

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

ALL PRESENT

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

Public Comment.

Utilities Director John Rufo was present and wanted to make the Commissioners aware of a situation that just occurred with the City of Sandusky. The City of Sandusky passed an ordinance to raise City water rates effective June 1, 2024. Since the City of Sandusky is one of Erie County's largest suppliers of water, John noted that this will have an impact on the County. John stated that the City plans to increase rates by 15% this year, 15% in 2025 and then 3% each year thereafter until 2030. Because of these large increases, it will cost the County \$500,000 more this year, \$1 million more next year, etc.

County Administrator Hank Solowiej spoke with City Manager John Orzech about the increases and Hank maintained that the cause for this was due to overspending by the City and not a revenue issue. Hank also noted that the County just received notification of these huge increases two weeks ago, when the City made it public.

The Commissioners believe that public input is important, especially when it comes to increasing rates. The Commissioners suggested holding two public hearings at the Services Center to gain public input on the significance of these increases. Mr. Old stated that the County now has to investigate the County's budget to see how these increases will impact the Water Fund. Mr. Shenigo noted that the City had a \$4 million reserve and questioned where that money went and the need for rate increases. Hank stated he requested the City's financial information to examine their revenues vs. expenses but has not been given the material. Hank credited the Commissioners for not overspending and having extra funds for circumstances that may arise like rate increases.

Mr. Shoffner is curious, as well, as to what happened to the City's large reserve and thanked Hank and John Rufo for looking into this issue on behalf of the County.

The Commissioners authorize the County Administrator and the Clerk of the Board to set up two public hearings regarding the possibility of water rate increases. After discussing the timing of getting the notice in the newspaper it was decided that March 14th would be the first public hearing.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board agrees to hold the **first public hearing regarding water rate increases for Thursday, March 14, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.**; Roll Call: All Aye

Public Comment continued.

Development Consultant Roger Hunker, APEX Clean Energy, invited the Commissioners to attend a tour of the Wheatsborough project on May 7th.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **approves the February 8 and February 12, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board reappoints County Administrator Hank Solowiej, Regional Planning Director Tim King and Assistant Prosecutor Gary Lickfelt to the **Tax Incentive Review Council (T.I.R.C.)** effective 2/28/24 - 2/28/25; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board appoints Transportation Planner Kevin Cannon as the **alternate to Commissioner Old** on the **One Ohio Region 19 Committee**; Roll Call: All Aye

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On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming an agreement with the **Erie County Sheriff and Village of Castalia**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-59 - emergency law enforcement services for the Village of Castalia)

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 (#24-60)

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 (#24-61)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Thomas M. Dusza**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-62 - providing Title IV-D child support enforcement hearing officer services for ECDJFS - \$15,000)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Erie County Prosecutor**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-63 - providing Title IV-D child support enforcement legal services for ECDJFS - \$50,000)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Maintenance Agreement with **Wadsworth Solutions**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-64 - providing preventive maintenance inspections on the mechanical chiller system at the Jail - \$2,850)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Gardiner Service Company**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-65 - providing HVAC maintenance services for DOES effective 2/1/24 - 1/31/27 - \$1,263.50)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming an agreement between the **Erie County Sheriff and Flock Safety**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-66 - hardware, software and installation of license plate reader cameras for Sheriff's Office)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into the First Amendment to the Jail Services Agreement with **T.W. Vending, Inc. dba Turnkey Corrections or Kimble's Food by Design, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-67 - adding HUB vending services to the Jail so inmates may purchase their commissary direct and not through ordering process)

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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 (#24-69)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a delinquency debt collection agreement between the **Ohio Attorney General and Board of Commissioners of Erie County, Ohio**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-70 - providing services to collect delinquent debt from convicted criminal and traffic cases owed to Municipal Court)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **DeLage Landen Financial Services, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-71 - leasing a Sharp MX-B467 and Sharp BP50M55 copiers for Juvenile Detention Home - \$1,880.00)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Accurate Business Machines**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-72 - maintenance on two copiers, Sharp MX-B467 and Sharp BP50M55 for Juvenile Detention Home - \$550.00)

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On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **interfund transfers** re General Operating Fund: Planning Department; Metropolitan Planning Organization Fund; General Operating Fund: Commissioners General; Erie County Sewer Fund; Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund; and Public Assistance Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-74)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **VSP** in an additional amount of \$75,000 re providing vision plan services for county employees through the Human Resources Department.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **General Health District** in an additional amount of \$150,000 re providing medical services, including clinician and nursing services, for inmates at the Erie County Jail.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **US Bank Equipment Finance** in an additional amount of \$700 re providing a lease on a copier for Probate Court.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Majestic Transportation, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$275,000 re providing transportation services for clients at ECDJFS.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **D&D Rides LLC** in an additional amount of \$240,000 re providing transportation services for clients at ECDJFS.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **The Erie County Commissioners** in an additional amount of \$52,479.44 re providing a lease of property located at 221 West Parish Street.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Med1Care** in an additional amount of \$60,000 re increasing the hourly billing rates for the staffing support services provided at The Meadows Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **DeLage Landen Financial Services** in an additional amount of \$1,248.00 re leasing a Konica Minolta bizhub C308 printer/copier/scanner for DOES Billing Office.

Board approves Pay Estimate No. 3 to **American Structurepoint, Inc.** in the amount of \$31,218.75 re professional services for Mason Road Bridge Mi-212 for County Engineer.

Board approves **3% rate increases for ECDJFS staff.**

Board executes letter of support to The Ohio General Assembly re **funding request from Sandusky High School for the One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund.**

Board authorizes expenses for **Jeff Whitacre**, Common Pleas Court - Judge Tone, attending Ohio Association of Magistrates Spring Conference in Independence, Ohio, on 4/10 - 4/12/24 in an estimated amount of \$325.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kim Johnson**, EMA Assistant/Planner, attending Ohio EMA and EMAO Spring Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on 4/16 - 4/14/24 in an estimated amount of \$311.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Trudy Riddle, Neil Yingling and 1 Fiscal Representative**, ECDJFS, attending the Quarterly Greater Ohio Workforce Board Meeting in Lewis Center, Ohio, on 3/6/24 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Barb Knapp**, Dog Warden, attending the Northwestern Ohio Dog Warden's Association Meeting in McClure, Ohio, on 3/13/24 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Tim King**, Regional Planning, attending Ohio Basic Economic Development Course in Dublin, Ohio, on 4/29 - 5/2/24 in an estimated amount of \$1,302.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Human Resources** re **Clark Garris**, Loss Control Coordinator, rate increase due to completion of ten years of service effective 3/10/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Facilities Department** re **Bradley Kraft**, Maintenance III - General, rate increase due to successful completion of probation effective 3/18/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Finance Department** re **Kristinia Bilby**, Account Clerk II - Finance, rate increase due to successful completion of probation effective 3/6/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Kim Leibacher**, from Eligibility Specialist 3 to Eligibility/Referral Supervisor 1 effective 2/18/24; **Val Sullenberger**, from Account Clerk 3 to Investigator 2 effective 2/18/24; **Marva Warren**, Telephone Operator 2, rate increase due to successful completion of probation effective 2/12/24; and **Marva Warren**, from Telephone Operator 2 to Account Clerk 3 effective 3/18/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Alli Andre**, part-time STNA, resignation effective 2/24/24; **Hannah Brickner**, full-time STNA, rate decrease due to take first shift position effective 2/18/24; **Malinda Davis**, full-time LPN, rate increase due to successful completion of probation effective 2/13/24; **Kampassion Hicks**, part-time STNA, termination during probation effective 2/20/24; **Elizabeth Jones**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 2/16/24; **Vincenzo King**, full-time STNA, employment effective 2/26/24; **Danielle McNair**, full-time STNA, employment effective 2/13/24; and **Mary Shupp**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to successful completion of probation effective 2/13/24.

Board approves **Request to Carry Over Vacation** for **Gary Weilnau**, Facilities Department.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Chief Probation Officer** for Adult Probation Department.

Board approves Requests for Recruitment re **Social Service Worker 3 and Telephone Operator 2 (OMJ)** for ECDJFS.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Therapist** for Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility (JJC).

Received letter from County Engineer re **Campbell Street resurfacing and sidewalk construction from Windamere Lane to Perkins High School, along Strub Road, from Campbell to the existing sidewalk.**

Received copy of letter to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Alyssa Heater, Finance Manager re **2024 Revised Estimated Resources.**

Received copy of Erie County Engineer's **2023 Bridge Report**, per O.R.C. 5543.20.

Received copies of 10/25/23 and 12/27/23 **Serving Our Seniors** meeting minutes, October, November and December Activity Reports.

Received copy of **Serving Our Seniors Director's Report** for December 2023.

Received copy of 1/24/24 **Erie-Ottawa International Airport Authority meeting** minutes, 2/28/24 meeting agenda, and financial statements as of January 31, 2024 and 2023.

Received copy of **Erie County Engineer's 2023 Annual Report** for Highway Department, Ditch Maintenance and Tax Map Office.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 9:40 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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