

Minutes Thursday, January 23, 2025

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County, Ohio, and its residents currently receive natural gas distribution service from Dominion Energy Ohio/Enbridge; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy Ohio/Enbridge has filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), in Case No. 23-0894-GA-AIR, a request for a 30% increase for the natural gas distribution services it provides to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy Ohio/Enbridge has proposed a distribution rate increase for consumers which would increase consumers' monthly fixed Basic Service Charge for natural gas distribution service; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy Ohio/Enbridge has proposed to increase other fixed monthly distribution charges to consumers by more than \$8.78 per month starting in 2025, and increasing by as much as \$26.69 per month by 2032; and

WHEREAS, large rate increases in natural gas distribution service may negatively impact the County's efforts to attract new businesses and jobs, depress the housing market, and place an undue financial burden on residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County, State of Ohio:

SECTION I. That this Board does hereby oppose Dominion Energy Ohio/Enbridge's proposal to increase the monthly fixed Basic Service Charge for natural gas distribution service to consumers by 30%, and request that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio deny such a rate increase to consumers.

SECTION II. That this Board does hereby oppose Dominion Energy Ohio/Enbridge's proposal to increase other fixed monthly distribution charges to consumers to more than \$8.78 per month starting in 2025, and request that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio deny such a rate increase to consumers.

SECTION III. That the Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Attn: Docketing Division (Case No. 23-0894-GA-AIR), 180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215-3793, and that a copy of this Resolution be recorded in the Minutes of this meeting.

SECTION IV. That this Resolution shall be in force and effective immediately.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri absent Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 41

Then/Now Purchase orders

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

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker Mr. Schlumbohm

Exceptions: Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker Mr. Schlumbohm

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page

Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

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

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker Mr. Schlumbohm

Exceptions: Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker Mr. Schlumbohm

Nolan Croy stopped in to discuss the planning commission and give Commissioners Schlumbohm and Brubaker updates on the trustee meeting last night regarding the battery storage facilities. Nolan will draw up some regulations to review. There is also a variance to submit for review.

Commissioners Schlumbohm and Brubaker discussed giving their full-time employees (office staff, maintenance, IT and recycling) a paid day for their birthday similarly to some other departments within the courthouse.

Commissioner Schlumbohm led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Brubaker and staff.

Maintenance Tim Schnipke met with Commissioners Brubaker and Schlumbohm and Alaina Siefker to discuss Sewer District #2 smoke & dye testing. A map of the district was reviewed. There are a few residents who are in the county's districts but are not billed by the county but directly from the Village, those residents also do not have to pay for repairs to the pump stations that they use. A quote for a smoke & dye test was submitted by Wessler Engineering which is broken down by the county portion and the village portion. The prints of the district were reviewed by and returned to the office. The testing would not be able to be done until late spring or early summer. There is money in the sewer district fund to pay for the testing. Having this testing done will facilitate getting the county out of the sewer business and getting things turned over to the Village of Ottawa. Tim explained the pumps and the recent maintenance that has been done on them. Sewer Dist. #1 will need to be smoke and dye tested also when that project is completed.

Tim informed the Commissioners they are looking at a different chemical company for the boilers in the basement. There is scale and sediment in the 40 year-old copper pipes in the building, which creates flow issues in the lines. The compatibility of the boiler system and the pipes was discussed. The lines need to be flushed more often to clear out the sediment. The chemicals will soften the water so there is less corrosion in the pipes.

There is grant funding available for capital projects at county jails, some of the projects coming up will be reviewed to see if they are eligible for this grant. New water tanks for the jail and other renovations are going to be needed within the next year.

Brad Nelson and Brandi Anspach met with Commissioners Brubaker and Schlumbohm to discuss purchases of new sheriff office vehicles. Quotes from Statewide for two vehicles were presented. Brad is asking for three new vehicles for the year. There are three current vehicles

going to the auction. There are three more vehicles that will be taken out of service this year also. The lower mileage vehicles will be pushed to the jail. Some of the other vehicles will be repurposed also. The quotes are for 2024 model cars that are available. \$64,749 is the price per car for three cars. There is no new equipment needed for the vehicles all the equipment will be transferred from the older cars. Commissioner Brubaker asked about the equipment fund, if there is a large balance in that fund. This fund is for car equipment and the funds come from 911. Could \$90,000 come out of that fund to go toward the car purchases? Then the Commissioners would cover the rest of the expense. The Commissioners are also covering the expense of the renovations that are going to be done at the Sheriff's office. It will be checked with the Sheriff to see if those funds are available for a car purchase. This fund was set up to make sure the equipment on the vehicles were up to date. Since the Commissioners have committed other funds to the Sheriff and if these funds are available to use for this purpose. And if something does come up where the funds are needed the Commissioners will cover more of the expense. The vehicles costs have gone up drastically also, as did the costs of most things. These things will be reviewed and confirmed.

A discussion was requested for revisiting the revision of the retire/rehire policy. A meeting will be scheduled.

The Commissioners reviewed the quotes that were submitted for the renovations at the Sheriff's office and they are recommending that another quote be requested for the kitchenette renovations. The quote submitted was thought to be on the high side.

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

The minutes from Tuesday, January 21, 2025 were reviewed and approved.

A Bid opening was held for the 2025 Spring Paving with the Commissioners and the Engineer. The bids were received as follows:

Prop A	Bid amounts	
Shelly Company	\$20,827.00	bid bond included
Ward Construction	\$ 16,793.00	bid bond included

Prop B

Shelly Co	Opt 1 \$ 548,466.20	Opt 2 592,566.20
Ward Const	Opt 1 \$ 513,451.20	Opt 2 N/A

Prop C

Shelly Co	\$ 584,431.60
Ward Const	\$ 580,871.60

Prop D

Shelly Co.	\$373,765.20
Ward Const	\$ 361,495.20

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to table the bids for further review by the Engineer.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote Wehri absent Brubaker yes Schlumbohm yes

ODOT New Facility meeting was held in the Assembly Room with ODOT, Engineer, Ottawa Township trustees, Commissioners, and Auditor. Rod Nuveman opened the meeting with intros of all attendees,

ODOT-Derrick Shierloh, Paul Lehman, Tony Lotz, Rod Nuveman, Mike Zirkle

Ottawa Township Steve & Jim Leopold

Comm. Schlumbohm & Brubaker

Bob Benroth, Mike Lenhart, Kyle Gerding

Ottawa Village-Julie Niese and Kyle Stechschulte

ODOT will be building a new facility on a parcel off of SR 109 north of Ottawa. The building estimate was reviewed and the timeline bidding will be done in March of 2025 with construction to start in May of 2025 with completion the end of July 2026. ODOT is planning to vacate the old facility on 11st street in December of 2026.

The layout of the buildings on the new parcel was reviewed, there is 4.8 acres of excess land open yet for future development if the village or township decide to utilize some of it which can be divided. The County was not interested in co locating at the new site but were interested in the old site on 11th street. The village interest is unsure as is the townships at this time for future plans. Future needs can be reviewed later. The 4.8 acres would have access for shared use. Shared use for the new facility could be negotiated.

Shel Miller explained the transfer process for the old site.

There would be an easement from SR 109 for the 4.8 acres which could be divided if needed.

The 11th street location the county has expressed interest in this property in the past. They would still be interested. The current conditions of the facility were reviewed by Tony Lotz. The ages of the buildings were listed. Any upgrades and maintenance done recently were reviewed.

Since this project has been delayed some things have changes and maintenance was done to keep up. The fuels tanks were replaced with above ground tanks and underground tanks were removed. All the other undergrounds tanks have been removed. Nothing environmental sensitive. Before it would be transferred and environment review must be done. The Commissioners must make the request on behalf of the Engineer. A letter of interest listing public use and for transportation purposes by the Engineer must come from Commissioners since they will be the owners. There will be a reversionary clause in the use, where this land cannot be sold for a profit since it would be transferred without charge. These rules could change at any time. The request letter would start the process. Addressed to Chris Hughes, director with copies to Rod and Shell. The trustees asked what kind of building would be on the new site. The buildings would be concrete, with vertical siding with brick accent. Would any buildings on the extra lot have to match the style? ODOT will not govern that. Annexation was submitted and is being reviewed currently and will be on the Commissioners agenda soon.

Colors of the buildings will be grey in color. The extra site must be maintained if it is not developed. A future building plan would need to be submitted. And the Village would be willing to work with the township if they decide to use the land also. ODOT is willing to work with all the entities.

Bob Benroth stopped in to update Commissioners Schlumbohm and Brubaker on the sales tax revenue, and to give an update on the sales tax renewal that is coming up in 2026. There will be and approx. \$3 million reduction in the revenue this year. A reduction in interest rates is not thought to be coming in the near future.

Lenhart stopped back in and requested a discussion on acquiring the old ODOT facility. The Engineer will walk through the facility and get back with the Commissioners.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri absent Brubaker yes Schlumbohm yes

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes Mr. Schlumbohm yes