

Minutes
October 24, 2019

Commissioners Present: Timothy Bechtol, Mark Gazarek and Brian Robertson.

Also Present: Lucinda Land, Phil Johnson, Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Steve Wilson, Mary Anne LaRoche and Jim Maurer.

Commissioner Bechtol opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the October 22, 2019 meeting were read with Brian Robertson making the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #722-19 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation- ADAMHS. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #723-19 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Housing Trust Fund. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #724-19 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation- MV & GT. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #725-19 – Transfer of funds from Ditch Construction to Ditch Bond Retirement Fund. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #726-19 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Ditch Construction. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #727-19 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification - Commissioners to appropriate to ADAMHS Substance Abuse Fund. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #728-19 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to County Victim Assistance VOCA Grant. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #729-19 – Additional appropriation within the Auditor's certification – Commissioners to appropriate to Indigent Defense Fund. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #730-19 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – Job and Family General Office. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #731-19 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation – Litter Landing. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #732-19 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Water Pollution Control. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #733-19 – Advance of funds from the General Fund to Water Pollution Control. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Commissioners were presented with the Estimate of Revenue. Timothy Bechtol inquired from Charity Rauschenberg whether or not she had any comments. Charity reported that on Tuesday, she received a phone call from the Ohio Department of Taxation. An overpayment of \$539,919.12 has been discovered from an audit dating back to 2014/2015. It has been determined that a tax paying company (the company name will remain confidential per the State) had a computer program Charity stated that the State is willing to offer a 1-12 month repayment plan, which would be \$44,993.26 a month beginning November 1, 2019. The State would automatically reduce the monthly income tax revenue by this amount in lieu of sending monthly invoices. Furthermore, Charity stated that during the time period of 2014/2015, part of the sales tax receipts were for the Flood Mitigation Project. Charity stated that \$134,979.78 would be the amount from the sales tax into flood mitigation. Timothy Bechtol stated he doesn't understand why the county is limited to a 12 month repayment period since the error occurred over a 24 month period. Brian Robertson stated he would like to receive documentation and Charity said she has an email copy that she could share with the repayment schedule proposed by the state. Mark Gazarek concurred and would think information this sensitive should have been supported by documentation and not over a phone call. Cindy Land stated that there have been other instances where this happens for a sales tax overpayment, however, this is a large dollar amount. Charity stated that if a repayment plan other than the 12 months is being proposed, she suggested the request come from the Prosecutor's Office. Cindy stated that this is administrative issue and the Commissioner's and the Auditor can negotiate. Tim stated that he will request a 24 month repayment term and Charity issued caution to Tim as right now, the state is not charging interest on the repayment and she would hate for that to change. Brian said the \$45,000 reduction in revenue means less appropriations next year. Mark suggested to take the \$134,979.78 (flood mitigation portion) be applied to the \$539,919.12 balance, therefore, making the monthly revenue reduction from the state less as the lump sum will then be reduced. Charity will provide some communication to the state and get some clarification as to which process is acceptable for audit standards. Charity stated that the drafts for the borrowing will be presented on October 31st and November 7th. Charity is proceeding with \$5.8 million in bonds and \$2 million in notes. Charity then asked Steve Wilson to discuss the Landfill. Steve stated that a compactor is not working properly and he will know shortly whether an additional \$750,000 will be needed for this piece of equipment. Additional construction at the Landfill is already being planned and funds are in place for those new improvements. Steve said that there is a chance an additional \$750,000 will need to be borrowed. Charity and the Board of Commissioners acknowledged. Charity also reported to Tim that his request for information on the sales tax generated from internet purchases is currently being researched. Brian Robertson made the motion for the Chairman's signature on the Certificate of Estimated Resources. Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Brian Robertson made the motion to approve the Warrant Journal. Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The Commissioners approved payroll for their office and JFS. The Commissioners also approved travel requests for the Treasurer's Office and the Auditor's Office.

