

December 07, 2023

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7th 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:

V110-383 Minutes of December 05, 2023:
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V110-384 Reimbursement to Ditch Maintenance
1st-Crowe 2nd-Rush Roll call Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V110-385 Reimbursement to Pike Repair
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V110-386 Transfer: Law Library & Ditch Maintenance
1st-Crowe 2nd-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V110-387 Reallocation: Dog & Kennel, Job & Family Services, Inmate Medical
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V110-388 Hire Job & Family Services S. Conley, ERSII, 12/18/23
1st-Crowe 2nd-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V110-389 Resignation C. Smith JFS 12/22/23
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V110-390 Bills
1st-Crowe 2nd-Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V110-391 CDBG Brownfield Bills T&M Kenton Feed \$1,670
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V110-392 CDBG Brownfield Bills T&M Forest Trailer \$1,786.25
1st-Crowe 2nd-Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V110-393 CDBG Brownfield Bills T&M Dunkirk Temple \$2,086.25
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V110-394 Release of Funds: JFS
1st-Crowe 2nd-Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V110-395 Additional Appropriation: Hotel/Motel Tax
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
Signed: Wolpert, Inc. Aerial Photography \$168,906.00 REA funds
1st-Rush 2nd-Crowe Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes

Ron Rogers and Beryl Rogers, **Pleasant Township Trustees**. Follow up on report of the Mausoleum. The roof is too far gone for an estimate. They have been working with the Prosecutor's Office. They want to remove the bodies and re-bury in front of the current Mausoleum. Headstones 104 bodies \$27,885, vaults and Undertaker time \$60,000, Noonan to demo \$49,000, burial \$65,563.88, total of \$200,885. They plan to use their COVID/America Rescue Funds if the county would provide more **American Rescue Funds** of \$53,121.12. Prosecutor will put in writing this project is not chaining and can be done without the bid process. Commissioner Crowe moved to pay \$53,121.12 toward the removal of bodies from the Grove Cemetery Mausoleum, burial of bodies from the America Rescue Funds. Commissioner Rush second. Roll call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes. Commissioner Rush left for the day.

Jason Kearns, **Dog Warden**, gave his monthly report. Everything is running smoothly. Down to 16 dogs in the kennel with two adoptions yesterday. Two dogs transported to Logan County to Urbana. All dogs are up to date on spay and neuter. Jason reviewed the 2024 budget. He hopes to surpass the \$160,000 on the dog tags sales. He didn't see a need for the spay and neuter grant, he didn't apply. He proposes a 3% rate increase. He budgeted for a full-time deputy. At 10:05 Commissioner Striker moved to enter Executive Session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) evaluation and invited Sheriff Everhart and Chief Deputy Burns. Commissioner Striker second. Roll call; Striker-yes, Crowe-yes. At 10:15 Commissioner Striker announced the end of Executive Session. Commissioner Crowe moved to terminate Jason Kearns, an unclassified employee on an extended probationary period effective December 7, 2023. Commissioner Striker second. Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-absent. **V110-396**

V110-397

Village of Forest: Sean Young, Doug Hankins and Dean Hankins: A storm sewer has collapsed and they are asking for funds from the America Rescue Funds for a catch basin. The EPA has also notified them of needing a new well. They are not financially in a situation to get a plan loan. Commissioner Striker-have you spent your America Rescue Funds? Sean-yes allocated for storm sewer issues, all but a small amount. They did receive a department of development grant for sanitary sewer exclusive to the lift stations. Would like to have changed to apply to the water but instead increased their water rates. Next, they will work on sewer rates. They may need to acquire land and get a right of way for a new well per the EPA. Need to hire a Hydrologist and a contractor for drilling. Commissioners asked they make sure of the funds they need for a final total. Sean asked for \$50,000 total from the America Rescue Funds. They will forward contractor names prior to approval. Another issue is funds for MARCS radios. They are handling the user fees but can't afford the purchase of hardware: fire quote was \$150,000, EMS-no cost, police \$50,000. The Sheriff is looking at options to fund a county-wide MARCS for the future. Commissioners have looked at an average of \$50,000 per Village. However, all requests are need based. If another Village department had need, they could request and is reviewed as need based.

Commissioners and Staff attended the annual Chamber and Business Alliance Holiday Luncheon at the Armory.

Commissioners and Clerk met with Jodi Tudor, JFS and Jamie Hunsicker, **Health Commissioner** and Melissa Humble at the annex to discuss the removal of Health Department items from the JFS area due to an upcoming federal audit. Jamie agreed to a deadline of December 29 to have all Health Department items removed from the JFS area. If they are in need of more room, they should contact the Commissioners. Their IT vendor has resigned and should have all equipment removed asap.

Cody Blair, **Deputy Dog Warden**, was notified the Dog Warden is no longer an employee with Hardin County. Will he be acting interim Dog Warden for the time being? Does he need assistance on access to anything? Cody asked if the position will be offered to him? Commissioner Striker-unknown, we have options. We will go out for applications and you can apply. We are taking it slow. If you are hired as Dog Warden then one of the applicants could be the part-time. Cody questioned competing with the public for the position. Commissioners know Cody and his work but no formal decisions at this time. Commissioners will entertain any ideas he has. Until help is hired can he and the weekend assistant manage? Cody-yes, need caught up where bills are. Can you access the on-line dog tag sales process? Cody-briefly-paid thru them and deposited in, a lapse of time. The Auditor will be asked how that works. He will figure out the number of hours he may need and let them know on Tuesday how he plans to operate.

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