

Minutes

March 2, 2023

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

Also Present: Alec Helms, Cindy Land, Auditor Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Nadine Weininger, Molly Dibble and Lou Wilin from the Courier.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's 1st floor conference room.

The Assistant Clerk read a Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the Commissioners signed it. The guests that were in attendance from Blanchard Valley Center introduced themselves and a photo was taken with the Commissioners. Nadine Weininger thanked the Commissioners for signing this proclamation and stated the Celebrity Basketball game will be on March 28th at Findlay High School. This year's half time show will be the Performance Dogs of Ohio.

Minutes from the February 28th, 2023 meeting was read with Michael Pepple making a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve the warrant journal. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0. The Commissioners approved the February Fund Report, two invoices from ACI Construction Co. and the February Explosive Gas Monitoring Report.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #138-23 – Additional appropriation - within the Auditor's certification - Commissioner's to appropriate to Job & Family Services #2015. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #139-23 – Transfer of funds from the General Fund 1001 to the Severance Fund 2136. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Resolution #140-23 – Resolution to reappoint Bruce Showalter to Facilities Governing Board. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Cindy Land presented the following resolution:

Resolution #141-23 – Resolution establishing the Hancock County Access Management Advisory Committee for review of the proposed amendments to the current Hancock County Access Management Regulations. Cindy Land stated that pursuant to statute in order to make amendments to the Access Management Regulations there must be hearings and a committee created. The County Engineer has provided his proposed amendments as asked. Now we have to create the committee to review the proposed amendments. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Auditor Rauschenberg stated that January and February showed a decrease in sales tax. The February spreadsheet will be coming to the Commissioners soon. The March estimate looks large. Charity has reached out to the Department of Taxation to ask some questions. She is waiting to receive some more detailed information to see if this is correct and there are no errors in the estimated reporting.

Auditor Rauschenberg stated she met with Tim Stuart this morning where they discussed the fiber loop on County Road 140. He has some meetings today with companies about more information.

Charity asked what the current estimate for the new Judicial Center is. Commissioner Bechtol stated they are in the value engineering phase and looking to bring the number down. There is no guaranteed maximum yet but hoping to have that by the end of March. The current estimate is \$22,423,000 and expected to go down. Charity stated she is concerned about having time for financing with the expectation of a spring construction. With the larger amounts the financing might take longer. Cindy Land asked how long after receiving the guaranteed maximum cost do we have to enter into a contract? Commissioner Bechtol stated he does not know but he will look to find out. There was a discussion on what is going to come from the General Fund and what will be financed.

Cindy Land stated that yesterday her and Commissioner Bechtol met with Greg Wright about the HVAC project using ARPA funds. Greg told them that some of the parts and equipment are 40 weeks out from when they are ordered. He would like for the Commissioners to buy the equipment and then bid for a company to complete the installation. Cindy stated this would be an option but then the purchase of the equipment would not be eligible for use of ARPA funds. There was a discussion on what would be needed. Cindy and Tim stated Greg that is working on getting the estimate around for the purchase and will let us know.

There was a discussion on where we are with the radio tower project and the Litter Landing projects on County Road 140. Cindy Land stated that financing for the new Litter Landing building could be a good idea. Auditor Rauschenberg stated we should look into that at the same time we are financing for the Judicial Center. Cindy stated that we have been paying down the landfill debit quite a bit. If we don't have any debit, it will make it hard to continue to have county flow control. Financing this could be good for county flow control. Auditor Rauschenberg confirmed that could qualify as landfill debt.

Lou Wilin asked who provided the price estimate on the new Judicial Center. Commissioner Bechtol stated it was both ACI and RCM. They are working together. Lou asked if the State of the County will be available after it is presented tomorrow at the GOP? Commissioner Bechtol stated it will be placed on the Commissioner Website soon. Lou also requested a copy of resolution #141-23 be sent to him once it is processed. The assistant clerk acknowledged.

Meetings/Reports

Michael Pepple attended the Downtown Findlay Improvement District meeting and the Township Trustees meeting last night. This morning he attended the Blanchard Valley Health System board meeting.

Timothy Bechtol also attended the Township Trustees meeting. Yesterday he met with Greg Wright from Dynamic about the HVAC system.

William Bateson was absent

At 11:30 a.m., the Commissioners attended a joint county meeting with Commissioners from Allen, Auglaize, Hardin and Putnam counties via video chat. Also present was Alec Helms. Members of Allen County Soil and Water stated they have gone out and taken a look at the logjams between East North Street, Lima and the Lima Waste Water Treatment Plant. They cost would be \$17,165.00 to remove those. Putnam County has also contacted Allen County Soil & Water and their logjams will cost \$9,935.00. They have contacted Tawa Tree Service and would like to enter into a contract with a not to exceed of \$49,999.99. Allen County would like to use the remaining \$22,899.99 for logjams on the west end of the county. There is a balance in the account \$125,248.63. There was a discussion on what information the board would like to see in the future when presenting a request. There was an explanation on what the categories of the logjams are and how many were found in the discussed area of Lima. Hardin County stated they would like to have the obstructions looked at on the eastern side of Allen County where the water exits Hardin County. They have cleared their water ways but the water is backing up because of the obstructions in this area. Allen County stated that they will take a look at this and assess. Kelly Signhaus from Allen County stated this is a yearly contract that is entered into for taking care of these logjams throughout the year. There was a discussion on how the process of removing the logjams goes and how the company will make sure the trees do not just continue downstream to create a logjam further down. The cash balance on the maintenance fund is currently \$199,704.84. Steve Ewing made a motion to approve entering into the contract with Tawa Tree Service. Vince Schroeder seconded. Motion passed 9-1.

At 1:30 p.m., the Commissioners met with Lauren Sandhu. Also present was Alec Helms, Kyle Parker and Eric Barnes. Commissioner Bechtol stated he has spoken with the farmer that leases the land on County Road 140. He has suggested that the wetlands project spoils (dirt) be spread further to the south and nothing right along County Road 140. Kyle provided a map showing the proposed project coming on County Road 140. Lauren stated there would be about 2 acres of spoils spread at a 1 ½ inches depth. Once they Commissioners approve the project a new floodplain permit will be submitted. They are hoping to start the project this May. Kyle stated the only thing the Engineer's office is waiting for is the H & H study. There was a discussion on the possibility of using some of the soil for the new Little Landing project and the possibility of road damage from the heavy equipment going across the street to disburse the spoils. Eric and Kyle expressed the possibility of mounding the soil instead of spreading it out flat to reduce the over footprint for the farmer. Lauren stated that would be no problem for them. Lauren stated the Commissioners will need to sign the new Floodplain Application. The Commissioners agreed to sign the application once it all ready. Lauren stated she will have the area where the spoils will be placed flagged. Commissioner Bechtol stated to let us know when the flags are placed so we can contact the farmer.

Respectfully submitted,

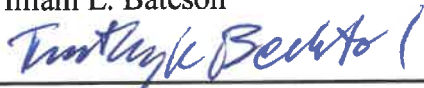


Alec Helms, Assistant Clerk

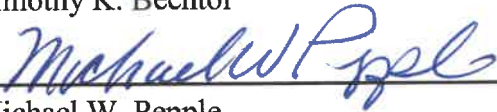
Reviewed and approved by:



William L. Bateson



Timothy K. Bechtol



Michael W. Pepple