

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 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 **May 31, 2023 and June 7, 2023 Erie County Commission Meeting Minutes**; Roll Call: All Aye

Retirement Certificate presentation for Curt Muehling, Sheriff's Office.

The following individuals were present: Sheriff Paul Sigsworth, Interim City of Sandusky Manager John Orzech, and Erie County Prosecutor Kevin Baxter, whom all have worked for many years with Mr. Muehling. Mr. Muehling was praised for his 54 years of dedicated service in law enforcement and was noted he was very respectful, approachable and a true gentleman throughout his career.

The Commissioners echoed the sentiments above and wished Mr. Muehling all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Board executes **Certificate of Retirement** to Curt Muehling, Sheriff's Office.

Certificate of Retirement presentation for Andrea Mckillips, The Meadows at Osborn Park.

The Commissioners commended Ms. McKillips on her 32 years of service at The Meadows. Mr. Shoffner stated that Ms. McKillips' knowledge has irreplaceable and has made a huge impact on the residents at The Meadows.

Assistant Administrator and Director of Nursing Donna Patrick stated Ms. McKillips has been a true professional and mentioned her kindness, compassion, and dedication to the residents.

Ms. McKillips stated she has been blessed to have had a fulfilling career with the County and that she truly loves her job.

Board executes **Certificate of Retirement** to Andrea McKillips, The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Public Hearing re **the declaration of the unincorporated areas of Erie County, Ohio to be restricted for the purpose of prohibiting construction of economically significant wind farms, large wind farms and large solar facilities pursuant** to Ohio Revised Code Section 303.57. An attendance sheet was signed by those present.

Mr. Shenigo stated today's public hearing is not about the Emerson Creek Wind Farm or the Wheatsborough Solar Project, as these projects have already been approved by the State. Today's hearing is regarding any future large wind turbine farms and solar projects that may arise in the future. All nine Townships in Erie County are in favor of restricting these large scale projects. There are municipalities across the State of Ohio that have issued bans on these large wind farms and solar projects and Erie County wanted to hear the opinions of the residents of Erie County.

Marcus Harris, Perkins Township - Mr. Harris is against banning or restricting these large scale wind and solar projects. He stated that Erie County sits between Cleveland and Toledo and could take advantage of its location to spur economic development. He mentioned a project known as Green Bank, that will allocate dollars for any kind of green project and if wind and solar projects are banned, Erie County will never have an opportunity to receive any of that funding. Mr. Harris believes that if the County invests in different sectors of power, it will be better off in the long run.

Dennis Schreiner, Groton Township - Mr. Schreiner has been involved with the anti-wind movement for several years and is not in favor of these large scale wind and solar projects in Erie County. He mentioned this legislation would be a restriction, not a total ban, and he hopes that legislation will be acted on today.

Mike Parker, Oxford Township - Mr. Parker and the other Oxford Township Trustees have been on the forefront of promoting the allowance of the residents to vote on whether they want these large scale projects in their backyard.

Larry Fletcher, Shores & Islands Ohio - Mr. Fletcher previously submitted a statement in writing to the Commissioners regarding the wind and solar projects. He stated that Shores & Islands Ohio is neither pro or anti large scale wind and solar projects, but the concern is that these wind farms could be a deterrent to tourism. Mr. Fletcher believes the ultimate decision should be with the Commissioners and each situation handled accordingly.

Gary Boyle, Perkins Township Administrator - Mr. Boyle noted that Perkins Township submitted a resolution supporting the Commissioners' decision, whatever that may be. The Township is in favor of the State's decision to allow the County the authority to make the decision on a case-by-case basis.

Perkins Township believes that property values and agricultural land will be negatively affected. Mr. Boyle also stated that having a wind farm could be a detriment for NASA potentially building a runway.

William Seaman, Oxford Township - Mr. Seaman owns three farms in Oxford Township. His main concern with large scale projects is that it impairs the residents view, threatens land value and hurts the environment. He stated that these large wind farms only produce 21% of power, so nuclear and coal plants are still needed to produce energy.

