

## Minutes

March 29, 2022

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

Also Present: Lynn Taylor, Cindy Land, Steve Wilson, Adam Witteman and Lou Wilin.

Commissioner Pepple opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the March 24, 2022, meeting was read with Timothy Bechtol making the motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #213-22 – Authorizing the payment of the listed and/or attached Purchase Orders. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #214-22 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Special Improvement. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #215-22 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Special Improvement. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to approve, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Timothy Bechtol made the motion and William Bateson seconded for Michael Pepple to sign the CCAO 2023 Group Retrospective Rating Program Enrollment form. Motion passed 3-0. Timothy Bechtol made the motion and William Bateson seconded to approve the Warrant Journal. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #216-22 – Authorizing a CHIP Partnership Agreement between Hancock County and The City of Findlay for the PY2022 CHIP Grant. William Bateson made the motion to approve, Michael Pepple seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #217-22 – A resolution authorizing the solicitation of statements of qualifications from a consultant to assist with designing and serving employee benefit plans. Cindy stated that she has prepared 2 different resolutions to present to the Commissioners on the topic of employee benefit plans. Cindy stated that as a result of the decision to leave the MEBC, we are looking for a new group to provide health insurance options for our employees. Hiring a consultant who would go out and look for a perfect match for our services would be beneficial and efficient. Cindy stated that there are 3 ways to go, one of which doesn't require a resolution. Option 1, is that under ORC 307.86 (code section that states anything over \$50,000 would have to go out for competitive bid). However, there are exceptions to this. Meaning, items can be contracted and not bid. Some of those exceptions are Accountants, Architects, and Consultants. If hiring a consultant for something that has a clear definition of what they are to do, a RFQ may not have to be obtained, if a consultant is already agreed upon. Cindy stated that in this case there are a number of places that could provide the requested information. A Legal Notice would be published requesting places to provide services to assist with the design and servicing of an employee benefits plan. Those interested would come in and present their proposals. Option 2 is a Request for Proposals. We would get proposals from those providers that could provide these consulting services and what they would cost. The RFQ's do not provide a cost upon their submission. Negotiating begins with the firms that we agree upon after ranking. The RFP process is more like a bid and the lowest one is selected. Tim Bechtol inquired if the services that are requested will be included in the new group. Cindy stated that this consultant would act as a liaison between Hancock County and what pool we select. Currently, within the MEBC, there are about 600 covered people on the pool. Gallagher is the advisor we have now

and they deal with our questions. For example, if we go to a pool with over 65,000 members, our service could be affected. Hiring this consultant would act as an HR service for the County. And Gallagher could be interested in providing this service as they currently do. Currently, we don't contract with Gallagher, the MEBC chose Gallagher. The proposed consultant would work to maintain a relationship for our employees and keep our programs current. Tim stated that multiple consultants could work within the same pool. Cindy concurred and said that the pool could have their own consultants. Tim stated that we may be paying two consultant fees if the pool also has a consultant. Cindy said she isn't sure, but currently, we have the Auditor's Office asking the Commissioners Office to take more of a roll in the insurance benefits and our current staff of 3 in the office is becoming difficult. Mike Pepple stated that this consultant would be our advocate. Cindy stated that she is leaning to an RFQ because it's important to get someone who can do the job we need. Timothy Bechtol made the motion to use the RFQ version, William Bateson seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Lynn Taylor requested an executive session in regards to personnel and compensation.

Adam Witteman had nothing to report.

Steve Wilson stated that he sent an email regarding the Landfill Trust Fund. This is done annually per the EPA. Cindy Land stated that she can do the resolution for Thursday.

Lou Wilin stated that he would like to talk to the Commissioners today regarding the Juvenile/Probate building. Tim stated that he will be available all day. Lou acknowledged.

Timothy Bechtol stated that he has been working with Matthew Sagone regarding the RFP's that have been received. The dates that Tim is proposing is as follows:

March 29, 2022	Notice is sent out to firms
April 4, 2022	Pre-proposal meetings are set with the 3 finalists 3 hr. window)
April 6, 2022	Deadline for RFP questions
April 20, 2022	Firms to submit final proposals to Board
April 21, 2022	Post proposal interviews

Cindy Land inquired if Judge Johnson will be present at these meetings and Tim indicated that he would like her to be there. She needs as much notice as possible. Cindy also inquired about the other judges and Tim said that he will reach out to them as well.

