

Minutes for Monday, August 05, 2024

Commissioners Present: Cameron, Bell, Crooks

Staff Present: Susan Reese

Commissioner Cameron was attending another meeting outside of the office when session was called to order. She joined session at approximately 11:10 a.m.

RES 24-0715 Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Bell and the second of Commissioner Crooks.

Vote was Cameron, absent at the time of voting; Bell, aye, Crooks, aye. Motion carried.

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

Seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

Vote was Cameron, absent at the time of voting; Bell, aye; Crooks, aye. Motion carried.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 24-0716 authorize Ray Mennega, Floodplain Administrator, to attend the 2024 Ohio Statewide Floodplain Management Conference on August 21-22 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) in Columbus, Ohio for the purpose of continuing education and maintaining certification for floodplain management (CFM).

Estimated cost: Mileage: \$ 88.44

Meals: \$ 25.00

Hotel: \$346.00

Conference: \$325.00

TOTAL: \$784.44

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

Roll Call: Cameron, absent at the time of voting; Bell, aye; Crooks, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 24-0717 approve and authorize the execution of the jail contract between Licking County and Muskingum County for the period of August 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 as submitted by the Muskingum County Sheriff Matthew J. Lutz.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

Roll Call; Cameron, absent at the time of voting; Bell, aye; Crooks, aye. Motion carried.

The Clerk reported that Jason Sturgeon of ODOT returned a call to the Commissioners regarding the Muskingum Valley Garden Society's request to place hanging baskets on the Sixth Street Bridge. Jason said that when a bridge is on a State Route that runs through a municipality, the bridge is the responsibility of the City. The County has no say or control over that bridge. Any and all requests and permits must come from the City.

The Clerk distributed the July 2024 Financials from the County Auditor to the Commissioners for their review.

There was brief discussion regarding jail housing in respect to the resolution passed today for Licking County housing of Muskingum County prisoners. Discussion regarding City helping with County overflow, when the City has available beds.

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Eric Reed, County Administrator, came to update the Commissioners.

- Eric presented a DLZ Architectural Amendment #1 that Bricker Graydon prepared
- A call was placed to Lemmon Lawncare regarding 1525 Pershing
 - They have done some weedeating and will be spraying weeds today
- Jail
 - Site Survey additional information has been sent to DLZ Architectural
 - Eric asked about an irrigation system for the new jail
 - Sprinkler system?
 - Outdoor faucets with indoor valves?
 - Eric will research prices
- K-9 Adoption Center
 - Eric reported that the Sheriff called him about some ongoing issues at the Adoption Center
 - Drainage issues in the kennels
 - Health Department and plumber will be going to look at drainage issues
 - Ventilation issues, condensation falling from ceiling vents making floor wet
- Discuss regarding ARPA funds that remain from the Weber Force Main Bid
- South Entrance Restroom at the Fairgrounds
 - 60' x 20'
 - Site Survey work is complete
 - Project moving forward – Eric will request design fees

There was discussion regarding the revised resolution for United Sovereign Americans.

The Commissioners adjourned for lunch to resume session at 1:00 p.m.

Pam Davis, Human Resources and Mackenzie Hill, Benefits Specialist, came to present the TruData Rx Formulary Decisions for July 20, 2024 and the following was then considered:

RESOLUTON 24-0718 accept and sign July 30, 2024 TruData Rx Formulary Decisions as presented by Pam Davis, HR and Mackenzie Hill, Benefits Specialist, to be effective September 01, 2024.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Crooks moved to approve the minutes of the August 01, 2024 minutes.

Commissioner Bell seconded.

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

Commissioner Cameron reported on the Collective Impact Meeting she attended last Friday.

After some discussion the Commissioners considered the following:

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RESOLUTION 24-0719 BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of County Commissioners of Muskingum County, Ohio does hereby support the following:

WHEREAS, it is a recognized civil right in the United States for every citizen to have free and fair elections, “And the right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a citizen’s vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise.” (Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533 (1964)) and,

WHEREAS, it is the duty of our election officials to guarantee our elections are accurate and free from distortion or manipulation. “Congress seeks...to guard the election of members of Congress against any possible unfairness by compelling...everyone concerned in holding the election to a strict and scrupulous observance of every duty devolved upon him while so engaged...The evil intent consists in disobedience to the law.” (In Re Coy, 127 U.S. 731 (1888))

WHEREAS, our constitutional system of representative government works when the following four tenets of an election are upheld:

1. The Voter Rolls Must Be Accurate (National Voter Registration Act, 1993).
2. Votes Counted Must Be From Eligible Voters (US Constitution, Fourteenth Amendment, Section Two).
3. The Number of Votes Counted Must Equal the Number of Voters Who Voted
4. There Can Be No More Than One in 125,000 Ballots in Error by the Voting System (Help America Vote Act, 2002).

THEREFORE, we call upon our Representatives to provide relief to the people, and the assurance of domestic tranquility, by joining us in ensuring a valid 2024 General Election that upholds existing laws and equitable principles of law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Muskingum County Commissioners, Ohio, stand in support with the concerns and remedies presented here. We respectfully request the Ohio State Legislature, Federal Legislators, Law Enforcement, Federal and State Prosecutors, Judges, the Secretary of State and its Elections Division and County Boards of Elections to cooperate and to use your influence to fulfill these requests of the people.

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

After receiving a request from Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor, to re-appoint Jillian Von Gunten to the Muskingum County Law Library Resource Board, the Commissioners placed a call to Ms. Von Gunten. She agreed to continue to serve on the Board and the following was considered:

RESOLUTION 24-0720 re-appoint Jillian Von Gunten to the Muskingum County Law Library Resources Board with a term to commence January 1, 2024 and expire December 31, 2028.

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

There was also continued discussion regarding the ARPA monies freed-up from the Weber Lift Station bids. The following was then considered:

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RESOLUTION 24-0721 approve \$1,000,000 of ARPA funding to be awarded to the New Muskingum County Jail Project. This funding will be categorized in the “revenue loss” bucket of ARPA funding.


Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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


Motion carried.

There was continued discussion regarding the South Entrance Restroom at the Fairgrounds.

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:49 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Crooks and the second of Commissioner Bell.


Cindy S. Cameron


Melissa J. Bell


Mollie S. Crooks