

January 04, 2024

MINUTES OF JANUARY 4<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:

V111-38 Minutes of January 2, 2024:  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call; Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes  
V111-39 Wellness 2024 contact Amy Long & Debra Long  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes  
V111-40 Out of County Blanket Travel: Board of Elections  
V111-41 Out of County Blanket Travel: Common Pleas  
V111-42 Out of County Blanket Travel: Recorder  
V111-43 Out of County Blanket Travel: Commissioners  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes  
V111-44 Reimbursement Annex Utilities December  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes  
V111-45 Job & Family Services Authority to Sign Interagency Agreements  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes  
V111-46 Out of County Blanket Travel: Job & Family Services  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes  
V111-47 Bills  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes  
V111-48 Additional Appropriation: Sheriff Salaries  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes  
Signed: MOU: Hardin County Department of Job & Family Services and Ohio  
Department of Job & Family Services for compliance determination statewide mandated  
participants  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes  
Sign a Visa Corporate letter for a line of credit for the new Coroner Dr. Fritz  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call; Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes  
The Auditor has completed the audit of the Dog Kennel credit machine for dog tag sales. He  
recommends not using this service as there is a fee if not monitored. He will find out if there  
is a contract for the machine. On-line sales thru the Auditor will continue as is.

Holli Underwood, **Alliance**-update: 18 active properties are listed thru Jobs Ohio for the public to search sites for development. Jones Rd site signage and video are currently being work on with vendors to promote. She will let the Commissioners review the package before signing. Working with Karen Sorrels to handle workforce initiatives in the schools. A bridge between Ohio Means Jobs and the Schools. Superintendents are attending the breakfasts and make a nice blend with the businesses. CEDS-a draft of the application is ready for review. Once established a federal grant will open our area up for more funding opportunities. (A 5 county region for infrastructure and transportation) Local RLF are reviewing an application. Questions have been sent to the applicant. The Vibrant Communities program is moving forward with the Mayor's assistance to local downtown business owners. The Regional Planning Director has been invited. Nominations are being accepted for the Annual Awards for January 22 at ONU. 45% paid for memberships. Eclipse updates to web site have resource documents from the Health Department. They are reaching out local event venues. The new Mayor of Forest has been contacted for his ideas. The EMA Director has resigned effective January 12. She will make sure to continue with communications and reach out to Chief Deputy Burns. Kenton Historic Downtown District will provide a lunch for the volunteers who decorated for the Christmas Window Wonderland. Morgan is watching the America 250 information to see how they can assist.

Cody Blair, **Dog Warden**, submitted a monthly dog report. 12 dogs in the kennel today. He is updating on Facebook to keep the dogs moving. Cody recommended removing the credit machine. The Auditor is checking to see if there is a contract prior to removal. Cody only accepts cash

and checks. Satellites do not accept credit card payments. Cody said things are going well with him as Dog Warden. No word from the Prosecutor regarding an MOU with the Sheriff. Cody is working around the kennel cleaner and open door visits from the public. Drug Court is also sending participants to him to assist with cleaning outside and caring for the dogs. He will check with the program on policies for volunteer waivers.

Jacob Burgbacher, **EMA Director/Loss Control Coordinator**, EMGP paperwork was signed. Should the Engineer find someone to do their loss control/workers comp program in the interim? Commissioners want the Loss Control Coordinator over the entire county when the position is filled. EMA and Loss Control are planned to keep together but will be based on the applications received. Could be two part-time positions. EMPG reimburse 50% of the associated cost with the EMA office. If LEPC were to merge with the EMA Office, they also would receive 50% reimbursement. EMA can also get funds from LEPC under a contract if the same person does both positions. Funds cannot be received for 2024 until a new Director is hired. Who is going to take over the tasks he is currently doing, until the position is filled? Kenton Fire Chief has the background need for Hazmat, etc. on LEPC board, 98% of the qualified Hazmat techs are on the Kenton Fire Dept. This would be someone to call if something happens. There is also a mutual agreement with Marion County EMA. He can speak with both. Commissioners can speak to other county commissioners. Workers Comp? Auditor's Office? Commissioner Crowe will speak with the Auditor. Jake will set his email up to reflect whom to contact after January 12. He has training, contact information, updated eclipse information put together for the new hire. Currently there are four counties with split offices (EMA/Loss Control) including Hardin. He will open the Purchase Orders, submit the Justification letter, start the eclipse agreement information and submit the EMP grant. The new hire needs a FEMA student ID to start training. He recommends a meeting with all involved to keep up the communication for the eclipse. City, Mayor, EMA, Commissioners, Fire Chief, Alliance. Hardin County is the only county in the state that has not merged EMA and LEPC. The Sheriff does pay for a county cell phone for EMA. Jake has put in all contacts in the phone.

Sean Young, **Forest** village administrator, explained a catastrophic failure with the sanitary sewer. He has ordered port a johns for throughout the village. It is a closed system that draws sewage to the main with vacuum pressure. Everything east of Madriver St. (ST RT 53)-half of the Village is without sewer right now-4 days. Not planned but in dire straits at \$40,000 so far to repair and more coming. Need help. Anything. Commissioner Striker-Does the \$40-50,000 or whatever cure the system? Does not replace. 20 years old. Failing, it was an inexpensive system at the time it was installed. On and off issues but nothing like what we have now. In serious trouble. Likely age and possible water infiltration that has overloaded the system and caused collapse. He can't prove just rumors. Is the fix a new system? Yes-we have reached out for a grant on a five-year plan. No idea of cost. At least five years before breaking ground on a gravity system. Commissioner Striker-Regional Planning may be able to get you in line for funding. Sean has talked with Mark Doll. EPA and Health Dept. Sewage is starting to back-up in homes-trying to keep sucked out. \$40,000 in the last four days to keep operational. Both sewer pumps are faulting out because they are hot. Another vacuum pump should be here tomorrow. Will need to take the whole system down to replace. He will order another-\$14,000 is the least expensive for a rebuilt pump, 15 days to ship old back the old one, \$38,000 for new one. Ideally the pumps should last 20 years. He hopes with both pumps being replace will last 15 years. The rest of the system can handle provided the pumps are working. Rest of system needs updated. Vacuum station can't handle the volume. Tried voluntary checking of homes. Legalities involved. Working with Village Solicitor. Commissioner Striker-is Village Council on board with a new system? Yes. Talking with EPA about loans. No ability to pay loans. Commissioner Striker-how to replace the fund? Replace what I need now and finding other ways to fund a new gravity system. I've seen the failures on the vacuum system. Village is troubled financially. The \$40-80,000 anticipated are two rebuilt pumps and costs associated. They have \$20,000 of ARPA funds left un-

encumbered-he has encumbered \$26,000 total funds since yesterday. Any help appreciated. Air Vac has 95% of the parts due to it being their system. Technicians are \$1400 each, each day. Residential holding tank parts (in underground vaults) are not guaranteed if they get wet.! So those parts need replaced/repared. Commissioner Crowe-the PO we did last year cannot be redone. Do we treat each Village equally or increase what they are giving to Forest? A dilemma. Commissioner Striker- up to one year of ARPF funds left to cover other things. This is a health emergency. If you are replacing those pumps, should be put that kind of money into it now? Can't get temp pumps. Trying to weigh. Should have increased the fees five years ago. Sean notified the Mayor Dave Book of the current need and he notified the Council by phone. Mayor is in Indiana picking up parts. Commissioners want support of Mayor and Council. People of Forest will pay for system replacement. Sean has no choice but to repair the system. Health emergency. All on board to increase rates and replace the system but can't afford. Commissioner Striker-need to start now collecting those fees for in five years to afford to replace. Sean-the process is slow. Commissioner Rush reviewed the funding to date. Need two replacement pumps at \$14,000 each plus fees, a need of around \$60,000. Commissioner Crowe-now that I've heard all the details, I feel this is a unique health emergency, need to see Council make formal request after their next meeting. Emergency need with cost figures and ask for consideration of ARPA funds on letterhead. You still need to order parts and repair with bills coming next month. Go back to council and Mayor; Commissioners would consider if council would make a written request with figures. We could make a formal consideration at next meeting. Commissioners are not here to solve the whole problem. Sean will get hard numbers of need. Next Council meeting is January 11.

Roll call resulted as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
 President of the Board-Roger E. Crowe

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

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
 Timothy L. Striker

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