

September 16, 2009

The Board of County Commissioners, Highland County, Ohio, met this day in Regular Session with Mr. Wilkin, Mr. Horst, and Mr. Heaton present. At 8:30 a.m. the minutes of the previous session were approved as written.

MOTION

Mr. Horst moved, seconded by Mr. Heaton, to approve payment of Bill File No. 09-36. The vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

The total amount paid was \$324,818.34. The amount paid from the General Fund only was \$58,790.09. A list of all bills paid is on file in the Commissioners' office.

Resolution No. 09-291

The Highland County Board of Commissioners, Highland County, Ohio, met in Regular Session on September 16, 2009, with the following members present:

Thomas Horst and Gary Heaton, Shane Wilkin.

Mr. Horst moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners, that the said Board authorize modification within the Prosecutor's budget:

From: 0050-A001-E03.006, Criminal Prosecutor Salary,

To: 0005-A001.A02.006, County Employees Salaries, amount of \$1,833.32

Mr. Heaton seconded the Resolution, and the roll called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea, Mr. Wilkin, yea.

Adopted September 16, 2009

Debbie Sansone
Deputy Clerk of Board

Shane Wilkin
Thomas Horst
Gary Heaton
Board of Commissioners
Highland County, Ohio

Resolution 09-292

The Board of County Commissioners of Highland County, Ohio met in Regular Session on September 16, 2009 with the following members present:

SHANE WILKIN, THOMAS HORST, GARY HEATON

Mr. Horst moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Highland County, Ohio, having received a Petition, filed by Larry D. Hayes, representing Minerva Seitz, to vacate

a portion of Mill Street, located between Lot Number 53 and Lot Number 48 in the Village of East Monroe, Highland County, Ohio.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the said Board agrees to set the time and date for a public viewing to be held at the site at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, and the hearing will be October 28, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. in the County Commissioners Office, County Administration Building at 119 Governor Foraker Place, Suite 211, Hillsboro, Ohio.

Mr. Heaton seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Horst; yea, Mr. Wilkin yea, Mr. Heaton; yea.

Adopted September 16, 2009

Debbie Sansone
Deputy Clerk of Board

Shane Wilkin
Thomas Horst
Gary Heaton
Board of Commissioners
Highland County, Ohio

DISCUSSION

Mr. Wilkin shared information from the Grow Ohio Enterprise Facilitation meeting he attended in Columbus, Ohio on September 9, 2009. All three commissioners attended the Probation Department Board Meeting on September 15, 2009. Mr. Horst was present for the Homeless Shelter Board meeting on September 15, and will attend the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) General Government Committee meeting on September 17.

LETTER

September 10, 2009

Highland County Commissioners
114 Governor Foraker Place
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

Dear Sirs:

The South Central Ohio Regional Juvenile Detention Center has recently signed rental agreements with Scioto County, Gallia County, Meigs County and Lawrence County. This was brought about by the closing of the Scioto County Juvenile Detention Center.

The revenue we receive from these rental agreements will help reduce each of the member county's costs. It is my estimation we will earn approximately \$43,000.00 in additional rental income for the remainder of this year (2009), and approximately \$196,000.00 from rental income for 2010.

It will be necessary to adjust the Center's 2010 preliminary operating budget to reflect the additional income. I would request that at the next meeting you re-consider the employee raises, which were taken out of the initial budget proposal. One more item to consider is to possibly designate a portion of the rental income to be deposited into the Center's capital improvement fund. This would help reduce the Center's cash flow problems experienced by the Ross County Auditor.

Our next meeting is usually held in December to approve the budget appropriation. I will send each of you an adjusted preliminary 2010 budget proposal after the Trustees October meeting.

Sincerely,



Michael Oyer Superintendent

MEETING

The Board of Commissioners met with the State Auditors to discuss the 2008 Audit. Present for the meeting were Tracey Moore, Theresa Harper, Julie Keegan, and Danica Bailey, State Auditors Office; Vicki Warnock, Highland County Treasurer; and Bill Fawley, Highland County Auditor. Before the meeting began, the Commissioners asked the State Auditors to clarify the purpose of the Fiscal Review Committee. They explained that the committee makes suggestion for ways to make the audit run more smoothly. The Board of Commissioners chooses the committee members. Ms. Moore also advised the Board that they notified Jacqueline Fenner, former County Treasurer, of the contents of the 2008 Audit as it pertained to the Treasurer's office.

At 10:07 a.m., Ms. Moore requested to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the 2008 Audit. Mr. Horst moved, seconded by Mr. Heaton, to leave Regular Session and enter into Executive Session. The vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

At 11:05, the Board returned to Regular Session.

LETTER

The Board of Commissioners signed a letter to Mature Services outlining a proposal for lease of additional space at the Training and Employment Center (TEC).

MEETING

All General Fund Department Heads met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the budget for the last quarter of 2009. Mr. Wilkin explained that the county's estimated revenue was approximately \$600,000 less than our estimated income for the last quarter. The Board asked for a twenty percent reduction of the remaining appropriation balance in each department. Mr. Heaton said that even though the budget was originally reduced by 1.5 million, it was not enough. Revenue from the Clerk of Courts, Recorder, Jail and the Courts is low. Mr. Fawley said the State reduced Local Government revenue to the counties by twenty percent and will reduce the funds further in 2010.

