

Minutes Thursday, April 3, 2025

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners has received a resolution from Jennings Township to vacate alleys located in Rushmore, Ohio, Putnam County, Ohio.

and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners office must conduct a public hearing with proper notification. And

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners have set the date of April 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for the hearing.

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of County Commissioners does hereby set the date of April 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the office of the Board of County Commissioners as the date for the public hearing on vacation of the following alleys:

Situated in the southeast quarter of Section 11, Town 2 south range 5 east Village of Rushmore, Putnam County, Ohio, Being part of a 12' alley in SH Sherrick's addition to Rushmore and recorded in plat book 2 page 256, and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of Lot 35 being a 5/8" iron pin found; thence on the east line of Lot 35 N.01°14'48"E. a distance of 152.00 feet to the southwest corner of outlot 3, witness a 3/4 " iron pipe found 0.7 ft. west; thence leaving said east line and running along the south line of outlot 3, S.89°20'00"E., a distance of 222.00 ft. to the southeast corner of outlot 4, being a 5/8" iron pin found; thence along the east line of said addition, S.01°14'48"W., a distance of 152.00 ft. to a 1/2 "iron pin found; thence leaving said east line and running along the north line of Main Street ,N.89°20'00"W, a distance of 12.00 feet to the southeast corner of Lot 38, being a 5/8" iron pin found; thence N.01°14'48"E., a distance of 140.00 feet to the northeast corner of Lot 38, being a 5/8" iron pin found; thence along the north line of Lots 38, 37 and 36 N.89°20'00"W., a distance of 198.00 feet to the northwest corner of Lot 36, being a 5/8" iron pin found; thence along the north line of Main Street, n.89°20'00"W., a distance of 12.00 feet to the point of beginning; containing 0.138 acre, more or less, and being subject to all legal highways, right-of-way, easements, restriction, covenants, and /or conditions of record.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

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

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Purchase Orders and Travel Requests

County General....purchase order to CEBCO for ACA forms postage and mailing for \$ 904.80.

Office of Public Safety....Blanket purchase order for Telephone, modems & cable for \$ 11,998.50.

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

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

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

Then and Now payments

E-911 ..to Putnam County CPR for CPR training for \$ 175.00

...to Lima Radio Hospital for service call Unit #20 radio for \$ 206.25

ADAMHS..to Promo Hits for keychains & pens for \$ 2005.32

. ...to Fishel Downey& Albrecht for FY25 lawyer fees for \$ 52.50

DEMO Grant...to Aster Oilfield Services for post 2022 demo costs for \$ 1250.00

.....to Aster Oilfield Service for demo costs 2022 demo costs for \$ 16,625.00

. ..to Schimmoeller Const for post demo costs for \$ 1250.00

to Schimmoeller Const for demo costs for \$ 15,555.55

...to H & H Environmental for pre demo costs for \$ 1530.00

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the then and now payment 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

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Kenny Verhoff Airport Farm lessee met with Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri, and Brubaker to let them know that he found a washout on the west end of the ditch when he top dressed the wheat recently. It is about a 10-12" outlet tile at end of sewer pipe that washed out. He said he could do the work and he can do the work. The commissioners said they would reimburse him for it. He said there is a water hole out by the runway grass. He asked if he could just use a little bit of his trencher to see if he can try to trench a little bit to get rid of that water that lays and someone gets stuck with their mower. Commissioners said to get with Chad Niese with airport to make sure they are ok with that and coordinate it with him.

Tim Schnipke stopped in to ask about the location of the auction at the Fairgrounds, the auction may have to get moved to another building. Lighting at the wash racks was discussed. Tim said power poles are needed at the fairgrounds, if AEP or Paulding-Putnam could donate a few used poles it would help. There was some minor storm damage from last night's storm that needs to be documented. Tim is asking about prepping vehicles for the auction how much money should he put in them to sell. Changing the Haz-mat unit over to the old heavy rescue unit from the trailer. The remodeling at the Sheriff's office is in progress and will be put back together beginning of May. Tim called Trisco regarding tuck pointing quotes for the Annex. He will contact Leever for the windows. There would be four old furnaces left from the eighties in the Annex building, all the others have been replaced. Tim asked about painting the exterior of the Annex building. If painting is started it must be done every few years to keep it up. The quotes for the courtroom repairs were discussed. Not all quotes are in yet. Stone for the recycling driveway is needed also. A remote CDL class was discussed.

Bob Heidenescher called in to report on the status of Dupont from last night's tornado, the mayor's is requesting a declaration for assistance from the county. The report from the state has not been completed yet.

Kathy Kaufman with Putnam County Reentry Coalition met with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker for a presentation of a proclamation for Second Chance Month. This is a time to raise awareness about the challenges people face after incarceration and to celebrate the life-changing power of opportunity.

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

The minutes from Tuesday, April 1, 2025 were reviewed and approved.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Commissioners and staff.

Commissioners had a phone call with Brian Hilvers regarding the status of Dupont from the tornado last night. The mayor has requested a declaration for assistance for the emergency. We are awaiting a response for the state EMA as well.

John Folk stopped in to ask about some procedural approvals and how he should handle them.

Mr. Brubaker moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm yes

Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker resumed session.

Commissioner Schlumbohm went to Dupont to view the damage, talk to the mayor and Public Safety Director Brian Hilvers and the state EMA about the tornado destruction. They will be doing a resolution for the emergency today.

Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker attended the West Jennings Creek Joint County teleconference to discuss the log jam & sandbar removal project funding. It was explained that the maintenance would be collected as an assessment to the taxes. The percentage to collect was discussed. A 20% collection was proposed.

A motion was made to accept a 20% collection for the West Jennings creek.

Commissioners passed an emergency declaration for assistance for the Village of Dupont.

Mr. Brubaker moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Wehri yes Brubaker yes Schlumbohm absent

Friday April 4, 2025

Commissioners Wehri and Schlumbohm verified emergency declaration and approved.

Town Hall Meeting April 3, 2025

Commissioners Brubaker, Wehri and Schlumbohm held a town hall meeting at Whiskey Wine & Roses in Fort Jennings on Thursday April 3 at 6:00pm. The Commissioners introduced themselves and gave a presentation to those in attendance on the new proposed EMS building addition and Issue II OPWC funding. The Commissioners are trying to get around in the county and out to talk to people. The Commissioner each introduced themselves and gave some background information. A CCAO presentation explaining county government was given. The Ft Jennings Lions Club was the host for this evening and the Commissioners thanked them for being the first hosts. They also thanked all the public safety personnel who worked through the night last night during the storms. There was a family that received injuries during the storm when their mobile home rolled multiple times, no fatalities. The Issue II issue, which will be on the ballot on May 6, they are encouraging yes votes to retain that funding. The whole county has benefitted from these funds. The new EMS building addition proposal was viewed. Commissioner Brubaker explained the need for the expansion. The number of EMS runs for the county is steadily increasing each year. Joann Gerdeman was the first full-time Paramedic who would travel to the respond to calls to aid the local squads. The number of volunteers has decreased so the need for full time squads is needed. There is also an ambulette service that takes people to appointments run through the EMS. There is currently a house adjacent to the EMS building where the staff is housed when they are on call. The new addition will have bunk house added to the EMS building so the employees can access the ambulance squad more readily. The county does have funds for the new building addition. There were ARP funds used for the building of the new Event Center building at the fairgrounds, these funds were also used for building maintenance upgrading HVAC and roofs on county buildings. There is no county debt. The last debt was the county jail. There is a bond for the landfill which is in place until 2032. This new project will be going out to bid soon. Ditches and drainage are a big part of the Commissioners job also.

Will there still be Ottoville, FJ Kalida squads? Yes, there will still be volunteer squads, when volunteers are available. Initially stay at home mom and house wives manned the local squads. There is a full-time squad located in Kalida during the day to help serve the western side of the county when the volunteers are not available. The nursing homes have expanded over time also.

What is the top priority of the year? This new EMS building addition along with budgetary issues. The Common Pleas courtroom needs some repairs and that will require some priority.

The plastering and painting are intricate and is hard to find someone who does that work anymore. Security at the county buildings to keep the employees safe. Keep up with the maintenance of the Jail and Sheriff needs.

Some ambulance situations were discussed and the availability of the squads in the evening hours. The need for more full time squads is here but there is not enough funding for the right now.

Karl Schimmoeller. Of the Workforce Development spoke about the ARP funds that he received to start the Workforce Partnership of Putnam County. They are recruiting membership and focusing on manufacturing and keep people in the county and coming back here to work and live. There have been grants received to help maintain the workforce partnership. There are manufacturing days where students are brought into the factories to see how things run and the jobs that are available. A service to help people apply for jobs is also part of their services.

The next town hall meeting may be in Cloverdale Dupont or Continental area.

Commissioner Schlumbohm spoke about the real estate taxes, the voters vote on the real estate levies, not the elected officials. The state came in and changed the land values which created the increase in the real estate taxes based on real estate sales.

The county surplus balance was brought up. It is good the local tax money stays in the county. The Commissioners did vote to not collect all of the inside millage.

Which is the biggest complaint? The real estate value changes have been the most memorable issue.

The County's budget is around \$14million the Sheriff department and Jail is a large portion of the budget. Wages for all county the employees is the biggest expense in the budget.

What is the Sheriff's biggest issue? Recruitment and employment, not many people are wanting to be deputies anymore. A retire/rehire program is being initiated to keep staffing until qualified individuals are found. The COVID movement is defunding the police thankfully did not hit Putnam County, there is still respect for law enforcement here. Working with the local vocational schools to find people who would be enthusiastic about law enforcement. There have been a large amount illegals even in Putnam County, they do not understand the laws and do not know how to drive are causing many accidents including fatalities. The deputies did get a raise at the beginning of the year to keep Putnam County's wages competitive with surrounding counties to keep employees here also. The County still has a dive team and SRT (Special Response Team) to keep enthusiasm and special team to be involved on the Sheriff's dept. The illegals are creating additional expenses to the county with additional court expense to have interpreters for court. The cost to keeping up with the technology that is needed to deal with the illegals. Some of the costs are reimbursed by the state. Public Defenders are doing a pilot program that is state funded and Putnam County is participating in that pilot. The county's expense of public defense is large.

County Recycling was brought up and having bins in the communities for 1 weekend a month. Since there is only one drop off the remote county resident do not use it. With all the recycling items being separated does increase the amount paid back to the county for the materials. The

generation fees from neighboring landfills do create revenue for solid waste. The county wide recycle day was brought up on April 19 at the Education Service Center and the items that will be accepted that day. Is there equal representation from the county on the boards that are appointed by the Commissioners? It is looked at when appointing new members but some are harder than others. There are many boards and evening meetings that must be covered.

The foster care system is looking for more services to accept care of children who are taken out of abusive homes. The cost for foster car has dramatically increased. Some JFS agencies have had to house children since there is no family members who can care for them, which is a nationwide concern.

Nathan Meyer of the Ag Society was present and stated that the board secretary is retiring so they are looking for a replacement.

Mr. Brubaker moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, April 3, 2025.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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