

**Minutes, Thursday January 19, 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

15 A 15A, Advances Out.....\$ 4,200.00

BE IT RESOLVED, That per the request of The Board of County Commissioners for the purpose of the Airport Construction Grant Fund the following advance of funds is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
15 A 15A, Advances Out	57AI, Advance In	\$ 4,200.00

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion

Vote: Mr. Schroeder absent    Mr. Lammers yes    Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
Comm. Jrl. 118, Page 367

Mr. Lammers moved to sign the Agreement for Community Control/Probation Supervision Services with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Adult Parole Authority and Putnam County Court of Common Pleas.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion

Vote: Mr. Schroeder absent    Mr. Lammers yes    Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
Comm. Jrl. 118, Page 368-368F

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the lease agreement between Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County and Silgan Plastics Corp for business space at 1206 E. Second St, Ottawa, OH for 8,374 sq. ft. beginning January 1, 2023 at a rate of \$.016 per sq. ft. for one year.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion

Vote: Mr. Schroeder absent    Mr. Lammers yes    Mr. Schlumbohm yes  
Comm. Jrl. 118, Page 369-370B

Mr. Lammers moved to approve signing the contract documents for the ODOD Building Demo & Site Revitalization, building demo at 105 Main St, Belmore, OH.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion

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

**Then/Now Purchase orders**

**Veteran Services**.....Purchase order 45264

**Sewer Dist #1**.....Purchase order 45723

**Sewer Dist #2**.....Purchase order 45724

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

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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

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

Comm. Jrl. 118, Page 371

**Purchase orders and travel requests**

**E-911**.....Travel request for Brad Brubaker & Todd Worchuck to attend the Central Square use conference in Nashville, TN Jun 4 through 8, 2023 with purchase order for lodging, meals, registration and parking totaling \$ 4,493.00.

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

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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

Exceptions: Mr. Schroeder Mr. Lammers Mr. Schlumbohm

Brian Hilvers, Nancy Erhart and Commissioners Schlumbohm and Lammers met with Nancy Kline for a discussion regarding an article in the Sentinel on the EMS. Nancy would like to get updates on the incentives to retain and entice volunteers to serve on the EMS. The volunteer numbers have declined over the past few years. The decline is thought to be due to the double income households and other issues, in the past only one spouse held a job outside the home. The rates have increased and there are reimbursements for completing the training courses. The volunteer payrates have increased dramatically over the past few years. The numbers of runs have been steadily increasing along with the age of the population. There are two full time squads currently. Four-five people are needed to cover a 24-hour period. The current tax levy covers the expense of the full-time medics, no new levies were passed to cover these expenses. There has been one delay in service due to staffing issues in 2022. It is thought to have the volunteers participate more rather than hiring another full-time squad and starting another station within the county. Another full-time squad would increase the expense by \$1 million. The current tax levy would not support that increase in expense. The Commissioners are absolutely not in favor of adding additional tax levies to the landowners at this time. When volunteers are not available and the squad from Glandorf has to respond that increases the response time for the outlying communities, where if local volunteers respond they are closer. The volunteer rates are lower for fire departments also. To get volunteers to respond during the day is difficult due to the majority of volunteers having day shift hours. Some employers are willing to allow the volunteers to leave their jobs to respond but some are not due to the low staffing issues for employment also. The volunteer rewards are mostly the benefits of helping

others, but pay should at least cover their expenses. The county is family oriented and seeing familiar faces show up and help is comforting. Brian explained the on call pay rates which would be on top of the 911 responses. There is a clothing allowance for full time medics also. There are seven squads within the County. The younger people of the County need to get involved. They are called volunteers, but are paid on-call but not set to a schedule.

Nancy Kline brought up the solar farms and rules also she would like to do a story about the solar farms also.

Nolan Croy informed the Commissioners of another solar site on Ralph Luersman property near Ottoville. He shared a map of the property and included the solar regulations in HB 501.

