

Minutes, Tuesday June 4, 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 expenditures of said County during fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, the following sums be and the same are hereby transferred, set aside and appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

For Sheriff/Jail

From....6 A 2, Full Time Union Salaries.....to....6 A 1, Sheriff Salaries.....\$1,358.00

From....4 B 11MP, Prisoner Medical.....to....4 B 11SU, Prisoner Supplies.....\$4,000.00

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

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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, 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 001, County General

9 C 3, Veterans Services Office Supplies.....\$119.00

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm yes 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

EMS.....Blanket purchase order for equipment for \$10,000.00.

Veterans Service.....Travel request for Jon Balmer and Matt Prenzlin to attend the OSACVSO Summer Quarterly Training in Dublin, OH on July 18-19, 2024 with expenses for mileage,

lodging, meals, registration and other totaling \$507.68 each one with a grand total for both of them of \$1,015.36.

JFS.....Purchase order to Keeping Kids Safe for FCM (Family Case Manager) for A. Davis for \$658.00.

Sheriff.....Travel request for Mark Brecht #6 and Mark Doster #5 to attend a CPT course at Owens in Perrysburg, OH on Sept 9, 2024 with expenses for meals and other totaling \$128.00 with a purchase order for the travel for \$128.00.

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 yes

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

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers attended the Elected Officials meeting, hosted by Commissioner Lammers. Brad Brubaker also attended.

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers attended via-teleconference the bid opening for the Joint County West Jennings Creek Ditch with Van Wert and Allen County Commissioners. Brad Brubaker attended also.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk. Brad Brubaker was also in attendance.

The minutes from Thursday May 30, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers called Kevin Niese of Technicon Design Group regarding a change order that was submitted to confirm the items on the change order.

Kathy Schroeder came in to talk to the Commissioners about future plans for Safety City. The new building will not be able to be used due to putting tape on the floor but they would be able to accommodate with a different location possibly in the Ag Complex. Next years is scheduled for May 6, 7, & 8 of 2025. Kathy is interested in being on the Fair Board and the Commissioners asked if she would be interested in being on the Community Action Board also.

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers held discussions on changing the county sales tax reduction to a non-collect on real estate taxes. Bob Benroth, Gary Lammers, Brad Brubaker and Patrick Blasius joined the meeting. Commissioners Schroeder explained the option of reducing the inside millage collection on the real estate taxes versus lowering the sales tax. This would be done by a resolution from the Commissioners. 2.1 mills bring in \$2.75million in revenue. Since the property owners have bore the most of the increases that have come this would alleviate some of the tax burden on them. This reduction would put \$2.75 mill back in the property owners' pockets which would be \$360 per year. This reduction would not significantly affect the balances for the county operations. This reduction would not take effect until next year. There is a projected increase in revenue and the county does not need to increase the carryover balance due to a sufficient balance being held currently. Reducing the property tax makes more sense than reducing the sales tax to Commissioner Schlumbohm and the Auditor. The correct amount of surplus to hold is not known but exceeding \$10 million is not needed. Real estate relief is a better solution than sales tax relief. 2024 taxes payable in 2025

would be the earliest this could take effect. This is similar to what Brookhill/Board of D/D did with their levy. The inflationary cycle is not over, with the prices going up so does the sales tax, the inflationary spending is not over. The County's investments are earning interest as well. The county's budget has increased over the years due to inflation; the utility rates have increased and will again, which happens for the home owners as well. The Commissioners can pass a resolution.

Mr. Schroeder moved to rescind the motion of reducing the 1/2 percent sales.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion

Vote Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Mr. Schroeder moved to non-collect on real estate on 2.1 mill (1/2 mill will still be collected for Veteran Services)

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion

Vote Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Bob will assist in providing information for the resolution.

Bob also reviewed the amounts that the townships and villages will receive from the real estate value increases. The Commissioners will review the figures. These changes have taken affect for the 2023 taxes collected in 2024. All entities' collection revenue has increased due to the higher valuations. Bob will share this information with the trustees on Thursday also. The County's balance must be watched carefully, if a problem comes up it will take a full year for any other changes to take effect.

Mr. Lammers moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Schroeder yes Schlumbohm yes Lammers yes

Commissioners resumed session.

Joe Burkhart, IT Director met with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers to discuss the County's computer upgrades. Brad Brubaker and Greg Luersman joined the meeting also. Joe presented quotes and break downs for the IT upgrades. The Commissioners questioned the time frame on the current operating system. Security updates will be available for current system until 2027. The security level of the operating year system is of differing opinions. There is still security available but is not the most up to date but is updated. It is critical to stay updated, but we are still well before the end of life on current system. If we would wait one year and then update to the 2025 version. There are still updates planned for the system. Since there have been other entities that have been hacked and it is thought that we need to get updated as soon as possible. We still have a firewall in place. Bob Benroth joined the meeting. It was asked how often we update the GIS software. Greg said he just did an update due to some new features that were available. Commissioners do value the opinions they are getting, but they are trying to make the best decision for the county. If we update now and then we would have to update again next year. To update now it would \$145,000 and in May of 2025 it would be another \$140,000. If we just do the update in 2025, we would only have to pay once. The SA

version (Software assurance) is cheaper up front but the updates are included. The Commissioners do like that Joe has been conserving money. The 2025 version will come out in November of this year and it could be in place by mid-2025. How long will the 2022 version be? Until 2029. The dangers have increased over the years as well. The updates are different on the different versions, but the security will increase as well. They do not all have to be done at once. They can be done one at a time or in batches. The Dell Gold program will be retained. The spin up time for the servers was discussed and analyzed. The recent exercise did bring some things to our attention. The return on investment of this is a reason to spend more on it than in the past, but is it worth an additional \$150,000.? The Commissioners want more info on the versions and terms of the software they could purchase. It would be more to do it now but we would still need to update again next year. If Joe is allowed to spend more money on the system he will. There are many backups being done as well as the updates, so the systems can be brought back up within hours. Since the Nimbles were not traded in we kept them so there is storage space available. Majority of the computers are running Windows 11. There are still businesses using the older operating systems, so it is not unheard of. Can the money be appropriated in to the IT budget for these upgrades? Commissioners yes for 2025 budget. If there are funds available for the needed updates they can be done more appropriately. The charges will have to be reviewed more thoroughly to upgrade the update services. The Commissioners are in agreement to use the gold version for the updates needed. Joe reviewed and hardware needs also. A core switch is needed to be upgraded to a 48 port. The firewalls are in need of upgrading also. The prices for the firewalls were reviewed. Support for the firewalls is included for four years. The website could use some updating as well. The Commissioners are ok with updating the website also. Sophos MDR can be updated to add more security giving more options to identify threats. A cost for Multi-factor authentication is a big piece in security but would be a big enhancement. This would create issues with employees using personal phones. There are other options to use desk phones, email or PIN FOBS. The phone system has not been upgraded for a few years. Adding a conference phone for the Assembly Room and Sheriff office is needed. Email encryption was discussed. Judicial info and HIPPA info would be the two exceptions. Artificial Intelligence is getting to be a bigger issue going forward.

The Commissioners want to proceed on Bold AS option 1 with switch, firewalls, website, update phone system, and multi factor authentication. hold off on the Sophos until further research is done.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Commissioner Lammers attended a Records Commission meeting with Sherri Britsch and Kim Redman.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the minutes as read from Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

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

