

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

**ALL PRESENT**

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President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer given by Pastor Eric Schall from Calvary Temple Church.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Gerhard Gross was also present.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board approves the minutes of the **January 31 and February 4 Commission meetings**; Roll Call: All Aye

**Public Comment.** Nate Pedder of Apex Clean Energy said he would like to clarify a few misconceptions regarding the Wind Farm and PILOT after the meeting on February 26 in Bellevue.

- He mentioned a comment that referred to the turbines as "bird shredders", saying that the effect of the windmills on eagles, bats and other wildlife has been studied extensively, with agencies, such as ODNR, weighing in.
- Wind energy, with or without tax credits, is one of the least expensive types of energy, on par with natural gas. He stressed that they are not skating by on subsidies.
- He corrected statements made at that meeting regarding the amount of farm acreage that would be taken out of production, saying that it amounts to 30,000 acres under lease across the entire project, and Apex is following State setback requirements. Approximately 1,000 land owners are participating, so this is a property rights issue.
- Mr. Pedder also addressed the decommissioning of the wind turbines, saying that the Power Siting Board requires a bond with the State when construction begins, for the purpose of taking turbines down.

**Consolidated Budget Hearing - Outside the General Fund.** Present were Director of Finance Ed Widman, Assistant Finance Director Melissa Tomaro, and DOES Fiscal Officer Pete Jackson; Sheriff Paul Sigsworth; Juvenile Court Judge Robert DeLamatre; Diane Corrao, Administrator at The Meadows at Osborn Park; JFS Director Karen Balconi Ghezzi and Deputy Director of Finance Deb Haer; Dog Warden Barb Knapp; Clerk of Courts Luvada Wilson and Title Clerk Barb Forrest; and Rachael Malone, Director of Business Services, Board of DD.

The Meadows - The Board approved the purchase of a bus (\$55,000), dryers for the laundry room (\$10,000) and \$17,700 for computers to be used by residents. Diane was directed to work with IT on that project, since there are concerns about keeping those computers separate from the County's network. Mr. Shenigo asked about the roof repairs (\$50,000) and said he will check that out to see what needs to be done.

Sheriff, Civilian Fingerprinting, Training, Administration - Sheriff Sigsworth is asking for five cruisers (\$156,000 for four, with one to be paid from the SRO Fund), and a nurse assigned to the Jail on third shift (\$96,720). The Sheriff noted that there is a nurse on call, and the Corrections Officers are handling prisoners with severe behavioral issues. He can continue with that process if the Board denies his request. He also mentioned that he is fortunate to have a mental health provider assigned to the Jail, something most counties do not. He was encouraged to contact the Mental Health & Recovery Board to see if they can offer some help to him.

Mr. Shenigo asked the Sheriff which of his requests are absolutely necessary. The Sheriff said he would like to have the cruisers and staff training (\$48,448). However, the Sheriff was not sure if the \$48,448 is above the \$83,792 already included in his 2019 budget. He believes he was requesting the same as what he had last year (\$107,626). After talking to his office staff, the Sheriff said he does need another \$4,800 added to his training fund, in order to continue at the current rate. He mentioned that this is used to pay the wages of those attending training, as well as coverage while they are out of the department. Mr. Shenigo suggested keeping the budget at \$83,000, and visit this issue again later in the year to see how the budget looks, and Sheriff Sigsworth agreed.

Dog & Kennel - Dog Warden Barb Knapp is asking to move her Deputy 1 to a Deputy 2 position, since she has assumed additional fiscal duties and is handling money. She is now doing most of the accounting work in the office, as well as processing invoices and timesheets. This request will be discussed in closed session.

Clerk of Courts - Title Administration - Luvada is asking for an additional \$3,000 for travel expenses for her Title Supervisor, as well as \$1,800 in General Fund dollars. Luvada explained that she and her Title Supervisor did not attend any seminars in 2018, so she would like funding levels returned to 2017 expenses. Mr. Old asked if she could attend only one day of her monthly meeting in Columbus. Mr. Shenigo said they are trying to discourage travel, and believes employees could get the same information by going on-line. However, Luvada said the legislation reception, held before the actual training meetings, allows for networking with legislators, which is important. Mr. Shenigo disagreed with that argument, saying that it is not necessary to meet the legislators. They will take her phone calls even if she has not met them personally. He asked her how the Commissioners can deny requests from the Sheriff and Adult Probation, and approve her travel budget. Luvada noted that she will

not be using \$22,000 she had requested to scan and film her binders, since the Microfilm Department has agreed to do that. In addition, she will not be asking for a full-time employment agency employee. Mr. Shoffner said it is no secret that he agrees with Luvada on the importance of networking. He asked if she would be willing to attend her meetings every other month or quarterly. Luvada said yes, she would, but she hadn't been given that option.

Family Court - Judicial - The Judge said he has several areas of concern and disagreements with his budget, noting that 13 of his 15 line items have been reduced. He has already exceeded the budget set by Finance. He referred to his office supplies, where he is asking for an additional \$28,000. He said he can find no way to reduce costs there. Actual 2018 expenses were \$136,274, and his 2019 budget is only \$123,300. He said he would not make a proposal if he didn't think it was necessary. He pointed out that, if one Judge journalizes a budget, there is the potential that the others will follow suit. He said he would rather do that than experience "budget burnout" where he is coming back before the Commissioners continually with requests for more money.

- Advertising and Printing: The Judge would like another \$900 in this line item (bringing the total to \$2,000).
- Transcripts: Finance is proposing \$100, which won't cover the cost of one transcript. He is asking for \$2,000, and noted that the Court of Appeals will not accept an audio record, so a transcript is required.
- Travel: The Judge is asking for another \$5,000 for expenses related to CEU's for the Judge and magistrates, as well as training for probation officers and drug court employees. He is also anticipating an increase in mileage expenses related to Wraparound.
- Communications: Requesting \$3,200 for staff cell phone expenses.
- Psychological: Requesting \$8,000, since these costs are unpredictable. Expenses in 2017 were \$9,545.
- Copier - The Judge is asking for another \$2,400, for a total of \$11,000, saying that leases on all three copiers expire this year.

Family Court - Detention Home -

- Supplies: Judge DeLamatre said that, with the proposed \$11,800, it is a given that he will be coming back for more money. He believes \$26,000 is needed, so is asking for an additional \$5,200 to replace a commercial ice maker. He has already exceeded his 2019 budget for advertising costs, and expects that trend to continue, since classified ads for employment are high because of the turnover at the Detention Center.
- Prescription: He is requesting a total of \$3,000, or said the Commissioners should expect future requests.

- Commodities: The Judge will need another \$10,000 (bringing the 2019 total to \$51,000), with reimbursements received from the State.
- Boarding Supplies: Requesting an additional \$4,900.
- Other Supplies: Finance is proposing \$3,400, and the Judge is asking for another \$4,600. He said that, if that is not adjusted, there will be future requests for more.
- Advertising: Requesting another \$1,100.
- Copier: The Judge is asking for another \$750, bringing his total line item to \$4,750.
- Contract Services: Judge DeLamatre said the budget proposed by Finance is unrealistic, and he is requesting another \$32,000. Most of the expenses in this line item are nursing and physician services through the Health Department, along with the security system maintenance agreement. He noted that Ashland and Huron Counties buy beds for their youth, and those revenues do offset some of his expenses.

Mr. Shenigo noted that the Judge's budget has increased by \$1.2 million since 2010. The Judge believes that is mostly personnel costs, with salary adjustments and FCFC mentors added to his responsibilities.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shenigo, Board **recesses** at 12:10 p.m., until 1:00; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **reconvenes** at 1:15 p.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

Ed offered clarification on the Sheriff's training budget, saying that it should be \$83,000. Pete said he has talked to the Sheriff, and he assures us that most of the training dollars will be spent on straight time, with a minimal amount of overtime. Pete also believes that the Administration budget for the Deputy assigned to Job and Family Services could be reduced. Mr. Shenigo directed Pete to clear that up with the Sheriff, since he thought the Sheriff was asking for what he had spent last year.

**Consolidated Budget Hearing - Outside the General Fund - continued.**

Job and Family Services - Public Assistance, Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA), Children Services and Child Support Enforcement - Karen said they decided to reduce the Supplies line item and increase Services since they did not want to risk interrupting services to the clients.

