

Minutes for May 04, 2020

Commissioners Present: Porter, Cameron, Crooks
Staff Present: Susan Reese

RES 20-0395 Meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Crooks.
Vote was Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the payment of bills, pending review.
Seconded by Commissioner Crooks .
Vote was Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, aye. Motion carried.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 20-0396 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Numbers 005, 068, 073, 077 , for the Muskingum County Sheriff's office, as requested by Matthew Lutz, Sheriff.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
OPOTA Training	005-458-504111	\$25,000.00
DUI Inmate Housing	068-458-504326	\$30,000.00
DUI Education Misc Expenses	073-458-507001	\$ 2,700.00
Law Enforcement Trust – Equipment	077-458-503032	\$60,000.00
Law Enforcement Trust – Misc Expenses	077-458-507001	\$25,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Porter.
Roll Call: Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 20-0397 approve a financial grant for Ohio State University Extension in the amount of Two Hundred Sixteen Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars, (\$216,900.00) from the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners. \$216,900 will be paid from 001-581-504304.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.
Roll Call: Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron reported that Deputy Paxson and Scott Lee came in and said that Judge Cottrill and Judge Fleagle took the signs asking people to wear masks upon entering, off the doors. Jeff Jadwin had told Commissioner Porter. Commissioner Cameron said Corey Hamilton and Dr. Butterfield say we do have to wear masks. The Judges also told security and Probate that they do not have to wear the masks. There was continued discussion about the Commissioners' staff working in office full-time or from home if it's possible. Commissioner Cameron reported that she talked with Judge Cottrill and he said their issue was that the signs were on the doors. If the individual departments want to post those signs on their doors that's fine, but not on the Courthouse entrance doors. He is not requiring those in his courtroom to wear a mask. County Court, however, is requiring masks.
After some discussion, it was decided to wear masks if someone comes in to session.

Jason Schaumleffel, from Y-City News, came to sit in on session.

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Commissioner Cameron mentioned the article in the Times Recorder and said she did talk about the water and sewer projects, but that was not included in the article.

Commissioner Cameron reported that Rob Reiter called about an inquiry from the City. He wanted the Commissioners to know that he talked with them. They are paying way less than a lot of people.

Scott Lee was called to the session room.

Commissioner Porter reported that Mark Schneider took himself to the hospital after a plate fell on his leg.

Scott Lee, Facilities Superintendent, came to report to the Commissioners about the boiler at the jail that needs replaced. All agreed that it would be best to replace both boilers at this time.

There was brief discussion regarding the Unified Command meeting this morning regarding PPE.

Bob Snavelly, Palmer Energy, called to talk with the Board about the recent election and the defeat of the Electric Aggregate proposal. He reported that Falls, Muskingum and Wayne Township passed, but the County as a whole did not. Commissioner Porter suggested moving forward to concentrate on the Townships that want the aggregation and let word-of-mouth travel to the rest of the County. But, he suggested getting those township's opinions first. Commissioner Cameron said she would find out how the townships are meeting now and let Bob know.

Commissioner Crooks reported that she has arranged a ZOOM meeting at 1:30 today with Veterinarian, Dr. O'Quin, to talk about the Distemper case at the Dog Pound. Commissioner Cameron reminded the Board of the Strike Team meeting at 3:00 today at the Welcome Center.

The Commissioners adjourned for lunch to resume session at 1:30 p.m.

The Commissioners held a ZOOM meeting with Dr. O'Quin and Bryan Catlin, Dog Warden. Dr. O'Quin explained that a volunteer from the Pound had reached out to her for information in handling the Distemper case. Some points of information:

- *Confinement for dogs is difficult and emotionally damaging
- *Should conduct risk assessment: if have two doses of vaccine and healthy-are not at risk
- * Distemper is not contagious to other species
- *Fosters most welcome to homes with no other dogs or home with older, well vaccinated dogs
- * If dogs are well vaccinated, quarantine not necessary; adoptions, foster/rescues and shelter are open options

Dr. O'Quin asked why no adoptions right now. Commissioner Cameron answered by saying because of the "Stay at Home" order. It was agreed to talk with Unified Command Wednesday about re-opening the Pound.

