

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 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. Old, Board approves the **minutes of the March 13, 2023 Commission Meeting**; Roll Call: All Aye

**Vermilion Township Trustees Introduction of new Trustee.**

Vermilion Township Trustee Roger Scott thanked the Commissioners for the Township Infrastructure Funding Program dollars. Vermilion Township has been able to accomplish much in the way of fixing their roads with these funds and Mr. Scott stated he is truly appreciative of this program.

Mr. Scott introduced Mr. Robert Kurtz who replaced Mr. Ronald Dickel who resigned as Trustee. Mr. Kurtz stated that he will finish out the term of Mr. Dickel and has not decided if he will run for a full term. Mr. Kurtz stated he has 23 years of government experience, serving as the Building Official and the Service Director. Mr. Kurtz stated he is confident that he will be able to contribute to the township and assist the other two Trustees. The Commissioners welcomed Mr. Kurtz.

**Commissioners Introduction to the Regional Center for Advanced Academic Third Graders.**

Clerk of the Board Erin Paolano introduced the third graders from the Regional Center for Advanced Academic School third graders to the Commissioners. The Commissioners asked various questions regarding government to the students and then the students had their chance to ask the Commissioners questions. Sheriff Sigsworth stopped by and the third graders got a chance to ask the Sheriff questions as well. A brief recess took place as the third graders moved on with their day which included walking to the Sheriff's Department for a tour of the dispatch area and a tour of the Dog Pound.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board takes a brief **recess**; Roll Call: All Aye

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

---

**Enterprise Zone Agreement.**

County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated no action will be taken today on the Enterprise Zone application submitted by Valley Ford, but he wanted to request the Board make a motion to appoint Hank to the Enterprise Zone Advisory Committee. The Committee will review any enterprise zone agreement that come to Erie County. Hank reviewed a proposed enterprise zone agreement that was submitted to Erie County from Valley Ford of Huron. The proposed project is in Huron Township and Valley Ford would like to build a new 30,000 square foot facility on Berlin Road in Huron Township. This is an approximate \$8 million investment to Erie County and would relocate the 30 existing employees to the new facility and create 30 additional jobs within three years of the facility's opening, creating a \$1.65 million dollars in payroll. The request is for a tax exemption of 100% for 15 years.

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board appoints County Administrator Hank Solowiej to the **Enterprise Zone Committee**; Roll Call: All Aye

**Tax Incentive Review Council Recommendations.** Financial Planner Zach Rospert was also present. Hank stated that the resolution has been prepared for the annual Tax Incentive Review Council's recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Rospert reviewed the company agreements requesting tax abatements, Tax Increment Financing, and Community Reinvestment Area (CRA):

- Bettcher Industries - Zach has not been able to make contact with anyone at Bettcher, but their agreement ends in 2023 and they have historically maintained their conditions of the agreement.
- The Glidden Company/PPG - This agreement has ended and is complete and this will be the last year that this agreement will be discussed.
- Kalahari - Kalahari has exceeded the job creation goals set forth in their CRA.
- Speer Bros., Inc. - Speer has met their requirements of their Enterprise Zone Agreement.
- Maui Sands - This Tax Incentive Financing agreement has been terminated and the fund balance of \$528,540.22 was distributed to all taxing entities as certified on August 22, 2022.
- Firelands Regional Medical Center - This agreement started in 2021, and they are hitting their job goals. They are building out some of the existing shell space at this location, which will create ten jobs. There will be three pods remaining to rent out to physicians and their staff, with a plan to rent one out per year.
- Quarry Lakes - This TIF is costing Erie County \$85,000 per year.

- CertainTeed Corporation - This company is short on its job goal, but they have increased in other areas of their conditions, satisfying the committee to continue CertainTeed's agreement.
- Strategic Weapons & Tactical Training (DBA Lake Erie Arms) - This project is under construction and currently working on a contract amendment to allow for an extension of the construction period. The construction deadline in the original agreement ended 12/31/22, but Lake Erie Arms would like to extend it until 12/31/23. Zach noted that by extending the deadline by one year will not impact the funding to the school system.

Route 6 Corridor Project - Hank mentioned that Erie County was notified that Erie County will receive \$5.3 million from ODOT for the construction of the Route 6 Corridor Project. Construction will start in 2026. Hank commended the Erie County Staff and the ODOT District Office for their hard work it took to have this project come to fruition. The Commissioners instructed Hank to send ODOT a letter thanking them for their assistance.

Travel Requests - Mr. Old wanted a recap of the travel requests that were discussed at last week's meeting. Hank stated that the employee who was staying in Michigan is taking a county vehicle, the Auditor is taking his personal car, but paying for his gas, and the Public Defender is resubmitting his travel form with the new rate of mileage noted.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **cancel**s the following **Commission Meetings in May**: Monday, May 1; Thursday, May 4; Monday, May 8; Wednesday, May 10; Monday, May 15; Wednesday, May 17; Monday, May 22; Thursday, May 25; and Monday, May 29, 2023 (Memorial Day); Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing the County Administrator to contact and pay claims for goods received and services rendered**, and to pay General Obligation and Revenue Notes and Bonds up to and including \$10,000 per contract or purchase order; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-96)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the President of the Board to approve and submit to the Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Community Development Services Agency, Office of Community Development an application requesting up to \$1,250,000 of **Program Year 2023 Community Housing Impact & Preservation Program Funds**, and procuring Great Lakes Community Action partnership to prepare the application and administer the program; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-97)

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 2022; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-98)

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. 5705.21(d)1, and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract or order; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-99)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming the ratification of the agreement between the **Erie county Engineer and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO Ohio Council 8, Local 1045**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-100)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Ohio Telecom** in an additional amount of \$72,920.40 re Internet fiber network for County facilities including IT, DOES, The Meadows and Job and Family Services.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Ohio Telecom** in an additional amount of \$648.75 re telephone service fees for Clerk of Courts.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Ohio Telecom** in an additional amount of \$461.25 re telephone service fees for Dog Pound.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Ohio Telecom** in an additional amount of \$42,075.00 re telephone service fees for Facilities Department.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Republic Services of Sandusky/Allied Waste** in an additional amount of \$5,875.00 re providing trash collection/disposal of recycling services for Erie County Jail.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Centerstone Insurance & Financial Services dba Benefitmall** in an additional amount of \$687,750.00 re providing stop loss insurance for Erie County employees for HR Department.

Board approves two Revised Auditor's Certificate for **VSP** in an additional amount of \$6,000.00 and \$56,250.00 re vision plan for county employees.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Flores & Associates, LLC** in an additional amount of \$4,053.00 re providing administrative services relating to employee leave of absence and accommodation policies for HR Department.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Aramark Correctional Services, LLC** in an additional amount of \$350,000.00 re providing dietary, janitorial and laundry outsourcing services for The Meadows at Osborn Park. Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Ohio Telecom** in an additional amount of \$2,947.50 re telephone service fees for The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Dietrich, LLC** in an additional amount of \$162.90 re money courier services for Municipal Court.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **US Bank Equipment Finance** in an additional amount of \$1,050.00 re lease of copier for Probate Court.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Ohio Telecom** in an additional amount of \$1,042.50 re telephone service fees for Public Defender's Office.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Blue Technologies** in an additional amount of \$75.00 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 **FTG Greater Ohio, LLC** in an additional amount of \$2,924.00 re lease and maintenance on HP E67550 and HP M552 color LaserJet copiers for Sheriff's Office.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Doug H. Kilbride** in an additional amount of \$841.72 re ratio tower agreement for Sheriff's Office.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Aramark Correctional Services, LLC** in an additional amount of \$98,625.00 re providing inmate food services at the Jail.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **DOES - Water Division** re tandem dump truck cab and chassis in the amount of \$131,732.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Janice Baum, Holy Printy and Shannon Gale**, Auditor's Office, attending Open Window User Group 2023 in Youngstown, Ohio, on 5/11/23 in an estimated amount of \$20.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Andrew Schoewe and John Kromer**, DOES - Water, attending the CDL test in Massillon, Ohio, on 3/28/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Matt Rogers**, Engineer's Office, attending 2023 Bridge Workers, Supervisors and Engineers Conference in Newark, Ohio, on 4/5/23 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Cynthia O'Farrell**, Family and Children First Council, attending Resilience in a Complex Environment Trauma Conference in Findlay, Ohio, on 5/8/23 in an estimated amount of \$40.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **T. Douglas Clifford**, Public Defender, attending OACDL Advance DUI Defense and DUIDLA Trial Skills in Columbus, Ohio, on 3/10/23 in an estimated amount of \$362.55.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kelli Jelinger**, Public Defender's Office, attending 2023 Housing Law Training Committee on Regional Training in Ann Arbor, Michigan on 4/18 and 4/19/23 in an estimated amount of \$150.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Andrew Watson**, Sheriff's Office, attending Basic Traffic Crash Investigation Training in Columbus, Ohio, on 4/24 - 4/28/23 at no cost.

Board approves Personal Action Form for **Finance Department** re **Alyssa Heater**, from Budget Analyst to Finance Manager effective 4/3/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **Family & Children First Council** re **Tiffany Burdge**, Service Coordinator, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 3/6/23; and **Jessica Songer**, Wraparound Facilitator, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 2/22/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Latoya Aaron**, part-time LPN, employment effective 4/6/23; **Dale Douglas**, Maintenance Aide 1, resignation effective 3/27/23; **Rashaad Smith**, full-time STNA, employment effective 4/4/23.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Engineer's Office/Highway Department** re **Equipment Operator 1**. (two positions)

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Maintenance Aide 1**.

Board approves Job Descriptions re **Maintenance Aide 1** for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** and **Finance Manager** for **Finance Department**.

Received letter from Project Engineer Michael Farrell re **timeline for Campbell Street/Strub Road roundabout**.

Received letter from Ohio Department of Job and Family Services re **County Share of public assistance expenditures mandated share for State Fiscal Year 2024**.

Received copy of **Erie MetroParks Biennial Report for 2021-2022**.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, **recesses** into Executive Session, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (6), to consider details relative to **security arrangements for a public body** that if disclosed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board also enters into an **Executive Session**, per O.R.C. 121.2 (G) (1), to **consider the compensation of public employees** of the Board of Commissioners of Erie County, Ohio with Sheriff Sigsworth; 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 **adjourns**; Roll call: All Aye

emp  
meet23-13