

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

ALL PRESENT

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

County Administrator Hank Solowiej re Various Issues.

Fraud Task Force Update - Hank received an update from Erie County Job and Family Services' Director Karen Balconi Ghezzi regarding the Fraud Task Force. She mentioned the Task force is noted as being one of the top in the State of Ohio. At the end of 2022, a balance of \$1,087,174.00 was owed to Erie County and Karen expects an additional \$500,000 more by the end of 2023. Most of the amount of what is owed to the County comes from day care fraud, but it also includes welfare. Mr. Old inquired about who the Task Force is comprised of, with Ms. Balconi Ghezzi stating members from law enforcement, FBI, and MetroHousing staff.

Ms. Balconi Ghezzi also mentioned that the State does not give incentives back to the County for collecting day care fraud, but with SNAP, there is an incentive for recovering fraud. Erie County received \$77,932.00 in incentive funds from the State from recovering SNAP fraud. In October, the State is enhancing the SNAP cards, which will now have photos linked to the cards to help prevent fraud.

The Commissioners praised the Fraud Task Force their work they are doing in Erie County to prevent fraud.

Storm Damage - EMA Director Tim Jonovich was present and reported that most residents that were evicted from their homes due to the storms have found short term housing. Mr. Jonovich added that the current goal is to work on long-term housing because some of the residents are not able to afford the places that are available.

Travel Policy - Hank reached out to CCAO, HR and the County Administrators group to ask for advice as to how to update Erie County's current travel policy. The main changes will emphasize the use of online/virtual meetings and setting a maximum limit on the cost for meals and lodging. The future policy will require that employee's will need to use the GSA website to research what the per diem rate is per month and in the city where the meeting is being held. Hank stated, as an example, if a hotel per diem is \$200 and your hotel room only costs \$100, the employee will only receive the cost of the hotel room. The Commissioners asked Hank to reach out to County Auditor Rick Jeffrey regarding these changes and Commissioner Old asked Hank for a report on how much employees have spent on travel so far this year.

Erie County Roads - A resident of Margaretta Township had made contact with Mr. Old about the striping work on the County roads. The resident suggested that the striping was being completed on the sections of the roads that have not been improved. Mr. Old decided to then take a drive around the County, for which he noticed the same, and questioned why the County Engineer would not have had all the roads striped while the equipment was in the area. Mr. Old said that it does not make sense as to why they would stop striping on sections that had surface treatment done earlier in year. Mr. Old stated that common sense would suggest that, County roads should only be striped once rather than have the contractor come back and do it twice. Mr. Old also wanted to ensure that there were only two stripes painted down the road, rather than, four that had been done in the past on Bogart Road and Campbell Street.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board approves the **August 23, 2023 Erie County Commission Meeting minutes**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board authorizes **County Administrator Hank Solowiej to execute all necessary documents related to the pricing of electricity, as negotiated by Palmer Energy Company**, related to the Erie County Governmental Aggregation Program; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board reappoints Jeremy Normington-Slay and Timothy Mayles to another four-year term expiring August 31, 2027 to the **Erie County Port Authority Board of Directors**; Roll Call: All Aye

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **accepts** the bids re **The Meadows at Osborn Park Gas Conversion** that were opened on September 13, 2023 and refers same to The Meadows at Osborn Park for review and recommendation back to the Board; Roll Call: All Aye

COMPANY	AMOUNT	BID BOND
Marlin White & Sons, Inc. Fremont, Ohio 43420	\$1,704,900.00	X
Best Commercial Akron, Ohio 44306	\$1,378,000.00	X
Warner Mechanical Fremont, Ohio 44306	\$1,698,818.00	X
Bayes, Inc. Perrysburg, Ohio 43551	\$1,735,400.00	X
ESTIMATE	1,550,000.00	

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution **approving a transfer of funds re PA/CSEA**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-284)

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 (#23-285)

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 (#23-286)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Hamman Consulting Group, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-287 - providing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) report for Erie and Huron Counties through the Regional Planning Department - \$48,500)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into a Staffing Support Services Agreement Amendment No. 1 with **MediCare, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-288 - changing billable hourly rates for STNA's, LPN's, and RN's at The Meadows)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Compass Minerals American, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-289 - providing rock salt for highway ice control during 2024 calendar year - \$172,230)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **Majestic Transportation, Inc.**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-290 - providing transportation services to clients at JFS from 10/1/23 - 9/30/24 - \$100,000)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **D&D Rides, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-291 - providing transportation services to clients at JFS from 10/1/23 - 9/30/24 - \$100,000)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **C 1st, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-292 - providing transportation services to clients at JFS from 10/1/23 - 9/30/24 - \$50,000)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **supplemental appropriations and budget modifications** re General Operating Fund: Commissioners General, DJFS - Public Assistance, County Court and Emergency Management; Ditch Operations/Maintenance Fund; Sheriff Policing & SRO Fund; ADAMHS Erie - General Fund; Public Assistance Fund; Dog & Kennel Operating Fund; Capital Improvements - Muni Court Fund; Compensated Reserve Fund; Care Facility Operations Fund; and General OPS - FCFC Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-293)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **interfund transfers** General Operating Fund: Planning Department; Metro Planning Organization Fund; General Operating Fund: Commissioners General; Quarry Lakes Bond Retirement Fund; General Operating Fund: Emergency Management; Emergency Management Fund; Hazmat Fund; General Operating Fund: Public Assistance; Public Assistance Fund; General Operating Fund: Children Services; Children Services Fund; Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Fund; Public Assistance Fund; Certificate of Title Administration Fund; and General Operating Fund: Clerk of Courts; Roll Call: All Aye (#23-294)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Great Lakes Petroleum** in an additional amount of \$14,700 re fuel delivery for Department of Environmental Services.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Frontline Healthcare Staffing, LLC** in an additional amount of \$30,000 re providing staffing services for healthcare professionals at The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves payment of Pay Estimate No. 2 to **Great Lakes Demolition, Co., LLC**, in the amount of \$25,919.59 re Barrett Road culvert replacements for the County Engineer.

Board approves Change Order No. 1 (final) to **Great Lakes Demolition, Co., LLC** in a **decreased** amount of \$87,154.69 re Barrett Road Culvert Replacements for County Engineer.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Tim Jonovich and Kim Johnson**, EMA, attending EMAO Fall Conference in Port Clinton, Ohio on 9/28/23 at no cost.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Neil Yingling III**, ECDJFS, attending Mandatory Area 7 Training - Grant for Transfer VR headsets in Wauseon, Ohio, on 9/18/23 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kelli Jelinger**, Public Defender's Office, attending Ohio Supreme Court Specialized Docket Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on 10/16/23 in an estimated amount of \$31.00.

Board approves Travel Request Form for **Sidney Timko**, Sheriff's Office, attending 2023 Ohio Corrections and Law Enforcement Security Threat Group Conference in Grove City, Ohio, on October 30, 2023 at no cost.

Board authorizes expenses for **Craig Ritz**, Sheriff's Office, attending Law Enforcement RDS Handgun Instructor Training in Amherst, Ohio, on 10/10 and 10/11/23 in an estimated amount of \$700.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **DOES** re **William Petrick**, Maintenance Repair I - Collection, rate increase due to completion of second year of employment effective 9/13/23; and **Christopher Martin**, Maintenance Repair I - Collection, rate increase due to second year of employment effective 9/13/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Facilities Department** re **Bradley Kraft**, Maintenance III - General, employment effective 9/18/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Finance Department** re **Emily Galloway**, from Interim Purchasing Coordinator to Purchasing Coordinator effective 9/26/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **ECDJFS** re **Allison Kendall**, Social Service Worker 3, resignation effective 9/19/23; **Elizabeth Sayler**, Clerical Specialist, successful completion of probation effective 9/6/23; **Tina Sartin**, Investigator 2, successful completion of probation effective 9/4/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Jaylynn Caughell**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 9/22/23; **Kristina Fuqua**, full-time RN, employment effective 9/12/23; **Victoria Harris**, from full-time STNA to part-time STNA effective 9/17/23; **Joleigh Likes**, full-time STNA, rate increase due to completion of probation effective 9/11/23; **Charlene Philon**, full-time RN Supervisor, rate change due to changing shifts effective 9/12/23; **Kaitlyn Rose**, full-time STNA, employment effective 9/8/23; **Rashaad Smith**, full-time STNA, resignation effective 8/31/23; **Keysha Thomas**, full-time STNA, probation extended 90 days from 9/11/23; **Jeanette Wunder**, part-time NR, resignation/retirement effective 9/1/23.

Board approves Personnel Action Form for **Regional Planning** re **Ellen Schirg**, from Land Bank Director to Planner effective 10/16/23.

Board approves Request for Recruitment for **ECDJFS** re **Social Service Worker 3**.

Received letter from Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter re **request to release the funds to be collected for marriage license and divorce filing fees for 2024 to Safe Harbour**. Board approves and authorizes Clerk to prepare legislation.

Received letter from Ohio Department of Transportation re **rescission of abandonment of a portion of US Route 6 in the City of Huron.**

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

Received cover letter and copy of **Jail Meal and Turn Key Report** for August 2023, from Sheriff Sigsworth, per O.R.C. 311.20.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth re estimate of \$250.00 to be charged to **gasoline credit cards** for the month of October 2023, per O.R.C. 301.27.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth re **notification of no fines and costs being collected from September 2022 through August 2023**, per O.R.C. 311.16.

Received letter from Sheriff Sigsworth **requesting separation pay from Compensated Reserve Fund** in the amount of \$6,415.70 for Victoria Marksbury who will be retiring from Sheriff's Office effective 9/30/23. Board approves request.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:30 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye