

Minutes for December 07, 2020

Commissioners Present: Porter, Cameron, Crooks

Staff Present: Susan Reese

RES 20-1133 Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Porter and the second of Commissioner Crooks.

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

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

Seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

Commissioner Porter moved to approve the payroll, pending review.

Seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

Commissioner Porter placed a call to Rob Reiter, Director, South East Ohio Joint Solid Waste.

- Commissioner Porter asked him if they could hold their December 21 meeting virtually
 - Rob will look in to that

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 20-1134 approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 014 as requested by Peggy Taylor, Office Manager, Muskingum County Water Department, as follows:

LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
014-373-504999 Contingency	014-373-504013 Engineering	\$15,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1135 accept and authorize payment to the County Commissioners Association of Ohio 2021 dues in the amount of \$9,271.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1136 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 042, for the Muskingum County Court of Common Pleas, as requested by Judge Mark C. Fleegle, Administrative Judge.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Employee Salaries	042-241-501002	\$1,516.30
Medicare	042-241-502001	\$ 94.31
PERS	042-241-502003	\$ 212.30
Insurance	042-241-502004	\$9,149.91

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

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RESOLUTION 20-1137 hereby accepts Official Amended Certificate Number Twenty-Eight (28) as submitted by Muskingum County Auditor, Debra J. Nye, on behalf of the Muskingum County Budget Commission dated November 24, 2020.

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1138 authorize Cindy S. Cameron to sign Change Order Number 2 for the Pembroke Force Main Railroad Crossing with Pipe Bridge project. This change order is for a time extension to December 31, 2020 and does not change the price of the contract.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1139 approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 001 as requested by Beth Iden, Deputy Clerk, Muskingum County Commissioners, as follows:

LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-102-504120 Advertising/Printing	001-102-503017 COVID-19	\$2,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1140 approve the fund to fund transfer of monies for the Muskingum County Engineer as requested by Mark Eicher, as follows:

FUND TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
009-368-99999	056-900-99999	\$40,480.79

These funds will be utilized for road and bridge OPWC loan payments.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1141 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 002, for the Muskingum County Dog Warden, as requested by Beth Iden, Deputy Clerk.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Veterinarian Expenses	002-502-504403	\$5,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Crooks, seconded by Commissioner Porter.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1142 rescind Resolution 20-1122 dated December 3, 2020 for the Muskingum County Sheriff's Office.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS SIGNED:

**American Electric Power; Zanesville
Jackson Twp; Canal Road
Replace existing pole
Begin April 1, 2020; one day completion**

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Commissioner Cameron reported that she dealt with the issue of Diesel, the dog, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

- Carolyn and Bryan will have to work out
- It is Bryan's opinion that it is better that the dog be with someone than in the Pound
- Carolyn said they are having another Probable Cause hearing
 - Commissioner Cameron asked why when the owner is still in rehab
- Commissioner Porter would agree better for dog to be adopted than being in that small kennel
- Commissioner Cameron asked why let him stay at pound in kennel when someone wants to adopt
- Commissioner Porter said that Diesel is our (County) dog

Commissioner Crooks reported that she talked with Brian Wagner at the Muskingum Community Foundation.

- She clarified with Brian that Mike Alfman has a fund for dog facilities such as the Dog Park, etc.
- Bryan Catlin and Alisha Myers are listed as contacts on the Dog Warden Fund
 - Heather Williams contacted the Community Foundation in September of 2019 to say that all communication regarding this fund should go through Bryan and Alisha
- Brian Wagner said his contact for getting the money from this account for the new facility would be the Dog Warden

Robert Smith, Court Director and Judge Eric Martin, Juvenile Court, met with the Commissioners virtually to discuss their 2021 Budget.

- From 2020 Budget, they will be returning \$60,000 from Detention and \$20,000 from Probation
 - The suggestion of adding an hour a day to his employees instead of hiring another employee, was not accepted by the employees
 - He would like to transfer the money (\$25,000) from Detention to Court to hire a person to replace the retiree
- To address the COVID situation, they have purchased laptops for some employees to work remotely
- Commissioner Porter asked about the possibility of increasing charge on Bed Rental Agreements with other counties
 - Bob believes that the other counties would go elsewhere
- The Commissioners agreed with Juvenile's requested changes to their 2021 Budget

The Commissioners met with Larry Daniels of Veteran's Services regarding their 2021 Budget.

- An increase in their advertising line item
 - Placing ads on Spectrum to make public aware of services they provide
- Larry was asked about keeping the wreaths on the Courthouse lawn in good shape
 - He will talk to Veterans' Council

A call was place to Bryan Catlin regarding Diesel.

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- Bryan says he has an appointment at 3:00 tomorrow to complete paperwork for Diesel's adoption
- Bryan said they have no record of bad history with the family that wants to adopt
- Bryan was asked if he could follow up with the Franklin County Humane Officer on Diesel progress
 - Bryan said Carolyn Hughes, Muskingum County Humane Officer, could do that

In reviewing the minutes from last session, Commissioner Porter thought they had already decided against the Fair Board funding, rather than discussing it more on Monday.

- Commissioner Cameron had asked if they knew they had received the \$10,000 grant money when they wrote the letter, but Commissioner Crooks had talked to John Graham and said they did know and they wanted an additional \$12,000
- Commissioner Cameron said she was not in favor of it, just the \$10,000
 - They haven't made a debt payment in many years
- Commissioner Cameron thinks what was to be addressed on Monday, was the Commissioners' response to the Fair Board
- Commissioner Porter received a response from John Graham saying, they could use the \$10,000 very much so and he (John) was told by someone else that there might be monies available
- Commissioner Porter thinks they can use the \$10,000 they already got
- Don't we want to have the response to them by their next meeting
- Will work on this afternoon

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

Ann Combs, Director; James McDonald and Megan Durst, Board Members for the Center for Seniors, to discuss their 2021 Budget.

- They presented their actual expenditures for the last several years and projections for the future
- They are losing money every year
 - The cost for each delivered meal is nearly \$7
 - They lose less than \$1 on the Passport meals
 - But on Title III they are losing more than half the cost of the meal
 - 501.c3 has been utilized to come in to recoup the cost of that meal
 - The 501.c3 has tried fundraising
 - They have applied for grants
 - May be able to purchase 2-3 vehicles this year due to CARES money
- If 501.c3 funds have to continually be used to supplement the shortfall of levy dollars, 501.c3 would run out of funds in 2024
- They are asking the Commissioners if they would consider a suspension of rent through the end of 2022
 - This would take them through a potential new levy beginning in 2023

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- James said this is not elimination of rent, just suspension until a new levy, potentially, would be passed by the community...it would just extend the payment out a couple of more years
- Not asking to do away with the rent, committed to paying it. Suspending it will make them financially whole.
- Commissioner Porter said the Commissioners could make the decision to forgive the rent
- Ann believes that because of the increase in Seniors using their services and the projected aging County population, they would be looking at a replacement levy with an increase of .5 mil
 - Commissioner Porter asked if they would consider placing the additional levy on the ballot now
 - James said that would be the most effective, immediate solution
 - How would that be received during COVID-time
 - Commissioner Crooks feels that trying a levy during COVID a challenge, while adding on to existing levy more palatable
- Commissioner Cameron asked how we can say that's how people feel and think and then on the other hand the County talk about giving raises, when there are people, literally, trying to hang on to a business and their employees. Have to look at whole picture
 - James agreed and said probably the wisest scenario would be if the Commissioners would be willing to suspend the rent for a couple of years and go with the 2023 levy
 - Ann pointed out that their Union controls their salary increases, but she hopes that 2.5% increase can carry to non-union employees, as well
 - Commissioner Crooks said that's the trade off...people working hard in different circumstances deserve compensation.

Commissioner Porter made a motion to forgive the Center for Seniors' rent for two years.

- Commissioner Cameron has said before, that she could see doing that, but thought maybe we would have more discussion. However, she doesn't know how they are going to pay their bills.
- Commissioner Porter's thought would be that if we can subsidize the County Engineer, we can subsidize the Seniors, as well

There was no second to Commissioner Porter's motion..

Troy McCollister and Tom Smith from Muskingum County Job and Family Services joined the Commissioners virtually, to discuss their 2021 Budget.

- Troy reported that 85% of his staff is working from home
 - Working well
- Asking for no funding on the Workforce Development side
- They have been carrying a couple of vacancies in the Human Services building
- State and Federal monies are looking good
- State eliminated DDU (Disability Determination Unit)
 - As a result, Mandated Share has dropped

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- Asking for the same local dollar match for CSEA as last year; \$600,000

Commissioner Cameron asked Erin from the Times Recorder if they could help get the word out about additional funding available for business owners with liquor license.

- Erin will talk to Pam, the Editor, about it

Commissioner Porter, moved to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2020 session with changes. Commissioner Crooks seconded.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Crooks moved to approve the minutes of the December 03, 2020 session with changes. Commissioner Porter seconded.

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

Motion carried.

The Commissioners discussed a letter from Todd Hixon, on behalf of Chris Hamill, Treasurer, requesting 5% of all collections of delinquent real property, personal property and manufactured and mobile home taxes and assessments be deposited in the Muskingum County Treasurer's DTAC Fund to be available for use by the Muskingum County Land Reutilization Corporation.

