

## Minutes

March 3, 2022

Commissioners present: Michael Pepple, William Bateson, and Timothy Bechtol.

Also Present: Alec Helms, Cindy Land, Phil Johnson, Adam Witteman, Steve Wilson and Lou Wilin from The Courier. Please see attached attendance sheet for additional attendees.

Commissioner Pepple opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the March 1, 2022 meetings were read with Timothy Bechtol making the motions to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #131-22 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Water Pollution Control. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #132-22 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to ODOT State Grant Fund 4299. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #133-22 – Amendment to resolution #18-22 setting forth various boards that the Commissioners agree to be a member of for the year 2022. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #134-22 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - Family & Children's First Council. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve two warrant journals. William Bateson seconded. Motions passed 3-0. The commissioners signed the February Fund Report, February Explosive Gas Monitoring Report and a travel request for the Public Defender's office.

The Assistant Clerk read a Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the Commissioners signed it. The guest that were in attendance from Blanchard Valley Center introduced themselves and a photo was taken with the Commissioners.

Cindy Land presented the following resolutions:

Resolution #135-22 – Resolution authorizing a Master Service and Partnership Agreement with Enqbator, LLC for data support services. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Cindy stated this is for web and software development services at the request of the Data Center. This will be a continuing service contract. This is the master service agreement as well as the statement of work. For the first year they are anticipating

about \$18,000 but according to Tim Stewart it could be more once they get into redesigning the counties website. Cindy clarified that this is a new vendor. Commissioner Bateson stated our old vendor went out of business. Cindy stated this resolution authorized Tim Stewart to sign things that come in.

Resolution #136-22 – Authorizing contract with Tom Hiatt’s Plumbing and Excavating for WPCLF/HSTS project #390032-003-2021-01. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Cindy stated this property is located on Township Road 131, McComb. The total cost is \$5,253.72 with the grant paying 85% and the homeowner paying 15%. The homeowner has already paid their portion.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolutions:

Resolution #137-22 – Authorizing regarding an offer for purchase and sale of real property located at 129 North Main Street and 0 North Main Street in Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio. Timothy Bechtol made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Phil stated an offer to Bob Lemley has been accepted to purchase the 2 parcels for \$42,000. This would be part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the benching project and anticipate closing within approximately the next month and half.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session in regards to potential real estate acquisition and real estate sale.

Adam had nothing to report from the Auditor’s office.

Steve Wilson stated they received information from Mannik and Smith Group about the next phase of expansion at the landfill. They should not have to do any construction for this calendar year. Mannik and Smith will have the bid documents later this fall so it can be bid out in either December or January and have a contract ready to begin the work in the spring. As long as there is no major expense out there they should be able to cash flow the construction if it isn’t needed until next year. The landfill has received most of the equipment that was ordered. They are only waiting on the delivery of the haul truck at this time.

Members of the public attended the meeting to discuss their opposition of the proposed solar panel projects. Mary Jo Boes stated she had emailed them The Commissioners’ Manual to Renewable Energy. She clarified some of the information it held on the P.I.L.O.T. program that was discussed in the previous meeting and discussed the possibility of putting solar panels on the top of businesses that were coming into the area. Commissioner Bechtol explained that most buildings are very small in comparison to the number of acres being talked about with these projects. Commissioner Bateson stated that an exclusion zone would not stop anyone from putting solar panels on their own property for use through their meter, only industrial solar outside of one company’s meter and in unincorporated areas. Commissioner Pepple stated they have requested Engineer Doug Cade draw up the exclusionary zone maps needed for the 30-day

public notice process and Assistant Prosecutor Land has drawn up the public notice verbiage that will be needed. Commissioner Pepple explained the process of the 30-day public notice that must be done before the resolution can be passed. Mary Tong and Rachelle Harmon inquired about the timeline for the upcoming steps. Commissioner Pepple asked Cindy Land if we could set a timeline of near April 15<sup>th</sup> to have a resolution and she confirmed that could be done. Commissioner Bateson clarified that this resolution would not stop the existing projects. Commissioner Bechtol explained that all new projects now must come to the county commissioners for approval before going to the Power Siting Board, with or without an exclusion zone in place. Rachelle Harmon spoke about the current projects that Leeward Energy has in the state of Ohio. Lanny Boes commended the Commissioners on their progress so far and their plan to move forward with the exclusionary zone. Mary Tong stated about a month ago her and her husband went back to visit the solar farm in Hardin County and it still looks unkept and messy. She stated they also met a woman who leased her land to the project and she said they struggled to get the 3<sup>rd</sup> check and that the land was torn up and would not be able to be used for farming again like originally promised. Mary and Rachelle stated they have begun getting signatures on a petition against the proposed project and the Border Basin project. Rachelle stated that she has heard of people in Liberty Township who would like to put solar panels on their property and she is okay with that if you want to put them on their roof or out buildings but she is not okay with having them up to the neighbors or take over lots of acres of land. She thinks this county would want to continue to be known for agriculture not solar farms. Lanny confirmed with the commissioners that they have no jurisdiction for land within the city limits. Commissioner Bechtol explained that after an exclusion zone is set in place it is subject to a referendum and that a referendum could come from people who are supporters of the solar panel which would up-end the exclusion zone. If the commissioners were to act on these projects as they come in and deny them on a project by project basis that would not be subject to referendum. The Commissioners stated they have not decided on what the area of the exclusion zone could be and if there was a referendum done it would be countywide. Cindy Land confirmed we have received 15 of 17 township resolutions. Cindy explained the process of the public commenting period, passing the resolution and what can happen after the resolution is passed.

### **Meetings/Reports**

Timothy Bechtol attended the Township Trustee Association meeting last night with both of the other commissioners. They had a very nice presentation from Blanchard Township on the reconstruction efforts for their township house and fire station.

William Bateson attended the Township Trustee meeting last night and this morning the Economic Development meeting. The Commissioners have been invited to attend a dinner at the Hancock Hotel on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Bateson stated he will not be at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting as he has been asked to participate the 4-H interviews.

Michael Pepple confirmed he attended the Township Trustee meeting.

At 10:16 a.m., Michael Pepple made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to potential real estate acquisition and potential real estate sale. William Bateson seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes.

At 10:38 a.m., Michael Pepple made a motion to come out of executive session, in regards to potential real estate acquisition and real estate sale with no action taken. William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

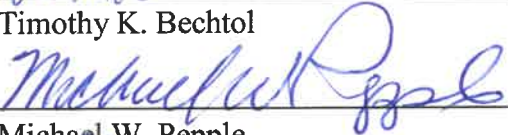


Alec Helms, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:



Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple



William L. Bateson

