

## Minutes

November 30, 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 and Lou Wilin.

Commissioner Bateson opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the November 28, 2023, meetings were read with Michael Pepple making a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Michael Pepple made the motion to approve the Warrant Journal, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The Commissioners approved payroll for Job & Family Services, payroll for their staff and a travel request for the Sheriff's office. In addition, they signed the Hancock County Landfill Explosive Gas Monitoring report dated November 29, 2023.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #882-23 – Authorizing the payment of the listed and/or attached Purchase Orders. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #883-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - General Fund - Commissioners General Office #1001. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #884-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison Fund #2231 - Common Pleas Court. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #885-23 – Additional appropriation-within the Auditor's certification - Commissioners to appropriate to Real Estate #2037. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #886-23 – Advance of funds from the General Fund #1001 to the Brownfield Coalition Grant #2195. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #887-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - ADAMHS Fund #2013. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #888-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - General Fund #1001 - Probate & Juvenile Court. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #889-23 – Transfer of funds from Probate & Juvenile Court - General Office #1001 to Guardianship Services Board Fund #8250. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #890-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - Hancock Veterans General Fund #1001. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #891-23 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - General Fund - Coroner #1001. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #892-23 – Additional appropriation - within the Auditor's certification - Commissioners to appropriate to Litter Landing Severance Fund #5069. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution #893-23 – Authorization of a fifth amendment to the lease agreement with JDP Ventures, LLC. d/b/a Kirk Development for the lease of Hancock County Veterans Service Commission Office Space. Cindy stated this is a two-year lease with an option to renew for an additional two years. The total contract price for leasing for one year is \$69,909.00, which is \$5,825.75 per month. This does not include any additional office space. This is the first increase since 2013. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution #894-23 – Rescinding the actions authorized within Resolution Number 795-22 from November 17, 2022, which authorized the purchase of a Caterpillar Model 938 M Loader for use at the Hancock County Landfill. Phil explained this is the first step in the process of acquiring a new loader for the landfill. A year ago, the board approved a purchase of a new loader for the landfill. Since then, we have been informed that the company is no longer making the model that was ordered. In addition, the old loader that was going to be traded in is now going to be used for snow removal. According to landfill staff, the new loader being purchased has features and abilities that the original loader did not have. Steve Wilson stated it was at the end of the model year when the last one was ordered. We are now getting a newer model for \$200 less than the one that was previously contracted for. Charity inquired if action was being taken to end the contract. Phil will request written documentation from the company that the previously contracted model is no longer available. A letter will be sent to the company canceling the contract. Michael Pepple made a motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Auditor Charity Rauschenberg had no additional comments.

Steve Wilson had no additional comments.

Lou Wilin commented on the cost of the Veterans Service Office rent. Commissioner Bechtol stated it is the Commissioners' desire to get them into county owned property.

### **Meetings/Reports**

Michael Pepple attended the CCAO webinar Navigating the Implementation of Issue 2. Cindy stated she did prepare resolutions to provide to the townships which will allow them to ban processing or growing marijuana.

Timothy Bechtol attended the Marathon Center for Performing Arts Christmas Open House. He stated that he spoke to the staff and management regarding county employees using their parking lot. He was pleased to hear that they have had no issues and that we have been good users of their parking spaces. In addition, Commissioner Bechtol stated the new Judicial Center construction is going splendidly.

William Bateson had nothing to report.

At 10:30 am, the Commissioners met with Don Moses from the Landfill. Christine Carrigan and Steve Wilson were also present. Don announced that he will be officially retiring in one year. Don clarified the issues with the original loader purchase and the new loader purchase. Charity asked Don to get documentation from the company that states they can no longer fill the original order. Don stated the Division of Air is inspecting today and the EPA inspected Tuesday. There were no issues. The air permit is going to be amended. Charity inquired how the IT upgrades were going at the landfill. Don stated everything is working.

At 10:38 a.m., William Bateson made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to personnel hiring and compensation. Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes. At 10:49 a.m., William Bateson made a motion to come out of executive session, in regards to personnel hiring and compensation with no action taken. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:00 am, the Commissioners met with Ann Woolum, Lauren Sandhu, Tim Brugeman and Tamera Rooney. Christine Carrigan was also present. They are asking for the Commissioners support and recognition of the Homegrown Habitat Bringing Nature to Your Community event that will be held this spring. Ann shared with the Commissioners a list of the local non-profit agencies that are organizing and supporting the event. Lauren stated this event will feature renowned author, native plant specialist, and conservationist Doug Tallamy on April 27, 2024, at Winebrenner on the University of Findlay campus. They are expecting anywhere from 400 to 600 people to attend this event. Everyone that attends will be given a native plant to take home. The plants will be tracked so we can see the affect Doug Tallamy had on our community. This event will be the grand finale of a week full of community events supporting earth week.

