

# Minutes for July 15, 2021

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Commissioners Present: Crooks, Porter, Cameron  
Staff Present: Beth Iden/ Susan Reese

**RES 21-0663** Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Porter.  
Vote was Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

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

Cody Pettit, The Ohio Treasurer's Office, came to observe the session.

- He mentioned an interest saving program on 1 year notes.
- Available to counties, cities, villages, any local form of government

Commissioner Cameron mentioned the emails from Highland Township residents

- Complaints about the behavior of the trustees at their meetings
- Roads not getting repaired

Commissioner Cameron said that Candy Emmert, Child Protective Services, would like to come in next Monday and talk about Avondale and the ARPA money.

Commissioner Porter asked if there would be an exit interview for Chad Bay

- Commissioner Cameron said they have always done them, nice to have
- Pam will be asked to contact Mr. Bay for an exit interview

Commissioner Cameron reported Dwayne Spires has called many times about a neighbor's property around Langan Ln.

- They collect refuse and burn it in their yard
- Health Department was informed and nothing was done

Discussion on advertising for the ARPA Administrator position.

- Looked over Fairfield County's Job and Wage Rate ad
- Ken Oswalt, Licking County Administrator, also helps their townships with applying for ARPA fund requests
- Would an attorney be preferred?
- Need to get moving on the process to advertise and hire an Administrator
- Commissioner Crooks said the qualifications should include government experience and knowledge, does not necessarily have to be an attorney, communicate and listen, ability to self-educate the ARPA guidelines, work with Commissioners providing our reasons and rationalization and making a case for the expenditures
- An attorney would have to provide a 309.09 form (providing legal advice to Commissioners)
- Ken Oswalt, known as Compliance Officer for Licking County, said he could come in Monday to discuss how Licking County is handling ARPA monies

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

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- Commissioner Porter asked if the Administrator gets laid off after 2024
- Commissioner Crooks said the contract period would end 2024

Jim Shaw, Attorney General's Office, stopped in to see the Commissioners

- Distributed a brochure on State highlights from 2020
- State offices have opened
- Main focus is law enforcement outreach
- Reached settlement with Frontier, internet provider
- Stolen gun portal implemented
  - The guns serial number can be reported to the Attorney General
  - Gun shop or pawn shop owners, private owners can inquire about serial number to see if it is reported stolen on the portal
  - Protects consumers and shop owners from purchasing stolen guns
  - Response has been overwhelmingly positive

OPOTA (Ohio Peace Office Training Academy) is offered to law enforcement officers for on line training.

- Interactive training
- All levels of law enforcement...city, county, villages
- No cost for the continuing education

Commissioner Porter said it should be done for judges that way

- Travel and lodging are the biggest expenses

Commissioner Crooks asked Jim Shaw about Human Trafficking

- How to proceed and get involved with helping the Human Trafficking Coalition
- Jim will touch base with Danielle to get her thoughts and connect them to the right person

Pam Davis, H.R., came in and presented a Department Hours and Gross Summary report for County employees.

Commissioner Crooks asked Pam about ARPA Administrator

- Hired as County employee.... would get benefits and unemployment
- Hired as a contract worker.... would not get benefits or unemployment
- Short term position should be in description

**RESOLUTION 21-0664** accepts Official Amended Certificate Number Seventeen (17) as submitted by Muskingum County Auditor, Debra J. Nye, on behalf of the Muskingum County Budget Commission dated July 01, 2021.

Motion moved by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

Roll call: Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, aye.

Motion carried.

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

**RESOLUTION 21-0665** approve the award of bid to Shelly Company, 80 Park Drive, Thornville, Ohio 43076, for project 2021-A4, Road Resurfacing, in the amount of \$57,348.50 for the Muskingum County Engineer.

Motion moved by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0666** approve the award of bid to Shelly & Sands Inc., 3570 South River Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43702, for projects 2021-A2 in the amount of \$568,631.60 & 2021-A3 in the amount of \$534,603.50 for the Muskingum County Engineer.

Motion moved by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0667** approve the payment of invoices incurred in 2020 with 2021 Funds payable to the following vendors for invoice(s) dated prior to encumbrances as requested by Vicki Vallee, Finance Manager Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Allwell Behavioral Health Serv.	Inv#3974	\$360.00

Motion moved by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0668** approve and authorize the payment of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for Annual County Membership Dues for the Muskingum County Family YMCA effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This membership will allow County employees a 25% discount on Annual Membership, as well as, waived Join Fee.

Motion moved by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0669** accept and sign MUS- TR209-2.74, PID 104046 Okey Rd, Bridge Replacement Contract for Muskingum County Engineer in the amount of \$738,838.00

Motion moved by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0670** authorize Mollie S. Crooks to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the engineering agreement with Vaughn, Coast, and Vaughn for the engineering of the Well Field Improvements (see attached)

Motion moved by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0671** accept the resignation of Chad Bay, Sewer Department effective July 23, 2021.

Motion moved by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

**RESOLUTION 21-0672** accepts Official Amended Certificate Number Eighteen (18) as submitted by Muskingum County Auditor, Debra J. Nye, on behalf of the Muskingum County Budget Commission dated July 09, 2021.

Motion moved by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

Roll call: Cameron, aye; Crooks, aye; Porter, aye.

Motion carried.

David Boyer, James McDonald from Center for Seniors came to session.

- Discussion on putting levy on ballot
- They suggested a renewal levy with no additional
- Continue rent abatement, Commissioner Porter agrees
- Commissioner Crooks asked if rent would be abated indefinitely.....no
- Commissioner Porter is for forgiving rent....building is paid for
- County can survive without rent money
- Commissioner Cameron asked if they feel revenue will start to increase and less meals will have to be delivered
- He said they are dealing with an aging population demographic and that requires greater enrollment. The cost of meals and reimbursement level will not change
- Commissioner Crooks is concerned with how the operation has been managed and use of their non- profit status
- James McDonald said he appreciates the incremental relief on rent
- He believes in leadership....appreciates different points of view
- Levy will be for renewal.....not tied in with rent abatement
- James McDonald said they need to create a more efficient system and recommended adding an additional employee to access the seniors
- Commissioner Porter asked if Christ Table delivers meals.....yes
- Commissioner Cameron said we should not be duplicating meals
- Not duplicated....different population and assessment of need for seniors
- David Boyer stated he loves his job and enjoys going to work everyday
- Ice cream social was very positive and had a good gathering
- Commissioner Crooks asked if they are seeing new faces coming into the Center.....yes

Erin from the Times Recorder said the City is putting planters on Linden Ave near the Lind Arena....in hopes of slowing the traffic down.

Commissioner Porter said there seems to be a disagreement between Ron Welch and Don Mason about Hoppy's....whether to tear down or not.

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

Susan Reese, Clerk, joined session.

Judge Fleagle came to meet with the Commissioners and the following was considered:

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

**RESOLUTION 21-0673** declare an Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Personnel Matters pertaining Muskingum County Common Pleas Court. This session ended about 2:41 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

Commissioner Crooks reported that Mayor Mason texted her to say that he met with Prosecutor Welch this morning regarding Hoppy's Bar on Putnam Avenue.

- Mayor Mason said he is backing off his request for keeping the building intact
  - He has realized that it puts the Commissioners in a bad spot
- The Court order will say to sell the property and split the revenue between the Prosecutor and the City
  - The Mayor is fine with that

Pam Davis, Human Resources and Don Madden, Projects Director came to talk with the Commissioners

Commissioner Porter let Don know that he talked with Cecil LeFever who said that if the County puts in water out his way, he has some property that would be available to them for storage.

- Don has asked Morgan to put together an engineering proposal for that area
- Don will talk with Cecil

Cecil also asked about additional parking spots for County employees.

**RESOLUTION 21-0674** declare an Executive Session at 2:49 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Pending Litigation and Personnel Matters pertaining Muskingum County Water Department. This session ended about 3:06 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0675** approve the employment of Zackhery Forker for the dual position of Assistant Projects Director and Water Treatment Plant Operator, contingent upon passage of the pre-employment assessments.

Beginning wage will be as follows:

Water Treatment Plant Operator: \$16.50 per hour; 40 hours per pay

Assistant Projects Director: \$26.50 per hour; 40 hours per pay

Eligible for a \$.50 per hour increase, per position, at the end of a successful 180 day probationary period.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

**RESOLUTION 21-0676** approve the posting of the position of Field Operator 1 for the Muskingum County Water Department. This request was submitted by Pam Davis, Human Resources.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

Don explained to the Commissioners that the bracing gave way on the trusses on the new Water Department building.

- The contractor (G&M Construction) has removed them and are resetting them

Don asked if the Commissioners would be agreeable to him purchasing a new flag pole

- All agreed

Don pointed out that the East Muskingum Water District was established in 1969 and began selling residents water in 1972.

- He would like to have some sort of 50 year celebration for the Water Department
  - Commissioner Crooks suggested he talk with Erin Couch from the Times Recorder about doing an article, as well

Pam let the Commissioners know that the last hire for Housekeeping has declined the offer due to being offered a permanent position at her current temp position.

The following was then considered:

**RESOLUTION 21-0677** approve the employment of Heidi Wetzel as Housekeeper for the Muskingum County Maintenance/Housekeeping, contingent upon passage of the pre-employment assessments.

