

December 26, 2023

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING

Commissioners were all present. Staff and Commissioner Candidate Joe Sherman 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:

V111-11	Minutes of December 21, 2023:
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V111-12	Resignation J. Burgbacher, EMA/Loss Control Director 1/12/2024
1 <sup>st</sup> -Crowe	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-13	CSEA Disposal: Recorder
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V111-14	J. Kearns Vacation Payout
1 <sup>st</sup> -Crowe	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-15	Appoint Dr. Fritz as Coroner thru 1/5/2025
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V111-16	Reallocation: Soil & Water
1 <sup>st</sup> -Crowe	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
Signed:	2024 Wellness Grant
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Crowe Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes

**Sheriff** Keith Everhart discussed the Paulding County MOU between the Sheriff and Commissioners managing the Dog & Kennel. Sheriff will forward the documents to the Prosecutor for review to see if this is an option for 2024 to be revisited for 2025. 911 levy/countywide communications update: 911 levy (.75) \$450,000, SO levy has paid \$240,000 to make 911 work. Things are tight. Original levy was not designed to have the SO pay for 911. Fire departments want to go to MARCs paging. The system is ready to add. Sheriff wants one entity to do, not several approaching the Commissioners. With his numbers to pay for countywide communications and 911 about \$1 million a 1.1 mil levy. 1 mill is what the SO has at \$700,000. A 1.1 levy (\$900,000 to one mill) should pay for all 911, user fees and equipment. EMS has no access to fire grants, if this is done, they will need to help them out more. He assumes no grants, what is left would pay for equipment. In 2011/2 the Store and Forward program was initiated and is now at the end of life. He is putting funds in to keep running. Now is the time to come up with a plan. If commissioners agree, he can start moving forward. He is using the old values but will talk with the Auditor. If it doesn't pass, they would continue to operate as is. If it passes, the current 911 levy could go away. Sheriff will move forward. The new phone system is not operating the way they want. He has spoken with cbts with no fix. They are looking at other vendors for a fix.

Jeb Elsasser, **Taylor Creek Township Trustee**, questions on the Solar farm valuation. The bonds are set to collect a certain amount of money. The other landowners pick up the excess of taxes not paid. No one wants the solar farms real estate tax exempt. Commissioner Crowe-laws are old and wasn't thought of back then. Kenton and Ridgemont both have bonds. Jeb-How can this be off set? Can PILOT be set aside so taxpayers aren't burdened? Commissioners proposed he draft a letter to the Ohio Power Sitting Board as a legitimate concern and should be taken under consideration. First hearing is February 13, 2024.

Cody Blair, **Interim Dog Warden**. Commissioners offered the full-time position with benefits. The Sheriff is looking into managing the Dog & Kennel and will get with Cody. Plan to operate without a Deputy. Sheriff Deputies will fill in. He will be in the unclassified position effective December 30, 2023. Cody stated things are going well with two dogs being adopted today. Commissioner Crowe moved to appoint Cody Blair as Dog Warden full time with benefits, unclassified, effective December 30, 2023. He will not replace the clothing due to the name not being where complainers think it should be. 6 month probation. \$18.00 per hour. Commissioner Rush second. Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes. **V111-17**

Second interview for the position of **Clerk**. Commissioner Crowe moved to hire Torrie Holcomb as Clerk to the Board of Commissioners effective January 8, 2024 at \$22 per hour with a \$0.50 per hour increase after a successful six month probationary period. Full-time with benefits. Commissioner Rush second. Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes.  
**V111-18**

Roll call resulted as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
President of the Board-Timothy L. Striker

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
Roger E. Crowe

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

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