

November 21, 2024

MINUTES OF November 21st MEETING

All Commissioners were present. Staff and Commissioner elect 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:

V112-338	Minutes of November 19, 2024:
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe(absent 19 th), Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V112-339	Hire Tia Hamilton ERS II
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-340	Reimbursement of Funds-JFS/CSEA
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-341	CDBG
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V112-342	Bills
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
Signed:	Certificate of County-Wide Cost Allocation Plan
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes

NWOSS had previously provided a quote for \$10,290.12 to install cameras and security on the commissioner's office doors. The commissioners decided not to proceed with the project.

After pending Michelle Laubis got up from the meeting (leaving her camera) and went to the hallway and came back with a group of about twenty people. This was an unscheduled "meeting". Commissioner Crowe had previously told the group they needed to make an appointment and that the agenda was full that morning. Michelle took it upon herself to let the group know they had fifteen minutes before our next scheduled meeting and that they could be heard. Commissioner Crowe informed Leanne Matthews, who was next to Michelle, that she could come back with a scheduled appointment and everyone in the group could have a chance to be heard. One gentleman spoke up and said they were just here to show opposition to solar in their townships and the county. Michelle made note on her agenda and told Leanne that the commissioners could make changes at any point, without notice, to the agenda. Again, Commissioner Crowe let the group know they needed to make an appointment with the clerk so all concerns could be heard. He warned Michelle not to interrupt him while speaking to Leanne or he would ask her to leave. After ignoring Commissioner Crowe Michelle told another gentleman to go ahead and ask his question. After the third time Commissioner Crowe informed Michelle she was disrupting the meeting and asked her to leave. She refused to leave, and Commissioner Crowe asked the clerk to step out and get the deputy. One of the members of the group said they apologized and that they didn't want any part of that. The group left the meeting. Michelle Laubis refused to leave and waited for the deputy. The courthouse deputy informed Michelle she could either leave peacefully or be charged with disrupting a public meeting which is a criminal offense. Michelle packed up her things and left. As she walked out of the meeting she turned to the clerk and said that will give you something to talk about now. I, the clerk told her that was rude, and promptly shut the door.

Richard Lawson joined the meeting.

City of Kenton Mayor Lynn Webb and Safety Service Director Cindy Murray in with updates and to discuss Christmas Parade. Cindy- they should be hot mixing on Saturday. The corners will stay stone for now. We are waiting on a bolt pattern from ODOT for the traffic lights. They will be stone for the parade, so they are not a safety hazard. Lynn- we really want to get ODOT's approval on that and then we will come back and finish them. Just to help spread information on why we put the pavers in, it saves \$4 million, it was an easy trade off because of our old storm water system and how that all works. Cindy- there are maintenance to the pavers. It was either the pavers or putting these big catch basins underground that have to be maintained. If it is out of sight, it won't be maintained. At least this is visible. Those are a few answers to some of the questions that are popping up. Cindy- we are going to leave main street shut down. They will be in town until December 20. They will take off from December 20 to January 6th. Then we will shut down Detroit Street. They are working on

coming up with a plan to get truck traffic to not even come inside the city limits. Commissioners- that would be nice. Lynn- we're looking at a four-year time frame for Detroit Street to be shut down. Commissioner Striker- Let's talk about soldiers. We were going to put them up top on the courthouse. Lynn- I think people involved are saying if you could just store them and then we at the city put them up and take them down so it's not on Richard. Commissioner Striker- also can the caboose go to the east or north side? Cindy- can your crane reach from another side? Commissioners and Richard all said no. Lynn- this Christmas especially there is so much involvement and collaboration. We just need to keep working together. Commissioner Crowe- there was a year in the past that it set on the north side of the square. Richard- its not been that long ago. Lynn- as long as it is here in this setting and not off anywhere. Commissioner Crowe- maybe put it down by the new curb on the north/east corner. Lynn- we need to make sure we can get electricity wherever it goes. Richard- there is electricity on north side and on the corners. Commissioner Crowe- we need to keep the roofers moving and are constantly loading and unloading from the roof. Lynn will check with the owner of the caboose and see where he prefers to bring the caboose. Striker- someone is going to come over and take the trash cans down? Lynn- yes. Richard- are you doing two or four? Lynn- all four. Cindy- no update on the new lights. That was the long lead time was traffic lights. Mid-summer before we get new traffic lights delivered. They don't make anything until its ordered. There is a new trunk line that goes under the river that goes in too. We are having a hard time finding someone to do the boring. Under the river and under the railroad tracks. This is between main street and Wayne Street. Commissioner Crowe- they did the big dig down on Franklin street yesterday. Lynn- yes it was a process. That was the one that really needed attention. Richard- the soldiers are all out and bolted down. Please bring the lag screws back.

