

May 30, 2024

MINUTES OF May 30th 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:

V111-336	Minutes of May 28, 2024:
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V111-337	Additional Appropriation to Cover Supplies KHCB
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-338	Bills
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-339	CDBG CHIP Drawdowns
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V111-340	Payment of Bills for Memorial Day
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes

Michelle Laubis joined the meeting.

Alec Keller- Kenton Times joined the meeting.

Kara Brown Superintendent Hardin County Board of DD with Amy Newland, Jennifer Frail, and Bonnie Kelly business managers-came in to discuss the levy. Kara- our board did approve asking for a .5mil levy which will produce \$434,305. This would be approved in 2024 and starting in 2025 for 7 years. The reserve left at the end of 2031 will be \$1,384,789. Our target reserve is \$1,264,956. That is tight so we will have to ask for additional funds after 7 years to continue moving forward. We have made several cost saving decisions since 2016. It is important to note that in 2017 we projected we would need new levy money in 2020. We were able to push that back to 2025. That's an additional 5 years beyond original projections. Commissioner Crowe- we really appreciate that effort. Kara-There is a downside to that 7 years from now. Commissioner Striker-so your ask is .5 mil 7 years? Kara- yes if we pass this November. It will go up if we wait another year. Crowe- any questions?

Commissioner Striker moves to make a request to the county auditor for the required millage to generate the funds requested. Commissioner Rush seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes

Michelle Laubis-asked Commissioner Crowe how to get a special meeting with the Commissioners and the Prosecutor. Commissioner Crowe said just request time on the agenda.

The Health Department canceled their meeting at 10:30.

Commissioner Crowe left for the day.

Jason Miller with Garmann Miller and **Austin Horne** with Waibel- came in with bi-weekly updates. No safety or security issues. Transmission cabling complete. Refrigerant lines tested. Ductwork inspection passed. DOAS unit connected, waiting on Trane to get us a start-up schedule. The state of Ohio is here today for the piping inspections. We will be in the courtroom June 4-6th. Final walk through planning to be week of June 10th.

Kevin Cole Solar Development Manager for RWE and **Dylan Borchers** legal counsel from Bricker Graydon came in with update on Scioto ridge solar project. The landowners in this area are very excited about this project. The panels are in the same footprint as the turbines. Our substation is where the three townships meet, Lynn Township, McDonald Township, and Taylor Creek Township. We are at the point where we have done everything we can do. We're waiting for the permit to be issued. There is no time frame that it needs to be issued. Could be anywhere from 3-5 months. We are ready to go. We have our panels; we have everything that is one advantage of being a large company. Commissioner Rush asked about the megawatts. Kevin- it is 110 megawatts solar.

Some of the targets we are shooting for is October to mobilize construction. The goal is to have the project complete by December 2025. Only a couple times a year you can tap into the grid. They do it during lower demand for power times in the fall and the spring. We are shooting for the fall window. Dylan- we have communicated to the siting board that this project is ready. Commissioner Striker- just to verify where do you fall into the senate bill 52? Dylan- it is grandfathered in. Commissioner Striker- partially or fully? Dylan- partially. We have had a lot of support from State Representative Jon Cross. Things are moving right along. Michelle-who votes? Dylan- it will be the Ohio power siting board. The other thing we wanted to talk with you about is the PILOT program. Dylan- Hardin County is no stranger to PILOT programs. The max is \$9000 per megawatt. This is fixed, it doesn't change, it is not subject to reassessment. Commissioner Rush- How many years are you looking at? Dylan- 35-40 years. If we did not have a PILOT in place, it would be subject to depreciation. PILOT creates a fixed payment amount for the life of the project. Michelle- Does the PILOT end? Dylan-only when the project ends. Michelle- do solar panels last 35 years? Kevin- they lose their power after time. Commissioner Striker- once you get your license you can only produce so much, but you can produce less. Even if you produce less the PILOT will stay the same. Dylan- our intention is to pursue the \$9000 max PILOT. I believe the other projects have used the QEP (Qualified Energy Project). In the state there are two abatement programs, QEP and OAQDA (Ohio Air Quality Development Authority). For the purposes of the county and the PILOT and how we would pay for it, it would be the same. We are looking at the OAQDA for this project. There are some differences at the state level, but as far as the PILOT and the payment at the county level it would be the same. Commissioner Rush- do you have a document that shows the difference between the two? OAQDA has a broader application where QEP has been used as a state subsidy program. From county and school districts level we will pay the exact same. Commissioner Rush-who makes the decision? Dylan-we would select which one to use. Some risk litigation and sales tax at the state level with the OAQDA program. The county would pass a resolution saying that we approve the request. Commissioner Striker- do you know if this has been presented to the CCAO? Dylan- I don't know if it has been. We have used this in Putnam, Van Wert, and Madison. Commissioner Rush- I'd like to know the differences. Dylan- I'd be happy to put together information for you. Kevin- our purpose today is to present this to you and keep you updated and informed. Ultimately, we are looking for approval from the county to choose one program or the other. Commissioner Striker- I can call the CCAO and see what their opinion is on the matter. Give us time to check on that. Dylan- I have a background summary on the two programs I can provide.

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