

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023**

**ALL PRESENT**

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

**County Administrator re Various Issues.**

Board of Elections Donation - Hank has prepared a thank you letter to send to former Board of Elections member Jeff Krabill. He has so generously donated a refrigerator, cabinets, counters and a back splash to the Board of Elections for their kitchen. Hank and the Board thanked Mr. Krabill for his generous donation.

Erie County Parking Garage- There has been an increase in vandalism in the parking garage. Hank instructed Facilities Director Gary Weilnau to fix the main stairwell of the parking garage, as it has substantial damage. Hank suggested fixing the parking gate in the garage in hopes of securing the garage a bit better.

Mr. Old stated if the City's plan for the new hotel does not include a parking garage, this could lead to the County parking garage being used more frequently than it is now. Hank noted that additional security cameras may need to be purchased.

Bike Week - Hank notified the Board that the parking garage will remain open for Bike Week this year and there will be full access to the garage at all times. The Treasurer, Tax Map and Prosecutor's Office will remain open all day, however, the Recorder, Auditor and Title Departments will close at noon.

Auditor, Recorder and Clerk of Courts Office Hours - Mr. Old is frustrated that it appears that the county offices downtown can only serve the citizens of Erie County for a certain period of time. This is morally egregious and it is dereliction of duty that these offices continue to only provide services during certain times of the day.

Hank researched the impact of cutting 10% each offices budget: Auditor - \$39,616; Real Estate - \$61,483; Recorder - \$17,653; Clerk of Courts - \$46,914; and Title Department - \$20,110.

Hank noted that the Press Release posted on the Auditor's and Recorder's websites still states that the office hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. It is assumed that these elected officials have no intentions of changing their hours based off of last week's Commission Meeting.

Mr. Shenigo spoke with Clerk of Courts Luvada Wilson on Friday, as he is trying to help her come up with a solution to benefit her employees. Currently, there are expected to be two open positions in the Clerks' Office. Mr. Shenigo suggested taking the total of \$74,000 for both those positions and expand the office hours to 40 hours per week. Mr. Shenigo also suggested having office hours on Saturday for the convenience of the citizens of Erie County. Mr. Shenigo stated that Luvada was open-minded about it and is the only elected official that has spoken to any Commissioner regarding the office hours matter.

Another idea Mr. Shenigo had, was to take the \$74,000 and distribute this amount to the lower pay range employees in her office. Mr. Shenigo noted that Luvada thought her offices could function with 16 employees rather than 18. Mr. Shenigo complimented her willingness to work with the Commissioners and increasing her employees' salaries through attrition has been successful in the past.

Mr. Shoffner stated he would like to see the budget numbers, and what would the Clerk of Courts' budget look like if their offices worked 40 hours per week and four hours on Saturday. He agrees that the Title Department should be open on Saturdays. He mentioned that he will never know the ins and outs of how each department runs and his concerns is money, how much will it cost for that office to open.

Mr. Old stated that the Commissioners are the appropriating authority and they do have some say in how all the offices are run. As the Board, they provide oversight to each elected official and provide guidelines, which are not being currently followed.

Mr. Old made the motion to reduce the Clerk of Courts salary line by \$75,000, which is the average of two employees and to cut 10% of the Auditor's and Recorder's budget line item. Mr. Shenigo seconded the motion and roll call followed: Mr. Old, Aye; Mr. Shenigo, Aye; Mr. Shoffner, No.

Mr. Shenigo stated he hopes that the Clerk of Courts is ok with this cut and the Commissioners believe they are just doing what is in the best interest for the citizens of Erie County.

Mr. Old added that pre-covid, the hours of the offices were never an issue and does not understand why it is an issue now. This matter has been talked about for many years and no action has been taken and now is the time.

Recorder Travel Request Form - Mr. Old noted that the Recorder is requesting travel and food reimbursement for her and an employee to travel to Columbus for two days, including a \$50.00 buffet dinner per person. Mr. Old inquired how it is possible for the Recorder and an employee to leave the office and take a trip to Dayton for two days, when it has been previously stated, that their office is so short staffed and extremely busy all the time. Mr. Old and Mr. Shenigo believe this is ridiculous and Mr. Old will not approve this travel form. The Commissioners stated if the Recorder submits a revised travel form for only her attending the conference and omits the \$50.00 dinner buffet, the Commissioners will be more inclined to approve the travel form. Hank will speak with the Recorder.

