

Minutes, Tuesday September 24, 2024

Mr. Lammers 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 Probation Supervision

From....117 SU, Supplies,to...117 CS, Contract Services... \$4,035.93

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

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Mr. Schroeder moved to approve the Ohio Enterprise Zone Agreement for Nelson Trailers, Inc.

Mr. Lammers seconded the motion.

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

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

14 A 6, Group Hospital Ins.....\$ 55,000.00

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 120, Page 305

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, Putnam County is in need of a Local Mitigation Plan to continue to be eligible for certain Federal financial assistance in times of disaster;
and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has empowered the Putnam County Emergency Management Agency to provide the necessary planning for all Emergency Management/Homeland Security functions for Putnam County.
now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The Board of Putnam County Commissioners does hereby grant Brian Hilvers, Emergency Management Director, authority to execute for and in behalf of Putnam County, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio, this application and to file it in the appropriate State office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 228, 23rd Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund.
and be it also

RESOLVED, that Putnam County, a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio, hereby authorized its agent to provide to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all matters pertaining to such Federal disaster assistance the assurances and agreements.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

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

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Then/Now Purchase orders

Capital Improvement.....purchase order 47959

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

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

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

Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Schroeder Mr. Lammers

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Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

American Rescue Plan.....Purchase order to Buckeye Custom Fab for lettering on the Grandstand for \$ 8,200.00.

CDBG.....Purchase order to MECA Enterprises for change order for Hohenbrink for \$ 2,400.00.

Capital Improvement.....Purchase order to Ottoville Hardware for new flooring in Muni court for \$ 3,927.93.

Job & Family.....Travel requests for Christine Lomeli and Judy Solomon to attend the CFIS Conference in Lewis Center on October 6-8, 2024 with expenses for lodging, meals and registration totaling \$ 1,199.76.

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

Kim Rieman and David Amormino met with Commissioners Schroeder and Schlumbohm to introduce Mr. Amormino as the new Environmental Director for the Health Dept. The billing issues were discussed that were covered at the Health Board meeting the previous week. Mr. Amormino has been there for three weeks and has been involved with many things.

Commissioner Schlumbohm suggested a meeting with all the installers for the county, there is a lot of things that need to be addressed. The installers say there is more red tape to perform services within Putnam County than any of the surrounding counties. A meeting with the pumpers has been scheduled. A meeting with the installers may be scheduled later. David has met with the sewage consortium in Bowling Green, so he is learning what other counties have in place. The soil types here are unique everything must be reviewed to make sure the proper system is being utilized. The number of bedrooms is a question for a system but there are households that have multiple children in one room with bunkbeds. So, the systems must be sized properly for the household. There are municipalities that are greatly in favor of public systems versus the private system. Everyone's system must be secure to protect the water supply. The attendance at the meetings is not known and will things actually get resolved. It was thought that the installers would be ok with a group meeting to get things out in the open and get everyone on the same page. There are villages that are inquiring for funding to get people to join the municipal systems. There is money for those who are already there for repairs or tapping into a new line, which is income based. The collaboration of installers and providers is needed to keep things moving. Mr. Amormino said just doing the minimum is ok but sometimes doing some extra is better. He is willing to work with the providers and installers and see what works best for this county. Mr. Amormino listed the counties that he has worked with. He explained some circumstances that he has viewed, and materials that he has seen being used for septic systems.

Gary Lammers met with Commissioners Schroeder and Schlumbohm to review the findings from the State Auditor request regarding Job & Family Services. The request was reviewed and the commissioners did go to the office to view the situation. Some of the purchases that were made with COVID funds were questioned as to the validity. Gary has had multiple inquiries from employees at Job & Family of circumstances that have occurred. The matter of securing records was discussed. A hostile work environment was described in some of the circumstances. A locked door was discussed that was removed due to being an obstruction of a fire exit for other employees. Commissioner Lammers joined the meeting. There were other inquiries from employees on the work conditions to get employees to get along and work together in their workspace. A discipline plan should have been followed. A request was received from the Auditor of State for the commissioners to review the conditions at Job & Family Services offices. There is an allegation for an employee getting paid for work that was not being done which is a fraudulent activity. Commissioner Lammers asked about the EMS employees blocking the roads around the courthouse during the meeting with the Commissioners discussing the EMS services within the county. If employees were doing this while on the clock, would it be considered fraudulent also. It could be reported to the State Auditor's office also. The prosecutor returned to the Job & Family discussion of the employee having fraudulent time

sheets and being paid for hours that were not worked and using a county vehicle for personal use. This is an act of fraud and theft in office. The EMS employees' situation is a bit different. Would the EMS situation be egregious enough to require termination? Would the Director be included for enabling the situation? The allegation is that she changed the time sheets and knew of the situation. The Commissioners directed the Director to have the employee notify the director by email when he arrived at work and left for the day. This employee has used all of his paid time off sick and vacation and was out of time. Using sick time while not sick is another violation. It is the Commissioners responsibility to investigate further. The disciplinary history for this employee by Job & Family is not known. There are many rumors and stories about the situation. The director of Job & Family is an unclassified service position, so the decision is from the Commissioners on how to handle this situation. The director should have filled many positions and has not ,due to lack of funds or the need for more staff and should have delegation of duties and has not. There has been heavy turnover of employees in Job & Family Services in the past few years. There has been high turnover for the juvenile prosecutor position also in dealing with Job & Family Services, Children Services and Child Support. The Job & Family service employees should communicate with each other instead of each individually contacting the juvenile prosecutor which is a waste of time and resources. Basic intake should be taken care of by Children Services/Child support. The organization of files was discussed also. The behavior from Job & Family, Children Services investigation toward the Juvenile Prosecutor was a factor for the high turnover for the juvenile prosecutor position. There is funding for Child support enforcement for the prosecutor but not for other services for children services. Job & Family does not have funding to hire their own prosecutor. Gary said it has been a problem for a while. The most important issue is the fraudulent behavior and how long has it been going on? The Prosecutor feels that an investigation needs to be done and some disciplinary action needs to happen. There are also complaints from law enforcement, when a referral has been made and no inquiry or check is being done for abuse. Gary described a situation when a school has notified him of a situation with a child being in an unhealthy situation and having children services get involved and they are hesitant to get involved.

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

The minutes from Thursday, September 19, 2024 were reviewed and approved.

Suzy Wischmeyer met with Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Lammers moved to go into executive session with Suzy Wischmeyer and the other commissioners to discuss personnel discipline.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers yes

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to come out of executive session.

Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Vote Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers yes

No decisions were made. The Commissioners requested Suzy to submit a response to the State Auditor's Special Investigation complaint.

Commissioners Schroeder, Schlumbohm and Lammers called Rob Fawcett regarding a question of liability of a new drone operator. Can an operator be covered by liability if he is not a county employee? CORSA has been questioned for this issue and an answer has not been received yet. This is a contracted service for operating the county's drone. The cost will be given when the answer comes.

Commissioners called Tim about the scheduling of taking the panel down at the Event Center. October 1 was chosen as the day but the building is not available that day.

Commissioner Lammers left for the day.

Patrick McCauley from Bob Sprague's (Current Ohio Treasurer of State) Office stopped in to give Commissioner Schlumbohm and Schroeder updates on their office and see how things are going in the county. He gave the commissioners some handouts and went over different programs available. Commissioner Schlumbohm said they will be adding a bunk house on to the current EMS building in Glandorf.

Mr. Schroeder moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the day.

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Schroeder yes Lammers absent

Mr. Schroeder moved to approve the minutes as read from Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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