

Minutes

February 18, 2021

Commissioners Present: Timothy Bechtol, Michael Pepple, and William Bateson

Also Present: Sarah Mutchler, Lucinda Land, Philip Johnson, Steve Wilson, Doug Cade, Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, and Jim Maurer.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from February 11, 2021 were read with William Bateson making the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #98-21 – Authorizing payment of the listed and/or attached purchase orders. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #99-21 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Board of Elections. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #100-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Treasurer. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners approved a travel request from the Sheriff's office. They initialed approval on the Squire, Patton, Boggs invoice in the amount of \$6,633.74 for litigation services. William Bateson made the motion to approve the Warrant Journals, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. William Bateson made the motion for the Chairman's signature on the indirect costs invoices, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #101-21 – Authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District. This encompasses the planning stage to bid documents for an estimated \$464,218.00. This would be paid from quarter percent flood sales tax. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #102-21 – Local Public Agency (LPA) Project for the US 224 resurfacing project, PID No. 107699. The state will pay a portion of this, and the county will also pay a portion. The county's portion is estimated at \$201,330.00. This will be paid from quarter percent flood sales tax, because it raises the intersection of US 224 and CR 223 out of the 100 year flood stage. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #103-21 – Resolution of County Commissioners agreeing to cooperate with the Director of Transportation (Chapter 5521 Ohio Revised Code). This authorizes cooperation regarding county road right-of-ways regarding the US 224 resurfacing project. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #104-21 – Resolution authorizing the Board of Hancock County Commissioners on behalf of the Hancock County Sanitary Landfill to purchase one (1) 2021 Caterpillar D6 track type tractor through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing from Ohio CAT. The total price is \$427,533.00. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Philip Johnson presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution #105-21 – Authorizing the final acceptance of the improvements shown upon the plat of Somerset Park 4th Addition, and further transfer maintenance responsibilities to the Board of Liberty Township Trustees. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Philip requested executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition and potential litigation.

Steve Wilson clarified that the \$201,330.00 is an estimate for the county portion of US 224 resurfacing. If the project comes in less than the estimate, the State will reimburse the county.

Doug Cade said the road crew has put in a lot of hours recently and they are out currently clearing roadways. Doug thanked the Commissioners for riding along with the crew while they plowed snow. The Commissioners thanked Doug and his employees for their hard work clearing the roads. Doug also stated the Engineer's office bid 6 projects last week and more are coming.

Charity Rauschenberg will be sending the Commissioners the sales tax update. The county sales tax is down 9.89% YTD.

Meetings/Reports

William Bateson had nothing to report.

Michael Pepple had his orientation for the Blanchard Valley Health System Board yesterday.

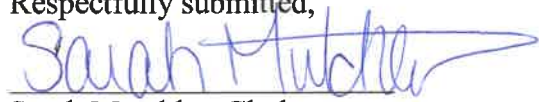
Timothy Bechtol attended the HRPC meeting and the Alliance Board meeting. The maintenance staff had training with the jail door manufacturer. The painting project at the Justice Center is proceeding.

At 9:54 a.m. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition and potential litigation. Michael Pepple seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 10:16 a.m. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:00 a.m. The Commissioners met with Lynn Army and Steve Wilson in regards to the flood basin and the opportunity for the new Commissioners to meet Lynn. Also present were: Tammy Erwin, Lucinda Land, and Jim Maurer. Steve gave an update at the request of the Commissioners and stated that the original hydraulic improvement project is 98% complete and is expected to be finished sometime this spring. The railroad bridge project is in the design planning phase and is about 60% completed. They are still waiting on final review comments from Norfolk & Southern before they start work on the final design plans. They are hoping that

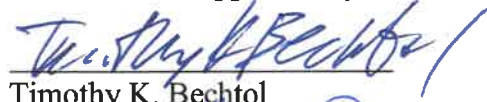
the final design will be complete by this fall. There are a few opportunities to apply for federal rail administration grants to help with the cost of bridge construction and the Conservancy District will be applying for both of those. The first one is sometime in May and the other one will be in June. They will not know who was awarded those grants until August or September. The additional benching will start progressing since the Memorandum of Agreement was approved this morning. Stantec has everything they need survey wise, but still need to do some coordination on some archeological work needed West of Cory St. and there will be a change order coming for that in the next few weeks. Steve discussed the Eagle Creek Basin Project and stated that the Conservancy District submitted documentation requesting the authorization of use of the \$15 million dollar grant funds they have received but have not heard anything yet. Timothy Bechtol asked what would be the range of cash outlay needed from the county for the railroad bridge improvements with or without the grant funding available? Steve stated that they estimated cost of the bridge keeps going up so it is up to \$6-\$8 million-dollar range for the bridge construction. There is a 20% minimum local match for the grants. Steve said they would also be talking to the railroad for a potential contribution since they will be benefiting from the new bridge as well. Lucinda Land asked how much the grant was for and Steve stated that the request would be for the full amount of the estimated construction costs and then would need to decide if the local contribution would be 20% or increase the percentage. Out of pocket at most would be about \$8 million based on current estimates and adding 20% contingency. Lucinda Land asked about the additional benching and Steve stated that it would be about \$5 million with about a 30% contingency. Steve discussed the original Memorandum of Agreement that was done in 2016 when the Conservancy District was approached by the City of Findlay and Hancock County to review the Corps of Engineers recommendation for the diversion channel. He passed out copies of that original MOA and stated it has been amended on several occasions, but it has been 5 years and asked if it would need updated. There was further discussion regarding the MOA and Timothy Bechtol stated that there was discussion with the previous board of whether or not it should be projects funded by the county and not include other projects. Lucinda Land stated that a separate agreement specifically for Eagle Creek Basin Project should be done separately. Lynn stated that right now they are in conversation with the City hoping that they will step up and take over the operations/maintenance costs when the project is done. If they do not, Lynn stated that they are capable of assessing operations maintenance. Everyone who benefits from the project would be part of that assessment. Timothy Bechtol asked how we will cover the Eagle Creek basin expenses that are not covered by the grant? He asked for the new board's opinion. Steve stated that it would cost less than \$10,000 to cover the rest of the year. William Bateson asked what the city's position is and Steve stated that they have no position. He stated that administrative expenses should be reimbursed by the county through flood mitigation funds regardless of the funding for a specific project. Timothy Bechtol stated that because the county has no responsibility for the Eagle Creek basin, the previous Board of Commissioners didn't offer to pay for it. After more discussion, it was decided that the Commissioners will think about it over the weekend and come back with an answer by Tuesday's meeting. William Bateson would like to see the City put some money towards this and Timothy Bechtol agreed for a City partnership. William Bateson stated that the county does not have enough money at this time with all of the other projects going on. Timothy Bechtol agreed to talk to the City to see if they would contribute some money towards the project and the Commissioners will have an answer by Tuesday. Steve reminded them that the basin project has the most positive impact on the community, has the biggest benefit as a whole and deserves to have the most attention. Lucinda Land discussed how the new MOA could work for the Eagle Creek Basin Project and gave suggestions on how it should be written up.

Respectfully submitted,

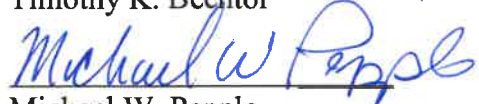


Sarah Mutchler, Clerk

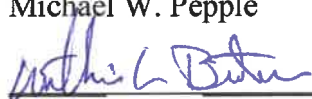
Reviewed and approved by:



Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple



William L. Bateson