It was agreed that all departments were running under budget and it would be difficult to make additional reductions. Possible solutions for reducing budgets were offered: offices close one day each week, employees work a thirty-hour week, and employees take holidays off without pay. Mr. Heaton said the Board is trying to sell property to reduce the county's debt level.

The Board of Commissioners will provide a revised budget amount to each department by September 23, 2009.

MEETING

Judge Coss, Common Pleas Court, and Paulette Donley, Clerk of Courts, met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss alternative funding from the Clerk's escrow fund to provide the Clerk's office with more help. A volunteer from Chatfield College might help in the office two days each week. Judge Coss suggested that the Board encourage the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) to lobby the State to increase filing fees.

MOTION

Mr. Horst moved, seconded by Mr. Heaton, to allow the Clerk of Courts to pay court costs and juror fees from the Escrow Fund instead of the General Fund as permitted by law. The vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

MEETING

Dan Cowdrey, Economic Development Director, met with the Board of Commissioners to explain the grant from the Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community Development Foundation (SOACDF) to be used for economic development. John Hemmings, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OVRDC), is assisting Mr. Cowdrey by writing a policy to allow the use of office space as a cash match. The Board thanked Mr. Cowdrey for his efforts to obtain the grant.

Mr. Cowdrey also discussed the eviction of CF Airtronics from the airport and the airport budget. The Airport Authority pays as many expenses as they can from their separate fund but the airport will not have enough money to finish 2009.

MEETING

Jim Grandey, Prosecutor, and Sherri Beatty, Administrative Assistant to Mr. Grandey, met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the Prosecutor's budget. Mr. Grandey explained to the Board that he has only three employees working forty hours per week. He did not replace an assistant prosecutor when the position was vacated. The case load is up and one of his employees added work from another court, increasing her workload. Mr. Grandey said that he would do his very best to reduce his budget as required. He also recommended to the Board that they reassure all employees that regular hours and wages will be restored when the county's financial situation improves. The Board thanked Mr. Grandey and Ms. Beatty for meeting with them.

RECESS

The Board recessed at 3:40 p.m. and will stay in session until Thursday, September 17, 2009.

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 17, 2009.

MEETING

Ron Ward, Sheriff, and Randy Reffitt, Jail Administrator, met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss the Sheriff's budget for the remainder of 2009.

MEETING

Kate Cameron, Director, Highland County Board of Elections, and Debbie Craycraft, Deputy Director, met with the Board of Commissioners with concerns with the 2009 budgets. Ms. Cameron stated there will be extra expenses due to the elections. They will look at their budgets and cut where they can. The Board thanked Ms. Cameron and Ms. Craycraft for meeting with them.

LETTER

September 17, 2009

In regards to: Budget Cuts

Highland County Commissioners

Dear Highland County Commissioners:

Attached is a spreadsheet of Federal, State, and County budget cuts for Highland County Children Services. The total amount, including County cuts is \$312,508.27.

Of the \$150,000, which was our County appropriation, the agency received only 14%. This is an 86% budget cut. I have also attached ORC 51353.35 as I had only given you the OAC rules.

I understand the County is in a state of financial crisis, however, our abused and neglected children are our most vulnerable population and they are the ones that will suffer. If there is any funding you can provide Highland County Children Services for the remainder of the County fiscal year, please let me know. We are in desperate need of funds to keep operations running at the current level.

Respectfully,

Wendy J. Jacobs, Executive Director
Highland County Children Services

LETTER

September 17, 2009

Highland County Commissioners
Highland County Administration Bldg.
Hillsboro, OH 45133

Dear Sirs:

Highland County Children Services Board respectfully requests an additional appropriation of \$180,408.00 in the Special Fund line item 0385-S003-S0-6.075, Contract 7 Services.

Your assistance in the matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy J. Jacobs, Executive Director
Highland County children Services Board

Resolution No. 09-293

The Board of County Commissioners of Highland County, Ohio, met in Regular Session on September 16, 2009 with the following members present:

Shane Wilkin, Thomas Horst, and Gary Heaton.

Mr. Horst moved the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Highland County Commissioners, that the said Board authorize additional appropriation within the Children Services budget:

From: Un-appropriated funds

To: 0385-S003-S06.075, Contracts & Services, amount of \$180,408.00

Mr. Heaton seconded the Resolution, and the roll called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Heaton; yea, Mr. Horst; yea and Mr. Wilkin; yea

Adopted September 16, 2009

Debbie Sansone
Deputy Clerk of Board

Shane Wilkin
Thomas Horst
Gary Heaton
Board of Commissioners
Highland County, Ohio

MEETING

Rose Merkowitz, Highland County OSU Extension Director, met with the Board of Commissioners regarding budgets for the fourth quarter of 2009.

MOTION

At 2:30 p.m., Mr. Horst moved to adjourn. Mr. Heaton seconded the motion. The vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

WHEREUPON, the Board of Highland County Commissioners will meet in Regular Session on Wednesday, September 23, 2009.

Rosalind Newman
Clerk of Board

Shane Wilkin
Thomas Horst
Gary Heaton
Board of Commissioners
Highland County, Ohio