

REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Old Courthouse 25 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor Jefferson, OH 44047

February 20, 2020

The Board of Ashtabula County Commissioners met in session; the Board President called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members Present: President Casey R. Kozlowski, Vice-President Kathryn L. Whittington and Commissioner J. P. Ducro IV. **Absent:** None **Board Staff Present:** County Administrator Janet Discher and Clerk of the Board Lisa Hawkins.

Motion To Approve Minutes Of Previous Session(s), Waiver Of The Reading Of Same and Motion To Approve Today's Agenda:

MOTION: Whittington moved the adoption, Ducro seconded. **DISCUSSION:** None

VOTE: Yeas: Kozlowski, Whittington, Ducro **Nays:** None **Abstained:** None **Absent:** none
Whereupon the minutes were declared approved unanimously.

**THE BOARD PRESIDENT INTRODUCED AND ENTERTAINED MOTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-80 APPROVING FIRE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCHING SERVICE
AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENT WITH THE SAYBROOK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE
ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE ASHTABULA COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 20th day of February, 2020, in regular session at the offices of said Board in the Old Courthouse Building, 2nd Floor, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio, with the following members present: Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV.

WHEREAS, William Johnson, Ashtabula County Sheriff, has presented the following agreement and amendment for the approval of the Board:

Scope: provide dispatching for Fire and Emergency Medical services

Users: **Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatching:**
Saybrook Township Board of Trustees, 7247 Center Road, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Cost: \$20,402.64

Cost: No cost to the county, see the cost listed above

Term: April 1, 2020 and terminating December 31, 2020

Amendment: to extend the term of the agreement from **December 31, 2020 to April 1, 2025** and increase the cost per call and dispatch factor portion of the agreement by 3% annually, beginning on January 1, 2021 and each year thereafter until termination of the agreement; now

WHEREAS, the parties are entering into this agreement pursuant to ORC Sections 307.15, 331.29, and 737.04; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio that the agreement and the amendment, as noted above, are approved in accordance with the copies now on file in this office.

MOTION: Ducro moved the adoption, Whittington seconded. **DISCUSSION:** None

VOTE: Yeas: Kozlowski, Whittington, Ducro **Nays:** None **Abstained:** None **Absent:** None
Whereupon the resolution was declared passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-81 JOURNALIZING NO BIDS RECEIVED FOR OPWC REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE, QUOTATION NO. 286, ENGINEER'S OFFICE

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 20th day of February, 2020, in regular session at the offices of said Board in the Old Courthouse Building, 2nd Floor, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio, with the following members present: Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV.

WHEREAS, on January 23, 2020, by Resolution No. 2020-43, bids were ordered for OPWC Reinforced Concrete Pipe, Quotation No. 286 for the Ashtabula County Engineer's office, to be received on February 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, No bids were received; and

WHEREAS, the MBE concrete pipe bid will be added to the concrete pipe bid that will have no Minority Business Enterprise requirements; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that it be journalized that no bids were received for the OPWC Reinforced Concrete Pipe, Quotation No. 286 for the Ashtabula County Engineer's office.

MOTION: Whittington moved the adoption, Ducro seconded. **DISCUSSION:** None
VOTE: Yeas: Kozlowski, Whittington, Ducro Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None
Whereupon the resolution was declared passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-82 AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF OBSOLETE VEHICLES ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC SALE, ACDJFS (ACTS)

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 20th day of February, 2020, in regular session at the offices of said Board in the Old Courthouse Building, 2nd Floor, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio, with the following members present: Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV.

WHEREAS, Patrick Arcaro, Director of the Ash. Co. Department of Job and Family Services, has requested the following obsolete, surplus vehicles be declared obsolete and put on the online auction for public sale, as follows:

AUCTION				
2009	Ford E450	1FD4E45P69DA41971	199,574	\$4,000
2009	Ford E450	1FD4E45P49DA41970	203,827	\$4,000
2010	Ford E450	1FD4E4FP3ADA40098	192,440	\$4,000
2013	Ford E350	1FDDEE3FLXDDDB12633	214,754	\$2,500

WHEREAS, proceeds will be deposited into fund number 2006.030.450-495; now

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the obsolete vehicles are authorized to be posted on the County Website for Public Sale.

MOTION: Ducro moved the adoption, Whittington seconded. **DISCUSSION:** None
VOTE: Yeas: Kozlowski, Whittington, Ducro Nays: None Abstained: None Absent: None
Whereupon the resolution was declared passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2020-83 AUTHORIZING THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ENGAGE AND RETAIN THE SERVICES OF MANSOUR GAVIN, LPA IN ORDER TO ADVISE THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 20th day of February, 2020, in regular session at the offices of said Board in the Old Courthouse Building, 2nd Floor, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio, with the following members present: Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV.

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 309.09(C) allows the Board of County Commissioners to employ an attorney other than the prosecuting attorney of the county, without the authorization of the court of common pleas, for a particular matter or on an annual basis, to represent the board in its official capacity and to advise it on legal matters; and

WHEREAS, the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners authorizes and engages Mansour Gavin, LPA, in order to provide general legal services for Ashtabula County in the Board of Elections matter at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners will engage and retain the services of attorneys Mansour Gavin, LPA, in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00. The cost of same shall be borne by the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners.

MOTION: Whittington moved the adoption, Ducro seconded. **DISCUSSION:** None
VOTE: Yeas: Kozlowski, Whittington, Ducro **Nays:** None **Abstained:** None **Absent:** None
Whereupon the resolution was declared passed unanimously.

Work sessions:

February 13, 2020 2:37 p.m. Topic: 2020 budget

In Attendance: Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV, Lisa Hawkins, Janet Discher

The Public Defender budget was discussed, beginning with the October 29, 2019 proposed budget request for 2020 from Marie Lane. \$732,972.00 is the budget. She is asking for 2 additional attorneys, an Administrative Asst. beginning June 1, 2020 and to move to large office space within the current location. Indigent Defense cannot be compared as data is provided as a lump sum for reimbursement, which is submitted to and received by the State. The majority of the state uses the assigned counsel model, some other counties use the state, some use public defender, and we use the non-profit model. We are told court cases are lower. There was a revised budget request dated December 19, 2019, received in the amount of \$705,203.00. It is unknown if 2022 reimbursement rates will be the same rate. In the revised budget, payroll expenses went down as delayed hiring the 2 attorneys and Admin. Asst. Space in July, not April. The county will be receiving 85% of the reimbursement, this is only 15% of the cost. This will not necessarily reduce case load, as there will still be conflicts, jury trials, etc. We will revisit mid-year, get court case numbers, Public Defenders case load numbers. Indigent Defense for 2019 cost to the county was \$571,000 with the Public Defender and \$661,000 with assigned counsel. The Prosecutor's office builds the case, then it is turned over to Public Defenders. Provide adequate defense, case load, spread case load over all the attorneys. For 15 years, there have been 5 attorneys, and the Public Defender's office has been immune from budget cuts. The Board understands and appreciates the request and could agree to one additional attorney and will set up a tour to view the additional space request. There is documentation from Public Defender's office showing case load went up 227 case load from 2018 and 2019. Ms. Discher to ask Ms. Lane to provide a new budget request for 1% wage increase, no additional space, one new attorney in July, should reduce other line items.

February 14, 2020 1:10 p.m. Topic: 2020 Budget

In Attendance: Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV, Lisa Hawkins, Janet Discher

The 2020 budget Appropriation requests were reviewed, line by line. Commissioner's budget includes 1% wage increases and one Comr. salary increase. County Obligations: Airport- General Fund of \$80,000, \$20,000 ACDES, \$165,000 out of Economic Development Fund,- total obligation to Airport would be \$265,000. Transfers out, may need to be increased for Court Security. Planning Commission- raise for new Director, payout for Director retirement, hiring new Planner in the Spring, 5 employees for a short period of time, 1% wage increase. Janet will confirm retirement date for current Director. Building Dept. – 1% raise, new Inspector, decrease contract services line item from \$153,600 to \$50,000. Increase equipment line for new vehicle, revenue will offset cost. Maintenance- increase utilities. Risk Management- flat budget. Ashtabula Municipal, Conneaut Municipal, Apiary, Humane Agent flat. Dog Warden needs a new truck with extended cab and long bed. paid out of Dog and Kennel. Auditor's office includes 1% wage increase. Treasurer- revised budget 1% wage increases from the General Fund. Prosecutor- modified the budget request to 1% wage increase, from 3%. The budget request included a replacement Secretary position and attorney to replace Cecilia. 3 employees are paid out of DRETAC, should be General Fund. Recorder- reduced wages to 1%, budget went down, no health insurance for new employee. Coroner- requested Secretary get 30 hours a week, kept her at 20 hours a week, getting reimbursement of her salary by a grant, raised from \$11.26 to \$12.26, not eligible for health insurance. Increased Investigator by \$1, 1% wage increase. Sheriff- did not factor in 2 new Deputies, wages are actuals based on current staff. The budget request asks for \$150,000 for overtime, start at \$115,000. Incentive payments asked for \$47,000, lowered to actuals. Other expense- revenue that offsets refund from Copiers. Jail- increased staff, promoted a person \$6 an hour. \$35,000 new expense for jail security cameras. Monitor inmate Medical, supplies and equipment. Proposed budget is significantly increased. Trying to use TCAP funds by June 30. Budget is based upon current actual staff in Dispatch. 10 positions in General Fund, 5 positions in 911 budget. Discussed dispatching and the future of the 911 fee. Common Pleas- resubmitted current staffing with a 1% raise. No new positions. Janet adjusted the line items to reflect more of actuals. Jury Commission- flat budget. Probation is down a little, funded by a grant. Total 1,779,293, was asking for \$1,949,087. Clerk of Courts- 1.5% raises per contract. Juvenile Court- no new positions, 1% wage increase, cleaned up the line items, to reflect closer to actuals. Resource Center- \$1,049,218 is lower than 2018. Workers Comp expense is not reflected in any budgets. Probate Court reduced to 1% wage increase from 3% requested. Eastern County Court- full cost of the 4th Clerk, 1% wage increase. Western County Court- health insurance decreased by \$20,000. Data Board increased \$20,000 upgrade to email system, need another \$20,000 for that project. Phone system is Data Board responsibility, funded by the Commissioners, given \$5,000. This office will pay those bills. Public Defender- emailed Marie explained wanted to see 1% salary increase, one new attorney, tour her space, no other positions or new office space. Rough estimate of \$625,000. Board of Elections- removed Workers Comp, felt budget was ok for a Presidential election year. Veteran Services Commission receive amount by statute, typically return about \$300,000. Court Security- paid \$50,000 2019, Court Security \$321,000 with 4 employees. Wages are \$140,000, it's a non-general fund. Decision: 1% wage increase and \$60,000. Airport- would be \$50,000 more than 2019. Prosecutor-Secretary. Decision: set up work session with Cecilia regarding modifications to the 2020 budget. Sheriff's Budget- \$6,000,927, up \$500,000 from 2019. Decision: set up work session with the Sheriff regarding 2020 budget. Juvenile- Magistrate position. Funding a part-time Magistrate was discussed. Economic Development- \$441,659 current balance- already paid Growth Partnership \$45,000, 503 Corp. \$20,000, Naco \$2,030, more costs would be: Next Site \$17,500, Land Use Plan \$100,000, Airport \$165,000. The \$2 transfer fee moved in 2020.

Health Department and Tuberculosis contract- the Health Dept. Commissioners stated their intent to enter into a contract for one year at the current rate.

February 20, 2020 1:10 p.m. Topic: General Matters/Agenda Items

In Attendance: Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV, Lisa Hawkins, Janet Discher

- ❖ **Email from Troy Bailey**- request to display 49 flags on poles from American Colonial period – possibly June 14th Flag Day. Decision: have Troy Bailey attend General Matters work session, with pictures of the flags.
- ❖ **Harpersfield Township request** for donation of 50 feet of property owned by Ashtabula County to improve ability to pull trucks out of the bays. Decision: Lisa to send a copy of the request to Nick Sanford and discuss next week at the water/sewer meeting.
- ❖ **Miscellaneous**
 - Public Records- Emails. Discuss having a temporary worker to work on the public records request for emails that are located on the back up tapes.
 - Provide \$17,500 annually for the next 3 years to the JEDD's 1, 2 and 3 to further economic development with funds to be used towards the Next Site study.
 - Journals and paper for Lisa- check with Gazette, Painesville Publishing.
 - Vacation carryover for Lisa- approved 53.05 hours carried over on anniversary date.
 - Mansour Gavin will be retained today to approve outside counsel for the Board of Elections.
 - Board of Elections- Poll workers
 - Eastern/Western- county Probation dept. budget may be short one staff member. There will be a meeting to look at the numbers.
- ❖ **Schedule:** (Call Beckey in) Board of DD mtg. in March during the day.
- ❖ **New/Old Business**
 - 2nd Amendment Resolution (in folder) Lisa drafted a new draft of the resolution; board to consider. Sent to the Prosecutor.
 - Leadership meeting discussion (not held this week)
 - NOPEC grant \$26,952 for 2020 – decision to use money on EMA generator. Janice Switzer will write the grant.
 - Community Corrections/Jail Project- no new update. Talking points to be made.
 - Pierpont Sewers- not discussed.
 - Nursing Home RFP- received one proposal, Kathryn and Janet to review.
 - Financial Transaction payments

February 20, 2020 2:45 p.m. Topic: CEBCO 3rd Qtr. Report

In Attendance: Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV, Lisa Hawkins, Joe Giangola

The CEBCO 3rd Quarter report from 2019 was reviewed. Anthem, Top ten Health Conditions, Prescription Drug. Less people on the plan, same number of employees. Paid claims \$6.6 million, 2018 was \$5 million. High Claimant increased, which has a pooling and a stop loss (when it reaches \$500,000 stop loss kicks in). Largest demographic group is 55 through 64 years of age. The Financial and Utilization Dashboard (paid claims), the Utilization by Top 25 Providers, the Medical Paid Amounts and Plan Savings reports were discussed.

February 24, 2020 2:00 p.m. Topic: Ashtabula County Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

In Attendance: Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, J. P. Ducro IV, Lisa Hawkins, Janet Discher, Connie Eyman, Maureen Wern, Robert Nedrich, Phil Coury

Admission/Discharge report-Census admissions doubled, up a little with discharges, doubled in deaths. Medicare patient days up, Managed Care up, down in Medicaid patient days, up in private patient days. Hospice days went down. Census average is 106.

Budget/Cash Flow report-Positive cash flow of \$67,683. February expected to be down. Bob Nedrich will begin listing last year's budget numbers, with this year's budget numbers.

Nursing recruitment/wage discussion- Need 6 RN's on nights, 6 LPN's on days, and 18 STNA's. They will do another job fair. Union contract allows right to pay up to 5 years for experience in current contract, would like to go up to 10 years. Last week at Ohio Health Care Board meeting, they created a task force to look at marketing, advertising to any nursing home. Medicaid reimbursement needs to go up, regulatory rules need to change- the STNA program has a lot of barriers in a skilled nursing facility. Weekend warrior program you work a 3 day period, get paid a higher hourly rate. The overtime and staffing agency costs would be eliminated, with regular staff in place.

Renovation update- the Nursing station renovations are in process, with 2 being completed by the end of the week, then will begin on the next stations.

The County Probation department has a budget shortfall in the budget. The department is overseen by the 2 County Court Judges. Kathryn will meet with the Judges and state they need to make decisions to correct the budget shortfall.

ADJOURNMENT:

The President and Clerk of the Board hereby certify that this is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the February 20, 2020 session. All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Ashtabula County Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting.

CERTIFIED:

ATTESTED:

PRESIDENT

CLERK

COMMISSIONERS

OF

ASHTABULA COUNTY