Beginning wage will be \$11.00 per hour with the opportunity for an additional \$.50 per hour upon the completion of a successful 180 probationary period.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

Motion carried.

Pam reported that Teresa Tom from Rankin and Rankin will be delivering a CORSA dividend check for \$24,810.

**RESOLUTION 21-0678** declare an Executive Session at 3:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Medical Matter pertaining to that of a public employee of Muskingum County Records Center. This session ended about 3:37 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the emails from Highland Township, Maple Brook Road residents.

- It's Commissioner Cameron's thought in fairness, when that many people send a message, she wants to be able to say we called them (Trustees) again, we gave them \$20,000, but we can't make them use it on Maple Brook
  - But for them (Trustees) to treat people like that; the minute they (residents) walk in to the meeting, to be told your road is not getting chip and sealed, so don't ask
    - Commissioner Porter said to take care of that, they can be voted out of office
- A call was placed to Highland Township Trustee, Kelvin Funk
  - Left message
- A call was placed to Dan Downey
  - Left message

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

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- Kelvin Funk returned the Commissioners' call
  - Even though the residents of Maple Brook have agreed to pay half of the cost, the Township cannot afford to pay the rest
  - Township cannot afford to chip and seal all roads
    - It would be political suicide to only chip and seal some roads and not all
    - Commissioner Cameron asked, if you can't do something on all roads, then you don't do anything at all
      - If other residents would offer to pay half for their roads, then the Township would have to do the same for them then they wouldn't be able to keep anything else up
- Commissioner Crooks asked their annual road budget
  - \$150,000 – insurance and payroll comes out of that
  - They have 27 miles of road
    - The Engineer estimates \$20-\$24,000 to chip and seal Maple Brook
      - The residents have offered \$10,000
    - The chip and seal company "2020" has given a quote of \$38,000
- Kelvin said once they start chip and seal they have to do every year
- When asked about the Union Township side of Maple Brook, Kelvin said that Union Township has more money and they have kept their chip and seal up over the years
- Kelvin said they explained to the residents at the meeting the math behind their decision not to chip and seal
  - Doesn't know why they can't understand that the money runs out real fast
  - If they (residents) come up with the money, they would have no problem sealing the road
- Commissioner Crooks suggested that these residents pay taxes and there are certain things they expect
  - Kelvin said to look at what taxes go to....not to Highland Township
    - 80-90% go to the schools
    - They have stone to buy, equipment repairs; not cheap
- Commissioner Crooks asked if any of their 27 miles are paved
  - Some subdivisions, but they need repaved real bad, or chip and sealed
    - Maple Brook Road is 1.1 miles
- Commissioner Cameron asked if they have as many complaints about other roads in Highland Township
  - White Eyes
  - Windy Ridge
  - Stoney Point should complain
- Kelvin says that Maple Brook has 21 houses; too much traffic and they drive too fast on that road
- Commissioner Cameron asked what they (Commissioners) should tell the residents of Maple Brook
  - They'll be putting more grindings and trying to find a way to get some oil to help keep it together
  - Tell them to be patient, they're still working things out

## Minutes for July 15, 2021

- But chip and seal is probably not going to happen, unless they (residents) come up with a lot more money
  - How much money do they need to come up with?
    - All of it...\$38,000
      - Commissioner Porter doesn't think they'll get it done for the price
- Commissioner Porter printed out a pie chart showing how the tax money is distributed
  - County – 21.6%
  - Schools – 62.6%
  - JVS – 5.8%
  - Township – 10.36%

Commissioner Cameron will respond to the residents' emails regarding Maple Brook.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2021 session, with corrections. Commissioner Porter seconded.

Vote was Crooks, aye; Porter, aye, watch the tape; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the July 08, 2021 session.

Commissioner Porter seconded.

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

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 session, with changes. Commissioner Porter seconded.

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

Commissioner Porter asked the Clerk to find and provide him minutes containing discussions when Matt Perry and Paul Masterson, from Genesis, came in needing our help for their expansion.

- Commissioner Porter is going to personally write them a letter from himself
  - He's disappointed they are not even willing to meet
  - He got a no from Welch that Dr. Wegner is not interested, he (Commissioner Porter) didn't hear that
    - Commissioner Porter's correspondence was with Sharon Parker and she was trying to arrange a meeting
  - Commissioner Cameron had that question....if Matt Perry and Dr. Wegner feel that way, why don't they convey that to Sharon Parker
  - After the meeting with Prosecutor Welch on Monday, Commissioner Porter called Sharon and told her to forget the meeting
  - The Clerk will send an email notifying that there will not be a meeting



## Minutes for July 15, 2021

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With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:53 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Porter.



Mollie S. Crooks

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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.*