

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

ALL PRESENT

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

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board approves the January 8, 13, 15, 2025 Erie County Commission Meeting Minutes; Roll Call: All Aye

The Commissioners and Mr. Solowiej had a brief discussion regarding the various Special Project Funds with the Common Pleas Judges and the long-standing issue of court fees. It was noted that the current court fees, which have remained unchanged for several years, are no longer in line with the rising costs of operating the court system and associated administrative functions. The Commissioners encouraged Hank to have a discussion with the Presiding Judge about this matter.

County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.

Casino Tax - County Administrator Hank Solowiej noted that the casino tax posted for January, totaling \$264,498. This is an increase compared to last January, totaling \$259,119. Erie County has budgeted around \$1 million to collect in 2025 from casino taxes.

Dog Tag Extension Resolution - Mr. Solowiej noted several items are going through for the Commissions' approval today including the annual extension of dog tags through midnight on February 10, 2025. Any resident purchasing a dog tag after February 10, 2025, will be charged a late fee.

Sewer Services Amendment #5 - The agreement between the City of Sandusky and Erie County is being amended again. Amendment No. 5 will increase Bay View's connection to the Venice Road Sewer Connection with the maximum peak flow rate of 417 gallons/minute. This increase will allow for potential development in Bay View in the future. Mr. Solowiej noted the cooperation with Utilities Director John Rufo and Sandusky City Manager John Orzech which allowed both entities to find common ground to allow this increase to take place.

Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting - The next Blue Ribbon Commission meeting will take place February 4, 2025 at the Huron Public Library at 5:00 p.m. Hank noted he has been able to the meetings and there has been great attendance and some good discussion.

Public Comment.

Resident Rick Scheel inquired about the Sewer Services Amendment that was passed.

Mr. Shenigo explained that in 2007 the City of Sandusky and Erie County entered into a Sewer Services Agreement for the collection and treatment of wastewater by the City outside the City limits in the County Sewer District Service area. The Agreement has been amended several times over the years to change peak flow, extend the contract and make two capital improvements to the wastewater plant. This fifth amendment will increase the peak flow rate of sewer that flows from Bay View.

Public Defender - Mr. Old inquired about the Request for Recruitment for the Public Defender's Office to replace a public defender at \$60,000 per year. Mr. Old noted that the Commissioners' have suggested to Public Defender T. Doug Clifford, that instead of replacing an attorney, those funds could be used to give rate increases to the other attorneys still working. Hank noted that the Public Defender's Office has had a sizable amount of turnover recently and believes they are without several attorneys. The Commissioners instruct Hank to contact Mr. Clifford to discuss before they approve this request.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **cancels** the following **February Commission meetings**: Thursday, February 6; Monday, February 10; Wednesday, February 12; Thursday, February 13; Monday, February 17 (Presidents' Day); Thursday, February 20, 2025; Monday, February 24; Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27, 2025; 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 (#25-26)

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 (#25-27)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **extending the time for the sale of dog tags** through midnight on February 10, 2025; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-28)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **supporting the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250-OH)**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-29)

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: Recorder, Huron Municipal, Sandusky Municipal, Sheriff, and Veterans Services; Motor Vehicle License & Gas Tax Fund; and Care Facility Operations Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-30)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make a **budget modification** re Erie County sewer Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-31)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided to: Erie County Community Foundation, Interstate Battery, Amazon Capital Services, Court Diagnostic & Treatment Center, Deluxe Corporation, Napa Auto Parts, Amazon Capital Services, Sandusky Artisans Cooperative and Tandem Media Network; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-32)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Plante & Moran, LLP**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-33 - preparing Medicaid and Medicare Cost and Management Reports for the year ending December 31, 2024 for The Meadows at Osborn Park)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Subdivider Agreement with **Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-34 - accepting the performance guarantee from Love's Travel Stops & Country Store, Inc. for performance of work within Milan Township only)

Mr. Solowiej noted that the previous County Engineer prevented the Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. project and the agreement from moving forward. The new County Engineer has signed off on the agreement, a bond is on file, and Hank is hopeful that construction will start in Spring.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into Amendment No. 5 to the **Sewer Services Agreement between the City of Sandusky and Erie County, Ohio**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-35 - increasing Bay View's connection to the Venice Road Sewer Connection)

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 (#25-36)

Board approves the following Revised Auditor's Certificates:

- **Accurate Business Machines** in an additional amount of \$305.00 providing an annual maintenance agreement on typewriters for Commissioners' Office.
- **US Bank** in an additional amount of \$2,740 providing maintenance on a Xerox B7025H2 color copier for DOES.
- **Smartbill** in an additional amount of \$97,520 providing services related to the processing of monthly utility bills for DOES.
- **Mobile Analytical Services, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$35,060 providing laboratory services for DOES.

- **Sandusky Steel** in an additional amount of \$13,900 providing services for DOES.
- **Dietrich Company** in additional amounts of \$5,000 and \$5,400 providing money courier services for DOES.
- **DeLage Landen Financial** in an additional amount of \$2,100 leasing a Sharp MX-2651 scanner/color copier for DOES – Wastewater Treatment Plant Division.
- **Erie Blacktop** in an additional amount of \$22,382.20 providing all work for the Landfill Drive for DOES.
- **Omni Fiber** in an additional amount of \$2,970.60 providing communication services for DOES.
- **Dietrich, LLC** in an additional amount of \$900.00 providing money courier services for Probate Court.
- **US Bank Equipment Finance** in an additional amount of \$1,000 providing a copier lease for Probate Court.
- **Lucas County Coroner** in an additional amount of \$115,000 providing of providing necessary autopsies and routine toxicology services to the Erie County Coroner.
- **Automation Mailing & Shipping Solutions** in an additional amount of \$2,599.32 providing rental on the Post Base Pro DS postage machine for ECDJFS.
- **Francotyp-Postalia, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$900.00 providing rental on the Post Base Pro DS postage machine at ECDJFS.
- **Majestic Transportation, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$220,000 providing transportation services of clients at ECDJFS.
- **City of Sandusky** in an additional amount of \$32,000 providing transportation services of clients at ECDJFS.
- **Accurate Business Machines** in an additional amount of \$1,600 providing security camera upgrades at the Courthouse.
- **Accurate Business Machines** in an additional amount of \$305.00 providing an annual maintenance agreement on typewriters for Prosecutor's Office.
- **De Lage Landen** in an additional amount of \$2,000 leasing a Konica Minolta bizhub 458e printer/copier/scanner for Recorder's Office.
- **Tyler Technologies, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$41,053.95 providing a maintenance and support agreement for software at the Recorder's Office.
- **Accurate Business Machines** in an additional amount of \$305.00 providing an annual maintenance agreement on typewriters for Recorder's Office.
- **Dietrich, LLC** in an additional amount of \$1,800 providing money courier services to the Treasurer's Office.

Received letter from Lucas County Coroner **requesting an extension to the 2024 Autopsy Agreement**. The extension will commence January 1, 2025 and expire on February 28, 2025. Board approves request.

Board approves **one-time Best Practice Incentives Bonus** in the amount of \$1,621 for paycheck date February 14, 2025 for certain employees at ECDJFS.

Board approves **one-time Medicaid Timeliness Bonus** in the amount of \$1,047.56 for paycheck date February 14, 2025 for certain employees at ECDJFS.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request form for **DOES - Landfill** Division re CAT D6 Dozer LGP WST in the amount of \$592,264.40.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Eric Dodrill** and **Jeremy Blakely**, Engineer's Office, attending 2025 Ohio Pipeline Safety Excavator Program in Norwalk, Ohio, on 2/19/25 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Jeff David**, **Dale Martin** and **Jarome Craig**, Engineer's Office, attending 2025 Ohio Pipeline Safety Excavator Program in Norwalk, Ohio, on 2/19/25 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Amanda Turner**, ECDJFS, attending ONCAC Membership Meeting (Michael's House Grant) in Columbus, Ohio, on 2/7, 5/9, 8/7, 8/8, 11/7/25 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Craig Hecht**, Clerk of Courts, attending Clerk of Courts District 7 meeting and luncheon in Norwalk, Ohio, on 2/5/25 in an estimated amount of \$20.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Facilities Department** re **Darlene Reed**, part-time Custodian I, voluntary resignation effective 1/17/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **DOES** re **Kevin Gerber**, from Maintenance Repair II - Collection to Maintenance Repair III - Collection effective 1/20/25; and **David Newman**, from Maintenance Repair II - Collection to Maintenance Repair III - Collection effective 1/20/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **ECDJFS** re **Taylor Biggert**, Eligibility Specialist Aide 3, resignation effective 1/16/25; **Sarah Gawronski**, Social Service Worker 3, rescinded resignation effective 12/5/24, will stay on staff; **Vanessa Herman**, Eligibility Specialist 3 - OMJ, successful completion or probation effective 1/15/25; and **Brianna Williamson**, Investigator 2, longevity increase effective 1/25/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Keyana Hicks**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 1/16/25; **Latoya Johnson**, part-time LPN, employment effective 1/21/25; **Landen Smith**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 1/23/25; **Mallory Weaver**, full-time LPN, employment effective 1/21/25.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **ECDJFS re Eligibility Specialist Aide 3.**

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **The Meadows at Osborn Park re Finance Officer A/P.**

Received letter from County Engineer **requesting the Engineer to proceed by Force Account** for maintenance and repairs of county roads, bridges, culverts and roadside, per O.R.C. 5543.19. Board approves request and Clerk will prepare resolution.

Received memo from County Recorder re **filing zoning resolutions and amendments with the County Recorder.**

Received letter from Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter re **fourth quarter statistics for 2024.**

Received Quarterly Update effective October through December 2024 from **Shores & Islands Ohio**, financial states as of December 31, 2024, December 18, 2024 Erie County Visitors & Convention Bureau Trustee meeting minutes and draft goals for 2025.

Received copy of October, November and December 2024 **Serving Our Seniors** Board of Trustees meeting minutes, Director's Reports for October, November and December, and audited financial statements for years ending September 20, 2024 and 2023.

Mr. Old thanked the Erie County Engineers' snow plow crews for their time and for their willingness to work in tough conditions. He stated he has not seen the roads look as clear as they are in awhile.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:06 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye