

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2023

ALL PRESENT

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

County Administrator re Various Issues.

Sales Tax - November collections, for August sales, totaled \$2.11 million, which is a 5% increase from this time last year. Year-to-date, sales tax collections total \$19.7 million, and are projected to finish the year around \$21.7 million.

Gas Tax - November collections totaled \$332,000, which is 3% higher than this time last year. Currently we have collected a total of \$3.5 million in gas tax collections year-to-date and projected to finish the year around \$3.8 million.

Sale of Dog Tags - County Administrator Hank Solowiej mentioned that dog tags go on sale starting December 1st until the end of January, 2024. Dog tags are \$22.00 each and can be purchased at several agencies throughout Erie County or the Dog Pound.

Culvert on Cherry Road, Vermilion - County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated that a citizen at 12809 Cherry Road has impeded a culvert with rocks and dirt so that his property will not flood. By doing this, the rocks and dirt have interfered with the natural flow of water, causing other properties on Cherry Road to flood. Erie County Drainage Manager Jeremy Blakely stated that a natural ravine that drops 50 feet located behind this residents' house is where the flooding is occurring. Jeremy mentioned that neighbors, who live south of this residents' property, have lived there for ten years and it has never flooded more than two inches until now. The property owner has been dumping rocks and dirt in the culvert since the beginning of August. In October, the property owner dumped rocks and dirt up against the berm of the road, which is in the County's right-of-way. This resident believes that he has the right to do this, as he claims this culvert is on his property.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Charles Bennett stated that the Supreme Court has ruled that a resident has the right to protect his land, but when he placed dirt and rocks in the ditch, it is now encroaching on the County's right-of-way. Erie County has the responsibility of maintaining culverts to keep water flowing to prevent flooding.

Mr. Shenigo asked what would happen if the County cleans up the culvert and this resident blocks the ditch further away from the right-of-way. Mr. Bennett stated there is no way to stop this resident from doing so and it would then turn into private litigation between the resident and his neighbors.

Mr. Bennett stated if the Commissioners' support the County Engineer's opinion, the Commissioners' can send this resident a letter requiring him to clear the ditch and if he refuses, the County will clean it and place the cost on his tax duplicate. The Commissioners agree with the County Engineer's opinion.

On motion of Mr. Shenigo and second of Mr. Old, Board **supports the opinion of the County Engineer regarding the right-of-way on 12809 Cherry Road** in Vermilion Township; Roll Call: All Aye

Hank noted he will assist Mr. Bennett on drafting a letter to send to the resident.

Mr. Old questioned why the County was reimbursing \$87.00 to the County Engineer for the license renewal. Mr. Old stated that the license Mr. Farschman holds belongs to Mr. Farschman and not the County. Mr. Old stated that he has no problem paying for employees who are using their licenses on behalf of the County, such as, the Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, DOES employees and surveyors, etc., but not Elected Officials. Mr. Farschman receives \$110,000 a year, and Mr. Old doesn't think that the taxpayers should pay for Mr. Farschman's license renewal. The Commissioners will not approve this request.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **approves the docket minus \$87.00 reimbursement to the County Engineer**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board awards bid re **JFS Carpet Replacement to National Carpet Mill Outlet**, Medina, Ohio, in the amount of \$147,750.00, as the lowest and best bid which meets all specifications and upon the recommendation of the Director of Facilities and Purchasing Department; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **granting forgiveness of water and sewer charges for various uncollectible accounts** in the Erie County Water and Sewer Districts; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-362)

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 (#23-363)

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 (#23-364)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **budget modifications and supplemental appropriations** re General Operating Fund: Facilities, Commissioners General, Sheriff, Auditor, General - Judge Binette, Family Court, Sheriff, Public Defender, and Veterans Services; SOR Fund; Public Assistance Fund; Childrens Services Fund; Real Estate Assessment Fund; Delinquent Real Estate Treasurer Fund; Delinquent Real Estate Prosecutor Fund; Special Project - Tone Fund; PT CCA 408 Grant 2021-23 Fund; Justice Reinvest Incent 21/23 Fund; 10/26-9/24 SVAA Grant Fund; and Employee Self - Insurance Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-365)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **DeLage Landen** in an additional amount of \$30.00 re leasing a Konica Minolta bizhub 458e printer/copier/scanner for Recorder's Office.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **CHS Erie Management** in an additional amount of \$60,000 re providing management services necessary for the efficient administration and operation of The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board executes letters of support to Erie County Community Health Center, Family Health Services re **the application for Federally Qualified Health Centers funds from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.**

Commissioner Shenigo executes Ohio Department of Children and Youth Subgrant Agreement Amendment #1 between the **Ohio Department of Children and Youth and Erie County Commissioners and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services** for the purpose of increasing the FY 24 budget by \$4,744 for services provided to Family and Children First Council.

Board executes **Proclamation** to Vermilion Middle School student Jack Rogers.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Erie Basin RC&D Meeting in Norwalk, Ohio, on 12/8/23 at no cost.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Alexis Appleman**, full-time STNA, termination effective 11/17/23; **Amy Appleman**, full-time STNA, termination effective 11/17/23; **Donna Patrick**, Director of Nursing/Assistant Administrator, rate increase effective 12/10/23; **Brittany Seavers**, full-time LPN, resignation effective 11/19/23; **Eva Hooven**, PRN RN Supervisor, resignation effective 11/18/23; **Stacy Orzech**, PRN RN, resignation effective 10/10/23; **Samantha Gessner**, part-time STNA, employment effective 11/27/23.

Received copy of memo to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Alyssa Heater, Finance Manager, re **2023 Revised Estimated Resources.**

Received copy of **Summary of Work Throughout Erie County Spreadsheet during 2023** from County Engineer.

Received copy of 10/25/23 **Erie-Ottawa International Airport Authority** meeting minutes, 11/22/23 meeting agenda, and financial report as of October 31, 2023 and 2022.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at

Emp
Meet23-48