

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023**

**ALL PRESENT**

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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 10, 2023 Erie County Commission Meeting**; Roll Call: All Aye

**County Administrator re Various Issues.**

**Declaring a State of Emergency in Erie County.**

County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated there is a resolution for the Board's consideration to declare Erie County in a State of Emergency due to the damage Erie County received during the storms that took place recently. Hank noted that if the County is declared a State of Emergency at the local level, this will help Erie County possibly receive Federal funding to help with mitigation.

Emergency Management Agency Director Tim Jonovich was present and gave an overview of the damage and recovery efforts throughout the County. Tim noted that all damage has been assessed and a report has been sent to Columbus to see if Erie County would qualify for State and Federal funding. Tim added that there are certain criteria that need to be met in order for Erie County to receive FEMA funds and even with several apartment buildings being condemned and many people homeless, he is not sure that Erie County has sustained enough damage to qualify for funding assistance, based on FEMA requirements.

Job and Family Services Director Karen Balconi Ghezzi and Trudy Riddle have been assisting with residents who have become homeless. Ms. Balconi-Ghezzi stated that currently 60 units are being evacuated and finding other living arrangements within the County has been an issue. Ms. Riddle mentioned that Job and Family Services can only provide a very limited amount of emergency housing assistance for these families. The Red Cross is providing housing but it's only temporary and most of these families will be homeless again next week. Trudy stated that the residents living in the apartment complexes were notified that their leases were terminated and had 24 hours to remove their things. The company who owns these apartments has offered to pay for a hotel room for these tenants for one or two nights.

Ms. Riddle stated another funding source that can be used is the Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Fund. She mentioned that if the Commissioners declared Erie County a State of Emergency, Job and Family Services could use these funds to provide housing assistance to families primarily with children and the elderly.

The stipulation for individuals to receive the PRC funding, state that individuals can only apply for funding one time in a two year period, so it is not to be used as an ongoing source of support for these families.

#### **Solid Waste at the Landfill.**

Utilities Director John Rufo has been in contact with County Administrator Hank Solowiej about receiving a heavy volume of solid waste at the Landfill. Hank wanted the Board to be aware of this situation and stated that he is making sure that Flow Control Rules are being applied. Mr. Solowiej reminded Mr. Rufo that trash haulers need to have credit applications updated annually; and Landfill employees need to take an active role in surveillance for suspected violators. The Landfill waste has been lower than usual, and it is believed that trash haulers are taking waste out of the county. Mr. Shenigo asked if taking solid waste outside of the County is a civil or criminal violation, and asked that the Prosecutor's Office start investigating this problem.

#### **Public Comment.**

Vermilion Township Trustee Carl Hill inquired about the waterline situation at the Brown property on Route 6. He is concerned that if the owner of the property decides not to install the waterline, that the expenses of this project will become the residents of Vermilion Township's responsibility. The Commissioners reassured Mr. Hill that expenses of the waterline project will not fall on the residents and if there is not a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in place, the waterlines will not be replaced.

#### **Budget Work Session.**

County Administrator Hank Solowiej presented the following budgets:

- Commissioners-Executive - within policy and salaries are aligned with the statute
- Commissioners-Administration - budget per policy and actually slightly lower than 2023's budget.
- Finance - salary and benefits are below 2023's budget, due to being down a position.
- Human Resources - budget is per policy. Salaries and benefits are slightly higher than last years' budget due to one employee assuming additional job duties next year.
- Information Technology - budget is per policy.
- Commissioners' Records Center - budget is per policy.
- Planning & Development-Executive - contributions for this budget are the same as last year, totally \$250,000.
- Veterans Service Commission - The VSC Board gave their staff a wage increase in June, totally \$18,900. The VSC Board has also requested a new outreach position in the amount of \$61,621, including health insurance.

Per Ohio Revised Code, the Commissioners' are required to allocate .5 mills of County property taxes to the Veterans Service Commission for their budget. It has been noted in previous meetings, that The Erie County Commissioners do not determine how the VSC Commission allocates their funds.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **declares a State of Emergency in Erie County and shall request State and Federal funding** for the continuing recovery and future mitigation efforts of residents living in those areas within Erie County that have been devastated by the recent storms; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-367)

