

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024

ALL PRESENT

Bid Opening re **Outsourcing Dietary, Janitorial, Laundry Services for The Meadows at Osborn Park**; Purchasing Coordinator Emily Galloway opened same:

COMPANY	AMOUNT	BID BOND
Aramark Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103	SB 268	X
Crystal Clear Building Services, Inc. Oakwood Village, Ohio 44146	SB 268	X
ESTIMATE SB 268		

Bid Opening re **Inmate Food Service for Erie County Jail**; Purchasing Coordinator Emily Galloway opened same:

COMPANY	AMOUNT	BID BOND
Trinity Services Group Inc. Oldsmar, Florida 34677	SB 268	X
Aramark Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103	SB 268	X
Skillet Kitchen River Falls, Wisconsin 54022	SB 268	X
ESTIMATE SB 268		

President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 9:45 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 **October 2, 17, 23, 28 and 30, 2024 and November 4, 2024 Erie County Commission Meeting Minutes**; Roll Call: All Aye

Budget Work Session.

Present were: Donna Willman, Bob Dennie and Donna Patrick

The Meadows at Osborn Park - County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated that the salaries and benefits are per policy and align with the bargaining unit agreements for 2025. Hank noted that the fund balance is solid for 2025, with projected expenses reaching \$11.7 million vs. \$12.2 million in revenues.

Capital requests for 2025 include: maintenance vehicle (\$51,000); replace cluster 3 flooring (\$27,000); and re-coating of a portion of the roof (\$30,000). Mr. Shenigo suggested that the Facilities Department look at the roof to determine if the roof needs re-coated.

Mr. Shenigo also recommends re-coating the entire roof, not just a portion of it.

Mr. Shenigo also asked about the condition of the current maintenance vehicle. Mr. Dennie noted that the current truck is a 2005 GMC Sierra and has holes in the floorboard. Brandon Morrow plows the parking lot with this truck. Mr. Shenigo suggested purchasing a Gator instead of a truck so that, not only it will plow the parking lot, the sidewalks can be plowed as well. Hank also suggested amending the Corso's contract the County has to plow snow to include The Meadows.

Hank confirmed that the maintenance vehicle and the roof repairs will be removed from the budget for 2025. He will contact the Facilities Department to research the cost of re-coating the entire roof and look at options for purchasing a gator.

Board of Developmental Disabilities - Rachel Malone and Carrie Beier were present.

Levy Fund - The Board of DD scaled back on their levy dollars for 2025, which is reflected in the projected revenues. In 2025, revenues will be lower than expenses. This fund will also transfer \$1.8 million into the Waiver Fund for 2025 and \$20,000 to Capital Fund.

Waiver Fund - the Budget for waivers has increased for 2025.

Mr. Old stated that the Board of DD needs to stay within county policies when negotiating union contracts. Hank noted that he will be in discussions with Ms. Beier during negotiation process. Mr. Old stated that in 2021, the Board of DD gave raises that were beyond the counties budgetary guidelines. Mr. Old stated if the Board continues to give raises beyond county policy, they run the risk of reaching a fiscal cliff.

Ms. Malone noted that a large part of the increase in 2021 was with the Board of DD's insurance. The Board of DD is too small to be self-insured so their insurance is bid every year. In 2021, insurance increased somewhere between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

Capital Fund - Ms. Malone noted the following capital requests for 2025: shed siding (\$13,000); updating the security panels (\$13,500); Boiler Room Ventilation system (\$6,400); and purchase of additional security cameras (\$2,000).

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **receives bids opened at 9:30 a.m. today for the Outsourcing of Dietary, Janitorial and Laundry Services at The Meadows at Osborn Park** and refers same to Finance Department and The Meadows at Osborn Park for review and recommendation back to the Board; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **receives bids opened today at 9:30 a.m. for Inmate Food Service for Erie County Jail** and refers same to Finance Department and Sheriff's Office for review and recommendation back to the Board; Roll Call: All Aye

Public Comment.

Erie County resident Sandy Dwight mentioned she was employed with The Meadows at Osborn Park for many years. When Ms. Dwight was employed there, she expressed to the management that carpeting should not be put in nursing homes, but no one listened to her. She stated carpeting is a waste of money and now it is being replaced with hard flooring. Mr. Solowiej clarified that the nursing home has not had carpeting for many years.

