

October 31, 2024

MINUTES OF October 31<sup>st</sup> MEETING

All Commissioners were 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:

V112-285	Minutes of October 29, 2024:
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V112-286	Bills
1 <sup>st</sup> -Striker	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-287	Additional appropriation
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V112-288	Indigent Attorney Fees
1 <sup>st</sup> -Striker	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
Signed:	2024 County Highway System Mileage Certification
1 <sup>st</sup> -Crowe	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
	Board of DD Chiller Replacement contract with Garmann Miller
1 <sup>st</sup> -Rush	2 <sup>nd</sup> -Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes

**Tammie Colon, Executive Director and Katie Walker**, Clinical Director Mental Health & Recovery Services Board-annual report, Hardin County we still see the overdose presentation is higher than the state average, but the trajectory is in the right direction, and it is going down, but we'd like to see it lower. Drug usage is hard to gather information on. Opioid is down because everyone is monitoring that. On the street really the only marker is overdose. The drug overdose deaths information is from 2020-2022. The presence of fentanyl and its higher potency effected death rates not necessarily the presence of more drug use. 120 residents overdosed in 2022. 81 overdosed in 2023. Overdose numbers are going down. It is reflective of everyone's effort in the county. Treatment isn't always enough; law enforcement isn't always enough. Getting into the schools and warning young people of the dangers. We're educating community and courts are doing their jobs with specialty courts. We are doing better with our treatment providers. Two new programs Hardin memorial- we contract with organization that accesses our data and Medicaid. With suicide or drug overdose. They share data, we reach out to provider to let them know to follow up. If no provider we send out a crisis team to get them connected to resources. First prelim report. We don't get specific information until there is a specific person. Last year out of the 120 patients at Hardin Memorial for substance abuse or suicide attempts only 5 were attached to a provider. We invested in a notify application. We are marketing that right now. Hardin memorial Kenton Hardin health, users sign up families sign up. We control messaging for people who sign up and they get text messages. We get alerts from health departments when there are overdose that are above the threshold. We send out information if there have been bad drugs on the street. It allows us to get as much information from the state to the people. Every week we have more and more people sign up. Senate bill 318- proposed by senator of Montgomery County. The bill suggests that the commissioner have the authority to disprove the budget of mental health board. Assume responsibility of the budget until an agreed upon budget could be developed. Auglaize had not heard of it. Allen county reached out and said they didn't think there was huge support for the bill. Commissioner Striker- questions about multi county. Is there a list of drugs that are not covered. Tammie- I'll get you the list of approved. I did get a response from the state. Hardin county is eligible for a refund. I reached out to jail administrator. When the jail applies for the grant, they are applying for all the inmates. Transportation services for the county through Coleman. It's for mental health and substance abuse services. We have been a part of the hhwp meetings and are willing to work with them for transportation for our services. Hope line connects them to Coleman.

**Keith Severns** EMA Director with EMA update- fire and spill update. The cleanup has been taken care of. I got a phone call from state ema. Information about a large, oversized load and shipped new substation. AEP says they don't know when or if that is happening. 9000 gallons of mineral oil that was out there, 3000-4000, was actual spill. Safer to let it burn. Not sure what sparked the actual fire. Could have been from storm. The transformers are old. They have done their duty out there. EPA did air studies through the city came back negative for any health issues. Let it burn. 30-40ft in air while it was burning. Wind was an issue; we didn't want another transformer to catch. Waiting on EPA to finish final reports. Get it submitted to state. We did get final report back on train tractor trailer spill. Bills have been submitted. Sheriff hasn't gotten back to me on donation center for North Carolina. Waiting to see the actual needs. The commodities study was completed, I sent it to LEPC to distribute. They did a good job. They did a good study and watched a lot of vehicles and gave a better idea on how the chemicals are moving through the county and what we need to be looking for. I contacted our insurance agent. She sent me information that she was looking for. I didn't have a list of all the buildings that we have. She sent me the information I needed. Commissioner Rush- how was AWP to work with during this emergency? Keith- excellent. They are very good, very cordial. Stuck around and waited on myself and EPA before they left. One incident with a drone. Brought it right in over the fire. Couldn't track where it was coming from. Carpet people were out measuring today. Our guys are framing the doorway.

**Jack Kremer** with Invenergy LLC. Hardin solar II and III general update. We just finished testing Hardin solar II. Under review currently might not be today or tomorrow but very soon. Producing energy by putting it in the grid. Milestones- once we reach the COD date, we do final. Actively going on at this moment. Should all be complete by end of year for solar II . joint discussion with township trustees this week, Hardin solar III question remains around RUMA and road repairs. Spring 2025 road repairs. Winter is not ideal for road repair. Next spring, next summer. Our construction team working with county engineer to sign off of proposals and amounts and when we can start construction weather permitted. We're actively working towards to have plan completed by end of year with construction in 2025. Hardin solar III utilize same roads as I and II. So, we will need to repair once III is complete. All major equipment has been delivered. No large truckloads will be coming into site. There will be trash removal and general equipment removal. What's there is there. No additional equipment moving in. early spring for Hardin solar III to have all the reclaim done. March / April ground conditions we will move forward. End of quarter 2 we will comfortably be done with Hardin solar III completion. Commercial operation for Hardin solar III that will likely be end of February of 2025. General construction updates. Any questions? Commissioner Striker- to maintain our bus routes and keep them safe during the winter. Assured good roads for picking up and dropping off school children. No road should be torn up during the winter. Jack- the existing conditions should stay as is, we don't have a full plan in place, but it is one of those things we have a road bond in place. The county engineer must provide the agreement with townships themselves. Commissioner Crowe- have you done patchwork during these projects. Jack- yes , can't tell you where exactly. Commissioner Crowe- so if something comes up you will be able to address it. Jack- yes, and I can pull the records of what we have done. Commissioner Rush- you anticipate it all being done in 2025, are you currently working with the engineer? Jack- yes, and I will be connecting with him after this meeting. We want to make sure we are aligned with the engineer. Commissioner Rush- by this time next year they should all be wrapped up?? Jack- that is my expectation. PILOT- ongoing, Hardin solar II prior to march of 2025 so we can receive payments in 2026. Roundhead fire and ems sign off, then final sign off with county engineer office. We should have everything complete by end of November then we can submit it to department of development for review. November 23 turn in our paperwork. Phase III pilot payments will be in 2027. Invenergy two departments LLC and services. LLC- commercial arm I'm the point person for county and landowners. Up to very late stage of construction. Once a project is operational . There is a team. We still operate Hardin solar I and Hardin solar II. Dereck Operations and maintenance manager, and Theresa we have a full-service staff Monday-Friday 9-5 within the area. He is point of contact if there are emergency issues. Questions related to solar site itself. He works with AEP, etc. 5-6 contacts for the landowners and townships once it is operational.

Bid Opening Asphalt Resurfacing Commissioner Crowe opened the following bids:

- 1. Kokosing Construction Company Inc. BB \$2,698,165.16
- 2. The Shelly Company BB \$2,743,051.91
- 3. Shelly and Sands BB \$2,469,345.86

The estimate for the project is \$3,341,015.19. Commissioner Rush moved to accept the bids and take under the advisement of the Hardin County Engineer Luke Underwood. **V112-289** Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes The work will not take place until spring of 2025. Luke Underwood explained that \$2 million will be from Federal Money, and approximately \$500,000 will be from the OPWC grant. OPWC is percentage driven where the federal money is guaranteed \$2 million. They are almost complete with the installation of the Reed Road plant. Tomorrow or Monday they will be hooking up electric. The Eldridge WWTP should be completed at the end of November first part of December. The material Storage Building should be wrapped up by the end of the year. There should be one more invoice before it is closed out.

**Kenton Hardin Health Department Board of Health-** Jeryl Kissling, Shane Lotts, Amanda Poppe, Katy Flinn, Kevin Risner, Dionne Staley, Jessica Hinson, Aaron Fritz, and Jordan Temple-formally ask for financial support. Securing the Arpa funds would be essential in enabling us for care for the residents of the county. 2022 one of the main funding reasons is responding to public health. Covid is not going away. Between September 2023 and September 2024 there were 800 new documented cases of Covid. How did we arrive here? Besides the pandemic effect, the health board takes responsibility for those decisions. We rely on grants for funding. That resource is limited. Dionne- official proposal given to commissioners. \$414,500.00 Arpa funds requested to cover covid payroll expenses. That should last. 70% spent on salaries. 30% everything. Our last grant was paid out three months late. Prior to that expenses were being met. We don't come here unless it's dire. We would handle it ourselves if it wasn't dire. Workforce grant is only guaranteed for a few more years. I think the Arpa money could sustain us until we come up with a new strategy. Shane- we only have a little carryover going into the next year because our funding if the increases are minimal, we leave them the same. My fees are dictated by the ORC. We have some hesitation regarding a levy. It costs money, campaign, likely hood of failure is common. It's one of our plans, but it's not a quick fix. We have lost help me grow. Our vaccine clinic shut down for three months we lost \$25,000.00 another big hit we had was our community health assessment which is a requirement for our accreditation and was about \$14,000.00. TB treatment is unfunded but mandated treatment. A few members of the board will be back with a more detailed plan in a week.

**Dudley Township Trustees-** Mark Schwemer, Nathan Brooks, Michael Holland- discussion was had regarding wind and solar in the township. There has been a new company in the township trying to get landowners signed up. Commissioners will not tell landowners what they can and cannot do with their land. The township can decide, pass a resolution, and the commissioners will honor that. A public hearing would need to be set after it gets signed and given to commissioners. We believe that a large percentage of residents are in favor of this. We have heard that people have been approached but not sure if they have signed.

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