

**ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024**

**ALL PRESENT**

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

**County Administrator re Various Issues.**

Ohio Public Works Commission Applications

County Administrator Hank Solowiej noted that the OPWC Sub-committee has ranked the applications for the LTAP and SCIP grants.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) - Only two projects out of ten applications qualified as LTAP. The highest scored project came from Margareta Township to resurface Bardwell Road.

State Construction Improvement Program (SCIP) - The City of Huron submitted an application for the emergency replacement of their water intake and pump station for a total of \$4 million. Because this is a large project, Huron requested a loan from OPWC to help complete this project.

The City of Vermilion submitted two applications for the resurfacing of Highbridge Road and Hailey Street. The scoring committee checked with the State on the validity of the resurfacing Highbridge Road project due to part of this road being located in Lorain County. The State reported that the City of Vermilion is within our OPWC District, so the project is qualified for funding. Mr. Old believes that other projects located in the City of Vermilion are in need of these grant funds. Mr. Old believes these funds should stay in Erie County. Hank noted that the City of Vermilion did submit other projects in Vermilion, but they did not score as high. Hank noted these applications have been submitted to the State and Erie County will know in December what projects received funding.

**Lake Erie Shores & Islands**

Mr. Shenigo stated that at the last LESI Board meeting the bed tax revenues were discussed. For this year, the 2% bed tax that Erie County receives totaled \$2.1 million for a total of \$4.2 million with the other 2% bed tax. Hank noted that Lake Erie Shores & Islands' fiscal year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, where Erie County's budget cycle is by calendar year.

Hank stated that, due to LESI and the County having different budget cycles, he believes it is a little difficult to budget what that tax revenue will be. Erie County receives 2% and LESI receives 2% of the total bed tax revenue. This revenue accumulates while the debt services for Sports Force continue to increase over time as well. Mr. Shenigo stated, if you look at the bed tax revenue over the last few years, it has changed. He stated in 2021, Erie County received \$3 million for bed tax. He mentioned that Erie County could attribute this amount to Sports Force opening and \$100 million in new hotel construction. He added that the number of hotel rooms have risen along with the room rates.

Mr. Shenigo said it is important to remember that the bed tax generated \$1.5 million more that year. Mr. Shenigo noted, in comparison, for LESI's fiscal year 2021, including the last three months of 2020, \$1 million was collected for Erie County's 1% bed tax, \$2.1 million total, and for fiscal year 2023, \$1.8 million for 1% was collected or \$3.6 million in total. Mr. Shenigo stated that these funds would be beneficial if they have time to accumulate on the interest.

Mr. Shenigo noted that, we as Commissioners should be conscious of how bed tax revenue is flowing through the County before it gets to Lake Erie Shores and Islands. He stated that this revenue has to be utilized for tourism under state law, and Erie County needs to ensure these funds are staying in Erie County. He mentioned another important avenue for these funds is to create tourism related projects in Erie County. Hank mentioned that the Board of Commissioners have permission by law to create an additional visitors and convention bureau.

### Healthy Aging Grant

Mr. Old asked County Administrator Hank Solowiej if he could send the Commissioners a summary of what the Health Aging Grant funds were used for. Hank stated yes, and noted that Erie County received a total of \$271,000 from the Healthy Aging Grant. Approximately half, or \$133,000, was awarded to Erie Metropolitan Housing and the other \$133,000 was awarded to Serving Our Seniors. Erie Metropolitan Housing received an additional \$4,000 due to other counties not utilizing all of their funds. Hank noted a special thank you to Robert Fitzgerald and Sue Daughtery for assisting with the implementation of this Grant.

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 (#24-330)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Morton Salt, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-331 - furnishing rock salt for highway ice control for 2025 calendar year \$161,973.00)

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: Commissioners General, Family Court, Juvenile Detention Facility, CPT Training, Board of Elections, Family Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Juvenile Detention Facility, Sheriff, Courthouse Security Screens and Humane Agent; Sheriff Policing & SRO Fund; Sheriffs Dispatching Fund; ADAMHS Erie - General Fund; Felony Delinquent Care/Custody Fund; Strong Families Grant Fund; Outdoor Enhancement Grant - DH Fund; Sensory POD Grant - Detention Home Fund; Northern Ohio Juvenile CCF Fund; Drug Court - SOR Grant Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-332)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make a **supplemental appropriation** re Erie County sewer Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-333)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make an **interfund transfer** re ADAMHS Erie - General Fund; and ADAMHS Balance Reserve Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-334)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make an **interfund transfer** re Erie County Sewer Fund; and Bay View Sewer Rev Bond Payment Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-335)

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 (#24-336)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **The Traffic Group, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-337 - performing traffic counts in Erie County for Regional Planning Department - \$7,790.00)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Automation Mailing and Shipping Solutions, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-338 - providing lease on a Postbase Vision A-7 postage machine for Commissioners' Office - \$6,170.85)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Polydyne** in an additional amount of \$6,888 re providing treatment chemicals (polymer-liquid emulsion form) for the Erie County Department of Environmental Services - Wastewater Treatment Division.

