

Minutes

March 24, 2016

Commissioners Present: Phillip Riegle, Mark Gazarek and Brian Robertson.

Also Present: Lucinda Land, Charity Rauschenberg, Heather Pendleton, Doug Cade, Steve Wilson, Chris Long, Dale Shaheen, Curt Smith, Paul Schmelzer, Doug Jenkins, and Denise Grant. Also see attached attendance sheet.

Commissioner Riegle opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Commissioner Riegle invited those in attendance to make public comment. No one made comment at this time. Minutes from the March 22, 2016 meeting were read with Mark Gazarek making the motion to approve, Brian Robertson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #153-16 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation-Sheriff-Enforcement. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #154-16 – Transfer of Hancock County (Additional Sales & Use Tax) General Fund to the Flood Mitigation Capital Projects Fund March, 2016-\$418,677.46. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #155-16 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification-Commissioners to appropriate to the General Fund (TB Hospital). Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners approved travel requests from the Sheriff's Office. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve the Auditor's warrant list, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #156-16 – Authorization for the purchase of one John Deere 6150M Cab Tractor from John Deere Company via Findlay Implement Co. The cost of the tractor is \$89,783.68. The Landfill will be trading in a tractor for \$66,000.00, making the total cost \$23,283.68. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #157-16 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners and the Hancock County Sheriff to enter into Amendment No. 4 to the contract with Aramark Corporation Correctional Services. This is a slight increase to the cost of the meals provided and a change in menu to better provide balanced meals for inmates. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #158-16 – Entering into Amendment No. 1 to the agreement with Correctional Healthcare Companies, Inc. for medical services at the Hancock County Justice Center. The cost for medical services from January 15, 2016 thru January 14, 2017 will be \$287,402.17. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #159-16 – Authorization of Jobs and Commerce Economic Development agreement between the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation and the Board of Hancock County Commissioners for the Whirlpool Expansion Project. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #160-16 – Authorizing an agreement with Sigma Technologies LTD for engineering to extend fiber optic strands to County and City Buildings as per the direction of the Hancock County Data Center. Dale Shaheen explained this is to conduct a feasibility study. The study will need to be completed in order to go out for bid for the fiber optic project. The cost of the study is not to exceed \$29,362.58. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #161-16 – Authorizing solicitation of Requests for Qualifications from qualified engineering firms for design and field survey services for the construction of the Western Diversion of Eagle Creek as part of the Hancock County Flood Mitigation Project.

Tom Heidlebaugh stated that the Commissioners have spent years and lots of money on a study, but the Commissioners may not be making the decision, because the Commissioners have requested the Conservancy District take over Flood Mitigation in Hancock County. He said it is the perception that Mayor Mihalik is making the decisions. Commissioner Gazarek rebutted his claim, stating the Commissioners are the Non-Federal Sponsor for the project. Tom asked if the Commissioners received the same information as the Mayor. Commissioner Gazarek stated the I-75 Widening Project has been rumored for about a year, but the Commissioners were told recently that it would be moving forward.

Steve Oman asked why the Commissioners want to move forward when we have not heard what the Army Corps plans to do. The Commissioners are trying to look at all alternatives.

Steve Wilson clarified for the audience the need for this resolution. If the County would like to marry the Diversion Channel Project and the I-75 Widening Project, the County will need to move quickly in order to line up with the ODOT timeline. The Army Corps has not provided a final design, so if an Engineer is chosen, they will complete plans for the final design. ODOT needs 700,000 cu. yds. of fill material for the Widening Project and the Diversion Channel Project will remove over 1,000,000 cu. yds. If the two projects are not combined, there will still be a need from ODOT for the 700,000 cu. yds. of fill material.

Tom Heidlebaugh asked who owns the rights to the engineering that the Army Corps has already done. Steve Wilson said the Commissioners do. Tom asked how much money ODOT will pay for the farmland used to provide the fill material. Steve Wilson stated ODOT will not pay anything. If the Widening Project and the Diversion Channel Project are combined, potentially the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District will be in charge of acquiring the land.

Commissioner Gazarek made the motion to approve Resolution #161-16, Commissioner Riegle seconded.

Commissioner Robertson mentioned in 2013 he had suggested privatization of the Flood Mitigation Plan. He has never been confident in the possibility of receiving federal funding. Congress takes into consideration the loss of life when funding projects and Hancock County has not suffered a loss of life due to the flooding. He also expressed a lack of understating of the

roles and funding around the proposed combination of projects. He acknowledged that today's resolution is to gather information and may be more cost effective than the Army Corps. Ultimately, Commissioner Robertson feels he needs more information, because there has been a lack of communication from the other members of the Board of Commissioners.

Paul Schmelzer explained why, in 2013, the City did not feel it was necessary to privatize the Flood Mitigation Project. There was no need at that time to sacrifice the possibility of Federal Funding. Now, there is an opportunity for cost savings for the community if the Widening Project and the Diversion Channel Project are combined. Paul disagreed with Brian's statement about a lack of transparency to the community, and stated that today's resolution is a logical step in exploring all options for Flood Mitigation.

Tom Heidelbaugh asked if the dirt removed for the Diversion Channel Project from farmland would be given to ODOT. Steve Wilson explained ODOT's contracting process. When they bid projects, ODOT requires the winning contractor to retrieve the necessary fill material. Even if the two projects are not combined, landowners in the county will be approached by the contractor in order to meet the fill material requirements.

Jerry Wolford said he doesn't understand why, after 9 years of study, the Commissioners are now voting on "trading dirt." ODOT has been discussing options for widening I-75 for 8-9 years. The community is tired of paying for studies. These projects affect the farmers the most.

Commissioner Robertson stated the perception in the community was that today would be a vote on a final decision, but it is merely a vote to request qualifications from engineers in order to explore all available options for Flood Mitigation in Hancock County.

Paul Schmelzer said that there has been discussion with the Army Corps for 4 years to coordinate the two projects. Very recently, the Corps said they may not be able to deliver the Chief's Report in time for the two projects to be combined. There is not an official statement from the Corps to that affect yet, but the County needs to look at other alternatives.

Steve Oman asked Commissioner Gazarek if the Army Corps is looking into the effects on the whole watershed instead of focusing all attention on the Diversion Channel. Commissioner Gazarek said he does not want to speculate on what the Army Corps is thinking. Steve Oman asked for the other Commissioners' opinions. Commissioner Riegler suggested having additional discussions with the Army Corps, but right now, he feels like the County needs to move forward with the notice for qualifications. Commissioner Robertson will not make a decision without more information, which he will work on obtaining in the near future.

Jerry Wolford said all of the farmers knew in 2007 that Findlay would flood. He said if the County moves forward with the Diversion Channel Project and as a result, the epicenter of the flood moves 20 miles west, all of the studying and money spent was for nothing.

The Commissioners voted unanimously to pass Resolution #161-16.

Charity Rauschenberg expressed appreciation towards the Commissioners for allowing Sigma Technologies LTD to move forward.

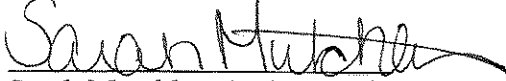
Paul Schmelzer said he has the proposal for combining efforts for the fiber ring. This could create a cost savings of about \$14,500.00. He also has the proposal for the Riverside Dam mussel survey. The City is willing to pay half of the cost of the survey. Steve Wilson said the Engineer's office has to have a mussel survey done for the Osbourne Bridge. He has asked their contact what the cost would be to add Riverside Dam.

Reports/Meetings

Brian Robertson conducted a review of the Agricultural Service Center. The minor concerns will be addressed by the County Maintenance Department. He attended a meeting at Litter Landing regarding the status of operating efficiencies. He attended a WIA meeting. There was discussion of the necessity of a WIA board. Brian has been approached by Larry Busdeker, Superintendent at the ESC, about leasing empty offices on the first floor of that building.

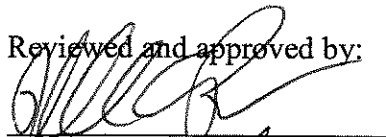
With no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Mutchler, Assistant Clerk

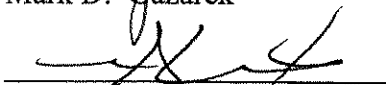
Reviewed and approved by:



Phillip A. Riegle



Mark D. Gazarek



Brian J. Robertson