

Minutes for March 22, 2021

Commissioners Present: Crooks, Porter, Cameron

Staff Present: Susan Reese

RES 21-0295 Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Porter and the second of Commissioner Cameron.

Vote was Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Porter moved to approve the payment of bills, pending review.

Seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

Vote was Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Crooks reported that she has not heard back from Judge Vinsel.

- She emailed him this morning and asked if he could email or stop in

Commissioner Cameron reported that Sheriff Lutz is going to stop in this morning.

Commissioner Cameron said that Yvonne Saunders, Director of the Child Advocacy Program through the Prosecutor's Office, asked if she could take a tour of the Putnam Avenue building.

- Commissioner Cameron gave her Scott Lee's number

Commissioner Cameron shared that Steve Baldwin called her last night about Rambo regarding the hiring of Kristin Davis, Nurse Practitioner from MVHC.

- He reported that they don't have a doctor that she can practice under
- He wants the Commissioners to know Rambo is working on that
- Neither Board has approved Dr. Klein

There was discussion regarding an email string originating from Derek Norman of the New York Times, and Corrie Marple, Records Center, asking for information regarding COVID cases and deaths in the County jail.

- Mark's response was that in the future, if there are questions about how to respond to a records request, please forward the request to my attention, and I will assist you in responding to the requester.
- Corrie would like to talk with the Commissioners

Sheila from Starlight Programs has found two potential employees for the Records Center.

- Commissioner Porter will follow up with Corrie at Records

Commissioner Cameron reported that she will be out of the office Thursday.

Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager, texted the Clerk to see if he could stop in today.

Commissioner Cameron said that Stan called her Friday and told her he felt like she was left out of the loop regarding the Duncan Falls sewer situation.

- Commissioner Cameron told him she doesn't have to be in the loop and not to feel badly

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- She told Stan she didn't even know he was in the middle of this and he knows more about sewer than any of us, and if he could talk to them, that would be great
- Commissioner Porter had told him basically the same thing, he doesn't care what he does as long as he gets ahold of the folks and tells them what's going on
- Commissioner Crooks' understanding was that they were to call here and set up a meeting and when they didn't she assumed it was being taken care of in-house

Commissioner Crooks reported that she called Andy Roberts on Thursday about the old Mosaic. There is 20 acres and it is a Brownfield area.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 21-0296 authorize Mollie S. Crooks to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the Release of Mortgage form for the mortgage of David Wright and Margot Wright, in the original amount of \$21,000.00 for the Muskingum County Community Housing Improvement Program. This request was submitted by Sheila Samson, Program Director.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

Roll Call: Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 21-0297 accept recommendation of James Heavener Excavating for the lowest and best bidder for 2020 Home Septic Treatment System (HSTS) Grant as follows:

1115 Greenhouse Road, Zanesville	\$ 3,750.00
10115 Circle Dr, Nashport	\$13,429.00
Contract Amount	\$17,179.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

Roll Call: Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 21-0298 accept recommendation of James Heavener Excavating for the lowest and best bidder for 2020 Home Septic Treatment System (HSTS) Grant as follows:

3100 Breezewood Drive	\$16,900
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Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

Roll Call: Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 21-0299 accepts Official Amended Certificate Number Six (6) as submitted by Muskingum County Auditor, Debra J. Nye, on behalf of the Muskingum County Budget Commission dated March 16, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

Roll Call: Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager, and Sheriff Lutz came to see the Commissioners and there was conversation regarding a new jail location.

- Stan estimates 115 gallons per inmate per day
 - 60,000 gallons per day
 - Can we handle that...yes
 - Still empty sites in the Industrial Park

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- But we have huge capacity on the west end
- Commissioner Porter said if needed, we will make it happen
- Stan, Don Madden and Matt Abbott meeting tomorrow
 - Commissioner Porter asked Stan not to say we can't handle

Stan reported that he talked with Tim Stutz, head of the DunFalls Association.

- He told Stan that they can absolutely handle the flow and he wants to help the people with sewer, but he says that their lawyer is telling them, legally, they cannot allow anyone on the sewer
- Stan made contact with the lawyer and he has no idea why they can't let people on, he will get back with Stan
- DunFalls Association invited Stan to their meeting Thursday: 8:00 p.m. at the Duncan Falls Fire House.
 - Stan will attend if the Commissioners approve....all agreed
- Stan said that he has tried to call Scotty Staker six times with no answer and no return call
- Commissioner Porter will try to call Mr. Staker

Stan left the meeting and Sheriff Lutz stayed to talk with the Commissioners.

- Commissioner Crooks ask Sheriff about leasing versus purchasing of the cruisers
 - Sheriff said he is okay with purchasing; doesn't affect him one way or the other
 - It's just a large amount of funding the first year
 - He will check with Wendy Sowers, COC, for her opinion

There was further discussion with the Sheriff regarding security for the courts.

