

The Board of County Commissioners, Highland County, Ohio, met this day in Regular Session with Terry Britton, David Daniels, and Brad Roades present.

Mr. Britton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All documents referenced in the minutes are filed in the Commissioners' office and are available for review upon request.

**NOTE** Alex Butler, Vickie Warnock, Jeremy Ratcliff, Janet Grothe, Julia Balabanowicz, Joseph Hussey, Doug Karnes, Caitlin Forsha, and Jacob Clary were present for the meeting.

**MOTION** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; Mr. Roades, yea.

**MOTION** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, to approve payment of Bill File No. 23-29. The total bill file amount paid was \$301,727.78. The total General Fund paid was \$16,717.33. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea, Mr. Roades, yea.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Res No. 23-106** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, Commissioners authorize an additional appropriation from unappropriated funds in the amount of \$55,578.00 to fund 2183 - Other Expense – 2023 Technology Grant. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

**Res No. 23-107** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, Commissioners authorize a transfer of funds from Children Services Special, 2115 to Public Assistance, 2050 in the amount of \$10,569.40 for April 2023 – June 2023 Children Services shared cost distribution. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

**Res No. 23-108** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, Commissioners authorize a transfer of funds from Child Support Enforcement, 2015 to Public Assistance, 2050 in the amount of \$21,187.26 for April 2023 – June 2023 Child Support Enforcement shared cost distribution. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

**Res No. 23-109** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, Commissioners request a budget modification within the 1000 County General fund, Advertising and Printing in the amount of \$5,000.00. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

**Res No. 23-110** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, Commissioners request a budget modification within the 1000 County General fund, Economic Development Rent, in the amount of \$1,200.00. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

**Res No. 23-111** Mr. Daniels moved, seconded by Mr. Roades, Board of Elections request to rename fund 2305 to August 2023 Special Election. Also requested is to create eleven (11) new line items with the appropriation of \$52,144.00. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

#### **CONTRACTS**

**#61** Commissioners, City of Hillsboro, ARPA funds in the amount of \$750,000.00

**#62** Commissioners, Tag Williams, Inc., WDC Group LLC – OSU Extension Building Agreement

**#63** Commissioners, Highland County Historical Society – Scott House: Second Floor West Room

**#64** Commissioners, Highland County Historical Society – Scott House: Second Floor East Room

**#65** Commissioners, Weller's Plumbing & Heating, Inc., WDC Group LLC – OSU Extension Building Agreement

**#66** Commissioners, CT Electric, WDC Group LLC – OSU Extension Building Agreement

**MOTION** Mr. Britton moved, seconded by Mr. Daniels to approve all of the above listed contracts. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

#### **AUTHORIZE TO EXECUTE**

Local Emergency Planning Committee – Membership appointment

Medical Mutual - Highland HSA Group Benefit Summary Report

Medical Mutual – Highland PPO Group Benefit Summary Report

MMOH Disclaimer and Notes

MMOH Legislative Updates

MMOH Renewal Form

2023 Economic Development Department General Partnership Agreement

Public Improvements Notice of Commencement – OSU Extension Building

Notice of Award – OSU Extension Building – Tag Williams, Inc.

Notice of Award – OSU Extension Building – Weller’s Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Notice of Award – OSU Extension Building – CT Electric

**MOTION** Mr. Britton, moved, seconded by Mr. Roades to authorize the president to execute the above listed documents. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Roades, yea.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Daniels announced that the prosecutor’s office has been talking about software upgrades and brought it to their attention during budget meetings. The Commissioners recommended they get base quotes and additions separately. They received an initial cost estimate of \$74,400.00 and an annual fee of \$10,100.00. Commissioners are still talking with Prosecutor Collins and waiting for some questions to be answered before they proceed.

Commissioner Britton announced that the Justice Center HVAC system has crashed. With the age of the software and computer which runs the system being older, it is possible that we will be replacing the whole system.

#### **MEETINGS/APPOINTMENTS**

9:00 a.m. – Doug Karnes – McCarty & Associates

Mr. Karnes said that drawings are complete, and they are checking the lowest bids out. He said that we should have an award within the next two weeks. He said that McCarty is checking references because of the previous dealings we have had with Alpha Demolition. He confirmed that Alpha Demolition has a different management than Alpha Construction.

9:00 a.m. – Janet Grothe – Innergex

Ms. Grothe came in to give an update on their projects in Highland County. She said that the projects are near completion as well as the RUMA. With her update, a check was presented to the Highland County EMA in the amount of \$88,000.00 for a new Lighting Unit.

