

Minutes, Tuesday September 5, 2023

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 001, County General ..Sheriff
6 A 6B, Rape Crisis Trust Fund.....\$100.00

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 225

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 008, Capital Improvements
N 1, Contracts Projects.....\$ 100,000.00

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 226

Mr. Lammers moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 001, County General
15 A 15A, Advance Out.....\$ 12,198.46

BE IT RESOLVED, That per the request of The Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of the Manufactured Housing Tax/2nd Half Fund the following advance of funds is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners:

FROM

TO

AMOUNT

15 A 15A, Advance Out

148 AI, Advance in

\$ 12,198.46

(Advance for Mfg. Housing Tax/2nd Half)

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 227

Then/Now Purchase orders

County General.....Purchase order 46450

Juvenile Court.....Purchase order 46382, 46388

Capital Improvement.....Purchase order 46453

Muni Court.....Purchase order 46340

Mr. Schroeder moved to approve the then and now purchase orders.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes
Exceptions: Mr. Schroeder none Mr. Lammers none Mr. Schlumbohm none
Comm. Jrl. 119, Page 228

Purchase orders and travel requests

County General.....Purchase order to Just GO Dry for carpet cleaning at BOE for \$ 630.00

Solid Waste Dist Disp Fees.....Purchase order to Putnam Co Sentinel for Recycle day ads for \$ 470.00.

Home Care & HospiceTravel request to use a county truck for the Ottoville Park Carnival Parade no expense listed.

Job & Family.....Travel request for Meg Schroeder to attend the Children Services Home Visit on Sept 4, 2023 with expenses for mileage totaling \$ 52.00. Purchase order to Four U Office for agency supplies & Furniture for \$ 25,000.00.

Mr. Schroeder moved to approve the purchase orders and travel requests.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes
Exceptions: Mr. Schroeder none Mr. Lammers none Mr. Schlumbohm none

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers attended the Elected Officials hosted by the Prosecutor meeting in the Lunch Room.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk.

The minutes from Thursday August 31, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers attended the public hearing regarding declaring portions of the unincorporated areas of Putnam Co. Ohio to be restricted, prohibiting construction of economically significant wind farms, large wind farms & large solar facilities in the Assembly Room of the Court House. Commissioners held a public hearing regarding declaring portion of unincorporated areas of Putnam Co to be restricted prohibiting construction of economically significant windfarms, large wind farms and large solar facilities per ORC 303.57. The Commissioners are considering a resolution to restrict large utility facility the resolution was read by the Clerk. Commissioner Schlumbohm opened the discussion for comments on the resolution. Mark Rice said "a blanket resolution is not fair to the farmer or the landowners. But everything is bought at retail and sold at wholesale not a fair business. The lease payment for the project are welcome and steady income. No one is looking forward to the increases in real estate tax payments. The townships county fire & EMS are all benefited by these projects as well as the trades people. This restriction is torturous interference " Chris Rader represented the laborers this is good paying work for the County. There is an intent of getting local people to more on the project and will provide benefits. The revenue will stay in the county if this is denied the funding and revenue will go to different areas. The county will be paying for these projects and they should want to keep the revenue local. Not every person is able to be a farmer this is revenue that can come back to enrich the local community. He is from Deshler and Deshler is a dying town. Give people a path to the future. The workers want more than a paycheck. This could be life altering money for some of these residents. Putnam County has been underserved by these jobs. John Schutz a Putnam County resident who worked on the windfarms. He doesn't like outside people coming in to buy our land, but he also does not believe the landowners should be restricted. The labors for the construction of these projects do get benefits and retirement. Tim Secretary/treasurer grew up in Auglaize Co. Growing up with farming background realize it is a blessing. Wind turbines in Hardin Co provided funding for the school to have a new track facility for the school. Local laborers are necessary to create these projects, which provides local revenue. We should not have government overreach, which limits the possible revenue opportunities. We the government do not know more than the we people. Sam Knueven understand the revenue and using the local laborers she has issues with the solar being put in on agricultural land. The PILOT payments will be distributed to the entities and providing revenue but there is more value in agricultural rather than in generating energy. There are many local agricultural companies that employ local people and receive the revenue from agricultural use from the land. The cash renter farmers could be missing out on revenue also. The jobs that were mentions are temporary jobs for the construction of the facilities. Putnam County is well established agricultural economy. Government overreach is done by the Commissioners on behalf of residents who are in opposition of the projects. There is government overreach already on the land there are restrictions on manure applications. Property rights for those who have moved back to Putnam County for the quality of life, they do so with the understanding that that will not be surrounded by solar facilities. The building lots have been limited around Miller City due to the solar facility. This should be discussed publicly. Gary Kuhlman talked about using up the land. The land for the solar is not all profit for the energy generators. "The AEZ was removed a few weeks ago: Gary said. "The Commissioners screwed the farmers. They cannot tell everyone what to do. Why should people be allowed to tell others what to do with their property? We are trying make something for our daughters." Commissioner Lammers understands and they respect his opinion. The resolution today restricts the large scale facilities. There can be new projects but the Planning Commission rules should be followed. The Commissioners cannot oppose the under 50 megawatt projects. Mr.

Kuhlman said he signed up for this so he can keep his farm within his family. The Commissioners have closed the area to large scale facilities. Mr. Kuhlman's neighbors will not look at him, he can pile turkey manure along their properties for storage. Comm. Lammers stated it is the Commissioners jobs to look at the rights of all residents. There are people who do not want to see the changes and are against them. The Commissioners are not trying to tell people what to do with their land. Sam Knueven wanted to clear up the conflict of interest point, with since no Commissioner is receiving a financial benefit. POET Ethanol does not take up as much space as the solar facility. The piling of the manure is also a violation. The job creation should be emphasized where maintenance jobs could be available at the facilities after the generation is started. Cindy Niese asked about the dangers of the panels and the materials used in them. The Companies are not trusted to give information on the panels. Robin Stewart asked about the environmental impact of these projects and what will be done at the end of the useful life of the facilities. The land will be restored to original state when the project is over. There are many uses of land that create run off and pollution. The solar farms will prevent some of this. Will the equipment be contributing to environmental issues? There is a bond in place to return the land to original state. The electricity that is produced is contaminating the environment. Jeff Reinkemeyer stated the bond is paid for by the company not the taxpayers. There are still conversation with the townships to set up their own set of rules for energy facilities. Why can't the townships have the choice for the over 50 megawatt facilities also? The Commissioner can have the decision to change it in the future. There is no end date listed on the decision. Dan Wehri with carpenters Union, he mentioned the temporary work, there are local workers that have moved around and worked on different projects. The Construction workers every job is temporary. All the workers would love to stay and work close to home. They would like to tell their children that they helped build that facility. Martin Kuhlman said this is truly government overreach. When Protec and KMI came there were public meetings also with the same type of comments being made. The companies were monitored to prevent contamination of the ground. The values of the homes have not been hurt by these companies. The Pike Run project was not even explained as to where the panels would be. The map shows he land being leased it did not show the location of the panels. If you limit the farmers what they can do with their land. There are restrictions on timing of tilling and spraying, there can a restriction on spreading manure. Don't put the limits on the companies that want to come in the county. Have the Commissioners received any PILOT payments? No they have not. The amounts of the payments are known and can be figured into the budget. Ken Niese said the setbacks in place are not large enough. People are questioning their rights. Something to hide the eyesores is needed. The financial benefits to the townships can enable them to make road improvements that may not otherwise be able to be done. The dollar amounts that the farmers receive on the lease payments could keep them receiving better income. Mary Schroeder is against the solar panels based on long term. Her son wants to farm but he cannot compete with the payments that the solar facility will pay. They want to get along and some have different opinions. If God wanted the earth covered with panels he would have put them there. The farmland will disappear from farming if the land is developed. Sherri Niese a neighbor to Mr. Kuhlman, said she did not know about this project until the construction started and it has created a divide in the community. If a new house is built it will take up farm land. Other farmers can buy the land when another is done farming. A civil conversation should occur over this people should not have to yell, scream and call others names. People outside the area just say they do not want it in their back yard. No matter the vote there will be divide in the neighborhoods. Not one neighbor tried to negotiate with Mr. Gary Kuhlman, said people are two

faced. If the farmers cannot get the same amount selling the land as they can for the payments for the energy companies. Carol Bunn asked who is the parent company of these facilities coming in to our area? Who is making the last dollar? PILOT payment in Lieu of taxes, in place of real estate taxes. Will the residents benefit from this? Will they get tax breaks and lower utility bills? The schools will benefit. The last layer of the company is not known. Avangrid Inc is owned by Iberdrola a Spanish Company. Iberdrola no one know s who owns them. Iberdrola is a publicly traded company.

Brian Hilvers, Nancy Erhart and Ken Burwell met with Commissioners regarding the union contracts. The Commissioner reviewed the union contract and compared it to the budget request. The different salary lines were explained as to what positions they are. The medic positions were discussed and the differences in the positions versus the medic levels. The volunteer wages are a different line. The full-time people work 24 hours on and 72 hours off. The equipment costs were also discussed. Leipsic, Ottoville and Columbus Grove have power cots. The bonus amounts for the volunteers, for the amount of runs done was discussed. There have been some people who are willing to help market and find more workers. It will go out on social media and in the newspapers. Ther were some other options of Boy Scouts or the Explorers. Schools with nursing classes could be of interest also.

Mr. Lammers moved to going to executive session with Commissioners Schroeder and Schlumbohm, Brian Hilvers and Nancy Erhart to discuss employee compensation in the contracts.

Mr. Schlumbohm second the motion

Vote Schroeder yes Lammers yes Schlumbohm yes

Commissioners went back on record. Mr. Burwell had been waiting to talk to the Commissioners after the executive session.

No decision were made.

EMS Director suggested an MOU with the Commissioners.

Mr. Lammers moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote Schroeder yes Lammers yes Schlumbohm yes

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the minutes as read from Tuesday September 5, 2023.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers absent Mr. Schlumbohm yes