

**Minutes Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

Mr. Brubaker 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, 2025, 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 ..Sheriff/Jail

6 A 19, Equipment Utility Usage.....\$90,000.00

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 59

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners established a solid waste management policy committee consisting of the following statutory members:

**Designee of the Board of Commissioners...statutory member**

**Mayor of Ottawa...statutory member**

**Township Representative...statutory member**

**Putnam County Health Commissioner....statutory member**

**WHEREAS**, those members were:

Vincent Schroeder, County Commissioner

Dean Meyer, Mayor of Ottawa

Don Croy, Township Representative

Kim Rieman, Health Department Representative

and

**WHEREAS**, Vincent Schroeder, County Commissioner has informed the Board of his leaving and that John Schlumbohm, County Commissioner is willing to take his place. And Don Croy has informed the Board of stepping down from the Township Representative and that Roger Kruse is willing to take his place.

and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, these members currently include, for a two year term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending January 1, 2027.

- 1) John Schlumbohm, County Commissioner
- 2) Dean Meyer, Mayor of Ottawa
- 3) Roger Kruse, Township Representative
- 4) Kim Rieman, Health Department Representative

**WHEREAS**, Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3734.54(F), the Putnam County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee (the “Committee”) statutory members appointed one committee member representing Industrial/Commercial Generators, one committee member representing citizens, and one committee member representing the public.

**WHEREAS**, those members were:

- 1) Eric Siefker, Industrial/Commercial Generator Representative
- 2) Beth Scheckelhoff, Citizen Representative/OSU Designee
- 3) Jeff Giesige, Public Representative

and

**WHEREAS**, Jeff Giesige, Beth Scheckelhoff and Eric Siefker expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the board.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, these members currently include, for a two year term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending January 1, 2027.

- 5) Eric Siefker, Industrial/Commercial Generator Representative
- 6) Beth Scheckelhoff, Citizen Representative/OSU Designee
- 7) Jeff Giesige, Public Representative

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 60-61

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

that to provide for the unanticipated expenditures of said County during fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, 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:

From.....Fund 022, Brookhill Center (8 E 7N, Transfer Out) .....to.....Fund 028, MR/DD Resdntl Servs ( 28 TI, Transfer In).....\$300,000.00

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 62

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the extension of the 2024 Autopsy Agreement with Lucas County Commissioners to extend the agreement to February 28, 2025.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 63

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners has received a request from Robert Benroth, auditor, to establish a revenue line and an appropriation line for Blue Harvest Solar MegaWatt PILOT Tax in Fund 106, Tax Equivalent.

now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby agree to have the Putnam County Auditor create the following revenue line in Fund 106, Tax Equivalent:

106 BHSOLAR

and be it further

**RESOLVED**, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby agree to have the Putnam County Auditor to create the following appropriation line:

106 BHSOLAR

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 64

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners has received a request from Robert Benroth, auditor, to establish a revenue line and an appropriation line for Powell Creek Solar Mega Watt PILOT Tax in Fund 106, Tax Equivalent.

now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby agree to have the Putnam County Auditor create the following revenue line in Fund 106, Tax Equivalent:

106 PCSOLAR

and be it further

**RESOLVED**, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby agree to have the Putnam County Auditor to create the following appropriation line:

106 PCSOLAR

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 65

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, 2025.

For County General

From..... 15 A 14, Attorney Fees.....to 1 A 15E, IT Travel.....\$4,329.00

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 68

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Engineer advertised for said bids for the Spring 2025 County Paving & Widening and received said bids on the 23rd of January, 2025, at which time the bids were opened, publicly read, and tabled for further study;

**WHEREAS**, the Putnam County Engineer, Mike Lenhart, sent a letter recommending that the contract for the Spring 2025 Putnam County Paving & Widening be awarded to Ward Construction Co., Leipsic, Ohio, based on their bid read at the bid opening on January 23, 2025.

Now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that after review of bids received and preparation for the bid tabulation by the Putnam County Engineer, the Board of Commissioners does hereby award the contract for the Spring 2025 County Paving & Widening to Ward Construction Co., Leipsic, Ohio, based on their bid read at the bid opening on January 23, 2025.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

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### **Then/Now Purchase orders**

**Office of Public Safety.....purchase order 5541**

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

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

Exceptions: Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker Mr. Schlumbohm

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### **Purchase Orders and Travel Requests**

**County General.....Purchase order to Statewide Ford for partial purchase of 3 new Sheriff vehicles for \$104,247.00. Travel request for Tyler Schroeder and Joe Burkhart to attend the**

Central Square /Engage Conference in Kissimmee, FL on Apr 25-30, 2025 with purchase order for mileage, lodging, meals registration, parking and other totaling \$4,329.00.

**Ditch Maintenance**....Purchase order to Kahle Excavating for work on Dean Bach Jt. Co #270 for \$3,137.60, purchase order to Kahle Excavating for work on Ray Lugibihl Dt for \$10,084.66, purchase order to Kahle Excavating for work on Fred Halbgewoks #309 for \$6,317.52, purchase order to Kahle Excavating for work on H.A. Stechschulte #494 for \$3,973.00, purchase order to Byrne Excavating for Work on Mathias Metzger #142 for \$8,301.50, and purchase order to Byrne Excavating for work on Bernard German Dt for \$4,445.40.

**EMA**.....Travel request for Kyle Hashbarger to attend the OMEA Training in Dublin, OH on Feb 24-27, 2025 with purchase order for lodging and meals totaling \$512.00.

**Engineer**.....Travel request for Kyle Gerding to attend the 2025 Professional Land Surveyors Conference in Columbus, OH on Feb 19-22, 2025 for registration, parking and meals totaling \$515.00.

**Children's Services**.....Purchase order to Keeping Kids Safe for G. Rogers FCM for \$30,000.00.

**Dog & Kennel**.....Travel request for Dog Warden Mike Schroth to attend the Northwestern Ohio Dog Wardens Association Meeting in Upper Sandusky, OH on Feb 12, 2025 with no fees.

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

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

Exceptions: Mr. Wehri none Mr. Brubaker none Mr. Schlumbohm none

Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker attended the Elected Officials meeting hosted by Bob Benroth in the Lunch Room.

Commissioner Wehri called the meeting to order with Commissioners Brubaker and Schlumbohm and staff with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes from Thursday, January 30, 2025 were reviewed and approved.

Riley Township trustees Mark Kinsinger, Joe Karhoff, Dan Karhoff, Matt Karhoff, Keith Sunderhaus, Greg Amstutz, and Gary Lammers, Bob Benroth, Mike Lenhart, Rob Fawcett met with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker to discuss the Road M-6 Bridge. The start of this conversation was that there was camera footage of people misusing the bridge so it was closed for safety purposes. The bridge had been restored but was not reinforced. The components are still original from 1876. The components that had deteriorated were replaced with new material. The other bridges in the area have been replaced so the detour issues are over. Joe Karhoff is asking that the bridge be reopened is it structurally sound for a 5-ton limit. Why is this bridge still closed? Other bridges across the county are not policed. Road 7-L always snows shut each winter so this bridge is the only way to get through. There is nothing wrong with this bridge so why is it shut down? They would like to have a discussion to get to a resolution to use the bridge. Rob was questioned on the liability of the bridge; this bridge is insured by the county. As long as the bridge has not failed an inspection it can be reopened. The county's policy will cover damages. It is a physical damage policy. Since this bridge is closed the other bridges are getting abused. Commissioner Schlumbohm suggested lowering the limit to four-ton limit and reopening. Mr. Lenhart says since the bridge looks new the load limit signs were ignored. During galvanizing some of the parts were deteriorated more but

painted to look good. This is a historical bridge in the state program that is how it qualified for state funded restoration. This is a posted bridge similar to others within the county. It was voted to closed the bridge for pedestrian use only to preserve the bridge for historical value. Does this bridge need to be inspected for it be reopened? The load rating has already been set. The inspection on the integrity of the bridge has not been done. This bridge takes extra training to test the integrity as do other bridges in the county. Lenhart had the date that the bridge was being mis-used and overloaded. The Riley trustees were not in favor to close the bridge but were in favor to keeping it safe to use by reducing the load limit. Leaving the bridge limit at 5 ton was discussed to reopen. Those who misuse the bridge should be ticketed to be an example. There was more traffic due to the Road O and Road 6 bridges having work done, which is why this bridge was closed at the time. The taxpayers spent \$625,000 to restore this bridge. This road is access for the local residents to have emergency services. A dead-end road had been created and there are more issues with that now. Commissioner Wehri is not opposed to reopening it. More signage would be needed and reassigning it to a 4-ton load limit. It was recommended to look at it again before an official decision is made.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to reopen the bridge at a 4-ton limit with the Engineer's approval of at least a 4-ton limit also.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm yes

There is camera surveillance on the bridge which has helped to eliminate some vandalism. What would happen if the bridge would fall in? Over time with wear and tear the bridge will collapse which is not covered by insurance. Could the bridge eventually be replaced? An electric Amazon truck could weigh at least 9,500 lbs. The bridge could not be turned over to the township it would still be under the county's maintenance. The decision of the commissioners is appreciated.

Mr. Lenhart wanted the Commissioners to know that someone will drive across this bridge over weight no matter how many signs are posted. The bridge was not reinforced when it was restored.

Mr. Wehri moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm yes

Commissioners resumed session.

Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker attended the joint county ditch video conference call on West Jennings Creek Ditch with Allen & Van Wert Counties to discuss the change order #2 for log jam & sandbar removal. Once they started getting some of the log jams out and the water went down, the ditch was in a lot worse shape than they thought. They are very happy with the great work that the contractor did out there and work was done early January. Van Wert County Commissioner Thad Lichtensteiger ran the meeting and their clerk, Ryanne Bollenbacher, took the motions and votes.

Commissioner Schlumbohm left for the day at 2:00pm

Mr. Wehri moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the minutes as read from Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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