9:15 a.m. – Jeremy Ratcliff – JFS Director

*Judge Kevin Greer, Alex Butler, Vickie Warnock, Jeremy Ratcliff, Janet Grothe, Julia Balabanowicz, Caitlin Forsha, and Jacob Clary*

Judge Kevin Greer came in to give statistics on childcare throughout the county as Commissioner Britton asked if he could give any input on what was going on. Judge Greer wanted to be clear that Judges in Ohio cannot endorse or oppose a levy publicly. The judge presented a few statistics. He said that caseloads drastically increased, up to 200 per year. He relayed a lot of these issues on the drug issues we deal with in Highland County.

JFS Director Jeremy Ratcliff came in to discuss the upcoming end date to the current tax levy of December 31, 2023. It was first approved in 2013 and renewed in 2018. In 2013 the

County had 253 kids in care. In 2018 we were up to 297, and currently are at 425. The cost of care has gone up yearly from \$1.4 million in 2013 to \$2.4 million in 2018, climbing to \$4.4 million in 2022 and currently set to be around \$3.9 million this year. Overall, this was a 400% increase in a ten-year period.

Commissioner Daniels asked how much of an increase this would be on the taxes of an individual.

Director Ratcliff claimed that this will be a \$6-7.00 increase and would go up to approximately \$27.00 per year in taxes. Commissioner Daniels asked what percentage went towards placement cost and how much the current levy brought in of revenue. Director Ratcliff said that 100% would go towards placement cost and that currently they get \$690,000.00 in which placement cost this year will be around \$3.9 million.

**RECESS: 9:40 a.m. / RECONVENE: 10:00 a.m.**

**MEETINGS/APPOINTMENTS**

10:00 a.m. - OVRDC – 2<sup>nd</sup> round caucus

*Phil Clyburn, Todd Wilkin, Julie Bolender, Justin Harsha, Kirby Ellison, Shaun Adkins, Julia Wise, Nicole Rodes, Chris Fauber, Alex Butler, Gina Collinsworth, Stephanie Gilbert, Kerri Richardson*

Commissioners met with the above listed group for the OVRDC 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Caucus Meeting.

**RECESS: 10:45 a.m. / RECONVENE: 10:47 a.m.**

**MEETINGS/APPOINTMENTS**

10:45 a.m. – Sycamore Circle bid opening

*Mary Remsing, Gary Silcott, Tracy Shouls, John Jackson, Dustin Reed*

**Reed Mechanical \$156,941.00**

**Jackson Brothers Construction \$184,180.00**

**Axis Civil Construction \$191,835.00**

**Engineer Bid \$175,200.00**

DLZ will be reviewing and recommending an award in the next couple of weeks.

**RECESS: 10:51a.m. / RECONVENE: 10:56a.m.**

*Continuation of OVRDC 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Caucus Meeting*

**RECESS: 11:30 a.m. / RECONVENE: 11:36 a.m.**

11:30 a.m. – County Court Budget Meeting

*Monica George, Nicole Oberrecht, Alex Butler*

**RECESS: 11:58 a.m. / RECONVENE: 1:25 p.m.**

1:00 p.m. – Municipal Court Budget Meeting

*Judge Randolph, Nicole Oberrecht, Alex Butler*

**RECESS: 1:56 p.m. / RECONVENE: 2:04 p.m.**

2:00 p.m. – Community Action Budget Meeting

*Nicole Oberrecht, Alex Butler, Julia Wise, Mark Current, Jim Matticks, Beth Allering*

**RECESS: 2:41 p.m. / RECONVENE: 2:50 p.m.**

3:00 p.m. – Work Session – Julie Wallingford

*Julie Wallingford, Nicole Oberrecht*

**RECESS: 3:28 p.m. / RECONVENE: 3:35 p.m.**

3:00 p.m. – Executive Session – ORC 121.22(G)(1) Compensation

**ROLL CALL: Mr. Britton, yea; Mr. Daniels, yea; and Mr. Rodes, yea.**

Entered: 3:35 p.m. / Exited: 4:15 p.m. No action taken

**CORRESPONDENCE**

CCAO – House Bill 33: State Budget Highlights for Counties – Tuesday, August 1, 2023 – webinar

2024 Recycle Ohio Grant – New Grant Submittal Timeline

Luncheon Flyer, Produce Perks Midwest

Sunday Creek Horizons – Save the Date

Jessie Powers – Invitation to Join ORCA as a Partner

**REPORTS**

*Juvenile Court – Cash Receipts 07/03/2023*

*Dog & Kennel – Dog Count 07/16/2023 – 07/22/2023*

*Dog & Kennel – Call Log Report 07/17/2023-07/23/2023*

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:15 p.m.**

*Christina Wilbur*  
Clerk



Board of County Commissioners  
Highland County, Ohio