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After the ZOOM meeting Commissioner Cameron reported that Bryan had called on Friday to ask about his people working. He thought he might still have one off and alternate weeks. Commissioner Cameron suggested to him that one go the Fairgrounds and one to the Pound. Bryan asked what she wanted them to go down there for...to supervise or to clean stalls? Yes, that is what they're getting paid for. Commissioner Porter reported that when they were called to deliver dog food to the Fairgrounds on Friday, they said they couldn't and sent a volunteer to do that for them. Commissioner Cameron asked Bryan if he realized that there are volunteers there taking care of the dogs that the Wardens are being paid to take care of.

Commissioner Porter said there should be no traveling between locations and if serving at the Fairgrounds, no calls/runs. He also still has concerns with volunteers going on calls with the Wardens.

Commissioner Porter did talk with Bud Chess, Assistant Prosecutor last week about the Sheriff being the Dog Warden. Bud asked about the current employees. Commissioner Porter said don't need them, lay them off.

Commissioner Crooks suggested because there are discussions about the Sheriff taking over the Dog Warden, shouldn't we tell the employees with a positive, unified message.

The Commissioners placed a call to Bryan regarding the work schedule. Bryan was told to place one Deputy at the Fairgrounds for the entire day, clean kennels and spend time with the dogs.

Bryan was asked why they had to ask a volunteer to deliver the dog food to the Fairgrounds Friday. Bryan wasn't aware and neither was Mason. Commissioner Cameron told him we have three full-time Wardens, not the volunteers responsibility to care for dogs. They are our dogs to take care of. Commissioner Porter said that some volunteers took time off to work with our dogs. Commissioner Crooks told him that they would talk with Unified Command about re-opening for adoptions. Bryan said it would be his recommendation for one Deputy to work the Fairgrounds in the morning, then go home change clothes and report to the Pound.

Commissioner Cameron asked what three Wardens would be doing at the Pound with three dogs. Commissioner Crooks asked if they are still responding to all calls...yes.

Bryan was asked for the number of call outs....Mason has had one today and Alisha had 4 on May 1.

Commissioner Cameron told him that it is not right for volunteers to be taking care of our dogs when there are three County employees to do that.

Bryan is to have one Warden at the Fairgrounds at all times.

The Commissioners agreed to submit a letter of support for SEAT. The Clerk will prepare.

Commissioner Crooks moved to approve the minutes of the Thursday, April 30, 2020 session with corrections. Commissioner Cameron seconded.

Vote was Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, approve up to 3:10 p.m., abstain on remainder.

The Clerk reported that she found two Public Records requests that had not been fulfilled. She is working on those.

Commissioner Cameron reported that Chris Hamill received an email from "Cindy Cameron" telling her okay to pay an invoice of \$6,700. The email was not from Cindy. Commissioner Cameron advised Dan of the email.

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Commissioner Porter asked if anyone had done any research with the Bass company that Stan Lucas brought to the Commissioners. Commissioner Porter talked with Rob Reiter and Matt Abbott. He believes Matt Abbott should be involved in this process very heavily as far as bringing jobs and facility like that to our area. He asked Rob Reiter if this was legit and Rob said yes, there is a lot of stuff that comes out of landfills. He said it's very nasty stuff. Stan did call Rob who told him it's nasty stuff with a bad smell. Commissioner Porter would hate to jump in too quickly without having those folks involved. Commissioner Cameron thought Stan was going to arrange a visit to a facility and call Rob Reiter. Matt Abbott Googled and it appears that one of the owners may not be reliable. Commissioner Porter is not opposed, but cautious about the material.

Commissioner Porter asked Matt Abbott about the JEDD money and seems to think it's a mistake. Matt will check in to it.

Jeff Jadwin, EMA Director, informed Commissioner Porter about a religious/gospel radio station that wants to put an antenna by the Dog Pound. They are 501.c3 and financially strapped. They are asking for a break to install the antenna. To discuss Thursday.

Commissioner Cameron reported that the Red Cross will be setting up a blood drive for the County.

Commissioner Porter asked that the following be word for word:

PORTER: Back to Thursday's session...from time to time I do have personal matters that I need to take care of and won't be here. And those matters, as far as I'm concerned, might not be any of your business. But, today is a good example, you've got to leave at three (to Cameron). So, we'll do no business, we're shutting down. And Susan, this is word for word, I hope. I think what you did Thursday was one of the biggest misuse of tax dollars I've ever seen come out of this office. I don't know if it's THE biggest, but it's right up there amongst the top. Not to even consider to let me have my opinion or a say in something like that, just floors me. I did call Frank Saturday morning and I asked him if he indeed asked for a raise or an increase in his fees. And he said, "no I did not". He made it perfectly clear, and I agree with him, that he's been put in the middle of this situation. I've never heard of a time where you would just blatantly give a guy more money when he didn't ask for it. And I'm going to argue about one of your statements that he didn't...there's more to it than he hasn't had a raise since 2011, of course that's when I became a Commissioner, and in fact he did reduce his rates sometime between there because the Commissioners in this office at that time asked him to do so, and he did. I didn't see that make that in there...in your minutes. And what really, really got me is when he said all this took place, you know when all this started?...about renegotiating his contract and whether we should bid it and all that? You know what all he had to do? ...Is take Pam Davis and Debbie Irwin for lunch.

CAMERON: You know, that's not what...

PORTER: Let me finish. That is despicable. And then he tells me Friday morning he gets a text...and again, Frank, I have the utmost respect for that guy. You are correct, he does us a good job. No doubt about it. I still think there's nothing wrong with bidding it out, I get it the Prosecutor said, no, we don't have to bid it out because of the \$50,000 limit. But you're getting real close now with the increase. So Frank proceeds to tell me he gets a text from Pam Davis and Debbie Irwin Friday morning, "can you take a call?". So he responds back, "yes". This is

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what I don't quite understand...why two of them have to be huddled around a phone somewhere and tell him, "we've got some really good news for you, we got you a renewal and we got you a raise". I just cannot imagine doing that. I'm done. All I ask is at least give me a chance to be here and I can voice my opinion. But, I'm pretty sure I was taken advantage of Thursday when I wasn't here. You used that opportunity at a very good time.

CROOKS: There has not been one time in my years here that Cindy or I have left a meeting, been late for a meeting, not shown up for a meeting without an explanation. You just got up and walked out. I understand if it's a personal issue but you could communicate with us so we don't know if you're pissed off when you leave, or you had a commitment and leave, but as a professional courtesy you could share that with us. And as far as the rest of it, it was not planned...

PORTER: I had an appointment that I could not break.

CROOKS: And you did not say one word about that, so we didn't know if you were mad or what.

PORTER: ...and I didn't stomp out either.

CROOKS: Eh... You're entitled to your opinion.

PORTER: Again, I don't come in here and tell all you my personal life. I don't think I'm required to.

CROOKS: I didn't say that. I said you could tell us if you're not...

PORTER: I had an appointment that I could not and would not cancel and leave.

CROOKS: That's all you had to say.

PORTER; The record...if you look at a lot of our minutes and records, when one of you and I think you both said, I would prefer we didn't discuss it unless I were here. I think you've both said that before. Now when we go on vacations or days off...just look at our minutes, we discuss nothing. I'm asking for the same treatment, that's all I'm asking for. Yes, is it my fault I had an appointment then, yep. But, I still can't fathom giving anybody an increase when they did.not.ask for it.

CROOKS: Are you done?

PORTER: I'm done.

Commissioner Crooks moved to adjourn. Commissioner Cameron, seconded.

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

CAMERON: Just to be clear, twice, haven't I...twice...

PORTER: Are we adjourned or on record?

CAMERON: I just want it to be clear that I have twice said I have a meeting at 3:00 today with Strike Command, right? I have said that, right?

CROOKS AND PORTER: *shake heads yes*

CAMERON: Okay, I just want to make sure that I had stated that I was going to a meeting.

PORTER: So why wouldn't I have known Thursday that we were going to discuss Frank's renewal?

CAMERON: I didn't know that we were going to discuss it.

CROOKS: I didn't know it.

CAMERON: (to Porter) I think...You know Saturday when you texted me ...

PORTER: So, wouldn't it have been appropriate to say to Pam, let's wait until Jim's back?

CAMERON: So on Saturday, when you texted me, every time you texted me, I answered you. Then at the end when you said I'm calling Frank, then I said what did Frank say...I've never not answered you, one time. I've never understood when I text you or follow up, you don't answer me. Which, that's ok, The minute you texted me, I answered you, didn't I? I gave you details,

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I told you that I called her over here, I called Pam over and what for. Not one time have I ever not answered you or responded. And I just wanted to make sure that I had said that I had a meeting today.

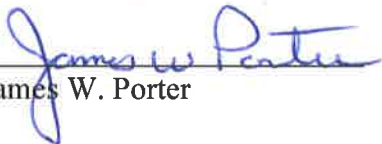
Another motion to adjourn by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Crooks at 2:59 p.m.



Cindy S. Cameron



Mollie S. Crooks



James W. Porter

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