

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 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. Old, Board awards bid for **Kelley Road Elevated Water Storage Tank Painting and Rehab** to **FEDEWA Inc.**, Hastings, Michigan, in the amount of \$304,639, as the lowest and best bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the Utilities Director; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided re: Rebecca Wilson; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-239)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Kreimes Co., Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-240 - Courtyard Concrete Project at The Meadows at Osborn Park)

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 amount due upon contract or order; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-241)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **declaring the unincorporated areas of Erie County, Ohio to be a restricted area prohibiting construction of economically significant wind farms, large wind farms and large solar facilities**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-242)

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 (#23-243)

County Administrator Hank Solowiej mentioned a conflict the day of the Wednesday, August 16, 2023 Commission meeting and inquired if the meeting could be moved to Thursday, August 17, 2023. There is no objection from the Commissioners.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **cancels the Wednesday, August 16, 2023 commission Meeting and schedules a Commission for Thursday, August 17, 2023** at 9:30 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** into **Personnel Session**, per O.R.C. 1211.22 (G)(1), to consider the employment of a public employee with the Erie County Sheriff; Roll Call: All Aye

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

CCAO Scholarship Presentation for Erie County Resident Anisha Chopra.

CCAO Service Corporation Manager Steve Caraway and CCAO Communications Coordinator Jessica Newbacher were present. Mr. Caraway stated that each year, CCAO awards five \$2,000 scholarships to students within the districts of Ohio. This year, the Northwest District winner of a \$2,000 scholarship is from Erie County, Ms. Anisha Chopra. Mr. Caraway gave a brief overview of Ms. Chopra's accomplishments including: member of Student Council, participant in Visual and Performing Arts Program, member of United Nations, a volunteer for Board of Developmental Disabilities, Serving Our Senior and Special Olympics. The Commissioners' and Mr. Caraway presented Ms. Chopra with a check for \$2,000.

Ms. Chopra stated she is very grateful for this scholarship and she plans to continue being an active volunteer of the Special Olympics, as she attended the Global Youth Internship Summit and was named the US Youth Ambassador for Special Olympics.

Wheatsborough Solar Project Update.

Union members from Local 129, 688, and 480, President of the Electricians union, and President of Firelands Electric were all present and all gave their support of the PILOT Program for the Wheatsborough project. Each person expressed high interest in keeping the jobs associated with this project local. It was noted, that the construction of a solar panel project in Bowling Green without a PILOT was being constructed and the majority of the license plates at the job site were from out of State.

Mr. Pedder stated the following statistics for the project:

- Civil contractor - 25 jobs created starting in August 2023 for 12 months - Miller Bros.
- Electrical contractor for high voltage electric - 15 jobs created starting October 2023, for 12 months - Thompson Electric
- Electrical contractor for medium voltage electric and the solar panels - 60-80 jobs created - starting November 2023 for 12 months - nationwide electric contractor (Conti) will handle this piece of the project, but pulling the majority of the work force out of IBEW Local 129 and potentially a local contractor such as Firelands Electric.
- Racking and Mechanical Engineer - 50 jobs created from October 2023 - November 2024 - National Contractor (Omega Morgan) that will sub-contract with local contractors, pulling the majority of the work force out of the local IUOE and Laborers Union halls.

- Fencing and Vegetation - have not been determined yet but will be using local contractors and most likely create over ten jobs.
- During operations, there will be some local and regional O&M staff, as well as, the need for maintenance of vegetation, with the anticipation of creating two jobs.

Mr. Pedder added that at peak construction there will be 200-225 employees on site. DepComm, the head construction company, will have 30 employees as supervisors. Of the remaining 170-200 workers on site, over 100 will be local contractors. The contracts are ready to be signed over the next few weeks. Both Erie County and APEX's attorneys' are working on the Memorandum of Understanding for the PILOT. Nate added that if the PILOT is not approved, there will be changes to the statistics he just noted to make the project more economical for APEX. Nate mentioned the State of Ohio enforces the terms of the PILOT to ensure all terms are being followed. Nate hopes that this will alleviate any apprehension the Commissioners' may have.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Warner Mechanical Corporation** in an additional amount of \$4,798.50 re Erie County Jail HVAC Renovations Project for the Facilities Department.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **US Bank Equipment Finance** in an additional amount of \$650.00 re leasing a copier for Probate Court.

Board approves payment of Pay Estimate No. 2 to **D2 Excavating, LLC** in the amount of \$364,986.58 re Bardshar Road Improvements for the County Engineer.

Board authorizes and approves **Access Easement Agreement** with Robert E. Chapman and Carol J. Chapman for property located at 7507 Wahl Road, Vickery for the purpose of construction, utilizing and maintaining necessary utilities.

Board authorizes **Proclamation** recognizing August 2023 as Child Support Awareness Month.

Board approves specifications for **Treated Rock Salt** and authorizes the Purchasing Department to proceed with bid process.

Board approves specifications for **Sawmill Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Rehabilitation Project** and authorizes Purchasing Department to proceed with bid process.

Board authorizes expenses for **Hank Solowiej**, Commissioners' Administrator, attending 2023 Ohio Government Finance Officers' Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, on 10/11 - 10/13/23 in an estimated amount of \$250.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Susan Kelsey**, Common Pleas Court - Judge Tone, attending Ohio Association of Magistrate 2023 Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on 9/6 - 9/8/23 in an estimated amount of \$450.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Pete Jackson**, DOES Fiscal Office, attending 2023 Government Finance Officers' Association Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio, on 10/11 - 10/13/23 in an estimated amount of \$280.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Dog Warden's Office** re Stephanie Burkhart Stanley, Deputy Dog Warden, rate increase due to successful completion of probation effective 7/30/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Jasmyn Colson**, Telephone Operator 2, termination due to being placed on unpaid leave of absence effective 7/19/23; and **Marva Warren**, Telephone Operator - OMJ, employment effective 8/14/23.

Received copy of Finding and Order from The Ohio Power Siting Board in the matter of the review of Ohio Administrative Code Chapters 4906-1, 4906-2, 4906-3, 4906-4, 4906-5, 4906-6 and 4906-7 re **Emerson Creek Wind Farm Project**.

Received copy of 5/23/23 **Erie-Ottawa International Airport Authority Board** Meeting minutes (corrected), 6/28/23 meeting minutes, financials as of June 30, 2022 and 2023, and agenda for 7/26/23 meeting.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:50 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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