

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

ALL PRESENT

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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 February 5th and February 19, 2025** Erie County Commission Meeting Minutes; Roll Call: All Aye

**County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.**

Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) - Mr. Solowiej attended the January 21, 2025, ADAMHS Board meeting to discuss reducing the size of the board from 14 members to 9 members. He was willing to consider feedback on this proposal from the ADAMHS Board until the end of February, but has not received any additional comments. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Jason Hinners has drafted a resolution to enact the reduction of the ADAMHS Board, which will be presented for approval at next week's meeting. Hank noted that the reduction of the Board will occur gradually as vacancies arise; no immediate terminations will take place. The new structure of the Board will include six County appointed members and three State appointed members.

Health Insurance Cost Containment Committee - Mr. Solowiej attended the recent Cost Health Insurance Containment meeting where discussions focused on the County's healthcare plan and potential mid-year insurance increases. He noted that the Trust Fund balance is currently \$3 million, which has been steadily decreasing. A major expense has been weight loss drugs, such as Wegovy and Zepbound. The county spent \$500,000 on these medications in 2024. Mr. Solowiej contacted other government and non-government entities regarding their insurance policies and the coverage of weight loss drugs for their employees. He found that most of these entities do not, in fact, provide coverage for these drugs. Mr. Solowiej proposed removing the weight loss drugs from the County's health insurance plan starting January 2026. Medications prescribed for diabetes, such as Ozempic, will remain covered. This proposal aims to provide employees with ample notice before the policy change takes effect.

Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting - Mr. Solowiej reported on the Blue Ribbon Commission meeting held on March 4, 2025, which focused on county-wide fire and EMS services. The meeting had a strong turnout and engaging discussion on improving efficiency in fire and EMS services. The next Blue Ribbon Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers at the Services Center, 2900 Columbus Avenue. The upcoming meeting will focus on law enforcement services.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into Contract Addendum #2 with **Corso's Flower and Garden Center**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-53 - extending the contract through 11/15/25)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Medical Mutual of Ohio**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-54 - stop loss insurance effective 1/1/25 - 12/31/25)

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(2)1, and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract or order; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-55)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Erie County Prosecutor**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-56 - providing Title IV-D child support enforcement legal services for ECDJFS)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Erie County Sheriff**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-57 - providing security services under the Title IV-D funding for ECDJFS)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with the **Erie County Common Pleas Court - Juvenile Division**; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-58 - providing Title IV-D clerical services for Child Support Enforcement Agency at ECDJFS)

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 (#25-59)

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 (#25-60)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Administrator to approve and submit to the Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Community Enhancements an application requesting up to \$1,250,000 of **Program Year 2025 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 (#25-61)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing payment for services and supplies** provided to Firestone Complete Auto Care, Case Is On It, David W. Stanton, PSC, and Tandem Media Network; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-62)

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: Planning Department; Metropolitan Planning Organization Fund; General Operating Fund: Soil & Water Conservation; and Soil & Water Conservation Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-63)

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 ADAMHS Erie - General Fund; BJA Grant ADAMHS Fund; SAMHSA AOT Grant ADAMHS Fund; Public Assistance Fund; Certificate of Title Administration Fund; Dog & Kennel Operating Fund; Real State Assessment Fund; Motor Vehicle License & Gas Tax Fund; Northern Ohio Juvenile CCF Fund; Compensated Reserve Fund; 2025 Special Election Funding Fund; Care Facility Operations Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-64)

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 Solid Waste District Fund; and Water District Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#25-65)

Board executes **Satisfaction of Mortgage** to 633 Hancock Street, LLC in the amount of \$50,000 for property located at 627 Hancock Street, Sandusky.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **Emergency Management Agency** re six Dell Precision 3680 Tower Workstations in the amount of \$16,000.

Board approves Pay Estimate No. 10 to **American Stucturepoint, Inc.** in the amount of \$15,339 providing professional services for Mason Road Bridge Mi-212 for County Engineer's Office.

Board approves Pay Estimate No. 10 to **American Stucturepoint, Inc.** in the amount of \$772.90 providing professional services for Mason Road Bridge Mi-212 for County Engineer's Office.

Board approves Pay Estimate No. 11 to **American Stucturepoint, Inc.** in the amount of \$15,339 providing professional services for Mason Road Bridge Mi-212 for County Engineer's Office.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending D2 STIP Open House in Bowling Green, Ohio, on 3/18/25 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Laura Fogg**, Family and Children First Council, attending Service Coordination Training in Columbus, Ohio, on 3/10 and 3/11/25 in an estimated amount of \$248.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Eric Dodrill**, Engineer, attending 2025 County Engineer's Association of Ohio Storm Water Management Drainage Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on 3/11 and 3/12/25 in an estimated amount of \$446.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Eric Dodrill**, Engineer, attending Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association Quarterly Meeting in Ada, Ohio, on 3/26/25 in an estimated amount of \$30.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Alli Andre**, full-time STNA, re-hired effective 2/24/25; **Christine Slisher**, full-time RN, employment effective 3/4/25; **Karsyn Brewer**, from full-time STNA to part-time STNA effective 1/5/25; **Landen Smith**, from full-time STNA to part-time STNA effective 3/9/25; **Eva Hooven**, full-time RN, resignation effective 2/19/25; **Shelby Martin**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 2/28/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for ECDJFS re **Courtney Dunlap**, Social Service Supervisor 1, employment effective 3/24/25; **Deeann Carter**, Clerical Specialist, termination effective 2/18/25; **Sherri Routsong**, Eligibility specialist 3, retirement effective 5/31/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **DOES** re **David Degraaf**, Laborer-Landfill, employment effective 3/3/25; **Edward Hartley**, Plant Operator III - Treatment, retirement effective 2/28/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Human Resources** re **Verina Craddolph**, HR Specialist, successful completion of probation effective 3/9/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Facilities Department** re **Tara Ontko**, part-time Custodian I, employment effective 2/24/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Family and Children First Council** re **Laurie Fogg**, Service Coordinator, employment effective 3/3/25.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Commissioners' Office** re **Roger Stanley**, Fleet Manager, resignation effective 2/21/25.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Clerical Specialist - OhioMeansJobs** for **ECDJFS**.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Equipment Operator 1** for **County Engineer's Office**.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Executive Assistant/Paralegal** for **Juvenile Court**.

Board approves Request for Recruitment re **Deputy Clerk Supervisor** for **Juvenile Court**.

Board receives letter from Just DeLamatre **requesting separation pay from the Compensated Reserve Fund** for employee Annette Klein who is retiring. Board approves request to use Compensated Reserve Fund.

Board receives letter from Judge McGookey requesting **separation pay from the Compensated Reserve Fund** for employee Erin Nickles, who resigned effective 2/6/25. Board approves request to use Compensated Reserve Fund.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth re **Transportation of Prisoners Report**, per O.R.C. 325.07.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth re estimate of \$250.00 to be charged on **gasoline credit cards** for the month of April 2025, per O.R.C. 301.27.

Received memo to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Alyssa Heater, Finance Manager re **2025 Revised Estimated Resources**.

Received copy of **Erie County 2024 9-1-1 Financials**, per O.R.C. 128.06.

#### **Public Comment.**

Concerns over Federal and State Funding Cuts - Oxford Township Resident Sue Astolfi expressed concern regarding the decline in Federal and State funding and how the county plans to address this shortfall. She specifically raised concerns about tariffs and their impact on Erie County, given its location on Lake Erie. She asked if the Commissioners would commit to maintaining communication on these issues.

Mr. Shenigo stated Erie County is primarily funded through sales tax revenue rather than Federal or State dollars. He emphasized that the County has minimal reliance on Federal or State funds. Mr. Shenigo informed Ms. Astolfi that her concerns need to be addressed on a Federal level, as the borders, tariffs and funding are not underneath the County Commissioners jurisdiction.

City of Huron TIF Proposal - Perkins Township Resident Rick Scheel inquired about the status of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) proposal for the City of Huron. County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated that he communicated the Board's concerns to Huron City Manager Matt Lasko regarding the language in the proposal. Mr. Lasko agreed to remove the contested language, allowing the TIF to proceed without further County intervention.

Mr. Shenigo added that there is a growing concern regarding affordable workforce housing. The Tax Increment Financing Proposal will fund road construction for a new residential housing with homes in the range of \$300,000. The Huron City Schools and Huron City Council support the project, and considered beneficial to the community.

River Road Water Tower Demolition - Mr. Scheel asked about the status of the River Road water tower. He noted that Follett Street once had a similar water tower, which was demolished only for a new one to be built later at a higher cost. He suggested delaying demolition in case future development requires water infrastructure.

Mr. Shenigo acknowledged that the water tower is currently empty. He was unsure of its demolition status but will contact Environmental Services for further information.

Request for Recruitment - Mr. Old inquired about the County Engineer's request to hire a Surveyor and a Tax Map Specialist. Mr. Solowiej confirmed that the Tax Map Specialist position was included in the 2025 budget. Mr. Old recommended postponing hiring until the Engineer's budget situation is fully assessed. Mr. Solowiej will ask County Engineer Eric Dodrill to attend next week's meeting to provide more clarification.

Landfill Fees - Mr. Shenigo discussed a conversation with Utilities Director John Rufo about potential landfill fee adjustments. The county is considering purchasing a used excavator for \$50,000 to handle landfill operations. There have been 750 dig-outs so far this year, with the current fee set at \$10 per dig-out. Other counties charge \$30 to \$50 per dig-out, and an increase in fees is under consideration.

The fee for mattress disposal is currently \$10 per mattress, for 50 or more mattresses, they are \$40 each. The Commissioners agreed to review these fees further with John Rufo.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses into Executive Session**, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(3), to conference with the Board's legal counsel regarding a dispute involving the Board subject to pending litigation; 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** at 11:05 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

Meet25-8