

June 11, 2024

MINUTES OF June 11th 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:

V112-06	Minutes of June 6, 2024:
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V112-07	Engineers to Advertise and Receive Bids for Eldridge Install
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-08	Memorial Day Bills
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-09	Board of DD levy
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V112-10	Release of Funds JFS
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-11	CDBG Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-12	Application for Critical Infrastructure Program Funding CDBG
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes,
V112-13	Additional Appropriation for Deputy Training
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V7-51	Vacation and Retention Payout HHHC employees
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
Signed:	Title IV-E JFS and Specialized alternatives for families and youth
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
	Title IV-E JFS and Marion County Children Services Board
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes

Michelle Laubis joined the meeting.

Josh Anderson-HHWP/CAC- Transportation update- quickly approaching the official start date. We got additional confirmation just yesterday from ODOT that they will be distributing the award that we received a year and a half ago to aid in the local match. We have secured a location and we're renting a space for now. We thought we were going to brand the system KATS but feedback from the community says we should maybe be a little broader in our branding. The big key for us is to continue to develop permanent sources of local match. Commissioner Rush- do you have a schedule set up? Josh- we will start taking calls for on demand services July 1, maybe before in the next couple of weeks. It'll take 6 months to a year before we are fully amped up. Making people aware of the service and word of mouth is very powerful once people learn the quality of the service and how easy it is to use. Commissioner Striker- a lot of hard work done by your department. It's come a long way, and I think a lot of people will utilize for jobs, and hopefully eventually there will be a second shift option. Josh- second shift is interesting to accommodate. The best way to accomplish this is to get some fixed routes established. There is going to be more of a demand for the services than the resources we have. There are a lot of other things going on. We're looking at going into birth to age 3 in our head start program what is called early head start. It's a Pilot program we've applied for in Hancock County. We will look at expanding to our other counties as well. Do you have any questions for me? Commissioner Crowe- Were excited to see the van running around town. Do you have summer session for the head start program?? Josh- that's a school year program. Commissioner Striker- with the transportation starting in July have you advertised a number for someone to call for information. Josh- I don't know the answer to that right now. I will get you an answer to that possibly today.

Richard Lawson- maintenance supervisor weekly updates. Water leak on Franklin Street the city is aware. I haven't heard back yet from Jeff Kohler on what he has come up with for the grate across the street. Our grass is growing outside along the walls. The communication equipment we were waiting for from bender has arrived and is at sks and the alarm is on. Commissioner Crowe-They haven't taken any equipment back out yet? Richard-No. Also, HVAC electrical installers are done for the roof project. Waibel just needs to start everything up. Rush- so Thursdays meeting should be the last meeting. Richard- I hope so. Commissioner Rush- Everything that you've seen from them has been good? Richard- Yes everything I've seen so far has been good. I only questioned one thing- one-unit southeast corner of the roof is kind of close to the rail. You can kind of see it from the street. You would have to really be looking for it. I would have suggested another place, but they already had the spot. Commissioner Rush- did they train you on the unit? Richard- Not yet haven't got there yet. I do want to know about the DOAS unit. Fred noticed this morning we are doing some remodeling in our office. We're trying to freshen it up, we got rid of our carpet, maintenance office shouldn't have carpet anyways. The elevator floor needs to be replaced. Along with that I have had two drywall contractors look at the basement area. Cramer Flooring from Dunkirk gave a quote on flooring, and I had two drywall companies quote on layover ¼ inch and ½ inch install and finish. Eventually I'd like to see the doors changed too. I will check back with you in a couple weeks. Commissioner Crowe- we have approved the museum using the sks building for storage I will get ahold of you to coordinate that it will only be for about 6 months. Also, we approved the auditor to use the empty room in the north annex. Richard will get with the Auditor to coordinate moving his records to the north annex.

Keith Severns- EMA director with updates- LEPC drill went well, Tim was there, we had a couple marks against us but we passed and we can move on to the next full size scale drill which is in the next two years. We are prepared for that. Commissioner Rush- congratulations sounds like you did a good job. Keith- we had our bumps, but it is to be expected. They all handled it well. Commissioner Striker- I was very impressed with your performance and the others at the EOC. It was excellent. Very impressed, you all handled it well. I think everyone adapted well and everyone worked well together. Keith- Thank you. In reference to the EMPG grant. I went back and had a lot of individual conferences with the auditor for the state for the grants I did some pleading and asking and wanting and I was able to secure the \$8,464 that had been lost during the time that there was nobody in the position. That was one thing that was good for the county on the grant process and it will open us to more grants for the year. EMP grant- they are out doing the agricultural commodity study now. They are counting hazmat and farm going through intersections. They estimated it would take a month and a half to complete that. I wish they had started earlier when the farm machinery was really traveling through the county. EOP- has been completed for what we contracted out for 3 sessions. Law enforcement fire and medical. In reference to the CORSA training 08/14/2024 in veterans hall. At 9 am they will come in to start the training. On the reportable since March- we have had 2. One in Ridgeway and one in Forest. I had a couple questions. The county has to have some type of accountability for the EOC we have the machine to do it however, the company is not a PO company can I use the credit card? Commissioner Crowe- As long as it is in your credit limit. Meeting with Tier 2 business Durez. The individual Tier 2 business have a certain amount of chemicals, they have to do a meeting once a year. They did a very good job with us in the facility. Sheriff's department and EMA and other surrounding businesses. Walked people around and let them see what's going on and why they are a safe place. I am very impressed with the safety system they have in place there. They have a train whistle, that the public around them know that one whistle means stay inside and two whistles means evacuate. Will get more information to the public. We need to look at incorporating LEPC in with EMA. Abe would be working side by side with me. Commissioner Striker-How many counties around us are set up that way? Keith- There are only 4 counties in Ohio that are divided. Commissioner Crowe- can you do that and maintain your current duties. Commissioner Striker- what would be the next step to move towards? Keith-I will reach out to other counties to see if they have by laws that way we're not reinventing the wheel.

