

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020

ALL PRESENT

President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board approves the minutes of the **June 24, 2020 Commission meeting**; Roll Call: All Aye

Pete Daniel re Various Issues.

Hot In-Place Recycling Bid. County Engineer Jack Farschman is requesting that the Commissioners pay the cost of the advertisement for the hot in-place recycling project, since the Board rejected the project. The Commissioners agreed with Pete's recommendation and will pay the cost of \$180.40.

Ohio Children's Trust Fund. We have been advised by the Coordinator of the Northwest Ohio Children's Trust Fund that the terms of two of the Commissioners' appointments to the regional council have expired - Family and Children First Coordinator Melissa Bayer-Smith and AJ Lill, JFS Deputy Director of Social Programs. Mr. Lill has reached the term limit, and Pete requested suggestions for his replacement from Melissa and JFS Director Karen Balconi Ghezzi. After reviewing the names provided to him, Pete is recommending Penny Nixon, JFS Social Services Supervisor 1, who has been at the agency for twenty years.

CCAO Service Corporation Solar Project. Representatives from CCAO and Palmer Energy have asked to meet with the Commissioners to discuss our participation in their solar initiative at next week's meeting. Pete said that they are asking us to become a part of that project, committing to a 20-year agreement that will give us a percentage that can be applied to our electricity aggregation program for 20% - 30% of the use at a fixed price. Pete noted that our region has been involved in a wind project with significant community input. He believes that these alternative energy projects are not the most dependable, especially in our area, since they rely so heavily on nature.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board adopts resolution declaring that the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mil limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of Erie County, Ohio, for **providing or maintaining senior citizens services or facilities**, as authorized by Ohio Revised Code Sections 307.694 or 307.85, or both; declaring that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of said ten-mil limitation, by authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.19(Y) for the purpose hereinafter set forth; and providing for the submission to the

electors of Erie County, Ohio, at the General Election to be held on November 3, 2020, the question of the renewal of 0.50 mill and an increase of 0.25 mill tax in excess of the ten (10) mill limitation, for the same purpose as the existing levy, which is providing or maintaining senior citizens services or facilities; Roll Call: All Aye (#20-177 - Serving Our Seniors)

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board adopts resolution confirming the contract between the **North Point Educational Service Center and the Erie County Sheriff**; Roll Call: All Aye (#20-178 - providing a deputy sheriff at facilities designated by NPESC for the 2020-2021 academic year)

Mr. Old made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shoffner, to enter into an agreement with Erie Blacktop for the County Engineer's resurfacing program. Pete noted that the scope and cost of this contract has not been reduced to reflect removing work to be performed on Mason and Ceylon Roads, and that the County Engineer will work with the contractor to deduct that work in the future. Mr. Shenigo said he has talked to Erie Blacktop, and the work in question should remove \$345,000 from the cost. Mr. Old said we approved this project contingent on that portion of the road work not performed. Clerk of the Board Carolyn Hauenstein has talked to the Chief Deputy in the County Engineer's office, and he said it is difficult to back out the exact number for that work and adjustments will be made later through a change order. Mr. Shenigo said there is a specific number in the calculation that applies to that work, and is concerned. If we do move forward, the \$345,000 needs to be deducted with the understanding that no work will be done on Mason and Ceylon Roads. Carolyn said that was done when we awarded the project. However, this is still included in the contract. Mr. Old would like a separate motion saying that there is no money appropriated for these two roads. However, Pete recommends saying that this should be done with the expectation that the costs allocated for Mason and Ceylon Roads will be removed by a deduct change order. Mr. Shenigo asked if, legally, the Board could approve the \$1.7 million contract and then attempt to modify it later. He would like the contingencies to be part of the resolution. Carolyn will modify the resolution to include that language.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Erie Blacktop, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#20-179 - 2020 resurfacing program on various County roads)

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, the Board directs the Clerk of the Board to **modify Resolution No. 20-179 with Erie Blacktop, Inc.**, to include language removing the cost of the resurfacing of Mason and Ceylon Roads with a change order when the project is complete; Roll Call: All Aye

Finance Department re 2021 Tax Budget. Melissa Tomaro, Assistant Finance Director, distributed the 2021 Tax Budget for review. Director of Finance Ed Widman noted that the most important part of this budget is the revenues. As required by the Budget Commission, the opening cash balance, revenues and expenses are estimated. As an example, at the beginning of this year, the General Fund had a balance of more than \$8 million, with a \$6 million opening balance in 2021. With the unusual circumstances this year, it is anticipated that we will have a \$3 million balance at the end of this year.

Questionnaires and worksheets were sent to all the departments, and there has been a lot of caution shown by the responses, especially how budget cuts will impact the workforce. Pete said this does give us indications of fiscal stress and asked if there will be any funds in the red by the end of 2021. Ed said that some of the Special Project Funds, most notably, the Prosecutor's DRETAC (Delinquent Real Estate Tax Assessment Collection). Mr. Shenigo said this budget shows that we are spending \$3 million more than we have in the General Fund, and Ed agreed. Sales tax collections and investment income are both down. Preliminary sales tax numbers for May show some positives for counties. Things are opening up slowly, but we are going to see some very low numbers beginning in April through, at least, September. However, Mr. Old said that there was only one county in the State that had worse numbers than ours. Pete said that other counties that rely heavily on tourism, such as Warren County with Kings Island, and Ottawa County show significant losses. He is hopeful that there will be a vaccine in place before next summer, getting things somewhat back to normal even if it is at a slower pace.

