

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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.

Public Comment.

Safety and Security - Margaretta Superintendent Ed Kurt, Perkins Superintendent Dr. Lonny Rivera, North Point ESC Assistant Superintendent John Ruf, and Kelley's Island Superintendent Ben Ohlemacher were present for public comment.

Margaretta Superintendent Mr. Ed Kurt presented a letter to the Commissioners signed by all of the Superintendents in Erie County. He stated there was a meeting held last week regarding safety and security among the school districts in Erie County. Recently, Willard and Vermilion schools have received threats and closed down their schools for a day. Also, 20% of Virginia school districts have had threats, therefore Mr. Kurt feels it is important to take action. Mr. Kurt mentioned that Superintendents nationally are purchasing emergency panic buttons through a company called Centegix. These panic buttons are attached to each staff members' school badge. Each panic button has a GPS, which would allow emergency personnel to know exactly where the emergency is taking place within the school. Mr. Kurt stated that Margaretta staff have all attended ALICE training with the Erie County Sheriff's Office and the schools have upgraded their windows to be bullet resistant. He stated he believes our most precious commodity is our children. Therefore, he is requesting the Commissioners provide a stipend or grant, through the Sheriff's Office, of up to \$75,000 for each district to provide training, personnel or equipment for safety and security of the schools in Erie County. The schools would provide an itemized list of how the funds are being spent to ensure that it is for safety and security.

Mr. Old stated that the panic buttons for the badges are worth considering. He stated he understands that all the Districts in Erie County are attempting to attain grants for safety and security. He believes this would be a great way for all the schools to partner together, which might assist in keeping the price of the panic buttons lower. Mr. Old mentioned that the Erie County Commissioners have been partners with the School Districts, as the Commissioners entered into contracts to provide School Resource Officers and extra policing services to many of the schools in Erie County.

NEXUS Settlement - Mr. Kurt gave a summary of the NEXUS settlement, which is now in place and no appeals have been filed. He stated that the State Tax Commissioner will be meeting with the 13 County Auditor's affected by the NEXUS pipeline to establish repayments, interest rates and possible penalties for the short pays over the last four/five years of Nexus taxes owed.

Mr. Kurt stated because of the settlement, there has been increases in assessed valuation of property in the district. Because of this increase in valuation of property, and the increase of the cost of the project, the Board of Education decided to remove the Bond issue from the November 5th ballot. Mr. Kurt added that the renewal levy will stay on the ballot as this levy has no new taxes.

Mr. Shenigo asked when will the school district start collecting monies from the Wheatsborough PILOT, with Mr. Kurt stating after the solar panels start producing electricity. Mr. Kurt added that Margaretta Schools will receive \$640,000 per year for 30 years once the solar panels start producing electricity.

Mr. Shenigo asked, with the re-evaluations of property, has Margaretta Schools have hit the 20 mill valuation floor. Mr. Kurt stated, it has not been confirmed yet, but, yes, Margaretta has hit the 20 mill floor. Mr. Kurt explained that this means Margaretta Schools will receive additional revenue locally.

Mr. Old asked Mr. Ted Kastor if the Perkins School District has hit the 20 mill floor. Mr. Kastor stated that the Board has discussed taking action by moving a portion of the inside millage in order to reach the 20 mill floor. Mr. Old stated that if the school district moves the inside millage, it will increase taxes of the residents of the Perkins School District without a vote of the people. Mr. Kastor was not aware this action would cause a tax increase to the citizens.

Mr. Old explained that when a School District reaches the 20 mill floor it will lead to an increase in revenue to the Schools by automatically increasing taxes on citizens. Mr. Kastor noted that, in his discussions, this has not been mentioned. He understood it to mean that the increase in the real estate values would cause an increase of funds to the school district. Mr. Kastor asked Mr. Stidham if Mr. Old was correct. Mr. Stidham stated, yes, Mr. Old is correct, and once the school district reaches the 20 mill floor, it automatically increases taxes on the citizens without a vote to the people.

Mr. Caleb Stidham explained that the 20 mill floor allows for school districts to collect additional revenue from valuation increases. This increase in revenue results from a tax increase on residents.

Budget Work Session. County Administrator Hank Solowiej presented the following budgets for the Treasurer's Office, with Caleb Stidham being present.

Treasurer.

Executive - Mr. Solowiej stated this budget is per policy.

Delinquent Real Estate Tax Assessment Collection - Hank reminded the Board that the budget for the Land Bank comes out of this fund, along with, the Prosecutor's DRETAC non-personnel expenses.

Hank noted that Erie County's investment income is projected to be \$4.5 million by the end of the year, due to Treasurer Caleb Stidham's mindful assessments of these funds over the course of this year. Erie County is regulated with how Erie County funds can be invested and even with interest rates lowered slightly, Erie County will still have a very healthy investment income. Mr. Shenigo appreciates Mr. Stidham's prudent observations over the County's investment income and stated that he has done a great job for the community.

Prepaid Reinvestment Earnings Fund - This fund has a budget of \$10,000 per year and derives from interest earned in escrow for residents who prepay their taxes. Treasurer Caleb Stidham noted that approximately 600 residents are in this program and residents sign a prepaid agreement. Mr. Stidham noted that this fund will be used to pay for the digitizing of his microfilm next year.

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board **cancels the following October meetings:** Thursday, October 3; Wednesday, October 9; Thursday, October 10; Monday, October 14 (Columbus Day); Wednesday, October 16; Monday, October 21; Thursday, October 24; and Thursday, October 31, 2024; Roll Call: All Aye

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: Finance; Ditch Operations/Maintenance Fund; Sheriff Policing & SRO Fund; Motor Vehicle License & Gas Tax Fund; Legal Rep Pilot Project Grant Fund; 2024 Special Election Funding Fund; and Care Facility Operations Fund; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-326)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution authorizing the County Auditor to make **interfund transfers** re 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; 2024 Special Election Funding Fund; and General Operating Fund: Board of Elections; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-327)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution entering into an agreement with **BLD services, LLC**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-328 - Rye Beach Area 2, Bogart Road and Bardshar Sewer Rehabilitation Project for DOES - \$1,555,952.00)

On motion of Mr. Shoffner and second of Mr. Old, Board adopts resolution confirming an agreement between the **Edison Local School District and the Erie County Sheriff**; Roll Call: All Aye (#24-329 - providing a Deputy Sheriff for law enforcement services at Edison schools)

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Select Rehabilitation, LLC** in an additional amount of \$180,000 re providing rehabilitation services for residents at The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for **Aramark Correctional Services, LLC** in an additional amount of \$325,000 re purpose of providing dietary, janitorial and laundry outsourcing services for The Meadows at Osborn Park.

Board approves Revised Auditor's Certificate for the **Erie County Commissioners' (Maintenance)** in an additional amount of \$10,000 re Job and Family Services lease agreement for property located at 221 West Parish Street.

Board authorizes expenses for **Troy Hansen** and **Andrew Schoewe**, DOES - Water, attending Backflow Renewal Course in Bowling Green, Ohio, on 9/19/24 in the amount of \$600.00.

Board authorizes expenses for **Kevin Gerber** and **Chris Martin**, DOES - Wastewater Collection, attending Fundamentals of Pumping and Electrical Training Class in Mansfield, Ohio, on 12/9 and 12/10/24 in an estimated amount of \$480.00.

Board approves Personnel Action Forms for **The Meadows at Osborn Park** re **Angela Roberts**, full-time RN Supervisor, resignation effective 9/17/24; **Marenda Huff**, full-time STNA, new hire resigned from starting employment effective 9/12/24.

Received letter from Health Department re **Erie County Landfill Quarterly Inspection**.

Received copy of 8/28/24 **Erie-Ottawa International Airport Authority** meeting minutes, 9/25/24 meeting agenda and financial statements as of 8/31/24.

On motion of Mr. Old and second of Mr. Shoffner, Board **adjourns** at 10:20 a.m.; Roll Call: All Aye