Board approves payment of Pay Estimate No. 02-2024 to **Schippel's Excavating & Concrete, LLC** in the amount of \$12,748.38 re mowing on designated roads in Erie County for County Engineer's Office.

Board approves payment of Pay Estimate No. 1 to **Gerken Paving, Inc.** in the amount of \$459,605.10 re 2024 resurfacing program for County Engineer.

Board approves payment of Pay Estimate No. 1 to **Strawser Construction, Inc.** in the amount of \$1,771,915.06 re microsurfacing on carious roads in Erie County for the County Engineer.

Board executes **Streetscape Easement Agreement** with the City of Sandusky for the purpose of designing, constructing, laying, maintaining, altering and repairing the Streetscape located near 247 Columbus Avenue.

Board approves **authorization for Cash Disbursement Form** for Human Resources.

Board authorizes expenses for **Jacob Cooper, Brooke Hankins, Keith Williams, Adult Probation**, attending the OBACOA Fall Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on 11/7 and 11/8/24 in an estimated amount of \$275.00 each. (registration fee)

Board authorizes expenses for **Matt Old**, Commissioner, attending the CCAO Summer Symposium in Hocking Hills, Ohio, on 8/21 - 8/23/24 in an estimated amount of \$249.00. (registration fee)

Board authorizes expenses for **Trudy Riddle**, ECDJFS, attending Ohio Workforce Association Conference in Lewis Center, Ohio, on 9/19 and 9/20/24 in an estimated amount of \$153.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kevin Cannon**, Regional Planning, attending Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on 10/8 and 10/9/24 in an estimated amount of \$265.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Michelle Schultz**, Clerical Specialist, rate increase due to longevity effective 9/22/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Shannon Alley**, part-time STNA, employment effective 9/19/24; **Faith Chaffee** full-time LPN, leave of absence without pay effective 9/23 - 10/21/24; **Kari Fredericks**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 10/1/24; **Devin Landoll**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 10/2/24; **Alexandrea Norris**, full-time STNA, employment effective 9/25/24; **Tabatha Sherer**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 9/25/24; **Landen Smith**, full-time STNA, employment effective 9/25/24; and **Kaitlyn Welser**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 9/19/24.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **DOES** re **Julie Stoll**, from Administrative Assistant - DOES to Administrative Assistant II - DOES, rate increase due to additional duties effective 9/29/24.

Board approves Equipment Outlay and Request Form for **ECDJFS** re two 2024 Chrysler Pacifica's in the amount of \$44,000 each; 2024 Ford Escape in the amount of \$31,000.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **Public Defender** re **Administrative Assistant**.

Board approves Job Description for **Administrative Assistant II - DOES**.

Received memo from Cost Containment Committee re health insurance plan recommendations for Erie County employees for 2025. Board approves recommendations.

Received copy of memo to Erie County Budget Commission Members from Alyssa Heater, Finance Manager, re **2024 Revised Estimated Resources**.

**Public Comment.**

An Erie County resident was inquiring about a status update on the multiple waterline breaks happening in the Westchester Estates area off Perkins Avenue. Mr. Shenigo stated, after researching this area, in order to fix the breaks, it would require Erie County re-routing water pipes through a portion of Corso's Flower and Garden Center's property near the greenhouses. Utilities Director John Rufo met with Corso's a few weeks ago, but Mr. Shenigo has not heard the outcome of that meeting. Mr. Shenigo noted that Mr. Corso has not been receptive to the idea of him losing land.

This Erie County resident also asked if there was any update on the water rate increase with City of Sandusky. His hope was that the City would charge water on a sliding scale for residents who do not utilize the minimum. Mr. Shenigo stated the Commissioners do not want any resident to have their water increased by 45%. The County has an agreement with the City of Sandusky to purchase 1,850,000 cubic feet of water per year and Erie County plans to honor that contract.

An Erie County resident asked if the Erie County Commissioners maintain the section of Perkins Avenue from Remington Avenue heading towards Huron. The resident asked this because he does not understand why that portion of road would be repaved when there are waterlines under that road that need fixed. Mr. Old responded saying that the County Engineer approves the road projects. The Commissioners' appropriate money to him and he sets a schedule on what roads are repaired each year. Mr. Shenigo stated that the Commissioners did move \$1 million of the Vehicle, License and Gasoline Tax Fund to put in a separate fund towards assisting the Townships in Erie County with additional road work. Mr. Shenigo stated that Erie County is the first County in the State that took this initiative.

Mr. Old stated that the City of Sandusky had a dispute with the County Engineer several years ago when the City repaved their portion of Perkins Avenue. The County Engineer refused to work with the City of Sandusky on the timing of the project. Mr. Old stated that the County Engineer made that project a larger inconvenience to Erie County residents than what it needed to be. Mr. Old mentioned that the County Engineer is an elected official and the voters of Erie County get to choose what to do with that position.

Erie County resident Rick Scheel was present to lobby for better traffic enforcement on Galloway Road. He mentioned that cars speed down Galloway Road on a regular basis and drag racing takes place. Mr. Scheel has spoken with State Highway Patrol, Huron and Perkins Townships. Mr. Scheel is asking the Commissioners for any solutions or help they can provide. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Scheel for his input.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:09 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye

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