### Public Comment

Office Hours - Sandy Dwight suggested the Commissioners speak to the employees of the offices that are not working normal business hours. She believes, by speaking with the employees, the Commissioners might get a different response than what the Elected Officials are portraying. Mr. Old stated the Commissioners have heard from the citizens, and in the end, that is what matters.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project - Mr. Rick Scheel, brought his concerns regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project to the Board again this week. He stated he still has an issue with the fact that Erie County is requesting a higher variance allowance for discharge of mercury into Lake Erie when Erie County is already exceeding EPA levels. Mr. Shenigo stated it is not Erie County's intent to increase concentrations of mercury found in the plant's discharge, however, it is the intent to allow for an increase in loading due to the direct increase in permitted volume. The goal is to eliminate mercury from entering the lake and this variance will help work towards eliminating the mercury from the source.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board appoints Commissioner Old and Regional Planning Director Tim King to the **Capital Improvements Grant Committee** for the Visitors and Convention Bureau for a period of two years commencing May 31, 2023 through May 31, 2025; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **placing chip seal on Erie County roads** to **Allied Construction**, West Union, Ohio, in the amount of \$522,406.52, as the lowest and best bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the County Engineer; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **improving by micro-surfacing on Erie County roads to Strawser Construction, Inc.**, Columbus, Ohio, in the amount of \$1,107,017.71, as the only bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the County Engineer; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **2023 resurfacing program in Erie County to Erie Blacktop, Inc.**, Sandusky, Ohio, in the amount of \$663,597.75, as the only bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the County Engineer; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **2023 pavement marking project on Erie County roads to Oglesby Construction, Inc.**, Norwalk, Ohio, in the amount of \$270,944.03, as the lowest and best bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the County Engineer; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution adopting the updated **Community Housing Preservation and Impact Program (CHIP) Policies and Procedures Manual**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-162)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **declaring it necessary to levy a renewal of an existing tax in excess of the ten mill limitation for the purpose of providing for the current expenses of the Erie County General Health District to carry out its health programs** and providing for the submission of such health District Renewal Tax Levy of 0.3 mill to the electors of said District at the election to be held on November 7, 2023; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-163)

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 (#23-164)

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 (#23-165)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County auditor to make a **budget modification and a supplemental appropriation** re Motor Vehicle License & Gas Tax Fund; and TCAP 2021-2023 Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-166)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Participation Agreement regarding the usage of the Agreement between the **County Commissioners Association of Ohio Service Corporation and West Publishing Corporation**, executed May 2023; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-167)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Subgrant Agreement with **OhioMeansJob - Erie County**, through the Erie County Department of Job and Family Services serving as the Fiscal Agent, and **Nesco Resources, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-168)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Med1Care, LLC** in additional amount of \$10,000.00 re staffing support services for the Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves **cash disbursement forms** for **Job and Family Services and The Meadows at Osborn Park**.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Road Safety Audits course in Bowling Green, Ohio, on 8/22 - 8/23/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Erie Basin RC&D Council meeting in Crestline, Ohio, on 6/9/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Huron County Housing Workshop in Norwalk, Ohio, on 6/7/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tim Jonovich**, EMA, attending NEO Healthcare Coalition Conference in Kirtland, Ohio, on 6/2/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Neil Yingling** and **Trudy Riddle**, ECDJFS, attending WIOA Local Cohort meeting in Wauseon, Ohio, on 6/8/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Neil Yingling**, ECDJFS, attending Ohio Council on Welfare Fraud Board meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on 6/16/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Neil Yingling, David Cromer, Lisa Irby, Mariam Glass and Gil Vaughn**, ECDJFS, attending ARIES System Spring Training in Delaware, Ohio, on 5/31/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Neil Yingling, Trudy Riddle** and 1 **fiscal staff member**, ECDJFS, attending Greater Ohio Workforce Board meeting in Lewis Center, Ohio, on 6/7/23 at no cost.

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Commissioners Shenigo and Old **disapprove** expenses for **Ellen Olsen** and **Debra Adkins**, Recorder's Office, attending Ohio Recorders Association Summer Conference in Dayton, Ohio, on 6/11 - 6/14/23 in an estimated amount of \$410.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Tiyanna Durr**, part-time STNA, employee going from 48 hours per pay period to 72 hours per pay period effective 6/11/23; **Catherine Ponton**, full-time LPN MDS, rate increase due to promotion effective 5/28/23; and **Gina Jenkins**, full-time LPN, salary decrease due to switching from 2<sup>nd</sup> shift to 1<sup>st</sup> shift effective 5/28/23.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **DOES - Landfill** re **Equipment Operator 1**.

Received copy of thank you letter to Jeff Krabill from County Administrator Hank Solowiej re **donation of refrigerator and cabinet for Board of Elections kitchen**.

Received copy of 4/11/23 **Erie County Economic Development Corporation** meeting minutes, 5/23/23 meeting agenda, Executive Report for April and financials as of April 30, 2023.

Received cover letter and copy of **2022 Annual Report for Erie County Juvenile Court**, per O.R.C. 2151.18.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 11:03 a.m.

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