Bill Bateson had nothing to report.

Mike Pepple had nothing to report.

At 10:02 a.m., the Commissioners met with Leah Cole, Titus Allen, Jim Carpenter, Travis Knight and Stephanie Steffan. Adam Witteman, Cindy Land and Lynn Taylor were also present. Mike Pepple stated his appreciation for CASA coming in to answer more questions regarding their request for more funding. Cindy Land stated that a counter proposal was made to the initial request. Leah stated that the counter proposal was to cover \$400.00 per case and CASA would like \$700.00 per case. Travis Knight stated that this was a long time coming. Leah stated that an increase hasn't happened in 11 years. Leah stated that since she has been in CASA, they have done a good job supplementing expenses through grants and fundraising. Because of situations beyond their control, they can't offer additional funding to cover the costs. Furthermore, because of this their doors will close if they don't find money elsewhere. If their doors close, this becomes the Commissioners expense because this is mandated. Leah is hoping these funds come through until next year if more grants can come in cover expenses. Leah mentioned that they have applied for recovery funds. Cindy inquired as to how much they have requested and Leah stated that they have request for \$100,000. VOCA and United Way funding has been about \$100,000. Mike stated that numerous requests have been made from non-profits and it looks like a lot of requests will be lowered to around a \$30,000 range. This discussion will be at a meeting on Wednesday. Leah stated that when

money runs out, she will have to lay people off. Her request for funding from the recover funds and the Commissioners contract will be cheaper. Mike stated that in 2021 not all funding was used. Leah stated that the current contract allows to bill upon a new case. Most cases average 2-5 years. After the first year, the case numbers are still high. Even after the first year, CASA has expenses. She can only bill when the case opens up. Hence one of the reasons she requested a change to cover expenses. She averaged a case for two years to come up with \$700.00. Tim inquired as to how long some cases can extend. Leah said 10 years. The average is 2-5 years. Tim asked for the amount of expenses in the first year and Leah said that it's a lot. They have monthly requirements such as court for example. Bill Bateson inquired about a true cost of each case. She does not have one. Staff time and mileage expenses are available. Mike stated that the current contract has been in place for years with no issue. What has happened to create this cash crisis? Leah stated that grants have not come in nor has fundraising been received. VOCA grants are in 2-year cycles and across the State of Ohio cut their agencies. A 29% cut this year from the State. Leah stated that the primary fundraiser is the Balloon Fest. The volunteers have been down due to no one wanting to come into homes. Mike inquired that if the funding amount requested is granted, will there be enough people to provide the service? Leah stated that if she got both funding requests, she would bring back one person she had to lay off. And that would help. Leah stated that Rule 48 sets the requirements that CASA sees the child every month. They also have the volunteers supervise children visits and they need time to train new volunteers. Travis Knight stated that the cases are more complex now and some volunteers can't see these types of cases. Mike inquired about the duties of Job and Family Services with these types of children. Leah stated that JFS does the investigation with law enforcement. Once the law says they need guardian ad litem, CASA gets involved. Stephanie said that it takes time and money to train volunteers. Tim inquired as to how many cases have been received in 2022. Leah responded that they have 204 kids and 28 are new and billable cases in 2022. 9 cases are waiting to be assigned. 204 cases her staff is currently handling. Tim inquired of the factors that come in to play if a case is refused by CASA. Leah stated that they would have to be referred to attorneys. Leah stated that CASA only handles abused and neglected cases as mandated by law. Travis stated that they see \$700.00 as a bargain. An attorney is going to charge more than \$700.00. Leah stated that it would be an hourly rate. Titus Allen stated that at \$350.00, they can't keep the doors open. They are not trying to make money. Jim Carpenter says to stop looking at history and that the funds are not there. Things have to change to keep them in business. Fundraising is not the option because people aren't giving money to charities. This is a long-term issue. Stephanie said that in 2 weeks they will have to shut their doors. Mike thanked them for their time and will take this under advisement.

At 10:41 a.m., Michael Pepple made the motion to enter into executive session in regards to personnel and compensation. William Bateson seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Michael Pepple, yes; William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes. At 10:58 a.m., Michael Pepple made the motion to come out of executive session after discussing personnel and compensation with no action taken. Motion passed 3-0.

  
Lynn Taylor, Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:

  
Michael W. Pepple

  
William L. Bateson

  
Timothy K. Bechtol