

June 6, 2024

MINUTES OF June 6th MEETING

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

Commissioner Crowe- it is important to note that today is D Day. We remember those that sacrificed so much on that day.

V111-349	Minutes of June 4, 2024:
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V111-350	Bills
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-01	Reimbursement of Funds to Ditch Maintenance
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-02	Reimbursement of Funds to Pike Repair
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V112-03	Reimbursement of Funds to Ditch Maintenance
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-04	Additional Appropriation to cover Memorial Day Expenses
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
Signed:	Contract between JFS and Morgan Tudor
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes

Alec Keller joined the meeting from Kenton times.

Kathy Kelley joined the meeting.

Holli Underwood, President and CEO of HCCBA with June Economic Development Report- Disbursements continue for the RLF assistance for the first recipient of the program. Ongoing status reports indicate that the project is still on track with the opening date range discussed at closing. Working on promotional activities for the Jones Road Industrial Site. The sign is ready and will be picked up and installed soon. Our promotional video has been posted to ZoomProspector and to YouTube. A rezoning application has been submitted. The Planning Commission meeting is on June 17 at 8:30am. There was a BR&E visit at ATI. Main Street Kenton continues working to develop the committee.

Michelle Laubis, Concerned Citizen with questions and comments- I've been doing all my research and have my timeline for Hardin Hills, so you said for the closing the reasons for closing were reduced census, lower Medicaid payouts, rising costs, and the fire pump. So, trying to figure out what was the thing that made this close- so I went through and made my little notes. I understand that the census was down, right, but we weren't using all the beds, we sold some beds we got training there at the end. I think per vancrest. Training would bring better MDS ratings and income. Seems like something that could be worked out in my mind. Lower Medicaid pay outs I don't know but I don't see the evidence. I see the overage which they are still working on. What I see is they are paying more, it seems like. You should be staying on track with Medicaid. So, I'm not sure on that whole realm if there really are lower Medicaid payouts. You stated rising costs right, but when I looked, we are giving raises every year. Some people are getting 12% raises, Sharon is getting 8% every year. Someone said that the salaries and cost of employment is 75% of the problem you know the cost burden at Hardin Hills. For our county maybe we shouldn't have given so many raises. The fire pump I still didn't see it, no levy no additional appropriation, not put on as a budget item. It's a big problem right. I'm not saying this is an easy situation. I realize that when the beds are county and then you want to sell them you have to do all these compliance deals and occupancy of use, this is not an easy process. I fully understand there is a lot of effort that went in to do that. But then, you're in with Vancrest then the fire pump fails. That changes the whole deal. I did request public records this morning specifically for the fire pump you know where is the document that actually says the fire pump went out.

Who did the inspection who said we had to do a fire watch? It sounded like Vancrest was on board. I feel like there is a push for time. I don't know if that is a litigation settlement that you have a timeline for that is it a timeline for something to come in Economic development you're working on. What is the push to finish things? If Vancrest wasn't going to purchase the beds this year. Somebody said if they don't purchase this, we are going to start the closing. So, there is a time push. Previously when we spoke about it and asked why we couldn't pay to have the fire pump fixed. I realized that money might be allocated to other places. You don't have access to the 1.2 million dollars just to do whatever you want with it but that is a substantial amount. So, we asked about that, and you said because of things I don't know. You don't have the money to fix the fire pump because of things I don't know. So, after 2 months of research. I'm asking what is it that I don't know? What has made this such a time crunch? Not only are we getting 90 days to close the facility, but we pushed residents out so we could lower the census of workers at Hardin Hills, all the utilities grocery costs everything is coming down. Not just in the 90 days gradually but really fast. What is that I don't see. Especially at this point when it's going to be very difficult to keep the beds. You're asking ODH to do an extreme out of the normal process to license these beds Why did it have to close so quickly? What is it that don't I know that I haven't yet discovered in closing it so quickly? **Commissioner Crowe**- We are under Ohio Department of Health requirements that's why it's being closed so quickly that's why the 90 days. As far as the beds the way they have to be handled, those are ODH requirements, and it has to be done in a certain timeline before the last resident leaves the building. If you don't meet their requirements the beds will just go away. Everything is on a tight time schedule and being expedited because of the ODH requirements. We have no control over them. We are just trying to meet their requirements. **Commissioner Rush**- what specifically is your question? I'm having difficulty understanding exactly what you want to question. **Michelle**- so the question would be based off of Rogers comment that we couldn't fix the fire pump for things I didn't know. What I see in my research are things that are mitigatable. We could have avoided the high salary costs, we could have done maintenance, we could have researched better training. All these things you're saying was a closing factor, I see possibility in being able to manage those. You can use whatever reason you want to close the facility, right? I'm asking for the explanation because I don't see where taking the 78 beds which is worth \$1.2 million to just disappear. Right? That 1.2 would just disappear, so you don't feel like that is a substantial amount of funds that would be good for our community, and to say that when those beds disappear that we are not going to get another nursing home to service our community. So as elected officials we are entrusting you to put the highest value on the good of our community. So, when I say these are the things that we are losing. Based on the things that it would it take to mitigate the closing of this facility. I don't see where; I mean at this point we're looking at you may not be able to save those beds by July 9th or 10th. But we very much could keep the facility open, or we could have done things differently to ensure that this value to our community was secured. So, when I'm asking what is it that I don't know that will tell me that the value of this for our community is, you're telling me this value, we don't need it, we don't need the money, the beds, the nursing home facility, because of something I don't know. There is something that I don't know that is higher than a nursing home in our community. Does that make sense? Like this is all no money for the beds no nursing home. Don't hear me wrong. Ok. To say that managing a county nursing home the way that you have it set up here is not a picnic. To want to get out of that management situation. I understand, it is a huge headache. It is not something that should be taken lightly. So I understand getting out of it. I don't understand taking away the opportunity of having a nursing home. There has to be something of greater value than that. **Commissioner Crowe**- You have gone through your timeline. You have the information. **Michelle**- so I am not missing anything? **Commissioner Crowe**- when you get the public records request for the fire pump you will get all the information that we based our decision on. We based that decision on what is the best interest for Hardin County overall. We look at the building, we look at the facility, we look at the economics of it and we have to make a decision, we make our decision based on that and we move forward. **Michelle**- Did I make my question harder for you? I was trying to clarify what it was I was asking. Did I do that, or do I need to clarify.

So, there is nothing that's not being revealed as far as, I guess I don't understand. So, I know everything that I need to know. Like when you said I don't have some information because of the fire pump. **Commissioner Crowe-** You don't have 8 years' worth of information on the facility, how it's operated, what goes into operating it, how inadequate the building is, the expenses exceeding the benefits. Those are not things I can sit here and tell you this this this and this. It is an accumulation of many many years of what we have seen, what we have gone through and what we have experienced. Let me compare it to, and by no means take this that I am trying to make light of this, but this is a good comparison. You have a car; it is 15 years old and has 200,000 miles on it your transmission has gone bad. Do you put \$2500 into a new transmission for that car or do you get a new car? That, in a very simplified situation, is what we have at Hardin Hills. **Michelle-** So you're saying to me, I mean I realize we haven't had a levy for Hardin Hills since 1996-95 for the maintenance. So I totally understand 20 years of lack of building maintenance is definitely going to impact the building. What I am really trying to get at is that you as commissioners feel, that the funding that comes from the sale of the beds and the potential the very likelihood that we were going to get a brand-new nursing home in our community is not worth your effort. You would have to put effort in to limp this facility along until we get the licensure of the beds. So, having the money and new facility is not in the interest of our community, is that stated correctly? **Commissioner Crowe-** No, we have never said that, we have never made that indication, we are working very hard to get those beds sold so that a new facility can be built. **Michelle-** so is there an update or have you received updates from ODH on the process? **Commissioner Crowe-** no. **Michelle-** I saw that the resolution was signed then it goes back to them. Would it behoove you guys to call them and speak to them on behalf of the urgency you have only a month left. **Commissioner Crowe-** We have an attorney that is taking care of that situation. **Michelle-** They are contacting ODH on your behalf. **Commissioner Crowe-** Let me assure you that state agencies do not like you to badger them. **Michelle-** oh I know I know. **Commissioner Crowe-** that will do more harm than good. **Michelle-** if it comes back that those bed licensures could not be saved. Would you guys very seriously consider rescinding the closing of the building until the beds can be saved. **Commissioner Crowe-** not at this point no. **Michelle-** you don't think that's a valuable... see that's where I'm saying, because you could rescind the order to close the facility and the facility could continue with its lower census until those beds could be secured. **Commissioner Crowe-** Not without repairing the fire pump. **Michelle-** you have fire watch right now. Doing fire watch in house it is much more affordable than out of house. If you say you have to put another \$250,000 into fire watch and limping this facility along to ensure that our community gets the nursing home that it needs, I feel as a citizen that it is utmost urgency to do that. I would ask you guys to consider doing that because it is just a matter of rescinding the order to close. I'm sure there is lots of paperwork, but you just say we're not going to close the facility and it continues to operate and we can make this process go and then once the beds are secure you can do another 90 days and it could all be good. That could all be done before the fall or end of year. **Commissioner Crowe-** How much money do you want the county to invest in that effort? How much money do you think we should spend to do that? **Michelle-** equal to the amount of money we would spend on litigations, equal to the amount of money we would spend on economic development. Equal to the amount of money that we as citizens need to have a nursing home that is accessible to our citizens. I don't think you can put a price on it. **Commissioner Crowe-** unfortunately, our positions here we have to put a price on it. **Michelle-** I would even suggest going to the people, making a plea to the people, doing a fundraiser. **Commissioner Crowe-** you do not operate a nursing facility off of donations. **Michelle-** we could have put a levy on, we could have asked for appropriation of funds. I don't see where those things were considered. So, I'm saying from a citizens standpoint, you know, that you made some very hard decisions for our community over an amount of money, and I've seen the bills, I know the amount of money that goes into these litigations and it is no real benefit to our community. It is just lawyer costs. How do we reconcile that. When we have no benefit. At least in this case we would have benefit to the community. I will leave you I don't want to badger you guys. I will leave you to consider seriously keeping this facility open so we can secure the beds finally and the interest to our community and I thank you for your time. **Commissioner Crowe-** thank you for your concerns.

Scotty Mathews- Political Director for Hardin County for the Ty Mathews campaign. I am the correspondent while he is away on military training. I came to introduce myself and see if you need anything or have any questions for Ty. He is running for the 83rd district. If there are any meetings or anything that you possibly need from Ty I'd be happy to help with that. If you have any questions, I would be happy to relay them to Ty. **Commissioner Crowe**- He is more than welcome to attend any of our meetings, he just needs to call and set up a time. We are always happy to have our Senator or Representative so a candidate for that office would always be welcome.

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