

REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

July 16, 2019

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 J. P. Ducro, IV, Vice-President Casey R. Kozlowski and Commissioner Kathryn L. Whittington. **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:** Ducro, Kozlowski, Whittington **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 2019-252 APPROVING AGREEMENTS WITH COLLEEN D'ANGELO AND TIM ANDRASSY FOR INVESTIGATORS SERVICES AT PROBATE COURT

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 16th day of July, 2019, 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: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington.

WHEREAS, Andrew Misiak, Court Administrator has presented two agreements for the approval of the Board, to-wit:

Scope: Guardianship investigation services for Probate Court

Providers: Colleen D'Angelo, 8070 Humphrey Hill Dr., Concord, OH 44077
Tim Andrassy, 8341 Twin Creek Ct., Mentor, OH 44060

Cost: **Not to Exceed**, \$2,500.00 for both contracts (\$235 per hour)

Term: **Retroactive to** June 1, 2019 and terminating December 31, 2019; now

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

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-253 AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC SALE, ADULT PROBATION

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 16th day of July, 2019, 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: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington.

WHEREAS, Brett Kiser, Chief Probation Officer, has requested the following equipment be declared obsolete and put on the online auction for sale, as follows:

1	Sony Microcassette Transcriber Model M20 Ser. # 0265780		
4	Maxwell Cassette Tapes		
2	Maxwell Cassette Tapes		
2	Sony Cassette Tapes		
1	Sony Microcassette Tape		
1	AFGA ePhoto CL 30 Klik! Camera	Starting Bid of \$10.00 for the lot	2141.06.100-436.0015

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

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-254 RE-APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES (MHRS) BOARD

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 16th day of July, 2019, 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: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington.

WHEREAS, In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 340.02 the Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board was established to provide for the development of comprehensive community mental health services and promote the delivery of high quality and cost effective alcohol and drug addiction services; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners are charged with the appointment of eight (8) members to the MHRS Board, with terms of the members being set at 4 years; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Brunarski term is expired and she has expressed an interest in serving an additional term on the Board and this Board would concur; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that Margaret Brunarski is re-appointed to the Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board; said term to commence retroactive to July 1, 2019 and expire on June 30, 2023.

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

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

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2019-49FINA APPROVING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR THE COUNTY

The Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, met on the 16th day of July, 2019, 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: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey R. Kozlowski, Kathryn L. Whittington.

WHEREAS, it is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of Commissioners and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.11 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Financial Transactions and Voucher Approval Requirements

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of all department financial transactions and vouchers submitted this date for approval, as follows:

TRAVEL REQUESTS:

Julie Tenney				
Christina Conley	Step Up to Quality Round Table	Cleveland	8/19	\$10.00
Hattie Grubke-Barnard	NOC COG Mtg.	Chardon	7/10	\$46.17

PAYROLL CHANGES:

Commissioners:

Lisa Hawkins reclassification from PG 10 to PG 11 to \$24.23 from \$23.87 eff. January 1, 2019

EXECUTING PAYMENT OF THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATION PRESENTED BY THE COUNTY AUDITOR PURSUANT TO ORC 5705.41(D)1 AND AUTHORIZING THE DRAWING OF WARRANT(S) IN PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS DUE UPON CONTRACT OR ORDER- SEE SCHEDULE 29 TN

QUARTERLY USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARD:

July/Aug/Sept.	Commissioners	xxxx xxxx xxxx 1981,1510,1965,1973	\$1,000.00
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DIRECT RELIEF BILLS:

Vouchers #2019-002571 thru 2019-002591 for Public Assistance; #2019-20346 thru 2019-20348 for Child Support; and #2019-30229 thru 2019-30231 for WIA Invoices

BILLS:

COUNTY FUNDS	SCHEDULE 29
ENGINEERS	SCHEDULE 29E; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, do hereby find that the above outlined financial transactions and vouchers are in order and sufficient funds are available to permit the execution of these transactions,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the above transactions are approved and allowed, and furthermore, that the County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue warrants for payment of said vouchers.

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

VOTE: **Yeas:** Ducro, Kozlowski, Whittington **Nays:** None **Abstained:** None **Absent:** None

Whereupon the resolution was declared passed unanimously.

Work sessions:

July 16, 2019 10:00 a.m. Topic: General Matters/Agenda Items

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

- ❖ Miriam Walton- spoke regarding the MHRS OCJS grant at the jail. There are 2 quarters of the grant when they did a revision. A key staff member had relocated elsewhere. At the Collaboration board meeting the decision was made by the time a new therapist is hired and trained, it will be at the end of the grant period. They are looking at just finishing out the last 2 months of the grant. There is a counselor there to pick up the 4 people left, increased psychiatry there. Still doing the re-entry for drug & alcohol and mental health thru BCH grant thru Ohio Moss. Decision: ok for Miriam tell the OCJS we cannot go forward, there is a plan for the remaining individuals to receive services. Kathryn asked for meeting notices to go to Beckie Becker, so they get on her schedule.
- ❖ Sales Tax for Community Corrections Facility- had a meeting last week, challenge to go to the ballot, ongoing costs of operation, proposed cost for construction received exceeded what we could afford with the sales tax option available. This led to the question as to how to go to the ballot, without answers to more questions. Spend more time gathering more refined costs on the facility, more savings on operation costs, and more efficiency on the project as a whole. Ensure being prepared and informed to present to the voters. Allow additional time to seek out funding opportunities, such as U.S. Marshall agreement for housing federal prisoners. Decision: do not move forward with the Sales Tax at this time.
- ❖ Levies for November- **MHRS Board** levy asked for a renewal of a 5 year at .6 mil. Language is for current operating expenses. They purchase services for drug and mental health. Decision: ok for next week's agenda.
- District Library** – asked for .025 mil generates about \$222,239 for the 1st year, based on current assessments. Will give notice to Library. Decision: ok for next week's agenda.
- Board of DD**- waiting for a letter from the board. They originally requested 10 years, we asked for 7 years. Lisa to send email. Decision: ok for 7 year term, renewal.
- Senior Levy** – will wait in March.
- County Home**- Pro Paving Contract for \$15,100 for paving of parking lot at the county home's. Decision: Need to have a work session to discuss and what AMHA's portion might be.
- Dispatch**: if the entities will work out with Pam if the amount is \$1,000 or less. Metroparks has prepaid \$3,000, their actual expense was \$20. There is an MOU in place.

Miscellaneous

- Fair meeting- more people. Bike presentation at the fair meetings. Invite the Boy Scout council and Girl Scout Council to attend to earn their government badges. Decision: ok.
- Set up drainage work session with Janice Switzer. Invite Tom Partridge.
- Several computers had their updates were shut off since last May. They need to turn the updates back on to update. It is not a hard drive failure. IT Dept. as a whole should have 6 extra computers to share. Asked to look at the cost of computers.
- MHRS- 2 board openings. There is an application from Debbie King to be on the board. No decision right now.
- The ability to make an adjustment in the Clerk's salary, as her job was reclassified from a 10 to an 11, it is a \$.36 cent increase from \$23.87 to \$24.23. This is based on assumption for wage increases received for 2018 and 2019, effective retroactive January 1, 2019. Commissioners were not phased in until late 2017, made effective in 2018. Decision: ok for today's agenda.
- ❖ **Schedule:**
 - Exec. Session 8/14. 1:30p.m. is good.
 - Exec. Session 7/25 – who to invite. Kathryn will check with Jim Kemmerle.
 - JP may be off at the beginning of fair week.
- ❖ Old Business
 - Fair Board lease
- ❖ Committee Reports:
 - J.P. Ducro IV – county flag for Board of Elections to use at the Lodge. JP will let Duane Feher know there is one flying at the Lodge.
 - Casey Kozlowski – none
 - Kathryn Whittington- last week she met with Honest Cole, who specializes in services for mental health for adults. They are looking to locate in Ashtabula County to purchase homes for these individuals. She met with the Governor of Ohio and Alisha Nelson to discuss barriers here, funding structures, treatment options. She will continue conversations, looking to restructure federal funds coming into the state for more flexibility, which opens the door for infrastructure dollars. 2nd week of Robotics camp, 23 out of 25 kids participated.

July 16, 2019 11:09 a.m. Topic: Port Authority

In Attendance: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, Lisa Hawkins, Janet Discher, Jerry Brockway, James Mayer, Rob Schmilfennig

Growth Partnership/503 are interested in leasing space in the Port Authority building. They discussed a 10 year lease. The current Growth Partnership lease agreement ends in 2021. The reserved signs in the parking lot are for the elected officials, and 5 for the Port Authority. They asked for a total of 10 spots, with some sort of lettering. Have a conversation with the Engineers as to how to mark the 5 reserved where the elected officials and 5 on the Port side for a total of 10 spots. Also check the size requirements regarding the handicapped spots to possibly reduce to 1 to allow additional parking space. There will be some and Growth Partnership will pay for interior structural changes and wired internet, depending on costs. The building may need some windows. They need storage for their records. They will determine how much storage they need and have a hold harmless agreement for the county. There was discussion regarding who the lease would be with and the terms. The Board has access to the new EOC building beginning September 1. Their plan is to be out in October. The lease would be \$100. We pay utilities. Hope to have the lease by the August meeting. They will be called the Center for Economic Development.

July 17, 2019 2:09 p.m. Topic: Board of DD new Director

In Attendance: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, Lisa Hawkins, Toni Scurpa

The new Director of the Board of DD attended the work session to introduce herself to the Board of Commissioners. She discussed the mission and programs of the Board of DD. One of the services not mandated is Early Intervention. There are 68 children enrolled to date for 2019. 70 children receive some services, that is 138 children ages 3 to 21. These are services outside the school day, based upon assessed need. There is remote support available. 35% of children in the Early Intervention program no longer need DD services when they age out at 3 years old. New language in budget with a Medicaid Reserve fund, that pot of money is not to be accounted for. They have to do 5 year forecasts. The Board of DD budget is 9.1 million, with \$3.3 waiver match. She is doing a departmental assessment, meeting with each department individually. A common theme is a misconception of what a county board does. The new rules are no longer about brick and mortar, it is about services. She will check on mandated services. There are questions regarding the privatization of Ashcraft, why is the levy necessary? Any person receiving a service in Ashtabula County, it comes through the County Board. The Board would like to have accurate information on Ashcraft. Ashcraft is a non-profit. The board of DD could not develop the plan and receive the funds for services. They had to decide if they want to be a provider. The clients at PCS(formerly Ashcraft) should have seen a seamless transition, some staffing did change. She distributed a handout on Waiver Types and Services, and the rules. There are add-ons to consider, as well. Ashtabula is a category 5. The waiver cap is \$500,000. When people move to Ashtabula County and have a waiver from another county, it transfers. They have identified 2 immediate needs and 16 current needs for the waiver.

July 17, 2019 3:00 p.m. Topic: Indigent Defense

In Attendance: J. P. Ducro IV, Casey Kozlowski, Kathryn Whittington, Lisa Hawkins, Harold Specht, Gary Yost, Carl DiFranco, Albert Campese, Thomas Harris, Laura DiGiacomo, Judge Schroeder

Indigent Defense was discussed. There have been Motions to Withdraw sent to various courts from the Ashtabula County Public Defender's Office stating with their current workload in the office they cannot responsibly take the case or there is a conflict with taking the case. Some of the Judges may deny the conflict motion, if they feel there isn't a conflict. There are guidelines for defendants to be declared as indigent. There have been filings for Motion to Continuance for a week of scheduled hearings in Ashtabula Municipal. The PD submits a statement every year. Ethically, as Judges cannot have discussion as to if they are creating problems. The Commissioners have asked for information to make an informed decision on if there is an issue that needs to be addressed. Appointed counsel had to be assigned, because the PD's office filed a Motion. Our county is spending \$600,000 on a Public Defender Commission and \$770,000 on indigent defense. Reasons for assigned counsel include, conflict, co-defendants, workload is too busy. They discussed the time limits for preliminary hearings. Clients need to be adequately defended. There are 5 options for defense- appointed counsel, can set up county Public Defense Office, a not-for-profit (current model), a Joint County Public Defender office and a contract with the state office. Can look at the caseload numbers, what do they do with the filings. They are serious cases, Felony 1 or 2, which are complicated. If there is a conflict, hiring additional attorneys at PD may not solve problems. They have not collected data, as it was not a problem before. Guidance on what to do, issuing the journal entry to get counsel, responsibility to see the defendant gets counsel. The Commissioners do not run the Public Defender's office, are the courts collectively identifying an issue to address. Is there something the board can do? No decision was made.

ADJOURNMENT:

The President and Clerk of the Board hereby certify that this is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the July 16, 2019 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