

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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.

**Budget Work Session.**

**Board of Development Disabilities**

Board of DD Superintendent Carrie Beier and Director of Business Services Rachel Malone were also present for this session.

Levy Fund - County Administrator Hank Solowiej stated that Board of DD is interested in restoring their millage to 3 mills instead of maintaining 2.75 mills. Carrie noted that there will be a large increase in the cost for services for the individuals they serve next year, as one of their contracts is increasing by 38% effective January 1, 2024. Ms. Malone stated that waiver rates have also increased with \$1.5 million being expected to be spent this year and \$1.8 million expected to be spent next year as well.

The 2021 and 2022 union negotiations resulted in a 12% rate increase the first year, 0% second year, and 1% the third year. Carrie stated though, this large increase was to bring employees' wages up to be competitive with other agencies.

The Social Service Administrators Union raises are as follows: 15% increase the first year, 1% the second year and 1% the third year. Carrie noted that the 15% increase brought these employees up to a starting wage of \$22.00 per hour.

Residential Waiver Fund - Ms. Beier noted that the State sets waiver rates, which provide services for individuals with disabilities. 2023 was a normal year for waiver rates for services spending \$1.37 million. Board of DD pays 40% of these costs and 60% is drawn down from State funds. The Levy Fund provided \$1 million to the Waiver Fund in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Only \$500,000 was provided in 2020 and \$900,000 in 2021. For 2022 and 2023, \$1.5 million was provided each year and there is an estimated amount of \$1.5 million to be provided for 2024.

Ms. Beier stated that she plans on attending the next Budget Commission meeting to request an increase in their millage to 3 mills to cover the costs of services that are provided to individuals.

Mr. Old stated that there is an ending balance of \$4 million this year and that the balance is projected to be \$3 million in 2024. Board of DD also has \$1 million in a reserve fund that is not reflected in the \$4 million number. With a \$5 million balance, Mr. Old believes that Board of DD is very far away from being in fiscal crisis. Mr. Old is supportive of the roll back of the tax levy and stated there is no need to hold onto excessive piles of reserved money, just in case it is needed. Mr. Old believes that government should not hold excessive funds just in case it is needed. If government has extra money, it should be returned to the tax payers. Ms. Beier responded that these reserves may be needed in the future for payment of services. She stated that Board of DD is not holding onto piles of money, but planning for the future.

Mr. Shenigo agrees that Ms. Beier attend the Budget Commission Meeting, and after, if the Budget Commission agrees to increase the millage to 3 mills, then the Board of Commissioners will concur. Mr. Shenigo mentioned that if any levy is passed for services, he is in favor of those funds being used for services for the residents of Erie County.

Mr. Shenigo noted, for the record, the current General Fund reserves are earmarked for EPA mandates that are being forced upon the County to pay for upgrades to the sewer and water system. The goal of the Commissioners is to make these upgrades and not have borrow money.

### Sheriff

Sheriff Paul Sigsworth, Jail Administrator Lieutenant Sidney Timko, and Lieutenant Sam Siverling were present for this budget session.

Sheriff - Hank stated that there is no reflection of wage increases in the salary and benefits due to the Sheriff being in contract negotiations currently. If a wage increase is instituted for 2024, it will be done as a supplemental appropriation.

Sheriff - Training - The training budget is unchanged from last year. Some funds for training come out of the FOJ funds. It is mandatory by the State for Deputies to receive 24 hours of training each year and the Sheriff believes that training requirements will be going up to 40 hours soon. The Sheriff noted that there will be some capital requests for additional tasers and cameras for Dispatch and the Jail.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution approving a proposal between the **Erie County Juvenile Judge DeLamatre and Brady Signs**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-341 - furnishing and installing a double-sided, LED illuminate monument sign at the JJC - \$15,450.00)

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On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Subgrant Agreement Amendment No. 1 with the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-342 - providing additional funding in the amount of \$4,744.00 for FCFC)

Board approves Travel Request form for **Trudy Riddle**, ECDJFS, attending Area 7 WIOA Co-Hort Meeting in Defiance, Ohio, on 12/14/23 at no cost.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Geneva Morman**, full-time STNA, employment effective 11/6/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **DOES** re **Christian Crum**, Equipment Operator I - Landfill, resignation effective 10/25/23.

Commissioners have no objection to transferring a liquor license from Harneys, LLC dba Harneys Market to TC Convenience, LLC dba **TCS Slide Thru Perkins**, 3712 Perkins Avenue, Sandusky.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth re estimated amount of \$250.00 to be charged on **gasoline credit cards** for the month of December 21023, per O.R.C. 301.27.

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

Received copy of **Monthly Financial Report** for the month ending October 31, 2023 from Erie County Auditor, per O.R.C. 319.15.

Received copy of **Annual Summary of Activities & Accomplishments** for FY 2002-2023 effective 10/1/22 - 9/30/23 from **Erie County Visitors & Convention Bureau**.

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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