

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 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. Shenigo, Board approves the **June 15, 2023 and June 21, 2023 Erie County Commission Meeting Minutes;**

Roll Call: All Aye

County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.

Valley Ford Enterprise Zone Agreement - County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated he received word that the Huron Township Trustees voted unanimously against the abatement for the relocation of Valley Ford to Berlin Road and Route 2. Whereas, Huron Township voted against the abatement, the project will not move forward.

Love's Travel Center - Hank stated that Love's Travel Center project is still in negotiations. The Edison School Board is meeting next week, the deadline for them to respond is August 1st.

Parking Garage - The vandalism done to the third floor of the parking garage has been estimated between \$5,000 - \$10,000. Law enforcement has been able to identify the guilty parties responsible for the damage. Facilities is obtaining quotes for the cameras and the gates on the first floor have been replaced.

Brown Estate Update - Hank noted that he recently spoke with Erie County's Bond Counsel regarding the Brown Estate TIF. The developer of the Brown Estate was made aware that the County's parameters for the TIF only include waterline improvements in that area.

2024 Tax Budget.

Hank stated that the tax budget is something the County has to complete to remain in compliance for audit purposes. The 2024 Tax Budget is modeled after the 2023 budget and shows a higher level of the expenses and revenues of the County for 2024.

Wheatsborough Solar Project Updates.

Nate Pedder, Senior Development Manager, introduced Karlis Povichs, Senior Vice President of Project Development and Chris Weatherford were also present from APEX Clean Energy.

Mr. Weatherford explained that APEX is currently negotiating with contractors to ensure that the contracts are aligned with the goals that Erie County has set forth to be included in the PILOT. Mr. Pedder mentioned there are higher costs associated with the contracts, which include the Ohio domicile requirements. Therefore, Nate informed the Board that if a PILOT is not approved, APEX will likely take the more economical approach, and not proceed with the Ohio domicile requirement.

Mr. Pedder noted that one addition was made to the PILOT. It was decided to include the surrounding counties of Erie County to the Ohio domicile requirement including: Huron, Ottawa, Seneca, and Lorain Counties. It was also noted that APEX has been working with the local unions to meet certain requirements as well.

Another benefit of the PILOT would include a construction loan, so it is known as to the amount the taxes will be. If the PILOT is not approved, Erie County, the Margaretta School District and Groton Township will receive less funding. Assistant Prosecutor Gery Gross stated that a provision can be included in the PILOT that states the Commissioners can withdraw from the PILOT at a later date if the guidelines are not met by APEX. Mr. Povisils noted that APEX is available at all times for the County or residents to speak with, although, with NEXUS pipeline project, no one was onsite except the workers nor could you communicate with anyone at NEXUS. The Ohio Department of Development is also on site to ensure that APEX is following all of the stipulations of the PILOT throughout the construction process. Mr. Povisils noted that if the PILOT is not followed, the State has the authority to cancel, as well, the conditions laid forward are not followed, which will return to property taxes.

Mr. Old inquired that if APEX were to sell the project 15 years into the 30 year contract, would the entire PILOT and its requirements still be in effect. Mr. Pedder stated that Erie County would take precedence over the bank for repayment if APEX were to file bankruptcy. There are no additional funds being set aside for the other requirements i.e. \$50,000 for EHOVE and \$50,000 for Greater Sandusky Partnership. Nate added the State requires a decommission bond to be in place in case of bankruptcy. This bond provides funds to replace the land to its original site.

Superintendent of Margaretta Schools Ed Kurt stated that all the assurances are in place and stated there are many advantages to passing the PILOT for this project.

Two land owners near the project site spoke in favor of the PILOT. It was mentioned that APEX has been upfront with the land owners since the beginning of this process

A representative from EHOVE Career Center stated that EHOVE is in full support of the PILOT and informed the Commissioners that they are adding solar power courses to the curriculum next year.

The Commissioners stated their appreciation to APEX, as well as, the other residents that attended and gave their input.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board approves the **2024 Tax Budget** and authorizes Commission President Patrick Shenigo to sign;

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 (#23-222)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming an agreement between the **Edison Local School District and the Erie County Sheriff**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-223 - providing a Deputy Sheriff for law enforcement services at Edison High School, Edison Middle School, Edison Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year)

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 (#23-224)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided to Osupplies; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-225)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Allied Construction, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-226 - placing chip seal on various roads in Erie County)

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 (#23-227)

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: Board of Elections and Adult Probation; Special Project - Binette Fund; Felony Delinquent Care/Custody Fund; Strong Families Grant TCAP Sheriff 2023-2025 Fund; ISP - CCA 407 2021-2023 Grant Fund; CCA 2.0 2024-2025 Grant Fund; TCAP Adult Probation 2023-2025 Fund; 7/23-6/24 Rape Crisis Grant Fund; General OPS - FCFC Fund; Medicaid SMY Funding Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-228)

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; Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund; Childrens Services Fund; and Public Assistance Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-229)

A brief discussion regarding the NorthPoint Educational Service Center took place prior to the reading of the next resolution.

It was noted that there is a small piece of land located on State Route 2 that needs to be split from the property being purchased by North Point Educational Service Center. Assistant Prosecutor Gery Gross was present and stated the resolution and contract can be passed without the completion of the lot split, as the County does not intend to close on this property for 30 days, and by then, all contingencies of the Real Estate Purchase Agreement will have been met.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Real Estate Purchase Agreement with the **Governing Board of the North Point Educational Service Center**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-230 - agreeing to sell the real property, building and other improvements located at 4405 Galloway Road)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate to **Erie County Commissioners** Office in an additional amount of \$17,000 re providing transportation services for clients at ECDJFS.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate to **Rea & Associates** in an additional amount of \$800.00 re preparing the Erie County Comprehensive Annual Finance Report for the Erie County Auditor.

Board approves Pay Estimate No. 1 to **Kwest Group, LLC** in the amount of \$192,691.62 re Bardshar Road Culvert Ma-209 Replacement in Margareta Township for County Engineer's Office.

Board approves the final road plat dedication for **Lake Erie Arms**.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Forms for **Adult Probation** re HP printer/copier E62665z in the amount of \$5,235.59; two Dell Latitude 5540 laptops, two Adobe Acrobat standard, one Microsoft Office Pro Plus, and one Microsoft Office Standard software in the amount of \$3,666.67.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Andrew Gwinner** and **David McDowell**, Auditor's Office, attending Ohio Department of Agriculture Regional training in Norwalk, Ohio, on 8/9/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Erin Paolano**, Commissioners' staff - Clerk of the Board, attending CCC-EAPA Regional Meeting in Marblehead, Ohio, on 7/21/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Denise Bellamy**, Engineer's Office, attending CCC-EAPA Regional Meeting in Marblehead, Ohio, on 7/21/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request form for **Clark Garris**, Human Resources, attending Loss Control Coordinators' Association Summer Meeting in Bellville, Ohio, on 7/14/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Forms for **Richard Alexander**, Family and Children First Council, transporting clients to and from Camp Nuhop in Perrysville, Ohio, on 7/14, 7/16, 7/21, 7/23, 7/28/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tira Serrano**, Family and Children First Council, transporting client to Intellectual Disability Assessment in Cleveland, Ohio, on 7/14/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tira Serrano**, Family and Children First Council, transporting client to neurological appointment in Parma, Ohio, on 7/18/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tira Serrano**, Family and Children First Council, transporting client to neurology appointment in Parma, Ohio, on 8/1/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Lee Ann Hippely**, ECDJFS, attending OCDA 3rd Quarter Attorney Networking Meeting in Westerville, Ohio, on 8/24/23 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Alexis Harvey**, Sheriff's Office, attending computer Voice Stress Analyzer Training in South Euclid, Ohio, on 8/22 - 8/24/23 in an estimated amount of \$595.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for DOES re **Pete Jackson**, Fiscal Officer, longevity increase from \$.15 to \$.25 based on ten years of service with Erie County effective 7/9/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **Facilities Department** re **Darlene Reed**, part-time Custodian I, employment effective 7/17/23; and **John Schaefer**, Maintenance III General, resignation effective 7/14/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **Finance Department** re **Doug Priestas**, Purchasing Coordinator, resignation effective 7/21/23; and **Emily Galloway**, from Account Clerk II to Interim Purchasing Coordinator, effective 7/13/23 through 9/13/23 or until a permanent Purchasing Coordinator is named.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Tammy Brown**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 6/29/23; **Kathryn Carico**, full-time RN, resignation effective 6/29/23; **Shannell Cooley**, from full-time STNA to part-time STNA effective 7/1/23; **Courtney Davis**, part-time Patient Care Assistant, termination due to lack of communication regarding employment effective 6/30/23; **Adrianna Doughty**, full-time STNA, employment effective 7/25/23; **Kristina Fuqua**, PRN RN Supervisor, termination effective 6/28/23; **Victoria Harris**, full-time STNA, employment effective 6/30/23; **Angela Hershberger**, full-time LPN, rate increase due to six years of service effective 6/19/23; **Lauren Orshoski**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 7/3/23; **Charlene Philon**, from PRN RN Supervisor to full-time RN Supervisor effective 7/10/23; **Inari Treen**, part-time STNA, termination during probation effective 7/10/23; and **Taylor Turner**, full-time LPN, employment effective 7/5/23.

Board approves Job Description for **Purchasing Coordinator - Finance Department**.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Purchasing Coordinator** for **Finance Department**.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Cook** for **Juvenile Justice Center**.

Received cover letter and copy of **Jail Meal and Turn Key Report** for June 2023, from Chief Deputy Greenham.

Received cover letter and copy of **Transportation of Prisoners Report** from Sheriff Sigsworth, per O.R.C. 325.07.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth re estimate of \$250.00 to be charged on **gasoline credit cards** for the month of August 2023, per O.R.C. 301.27.

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

Received copy of **Monthly Financial Report** for the month ending 6/30/23 from the Auditor's Office, per O.R.C. 319.05.

Received copy of the **2022 Annual Report for The Foundation of Firelands Regional Medical Center**.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:35 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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