

Minutes
October 25, 2018

Commissioners Present: Timothy Bechtol and Mark Gazarek.

Also Present: Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Maryann LaRoche, Jim Maurer, and Doug Jenkins.

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 the October 23, 2018 meeting were read with Timothy Bechtol making the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #698-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Water Pollution Control. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #699-18 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Water Pollution Control. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #700-18 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Water Pollution Control. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #701-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Real Estate. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #702-18 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Sanitary Landfill. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #703-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Agricultural Service Center. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #704-18 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Recorder's Indexing. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #705-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Landfill Bond Retirement. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #706-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Sheriff Bond Retirement. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #707-18 – Transfer of Hancock County (Additional Sales and Use Tax) General Fund to the Flood Mitigation Capital Projects Fund October, 2018 - \$290,000.52. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #708-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor’s certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Substance Abuse. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #709-18 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation-ADAMHS-Levy. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #710-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor’s certification-Commissioners to appropriate to Juvenile Court Title IV-E. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #711-18 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor’s certification-Commissioners to appropriate to MV>. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The Commissioners approved an updated position description form from Job & Family Services. Commissioner Gazarek approved a travel request for Commissioner Bechtol and the Clerk will present the request to Commissioner Robertson for his approval at the afternoon meeting. They signed a draw request from HRPC for the Flood Mitigation Assistance FY 2016 grant. The draw request was for \$15,000. The Commissioners signed payroll for their staff and Job & Family Services. Mark Gazarek made the motion for the Vice-Chairman’s signature on the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services Subgrant Agreement Amendment #1, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve the Auditor’s warrant journal, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration on behalf of the Prosecutor’s office:

Resolution #712-18 – Resolution authorizing Change Order No.1 contract with Marlin White & Sons, Inc. for the Hancock County Justice Center -2018 Renovations-Boiler Replacement Project. The Change Order is for additional electrical work in the amount of \$4,370.00. The total contract price is \$183,125.00. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The Clerk presented the contract with Maximus Consulting Services, Inc., but the Commissioners did not take action on the contract. They requested the Clerk contact the representative at Maximus to discuss the reason for a three year contract as opposed to a two year contract that has been approved in the past. Commissioner Gazarek also requested the Auditor’s office review the contract.

Charity Rauschenberg reported her office is waiting on confirmation on issuance of notes.

Meetings/Reports

Mark Gazarek attended a Blanchard Valley Health Systems meeting. He reported receiving the sales tax information from the Auditor’s office and year to date, the county’s revenue is up

approximately \$80,000 over last year, so basically a flat rate. Mark requested an executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Timothy Bechtol walked in the Halloween Parade. He attended a CCAO meeting, at which Palmer Energy gave an update on the energy program. He attended the Community Action Commission board meeting and the Chamber of Commerce Advisory meeting.

At 9:49 a.m. Mark Gazarek made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation, Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Mark Gazarek, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes. At 10:42 a.m. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners held a hearing on the Sales and Use Tax.

Brian began the hearing by stating how much the sales and use tax would generate in revenue and what that revenue would be used for. He then asked the non-mandated entities to speak in order to explain their return on investment from the County. Chad Carroll, a representative of Hancock Soil and Water Conservation District, explained what their office does. They handle ditch maintenance throughout the County. This includes on the Blanchard River, Ottawa Creek, and Eagle Creek. Cassie Anderson, a representative of OSU Extension, went over the vast needs of the community. There is a great need for leadership programs, and those are provided by OSU Extension. These programs help provide skills to children for youth development, along with programs for adults as well. Paul Maekask, a representative of the Public Defender's office stated his office has handled 1,897 cases so far this year. There are not enough outside attorneys to handle that number of cases. Plus, their office is at a secure rate, whereas, appointed attorneys are at varying rates. Therefore, the Public Defender's office provides significant savings to the County. Matt Cordonnier, from Hancock Regional Planning Commission, stated for every \$1 provided by the County in funding, they return \$9.22 from grants and services provided. Brian Robertson stated Hancock County is an efficient County; doing a lot with very little. Hancock County has the lowest percentage of collection for operating costs. Timothy Bechtol provided a visual aid with blocks representing each quarter percent of sales tax. He stated that he has not been able to get an answer on what benefit the County would receive by lowering the tax.

Sheriff Heldman said the Justice Center outgrew itself in the early 1990's. The County has spent approximately \$1 million on outside prisoner housing over the past two years. This is not something the County can continue. Phillip Riegle stated he sees three important issues facing the County. We have to come up with a solution for the jail overcrowding. The Juvenile/Probate Court building is no longer fit for that type of service. A solution needs to be found for funding placement costs for children in care. Every child deserves protection.

John Kissh works with ADAMHS and previously worked at Job & Family Services, stated all non-mandated entities should be funded. All other surrounding counties are at a higher tax rate. The jail expansion should work closely with ADAMHS in order to help those facing addiction or mental health issues. He believes this will also help with the placement costs for children in care.

Shawn Carpenter, a representative from Juvenile/Probate Court, stated they have seen an increase in mental health issues. This mixed with small quarters has caused some issues. They have also seen an increase in children services cases, which affects Children Services, CASA,

and Public Defender's office. Cassie Anderson added that kids need a positive influence, and she believes OSU Extension can offer that through their programs.

At 2:16 p.m. Brian Robertson made the motion to close the hearing, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Brian Robertson reconvened the Commissioners' meeting.

Brian Robertson made the motion to approve Resolution #713-18 – Levying additional sales and use tax of one-quarter of one percent (1/4%) pursuant to Section 5739.026 and 5741.023 of the Ohio Revised Code for a continuing period of time. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Brian asked if there was any comment on the resolution.

Mark Gazarek stated he would be voting no on the resolution. He feels like the voters needed to be given the opportunity to vote on the issue. He also said this will drastically affect any other potential levies that would go on the ballot, such as kids in care. He would much rather see a tax on the ballot for that.

Timothy Bechtol said timing is of the essence for the jail overcrowding issues. Hancock County is operating more efficiently than surrounding counties, but we are suffering because of it. He feels this is a sensible and conservative move.

Brian Robertson prepared a statement. It is attached.

Motion passed 2-1, with Mark Gazarek voting no.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Mutchler, Clerk

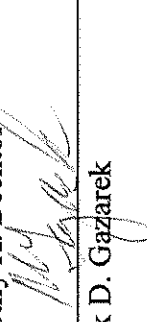
Reviewed and approved by:



Brian J. Robertson



Timothy K. Bechtol



Mark D. Gazarek

October 25, 2018

For almost two decades we have not taken concrete action on addressing criminal justice capacity and security which has been reviewed by County, city and various private sector entities going back to the 1999 visioning plan.

Common Plea and Municipal Courts are dealing with increased cases along with state directives shifting prisoner housing back to local communities. It is easy as an elected official to continue to do nothing and blame the system for dealing us these burdens. I say, the heavy lifting comes when trying to work towards solutions that better ensure the safety of our friends and neighbors which we took an oath to serve.

In acting today, some may rightfully criticize us for not following “the will of the people” but leaders must always care more about “the needs of the people”. This is comparable to business situations; where companies cave to short-term demands and then realize years later the lack of investing (i.e. automation) drove jobs out of this country for lower labor. Eventually, not having the resources to secure Hancock County will lead to the same problems seen in surrounding communities who have saw decades of losing both companies and residents for their reputations of crime.

I have summarized my rationale into the following historic Hancock County Voting Results:

- 1) Hancock County voted for secured boarders at the federal level in 2016 but opposed securing our community at the local level in 2017.
- 2) Hancock County Voters do not want taxes whether income, property and/or sales. I absolutely feel the same way but honestly dislike the growth in crime even more than taxes!
- 3) If pressed, voters prefer sales tax to fund community issues because it is a use tax with approximately 52% of collections generated by those who live outside of Hancock County.
- 4) County Officials have listened, offered and asked for solutions but we are here today decades later and doing nothing has yet to solve our problems or help maintain the sense of safety we once took for granted as Findlay residents. Abraham Lincoln once said “With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed.”
- 5) Doing nothing will only continue to increase the levels of crime at our doorsteps from both regional communities in Ohio, cities like Detroit, states like Florida and even border states like Texas.

Please understand, I do not want to repeat this history of doing nothing and therefore must strive to do something; acting today will lead towards better ensuring the long-term safety and security of our families, homes and businesses. Most importantly, this progress can finally be made as the Flood Mitigation tax is set to expire this December. Therefore, by imposing this tax now, this will be a tax neutral impact with sales tax remaining at the current 6.75% with only three counties in Ohio lower.

Respectfully,

Brian Robertson