Board of Elections members Kurt Salhoff, Kathy Miller and Carla Lammers met with Commissioners Schlumbohm and Lammers to discuss employee compensation. Kurt shared his thoughts in written form. The Fall election went very well and the post audit was done by hand also to confirm the numbers. The BOE is grateful for the County IT services. There is new elections law passed. The Monday prior to the election there will be no early voting and there is no August primary. Commissioners asked about open voting, the ability to go to any precinct to vote. BOE said no, not for Ohio. There has been a lot of employee turnover statewide. There will be more redistricting. Any elected officials can work the polls as long as they or a family member are not on the ballot. Like most departments there was money turned back in to the County for 2022 budget. The rates of the employees were discussed and the increases that were promised to them after a probationary period. The reorganization of the BOE will be in early March and then the new pay rates will go into effect for the employees once their training is complete. They believe the Director of the BOE should be paid comparable to other male Directors, such as Veteran Service Commission Director. Karen Lammers has performed well as the director and when she retires, she will have to be replaced by a Democrat. The Democrats are a limited pool within the County. Kurt said additional appropriation would be needed to cover the compensation increases that will be given in March. The Commissioners listed the increases that have been given over the past few years, which have been approx. \$2 increase for 2022. That is a 10% increase each year, which is more than any other employee received. The BOE asked why a male Veteran Service Director was hired at a higher rate. The Veteran Service Director was hired and compensated by the Veteran Board, not the Commissioners. To the Commissioners' knowledge there is NO discrimination anywhere in the County workforce. The Commissioners said BOE employees received \$2 last year when all other County employee received \$1. BOE asked why the Auditor's employee received a \$3 per hour increase. How many offices give back money to the general and how much? The Commissioners said all office give back funds. The Commissioners are trying to get the pay balanced out for the county offices and not abuse the taxpayer's dollars. The starting wage had been increased for new employees to \$15. The Commissioners have to enforce some kind of fiscal responsibility. The future year increases listed for BOE were reviewed. The Commissioners suggested lowering the increase increments. The pay rates for other office staff were discussed, and their hourly rates increased by \$3 per hour over the past few years. Changing the effective date on the office staff rate increase to March rather than immediate was agreed upon by all. BOE members would like to meet again after the Commissioners review the increases given by other offices. The BOE only looked at comparable counties for wage comparisons. The BOE employees feels as they are being punished by not getting the same wage increases as other employees. BOE members would like to meet with Commissioners

again prior to March. The Commissioners are appreciative of the service the employees are giving to their jobs. The pay increases must be kept in check to maintain the county budget.

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

The minutes from Tuesday January 17, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

Commissioners Schlumbohm and Lammers held a conference call with Commissioners Wolfrum and Lichtensteiger to discuss an amendment on the resolution for the West Jennings Creek that was passed on Tuesday at the joint county ditch hearing.

Kevin Niese, John and of Technicon Design Group, John Recker of AEP met with Commissioners Schlumbohm and Lammers, Tim Schnipke and Joe Burkhart to discuss the new fairgrounds building and the power supply for this building and the fairgrounds. John Recker shared some new rates that are in effect for fairgrounds, County and independent fair tariff. The Putnam County Fairgrounds is on the tariff of their service. There is no savings on the AEP side now due to fuel costs. Bringing the service off the existing secondary or primary for the new building should not create an increased cost for the usage at the fairgrounds. AEP would cover 60% of cost if a new transformer is needed. There is not any cost advantage of bringing in new service. There is a base service that is paid at the fairgrounds. Tim said the lines coming in should be upgraded, there is some upgrades needed on the pole also. Tim can get County Electric out to do the upgrades. There is no savings on new service, actually it would be increased costs due to additional meter charge. Mr. Recker recommended putting in a work order now so the request can be reviewed for efficiency. Prebid meeting on the grandstand will be next week. Mr. Recker will review Wyandot and Hancock event centers to compare their service rates. The timeline for service a decision would be within the next month. The grandstand project should not interfere with the building site project. The bid date for grandstand is set for Feb. 2, 2023.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

Vote Schroeder absent Lammers yes Schlumbohm yes

Mr. Lammers moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday January 19, 2023.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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