

Minutes, Thursday May 30, 2024

Mr. Schroeder 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, 2024, 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 025, PC Council on Aging
25 EXP, Expenses.....\$ 2,218.00

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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

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Then/Now Purchase orders

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

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Schroeder Mr. Lammers
Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Schroeder Mr. Lammers
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Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

PCCOA.....Purchase order to Put Co Council on Aging for Ohio Healthy Aging Grant Round 2 for \$ 2,218.00

EMA.....Blanket purchase order for other expenses for \$1,000.00.

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

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm absent Mr. Schroeder yes Mr. Lammers yes
Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm absent Mr. Schroeder no Mr. Lammers no

Commissioners Schroeder, Lammers and Schlumbohm attended the progress meeting at the Fairgrounds.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers and Alaina Siefker, Asst. Clerk. Brad Brubaker also joined the meeting.

The minutes from Tuesday, May 28, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

Lauren Schulte stopped in to talk to Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers about her 4-H projects and talk to them about supporting her.

Commissioners Schroeder and Lammers along with Bob Benroth, Gary Lammers, Tim Wehri, Brad Brubaker and Patrick Blasius from the Sentinel discussed changing the sales tax reduction from ¼% to ½%. After looking at the numbers again, they said we can reduce it ½% instead of ¼%. If things stay current with the amount of carry over, we should still be able to increase this carry over. Commissioner Schroeder said we have an average increase in carry over of 2.7 million over each of the last 4 years and by reducing the income by 2.4 million dollars it would put money back into the pockets for taxpayers with still increasing our carryover. It looks like several years down the road that we should be good with this reduction and have plenty of money for operating into the future. Bob Benroth said that only 4 counties sales tax rates are at 6.5% and they are all much larger than us. Other counties similar to our county are at 7.25% but we don't know if they have debt that is paying or not. Bob Benroth thinks it would be irresponsible to lower it and that the commissioners have spent money like water the last few years. He brought up the computer software that would cost close to a quarter of a million dollars instead of waiting two years to save that money and get the next version, that is blowing money before you leave. Mike Lammers said we are still using 2016 software and it should be at 2022 or 2019 and the commissioners thought that it was being updated every 2-3 years and it has not and they feel it is an emergency. He also said that the IT Director says it is not done and he could do a better job at it. Vince Schroeder trusts what Mike Lammers says about IT due to his experience and his son at Fulton County as IT Director. Bob Benroth asked if he trusts all of them more than your own IT employee. Vince Schroeder said he trusts all of them and our own IT guy. Mike Lammers said you are entitled to your opinion, but we are 8 years behind and others say we are not secure. The status of current software and hardware upgrades was discussed with two other IT Directors, one industry supplier and two corporate IT professionals. All expressed the opinion we are in need of emergency action, which has been communicated to Mr. Burkhart. Mike Lammers said he has a difference of opinion between himself and the IT guy on feeling whether the county is secure. Vince Schroeder said CEBCO/CCAO (the county health insurance carrier) got hacked and paid the ransomware money and he doesn't want that to happen to our county. Bob Benroth said that even updating to a current one still will not guarantee that it won't happen then just because we move up to 2022. Mike Lammers said in 2017 the commissioners updated the software and servers. He quoted what the IT Director said in an email dated May 24 "I agree we are not current". Mike Lammers also said that Windows 2016 is vulnerable and they let it sit for 4 years too long. Bob Benroth said there is no self-responsibility in our office in regards to any of this. Vince Schroeder said we have a 14 million dollar carryover plus what we need to operate this year. He doesn't think it will affect that carryover. Mike Lammers said he never accused Bob of him not giving him accurate numbers. Mike Lammers thought spending money on infrastructure was better off for the county and was responsible spending money to fix county buildings. Arp money had to be spent. Bob Benroth said he thinks the commissioners need to have a 5 year strategic plan and have an idea on what the money needs to be spent on.

Bob asked why the quarter was put on three years ago when the numbers the Commissioners are basing their decision on is based on four years of numbers. Mike Lammers voted No on that increase; and made a point of the upgrades that were made to County buildings. With over thirty years business experience Mr. Lammers cited examples of outside county folks spending money in Putnam County when the taxes were lower. All elected officials are responsible and should be stewards of the County money. Mike Lammers motioned to drop half percent and

Vince Schroeder seconded to be put onto agenda. Both voted yes. Brad Brubaker asked what Mike thought was a good amount to have in carry over. Mike says six to eight months of money for businesses. Brad also asked about Mike's thoughts on an EMS building. Mike Lammers said he knows of a space in Kalida that can be rented. Also said the money for a new building would need to be on a levy. Said he does not have the numbers for the building costs and maintaining it. He has asked Brian Hilvers multiple times about equipment and cost of operations for both a new building and satellite facility on the west side of the county. Gary Lammers said the Annex needs a new roof. Sheriff and Jail needs new roofs in four to five years. Doesn't know costs but wanted to mention it. Attended the trustee meeting last night and learned that some sales tax budget was put to the Engineer for roads and bridges. Vince said bridges are normally 90-95% grant and the remainder comes out of the gas and fuel tax by the Engineer. Goes with the previous discussions about Casino money. Lammers prefers the local government money as an avenue for that. Budget commission determines the breakout of those monies. Trustees should talk to the Budget Commission about their proposal. 2006-028 AG opinion would be informative for this situation.

Commissioner Schroeder attended the teleconference for the Joint Co. Ditch West Jennings Creek. They discussed the advertisement and set the bid date for log jam removal and sandbar removal.

Mr. Lammers moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm absent Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Mr. Lammers moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, May 30, 2024.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

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