Steve Deering - Oxford Township - Mr. Deering is against restricting large wind and solar projects. He believes the world needs more energy sources and by restricting these projects it will take away the productivity of energy. Mr. Deering stated he is a farmer, and he is willing to manage farming around windfarms that are being erected. He is against restricting the zoning of wind farms and solar panel projects.

Barbara Cicalese - Ms. Cicalese stated she attended the Public Hearing in Castalia that was held in July of 2021. There were 20 residents that spoke mainly regarding the Wheatsborough Solar Project. Five residents were against the project and 15 were in favor. The 15 residents in favor of the project, believe in adding additional energy producers in any form. Ms. Cicaleses' stated when it comes to energy, to think of the future and not just today.

Mark Shieldcastle - Mr. Shieldcastle is a biologist who has been involved with the Bird Observatory for over 20 years. Mr. Shieldcastle stated he is not anti-wind and solar, but he does not believe that Erie County is the right place for these projects. He mentioned that wildlife is a huge part of Erie County and there has been misleading information released about the bats and birds being affected by the wind farms. Mr. Shieldcastle was a witness during the hearing with the Power Siting Board about the affects the wind farms would have on the wildlife. Mr. Shieldcastle stated that wildlife is an economic development tool for our area, as 80,000 people attended the American Birding Fest last month. Mr. Shieldcastle believes that wind and solar are the wrong types of energy to produce in this area.

Carl Hill - Vermillion Township Trustee - Mr. Hill appreciates all the good points that have been made from the residents thus far. He stated that the proposed legislation is neither a ban nor an approval. Mr. Hill is in favor of the legislation that would allow the residents and Townships input on each project, with the final decision to the Commissioners.

Daryl Pena - Oxford Township - Mr. Pena is against the restriction of wind and solar projects. This legislation would restrict property owners from doing what they want with their land. Mr. Pena believes it should be the right of the property owner to do what they want with their land to protect their families for the future.

Theresa Young - Crawford County - Ms. Young is a member of the Crawford Neighbors United Group. This group fought a battle against Honey Creek Wind at the election polls. Crawford County is the first County to use SB 52. Honey Creek Wind spent \$500,000 on their campaign and the Crawford Neighbors United Group spent the \$40,000 they raised. There was a 75% voter turnout and Honey Creek Wind lost. Ms. Young is asking the residents of Erie County to educate themselves on these projects and never listen to the wind companies that approach residents. It is proven that property taxes decrease and energy bills increase. Crawford Counties' wind farm restriction is for 10 years and it won by a 2-1 vote from the Crawford County Commissioners.

Sarah Nye - Crawford County - Ms. Nye stated that from her experience with wind farm companies, it is imperative that a lawyer reviews any solar or wind property lease before any resident signs. She shared her experience in dealing with the wind turbine companies. Ms. Nye is grateful that Senate Bill 52 gives the citizens a voice.

Brian Deering - Oxford Township - Mr. Deering's family has farmed in Oxford Township for over 150 years. His family has always abided by the zoning and agricultural rules to help improve the environment. Mr. Deering is opposed to any restriction of wind and solar projects because he believes that each property owner should be able to do what they want with their property.

Rick Scheel - Huron Township - Mr. Scheel stated he is torn between electricity consumption and environment when it comes to this subject. He stated that everyone is guilty of using high consumption of electricity and he would like to see another form of power being used. Mr. Scheel is in favor of the vote going to the residents.

Sharon Schreiner - Groton Township - Mrs. Schreiner stated that she is against wind and solar projects in residential settings. She stated she has done research on these projects and stated that clean energy really is not clean. She stated that wind farms are not working enough to produce power on their own and other energy sources are still needed. Coal plants are being rebuilt and becoming necessary to use again. She mentioned a wind farm in Hawaii is just sitting there rusting and only half of them are turning. Mrs. Schreiner is in favor of the decision going to a vote of the residents.

