

October 7, 2021

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING

Commissioners were all present. Staff recited the pledge at 9:00. Purchase orders and bills were reviewed and signed. Pending issues were discussed with the following resolutions approved and signed:

V107-62	Minutes of October 5, 2021:
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V107-63	Additional Appropriation: Coroner & Sheriff
1 <sup>st</sup> -Striker	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes
V107-64	Bills
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V107-65	Release of Funds: Job & Family Services: Public Assistance to Children's Services
1 <sup>st</sup> -Striker	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes
V107-66	Reallocation: Engineers \$100,000
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll call: Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes
V107-67	CSEA Correction V107-58
1 <sup>st</sup> -Striker	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V6-359	Unused Vacation: P. Howell
1 <sup>st</sup> -Striker	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes

Commissioners and Clerk went to **Hardin Hills** to speak with the Department Heads. Commissioner Crowe: we are here due to a regrettable incident, an accident of a memo Sharon sent to us was shared with Department Heads. It was regarding the status of Hardin Hills. We are not actively closing Hardin Hills. We are in a position with good reserves but salaries are crazy industry wide. We are trying to keep up. You have to look out for your families. We understand, we have and want good people here and are doing things like adjusting the salaries. Hoping for relief from the government to keep reserve with no guarantee. Question is how long will it last? More of our tax money is being spent of our money than we (personally) are paying in. Our responsibility to make sure Hardin Hills stays solvent. Your tax dollars we are trying to take care of by working on a plan. Doesn't mean we are closing Hardin Hills, we have to be good stewards. Once reserve is gone we have to close, not a simple process. A long process to make sure you all and residents have somewhere to go. They are our focus. We want a plan in place if need to be used for the best for residents and staff. None of you are included. I'm sure you feel left out and helpless. Decisions made by management not a group decision. That is why we are there and we reap those repercussions. People are dedicated to having (Hardin Hills) here. On-going discussions with changes every meeting. Not intending to close if we don't have to. We understand these are not the best working conditions. We were much closer to closing when Sharon came. With your and Sharon's efforts we have built dollars and residents numbers up. Then COVID hit-it won't rebound quickly. We are confident if we work together we can do it again. Not a quick turn-around. We hope it can happen. Commissioner Striker: you said very well. We don't know what the future holds. You are important. Resident are number one. We are in the budget process for the whole county. We are committed to keeping you. Commissioner Rush: We signed three resolutions into effect regarding wage increases effective October 10, 2021. We are the management of the County. We look at the best interest of the county. We serve the public. No questions. No comments. Debi Lamb R.N. thank you (Commissioners) for taking the time to speak with us. It speaks volumes.

**State Auditors** Brett Clum and Rob Jacobs met with the Commissioners, Mike Bacon and Denise Althausen regarding the audit.

Luke Underwood, **Engineer**, discussed the gas tax revenue loss per his association. He noted other counties have been successful for reimbursement from the **America Rescue Funds Program**. He provided a three-year average and as compared to 2019. Commissioner Crowe- the basis is if others have done and is allowable, we can do. He will provide a list of other counties. Radios? Do not appear to qualify.

V107-68

Holli Underwood, Chamber and Business **Alliance**, gave a monthly update. Not a lot on JOBS Ohio. Working with the Mayor in Forest on a grant request. The site visit ended in an elimination. She is working on a Hardin County wage survey. She is working on a coordinated effort for broadband in the county. At a Historic Courthouse District meeting a variety of feedback was collected from downtown businesses. The Little Pumpkin Fest was lightly attended due to rain, homecoming, etc. Other ideas are being considered. The “mule” was moved to storage at the Engineer Decatur St. location. No identity of the potential grocery store or announcement yet. Not a dead issue.

Roll call resulted as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
President of the Board-Roger E. Crowe

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
Timothy L. Striker

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
Fred M. Rush

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

HH  
ARF

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