Ed mentioned that there had been some discussion about tapping into the Rainy Day Fund this year but, by law, that is not certified with the budget.

This information will be submitted to the Budget Commission and they will determine the numbers used to set the budget. Mr. Old said he is surprised that the Commission has not reviewed the revenue numbers for the current year, and suggested that we ask them to take another look at the official certification, since those numbers may need to be revised. Mr. Shoffner noted that Seneca County had their certification reduced back in April.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board adopts, and Commissioner Shenigo executes, the **2021 Tax Budget**, per O.R.C. 5705.28;
Roll Call: All Aye

Board executes **Certificate of Retirement** for **Cynthia Rogers**, Regional Planning.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Trevor Harlow**, Sheriff's Office, attending Realistic De-Escalation Instructor Course in Bowling Green, Ohio, on 9/9 - 9/10/20 in an estimated amount of \$495.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Daniel Vladiff**, Sheriff's Office, attending Realistic De-Escalation Instructor Course in Bowling Green, Ohio, on 9/9 - 9/10/20 in an estimated amount of \$495.00.

Board reviews the following documents approved by the County Administrator Pete Daniel, per authority under Resolution No. 20-103 and No. 20-128:

- **Docket** dated July 13 and 14, 2020
- **Government Aggregation Program Agreement** between Board of Erie County Commissioners and Volunteer Energy Services, Inc. **providing natural gas to county residents in county aggregation program.**

Revised Auditor's Certificates:

Auditor: Rea & Associates in an additional amount of \$3,840.00 re providing professional services regarding the State Audit.

DOES: Gardiner Service Co., Inc. in an additional amount of \$4,314.00 re providing HVAC maintenance services for Wastewater Treatment Division.

The Meadows at Osborn Park: Symphony Diagnostic Services No. 1 dba Mobilex USA in an additional amount of \$2,500.00 re providing portable diagnostic services (x-ray, cardiac and ultrasound) to residents.

Pay Estimate No. 4 to **Mosser Construction, Inc.** in the amount of \$14,814.36 re Columbus Avenue Structure P-209 Replacement.

Pay Estimate No. 2 to **N & N Construction Company, Inc.** in the amount of \$25,672.38 re Haber Road Structure V-105 Replacement in the City of Vermilion & Vermilion Township.

Pay Estimate No. 1 to **Lindsay Precast, Inc.** in the amount of \$51,244.00 re Precast Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert Wahl Road Structure Ma-526, Michigan Avenue Structure P-252 and Haber Road Structure V-105 in Margareta, Perkins and Vermilion Township.

Personnel Action Forms:

Commissioners: Carolyn Hauenstein, Clerk of the Board, retirement effective 8/31/20 (Voluntary Separation Plan).

The Meadows at Osborn Park: Maryl Bango, full-time LPN, employment effective 7/8/20; **Tamura Mock**, part-time STNA, resignation effective 6/23/20; **Charlene Philon**, from part-time LPN to part-time RN effective 6/30/20; and **Charlotte Wood**, from full-time STNA to full-time LPN effective 7/1/20.

Regional Planning: Cynthia Rogers, Administrative Assistant, retirement effective 7/9/20 (Voluntary Separation Plan).

Board received and reviewed the following:

Received Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue to be produced from a Specific Amount of Millage for the renewal of the 0.50 mill levy with an increase of zero and 0.25 levy a tax outside the ten-mill limitation to **provide or maintain Senior Citizen Services or facilities.**

Received letter from Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter re **2020 second quarter statistics.**

Received letter from Judge DeLamatre **requesting separation pay from Compensated Reserve Fund** for employee Bruce Croteau, who will be retiring from Juvenile Division of Common Pleas Court effective 8/28/20. Board approves request.

Received cover letter and copy of **Jail Meal and Turn Key Report** for the month of June, 2020 from Sheriff Sigsworth, per O.R.C. 311.20.

Received letter from Engineer Jack Farschman requesting the Commissioners **pay the invoice from Tandem Media Network re hot in-place asphalt bid advertisement.** Board approves request.

Received letter from CCAO re **possible participation in long-term "green energy hedge" electric utility cost savings program.**

Received **Erie Metropolitan Housing Authority 2019 Annual Report.**

Received memo from Brown Rudnick, LLP Co-Lead Counsel and Plaintiff's Executive Committee, re **filing a Proof of Claim in the Purdue Bankruptcy, National Prescription Opiate Litigation.**

Received copy of **Erie County Economic Development 2019 Annual Report.**

On motion of Mr. Old and second Mr. Shenigo, Board **adjourns** at 8:25 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye