

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023**

**MRO ABSENT**

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

County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated there is one item to discuss during this special meeting.

**Public Comment.**

Mr. Shenigo asked if anyone had public comment. Mr. Kevin Lewis introduced himself as a worker with the Ohio Labor's Union. He inquired what the status was of the Wheatsborough Solar Project. Mr. Shenigo stated that land is currently being cleared and the project is moving forward. APEX Clean Energy has approached the Commissioners asking for a PILOT, or Payment In Lieu Of Taxes, which locks in a lower tax rate for the project.

Mr. Shenigo mentioned that the Commission is highly in favor of hiring local labors for this project and has asked APEX to add language in the agreement that states that 80% of the workers need to be Ohio domiciled.

Mr. Lewis stated that the Ohio Laborers' Union are in favor of having PILOT's for solar projects and have a respectable working relationship with APEX Clean Energy Company. He mentioned that the Ohio Laborers' Union monitors the companies that are hired for several of the recent solar projects around Ohio and have found that some contractors were hiring temp agencies for man power and each week new workers would be hired for the job. Another issue Mr. Lewis has noticed is, because the PILOT's are through the Ohio Department of Development, there is not a lot of monitoring that takes place to ensure that 80% Ohioan workers are being hired.

The Ohio Laborer' District Council of Ohio, who is affiliated with Engineers, Laborers and Electricians, created a Statewide Three Trade Solar Agreement. This Solar Agreement will ensure that the contractor will comply with the contractual wages, fringe benefits, hours and other working conditions for the Laborers, Engineers and Electricians hired for solar projects. Mr. Lewis believes this is a fair agreement and hopes that it is applied for solar projects throughout the State. He thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to speak.

**Sewer Services Agreement Legislation.**

County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated he has been in discussions with the City of Sandusky staff to try and come to a resolution regarding the Sewer Services Agreement.

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The County is interested in the City taking on the loan for the HRT and UV projects. If the City would take on the loan for these projects, the County is committing to repaying the City for the County's share of the loan over a 30 year period. This resolution also gives Hank the authorization to proceed in drafting and negotiating with the City. Hank spoke with Mr. Old about this resolution and agreement, and he concurred with the information that is being provided to the City. Hank is thankful to partner with the City and is hopeful to forge a new path with the City going forward. The City's next Commission Meeting is Monday, April 10, 2023.

Mr. Shoffner believe this is a good first step on moving forward and thanked Hank for all the time he spent on getting these terms put together.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Shenigo, Board adopts resolution **approving additional terms to the Sewer Services Agreement with the City of Sandusky, Ohio** and to authorize the County Administrator to proceed with an addendum to the Sewer Services Agreement with the City of Sandusky, Ohio; Roll Call: Both Aye (#23-101)

On motion of Mr. Shenigo, and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns**; Roll Call: Both Aye