With no others wanting to speak, Mr. Shenigo thanked all for coming and voicing their opinions. The Commissioners will likely take action at the end of July to give others a chance to voice their opinion.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **takes a short recess**; 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 **recesses** into **Access Management Board Meeting**; Roll call: All Aye

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

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into Amendment No. 2 to the **Ohio Department of Youth Services Subsidy Grant Juvenile Court Funding Agreement for FY 23**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-213 - budget increases to Gender Specific Probation, Diversion and Home Detention Programs)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Thom Concrete, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-214 - loading dock project at The Meadows at Osborn Park)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming an agreement between the **EHOVE Career Center and the Erie County Sheriff**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-215 - appointing two Deputy Sheriffs to provide law enforcement services at EHOVE)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided for: Erie Ottawa Regional Airport Authority and Lakeshore Vet Hospital, Inc.; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-216)

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 (#23-217)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make an **interfund transfer** re General Operating Fund: Commissioners General; and Northern Ohio Juvenile CCF Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-218)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make a **supplemental appropriation and budget modifications** re General Operating Fund: Clerk of Courts and County Court; Children Services Fund; General OPS - FCFC Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-219)

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 (#23-220)

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 (#23-221)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Erie County Prosecutor's Office** in an additional amount of \$25,000.00 re providing legal counsel regarding the administration of funding received under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for ECDJFS)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Aramark Correctional Services, LLC** in an additional amount of \$100,000.00 re providing dietary, janitorial and laundry outsourcing services for The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Buckeye Cablevision, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$22,000.00 re providing the necessary installation and maintenance to supply standard cable television services at The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Frontline Staffing** in an additional amount of \$60,000.00 re providing staffing services for healthcare professionals at The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **MedlCare, LLC** in an additional amount of \$10,000.00 re staffing support services for The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Erie County General Health District** in an additional amount of \$113,250.00 re providing medical services, including clinician and nursing services, for inmates at the Erie County Jail.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Jasmyrn Colson**, Telephone Operator 2, employment effective 7/10/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Hannah Brickner**, full-time STNA, employment effective 6/20/23; **Nikole Harris**, full-time STNA, employment effective 6/20/23; **Francily Ramirez**, full-time STNA, termination during probation period effective 6/20/23; **Natasha Robinson**, part-time STNA, moving from 48 hours per pay to 64 hours per pay effective 6/25/23; **Inari Treen**, part-time STNA, extending probation period by 60 days effective 7/8/23; and **Karmen Truitt**, full-time LPN, resignation effective 6/16/23.

Board approves Job Description re **Chief Equipment Operator/Repair III - Environmental Monitoring and Engineering Division** for DOES.

Board approves **Request to Carry Over Vacation** for John Rufo, DOES.

Received memo from Office of the Ohio Public Defender re **update on FY 23 reimbursement rate.**

Received email from Nicholas Skaggs, Castalia, Ohio, re **opposition of restriction on wind and solar projects in Erie County.**

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

Received copy of 5/24/23 **Erie-Ottawa International Airport Authority** meeting minutes, 6/28/23 meeting agenda, and financials as of May 31, 2023 and 2022.

Public Comment.

Mr. Rick Scheel lives on Galloway Road. Lately, Galloway Road has been the main source of travel for Cedar Point and Sports Force. The speed limit is 45 and then drops to 35 on that street. Every driver down that road drives at least 10 miles over the speed limit. He mentioned that pedestrians walk, there are two churches and the Board of Developmental Disabilities are all located on that road. Mr. Scheel also stated that concrete trucks and semi's travel that road and there is a 25 ton limit. Mr. Scheel asked the Commissioners to have the Sheriff add an additional Sheriff Deputy to enforce the trucks and their 25 ton load limit.

The Commissioners agreed to speak to the Sheriff re weight limit of trucks on that road. Several years ago, the Engineer's Office instituted a \$10 permit for overloaded trucks. The Commissioners' instruct Hank to contact the Engineer's Office to see how many permits have been purchased and have been pulled for violation.

Mr. Old noted on the docket that the Auditor's Office Real Estate Division is utilizing Flex Temp services and asked what the reason was for the Auditor to be using a temporary agency for employees. Mr. Old instructed Hank to get a list of all Departments who use temporary agencies.

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board **adjourns** at 11:34 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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