

Minutes, Thursday April 18, 2024

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County,
Ohio, that the following appropriation modification be made for the year ending
December 31, 2024.

For County General

From..... 1 A 3, Commissioner Supplies.....to 1 A 11D, Other Expense Comm.....\$
4,000.00

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 120, Page 108

Then/Now Purchase orders

Office of Public Safety....Purchase order 5161

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

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Schroeder Mr. Lammers

Comm. Jrl. 120, Page 109

Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

**County General.....Purchase order to AEP for Apr –Jun usage for \$ 22,000.00, for Ag
Complex \$10,500.00 for O-G Road \$ 6,500.00. Purchase order to Dominion Energy for Apr-Jun
\$ 10,000.00 for Ag Complex for \$ 8,000.00 for O-G Road for \$ 5,000.00. Purchase order to Fast
Signs for plaque for event center for \$ 4,120.00.**

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

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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

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

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

The minutes from Tuesday April 16, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Lammers moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote Schlumbohm yes Schroeder absent Lammers yes

Commissioners resumed session.

Commissioners Schlumbohm and Lammers met with Dave Wieging, Mark Warnecke of the townships, Jim Erford, Dean Meyer of the villages and Bob Benroth, Auditor; Gary Lammers, Prosecutor and Patrick Blasius, Putnam County Sentinel to discuss a possible distribution of casino revenue. Brad Brubaker via teleconference and Tim Wehri attended the discussion also. The county's carryover amount was discussed. What are the trustees thinking? It was brought up previously in 2019. Mr. Weiging had asked the Commissioners if the townships would be able to get a portion of the casino revenue that the county receives. The funds do need to go to the County General fund. The casino revenue is a substantial amount. The county does contribute toward the heavy request units in the county in Kalida and Ottawa. Mr. Weiging said most of the villages and townships have equipment comparable to the heavy rescue. Mr. Weiging said the townships need more money to maintain the county's roads. The County Engineer did take on more work on behalf of the townships for maintaining roads. Is there a better way this casino revenue could be better utilized to benefit the county? Could it go toward the roads and to the townships and villages? The farm machinery has gotten bigger and there is more traffic on the roads which are enduring more wear and tear. Commissioner Lammers agrees with Mr. Weiging and thinks the county could withstand giving a portion to the villages and townships. Dividing the amount among all the entities would not give any of them too much, and they would be thankful for whatever they would get. This additional funding would not cover a paving project but could help with maintenance of equipment. Mr. Warnecke explained that with the costs and expenses going up the money is not going as far as it used to. Do the townships have comparable miles of roads to maintain compared to each other and the county engineer. Even groundhogs create damage to the roads. Even giving some of the casino money to the fire departments would alleviate the money constraints on the townships. The county budget is in good shape. The Auditor confirmed the county budget is in good shape but there has been a lot of money spent in the past two years. The villages and townships all have expenses and the villages should be able to disperse the money as they wish, not necessarily to the fire department. There are 15 villages and 15 townships which would make easy divisions. The amounts of casino revenue is not known for sure. A division of thirds sounds fair. The legality of dividing the money must be known first. The Casino money does currently benefit everyone in the county as all the townships and villages are within the county. Everyone should be treated fairly and as equally as possible. Ottawa has different resources than the other villages and townships. The county does not have any debt so the future residents should be helping to pay for things not just the current residents. The future will be helping to pay. In the past the townships were willing to give the county engineer the roads to maintain if they did not give any more funding. All of the casino revenue should be given to the village and townships. Bob Benroth explained the debt that the county did have with the landfill and the jail. The debt was paid off and the sales tax was dropped by a quarter of a percent. The debt was paid off early and saved the taxpayers a half million dollars in interest. There are other entities that use the county's exempt status since the county does not have current debt and we have helped the CIC and St Rita's and other villages by not having debt. Bob will not sign off on incurring any debt unless there is a way to pay it off. The county's bond rating has increased twice due to

being debt free also. Gary Lammers said there are valid arguments to give money to the villages and townships, but the Ohio Constitution does not say to should go to the village and townships. If it should go to those entities, why was it not put into the state constitution? There is not an ORC that a donation can be made to another political entity. It was tried in the past and was not legal. The money that is earmarked for the heavy rescue units is for specific purposes. If the county would allocate money to the villages and townships each year for road maintenance. Fire safety is a different creature. Could the county grant the money to the Villages and townships for road maintenance rather than give? The ARP money allocated to the fire departments was done in a weighted formula to divide among all the departments fairly, based on size, area, level of exposure. Are other county's distributing casino money to townships? Are large cities receiving casino money also? What about the smaller municipalities? There may be a way we just have to figure it out. The largest cities in Ohio do get \$9.5 million divided among them. There has to be a way that the casino revenue can be shared with the villages and townships. Putnam County does give more local government funds to the townships due to having only one public library within the county. 70% of the total of local government funds goes to the townships and villages. These percentages have been determined many years ago and not sure what they were based one (not real estate nor population). The budget commission will have to hold annual hearings to confirm the percentages each year. The breakdown of the sales tax was discussed the state gets 5.75% and the county gets 1.25% of the total 7% sales tax. On local government funding the county keeps 30% the rest is distributed monthly. Could that whole amount go to the villages and townships? The legality of that must be reviewed and researched also. It is in complete agreement with the group that more funding is needed for road maintenance. Once the research is done the group will reconvene.

Commissioners Schlumbohm and Lammers attended a WORPO meeting with Mike Lenhart, and the county's members in the Assembly Room.

Mr. Schlumbohm oved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Schroeder absent Lammers yes

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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