

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

ALL PRESENT

President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.

Sales Tax - Preliminary March sales tax collections, for December sales, totaled \$1.8 million, with collections being \$1.78 million this time last year. Year-to date, Erie County has collected \$5.2 million in sales tax, which is 3% higher than last year.

Gas Tax - gas tax collections for March totaled \$320,000, compared to \$286,000 from last year. Year-to-date, Erie County has collected \$945,000 in gas tax this year, which is 5% more (\$894,000) than last year.

Discussion was had regarding the scheduling of the next public hearing regarding the potential water rate increase. It was decided that April 17th at 9:30 a.m. would be the next public hearing.

County Administrator Hank Solowiej wanted to take a moment to remember the 13th Anniversary of the passing of former City of Sandusky Police Officer Andrew Dunn, who sacrificed his life in the line of duty.

Presentation on the Battery Park Project from Mr. Jon Sines of Marous Development Group.

Mr. Jon Sines, Director of Development for Marous Development Group, provided a presentation on the proposed Battery Park Project. A few highlights of the 33 acres of mixed-use redevelopment include: renovating outer break walls at the marina, raising the pier by 2 ½ feet, two parking garages for public and private use, a 50,000-60,000 square foot building for retail, 68 condos that will be for sale, new marina services building, and an apartment building that will have 172 apartments for rent. The hotel will feature between 150-200 rooms. Each building will have a pool. The marina will have a reduced number of slips because the slips will be increasing in size. Mr. Sines also noted that the public spaces, which will have a lawn area, will be used for concerts, food trucks, and a viewing tower at the end of the Meigs Street pier.

Mr. Sines stated, to date, there has been \$1.4 million collected in private investments. There are also several grants that his company is applying for to assist with expenses of this massive project including: \$43 million grant from the All Ohio Future Fund, a \$6 million Brownfield grant and a \$25 million Transitional and Mixed Use Development Fund Grant. Mr. Sines noted that a request of \$43 million for this grant is the smallest request that has been submitted.

Mr. Sines is requesting a letter of support from the Commissioners for the All Ohio Future Fund Grant, which if awarded, will have a 25% match. He stated that the Battery Park Project is a regional project involving many agencies and has great potential for economic development in Erie County. Mr. Sines has received ten letters of support so far from Erie County agencies. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Sines for attending the Commission Meeting, as well as, giving the presentation and directed him to forward sample letter of support to the Clerk of the Board for her to prepare for the Board's signature.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board reappoints Nancy McKeen to the **Public Defender Commission** for a four-year term, expiring on May 20, 2028; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **cancels** the following **April Commission Meetings**: Monday, April 1; Thursday, April 4; Wednesday, April 10; Monday, April 15; Thursday, April 18; Monday, April 22; Thursday, April 25; and Monday, April 29, 2024; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided: Tandem Media Network, Steve Motry and Monroe Freightliner; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-90)

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: Commissioners General; Erie County Sewer Fund; General Operating Fund: Public Assistance; Public Assistance Fund; General Operating Fund: Children Services; Children Services Fund; General Operating Fund: Soil & Water Conservation; Soil & Water Conservation Fund; Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund; Public Assistance Fund; Erie County Sewer Fund; and Bay View Sewer Rev Bond Payment Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-91)

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: Clerk of Courts and Sheriff; DD - Operating Fund; Motor Vehicle License & Gas Tax Fund; and General OPS - FCFC Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-92)

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 (#24-93)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Support and Maintenance Agreement with **Intellitech Corporation**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-94 - providing support and maintenance on the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software for 9-1-1 and dispatch effective 1/1/24 - 1/1/27)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **accepting the Greater Erie County Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Review Council (T.I.R.C.) recommendation and approve the continuation of Tax Abatement, Community Reinvestment Area, and Tax Increment Financing Agreements** for the hereinafter delineated companies in the Greater Erie County Enterprise Zone for the tax year 2023; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-95)

Docket - Mr. Old asked why three different Elected Officials at the Office Building are spending money on Polar Pure water. Mr. Old noted he does not believe in spending money on water, especially when there are water fountains throughout the building.

Sheriff Cruisers- It was brought to the Commissioners attention that, the Sheriff is requesting the purchase of seven new cruisers for this year. It has been discovered that Chevy Tahoe's are more readily available for purchase than Ford Explorers, so the request is for seven new Chevy Tahoe's. The new vehicles will cost approximately \$82,000 for each Tahoe, fully equipped and outfitted with the proper law enforcement equipment. The Commissioners asked why the equipment can't be transferred from the older vehicles to the new vehicles. Hank stated that it will not fit properly in the newer vehicles, especially moving from an Explorer to a Tahoe. The Sheriff is asking for seven and there are three available in the Sheriff's budget. Hank noted that six were purchased for \$400,000 two years ago and these vehicles are just now being put on the road. The Commissioners stated they will approve the purchase of five new Chevy Tahoe's.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Blue Technologies** in an additional amount of \$100.00 re providing a maintenance agreement on a Lexmark XM1145 printer/scanner/fax for Erie County Sheriff's Office.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **ICP, Inc.** in an additional amount of \$30,000 re providing pharmaceuticals to The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board authorizes expenses for **Amber Bruno** and **Amber Jenkins**, ECDJFS, attending Spring 2024 Information Session - Embrace Innovation in Akron, Ohio, on 4/3/24 in an estimated amount of \$10.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Ohio Travel Demand Model Users Group in Columbus, Ohio, on 4/5/24 in an estimated amount of \$13.00.

Board approves Travel Request form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending OPWC District 5 Organization Meeting in Bowling Green, on 4/9/24 at no cost.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **ECDJFS** re **Nicole Harris**, from Eligibility Specialist Aide 3 to Eligibility Specialist 3 - OMJ effective 4/15/24; and **Robyn Forrest**, from Telephone Operator 2 to Youth Career Coach - Specialist effective 4/15/24.

Received copy of letter to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Alyssa Heater, Finance Manager re **2024 Revised Estimated Resources**.

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board **adjourns** at 11:55 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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