- Andy Roberts offered to come down to discuss with Commissioners
- Commissioner Crooks said at the last LandBank meeting, Andy suggested to provide a consistent revenue stream, ORC 321.261(B) provides for the Board of Commissioner to designate up to 5% of collections
 - It does not take away from what the Treasurer and Prosecutor receive
 - Commissioner Porter asked if this will this require a percentage increase
 - That was not Commissioner Crooks' understanding
 - Currently 5% is divided between the Treasurer and Prosecutor...this would allow another 5%
 - Commissioner Porter asked who would be getting the 5% less
 - Commissioner Crooks said she assumed it would be the County, because she's not sure gets the other 95% now
 - Commissioner Cameron asked if the tax dollars are split between the schools and library, someone has to be getting 5% less if this is implemented

The Clerk is to ask Andy Roberts to come to session to explain.

Rob Reiter called Commissioner Porter to let him know that he would be setting up the December 21 Solid Waste meeting to be held virtually.

Commissioner Cameron talked about Courthouse closings and/or restrictions.

- We know that it can't close completely
- She asked for information from Rachel (CCAO?) about how other counties are handling, but has not yet received
- Do we want to talk to the Judge or put on more restrictions for the Courthouse

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RESOLUTION 20-1143 declare an Executive Session at 2:58 a.m. for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Matter pertaining to that of a public employee of Muskingum County Commissioners. This session ended about 3:04 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Crooks.

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

Debra Nye, Auditor, came to talk to the Commissioners and present the November analytical report.

Commissioner Cameron asked her about a question for Ted Lemmon regarding rather large monetary donations to the Avondale Children’s Center.

- The donations were made to improve living conditions (Capital Improvements) for the Center
- Should there be a special fund for these types of donations
 - Where is the money being deposited
- Avondale is using CARES money to upgrade their restroom to touchless

Commissioner Cameron asked about equipment bought with CARES Act money

- Debra said it will have to tagged separately because it was purchased with Federal dollars

Commissioner Porter made Debra aware that Juvenile would like to have new line items and perhaps sub-expenditure line items as requested by Bob Smith.

- Debra will call Bob

Commissioner Cameron asked about the Health Department not being reimbursed for the \$50,000 they contributed to COVID

- Debra explained that should come from EMA, but that there always has to be “seed money” in that account

After some discussion, the following legislation was considered:

RESOLUTION 20-1144 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as follows.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Transfer Out	001-999-510002	\$800,000.00

FUND TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-999-510002 Transfer Out	012-000-414002 Stabilization	\$2,000,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

RESOLUTION 20-1145 authorize forgiveness of rent payments for the Muskingum County Center for Seniors for two years.

Forgiveness to begin with the January 2021 payment.

Motion made by Commissioner Porter, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Commissioner Crooks would have preferred to grant the Center for Seniors’ request to “suspend” their rent payments, rather than “forgive”, until they could see results of a levy.

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Commissioner Porter's comment was that we have just put \$2,000,000 in the Stabilization Fund. Commissioner Cameron added that we are spending \$700,000 on a dog pound.

In continuing discussion regarding the Fair Board request, Commissioner Porter said he is not in favor of giving them additional money.

- Commissioner Cameron feels that we just gave them \$10,000 and at this time cannot see giving them another \$12,000
- Commissioner Crooks wished they (Fair Board) had asked for the \$12,000 to begin with, but she would still agree to give them the additional \$12,000
 - Her point in bringing up the debt is that they (Fair Board) needs to know if they still owe it; there needs to be an end to it one way or the other
 - They still say they were told they don't have to pay it
 - Commissioner Porter asked our option in collecting the debt
 - Commissioner Cameron asked if they are not paying their debt wouldn't they have \$12,000 to spend on the restrooms
 - Commissioner Porter believes they (Fair Board) have \$75,000 in cash
 - Commissioner Crooks clarified that the only reason she would agree is because it's CARES Act money
 - Commissioner Cameron asked Commissioners Crooks, if she would give the Fair Board the extra dollars, would we consider giving the other businesses that applied for CARES Grant, extra funding, or the businesses that missed the deadline
 - Commissioner Crooks said she is just expressing her opinion
 - The Fair Board's current loan balance is \$524,696

It was decided that the Clerk would compose a letter to the Fair Board telling them their request was received and has been denied.

The Clerk asked the Board about the letters that are to go with the CARES Grant checks.

- The wording for the letter will be discussed Thursday in session
- Commissioner Crooks will talk to Kenzie regarding a mail merge

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:07 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Porter.

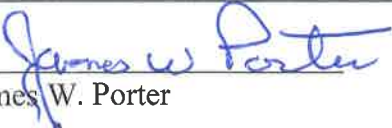


Cindy S. Cameron



Mollie S. Crooks

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James W. Porter

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