

Minutes

May 18, 2021

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

Also Present: Tammy Erwin, Lucinda Land and Mary Ann LaRoche.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from May 13, 2021 meeting were read with William Bateson making a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #297-21 – Authorizing payment of the listed and/or attached purchase orders. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #298-21 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – Common Pleas Court. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #299-21 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – Substance Abuse. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #300-21 – Transfer of funds from Substance Abuse to ADAMHS. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #301-21 – Repayment of advance from Water Pollution Control to the General Fund. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #302-21 – Repayment of advance from Water Pollution Control to the General Fund. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

William Bateson made a motion to approve the Warrant Journal, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners signed a letter of support for the Justice Reinvestment Incentive Grant, which is being submitted by Hancock County Common Pleas Court to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on behalf of the Findlay/Hancock County Community. This grant was previously titled Probation Improvement Grant. They also approved payroll for their office and a travel request for the Sheriff's office.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolution for consideration:

#303-21 –Amending the Court Appointed Counsel Indigent Defense Fees for Counsel Appointed by the Courts of Findlay and Hancock County for cases appointed on or after January 1, 2020. Lucinda asked the Assistant Clerk to send this resolution to the Bar Association and Judges. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meetings/Reports

William Bateson had a conference call this morning with the Intersystem Committee.

Michael Pepple attended the Habitat for Humanity new home build on Harrison Ave. on Thursday evening. He also attended the Humane Society Golf outing.

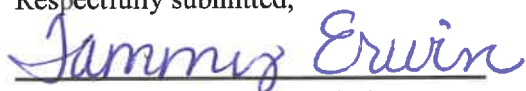
Timothy Bechtol attended a Zoom meeting with the Alliance Board. He stated that the Key Club members from Findlay High School were on the radio this morning to talk about their project with Kiwanis. June 5th is the Pancake Breakfast, which will be drive through only. They will receive half of the proceeds to help pay outstanding fees to go towards graduating seniors.

At 11:30 a.m. the Commissioners met with the Veterans Service Board to examine the possibility of moving that office to the mall property. William Johns, Rick Walter, Kyle Frias, Larry Sudlow, Tom Smith, Charlie Fisher, and Nichole Coleman were present. The Veterans Service Board presented their wants/needs for a new office space. They need covered parking for their 7 vehicles, a private entrance for their clients that is close to parking, a flagpole, and a gazebo or outdoor space. The offices need to be private with security doors, approximately 10x12 in size. They will need 10 offices to allow for future growth. They also asked for their own conference room, approximately the size of the Commissioners' first floor conference room. They will need storage in their garage space and record storage space in the office. They asked for bathrooms (a public bathroom for their clients and a private bathroom for the staff), a breakroom, and a workroom for supplies and the copier. The Veterans Service Board would prefer to be located near the North doors of the JC Penney location. Nichole stated she has floor plans for a Veterans Service office in Trumbull County that she feels would be a perfect fit for Hancock County. She will forward the floor plans to the Commissioners.

At 1:00 p.m. the Commissioners met with Judge Johnson to discuss moving Juvenile/Probate Court to the mall property. Sarah Mutchler, Shawn Carpenter, Sandra Stoll and Lou Wilin were also present. Judge Johnson stated her main concern is safety and security. She asked for input into the design with the architect, and Timothy stated they would contact the architect to open discussion again. Judge also asked that the Commissioners contact someone from the National Center for Court Security since Garmann Miller does not have a court security specialist on staff. Shawn Carpenter said there is no other court mixed with retail space in the country. The Judge confirmed that any walls for her space would go clear to the roof and not stop at a drop ceiling for security purposes. She also asked for access to any analysis reports for the mall property. Judge Johnson asked if there was a possibility of moving some of her operation to the second floor of the Courthouse, if the Auditor, Treasurer, and Recorder are moved to the mall, but the Commissioners said they would prefer her office be close to the Auditor, Treasurer, and Recorder because their offices work closely together. Shawn Carpenter asked about concerns related to two firearm dealers being located on the mall property. Their office sees some volatile people. He also asked about response times from the Sheriff's office, Findlay Police Department, and possibly the State Highway Patrol providing mutual aid. Shawn also brought attention to shoplifters on the property. Would the Prosecutor's office be able to prosecute if they were shoplifting from a tenant of the County? Would they even be able to attend court since the shoplifter's orders would say no trespassing on mall property? Judge Johnson asked if the Commissioners had talked to the BAR Association since this move will affect several attorney offices in Hancock County. Sandra Stoll, a resident near the mall property, stated her concerns for security and losing retail space.


At 2:30 p.m., the Commissioners met with the Board of Elections to discuss the possibility of moving out to the mall property. Elizabeth Chandler, Nancy Stephani, William Johns, Jody O'Brien, Lori Miller and Sean Crossmon were also present. Timothy Bechtol started the discussion of the mall property by updating those present with where they are at in the process of acquiring the mall, due diligence and closing timelines. Timothy stated that they were interviewing different offices and agencies to see who would be the best fit and finding a solution for those needing additional space. There was a discussion regarding priority of who would be moving out there first if the property is purchased and Timothy stated that there would be many more meetings like the one today during the planning process. The Board of Elections stated that they now have around 8500 sq. ft. between both buildings and would need at least that amount of space if not more room for future growth. Having the availability to keep the voting machines in a room, set up and securely locked would be a great benefit. They also gave other needs and suggestions for their new office space to the Commissioners including main office space for their clerks, a minimum of 3 other offices, voting machine storage on site as previously discussed, a vault, dual keys for every door for Republicans and Democrats, handicap accessibility, kitchen/break room, along with space for supplies and records retention. They would need a private conference room area to hold Board meetings but would also like to have a large conference room, that could be shared with other agencies for larger meetings. They expressed concerns with security, and IT issues that require privacy. The Commissioners discussed private restrooms for staff and public restrooms located in the mall for visitors and the Board of Elections were ok with that. They also discussed the availability of loading docks at the back of the mall that could be used to load and unload the voting machines. There was further discussion on how that could work for them with some modification done since the docks do sit up pretty high. They do have garage doors on them that lock which would be required. It was suggested to the Commissioners not to store the machines up on shelving due to the weight of the machines. They currently have them stored on the floor because they are so heavy, although there are other things that could be stored up on shelving to utilize the space. The Board of Elections asked about shredding documents and wondered if that is something that could be factored in out at the mall. They are using a small shredding machine at this time and that is not working out so well. Timothy explained how their office uses Kandu Studio for all of their shredding needs and told them to contact the Clerk for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

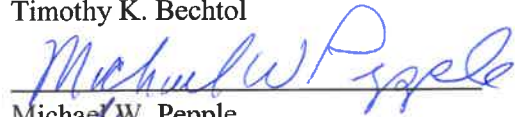


Tammy Erwin, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:



Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple



William L. Bateson