

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

PJS ABSENT

Vice President Old called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pete Daniel re Various Issues.

Sales Tax. Pete received the sales tax for March sales. Sales tax revenues year-over-year for the month are down 20% what was budgeted, but 11% above what we expected March sales to be. Pete noted that our budgets were adjusted for worst case scenario for March, April and May. Mr. Old said original budget numbers were at 2019 levels and still had to adjust lower.

Mr. Shoffner asked Pete if another adjustment in the budget will need to be made later in year, with Pete responding yes. Mr. Old suggested the Budget Commission also adjust their budget projections.

CARES Act. The House and Senate passed the CARES Act Bill. A resolution has been prepared fulfilling the requirements of the bill to expend federal funds to Erie County. Other items in the Bill are expanding county furlough hours from 80 to 160 through June of 2021, any grants given to local businesses are not subject to State CAT taxes, and capital spending projects.

OPERS Early Retirement Program. Erie County has established a program for employees under the Commissioners' appointing authority including: Commissioners' Administration, Department of Environmental Services, Human Resources, Microfilm, Planning, Facilities-General, and Facilities-Garage. This program allows employees in those departments, who are within five years of retiring, to buy two service credit years from OPERS. OPERS has 60 days to approve this program once it's sent to Columbus. Other Elected Officials may choose to utilize this option to help reduce their budgets, but they will need to develop their own plan. Today is the deadline for them to request funding. Human Resource Director Nancy Ostrander is sending the program request to OPERS today.

Voluntary Separation Program. Erie County is also offering a Voluntary Separation Program for county employees for cost saving measures. This program would allow Erie County employees who have at least five years of service to voluntarily separate employment with Erie County. The tier payment plan is as follows: employees working up to five years with Erie County could receive up to \$10,000; employees working 5-10 years could receive up to \$15,000; employees 10-15 could receive up to \$20,000 and employees working 15 years or more could receive up to \$25,000. Both of these programs being offered to employees are for budget reduction measures. The idea being if an employee chooses the Voluntary Separation Program or the Early Retirement Program, they will not be replaced. Mr. Old added we will be paying employees using the Rainy Day Funds to offset future budget cuts from the General Fund. This program is only open until August 31, 2020.

Flexible Spending Account. Pete mentioned the IRS has approved two guideline changes to Flexible Spending Accounts. The two amendments include: the 2020 carryover amount increases from \$500 to \$550; and employees are permitted to make mid-year changes including: revoking an election, making a new election, or increasing or decreasing an election.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board enters into a **Voluntary Separation Program** for Erie County employees under the Board of Commissioners Appointing Authority; Roll Call: Both Aye (#20-164-A)

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board adopts resolution fulfilling the requirements of Ohio House Bill 481 for the passage of a resolution to receive and expend federal funds under Section 5001 of the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**; Roll Call: Both Aye (#20-165-A)

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

Pete approved two Amendments to Make Mid-Year Plan Changes to revoke an election, make new election, or increase or decrease an election in the flexible spending account for County employees through December 31, 2020 and increasing the carryover amount for **flexible spending account** from \$500 to \$550.00 through December 31, 2020.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **Recorder's Office** re Minolta MS-6000 Digital Microfilm scanner reader/printer in the amount of \$2,495.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Commissioners' Department** re **Hank Solowiej**, Fiscal Administrator, second step pay increase effective 6/9/20.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Leslie Williams**, PRN RN, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 5/22/20; and **Taylor King**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 5/30/20.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 8:40 a.m.; Roll Call: Both Aye