The State provides an imaging system at no cost to the Income Maintenance unit. However, she is adding that to Children Services and Child Support, and will need money for that service. The Board approved

\$18,000 for the purchase of scanners and \$2,000 for Surface Pros in each of those departments. Karen noted that there may be new priorities with the new Governor, so there is a chance we may receive additional State funding for Children Services. If that happens, she might have to pay for the maintenance of the imaging system.

Board of DD - Levy Fund - Rachael Malone was present, and there were no questions regarding the funding requests submitted.

Recorder's Equipment Fund - a request for replacing computers was removed, since it was determined by IT that they are not needed at this time.

Motor Vehicle and Gas Tax Fund - All of the County Engineer's supplies, services and capital project were approved, with the Commissioners noting that, even if all of these were done, he would have an ending balance of \$915,215. Personnel requests will be discussed in closed session.

Engineer - Ditch Maintenance - The Commissioners approved the purchase of a laptop to be used in field work (\$1,680) an addition \$510 for maintenance/repairs/taxes, and another \$5,250 for services/utilities. It was noted that this fund is taking in more than is spent.

Auditor - Real Estate Assessment Fund - requests all concern personnel, and will be held for closed session.

Treasurer - Executive and Delinquent Real Estate Tax Assessment Collection, and Prepaid Real Estate Investment Earnings Funds - Requests for unreimbursed bank service fee (\$2,500) and to cover the increase in postage rates (\$5,000) will be moved from DRETAC, since these must be paid from the General Fund. Another \$1,400 will be added to DRETAC for travel expenses, and an additional \$20,000 for supplies will be moved to Prepaid.

Prosecutor - Delinquent Real Estate Tax Assessment Collection Fund - no issues.

Common Pleas Court - Tone - Judicial - Judge Tone is requesting \$158,000 toward the replacement of his CourtSmart system. His personnel requests will be considered in closed session.

Adult Probation - Judge Tone is asking to redistribute wages when the T-Cap grant ends in the middle of the year. However, Ed expressed his concerns about how this budget will look at the end of the year. The Commissioners directed Ed to tell the Judge there is some urgency here, since the Board will be making final decisions next week, and setting the budget by the end of the month. In the meantime, the Board told Finance to determine what they think this department will need to get them through the year, and present those numbers to the Judge.

Family and Children First Council - Pete explained that the Director's salary was allocated to the Strong Families Grant in 2018, but that won't be done again this year. He has talked to her about working toward getting more funding with community partners.

Department of Environmental Services:

- Solid Waste Management District - Capital requests have already been approved, including recycling, teacher and business workshops and education materials, and reimbursement to the Sheriff for services. The SWMD will receive \$100 as its share of the sale of Jeep #117 to Environmental Monitoring and Engineering.
- Erie County Sewer and Bay View Sewer District - Both funds will receive a portion of the sale of Truck #149 and Jeep #117 to the Landfill.
- Water Districts A and B - Both Districts will receive a share of the sale of Trucks #105 and #107 and Jeep #117 to the Landfill. Mr. Shenigo directed Pete Jackson to add \$300,000 to cover NASA costs.
- Landfill - Before approving the replacements of Vehicle #102 with #149, #132 with #107, Truck #105, Jeep #117 and a Ford Bronco for the Utilities Director, Mr. Shoffner asked for a list of all vehicles, where they are now, and the departments they are being moved to. Pete Daniel said he believes revenues should be closer to \$6 million instead of \$5.5 million. However, Pete Jackson said he is concerned about the trend he is seeing with the NASA revenues. It was recommended that he increase revenue projections by another \$300,000. Mr. Old said that we need to keep in mind that we might see a reduction in volume at the Landfill.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment to Dell** for supplies provided to the Prosecutor's Office; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-97)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement, on behalf of the Erie County Recorder, with **William R. Wallace**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-98 - providing access to imaged land record filings by the Recorder)

