

Minutes

February 23, 2023

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

Also Present: Christine Carrigan, Cindy Land, Phil Johnson, Auditor Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Steve Wilson, Kyle Parker, Eric Barnes and Lou Wilin.

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 February 21st 2023, meeting was read with Michael Pepple making a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Michael Pepple made the motion and William Bateson seconded to approve two Warrant Journals. Motion passed 2-0. The Commissioners approved payroll for their employees and Job & Family Services. In addition, the Commissioners approved a travel request for the Engineer, and the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District expenses in the amount of \$117,505.66.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #122-23 – Transfer of funds from the General Fund 1001 to Juvenile Probate Bond Retirement 3237. Auditor Rauschenberg requested this resolution be pulled, due to changing the account the funds will be advanced from.

Resolution #123-23 – Additional appropriation – within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Public Defender 1001. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #124-23 – Additional appropriation – within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Severance (Sheriff) 2136. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Cindy Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #125-23 – Authorizing the contract with Griffin Pavement Striping, LLC., Fremont, Ohio for the 2023 County-Township Pavement Marking Program. Cindy stated the contract amount is \$111,888.72. One hundred, five thousand, nine hundred ninety-one and 56/100 dollars is to be paid by the County. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #126-23 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with a qualified supplier to provide fuel for the time period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Cindy stated each year the Engineer requests and receives bids for qualified suppliers to provide fuel and materials, for the time period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. This resolution and the next three are authorizations to enter into contract with the qualified suppliers. This resolution is for Legacy Farmers Co-op and Petroleum Traders Corporation to provide fuel. The Duncan Oil Company bid was not accepted, due to submitting an incomplete bid. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #127-23 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with various suppliers to provide aggregate for the time period of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Cindy stated this resolution is for contracts with Bluffton Stone Co., Gerken Materials, National Lime/Stone, Stoneco Inc., and Custer Stone to provide aggregate. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #128-23 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with various suppliers for the provision of asphalt concrete for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Cindy stated this resolution is for contracts with Bluffton Stone Company, Gerken Materials, Maple Grove Materials, Stoneco Inc., and Uniques Paving Materials to provide asphalt concrete. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #129-23 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with a qualified supplier for the provision of liquid bituminous material for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Cindy stated this resolution is for a contract with Asphalt Materials, Inc., to provide liquid bituminous material. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution #130-23 – Authorizing payment of invoices from Jezerinac, Geers & Associates, Inc., for services in the nature of engineering assessment and analysis regarding the JFS Building Roof Truss Repair/Reinforcing project at the Job & Family Services building in Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio. Phil stated Jezerinac, Geers & Associates, Inc., was brought in to give expert analysis on which roof trusses within the JFS building roof structure needed replacement, repair or reinforced. There was no contract created, but a quote was received for \$215.00 per hour. This resolution authorizes on a Then & Now basis payment of two invoices, totaling \$2,365.00. Phil stated a contract will be created with Jezerinac, Geers & Associates, Inc., if additional work is required, at the rate of \$240.00 per hour. At this point Phil is uncertain if any additional services will be needed. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session in regards to potential real estate lease.

Auditor Charity Rauschenberg commented two change orders were submitted to her office with insufficient documentation. She stated the contractors should not be doing any work. Phil stated we do not have a change order request form from the company. Phil stated Commissioner Bechtol calculated what was necessary and contacted the company. Charity cautioned the Commissioners that decisions need to be made by the Board. She stated one Commissioner alone, should not be making decisions. Phil stated the Board did approve the amounts. Charity stated when there is only one Commissioner engaging in a transaction, that Commissioner could be held personally liable. Charity also cautioned the Commissioners about the growing number of contracts on the Then & Now list. She stated contractors should not be working on projects, prior to the clerks having the funds encumbered. Not having the proper budgetary process in front of someone issuing an invoice is an illegal expenditure write-up. We are getting larger contracts that are starting to build up, and they are going to become material in our audit.

Steve Wilson reported that he will not be in attendance the next two weeks.

Kyle Parker and Eric Barnes had nothing to report.

Adam Witteman had nothing to report.

Lou Wilin inquired what the Broadband Ohio meeting is about.

Meetings/Reports

Michael Pepple had nothing to report.

Timothy Bechtol virtually attended both the Chamber of Commerce Advisory Committee meeting, and the HHWP Community Action Committee meeting.

William Bateson attended the Chamber of Commerce Ag meeting. The sausage sale has started. The money raised from the sausage sale will go towards college scholarships for Hancock County residents.

