

Minutes

July 29, 2021

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

Also Present: Lynn Taylor, Cindy Land, Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Phil Johnson, Steve Wilson, Phil Riegler, Mary Ann LaRoche and Lou Wilin.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The minutes from the July 27, 2021 meeting were read and approved. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #496-21 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Severance (Sheriff). William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

William Bateson made the motion to approve the Warrant Journal. Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The JFS payroll was approved. Travel requests for the Sheriff's Office and the Treasurer's office were also approved. William Bateson made the motion and Michael Pepple seconded for Timothy Bechtol to sign the disbursement request for the OPWC Howard Street Bridge project. Motion passed 3-0. A Proclamation was read honoring John Haywood. All three Commissioners signed a subgrant agreement for the TCAP program. Timothy Bechtol presented the sales tax spreadsheet and indicated that \$1,505,000.00 has been set aside from the .25% sales tax for the Juvenile/Probate project and the Sheriff's project.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #497-21 – Authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners in conjunction with the Hancock County Juvenile Court to enter into Subgrant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #498-21 – Authorizing a memorandum of acceptance of the terms and conditions of an agreement with Aardvark Technologies, LLC and Hancock County Job and Family Services for Website Design. Cindy Land stated that Randy Galbraith had discussed previously and would like their website redesigned and interfaced with the County website. The cost for this is \$8,000.00. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #499-21 – Authorizing a memorandum of acceptance of the terms and conditions of an agreement with Aardvark Technologies, LLC and Hancock County JFS for Ohio Means Job – Hancock County Website Design. Cindy stated that the cost for this redesign is \$12,000.00. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #500-21 – Re: Establishment of a new fund entitled “BWC Substance Use Recovery & Workplace Safety Fund”. Cindy stated that this new fund request was requested by ADAMHS for funds received from BWC. Monies received will be used for ADAMHS to assist employers to hire individuals in recovery. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land requested an executive session regarding pending litigation.

Philip Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #501-21 – Authorizing submission of application to Hancock County Common Pleas Court for retention of outside counsel. Phil Johnson stated that attorney Lisa Zaring from the firm of Montgomery Jonson out of Cincinnati has been retained in a federal case against Judge Routson. This firm is familiar with these types of legal proceedings. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #502-21 – Authorizing approval of proposed partial settlement of pending claims. Phil Johnson stated that this pertains to the Opioid lawsuit and the possibility of a potential settlement coming from that lawsuit. This resolution allows the county to proceed with the settlement discussion. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Bill Bateson stated that Phil Johnson has done a nice job explaining to the Commissioners the specifics about this lawsuit and any questions need to be directed to him

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

Charity Rauschenberg stated that she is in receipt of Bill’s email regarding his question of solar farm taxation. Bill wanted to know that if the solar farm entity goes out of business in the pilot program, who would be responsible for the taxes. Charity explained that there is some clarification needed. For example, when will productivity actually stop? Cindy Land and Charity stated that the wording in the pilot agreement will have to be looked at once one is established.

Adam Witterman stated that the Board of Elections is currently working on the CARES funding program update. Charity stated that she attended a webinar regarding the ARP funds. This was more for the Townships, however she attended. She did indicate that it was mentioned to contact the Prosecutor’s Office and/or the Commissioners Office if anyone has any questions.

Steve Wilson stated that the MLK project does not have a paving schedule yet, however the North end will be done first. The Oxley Malone building demolition will be started next week.

Meetings/Reports

William Bateson had nothing to report.

Michael Pepple stated that he attended the Habitat for Humanity Finance Committee meeting and the Habitat for Humanity Executive Committee meeting.

Michael Pepple requested an executive session in regards to personal and tangible property acquisition and lease of real estate.

William Bateson requested an executive session in regards to economic development.

Timothy Bechtol stated that he attended the EMA quarterly meeting.