- There are currently three people hired specifically to do security
 - Two at Courthouse
 - One at County Court
 - The employee at the Hixson Building is an Auxiliary Officer
 - Wears plain clothes
 - Is paid by Domestic Court
 - Is an Auxiliary Deputy for the Sheriff
 - A certified Law Enforcement Peace Officer
 - Same training as deputies
 - Theoretically, if you want to hire someone and have them work security it would be the same as the officer at the Hixson Building, carrying a gun and working through the Sheriff
 - They work in a Sheriff Deputy uniform, if an auxiliary, but not if employed by the Commissioners
 - The uniform does have some deterrent
 - Close to \$70,000 new hire with PERS, Workers Comp and benefits
 - Vacation and sick-time results in overtime
 - Two in the Courthouse because of the volume in morning for Court
 - Discussion regarding Probation Officers or Paxton covering County Court either 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. and Cecil working 8:30-4:30
 - Sheriff will address with Paxton and Fleegle
 - Cannot have more than two off per shift

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- Commissioner Cameron's concern, also, is to have half a million dollars in six people sitting at a desk
 - Commissioner Porter agreed he'd rather see those deputies out in the community on the road fighting crime, rather than babysitting us
 - Sheriff Lutz thinks most would agree, but does believe the community feels relief when they see the deputies when they enter these County buildings

Sheriff Lutz received a return phone call from Scotty Staker. The Sheriff let him know that Stan has been and will continue to try to call him.

- All agreed that we should probably pursue a professional grant writer for this Jail Facility Grant
 - Sheriff will have people available to provide whatever information the grant writer would need
- Commissioner Cameron suggested Anthony Adornetto or Mike Bennett
- Sheriff Lutz will ask other counties who they use

Sheriff will post the position for the Hixson Building security

- He will also talk to Deputy Paxton

Sheriff gave a brief update on the Adoption Center

- Commissioner Crooks asked about volunteers transporting dogs
 - He believes one of the employees is arranging things she shouldn't be

Sheriff gave a heads up that Union negotiations will be starting soon.

Commissioner Porter asked if all would be agreeable to him contacting Anthony Adornetto to see if that would be something he would do.

- Commissioner Cameron said yes, we might as well contact Anthony and Mike Bennett
- Commissioner Porter said another point would be that Guernsey probably wouldn't want to travel to the west side of the County if regional facility

Pam Davis, Human Resources, came to talk with the Commissioners about Starlight Adult hires.

- How will they get paid
 - By the individual department
- Will there be a set number of hours
 - Ten hours, depending on the department's need
- Will there be a regular rate of pay
- Will the position be seasonal
 - Records Center will be project based
- Will we require pre-employment testing and background checks
- Pam will check with Sheila Hina at Starlight and Mark Eicher, Engineer, because he has a Starlight employee

The Records Commission Board will have to approve employment.

- Their next meeting is June, unless they call a special meeting to discuss this employment

Starlight has a candidate for Recycling.

- They will hold a meeting with him and his team and if he is interested will schedule a meeting with Mark at Recycling

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Commissioner Crooks said she could follow up with Judge Kalis to let her know that we are going to proceed.

- Commissioner Cameron said it's her opinion that she still doesn't think it's right that she (Judge Kalis) will be keeping the \$37,000 in her budget for security
- Commissioner Porter said he has no problem with getting it back through her budget
- Does Judge Kalis acknowledge that Wendy paid \$18,000 towards the security
- How does Wendy do that
 - It was through Resolution 20-1013 dated 11.09.2020
 - Is that the correct way

There was further discussion regarding the Public Records request from Derek Norman of the New York Times.

- Mark Zanghi says that Unified Command is not a public agency and is under no obligation to comply with the Ohio Sunshine Laws or the Open Meeting Laws
- Commissioner Cameron says she gives out that information all the time
- It would be Commissioner Porter's opinion that because all three Commissioners attend that meeting, it would be considered a public meeting
- Commission Crooks says, it's not our meeting
- Why couldn't the Unified Command Media Advisory be made available to Mr. Norman
 - It's sent to our local media

There was further discussion regarding Corrie's request to be under the supervision of the Commissioners.

- Corrie will have to go to the Records Commission with the request
 - Then the Records Commission Board will have to consider her request and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Crooks has still not heard from Judge Vinsel, so she will call him to say we're working on it

- Commissioner Cameron said if he still wants to pay, that would be great
- Commissioner Porter thinks the question would be, is he willing to pay for some of the security
 - That would be Commissioner Cameron's thought, as well, but we can't ask him that because he doesn't call or email back. Before we tell him that it's covered, couldn't a Probation Officer cover for one half hour a day. He's not incurring any additional cost, if he provides a Probation Officer for one half hour a day. His Probation Officers used to do that.
- Commissioner Porter suggested we ask him for a substantial amount from his Special Projects fund

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With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:48 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Porter and the second of Commissioner Crooks.


Mollie S. Crooks


James W. Porter


Cindy S. Cameron

This is a condensed version of today's session. For a more detailed account, feel free to request a DVD recording.