

Minutes Thursday, January 30, 2025

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners has been notified by Michael Lenhart, Putnam County Engineer, that the Village of Leipsic, has requested the following streets be added to their Permissive Tax System.

- 1) Second St. – From SR 65 to North Street
- 2) Main Cross St – From Main St. to SR 65
- 3) Grove St. – From Main St. to SR 65
- 4) Vine St. – from Mathis St. to Liberty St.

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve of the above named streets to be added to the Leipsic Permissive Tax System.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 52

Mr. Brubaker moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2025, Putnam County Board of Commissioners wish to publish a legal notice Requesting Qualifications from engineering and contracting firms pertaining to the construction of a new EMS building addition. And

WHEREAS, this notice will be posted on the County Website www.putnamcountyohio.gov under the Commissioner tab RFQ EMS Building Addition.

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of County Commissioners does hereby authorize to advertise to residents of Putnam County that the Board of Commissioners are requesting qualifications pertaining to the construction of a new EMS building addition.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

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Mr. Brubaker 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 14 E 1, Bank Fees.....\$50.00

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

Comm. Jrl. 121, Page 54

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners has informed the Board that a petition praying for annexation of certain territory in Ottawa Township to the Village of Ottawa, Putnam County, Ohio, was filed on the 22nd day of January, 2025, and was submitted pursuant to O.R.C. 709.16.

and

WHEREAS, Said petition is hereby attached and becomes a part of this Resolution.

and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners being fully advised that the said petition contains all matters required by law, that the averments therein are true, that the petition contains an accurate description of the territory sought to be annexed, that the plat of said territory attached to said Petition is accurate, that the said territory is adjacent and contiguous to the Village of Ottawa, Ohio, and that it is right that the prayer of the petition is granted.

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, It is further ordered that the prayer of said Petition be and is hereby granted and that the territory described in the said petition be annexed to the Village of Ottawa, Ohio. It is further ordered that the final transcript of this Board relating thereto together with the accompanying map and Petition be deposited forthwith with the Clerk of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

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Then/Now Purchase orders

Put Co Water/ Sewer.....Purchase order 48573

Solid Waste Dist Disp Fees.....Purchase order 48898

Sewer Dist #1.....Purchase order 48915

Sewer Dist #2.....Purchase order 48916

County General.....Purchase order 48917

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 absent

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

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Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

Veteran Service Commission.....Travel requests for Kyle Frias, Jon Balmer, and Matt Prenzlin to attend the OSACVSO Winter training in Dublin, OH on Mar 6-7, 2025 with expenses for mileage, lodging, meals, registration and other totaling \$ 1,406.40.

Capital Improvement.....Purchase order to Ottoville Hardware for new flooring at Sheriff’s office for \$ 12,342.41.

County General.....Purchase order to CenturyLink for monthly service Lumen bill for \$ 30.00.

Ditch Maintenance.....Purchase order to Green Excavating for work on Ditch Run # 840 for \$ 13,798.00. Purchase order to Wittler Excavating for work on Rushmore Group DT3 824 for \$ 12,053.40. Purchase order to Kahle Excavating for Ben Jerwers # 571 Br #1 for \$ 11342.10 & Ben Jerwers Br #2 for \$2,679.00. Purchase order to Kahle Excavating for work on the Hilary Burgei Dt# 775 for \$ 4,919.00. Purchase order to Sand Ridge Excavating for work on the Grote Dt # 734 for \$ 9,981.00. Purchase order to Sand Ridge Excavating for work on the WM Schmitz Dt # 805 for \$ 11,619.70. Purchase order to Wittler Excavating for work on the Art Kramer Dt # 898 for \$ 7,962.68.

Sheriff.....Travel request for Cole Bowers to attend the Cops in Courts Course in Perrysburg, OH on April 8, 2025 with purchase order for meals and other totaling \$ 114.00.

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

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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

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

Commissioner Brubaker called the meeting to order with Commissioner Wehri and Mike Schroth with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dog Warden, Mike Schroth met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker to discuss personnel. Commissioner Schlumbohm joined via teleconference. Mike lost one of his part time wardens,

Scott Coleson is not able to help this year, he may be able to come back next year depending on his schedule. Mike is interested in trying to get another person to help part time. Mike explained the job and the rude and belligerent people that they deal with and the need for increased pay rate for having to deal with those people. They deal with the same people that law enforcement does there is increased risk with the job. Mike would like to give his other part-time person, Dwayne, a raise to be able to keep him on staff. Mike shared his fund balance to show that the fund could cover the increased compensation. They are actively working on collecting dog licenses. There are less dogs coming in, 2024 was the first year there has been a decrease in dog being adopted. 18 years ago there were 4,200 license sold currently the number is at 6,500. There is an increase in sales for multi-year licenses. Purchasing a kennel license also decreases the amount of single licenses being sold. There are still people out there that do not have dog tags and they are trying to get them. Dog licenses are available to be purchased online also. The convenience makes it more enticing to purchase online. Any new hires should be hired at a new rate of \$20 per hour. A probationary period of 90 days at \$19.00 per hour was proposed and Mike agreed to that. Mike also brought up an issue that happened over the weekend where he was called out by the Sheriff's office. Mike was not on call, it was a loose dog complaint. There is loose dog call out policy in place that was not followed by the Sheriff's office. The deputy did not want to handle the complaint, so he said to call the Dog Warden. The reasoning was that the deputy could not access the shelter to bring the dog in. There is a key pad at the dog shelter that they can use to gain access to the shelter. The situation was a not a loose dog there was someone home who could have taken responsibility for the dog. Mike is frustrated with the Sheriff's office since they received a substantial raise in pay and are doing less work and not following the policy that is in place. The Commissioners will need to hear the Sheriff's side of the story. The ORC regarding dog complaints were reviewed and there is a difference in interpretation of the ORC by the Sheriff's deputy. Mike does not have a problem of going out on calls, but there is an issue of not getting proper assistance from the Sheriff's office. Mike has requested an Attorney General opinion from the Prosecutor regarding this issue. Mike does not feel the Sheriff's office is working with him. Mike also brought up the minimum hours for weekends for dog care. It was a verbal agreement he thinks it should be put in writing. He does not expect the dogs to be confined for more than 24 hours, which helps with his cleaning of the building. Mike takes pride in keeping the building clean and presentable for people to come in for adoption of the dogs. If there are no dogs the weekend hours are not needed, only for adoption or dog care. The Commissioners said Mike should write up the weekend hours policy and submit to the Prosecutor for approval. Having volunteers at the shelter was discussed and the liability of covering the volunteers. The weekend hours were discussed as to the duties, could a teenager or someone be hired to do the weekend care and cover adoption hour so Mike would not have to work any weekends. A meeting with the Sheriff, Dispatch, Prosecutor and Dog warden will be set up to discuss the proper processes for dog calls.

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

The minutes from Tuesday, January 28, 2025 were reviewed and approved.

EMA/EMS Director Brian Hilvers along with Nancy Erhart and Kyle Hashbarger met with Commissioners Wehri and Brubaker to discuss a possible new levy. Some numbers were submitted to review, the vehicle maintenance was combined for ambulances and ambulettes to

one number. The projected collection for different millages was reviewed. The wages are projected on current staffing levels not including the open positions. Currently they are over budget by \$420,000. for this year. More runs equal more expenses, like more fuel and more supplies. Eventually, there will be a station needed on the east end of the county as well. Ottawa participation has increased which does help but that adds to response time for them to go farther. The west side unit could be switched to the east side but there is no building available on the east side. The billing revenue was reviewed, last year's run numbers were up which equates to an increase in revenue. A savings amount should be saved up for building expenses or replacing a unit if needed. The current levy generates \$580,000. Legislation needs to be reviewed as past legislation had seat belt violation money going to the EMS. The EMS does more promotion throughout the county at Fair and festivals. A MIC Unit (Mobile Intensive Care Unit) could be placed in the County since we do not have a hospital. Dr. Davis (Mercy Director) asked if the county would be interested. The current levy will leave the budget predictions short for the year, so an additional levy will be needed. The cost of power cots has increased from \$58,000 to \$71,000. There are workers comp grants that are available every three years for equipment and the EMS does use it regularly but other departments would like to get a worker's comp grant also. To add more personnel where would they work, things will get switched around. The number of squads within the county could be reduced. The newer trucks go to the higher traffic needs and the older trucks go to the less traffic areas. There are ODOT grants for new vehicles. More ambulance drivers are needed many requests are turned down due to not having enough drivers. Brian is looking at replacing some of the ambulance vehicles also. The Commissioners would like to look at the past numbers to compare for actual expenses. EMA expenses were presented. The totals of the historical expenses were reviewed not the individual expenses. The Commissioners are not opposed to a new levy, but are concerned about the size of a new levy, maybe go with a more gradual increase. The staffing could be increase over time not all at once. The EMS service affects everyone, the young and old alike, there is a countywide need especially with the industries located within the county. The vocational schools are adding programs for Fire and EMT, get the interest of the kids while they are young, give them the options. The Commissioners asked to see some lower projected staffing numbers, for a more gradual increase. A more compromised decision is needed at this time, go up by baby steps rather than huge leaps. Since the nursing home is no longer in Pandora their runs decreased by 70%, there are constant changes happening everywhere. People will need to be receptive of the changes but will also consider the expenses that go with the changes. New numbers will be submitted.

A regional HAZ-Mat team is being formed with Allen County to open up resources to get funding for equipment and supplies. The Commissioners would have to agree to join the regional team. There will be meetings coming up. The Commissioners appreciate the work being done by the EMS.

Mr. Brubaker moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Commissioners Brubaker and Wehri resumed session.

The following appropriation was needed for end of month balancing

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 054, Law Library

54 SA, Salaries.....\$ 9,500.00

54 FR, Fringes.....\$ 1,800.00

54 PUB, Publications.....\$ 50,000.00

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

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Mr. Brubaker moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Mr. Wehri moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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