24 in an estimated amount of \$787.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **DOES** re **Anthony Fitzthum**, from Maintenance Repair II - Collection to Maintenance Repair III - Collection effective 4/14/24; **Anthony Fitzthum**, Maintenance Repair III - Collection, longevity increase effective 4/14/24; **Daniel Rickenbaugh** from Foreman - Landfill to Chief Equipment Operator III - Landfill effective 4/22/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **ECDJFS** re **Belinda Sibert Biemler**, Deputy Director Child Support, retirement effective 5/31/24; **Kim Leibacher**, Eligibility/Referral Supervisor 1, longevity increase effective 4/4/24; and **Brooke Molnar**, Social Service Worker 3, longevity increase effective 4/25/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Kathryn Carico**, full-time RN Supervisor, resignation effective 4/16/24; **Christina Snoble**, PRN RN, termination due to not working any hours since August of 2023 effective 4/17/24; **Leslie Williams**, Assistant Director of Nursing, rate increases while assuming other duties and rate increase due to longevity effective 4/8/24; and **Kelly Wolbert**, full-time RN, resignation effective 4/20/24.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re equipment replacement for walk-in cooler/freezer in the amount of \$21,424.26.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Forms for **Engineer's Office and Commissioners' Office** re four Swenson Brine pre-wet systems in the amount of \$68,000; two 6,000 gallon storage tanks in the amount of \$16,750; one Camion Ice Master T Series system in the amount of \$29,000; and one Camion Brine Master system in the amount of \$34,000.

Mr. Old asked if there any other equipment requests for the new brine system, or are more requests coming later. Hank noted that there will be no other requests, and this should be what Erie County needs to switch to the new brine system. Mr. Old reiterated that the Commissioners are authorizing the purchase of this equipment to ensure the Engineer's employees are equipped and able to clear county roads earlier to guarantee safer roads and less cancellations and two hour delays for school aged children.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Intermittent Cook** (temporary) for **Juvenile Justice Center**.

Received copy of **Erie Ottawa International Airport financials** for March 2024. (April meeting canceled, next meeting May 22nd)

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** into Executive Session, pursuant to O.R.C. 1211.22(G)(1), to consider the dismissal, discipline and demotion of a public employee; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **reconvenes**; Roll Call: All Aye

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **DOES** re **Keith Bovard**, from Assistant Superintendent - Treatment to Plant Operator III - Treatment effective 4/28/24; and **Robert Yost**, from Chief Equipment Repair III - Treatment to Assistant Superintendent - Treatment effective 4/28/24

Hank added that based on conversations today regarding the City of Sandusky water rate increases, he would like to schedule another public hearing in May or June. Hank is still waiting to receive the public records he requested from the City and he has been in contact with the City Manager to remind him of the requests. Hank will continue to keep the Board updated on this matter.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 12:20 p.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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