

Minutes
July 25, 2017

Commissioners Present: Mark Gazarek, Brian Robertson and Timothy Bechtol.

Also Present: Lucinda Land, Philip Johnson, Chris Long, Doug Cade, Steve Wilson, Doug Jenkins, Jim Maurer, John Whisler, Julie Benziger and Western Meadows Subdivision Residents.

Commissioner Gazarek opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following minutes were reviewed and approved:

June 29, 2017 - Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Brian Robertson seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Mark Gazarek abstained.

July 6, 2017 – Mark Gazarek made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Brian Robertson abstained.

July 13, 2017 – Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

July 18, 2017 – Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Timothy Bechtol abstained.

July 20, 2017 – Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Timothy Bechtol abstained.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #375-17- Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to WPCLF (Van Driest). Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #376-17- Advance of funds from the General Fund to WPCLF (Smith). Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #377-17- Authorizing payment of the listed and/or attached purchase orders. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #378-17- Transfer of funds from Indigent Defense to General Fund for June 2017-\$1,538.18. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #379-17 Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Developmental Disabilities. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #380-17- Rescinding Hancock County Commissioners' Resolution 352-17 dated 7-18-17 (Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Community Corrections Comp Plan). Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #381-17- Disapproval of the A.J. Smith Single County Tile Project. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Brian Robertson explained the reason the Commissioners denied this project. Mark Gazarek agreed and thanked those involved.

The Commissioners approved a travel request for the Treasurer and they did not want a hearing for a liquor license request for 15 Crimson Lane LLC in Orange Township.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #382-17 – Authorizing a contract with A & D Excavating, LLC for the design and installation of a new home sewage treatment system as part of the Hancock County WPCLF Grant WPCLF Project #HS390032-0003-2017-3. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #383-17 – Authorizing a contract with Kramer Excavating, LLC, 14265 CR 26. Findlay, Ohio 45840 for the design and installation of a new home sewage treatment system as part of the Hancock County WPCLF Grant WPCLF Project #HS390032-0003-2017-8. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #384-17 – Lifting the State of the Emergency in Hancock County, Ohio. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Philip Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #385-17 – Authorizing payment of invoice for appraisal regarding real property located at 122 Jefferson St., Findlay, Ohio. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Philip Johnson requested an executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition and potential litigation. The executive session will be held later today due to previously scheduled meetings for the day.

Chris Long and Steve Wilson had nothing to report.

Mark Gazarek asked for an update and discussion regarding Western Meadows. Chris Long said they tried to get an easement but was not successful and now they are exploring other options. Scott Arnold, spokesman for Oklahoma Ct. residents, thanked Chris Long for his assistance. He stated this is an awful situation and he has never seen it like this and he's been there for 10 years and it hasn't flooded like this. Brian Robertson said there is a work session scheduled for Thursday for the County as a whole, not specific to Western Meadows, but they will review and discuss all areas of flooding. He said Western Meadows detention pond is a Soil & Water project. He also mentioned that Doug Cade was out there morning and evening checking the pumps. Scott Arnold said he knows they have been working on a solution and he is going to stay positive. He wanted to publicly thank Mike Clark for his communication with them and appreciated all the updates from him. He said he feels he went above and beyond as an employee and they appreciated that.

Reports

Brian Robertson said that he and the operations coordinator met with the Auditor on Thursday. On Friday he had a conference call with the BVPA and a work session with the Auditor and Sheriff. This morning he attended the Courthouse Drainage construction meeting.

Timothy Bechtol attended and/or participated in the following:

July 7th and 10th – BOR meetings

July 11th he was judge for the science projects for the Hancock County Fair 4-H projects.

July 13th he attended the Downtown Findlay Improvement meeting.

July 15th he went to the Rawson Festival and parade (his son was in the CR marching band)

July 23rd he attended the Rt. 50 Road Show in Columbus. This was an extension of the National Convention for Commissioners.

Mark Gazarek said he and the Sheriff drove the flood areas in and around Arlington and Mt. Blanchard. He mentioned this flood was different than the one in 2007 because in 2007 it rained for 3 days and flooded and this one we got 5” in 3 hours. Mark also thanked the Engineer’s office for all their work during this flood.

John Whisler asked if the comments about the A.J. Smith tile project would be in the minutes and part of the record and when they would be available to view. The comments will be in the minutes and the minutes will be approved on Thursday and posted to our website Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.

At 10:32 a.m. the Commissioners were adjourned until 10:45.

At 10:45 a.m. Mark Gazarek opened the meeting regarding the Nimrod Bright ditch. Gary Tuttle explained that they received estimates to clean the ditch but before the contract can be signed and any work done, right of entry agreements have to be signed by all the property owners affected. He only received two agreements back and three refused to sign. John King feels Soil & Water has not done their job because this has been going on for three years. Les DeVooght said the ditch is boiling at the tile and it needs fixed. He was also upset that he and the other landowners were never invited to any of the meetings. Because this is a maintenance project and routine, landowners are not contacted. Lucinda Land stated that if landowners want to be notified, they can send us a letter and ask to be contacted about all meetings pertaining to this ditch. After discussing the ditch further, the meeting was adjourned.

At 11:25 a.m. Mark Gazarek opened the meeting with Lee Swisher, EMA and Sheriff Heldman and Deputy Kinsinger. Lee Swisher explained interest in purchasing Unmanned Aerial Systems for use by first responders, fire department, law enforcement, disaster response, etc. Deputy Kinsinger said there have been recent events where the UAS would have been beneficial such as a roll over crash and the driver was located later, a suspect wanted on a warrant ran and hid in a field, a juvenile runaway ran into a cornfield and found four hours later and the flood. The Sheriff said they got a call where shots were fired and they had to call for a helicopter to come from Columbus. The UAS would make sure everyone goes home safely. Lee said the cost for two is \$45,190 and includes training (pilot license/certificate of authorization). One UAS would be used for quick deployment and short periods of time and the other for longer and more tactical

flights. Heather Pendleton said it would need to be added to our insurance and she asked who is paying for it. She suggested looking at grant opportunities and Lee mentioned the possibility of private donations. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

At 1:18 p.m. the Commissioners met with the Orange Township Trustees about a ditch on TR 51 near old 30. A resident hired someone to dig out his ditch and the contractor made the ditch deeper to where it now needs a guard rail and he also used part of the road right of way. Phil Johnson will research what needs to be done and send the resident a letter.

The clerk asked the Commissioners to sign a duplicate quick claim deed for the Village of Arlington. The original previously signed was misplaced. Brian Robertson made the motion to sign the quick claim deed, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 1:50 p.m. Mark Gazarek made the motion to go into executive session to discuss real estate acquisition and potential litigation, Brian Robertson seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Mark Gazarek, yes; Brian Robertson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes. At 2:00 p.m. Mark Gazarek made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Brian Robertson seconded. Motion passed 3-0. At 2:00 p.m. Mark Gazarek made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel/hiring, Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Mark Gazarek, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Brian Robertson, yes. At 2:40 p.m. Mark Gazarek made the motion to come out of executive session, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 6:00 p.m. the Commissioners held a sales tax hearing at the Engineer's conference room (minutes attached).

Respectfully submitted,


Beth Bishop, Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:


Mark D. Gazarek


Brian J. Robertson


Timothy K. Bechtol

Name

7-25-17

Nimrod Bright Ditch

Brad Breece

Danne Fry

John King
Lester DeVoght

Steven Ruggles

Jessica DeVoght

Sarah Searfoss

Dannin Searfoss

Chad Carroll

Minutes

July 25, 2017 – Sales Tax Hearing

The Commissioners hosted a Sales Tax Hearing on July 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Engineer's Conference Room.

Commissioner Gazarek opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. He thanked all those present for coming to listen. He asked that everyone show respect for those speaking. He then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Robertson.

Commissioner Robertson gave a presentation stating an overview of needs that the County will be facing in the near future. The County is asking approval on a ¾% sales tax. The money generated from the sales tax will be evenly split between operations, capital improvements, and flood mitigation. Capital improvements could include, but is not limited to, expanding the justice center and building a new administrative building to house Juvenile/Probate Court, records, and offices that were displaced during the 2007 flood and have been leasing private space. Flood mitigation money will be used to continue purchasing flood prone properties, cleaning the river, improve transportation corridors, and the benching project proposed by Stantec.

Judge Routson stated the Adult Probation Department is facing cuts of \$200,000 from state funding. Commissioner Robertson added the County is facing a loss in Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) sales tax.

Prosecutor Riegler said that the number of felons has doubled or more since he took office as a Commissioner in 2007. His office is on pace for over 400 indictments this year.

Sheriff Heldman added that unfunded state mandates have become a concern. Mental health issues are increasing and medical costs are on the rise.

The Commissioners opened the meeting for public input.

Don Kinn said the Commissioners should separate the operations/capital improvements portion of the sales tax from the flood mitigation funding. He also asked why the Commissioners have waited so long for the capital improvements. Prosecutor Riegler stated the prior Board of Commissioners were aware of some of the needed improvements, i.e. the justice center expansion, but decided against asking for additional money at the time due to the recession. He also explained the guidelines per ORC stating the Commissioners do not have the ability to place a sales tax for flood mitigation. All of the ¾% will go into the general fund and the Commissioners then have the ability to transfer ¼% into the flood mitigation fund.

Emil Nagle also said the flood mitigation portion should be separate. He feels the City of Findlay should be flattened, thus solving the flooding issue.

Karen McFadden stated the City of Findlay has been negligent and the County has been negligent in regards to flooding. She suggested the Commissioners stop sitting on their hands and do something about the flooding.

Linda Bishop read a letter to the Editor published in the newspaper.

Sharon Stilipec said the buying habits of the community have changed. More and more people are buying online, thus avoiding the sales tax.

David Martons asked how much would be spent on outside leases over the next twenty years if a new administrative building is not constructed. Commissioner Robertson responded that the County would be saving approximately \$4.3 million over the next twenty years by building office space to house those offices/departments currently leasing space.

Don Kinn questioned whether the presentation concentrated on just needs or if wants and likes were included. Commissioner Robertson said that things have continued to be pushed to the back burner. The capital improvements presented are needed. Don asked if there was a way to capture online sales. Treasurer Welton said the online purchases are supposed to be filed with your taxes in order to pay sales tax on those items.

Gary Wilson asked why the sales tax is being proposed for twenty years. Commissioner Robertson listed several reasons for the length. For example, the expansion of the justice center is an immediate capital improvement needed. The County would have to borrow in order to pay for the Construction. In order to borrow, the County has to prove there will be revenue stream for the length of the bond. Also, due to the expansion of the justice center, there will increased operation costs, i.e. staffing and inmate healthcare. Prosecutor Riegle added there are several capital improvement projects that will need to be addressed in the near future including the justice center expansion, the fascia at the Courthouse, the Courthouse entrance, and the Administrative Building.

Paul Craun asked about the number/percentage of drug related crimes in Hancock County, where Hancock County stands when compared to other counties, and asked how they could predict how many beds will be needed for the justice center expansion. Judge Starn stated those are not easy questions to answer. It is not always an apparent drug case. Judge Routson estimated approximately 70-80% of cases are drug/alcohol driven. Sheriff Heldman said that roughly 80-90% of inmates are treated for alcohol/drugs. Prosecutor Riegle stated his office is seeing more methamphetamine, more cocaine, LSD, and even mushrooms. Judge Starn said there are a few factors that go into estimating the number of beds needed.

Bill Recker said it is an easy decision to expand the justice center. Prosecutor Riegle stated the jail population has hovered around low 100s, but has been as high as 145 over the past 8 months. Bill declared there is no doubt the County needs sustained money for operations, but did not think that ¼% would be enough for operations for twenty years. The Commissioners tore down a building that could have been renovated (Media One Building) and sold downtown buildings for considerably less than what they purchased them for. He opposes the ¼% towards flood mitigation because it should be the financial responsibility of Maumee Watershed Conservancy District. Bill didn't feel it was fair to ask the general public to pay sales tax when major projects that have been built through the Blanchard Valley Port Authority have not had to pay sales tax. He stated the sales tax is facing a lot of opposition. Commissioner Robertson stated they could not fix what has been done in the past, but would like to look to the future.

Sharon Stilipec agreed with Bill Recker. It is not fair to ask the general public to pay more when large projects have received a tax break.

Steve Oman stated he didn't disagree with the needs, but felt the Commissioners portrayed as if it is a crime to keep taxes low. He took pride in keeping taxes low when he was a Commissioner. Commissioner Robertson clarified the County does take pride in low tax rates, and even with the ¼% increase, the County is very competitive within the state.

Emil Nagle asked why there is not a county-wide building code stating there should be nothing built in the flood plain. Commissioner Bechtol said that would be a zoning code issue.

Linda Bishop questioned if the public would be made aware of what the flood mitigation portion would be spent on.

Commissioner Gazarek thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Commissioners adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Sales Tax Hearing - Engineer's Conf. Room

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

The following persons were in attendance at a public meeting/hearing of the Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County, Ohio, on the 25th day of July, 2017.

| NAME (PLEASE PRINT) | DEPARTMENT/ADDRESS |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| NICK+Brenda Taylor | Cass Twp |
| Scott Buchanan | Deleware Twp. |
| Steve Cramer | Liberty Township |
| Nancy Cramer | Liberty Twp. |
| Jim Smith | JENERA OHIO |
| Don Kinn | Findlay |
| ROD OPPERMAN | Findlay OHIO |
| Holly Frische | Findlay City Council |
| Julie Benziger | Findlay |
| Terene Kent | Findlay |
| Gary Wilson | Findlay |
| Ray Zerhoff | Liberty |
| Dave Wobser | Findlay |
| Steven Schanour | Findlay Liberty Twp. |
| Steve Cramer | Lagun Twp. |
| Wanda Oman | Engle Twp. |
| EMIL A. RAGEL | USION Twp. |
| David J. Martau | Marion Twp resident |
| BIL F. SMITH | FINDLAY M/C |
| Barb Lockard | Findlay |

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DEPARTMENT/ADDRESS

| NAME (PLEASE PRINT) | DEPARTMENT/ADDRESS |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Sharon Stilipei | Findlay |
| Z. Bursing | Findlay |
| Marvin Tuttle | Findlay |
| Hans Wilke | Findlay |
| Bill REYER | FINDLAY |
| Elsie Feister | Rawlins |
| Mary Ann LaRoche | Findlay |
| Joe E. Brown | Findlay 01: |
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