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 (#19-99)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **determining that the hereinafter described land is not needed for future improvements** and its proposed use by Satish K. and Promila Duggal complies with any and all regulations of permissible land use under a waterfront plan of Erie County, Ohio; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-100)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment to CT Consultants** for services provided to Regional Planning; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-101)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing temporary appropriations for the year 2019** until a permanent appropriation resolution for Erie County, Ohio for 2019 is adopted; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-102)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **releasing any liens or claims of liens against property now or formerly owned by Dennis C. Wolfe, located at 4102 Maple Avenue, Castalia, Ohio, Tax ID Number 33-01823.000**, for installment payments for water tap services; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-103)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Volunteers of America Ohio & Indiana**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-104 - providing and implementing homeless prevention services for Regional Planning Community Development Block Grant)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **determining that the hereinafter described land is not needed for future improvements and its proposed use by Julia A. Hug, Trustee**, complies with any and all regulations of permissible land use under a waterfront plan of Erie County, Ohio; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-105)

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 (#19-106)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Onnyx, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#19-107 - lease and maintenance on HP E67550 and HP M552 color LaserJet copiers for Sheriff's Office)

Board approves and executes Mylar plan re **Bridge G-211 replacement, Billings Road T.R. 38**, Groton Township.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **MediCare, LLC** in an additional amount of \$10,000.00 re providing nursing services to residents of The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re 500 pound Smart Lift without scale in the amount of \$3,388.25.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **Sheriff's Office** re recoil kit for handgun, recoil kit for rifle and Taser Z26p in the amount of \$8,150.00.

Board executes **Certificate of Retirement** for The Meadows at Osborn Park employee **Rachel Benner**.

Board approves **Current Agricultural Use Valuation Renewal Application** from Erie County Auditor's Office (Parcel 50-00981.002 - Schlessman farm lease).

Board approves **Engineer's Estimate of Cost** in the amount of \$280,000.00 re **Billings Road Structure G-211 Replacement**, Groton Township.

Board approves **wage reopener for ECDJFS** providing a 2% across the board wage increase for all bargaining unit members effective 3/1/19.

Board approves Job Description re **Maintenance Repair I - Wastewater Collection Division** for **DOES**.

Board authorizes expenses for **William Fleck** and **Tony Schaefer**, DOES, attending PACP Training in Twinsburg, Ohio, on 2/5 and 2/6/19 in an estimated amount of \$11.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **DOES** re **Robert Griggs**, part-time permanent Custodian I, successful completion of probation effective 2/2/19; and **Jackson Schaefer**, from Foreman - Water to Chief Equipment Operator 4 - Water effective 2/24/19.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Madeline Keller**, temporary part-time Eligibility/Referral Supervisor, employment effective 3/18/19.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Angel Brown**, full-time STNA, termination due to three no call no shows effective 2/23/19; and **Shanine Peden**, from PRN STNA to part-time LPN effective 2/26/19.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **DOES - Wastewater** re **Maintenance Repair I**.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Prosecutor's Office** re **part-time Secretary** (Municipal Court).

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Public Defender's Office** re **Assistant Public Defender**.

Received Notice of Deadlines for the Filing of Proofs of Claim, including requests for payment pursuant to Section 503(b)(9) of the Bankruptcy Code in regard to **Gymboree Group, Inc. et al.**, Case No. 19-30258, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern Division of Virginia, Richmond Division.

Received Notice of Auction (setting the time to 10:00 a.m. prevailing Eastern Time) in regard to **Gymboree Group, Inc., et al.**, Case No. 19-30258, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern Division of Virginia, Richmond Division.

Received Notice of Violation from Ohio EPA re **Erie County Huron South District Drinking Water Program not monitored during fourth quarter of 2018**.

Received copy of letter to Mark Burns, President, Independent Energy Consultants, Inc., 820 Deepwoods Drive, Aurora, Ohio, from Pete Daniel, County Administrator, re **notice of contract termination** (government aggregation program).

Received copy of memo to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Ed Widman, Finance Director, re **2019 Revised Estimated Resources**.

Board receives 1/23/19 **Erie Ottawa International Airport Authority** meeting minutes, 2/27/19 agenda and financial packet as of 1/31/19.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** into **Personnel Session** re **Compensation**; Roll Call: All Aye

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

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 4:40 p.m.; Roll Call: All Aye