Ms. Dwight also mentioned that she used to attend Commission Meetings weekly, but said it became a complete waste of time. She stated that the only thing the Commissioners do in meetings are opening bids and most business is completed behind closed doors. Mr. Old clarified, for the record, that Ms. Dwights' last comment about matters being executed behind closed doors is completely inaccurate. Mr. Old stated every dime that is spent is accounted for and approved in an open meeting. Mr. Old mentioned Erie County has suspended property taxes for 2025, meaning Erie County residents will pay zero dollars to Erie County next year. Mr. Old does not understand how Ms. Dwight can say that the County Commissioners accomplish nothing. Mr. Old stated, because the County has been responsible with taxpayer money, citizens will give zero dollars to Erie County. He noted that other entities are seeing an increase in property taxes. Mr. Shoffner added that, the Commissioners held discussions in public session regarding the possibility of suspending property taxes earlier this year.

Erie County Resident Rick Scheel provided a copy of the City of Sandusky's agenda. He noted that the agenda is legal size and four pages long. It lists a link to each item that the City of Sandusky Commission will review. He also noted that the City starts their Commission meetings with audience participation regarding agenda items. At the end of the meeting, they have another audience participation for residents to address any topic.

He stated that Erie County's agenda notes legislation on its agenda, but residents do not know what that is. He asked how the public can view documents when the paperwork is presented to the Commission ten minutes before the meeting starts. Mr. Scheel suggested that Erie County follow the City's agenda procedure and list a link of each item and post it on the website so residents can view the paperwork.

Mr. Solowiej stated that there is no specific requirement that states the County has to put any documents online or note them on their agenda. He mentioned that Erie County's paperwork process is a very fluid process and there are many different offices and departments that submit items for approval. Hank noted that all paperwork is available for public viewing by contacting the Clerk of the Board after the Commission Meetings. We do not have plans to put anything else online.

Mr. Shenigo stated that the County is a bill-paying agency. He mentioned that in today's legislation, the Commissioners are giving permission to move money from different accounts to pay bills. Mr. Shenigo does not see the need to post that on the agenda. The City of Sandusky approves very different things and has different discussions than Erie County discussions.

Mr. Scheel is concerned that no residents attend Commission Meetings. He believes this is due to the time of day the meetings take place. Mr. Scheel suggested having evening meetings to draw more residents to attend. Mr. Shenigo stated that Erie County pays routine bills where Townships and Cities provide a different range of activities, which may cause more public attendance. Mr. Shenigo stated that Erie County does a great job of managing their finances and that could be a reason residents do not attend.

Hank noted that when Erie County raised utility rates, we held three public hearings and advertised the hearings in the newspaper and only one person attended these hearings as well. Mr. Old agreed and stated Erie County has had evening meetings and meetings at other locations, but the attendance stays the same. He stated a well-maintained operation and no controversy is a good problem to have.

Mr. Scheel also questioned why the Commission meeting minutes are two months behind schedule. He mentioned that the last meeting posted was September 25, 2024. Mr. Scheel questions whether this is a staffing issue, and does not think the minutes should be two months behind.

Clerk of the Board Erin Paolano explained the review process to Mr. Scheel and mentioned that six sets of minutes have been approved today, making the minutes up-to-date. Mr. Old assured Mr. Scheel that the reason why the minutes are behind are not in relation to the staff. The Commissioners review the minutes before final approval.

Mr. Old stated he has been busy the past few weeks, due to the election, and has gotten behind in his review. Hank also mentioned that he just reviewed the minutes as well and this process is normally published on the website within two weeks. Mr. Scheel thanked the Board for their time.

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 - Sheriff's, Human Resources, Facilities and Sheriff; Sheriff Policing & SRO Fund; ADAMHS Erie - General Fund; Public Assistance Fund; Childrens Services Fund; Certificate of Title Administration Fund; and Emergency Management Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-374)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make a **budget modification** re Landfill Operations Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-375)

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 (#24-376)

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Sarah Daniels**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 11/20/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Nathaniel Wallace**, Social Service Worker 3, resignation effective 11/5/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Regional Planning** re **Kevin Cannon**, Transportation Planner, 3% annual rate increase effective 12/8/24

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **recesses** into **Investment Board meeting**; 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 11:00 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye