

Minutes for September 12, 2022

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

RES 22-0896 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.

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

Commissioner Porter reported that James Teague returned the phone call from Thursday. Commissioner Porter was at the Morgan County fair and Mr. Teague met him there. Commissioner Porter called Jason Baughman, Chief Building Official, and told him of the conversation. Jason will call Mr. Teague.

Commissioner Crooks noted that Stephanie Spencer, Chief Administrator for the County Auditor, sent out a notice to all Department Heads and Elected Officials, that 2023 Budgets will be due October 7. The Clerk was asked to begin scheduling Budget Discussions beginning October 17.

The Commissioners reviewed a letter from Michael Gainer of Go Rail asking for a letter of support. The Commissioners would like to talk with Congressman Balderson before making a decision. Commissioner Cameron texted Congressman Balderson.

The Clerk reported that she received a call from the resident of Brick Road with concerns over the empty property. The Clerk told the resident that she would report back to the Commissioners.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 22-0897 authorize that Gary L. Reed, Muskingum County Water Department, be granted prior service credit 27.167 years to reflect his prior service to: City of Zanesville – 06.12.1995 – 08.12.2022 = 27.167 years
In addition, he is eligible to have his Accrued Sick Leave balance of 2085.36 hours transferred to Muskingum County.
Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.
Roll Call: Crooks, aye; Porter, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION 22-0898 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 065, for the Muskingum County Court, as requested by Crystal Brokaw, Clerk of Court.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Program Expenses	065-242-504024	\$1,885.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

RESOLUTION 22-0899 approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 069as requested by Tom Smith, MCJFS, as follows:

LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
069-692-501002-CSEA Salaries	069-692-504029-Purchase of Serv.	\$75,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

RESOLUTION 22-0900 authorize Mollie S. Crooks to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the Ohio Public Works Commission Disbursement request form and Certification as requested by Mark Eicher, County Engineer.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager, came to meet with the Commissioners to discuss a new pay scale structure for the Sewer Department.

Commissioner Porter asked Stan, "what the hell he did to Sonora Road?"

Stan said he tried to make it better. Commissioner Porter told him he didn't. Stan said he has been hearing complaints. Commissioner Porter said it was a nice smooth road, now the manhole covers are about 6" below the pavement. Stan asked if it is banging now. Commissioner Porter said the lid is not banging but the tires are thumping. Stan said that the resident had complained and said when trucks hit that it shook his house, so they went out and cut both of them down, which was an all day event to get that done. Stan said that Commissioner Porter is the first person he's actually heard complain, but the Highway Department called and said they weren't sure about that. Commissioner Porter said that you are just inviting water to lay in there the way it is now. Commissioner Porter told Stan that he disapproves of his work. Stan said he appreciated that. Commissioner Porter told him, he doesn't have to bounce across them every day. Stan said he suspects they'll be back out there because the Highway Department called and said they didn't like it too well. Commissioner Porter asked what about snagging a plow. Stan said it's just not an easy fix...people don't understand, they think we can just go out there and wave a magic wand and it'll be like carpet. Commissioner Porter said now they are just like two big potholes and now everyone is driving around them. Stan said they can go back and fix them, but if you can't do something about the truck traffic, it's going to be that way again.

Commissioner Porter said he'd rather listen to the rattle of the plate, than the chuck hole there.

Stan said they will go back, maybe Spring. Stan asked if there is anything they can do about the truck traffic. Commissioner Cameron said you know what they say about EastPointe...we should be thankful they are there and doing business and driving through our County. Stan said, but that's what SR93 is for, that shouldn't be coming through Sonora and out Norfield Road.

Commissioner Porter explained that was the actual detour when SR93 was closed.

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Pam Davis, Human Resources joined the meeting to discuss a new pay scale structure for the Sewer Department.

- All employees receive the Commissioners approved County-wide increase annually
- Employees are evaluated on their employment anniversary for promotion to the next level
- On the new proposal, each level has been increased by 3%
- Commissioner Porter noted that Field Operator 5 says “Annual increase based on budget and resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners”. Shouldn’t all levels say that?
 - Stan said that is his proposal, because once you hit five you get. From five there on, the only raise you get is if the Commissioners vote on it.
- Commissioner Porter asked if this can be done without increasing rates
 - Stan said that this wage increase does not do nearly the damage as the increase in gas, parts and materials
 - Commissioner Porter said, welcome to everybody else’s problem
- Commissioner Cameron asked how this compares to the Water Department
 - Pam said very similar
- Pam and Stan will continue to discuss the scale

There was discussion with Stan regarding assessing taxes for past due sewer bills.

- Stan explained that the taxes are being assessed to real estate taxes, but it is not his department’s responsibility to go after the people, that would be up to the Prosecutor’s Office
- It was suggested that someone, whether it’s someone from the Sewer Department or the Commissioners’ Office, call when the account is significantly past due before assessment
- The Commissioners will call the Prosecutor’s Office to ask who Stan should talk to

Stan reported that he had gone to Drennen’s to purchase a new truck and none were available. Drennen called Stan last week and said they have a new one available that someone had ordered, but no longer wants. Stan can purchase through State Purchasing. The Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Porter asked Stan if he could camera the sewer line at the Fairgrounds...the one that got severed when the water line was installed. Stan will check it out.

Commissioner Cameron reported that she will not be in session Thursday, October 20.

Commissioner Crooks reported that she will not be in session, Monday, November 7 and possibly November 3.

Pam Davis, Human Resources, came back in and presented the following for consideration:

RESOLUTION 22-0901 approve the employment of Austin Lee as Field Operator I for the Muskingum County Sewer Department, contingent upon passage of the pre-employment assessments. Starting wage will be \$16.50 per hour with the opportunity for an hourly increase of \$.50 upon the completion of a successful 180 day probationary period.

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Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

Motion carried.

Pam reported that she received a call from Jody at JFS regarding the \$.60 increase for JFS employees.

- Jody is asking if Danny is to receive that increase, as well.
 - Pam reports that Danny is still in his probationary period.
- Pam is not sure how JFS handled the increase with their employees that are still in their probationary period
- It was agreed to wait until Danny's probation period is up before considering increase
- Pam will check with Danny and Jody to see how they treated their probationary employees

Pam confirmed that the invoice from Kona Ice was correct....we did choose the \$5.00 king size for Employee Recognition.

The Commissioners left for a lunch meeting in Caldwell for SEO Joint Solid Waste at 11:17 a.m.

Commissioners Crooks and Cameron returned at 2:25 p.m. Commissioner Porter did not return.

Commissioner Cameron received a response from Congressman Balderson's office regarding Go Rail's request for a letter of support.

- Congressman Balderson did not sponsor the Freight Rail Shipping Fair Market Act and is definitely opposing it.
- The Clerk was asked to prepare the letter for signatures on Thursday

Prosecutor Welch returned the Commissioners' call. He was asked about certifying the water and sewer bills.

- Ron was asked how we go about collecting the funds other than through tax assessments
- Ron said he will sit down with Mark and Dennis to discuss

Jason Baughman, Chief Building Official, came to talk to the Board about a new vehicle.

- He has found a 2022 Ford EcoSport from Dutro for \$27,630
- To date they have made \$485,000 with expenses \$388,000...clearing \$97,000
- The following is now considered:

RESOLUTION 22-0902 authorize and approve the purchase of a 2022 Ford EcoSport from Dutro Ford in the amount of \$27,630.00 for the Muskingum County Building Department.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

Motion carried.

Don Madden, Projects Manager, returned the Commissioners' call.

- He was asked who is responsible to collect the past due water and sewer charges

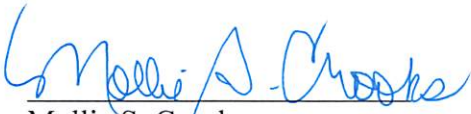
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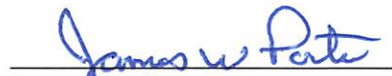
- He first explained that every customer who is listed on the assessment list has received bills and delinquency notices
- Water can be shut off when delinquent, but sewer cannot
- Don thinks that collecting would be between the Treasurer and the Prosecutor

Ron Welch called back.

- He said that Mark assumes that once the delinquencies are assessed to the tax bill, it is out of our hands

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:34 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron 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.