

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024

ALL PRESENT

President Shenigo called the meeting to order at 9:30 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 September 25, 2024 Erie County Commission Meeting**; Roll Call: All Aye

County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.

Casino Tax - This quarter, \$262,000 was collected in casino taxes. Erie County budgeted to receive \$975,000 by the end of the year, and County Administrator Hank Solowiej noted Erie County should end the year with \$1.062 million in casino tax collections. Hank noted that this amount is \$10,000 less than last year and \$8,000 less than 2022.

Dispatch Advisory Committee - Hank noted that the Dispatch Advisory Committee met yesterday to finalize the dispatching contracts. The 2024 dispatch contracts did not include the rate adjustments for the 2024 collective bargaining agreements, so this amount will be added to the contracts in 2025. The dispatch contract will be for two years, 2025 and 2026, with 2025 amount being a bit higher due to the catch up from the increase in 2024.

Hank noted that all political entities have been notified of the increase to their contracts, which include a \$5,000 minimum buy-in and a 40% County share based on six dispatchers.

Bond Payoff - After further research with Bond counsel and Sudsina and Associations, Hank stated that a portion of the 2017 Various Purpose Bonds can be paid off by the end of this year. Hank noted that, because Quarry Lakes is a TIF, this cannot be paid off early. This payoff will consist of Dog Kennel Building (\$135,000), Water District (\$495,000), Landfill (\$730,000), and Sewer District (\$360,000). The interest rates will drop over the next three years for the Quarry Lakes TIF from 4.25% in 2025, 2.25% in 2026 and 2.375% in 2027. Mr. Shoffner asked how much we pay in debt service each year for the 2017 bonds, with Hank stating \$500,000, without Quarry Lakes included. Mr. Old stated he is not prepared to make a decision today, therefore no action was taken.

Sawmill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project - Mr. Shenigo asked if the contract was ready to be awarded for the Sawmill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project. Hank stated the resolution and contract is ready to be approved today. Mr. Shenigo noted that Erie County will oversee this project, saving the taxpayers between \$400,000-500,000.

Serving Our Seniors Executive Director Sue Daugherty re Proposal for Affordable Housing.

Executive Director Sue Daugherty from Serving Our Seniors thanked the Commissioners for applying for the Ohio Department on Aging grant and for allotting Serving Our Seniors some of those funds. She noted these funds have been very helpful for Serving Our Seniors.

Ms. Daugherty was present to update the Board on the Affordable Housing Forum that took place on August 15, 2024. She noted that she also attended a forum AARP presented on what communities are doing to create affordable housing for retired people. She mentioned that the ideal community would consist of modest homes that are around 500 square feet with rent between \$800 and \$900 per month.

Sue noted that several of the questions proposed at these forums were: are there political jurisdictions that own land, and could it be used for the development of the affordable housing for retirees? What, if any, ordinances are in place in Cities, Villages, and Townships for creating a modest house? Are their ordinances that prohibit a mother-in-law suite or an ADU in the backyard? Sue is asking all leadership in our local governments to consider incorporating affordable housing for our seniors. Sue noted that by 2030, retired citizens will have a decreased amount of money to put towards Medicare benefits.

Sue stated that by 2035, Erie County will have more older citizens than younger and affordable housing is a huge concern for those retired citizens. Sue noted that if a household of one makes more than \$31,901 per year, they are not considered low income, and will have to pay fair market rate for rent. Sue mentioned that, along with rent, older citizens also face high fees for Medicare. It costs \$590 per year up front for Medicare Part B, \$184 for premium, and a deductible of \$1,632.

Mr. Old asked if Sue had the report that AARP provided during their forum regarding these issues. Sue stated yes and she will provide the Commissioners with this print out.

Sue thanked the President of the Serving Our Seniors Board Sparky Weilnau for being present at the meeting and for his support of this cause. Sue stated that if the affordable housing for retired adults is not addressed, it will become a public health crisis.

Board of Developmental Disabilities Executive Director Carrie Beier stated that her department supports Ms. Daugherty's efforts and would be interested in being a part of the discussions.

Ms. Beier mentioned that her clients are adults with disabilities and they do not have the skillset to be able to advocate for themselves when finding housing. Carrie stated that any type of support the Board of DD can lend, from the standpoint of assisting individuals and their families, she would be willing to assist. Carrie also mentioned that there are retired citizens still caring for their adult children, so accessibility is important. Carrie agreed with Sue, in the fact that, market rate housing is financially unattainable to maintain for individuals on a fixed income who still financially support their adult children.

Erie County Resident Rick Scheel stated he finds value in keeping senior citizens integrated into already established neighborhoods. Sue and Carrie agree with Mr. Scheel and would not want retired citizens and individuals with disabilities to be segregated.

Mr. Weilnau added that in 2025, SOS will be requesting levy funds on the 2025 ballot to assist with the services they provide to retired adults. Commissioners stated SOS does a great job and looks forward to working with Serving Our Seniors.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopt resolution declaring certain items surplus and ordering same to be **discarded or salvaged**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-353)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **interfund transfer** re Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund; Childrens Services Fund; Child Support Enforcement Agency Fund; and Public Assistance Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-354)

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: County Court and Veterans Services; Sheriff's Dispatching Fund; Childrens Services Fund; Child Support Enforcement Agency Fund; Motor Vehicle License & Gas Tax Fund; Indigent Guardianship Fund; Step Grant sheriff Fund; IDEP Grant Fund; Donations - Sheriff Fund; and Care Facility Operations Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-355)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a contract with **Adena Corporation**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-356 - Sawmill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plan Expansion Project for DOES - \$20,933,000)

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(1), and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract or order; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-357)

Board approves Change Order No. 1 to **National Carpet Mill Outlet, Inc.** in the additional amount of \$8,824.40 re JFS Carpet Replacement Project.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Eva Hooven**, full-time RN, being hired back effective 10/28/24;
Tiffany McIntire, part-time STNA, resignation effective 10/24/24;
Alexandrea Norris, full-time STNA, resignation effective 10/24/24;
Angela Roberts, PRN RN, resignation effective 10/23/24; and **Laurie Yates**, full-time LPN, rate decrease due to switching to day shift effective 10/27/24.

Received copy of letter to The Honorable Robert DeLamatre from Ohio Department of Youth Services re **approval of FY 2025 Subsidy Grant Funding Application.**

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

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

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