

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 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.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board approves the minutes of the **October 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Commission Meetings**; Roll Call: All Aye

Mr. Old clarified a change to the minutes from October 16<sup>th</sup> regarding the bridge ratings. Mr. Old thought the rating of a 10 was considered brand new, but he received confirmation from Project Engineer Matt Rogers that a brand new rating would be a 9. So to reiterate, the Mason Road Bridge, which has been approved for rehabilitation, is rated a 7 with 9 being brand new. This change is reflected in the minutes that have been just approved.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** into **Solid Waste District Board Meeting**; Roll Call: All Aye

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

County Administrator Hank Solowiej has a conflict with the Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th and asked the Board if the Commission meeting could be moved from Wednesday, November 8th to Thursday, November 9th. The Board agreed to make the change.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **moves the Wednesday, November 8, 2023 Erie County Commission Meeting to Thursday, November 9, 2023**; Roll Call: All Aye

**Budget Work Session.**

ECDJFS Director Karen Balconi Ghezzi, Deputy Director of Social Programs AJ Lill, and Deputy Director of Finance Brian Bixler were present for this session.

Public Assistance - County Administrator Hank Solowiej noted that the services for public assistance is increasing about \$300,000 due to the increases in transportation contracts and the monthly rent for PRC. 65% of this budget is State funded and the fund balance is projected to be around \$7.7 million for 2024.

Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) - This fund is 100% state funded, with revenues and expenses projected to be even in 2024.

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Children Services - Hank stated that boarding costs for children in ECDJFS custody are greatly increasing for 2024. Currently, ECDJFS has spent \$2.4 million through October with having budgeted \$2.8 million for the year. This fund will unquestionably exceed what was budgeted for the year.

Deputy Director of Social Programs AJ Lill stated that there are currently 59 children in custody. The Juvenile Court is processing cases quicker, but there is still a lack of quality group homes that are equipped and trained to administer to the needs of children with complex behavior and emotional issues. 11 Children are in group homes, which cost between \$300 and \$500 per day.

Mr. Lill mentioned a new group home called Anthony's House, located in Castalia, will be opening up by the end of this year. JFS is working with Anthony's House to give priority to the children of Erie County, thus allowing the children to stay local.

Child Support - Hank stated that this fund is within policy and receives \$2 million in State funding. Director Karen Balconi Ghezzi noted that the staff in this Department has received State recognition for their hard work in fighting to acquire delinquent child support.

The Commissioners gave commendation to employees in this department and all Job and Family Services employees for having a positive impact in the community and being good stewards for Erie County.

Mr. AJ Lill mentioned that in 2014, the Commissioners' approved Job and Family Services to replace their entire fleet of vehicles all at once. Mr. Lill is inquiring whether the Commissioners' would approve this again. All eight vehicles have between 99,000 and 144,000 miles. Mr. Shenigo asked that AJ to research what the costs would be for all the vehicles to be replaced and the cost of utilizing State purchasing and provide these numbers to the Commissioners for further action.

Family and Children First Council - Hank stated that Director Melissa Bayer Smith has done a great job of administering the funds of this Department. The General Fund will contribute \$230,000 toward this Department for 2024.

Public Comment - A gentleman from the public asked about the outcome of the waterline lawsuit from a few years ago. Mr. Shenigo stated that Murray & Murray handled the lawsuit, which was filed by the taxpayers of Erie County. The waterlines were installed in 2007 and Erie County started seeing cracks in the pipes around 2011/2012. Burgess & Niple was the company inspector who inspected the waterline pipes once they were installed by the contractor, Speer Brothers. Burgess & Niple settled their portion of the lawsuit by paying Erie County \$800,000.

There is a Statute of Repose, which puts a time limit on the lawsuit of 15 years. The attorneys for the contractor argued with Murray & Murray for four to five years, filed continuances and ultimately ran out of time, so the case was thrown out. The Murray's put a lot of time and money into the case and they felt like they had a case, it was just never heard.

City Wastewater Treatment Plant Membrane Project.

Hank mentioned that Erie County received an invoice from the City of Sandusky regarding the City Wastewater Treatment Plant Membrane Project. Hank reviewed the invoice before processing for payment and noted a \$17,000 error to the invoice. Hank contacted Megan Stookey, City of Sandusky Department of Public Works, to inform her of this mistake. A new invoice is being prepared and will be resent to the County. There is 90 days to pay this invoice.

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: Commissioners General, Facilities, Lodging Tax Payroll, VOCA- Local Match, Board of Elections, General - Judge Tone, Juvenile Detention Facility, Sheriff, CPT Training, and Public Defender; Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund; Childrens Services Fund; Dog & Kennel Operating Fund; Dog & Kennel Donations Fund; Northern Ohio Juvenile CCF Fund; Adult Probation Fund; Visitors & Convention Bureau - 1<sup>st</sup> Fund; Tourism Promotion - 2<sup>nd</sup> Fund; Care Facility Operations Fund; and General OPS - FCFC Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-336)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing the County Auditor to make payment to Mrs. Anne Massey**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-337 - Lakecrest Tax Increment Financing project)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **authorizing the County Auditor to make payment to the Erie County Treasurer**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-338 - Erie County Burdette Ditch Improvements Project)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **DeLage Landen Financial Services, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-339 - leasing a Konica Minolta 360i copier until 1/31/28 for the Public Defender's Office)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into Amendment No. 3 to agreement **with Aramark Correctional Services, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-340 - extending the dietary, janitorial and laundry outsourcing agreement for The Meadows through 8/31/24)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Aramark Correctional Services, LLC** in an additional amount of \$125,000 re providing dietary, janitorial and laundry outsourcing services for The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Dietrich, LLC** in an additional amount of \$240.00 re money courier services for Probate Court.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Frontline Healthcare Staffing, LLC** in an additional amount of \$25,000 re providing staffing services for healthcare professionals at The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **UIS Insurance & Investments** in an additional amount of \$2,171 re providing consulting services for Erie County's health care benefits.

Board approves payment of Pay Estimate No. 5 to **American Structurepoint, Inc.** in the amount of \$22,292.91 re Perkins Avenue Structure S-004 Replacement for the County Engineer's Office.

Board approves specifications re **ECDJFS Carpet Replacement Project** and authorizes Purchasing Department to proceed with bid process.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Brittany Seavers**, full-time LPN, employment effective 11/8/23.

Received two letters from the Erie County Health Department re **Closed and Active Landfill inspections**.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:00 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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