At 1:15 p.m., the Commissioners met with state Representative John Cross. Christine Carrigan was also present. John Cross explained there is \$700 million in additional funds in the operating budget that has not been appropriated. There is a one-page application that is required for applying for this funding. He is inviting the Commissioners to submit projects for funding. John Cross stated he attended a meeting at Ohio Northern University with Jobs Ohio to discuss the problem of losing engineers to out-of-state jobs. Discussion took place on what can be done to keep graduates in Ohio. John Cross thanked the Commissioners for welcoming his family into the community. Jon Cross stated he would like to see the tax revenue generated from the passage of Issue 2 be invested back into law enforcement, particularly jails. Commissioner Bechtol concurred. With the passage of Issue 2 the House is taking their time to make sure they get the rules package right. In addition, the House is looking at legislation to try to curve the inflated property taxes. John Cross stated we are trying to become a state that has no income taxes. Discussion took place regarding what we have learned from other states that have already legalized marijuana. Commissioner Bechtol stated due to I-75 running through our county we are picking up a lot more people that are not residents of Hancock County. As we are considering any new jail construction we want to partner with the state of Ohio in that because of how much we are doing on behalf of the State


of Ohio. John Cross ended the meeting by talking about all the good things going on in Hancock County. He stated that Hancock County is a force to be reckoned with.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session in regards to potential real estate lease, pending litigation and potential litigation.


At 1:53 p.m., William Bateson made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to threatened litigation. Timothy Bechtol seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: William Bateson, yes; Timothy Bechtol, yes; Michael Pepple, yes. At 2:10 p.m., William Bateson made a motion to come out of executive session, in regards to threatened litigation with no action taken. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 2:15 pm, Commissioner Bechtol attended the Records Commission meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Christine Carrigan, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:

  
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William L. Bateson

  
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Timothy K. Bechtol

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael W. Pepple



**Media News Release DRAFT 11/14/2023**

For more information contact:  
Tim Brugeman at (419) 672-8897

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Homegrown Habitat Event Features Author Doug Tallamy University of Findlay Hosts Northwest Ohio Resource Fair April 27, 2024**

**FINDLAY, OHIO** — Homegrown Habitat, an event featuring renowned author, native plant specialist, and conservationist Doug Tallamy will take place on April 27, 2024, at Winebrenner on the University of Findlay campus, 950 N. Main St. Doors open at 9 a.m. Tallamy's presentation is at 10:00 a.m. Exhibits and plant sales will continue until approximately noon. This special event is celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day in Northwest Ohio. Pre-registration is required and there will be no ticket sales at the door. The cost to attend is \$25 per person and \$10 per student. Tickets are available online at [www.homegrownhabitat.org](http://www.homegrownhabitat.org).

**Doug Tallamy has significantly influenced the discourse on gardening in America** and has gained global recognition, as evidenced by his presence on the New York Times bestseller list. Through his groundbreaking research and publications, including "Nature's Best Hope," Tallamy passionately advocates for the use of native plants to support the food web and protect our environment. He illuminates the path to bringing nature back to our homes, one individual at a time. Currently, he serves as a professor at the University of Delaware Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology.

**The event will offer a resource fair** featuring book sales, book signings, native plant sales, and a captivating presentation by Doug Tallamy himself. Various local organizations will set up displays and exhibits, including the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, Hancock County Naturalists, Hancock Park District, University of Findlay, Owens Community College, West Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Wild Ones - Oak Openings Region, Rieck Center for Habitat Studies, Friends of the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library, and Hancock County Master Gardeners of the Ohio State University Extension Service. Attendees will be able to engage with local environmental groups and discover ways to volunteer.

**As a special incentive, participants will receive a free native plant** to grow at their own locations thanks to the generous support of a grant from Hancock Wood Electric Cooperative's "Operation Round Up" Community Trust Fund. The Hancock County Naturalists and Blanchard River Watershed Partnership are overseeing the distribution of the plants. Plantings by participants will be documented and mapped, contributing to the conservation efforts in Ohio.

## **Homegrown Habitat Event Features Author Doug Tallamy**

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**University of Findlay Hosts Northwest Ohio Resource Fair April 27, 2024**

Media News Release continued

**Leading up to the event, local libraries will host book discussions**, related programs on planting native species, creating rain and butterfly gardens, and offer Master Gardeners' assistance for planning "The Living Landscape," another of Tallamy's influential works on environmentally conscious gardening.

**Detailed event information and registration** will soon be available on the website [www.homegrownhabitat.org](http://www.homegrownhabitat.org) and by following Homegrown Habitat on Facebook and Instagram.

**The event is underwritten by the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation's** Madeleine Thomas Schneider Fund and the Findlay-Hancock County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information about "Homegrown Habitat" and Doug Tallamy's presentation, email inquiries to [event@homegrownhabitat.org](mailto:event@homegrownhabitat.org).

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DEPARTMENT/ADDRESS

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