Lucinda Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #734-19 – Resolution declaring intent to proceed with election on the question of a renewal tax in excess of the Ten – Mill limitation. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #735-19 – Authorizing a contract with Robin Kershner, d/b/a Kershner Excavating for the design and installation of a new home sewage treatment system as part of the Hancock County WPCLF Grant WPCLF Project #HS390032-003-2018-20. Cindy stated that this property is one that is a 100% financed and is located along State Route 224 in Findlay. Cindy also stated that she is not sure if the deadline of October 31st completion will be satisfied. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #736-19 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with the Hancock County Combined General Health District, D/B/A Hancock Public Health to enforce Ohio Revised Code Sections 3734.01 to 3734.13 and rules orders, and terms and conditions of permits, licenses, and variances adopted or issued under those sections for the Hancock County Solid Waste Management District. Cindy stated that this contract has been in place with the county as opposed to the state. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land stated that she had some questions regarding the Veterans Office lease as it pertains to the timing of the lease and Tim responded that he will get the information she needs.

Phil Johnson requested the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #737-19 – Authorizing expenditure of funds for replacement of two culverts over Dalzell Ditch along Bolton Street in Findlay, Ohio. Phil stated that the contract is with J. D. Snyder Excavating for \$39,665.70. Mark Gazarek inquired as to where the funds are coming from for this project, and Brian stated they are coming from the maintenance assessment. Brian Robertson made the motion to approve, Mark Gazarek seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson requested an executive session regarding potential real estate acquisition and potential litigation.

Meetings/Reports

Brian Robertson stated that he attended the Republican fall dinner and celebration.

Mark Gazarek stated that he had a 10:30 a.m. meeting to attend and he will provide his update on Tuesday.

Timothy Bechtol stated that he attended the CCAO energy meeting, the Chamber Advisory Board meeting and reviewed the progress at the library parking lot.

At 10:09 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential real estate acquisition and potential litigation. Brian Robertson seconded. A roll call vote resulted as follows: Timothy Bechtol; yes, Brian Robertson; yes. At 10:40 a.m., Timothy Bechtol made the motion to come out of executive session with no action taken, Brian Robertson seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

At 10:41 a.m. the Commissioners met with Leah Cole, Nigel Snelling, Travis Knight and Titus Allen from CASA. Jim Maurer and Lucinda Land were also in attendance. Leah began by stating that she is requesting a max of \$50,000.00 from the Commissioners for the 2020 budget. CASA is financially serving the county well via their reduced charges for services that would normally be charged at attorney's fees. Hancock County is mandated to offer these services per the ORC and it is possible that if money isn't given to CASA, the courts will have to pay the higher charges causing more of a financial burden to the county finances. Leah anticipates that at the end of 2019, there will be 400 children in the CASA system. Leah is seeing a decline in volunteers although the cases have increased. Leah said she doesn't have time to look for and train volunteers. Nigel Snelling stated that the cases are becoming more complex and that they are trying to be efficient when traveling to other areas in the state when working with the children. Nigel also said that the goal with the additional money would be to have an additional staff member recruit, look for additional funding sources (grants) and take some of the burden off the existing staff. Brian Robertson stated that he understands the passion of the services CASA provides, however, he requested in June 2019 a 2018/2019 financial comparison and has yet to receive it. Leah stated she will provide this information for him to review. Cindy Land inquired if they have reached out to United Way and Leah stated that they have, however, no results have been released. Leah stated that soon, she will have to turn away services to children because funds are low. Timothy Bechtol inquired as to when Leah thinks that will happen. Leah indicated that could happen now. Leah stated that in 2019, the Commissioners gave CASA \$19,400. She needs more money to hire staff and reminded the Commissioners that CASA is a bargain for the services they provide. Brian stated that there are many needs in the county and a recent meeting regarding the Juvenile building and a new jail have occurred. In addition, the state found an error in the sales tax receipts causing a \$45,000.00 reduction in revenue for the next 12 months. Brian would like to review the financial information from 2018/2019 and once the budget hearings are completed a decision will be rendered. Tim concurred and appreciated the services CASA provides.

Respectfully submitted,


Lynn Taylor, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:


Timothy K. Bechtol

Mark D. Gazarek


Brian J. Robertson