

## **Minutes, Thursday May 23, 2024**

### **Purchase Orders and Travel Requests**

**Landfill Clos/ Mnt.** .....Purchase order to Morman Lawn for mowing at Landfill for \$ 2,700.00

**Office of Public Safety**.....Blanket purchase order for supplies for \$ 1,000.00.

**Children Services**.....Blanket purchase order for foster care maintenance for \$ 10,000.00.

**American Rescue Plan**.....Purchase order to Helms Construction for additional paving at Fairgrounds for \$ 8,800.00.

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

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

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

Commissioners Schroeder and Schlumbohm attended the progress meeting at the Fairground.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk. Brad Brubaker also joined the meeting.

The minutes from Tuesday May 21, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

Jennings Township Trustee Dave Wiegung and Ottawa Mayor Dean Meyer met with Commissioners Schroeder and Schlumbohm to discuss the townships receiving casino revenue from the County. Greg Luersman joined the meeting. Has there been any findings on the allowances for passing/sharing the casino revenue on to the townships. The casino revenue was developed for the increase in the crime in areas so the revenue is dispersed to the counties of Ohio. The townships would like to receive a portion of the funds also. There are still county heavy rescue units that the county contributes to. Mr. Wiegung said there could be a severe farm accident where the local fire departments would respond the townships and villages help maintain those fire departments. Mr. Wiegung brought up the article in the paper regarding reducing the sales tax and still having the county's balance raising. Why can't the townships and villages get some of the money? When road M was re-done the County used Issue II money while the townships gave up their portion that year. Why can't the casino revenue be shared? How much does the county need? If the casino revenue could just be shared with the villages and townships. If there is a way to share the casino revenue would the Commissioners be willing to share it? What revenue does the townships/fire departments have? Do they have levies to generate their own revenue? The Village of Ottawa spends \$300,000-\$500,000 per year on paving. Mr. Wiegung asked if the county would like to take over mowing all the roads. That is the under the County Engineer. The County should not share with others. There needs to be consistency to share funds with all the townships and villages. Not all townships have a village and there is a difference in populations and area covered. All the county landowners have paid their taxes lets help give some back. The casino revenue will continue to go up. We are currently in a plentiful time there have been times when expense had to be reduced and layoffs occurred. The reevaluation of the real estate values will help to increase the county's revenue. There are towns and townships that could use additional funds from the County. Giving county money to other entities is not necessarily allowed. The local government funds have been proposed to be increased which would give increases to all the villages and

townships. Putnam County gets the lowest share of those funds compared other counties. They do not care what other counties do. Putnam County should be helping Putnam County whether it be a village or township. Does the townships get any of the license tax that was added, they will have to ask the Engineer. A proposal of giving all the local government funds to the villages and townships was stated. Can the townships and villages get more of the local government funds? The budget commission controls the percentages of the disbursement of the local government funds. The schedule for the distribution of local government funds will need to be reviewed. Mr. Schroeder said he would not share money that is not his. It is the county's money but who constitutes who the "county" is? Is the County the villages and townships? The revenue from the solar farms was discussed. There cannot be a PILOT payment put on yet due to it not being in operation yet. 2026 may be the earliest any money is seen from the solar farms. \$500 per megawatt will be received for the first 5 years, the amount will go up more years into operation per the agreement. Mr. Brubaker brought up the smaller villages that have the sewer issues would other villages be willing give more to the needing villages, help determine the distribution? Could a fund be set up for the villages by the county similar to a revolving fund to help with emergent expenses due to natural disasters? School buses and tractors and all residents use the roads so the distributions should be distributed more equally to all the townships they all have the same problems. If the State or insurance says you must get new gear or equipment you must get it, the days of saying we aren't doing it are over. If there is an avenue to share more of the local government funds with other entities that is a more favorable option. Just dividing it by 30 would be good (15 townships & 15 villages). Copies of HB 573 and the schedule of the local government funds will be distributed.

Mr. Schroeder moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers absent

Mr. Schroeder moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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