Mark Doll- Regional Planning Director- we are convening public hearing number 2 for CDBG we had public hearing number 1. That was a broad overview of the types of programs available for Hardin County. Some of these programs are more project specific. One application is going in. All CDBG/HOME programs must meet at least one of three national objectives. We're working on phase 2 of the ridgeway storm sewer collection system improvements. Phase 1 work was completed last year. They have had flooding for decades in the village. Phase 1 still issues but helped get flooding out faster. Phase 1 last summer phase 2 should be done 2025 at the latest 2026. Paperwork needs signed application due June 12, 2024. Commissioner Crowe- any questions? No one had any questions.

Michelle Laubis- concerned citizen with questions. - Thanks for having me again. I don't have too much. As you guys, so you know Hardin Hills closed, I came to the meeting my agenda was always to be you know a real transparency kind of fact. Sunshine law open meetings act. The idea, a lot of time as citizens we sit back don't get involved and we don't follow along and we just sort of trust that things are happening the way we think they're going to happen unless it's in the paper or the radio or you know things get around and generally I'm pretty happy with that scenario. I like to live a pretty simple life. Although I think America is important you know keeping the idea of our American dreams. Right, government, so when we had that public meeting you know you kind of realize maybe we should get involved a little bit more. So I come to find some answers and some explanations about what has happened and what has gone on. To say, as commissioners, I realize you guys get the brunt of the questions and the backlash and it's not always you know the bag that you guys have to hold its unfortunate. You guys are also the ones that do the PR for the courthouse. You are the face of the courthouse and the county and so we've come to ask questions. You guys have been nice to have me come it's been a good experience. I know its maybe uncomfortable or you don't understand or you know obviously you don't have a lot of participation from the citizens generally. I realize and kind of diving in to sunshine and public record request is maybe not your normal so I appreciate you guys doing that. But I still am here you know discerning whats, you know asking for the transparency. For the most part I think I have been, I come and ask questions you know, a lot of times you tell me to go talk to Brad Bailey, I do my due diligence I talk to Brad Bailey I get his responses. And then I take the next step obviously you guys know I started videoing a couple weeks ago it took me awhile to figure out how to get it on the internet that's not a skill I have readily at my fingertips. In the effort of transparency, I think the city of Kenton has done an amazing job. I did ask if you guys were interested in videoing your meetings and you guys' I'm assuming since you gave me the paper you said no you weren't interested so I took it upon myself to provide that for the community. They have a great organization over there, the video and meeting minutes, their website is excellent, and I really encourage you especially with the IT upgrade that it would be really nice. I definitely have had issues I mean It's been hard, its probably been two months I have spent lots of hours lots of time talking to people all over trying to discern the government structure of our county who does what where the information is. even finding the oaths of office took me awhile who holds it where is it. So its disappointing because I realize not any citizen can come and spend hours and hours and hours learning their local government. When I guess as a citizen, if I come to you, this is my expectation, not what I've not experienced but maybe is that we would be able to come and ask direct questions and get direct answers. If we had a question the answers would be there readily available. Is that your fault? I don't think so. I'm not sure. I'm not sure. You know the gentleman here was talking about HR. and I thought that was very interesting because I think someone that you could go and talk to that would know kind of the overall functions I think someone needs to know like an operator when I call in from a citizens standpoint that would be really helpful. As far as my endeavor to discern the facts and the motives and timing of the closing of Hardin Hills we are definitely coming down to the end especially with the closing essentially moved up. It's getting closer and closer. I still don't understand. I asked you last week about keeping the facility open. Do we have any updates from ODH? That's really what were looking for. I really want a nursing home. Were waiting on ODH to feedback. I was trying to do some research yesterday. We were looking through board meeting notes. Where we could find out this information. Do you know if it has to go through a board meeting.

Commissioner Crowe- I have no idea how they operate. Michelle- you know that is a lot of research. So do we have any updates? Commissioner Crowe- no not at this time. Is there something I mean I feel like July 1st has been a significant date for the Hardin Hills. You know I hear there is lots of swirling information all over the community as far as rumors if that's a significant date why it needs to be closed on that date instead of the July 10th. OR Is there a legal reason why we can't extend the opening to secure these beds. Other than a legal reason I don't I cant grasp why we cant limp along as it is. Commissioner Crowe- we've covered the process already. We covered that last Thursday and how the department of health works and their timeline and how we fit into that time line. That's all were operating under. Michelle- anyway if you're going to shorten it by a week... Commissioner Crowe- where did this come from? Michelle- well I don't know its the rumors. Commissioner Crowe- perhaps you shouldn't believe the rumors. July 10th we cannot change that date. Michelle- well I do know that if the last resident leaves it'll be before then. That's the only way I understand Commissioner Crowe- We are not changing the date. Michelle- ok well I know. Commissioner Rush-You made it seem like we were changing date. You based it on what hearsay you heard. Michelle- well that is the problem If I come and ask questions and then I don't get what I feel is.... Commissioner Rush- I think you just got the response. Commissioner Crowe- and you got the response last Thursday. Michelle- So you are not at all interested in furthering Hardin Hills so that we can save the beds. Commissioner Crowe- you got the response last Thursday. Michelle- so can we talk about why it has taken record requests to get a decent amount of information. Because a lot of the information that I have found hasn't been because you have been forthright with your positions as elected officials. It's because I did the digging to get the information and I just I think that's a concern. Especially since I know from the emails that Van Crest is asking you to stop the closing so they can fix the pump and they can keep the facility open. There was no response. I hear from you you're not at all interested in fixing the fire pump. Commissioner Striker- who here ever said were not interested. Michelle- well there was a no response. Commissioner Striker- no response is different than us saying were not going to do something. Michelle- are you interested in working with Vancrest to fix the fire pump so that they can manage the facility so that we can have a new nursing home building in our county. Commissioner Crowe- at this point with the number of residents we have no. Michelle- all you need is one or two. And you still have that. Commissioner Crowe- and a lot of money. Michelle- you cant put a price on it. Commissioner Crowe- yes we can that is our jobs I told you that on Thursday. Michelle- so what are you saving? How much are we going to save. I mean are we going to save millions? 10 beds just this past month Vancrest bought 10 beds for a million dollars. We have 78 beds. Commissioner Crowe- did that come directly from vancrest or are you relying on rumors or what was on Facebook. Michelle- no that is from ODH board meeting minutes that are posted online. When they approve the purchase and transfer of beds it's on there. I'm trying to go off as much factual information as I can. Until you have something that says you know this is the evidence you are trying to explore where is the motive. As a response to that email to vancrest saying they wanted to do this and to not close it and to move forward if you guys have other information that you guys responded differently than that no answer then I'm all for hearing what that explanation was. I can only just go off of what I have been able to see. I think it was a great thing. If there is information that I don't know please I implore you I've been here I would love to know what it is that is being such pressured on you guys to do this thing. As a citizen I can't fathom I cant wrap my head around it. Commissioner Striker- I want to ask a question. You bring stuff to us, ask questions right? And then you say it's rumors or they say, you never say where you got your information. I mean who said it who told you all this stuff? We never said it. Michelle- no, let me retract then. Commissioner Striker- tell us where your facts are coming from. Michelle- I'm not a public official so you cant do a public records request. Commissioner Striker- when did I ever ask you for a public records request? You are putting questions out there that we've never asked you. Michelle- it's ok Commissioner Striker- you are insinuating stuff. Michelle- I am not held under the same standards that you guys are held to you guys took oaths of office. I have those, right for whatever it's worth. And you guys putting yourself on the ballot and putting yourself as elected officials you took the sunshine classes you know the open meetings act. You know that you have a duty to the citizens of Hardin County. That's the position. So you are free to ask me questions but I'm not

under obligation to answer those questions. Commissioner Striker- I never said you were.
 Michelle-well yeah I know Commissioner Striker-see there you insinuated something else that I never asked you. Michelle- I'm sorry. Commissioner Rush- in all honesty when you ask various statements in this response it takes away from the integrity of what you're trying to get to. Michelle- it takes away my integrity? Commissioner Rush- the integrity of your question. Michelle- I would like a substantial answer to why Hardin Hills why were not more interested in saving the bed license of Hardin hills. Why are we not doing everything possible.. Commissioner Striker- can I ask who is we? Who is in this circle of we? Michelle- me we the community. I'm not saving a nursing home for myself I'm saving it for the community. Maybe I shouldn't speak on behalf of our community, but I feel that not everybody can be here, and I can. So that's my concern why I feel like you guys have drooped the ball or fumbled the ball as I clearly pointed out the very first time. Of really putting together a substantial effort to save the beds. That's the question. That's what I've been looking for the whole time. Commissioner Crowe- and we are putting forth an effort to save the beds. It may not be the effort that you want to see but it's the effort that were putting forth and trying to get accomplished in the timeline we have to work with. We are doing that it's just were not satisfying what you want to see us do. Commissioner Rush- and that has been mentioned before. Michelle- well I appreciate it. We will be back. We will see how it goes. Hopefully it will all work out in the end. Thank you.

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