

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

ALL PRESENT

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

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **approves the March 12, 2025 Erie County Commission Meeting Minutes**; Roll Call: All Aye

County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.

CCAO Scholarship - Mr. Solowiej announced the release of the 2025 Ohio Counties Scholarship by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO), available to high school seniors. He strongly encouraged Erie County students to apply for this scholarship, which supports outstanding students pursuing higher education. In 2023, Erie County resident and Sandusky High School Senior Anisha Chopra won the Northwest Region scholarship.

Blue Ribbon - The next Blue Ribbon Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at the Erie County Office Building. The topic will focus on Information Technology. Additionally, another meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., focusing on water, sewer, and sewer plants.

First Energy - Mr. Nik Katsaros, First Energy Regional External Affairs Representative, will attend the next Commission Meeting, Wednesday, April 2, 2025 to provide updates and answer any questions.

Jail Security Systems - The bid award for the Jail security system will be going through the meeting today. The lowest bidder was Securitas Technology. The final bid came in lower than expected due to the removal of the intercom headend and modifications to the key card system. The project received a \$200,000 grant from Senator Gavarone's office. Mr. Solowiej and Mr. Steve Westcott, from the Sheriff's Office, are also pursuing additional state grants to further support this project (HB 2).

EMA Truck - The Soil & Water Conservation District has expressed interest in acquiring the old EMA truck originally intended for sale on GovDeals. A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting to declare the truck as surplus and authorize its donation to Soil & Water.

Township Infrastructure Road Program - After discussions with new County Engineer Eric Dodrill, Mr. Solowiej recommended retaining \$1 million in the Motor Vehicle License and Gas Tax Fund for the Township Infrastructure Road Program. The Political Subdivisions can apply for funding directly through the County Engineer's Office. The Commissioners concurred with Mr. Solowiej's recommendation and expressed their gratitude for Mr. Dodrill's collaborative leadership style and transparency.

Andy Dunn - Mr. Solowiej reminded the Board that today marks the anniversary of the passing City of Sandusky Police Officer Andy Dunn.

Assisted Outpatient Training - The Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS) clarified, with Mr. Old, that the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Training taking place in Maryland is a requirement of the Court to be able to administer the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program. Mr. Old confirmed the necessity of the out-of-state training.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board reappoints Mary Peters to the **Board of Developmental Disabilities** for a four-year term effective March 11, 2025 through March 10, 2029; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **Jail Control System to Securitas Technology Corp.**, Fishers, Indiana, in the amount of \$597,645.00, with alternate, and removing the intercom headend and modifications to the key card system access, as the lowest and best bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the Jail Administrator, IT Director and Finance Department; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **cancels** the following **April Commission Meetings**: Thursday, April 3; Monday, April 7; Thursday, April 10; Wednesday, April 16; Thursday, April 17; Monday, April 21; Wednesday, April 23; Thursday, April 24; and Monday, April 28, 2025; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Hill's Interiors**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-75 - replacement of flooring at The Meadows at Osborn Park)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an FCC Order Compliance Amendment to the Masters Services Agreement with **Securus Technologies, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-76 - revising product rates and fees, site commissions, commissions in-kind, and investigative products and other security features)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided to: Advance Auto Parts, Gene Ptacek & Son Fire Equipment Co., Inc., Government Forms & Supplies LLC and O'Supplies; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-77)

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 (#25-78)

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 (#25-79)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **budget modifications and a supplemental appropriation** re General Operating Fund: Facilities, and Sheriff, Veterans Services; Northern Ohio Juvenile CCF Fund; Adult Probation Fund; and General OPS - FCFC Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-80)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio/Lucas County Coroner**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-81 - providing necessary autopsies and routine toxicology services to the Erie County Coroner for calendar year 2025)

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 approving 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 2024; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-82)

Board executes **Proclamation** acknowledging the month of March as **National Developmental Disabilities Month**.

Board executes **Certificates of Retirement** to ECDJFS employees **Sherri Routsong** and **Diane Lehner**.

Board **disapproves** Travel Request Form for **Melissa Pelletier** and **Debra Hinkle**, Clerk of Courts, traveling to Wood County Clerk of Courts for training on 2/19 - 2/21/25 in an estimated amount of \$321.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Chad Henderson**, Sheriff's Office, attending 2025 National AOT Symposium and Learning Collaborative in Annapolis, Maryland on 3/27 and 3/28/25 at no cost. (paid for by grant funds)

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **ECDJFS** re **Adam Konik**, Social Service Worker 3, resignation effective 3/21/25; **Chris Wiegel**, Telephone Operator 2, resignation effective 4/30/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Ashley Johnson**, full-time RN Supervisor, resignation effective 3/7/25; **Shelby Tillinghast**, Fiscal Officer, employment effective 4/7/25; and **Katelynn Mischler**, full-time STNA, rate decrease due to switching to third shift effective 3/22/25.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Social Service Worker 3** and **Telephone Operator 2** for **ECDJFS**

Received 2024 Erie-Ottawa International Airport Annual Report.

Public Comment.Vermilion Amvets Post 22 Commander Mr. Malcom Williams

Mr. Williams expressed sincere appreciation to the Commissioners for their prior contribution to the granite monument and plaque installed at the Veterans Memorial Park in Vermilion. He brought to the Board's attention a new issue: the need to relay the bricks at the Memorial Park, which have become a walking hazard. He requested funding assistance for the project, with the goal of having a dedication ceremony on Memorial Day. The total estimated cost is \$28,000. Commissioners recommended that Mr. Williams apply for a tourism grant through Shores & Islands Ohio, citing the park's significance as a tourist destination. Mr. Solowiej offered to provide Mr. Williams with the necessary contact information.

Stephanie King, SNAP and Benefits Outreach Program Coordinator for Erie County through Second Harvest Food Bank

Ms. King invited the Commissioners to attend a Poverty Simulation hosted by Creating Healthy Communities and facilitated by Second Harvest. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Mills School gym. The simulation aims to increase public awareness by having participants experience real-life poverty scenarios, including bill payments, limited resources, and financial decision-making.

Ms. King provided data highlighting the needs in Erie County:

- 2.6 million pounds of food distributed to 16 partner pantries in 2024 (13% increase from 2023)
- 650 additional individuals received SNAP benefits from January 2024 to January 2025
- An additional 120 individuals added from January to February 2025
- 9,000 residents currently receive SNAP, totaling \$1,644,492 in benefits from January to February 2025

The Commissioners thanked Ms. King for the valuable information and the invitation to attend the upcoming event.

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board **adjourns** at 10:20 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye