

Minutes

December 14, 2023

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

Also Present: Lynn Taylor, Jeremy Kalb, Jeff Wobser and Steve Wilson.

Commissioner Bateson opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the December 12, 2023 were read with Michael Pepple making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Mike Pepple made the motion and Tim Bechtol seconded to approve the Warrant Journal. Motion passed 3-0. JFS and Commissioner payroll was approved.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #940-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – General Fund #1001- Commissioners General Office. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #941-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – General Fund #1001- Veterans. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #942-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation- General Fund #1001. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #943-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – ADAMHS Fund #2013. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #944-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – General Fund #1001- Sheriff. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #945-23 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner's to appropriate to MVGT Fund #2002. Michael Pepple made the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Steve Wilson requested an executive session in regards to property transfer. Steve also discussed that the change order for costs associated with the Norfolk Southern bridge have been received for around \$199,000.00. This change order has delayed the progress about 18 months. MWCD has reviewed the change order and agree subject to the funding source. Steve indicated that this will be signed at the February 20, 2024 MWCD meeting.

Jeff Wobser stated that he attended that Public Defenders meeting.

Jeremy Kalb stated that he was here with Steve Wilson to attend the Executive Session.

Meetings and Reports

Mike Pepple stated that he attended the ARPA Committee Meeting. There are a few county departments that have pending projects remaining. They will be asking those departments for a March 31, 2024 deadline to submit their final proposals in order to meet the encumbrance deadline of 2024 year end.

Mike also attended the WORPO meeting in Lima with Engineer Doug Cade. Engineer Cade was elected President of the WORPO. Mike did attend the Conventions and Visitors Bureau meeting and reported that the numbers for the CVB are in line with the 2019 pre- Covid numbers.


Timothy Bechtol stated that he attended the HHWP CAC meeting and the Head Start program is full. Tim did inquire from the City representatives about the justification of the recent 50% water hike. Jeff Wobser explained that rates have not increased since 2011 and it has obviously been a mistake. Jeff acknowledged that it's been a too long of a time since a rate change. There have been several capital improvements that have been delayed and it's time for the water department needs to catch up. Jeff thinks there is about \$6.6 million dollars behind. Jeremy Kalb stated that the City has seen this coming and moved up the updated water meter installations to get the increase initiated sooner. Operational costs have also increased in addition to material costs increasing. These costs have to be passed on to the consumer. Jeff indicated that Council will be implementing oversight procedures to avoid this from happening again. Tim inquired if they looked at increasing the rates in stages. Jeremy stated that they did look at that, however the 50% increase is the most effective. The Clerk advised that the timing of the water rate increase could have been better as the County budget was already established and the county will start 2024 with knowing we have to appropriate more money into that fund. Jeff acknowledged.


Bill Bateson had nothing to report.


At 9:48 am., Bill Bateson made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss property transfers. Tim Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Bill Bateson, yes; Tim Bechtol, yes; Mike Pepple, yes. At 10:22 am., Bill Bateson made the motion to exit executive session with no action taken. Tim Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.


Lynn Taylor, Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:


William L. Bateson


Timothy K. Bechtol


Michael W. Pepple