Sharon Huston- Hardin Hills Administrator- Commissioner Crowe moves to go into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) with Commissioner Elect Joe Sherman invited to stay at 10:00. Commissioner Rush seconded the motion. Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes

Commissioner Crowe announced the end of executive session at 10:26. Commissioner Rush moves to extend Brandy Baughman's employment until January 3, 2025. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes V112-343 Vancrest update on the CON. Only requesting 64 bed approval and paid the expedited fee to get a response no later than the end of February. Commissioner Rush- so they went from 78 to 64. Sharon- yes they could not build a skilled facility with more than 64 beds. Auction updates- so far we don't have any checks that haven't cleared. The total from the auctions was \$32,845.00. The building is now 98% empty. Dave takes a percentage of the gross. What's left is about 2%. I'm having people just show up at the door. We couldn't sell this stuff for a dollar. We have three metal desks and twenty-two wood desks. One metal shelf, and two small bookcases. That is all that's left in that building besides our office equipment that we are using. Commissioner Rush- they can stay until the final auction. Sharon- we have one nursing home that is coming tomorrow morning to get their electric bed and bed side commodes and shower chairs. I have been staying in touch with FLR insurance to get updated insurance rates for next year. When they do the policy next may it will be significantly less. We have to keep the copier insured for \$29,000.00 per Perry Pro Tech contract agreement. The state of Ohio elevator inspector showed up for the annual inspection. Told us we were leaking oil. Commissioner Striker- can we do away with the elevator at this point. Sharon- we can now that all the items have been moved.

John Neville, David, Kathleen, and Gloria from the Museum with funding questions- John- the museum was created at the request of the commissioners back in 1984. At that time the commissioners were meeting in the upstairs second floor office which is a part of the Auditors office now. Then they acquired a house and had a DAR relic room that was taking up space in the courthouse. It might have been in this room were in. They came up with a plan to create the museum. It started as the Sullivan Johnson Museum. In 1991 we consolidated the Kenton historical and archeological society with the Sullivan Johnson Museum and that's how we started Kenton Historical Museums. You created us and we've been closely connected ever since. I thought it was time we sit down and have a good conversation. Gloria, could you please tell the commissioners what we do at the museum daily. Gloria- this is just a small portion, we greet our visitors, we preserve the artifacts in our collection. We have a massive

collection. We have Jacob parrots medal of honor. We have the world's largest collection of Kenton Metal Toys. We have Alaskan Frontier Painter collection. At the farm we have the one room school. We have a massive collection of agricultural artifacts in our barn. We have a restored log house and a general store there. And those locations are all filled with our collection. David- the museum, is an educational and social institution for our community. This is a non-exhausted list of events that we're involved in: festival of trees, haunted museum, county fair booth, we've done events like Victorian tea party, ice cream social, art in the alley was successful. We partner with the Kenton public library for several children's events. These are events for folks of all ages. If those things don't happen the social calendar in the town gets a little more condensed. John- Were not limited to Kenton either. We have tapped into resources from ONU. We have a team of students out at the barn working on categorizing our massive collection. Overall, we do a lot of different things for a lot of different people. Obviously, the reason we are here is because of our budget concerns. Originally, we were able to pass a levy for one tenth, then passed it to .3 mil. At one point it was defeated and put back on and defeated again. Since then, we have gotten along with the funding that we have. We sold a house, and we've invested what we could. Sheena had gotten a grant that paid our payroll for a while. Even with all the money we raise a year which is over \$20,000.00. We are still coming up at about \$25,000.00 short a year. David- we have been able to get grants and money for several different projects or things that we do. No grant-awarding body is going to give you money to keep your doors open. We are bringing money in from outside the county to the county but we cannot get funds to keep the heat on or the doors open. John- projections for the current year. We were running about 25,000 short to continue as it is with no enhancements. We'd like to have more hours, more events, and more exhibits. We don't know where else to turn. Brad says we are no longer eligible for a levy. Section 307.23 of ORC. Commissioner Crowe- I think you need to find a way to be self-funded. You have all these structures. We take care of the outside and maintenance. you don't have a good revenue stream to get people in there to see what you have. The barn is a prime example. There has to be a funding source. That's where I'm at. I appreciate everything you do but there needs to be an independent supply of money. Commissioner Rush- I would agree also. Id be interested in knowing your costs and what they are. For example, how many visitors each week? What is the cost to have the visitors? John- some of the costs we have is payroll, copier, maintenance, insurance, taxes, internet, website, office supplies. 46,484.00 a year on expenses. Commissioner Rush- on average about 1000.00 a week. What is your revenue? John- we projected to bring in 24,300.00 from fundraising, gift shop etc. Gloria- Roger was talking about the farm just sitting there. We can't have it open because we don't have staff. We need more funding to do more. Commissioner Rush- how would it benefit you? If you have the additional funding? John- the sky's the limit if we go forward in a partnership, we would love to know what you would like to see. Gloria- our membership would increase our visitors would increase. Commissioner Rush- what do you generate off of donations or admissions to museum or farm? \$1,864.40 so far this year. Commissioner Striker- if in two years you're out of money or revenue what happens to the artifacts? John- that is a very good question. David- I think legally you have to ask the people who donated them, then go to another museum. Commissioner Rush- how many visitors have you had this year? Gloria- I'm sorry I don't have that number currently. Commissioner Crowe- if we did provide a 25,000.00-amount next year t would require you to come up with an aggressive plan to increase revenue. Commissioner rush- it would be nice to see a plan that would basically show an additional revenue stream for \$25,000.00 and once that is set up your deficit would become zero. John- I'm not sure we could do all that in a year but we could most certainly come up with a plan. I do believe we need to meet more regularly so we can ask each other questions. Commissioner Crowe- let us mull it over and think about what it is we can do. John- let us know if there is anything we can be working on. Commissioner Rush- hopefully you can come up with a plan that can show that benefit coming through in a years' time. Some sort of a plan. I would like to see something that justifies the initial expense.

Garmann Miller Damschroder Roofing update. Still plan to be done with both sides the middle of December. Should finish North side next week. South side should take about 2 and half weeks weather permitting.

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

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