At 9:49 a.m., William Bateson made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to potential real estate lease. Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes. At 10:22 a.m., William Bateson made a motion to come out of executive session, in regards to potential real estate lease, with no action taken. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 10:30 A.M., the Commissioners had a Microsoft Teams meeting with Peter Voderberg and Carly Socosta from Broadband Ohio. Christine Carrigan, Cindy Land, Auditor Charity Rauschenberg, Tim Stuart and Adam Witteman were in attendance. Peter explained what services Broadband Ohio offers. He stated that Broadband Ohio is dedicated to making sure there is coverage all over the state. No matter where you are located you should have access to at least one provider. Commissioner Bateson stated that due to the new communications tower, and future development on County Road 140, Hancock County has a need for an additional three miles of increased capacity in the fiber loop. He stated we would like to complete the fiber loop around the City of Findlay, and have redundancy. He stated the additional capacity would be greater than what is needed by the county, Therefore, we would like to look into adding additional private sector. Peter stated they are expecting to receive three pots of money from the federal government for grant funding. Each grant program will have guidelines on what will be acceptable use of funds. There may be a chance that one of the grant programs may be used to support Hancock County's additional fiber needs. Peter stated that Broadband Ohio is currently working on a five-year action plan. They have scheduled a listening tour. This tour will allow them to travel to different cities in Ohio to hear what the need is. They will send an email invite to the Commissioners for their visit to Findlay. Commissioner Pepple inquired on the timing of the potential federal funding. He stated that we will have a need to provide fiber to the communication tower by the end of 2023. Peter stated the grant application for federal funding will not be available until 2024. Peter stated because of the importance of the tower, he will check into other funding options that will be available this year.

At 11:00 A.M., the Commissioners met with Alissa Preston, Don Bruce, Danielle Wilkin and Mike Holman, for the annual Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau update meeting. Christine Carrigan and Lou Wilin were in attendance. Don Bruce, president and CEO of the Alliance thanked the Commissioners for their support and funding. He stated it is nice to see that the 2022 hospitality numbers are getting back to pre-pandemic levels. Alissa presented the Commissioners with the Hancock County

Convention & Visitors Bureau 's 2022 Annual Report. Alissa stated she feels our smaller community has fared much better than larger communities throughout Ohio. She stated we have been able to capitalize on youth sports. She commented that we were able to bounce back to really good levels of occupancy and rates. She went over the 2022 financials. She stated a lot of dollars have been put into marketing and advertising. In addition, more emphasis was put into grant programs, as the bed tax dollars started coming in at a greater rate. They have been able to spend dollars outside of the grant funding on community funding support. They have five grant program offerings that are put into the community. Danielle presented the 2022 annual report website and social media information. She stated the biggest marketing arm they have is their website. She reviewed the website visits per month. She shared the most viewed pages, places and event listings. She stated that 17% of the traffic on the website is viewing individual listed places. Twenty-eight percent are viewing event listings. Social media had a very successful year. It grew by followers by leaps and bounds. Danielle also stated they help to coordinate Restaurant Week and ArtWalk Findlay. In addition, they help coordinate downtown activities such as Second Saturday and other smaller events. Some conversation took place regarding preparation for the solar eclipse. Commissioner Bateson inquired how they thought Hancock County could improve. Alissa stated she feels there needs to be better exposure for Northwest Ohio as a whole throughout the state. She also stated we need to enhance what we already have in place. The Commissioners thanked the Bureau for all they do for Hancock County.

At 11:32 a.m., William Bateson made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to union contract negotiation. Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes. At 12:30 p.m., William Bateson made a motion to come out of executive session, in regards to union contract negotiation, with no action taken. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 2-0.


At 1:00 p.m., William Bateson made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to personnel hiring. Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes. At 1:23 p.m., William Bateson made a motion to come out of executive session, in regards to personnel hiring, with no action taken. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 1:30 P.M., the Commissioners met with Patrick Brzozka and Julie Smith from Common Pleas. Christine Carrigan, was in attendance. Patrick stated it is time to update the resolution for modifying and updating the Local Community Corrections Planning Board. This resolution is required for applying and receiving state grant funds from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.


The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution #131-23 – Modifying and updating the Local Community Corrections Planning Board for Hancock County. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Christine Carrigan, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:


William L. Bateson


Timothy K. Bechtol


Michael W. Pepple

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

DEPARTMENT/ADDRESS

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	DEPARTMENT/ADDRESS
Alissa Preston	CVB
Don Bruce	The Alliance
Danielle Wilkin	CVB
Mike Holman	CVB