

March 7, 2024:

MINUTES OF MARCH 7th 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:

V111-155	Minutes of March 5, 2024:
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V111-156	Reimbursement of Funds to Pike Repair
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-157	Reimbursement of Funds to Ditch Maintenance
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
V111-158	Release of Funds
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-159	Bills
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
V111-160	Transfer of Funds-Ditch Reconciliation February 2024
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
V111-161	Resignation of A. Payton JFS
1 st -Rush	2 nd -Striker Roll Call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
Signed:	Kimmel 3-year Contract-Commissioner Crowe to sign
1 st -Striker	2 nd -Rush Roll Call: Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes

Sharon Huston Hardin Hills Administrator called in with positive updates.

Commissioner Crowe attended a Fair board meeting. Discussion was had about replacing stairs in the East and West entrance of the Grandstands with **American Rescue Funds**. Commissioner Rush moved to utilize ARF for the replacement of steps on the east and west entrances of the grandstands estimated at \$27,107.68 from **M064-M09**. Commissioner Crowe seconded the motion. Roll Call: Striker-abstain based on relationship, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes

Holli Underwood- HCCBA- RLF update-haven't seen any movement, waiting for legal documents to complete it. Vibrant Communities held a virtual meeting with 9 downtown building owners (representing approximately 25 buildings) to discuss the JobsOhio Vibrant Communities program and how we could put together a project or projects that would qualify as catalytic for the downtown. Office of economic development would be the lead applicant grant value is up to 50% of eligible project costs, capped at \$1 million per project. Also considering the eligibility for this program of a project in Ada. Economic Development Breakfast had Senior Project Manager from RGP Bill Burkett as the speaker. There is a zoom call today for the Eclipse preparation. This is a planned information session for county wide stakeholders to share a summary of their plans for the eclipse. We toured Hardin County sites with Matt Davis and Sarah Perrigo from RGP. They reiterated the importance of being shovel-ready and of community control of sites. They would like to see a firm, set, current price for industrial sites. Enterprise Zone Meeting for Kenton and Buck Township Robinson Fin Machines, Stillwater Metal, Graphic Packaging, and Associated Plastics Corporation gave updates and had no issues. Wilson Sporting Goods is ahead of schedule planning to move production over around May. There will be a ribbon cutting and Grand Opening. The new facility will have a visitor lobby with a retail area inside. They plan to host tours and really make it a tourist destination along with being an important manufacturer and employer in the community. Harvest Pride is no longer in operation. The chip equipment has been sold and it has been listed with an agent. Holli gave a special thanks to Kirk Shepherd for representing the Alliance in the planning of the recent Meet the Candidates Night hosted by Hardin Leadership. The new Director of Chamber and Tourism Deb Phillips is going through orientation and training.

Bob Snavely-Energy Consultant with Palmer Energy came to go over and review changes to Exhibit A of the CCAO agreement. There is purchasing power of all the counties being on the same contract. We decided to do it now because we have most of the counties. Last time we did this with Exhibit B for electric. Exhibit A is natural gas. The grouping together for the natural gas has already happened. The significant change is going from a 5-year to a 10-year agreement. There is no fee increase for this. There is language that if there is a change in the future the CCAO must get approval from the energy board. Amendment to exhibit A. Commissioner Crowe-what does it do to our rates? Bob- Doesn't affect them. Allows flexibility for us to do what we do and get the best prices for the counties. Doesn't affect the rate just locks us in for supply deals. Go out for pricing in the summertime. Warmest winters in history. Price tanks because of oversupply in the market. The natural gas market moves up in the summer. Natural Gas gets sucked up by the electric generators in the summer. Gas and electric prices are correlated not linked directly. June-June is the utility price. Bob will send the agreement with approved changes to Exhibit A to be signed.

Brenda Rainsburg Hardin County Recorder- IT has recommended that we need a new server and computer equipment. I am short on my technology fund. Asking for the additional \$9,000 to cover the new equipment and installation. Commissioner Crowe moved to approve the transfer and additional appropriation coming from the general fund and going to the recorder's tech fund of \$9,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a new server and computer equipment. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call- Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes.

Jason Fleming with Garmon Miller and **Austin Horne** and Braden with Waibel-came in for their biweekly updates on the courthouse HVAC project. Richard told Ausin he had no safety concerns, and the judge was also happy with Waibel's cleanup in the courtroom. Construction progress is good. Austin will check with the city of Kenton and courts to verify dates that the south entrance will need to be closed again. The next update will be March 21.

Richard Lawson-west annex after the walls were redone the urinals were never put back on the wall. The pipe is back in the wall farther than it was and it won't create a good seal. Richard suggests not replacing the urinals. Richard gave his own updates on other projects. He will be ordering a door for Regional Planning office soon.

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

ARF
 Recorder
 Auditor