

May 30, 2023

MINUTES OF MAY 30<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:

V109-380 Minutes of May 25, 2023:  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Crowe Roll call: Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes  
V109-381 Chase Stewart Medical D. Bodine \$768.54  
1<sup>st</sup>-Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes  
V109-382 JFS Mandate Public Assistance \$47,632, Children's Services \$80,000  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Crowe Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes  
V109-383 JFS Hire D. Lincoln SSWI, \$17.45 hr. 180 day probation  
1<sup>st</sup>-Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes  
V109-384 Additional Appropriation: Juvenile Probation  
1<sup>st</sup>-Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes  
V109-385 Indigent-May  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Crowe Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes  
V109-386 America Rescue Funds \$100,000 for City water/sewer M064-M06  
1<sup>st</sup>-Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes  
Signed: Approval \$1000 for Cremation for Veteran J. Whitaker as approved by the  
Veteran's Service Commission  
1<sup>st</sup>-Crowe 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call; Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes

Stefani Epling, **Clerk of Courts/Title**. She reviewed the Veteran's Office fax procedures and spoke with Chris Griffith with her concerns. She has reviewed the user manual from cbts. Due to the costs she is in agreement to move her fax from Windstream to cbts. She will make it work.

**Sheriff** Everhart and Chief Deputy Burns reported they are having issues with hiring. It all comes back to the starting wage. No one over five years would be affected. Negotiations late 2024. Whatever, it has to be sustainable whether wage increase or other options. Local PD's start out at \$20.00. They will submit paperwork of costs for an increase. Discussion on State vs. Federal grant per Audits. They believe they are applying and receiving state grants.

**Rick Combs** reviewed the county Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment that renews January 1, 2025. Voluntary Vision is good thru January 1, 2026. Voluntary Delta Dental renewal is due January 1, 2024. The rates were held for two years. He will submit a Request for Proposal for future rates, unless Delta Dental will hold the current rates.

At 10:18 Commissioner Crowe moved to enter **Executive Session** regarding OCR 121.22 (G)(3) with Sharon Huston and Attorney Theresa Grigsby. Commissioner Rush second. Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes. At 10:36 Commissioner Striker announced the end of Executive Session. Sharon noted they have a census of 63 today with four being admitted from the Columbus area.

**Bob Simmons** and Linda Mason asked the Commissioners to consider funding the downtown revitalization in Ada. Through City Council, a fund is being set up specifically for donations to sustain the projects in the 2024 budget. Does the county have any funds for this project? Looking for a \$30,000 match. Baskets, banners and other decorations to be done in phases. Total of 94 poles. They believe Ada has spent all their **American Rescue Funds** but will submit confirmation. Commissioners will consider.

**Judge Christopher and Judge Santo**. Judge Santo reviewed her request for additional space to hire a full-time Magistrate, which would increase her budget. She gave an overview of her discussion last week with the Commissioners. She is looking at a part of Probate where his

office is and part of break room, or part of the Auditor’s area. She is open to options for space. She needs a full- time magistrate, was never an issue when the merge took place. She is doing the job of two full-time people. Judge Christopher understands she is overwhelmed with the docket she has. There is no confidential areas for discussions to take place. He agrees with the need for office space. It was intended to reallocate the Magistrate’s time. The civil docket was one day a week with the rest allotted to Family Court. All is now in her court with the exception of the civil and is more than one person can do. They are taking all electronics in Clerk of Courts with Juvenile still doing the non-electronic filing. Eventually soon, the Supreme Court will make all paperless. One day a week is needed to write decisions. His Magistrate is here one day per week on Tuesdays. After talking with Maria that is all that was needed. A court room is not an issue. Maria has one desk open for a new clerk she intends to hire. There are privacy issues. They need an office for a new Magistrate. He says they have a disagreement on a full time Magistrate-not his court, not his say. The Commissioners wrote a letter with three options: all work divided between two Judges (like Morrow Co.) all thought a horrible idea. #2-hire Full time Magistrate -your letter stated not necessary at the time as the new Family Court Judge will do the same work as before with one day to one day and half of additional time. It doesn’t affect him. JFS is down but won’t last. It will kick back up and requires so many hearings for each case in a short period of time that will dominate her docket. Judge Santo-the new Clerk is for work of Domestic Court. Judge Christopher- I talked to the Judge after the election and she told me she was hiring full-time, I have nothing in it. Judge Santo-the Bar was told one Magistrate we were not going to share. My job was being combined and I was already a full-time employee. I had intention of a full time Magistrate. Judge Christopher-Between you and Commissioners. You are in a better position to know those needs. Space-I’m using the space I have. Several issues to consider when using courthouse. Two constitutional courts (inherent powers/powers/space/security) and two statutory (only what state legislature grant). I’m not giving up my space. First come first serve. Never discussed prior to re-configuration. You guys made it plain you didn’t have to spend the money on a new courtroom/salary. She knows her needs. Between you and her. I have five rooms, small. Required a public access area. Four desks with staff. One soon to be filled. File room and an office/shared break room/supplies room. Space is all utilized. Not disputing her space or needs. Judge Santo-I disagree-it wasn’t until the end you said you wanted a Magistrate. We have your letter. Always one Magistrate combined. Judge Christopher-I disagree. That was never the plan. Due to circumstances, I took over a docket that had been sitting over one year. I had a backlog and new job to learn. I hired based on what you said you spent time on. Judge Santo-I need an office for a Magistrate. A door can be put back up. She requested a walk through. Judge Christopher noted Probate is not an option. He has control.

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