The Board also requested that the Townships waive any costs related to building permits associated with residents having to rebuild due to damage from the storm.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a lease agreement with **Blue Technologies, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-268 - providing a KM bizhub C360i copier for Public Defender's Office)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing payment for services and supplies provided to NAPA Auto Parts; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-269)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an amendment to the agreement between the **Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Division of Parole and Community Services, Bureau of Community Sanctions and the Erie County Adult Probation Department**; Roll Call; All Aye (#23-270 - reducing the base award for the CCA 2.0 for Fiscal Year 24/25 by \$70.00 providing non-residential programs through the TCAP Grant for Adult Probation)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution declaring improvements to parcels of real property to be a public purpose, exempting such improvements from real property taxation, declaring certain public infrastructure improvements to be necessary for the further development of those parcels, and **establishing a Redevelopment Tax Equivalent Fund**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-271 - Love's Travel Center TIF)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **supplemental appropriations and budget modifications** re General Operating Fund: Facilities - Sheriff's, Board of Elections, Clerk of Courts, County Court, and Veterans Services; CEDS Grant Fund; Felony Delinquent Care/Custody Fund; Drug Court - SOR Grant Fund; Spec Docket subsidy Grant - Tone Fund; TCAP 2021-2023 Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-272)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make an **interfund transfer** re Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund and Public Assistance Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-273)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make a **budget modification and a supplemental appropriation** re Landfill Operations Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-274)

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 (#23-275)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopt resolution declaring certain items surplus and ordering same to be **discarded or salvaged**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-276)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an amendment between the **Erie County Sheriff and the Erie County Department of Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-277 - adding \$3,233.71 as the amount of the depreciation of a Sheriff's cruiser for the remaining six months of 2023 for a deputy assigned at the ECDJFS to provide security services under Title IV-D funding from Ohio Department of Job and Family Services)

#### **Job Description for Regional Planning.**

Mr. Old reviewed the Planner job description for the Regional Planning Office and stated that this position will also be assisting the Clerk of the Board with job duties periodically. Mr. Old stated it was not mentioned in the job description and asked Hank to modify it. He also wanted it noted that this person will report to the Land Bank Director for issues regarding the Land Bank.

#### **County Engineer**

Mr. Old stated that the County Engineer Jack Farschman sent a letter to all the Township Trustees with a copy of Erie County Resolution No. 23-265, adopted on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Board voted not to approve an Ohio Public Works Commission application for Hull Road Widening and Resurfacing from Galloway Road to Camp Road. Mr. Farschman is funding \$700,000 and requesting \$175,000 from OPWC to help him fund the rest of the project. Mr. Old, stated for the record, that the Erie County Commissioners have stated in the past that no County entity should apply for OPWC funding to ensure that those funds are available to our Cities, Townships and Villages.

The County Engineer's Office has the funding to pay for this entire project. Mr. Old wanted to make it clear that Erie County should pay for its projects to allow this money to go to our local governments.

County Administrator Hank Solowiej noted that Erie County Department of Environmental Services applied for OPWC funding last year and was turned down as well.

Mr. Shenigo stated that one of the Commissioners' finest moments was re-appropriating \$1 million out of the Motor Vehicle License and Gas Tax fund for the Townships construction projects.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **PointClickCare** in an additional amount of \$16,000 re providing a subscription and service agreement for The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Leaderstat** in an additional amount of \$15,000 re providing one or more licensed healthcare professionals to assist in providing staffing, recruiting and consulting services to The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **MedlCare** in an additional amount of \$10,000 re increasing the hourly billing rates for the staff at The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board executes **Certificate of Achievement** to **Rachel Green** for five years of service with ECDJFS.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tim Jonovich**, EMA, attending Northern Ohio InfraGard Member Meeting in Richfield, Ohio, on 9/22/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tira Serrano**, Family and Children First Council, client transportation to a neurological appointment in Parma, Ohio, on 9/1/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tira Serrano**, Family and Children First Council, attending client transportation to a neurological appointment in Parma, Ohio, on 9/19/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Trudy Riddle** and **David Cramer**, ECDJFS, attending Great Lakes Truck Driving School Career Fair in Columbia Station, Ohio, on 8/31/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Ashley Gilbert** and **Rebecca Frisch**, ECDJFS, attending PCSAO Conference Awards Banquet in Columbus, Ohio, on 9/21/23 at no cost.

Board approves Personnel Action form for **Dog Warden** re **Jessica Castello**, part-time Deputy Dog Warden, temporary employment until 12/1/23 or employee returns from FMLA effective 8/31/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Finance Department** re **Kristinia Bilby**, Account Clerk II - Finance, employment effective 9/6/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Erica Garner**, part-time Patient Care Assistant, employment effective 8/24/23; **Sharon Tipton**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 8/16/23; and **Marcelina Valliant**, PRN RN, termination due to not work since 3/3/23 effective 8/22/23.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Regional Planning Department** re **Planner**.

Board approves Job Description re **Planner** for **Regional Planning Department**.

Received copy of memo to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Alyssa Heater, Finance Manager re **2023 Revised Estimated Resources**.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:49 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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