

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

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 minutes of the **August 13, 2023 Erie County Commission Meeting**; Roll Call: All Aye

County Administrator re Various Issues.

Sales Tax Collections - May sales tax collections totaled \$1.875 million, compared to \$1.804 million last year at this time. Total year-to-date, is 4% higher than last year at this time. Erie County is expected to finish the year with a total of \$22 million in sales tax, which is the third consecutive year Erie County has finished higher than projections.

Bed Tax Collections - August bed tax collections totaled \$526,000, compared to \$532,000 last year. Year-to-date, Erie County has collected \$1.3 million, which is 23% above what was collected last year. Erie County budgeted \$1.9 million for the year but Hank noted Erie County should end the year at \$2.2 million. Mr. Shenigo inquired how the additional bed tax funds are being spent. Hank stated he will reach out to the Visitors and Convention Bureau and will share that information with the Commissioners' once he receives it.

Gas Tax Collections - Total gas collections totaled \$330,000, compared to \$321,000 from last year at this time. Hank noted totals are pretty flat year-to-date, collecting a total of \$2.456 million so far this year.

Travel Policy Updates - Hank has researched how other counties reimburse their employees' travel. Hank is still working with HR Director Matt Wilson on amending this policy. Mr. Old noted he has spoken to several counties about travel policies and the other counties were surprised as to how much Erie County is spending on travel for their employees.

Budget Work Sessions - Hank stated that he will start presenting budgets to the Commission next week. He noted that the Veterans Service Commissions' budget includes a payroll increase and an additional Outreach position. As in past years, as to whether the Erie County Commissioners are in agreement with the Veterans Commissions' personnel/budget decisions or not, the Erie County Commissioners' do not preside over those decisions.

Sawmill Wastewater Treatment Plant Bid Opening - After extensive discussion at the Sawmill Wastewater Treatment Plant pre-bid meeting, the Utilities Director and Hank believe it would be in Erie County's best interest to cancel the bid open and reschedule for a later date if the Board agrees to this decision.

The decision to delay this project is mainly due to the fact that DOES needs to get the NPDES permit first from the State. Mr. Solowiej stated it is in Erie County's best interest to reschedule this bid opening until we have all the information needed in place for this extensive project.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **Cancels** the **Sawmill Wastewater Treatment Plant bid opening** scheduled for August 30, 2023 and will reschedule once DOES receives the NPDES permit; Roll Call: All Aye

Engineer's Speed Limit Study - Hank received a request from the Engineer's Office requesting direction from the Board on potential reduction in speed limits on Bogart Road, from west of Schenk Road to SR 4 and Wahl Road, near White's Landing. Mr. Rogers is asking if the Commissioners' would support the reduction in speed in those areas. Mr. Shenigo stated that if the residents of these roads are in favor of the speed limit change, he would be more inclined to approve something this project. He also stated that he does not believe that the speed reduction is necessary. Hank and the Commissioners Old and Shoffner agree that they are not in favor of reducing the speed limits on these streets.

Ohio Public Works Application Resolution - There is a resolution going through the meeting today for the Engineer's Office to apply for Ohio Public Works Commission grant funding in the amount of \$175,000 for the Hull Road widening and resurfacing, from Galloway Road to Camp Road. The County Administrator recommended not approving this project, as this project was submitted and disapproved last year as well. Hank noted that the scope of this project has not changed. The Commissioners mentioned last year, if bike lanes were added to the specifications, they would consider approving it and bike lanes have not been added to this year's specifications.

Mr. Old stated that the Engineer's Office has plenty of funds to pay for this project without utilizing grant money. For the record, he wants to make this perfectly clear, that OPWC money is available to cities, villages and townships and encourages said entities to move forward and apply for these grant funds. Our budget is larger than cities townships and villages and we would like for them to have the funds available. Mr. Shenigo stated if the Engineer wants to widen Hull Road just to widen it and not add sidewalks and a bike path, then the Engineer can fund this project with his budget funds. If sidewalks and a bike path were to be added to the widening of Hull Road, Mr. Shenigo suggested applying for funds through the Safe Routes to School. The Commissioners are against this project application.

Docket - Mr. Old was reviewing the docket and noticed the Auditor's Office has a \$14,000 bill payment for Cleminshaw for reappraisal services. Mr. Old thought that these audits were being completed internally with the additional staff in the office. Hank noted that this is part of a six year reappraisal and does not appear on the docket frequently.

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board takes a **small recess to continue to review the docket**; Roll Call: All Aye

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

Mr. Shoffner made a motion to accept the bids for the **Job and Family Services Transportation Services** that were opened on August 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Before the motion was second, Mr. Shenigo asked about the Sandusky Transit System not having a bid bond attached to the bid. Purchasing Coordinator Emily Galloway stated that there was no bid bond attached so therefore this bid is disqualified.

Mr. Old second, Board **accepts the bids for the Job and Family Service Transportation Services** and refers same to ECDJFS and Purchasing Coordinator for review and recommendation back to the Board; Roll Call: All Aye (for the record, a check was received from the Sandusky Transit System at 2:07 p.m.)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **Treated Rock Salt for Highway Ice Control** to **Compass Minerals America**, Overland Park, Kansas, in the amount of \$55.00/ton pickup and \$57.41/ton delivered, as the lowest and best bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the County Engineer; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution declaring certain Erie County equipment surplus and ordering same to be sold by **internet auction**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-261)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **certifying certain unpaid rents and charges for sewer and water service to the Erie County Auditor** for placement upon the real property tax list and duplicate against the property served; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-262)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming the contract between the **Margaretta Local School District Board of Education and the Erie County Sheriff**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-263 - providing two School Resources Officers, one at the high school/middle school and one at the Margaretta Elementary School providing law enforcement and security for students during the 2023-2024 school year)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **declaring a real and present emergency** and authorizing the County Administrator to approve any and all quotes for necessary repairs and upgrades to the **Berlin Heights Communication Tower**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-264)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing the County Administrator to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission** and to execute contracts as required for projects proposed by the Erie County Engineer; Roll Call: Mr. Shoffner, No; Mr. Old, No; Mr. Shenigo, No (#23-265 - Hull Road Widening and Resurfacing, from Galloway Road to Camp Road)

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 (#23-266)

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting in Oak Harbor, Ohio, on 8/31/23 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending OKI Conference on Freight in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 9/6 and 9/7/23 in an estimated amount of \$208.63.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Ohio Travel Demand Model User Group Fall Training in Columbus, Ohio, on 9/8/23 at no cost.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Tiyanna Durr**, part-time STNA, resignation effective 8/16/23; **Michelle Dailey**, part-time STNA, resignation effective 8/7/23; and **Shallon Roth**, full-time STNA, rescinding letter of resignation effective 8/31/23.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Family and Children First Council** re **Youth Outreach Specialist**. (grant-funded position and when grant is discontinued, the funding for the position will be discontinued as well).

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Juvenile Justice Center** re **Youth Specialist** (4 full-time positions).

Board approves Job Description re **Youth Outreach Specialist** for **Family and Children First Council**.

Board approves copy of 7/26/23 **Erie-Ottawa International Airport Authority meeting minutes**, 8/23/23 meeting agenda, financial statements as of July 31, 2023 and 2022.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:44 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye