

Minutes

May 4, 2021

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

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

Commissioner Bechtol 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 April 29th, 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 #262-21 – 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 #263-21 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – Flood Mitigation Capital Projects. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners signed the Fund Report for April and payroll for their office.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolution for consideration:

#264-21 – Authorizing the contract with the Weber Company LLC., of Archbold, Ohio for the maintenance construction of the Dalzell Single County Ditch Maintenance Project. Lucinda stated that the Dalzell ditch has some maintenance issues and a couple of them are an urgent situation. The total amount is \$36,975.00 and Soil and Water made the recommendation. William Bateson made a motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lucinda reported to the Commissioners that she received an FYI through Juvenile Court from the Office of the Ohio Public Defender. The Supreme Court made a determination, that parents who were going to lose their parental rights in probate court were entitled to have court appointed council if they were indigent. They determined that the Ohio Revised Code 2151.352 should include that category of people and Lucinda would like to make an amendment to the Fee Schedule for Indigent Attorneys that was adopted last year to include this. It would have to be adopted in order to receive reimbursement from the State. At the end of July, the State plans on updating all of theirs with a cap of \$2500. She asked the Commissioners if they would be ok if she updated that Fee Schedule now with the State cap of \$2500 and they all agreed that would be fine.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition.

### **Meetings/Reports**

William Bateson stated that he was in the office yesterday and had a conversation with a local trustee.

Michael Pepple had nothing to report.

Timothy Bechtol announced that the State of the County video has been finished and is up and running on the county website by YouTube. He stated that he would get the video out to The Courier and WFIN, and

also to anyone else who would want a copy of it. Timothy also wanted to acknowledge that it is “Teacher Appreciation Week” and he extended appreciation to the teachers in all the surrounding school districts.

Timothy Bechtol made a motion to enter into executive session beginning at 9:41 a.m. to discuss potential real estate acquisition. Michael Pepple seconded. Roll call resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 10:30 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made a motion to come out of executive session with no action taken. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 10:30 a.m. the Commissioners met with JFS Director Randy Galbraith to discuss recent updates. Others present included Tammy Erwin and Adam Witteman. Randy discussed children in care. He stated that there was good news. At the end of April, they had 87 children in custody and 21 children had left CPSU custody in March, which was the biggest number that left their custody in a month ever. Randy believes re-opening schools have helped those numbers and children are able to be seen by adults now. Randy discussed the Thirty Days to Family program. The grant is \$6,000 per month until 6/30/2021. Kinnect has agreed to supplement another \$20,000.00 after 6/30/2021 and he has asked the Commissioners for an additional \$50,000.00 on July 1<sup>st</sup> to sustain the position. There are currently 14 counties using the program and it has helped 8-10 families in Hancock County. He questioned the status of the JFS building and stated that he had not heard anything regarding the repairs and whether or not they would be moving out to the mall. Timothy Bechtol gave Randy an update regarding the repairs including the status of the insurance company. The two main issues are with the roof and that they will be bidding out the repairs soon. Randy briefly discussed the Habitat for Humanity Financial Opportunity Center and will be meeting with Dustin Fuller (FOC Manager) on May 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss collaboration. He thought of possibly partnering through Family Assistance and OMJ. Lastly, Randy discussed their website and felt that it would be a good time to update now. He had met with the previous board regarding this issue but then COVID-19 hit and so it was put on hold. He estimates the cost to be about \$20,000 and is currently working on quotes to bring JFS websites to the county system. Lastly, Randy asked the Commissioners for an executive session to discuss potential litigation, update on two employee discipline situations and an employee contract discussion.

At 10:51 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation, personnel in regards to employee discipline and personnel in regards to contracts . Michael Pepple seconded. Roll call resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol; yes, Michael Pepple; yes, William Bateson; yes. At 11:05 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made a motion to come out of executive session, having discussed potential litigation, personnel in regards to employee discipline and contracts with no action taken. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0

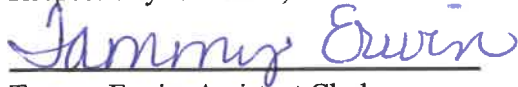
At 11:05 a.m. the Commissioners met with Judge Routson and Judge Starn regarding plans to potentially move Juvenile Probate Court out to the mall along with other county offices. Others present were Tammy Erwin and Kim Switzer. Judge Routson stated that he and Judge Starn have concerns with what this move could mean for Common Pleas Court, and Domestic Relations, a division of Common Pleas Court. He knows that the Commissioners have not formulated any plans yet however, if they are considering moving occupants of the Court building to perhaps the mall, that impacts the probation department. The Judges are concerned about moving the probation department so far away from the courts. Further discussion was held regarding the moving of offices, and the impact of that move. If the Commissioners decided to move and sell the building they are in at this time, the probation department would be

displaced and record filings would be an issue. Judge Routson stated that he has also had discussions with Mr. Welton, Tracy Coldren and the Clerk of Courts. Judge Starn discussed the Tuesday meeting where the Commissioners announced Juvenile Court, but not Domestic Relations Court and leased space moving to the mall and he has not heard any other public conversations since then. He stated that they are getting a lot of questions of what is going on and whether or not they are moving. Timothy Bechtol replied that they had negotiated a price at the time of that meeting, however, they are still in the process of working out all of the language of the purchase agreement with the Prosecuting Attorney's office. He further stated that their goal for the elected officials is to find the best solution for the foreseeable future for their office and/or courts. Timothy stated that the Commissioners would like to have an open discussion with both Judges about Domestic Relations Court and also discuss the two courts that are on the third floor. They discussed drawings that were done in 1991 & 1999 where moving was considered at those times, however, Judge Routson believes they lost those in the flood and asked if the Commissioners may have them in their records. They also discussed the ceilings and walls on the third floor that will need to be re-painted due to some serious peeling paint due to it not being done correctly the first time. They also discussed some restoration needing done to Lady Justice. They continued a lengthy discussion of space and changes needed within the courthouse. Judge Starn stated that they are losing access to the Marathon Performing Arts building that they are currently using for Grand Jury trials so they need to be looking at where to find space for those trials. He stated that right now, he cannot hold a criminal trial in his courtroom. There was further discussion regarding Adult Probation and the location to house them, Domestic Relations Court and how to utilize the second and third floors of the courthouse if the second-floor offices moved to the mall and what the plans are for the current Juvenile Probate Court building. Judge Starn explained the use of the Lawyer boxes and that they are used daily. Judge Routson stated that while it is far less efficient for clerks and attorneys if the boxes were moved from the courthouse, it also saves a lot of money for postage by being able to drop off correspondence and put in those boxes. Several ideas were tossed around regarding available space within the courthouse and suggestions on how to use that space along with the needs of the Judges and their staff.

At 1:15 p.m., the Commissioners met with Recorder Tracy Coldren to discuss office space. Tammy Erwin was also present. Timothy Bechtol discussed with Tracy about the connectivity her office has with other offices in the building. Tracy stated that her office needed to be connected to the Auditor's office. People who come in do searches for Probate and Clerk of Courts for records so there needs to be access to that. They also do work with the Treasurer's office at times. Probate will need a connection with the Recorder's office but that could be done electronically. She stated that people do come in to Clerk of Courts and search for Sheriff sales, judgements, real estate, foreclosures and sometimes use their microfilm. Timothy Bechtol asked Tracy if she wanted to go into executive session to discuss any security issues and she stated no since everything in her office is public record. She asked if there would be an initial security checkpoint upon entering the building and Timothy Bechtol stated that would be discussed. She stated there would need to be some security for records as well. William Bateson asked her what kind of square footage she would require. She went over her current floor plan with them and asked for some additional square footage to allow for more storage, adding another secure location for some of the records that are in their office now. She did request a breakroom/kitchen area and a restroom for her and her staff of 3. She would also like to have a locked fireproof cabinet. She asked what kind of timeframe they are looking at and William Bateson answered that they need to get through the due diligence first. Once they get the Judge settled in then everything else should fall into place. The entrance

would be available for customers to access the county offices so that they would not have to walk through the whole mall to get there. They discussed further option possibilities regarding employee entrances, separate emergency exits and the possibility of a conference room or an office for Tracy herself. Timothy explained where they were at with the purchase process and that they will have further discussions with her at a later time.

Respectfully submitted,

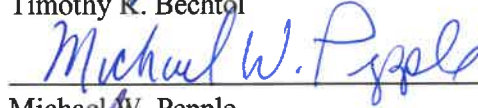


Tammy Erwin, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:



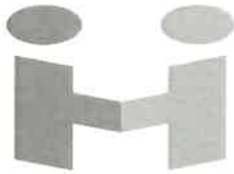
Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple



William L. Bateson



**Hancock County**  
Job & Family Services

Children's Protective Services Unit  
Date of Report: May 3, 2021

<b>Total Number of reports Received:</b>	
March	165
April	163
<b>2021</b>	<b>585</b>
<b>Screened In/Out</b>	
March	IN=52, OUT=113
April	IN=49, OUT=114
<b>2021</b>	<b>IN=182, OUT=403</b>
<b>Breakdown of case Type Screened In:</b>	
<b>TR/AR/FINS</b>	
March:	TR=19, AR=25, FINS=8
April:	TR=27, AR=17, FINS=5
<b>2021:</b>	<b>TR=92, AR=69, FINS=21</b>
<b>Total Number of Kids in Care at months end</b>	
February	100
March	83
April	87
<b>Breakdown of <u>Current</u> Placements (87)</b>	
Family Foster Homes	39
Kinship Placement	32
Group Home	13
Residential	2
DYS	1
Other	0
<b>Total number of Children Entering Care/Exiting Care</b>	
March:	Enter=4, Exit=21
April:	Enter=9, Exit=5
<b>2021:</b>	<b>Enter=26, Exit=39</b>