At 9:56 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Michael Pepple seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 10:04 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 10:04 a.m., the Commissioners met with Alissa Preston. Lynn Taylor, Adam Witteman, Lou Wilin, Danielle Wilkin and John Haywood were also in attendance. John Haywood thanked the Commissioners for the support and their time. He stated that 2020 was an unusual year due to COVID. In addition, John would like to mention that they will be at the end of their current 3-year contract with the County and would like to discuss and act upon the next 3-year contract/commitment. Alissa Preston stated that money came in more than anticipated, therefore causing some adjustments to the grants they distribute. This of course was a good thing and they were able to manage expenses and stay afloat. Alissa stated the community has been great and supportive. Some new businesses were able to open during the pandemic which is good news. Hotels are being utilized and there is hope that the Fairfield Inn will be operational in the fall after the fire in the spring. The tourism industry has also been affected by the employment shortage as some hotels are unable to open certain floors due to low employment.

At 11:18 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation. William Bateson seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 11:49 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:50 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition. Michael Pepple seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 12:33 p.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 1:18 p.m., the Commissioners met with James Sammet. Lynn Taylor was also in attendance. James presented the Commissioners with 3 quotes of work and items that need to be addressed for drives and exhaust work done for the jail. Quotes from Charlie Beagle Electric for \$2,980.00, \$1,760.00 and \$680.00 were all approved. James also stated that Liter Landing is all ready for the tear down of one of their buildings. Tim Bechtol stated that the Engineers Office stated that this will be a rainy-day project for them. A chemical quote for \$1,050.00 was approved for the cooling tower at the courthouse. Chemical feeders for the jail were approved for \$925.00. James stated that he has received a quote from IDW (I Do Windows) for window cleaning and it is lower than Diamond Window. He is waiting on a quote to come back from Aloha and once that comes in next week, he will present that to the Commissioners. Tim asked James his recommendation about what type of equipment would be needed to remove snow at the mall. James stated that the mall currently uses front end loaders to remove heavy amounts of snow. Tim inquired if the Engineer's Office would allow us to borrow their front-end loader to use. Tim said another option would be to contract the snow removal. Tim stated that it will be known by that time which areas are heavy traffic so it could be possible that the entire area


wouldn't need to be plowed. Bill Bateson stated that more man power will be needed because this won't be a quick job.

At 1:40 p.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal and tangible property acquisition and lease of real estate and economic development. Michael Pepple seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes. At 3:45 p.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

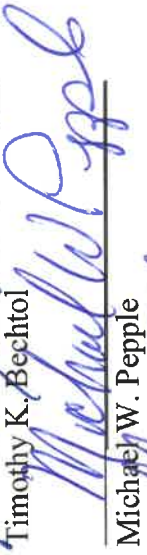


Lynn Taylor, Assistant Clerk

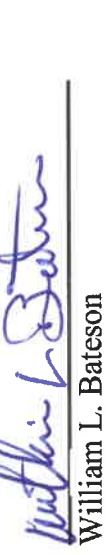
Reviewed and approved by:



Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple



William L. Bateson

☆ Visit Findlay!

Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau

2020 Annual Report



Convention & Visitors Bureau Staff

Alissa Preston, Director

Danielle Wilkin, *Community Relations and Development Manager*

John Haywood, *Alliance President & CEO*

Annette Sweat, *Alliance Controller*

Convention & Visitors Bureau Board

Joe Klein, *Chair (Nickolas Asset Management)*

Mike Holman, *Past Chair (Blanchard River Broadcasting)* • **Tim Babcock**

(Miracle League of Findlay) • **Heather Clow** *(Marathon Center For Performing Arts)* • **Linda DeArment** *(Blanchard Valley Health System)*

Lauren Etler *(Hancock Historical Museum)* • **Leslie Florea** *(S&S Management)*

Jen Schoenberger *(Marathon Petroleum Company)* • **Kerry Teeple**

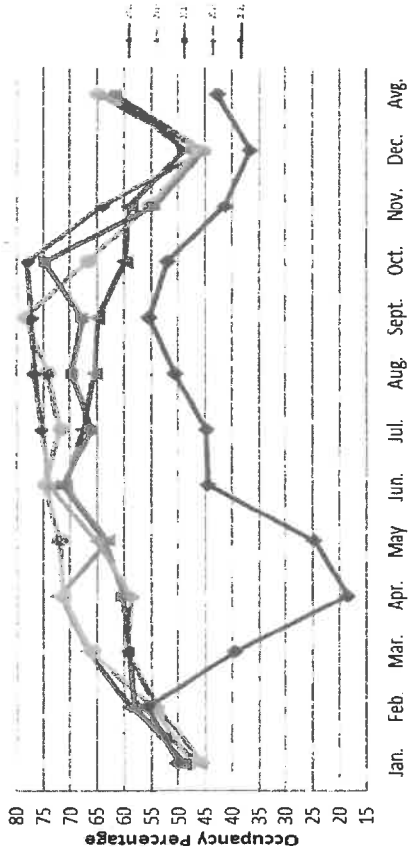
(University of Findlay) • **Dave Thomas** *(Hancock County Agricultural Society)* •

Rich Zydonik *(Rowmark)*

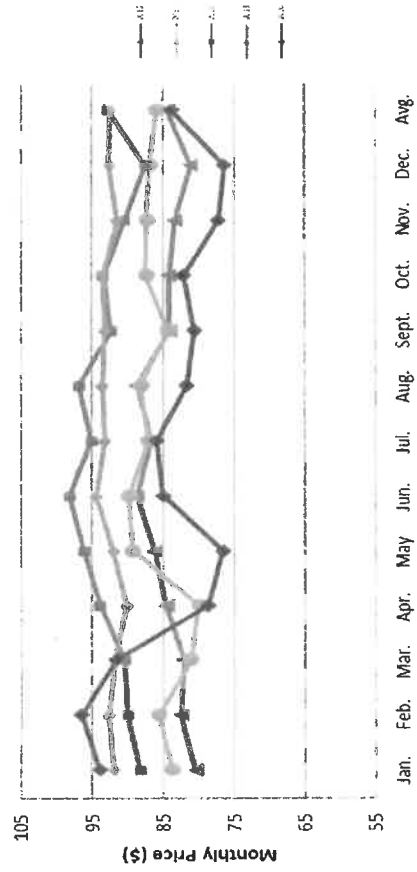
Commissioner **Mark Gazarek** • Auditor **Charity Rauschenberg**

Occupancy Data

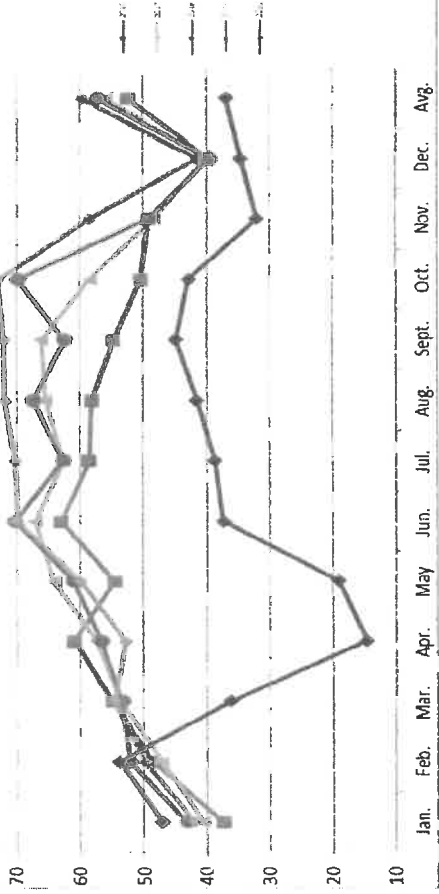
Occupancy Trends 2016-2020



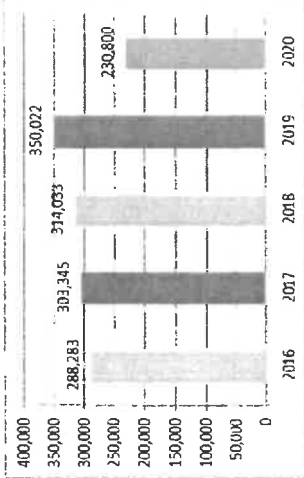
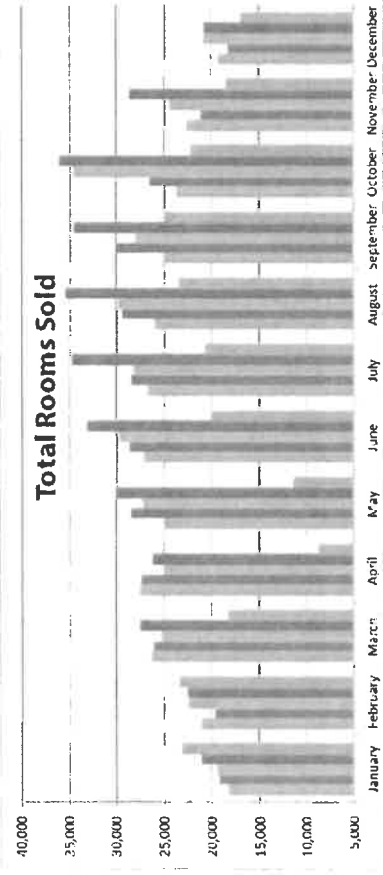
ADR Trends 2016-2020



RevPAR 2016-2020



Total Rooms Sold



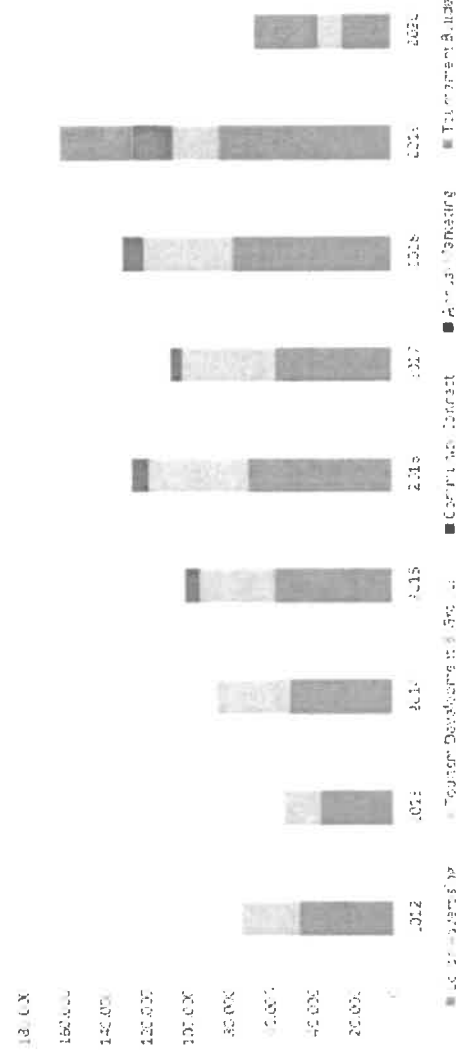
Financials

	Budget	Actual
Administrative Costs	356,986.51	317,199.53
Downtown Marketing	20,000.04	6,697.00
Economic Development	15,000.00	0.00
Marketing & Promotion	199,349.00	114,637.11
<i>Advertising</i>	113,389.00	84,642.23
<i>Collateral/Printing</i>	15,500.00	384.65
<i>Promotions</i>	8,000.00	1,446.75
<i>Business Development</i>	32,960.00	21,163.48
<i>Community Partnership/PR</i>	29,500.00	7,000.00
Grant Programs	167,000.00	85,663.10
Professional Development & Travel	15,500.00	2,742.71
Total Expenses	773,835.55	526,939.45
Revenues	794,931.00	532,788.00
Net Ordinary Income	21,095.45	5,848.55

	2019		2020		2019	
Bed Tax Receipts						
February	↑	5.7%	187,599.10	177,488.01	Oct, Nov, Dec	(prev year)
May	↓	17.0%	141,219.66	169,299.49	Jan, Feb, Mar	
August	↓	66.0%	71,125.38	209,582.54	Apr, May, June	
November	↓	44.0%	132,844.00	235,506.21	July, Aug, Sept	
% change			532,788.14	791,876.25	10.50%	

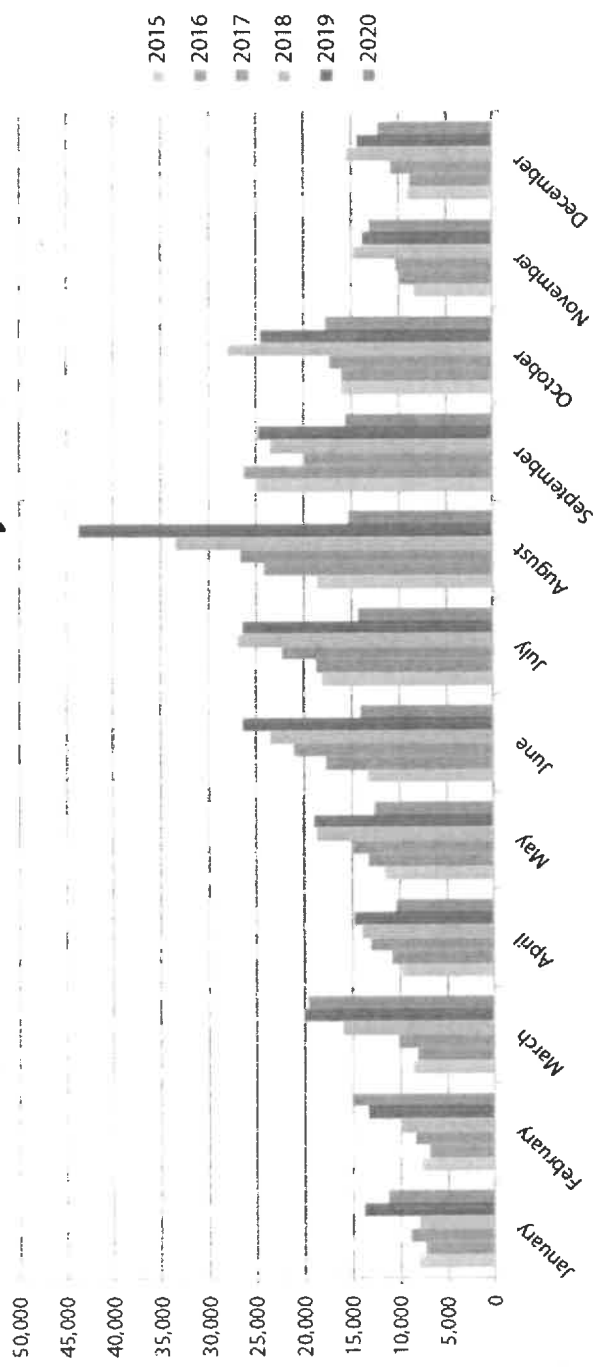
Grant Program

The grant program was suspended in April of 2020. Adjustments were made to honor agreements and amend the budget in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. By taking a conservative approach the grant program is slowly returning to normal.



Website & Social Media

Website Visits by Month



2020 Most Viewed Pages	Pageviews
Events	28,626
Home	23,724
Restaurant Week	16,141
Takeout	11,101
Things to Do Landing Page	5,620
Downtown Findlay	4,607
What's Happening News Post	3,962
Dining Landing Page	3,899
COVID Dining Roundup	3,370
Flag City Story	2,609

2020 Most Viewed Places	Pageviews
Blanchard River Nature Preserve	4,248
Ghost Town	2,035
Hancock County Fairgrounds	1,768
Homestead Fall Farm	1,539
Brix	1,153
Van Buren State Park	1,122
GT Wheels	1,089
Riverbend-Findlay Reservoirs	1,032
Archies	1,016
The Cube	868

2020 Most Viewed Events	Pageviews
North Pole Express (combined)	6,749
Trick-or-Treat (combined)	4,439
Christmas in October craft show	3,511
Fair Food Weekend (combined)	1,875
Pumpkin Train Rides (combined)	1,871
Farmers Market (combined)	1,784
Findlay Music Festival	915
Oktoberfest	860
Bluffton Blaze of Lights	797
Downtown Cruise	796

Shop Small Support Local Reward Program

#IN THIS TOGETHER Ohio

Social Distance Findlay Style

Visit Findlay Social Media
 Facebook • Instagram • Twitter
14,000+ Followers

Downtown Findlay Social Media
 Facebook • Instagram
13,500+ Followers

**Hancock County Juvenile / Probate Court
Building Project Funding**

Year	Month	1/4% Sales & Use Tax Revenue	Juvenile/Probate Court Capital Project Fund	Juv/Probate Court Bond & Note Retirement Funds	Remainder for County Operations & Carry-over		
2019	January	\$336,152.76	Final Two Deposits into Flood Mitigation Fund	\$0.00			
	February	\$287,226.02					
	March	\$404,571.53	\$656,479.75	\$0.00	\$1,316,480.10		
	April	\$310,209.27		\$0.00			
	May	\$297,162.52		\$0.00			
	June	\$315,247.72		\$0.00			
	July	\$323,154.24		\$0.00			
	August	\$322,614.57		\$0.00			
	September	\$355,042.74		\$100,000.00		\$0.00	\$255,042.74
	October	\$325,010.87		\$100,000.00		\$0.00	\$225,010.87
	November	\$347,609.79		\$100,000.00		\$0.00	\$247,609.79
	December	\$354,074.94		\$100,000.00		\$0.00	\$254,074.94
	2019 Totals	\$3,978,076.97	\$1,056,479.75	\$0.00	\$2,298,218.44		
		plus FEMA Money Transfer					
			\$443,520.25				
			\$1,500,000.00	For Project Funding			
2020	January	\$389,408.91	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$289,408.91		
	February	\$321,096.39	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$206,096.39		
	March	\$480,124.29	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$365,124.29		
	April	\$285,988.36	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$170,988.36		
	May	\$289,216.47	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$174,216.47		
	June	\$284,513.03	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$169,513.03		
	July	\$266,122.18	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$151,122.18		
	August	\$273,044.23	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$158,044.23		
	September	\$392,300.37	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$277,300.37		
	October	\$323,507.00	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$208,507.00		
	November	\$319,064.63	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$204,064.63		
	December	\$351,748.18	\$0.00	\$115,000.00	\$236,748.18		
	2020 Totals	\$3,976,134.04	\$0.00	\$1,365,000.00	\$2,611,134.04		
2021	January	\$325,447.84	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$110,447.84		
	February	\$314,822.56	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$99,822.56		
	March	\$427,825.57	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$212,825.57		
	April	\$320,330.15	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$105,330.15		
	May	\$322,464.58	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$107,464.58		
	June	\$407,300.56	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$192,300.56		
	July	\$419,446.00	\$0.00	\$215,000.00	\$204,446.00		
	August		\$0.00		\$0.00		
	September		\$0.00		\$0.00		
	October		\$0.00		\$0.00		
	November		\$0.00		\$0.00		
	December		\$0.00		\$0.00		
	2021 Totals	\$2,537,637.26	\$0.00	\$1,505,000.00	\$1,032,637.26		
	19-Month Payback for Bond Retirement		\$2,470,000.00		of \$5.8M borrowed		