

April 22, 2025

MINUTES

All Commissioners were present. Staff and Commissioners 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:

V113-271 Minutes of April 17, 2025:
 1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-abstain
 V113-272 Enterprise Zone Robinson Finn
 1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
 V113-273 Advance of Funds to JFS
 1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
 V113-274 BMV lease 2025-2027
 1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
 V113-275 Release of Funds JFS
 1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
 V113-276 Award Bid County Road 190 Bridge Project
 1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-abstain, Sherman-yes
 Signed: Ohio Department of Youth Services Juvenile Court Grant Agreement
 1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes

State Representative Ty Mathews- Commissioner Rush-we appreciate you coming by today we know you've been busy in the first quarter, and we'd like to talk about what you have seen so far. Ty-my experience has been great so far; it is very efficient. The budget is daunting, it's around 6000 pages. We had a lot of wins. I want to focus on things that came up that are pertinent to your county. I brought as many numbers as I could. House Bill 28 elimination of the replacement levy. why? Essentially, we're trying to provide more transparency to voters. You will have to go back for renewal or a new levy. You would have to do a renewal plus the % of increase. You would have to display that increase on the ballot. I voted for the bill. Another topic of discussion is eliminating coroner as an elected official to be an appointed position by commissioners. Commissioner Rush- why? Ty- small counties are shrinking, there is a county who has a PA as a coroner which has affected the legality. The idea is that multiple counties can appoint one coroner to oversee. Commissioner Sherman- if we are indisposed the coroner would be a voting member. What would that look like as an appointed position? Commissioner Striker- I think I read the auditor would step up as coroner as third commissioner. Ty- is there concern with that? Commissioner Striker- not currently. I would rather see an elected official there. Next, something that is talked about in all communities are the libraries. Currently we are increasing 1.7% to 1.75%. The "cuts" are compared to the governor's version vs the house version. This is a \$7.2 million increase. What does this mean in Hardin county? \$17,637 increased into their funding. No libraries will see a decrease in funding, the concern that we are seeing amongst libraries is how the formula is changing. Instead of % it will be allocated each year as a line item. Why? it would provide a more stable model instead of estimates. They feel it is more stable to give a fixed amount each year. We are only one of two states that fund our libraries based off percentage of GRF. Commissioner Rush- has there always been a difference in governor and house budgets? Ty- the difference is no tax increases on house budget, our hope for the house is to rain in that spending. School funding- we have talked a little about the carryover in the past. Each budget commission is to meet by August 15th of each year. Why- last year the school's carryover was \$2.5 billion, that is 40% of expenditures., 486 school's carryover was more than their 30%. We would like to see the taxes decrease for our residents. Capital projects would be exempt. We need property tax relief. We are going to address property taxes in general assembly and how do we create a sustainable school funding formula. Commissioner Rush- sounds like you have been busy. Ty- very busy, it has been an eventful GA. Any other questions about the budget? Commissioner Striker- in our county with alternative energy. Some school districts will have a lot of money, some will not. When there is a big dump of pilot money to the school district do they spend it or give it back? Ty- no it would only be applied to state funded money. Commissioners thanked Ty for his time and information.

Maintenance Supervisor Richard Lawson- AC in auditor’s office is the last original here was put in 1980’s. Jacks and Airforce one got quotes for me for replacing the A/C unit, air handler, and thermostat. \$15,677.00 was the quote from Jacks Heating and Plumbing Inc. \$28,659.00 was the quote from AirForce One my suggestion is having it taken care of by Jacks. They have had a service contract here for many years.

Commissioner Striker moves to approve the \$15,677.00 quote from Jacks Heating and Plumbing Inc. to come from permanent improvement fund N000-N02. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes **V113-277** CORSA and facility dude (brightly). They had an MOU that facility dude was to bill CORSA 75% of the costs. 2025- if we renew, we will pay the entire cost. CORSA will reimburse us back \$3,685. I don’t want us to drop it. I don’t want to move to anywhere else. We started in 2014 and have 11 years of data in their database. I would hate to see that just tossed out the window. There is nothing to do, I just wanted to keep you guys informed on what’s going on. I have heard back from Mangum and Sons about the north annex floor work. They are using encompass engineers to plan. Mangum will be billing us \$2,900 for the engineer and architect fees. Commissioner Striker moved based on the recommendation of Richard Lawson to approve the \$2900 to Mangum and Sons to come from Permanent Improvement fund N000-N02. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes. **V113-278**

Bid Opening for the Engineers County and Township Road Asphalt Overlay Project was held at 11:00 The estimate for the project is \$1,658,734.00 and a bid bond was required. The following bids were received:

- 1. Bluffton Paving Inc. Bid Bond was received bid was \$1,554,776.00
- 2. The Shelly Company Bid Bond was received bid was \$1,367,369.00

Commissioner Striker moved to accept the bids and take under the advisement of Hardin County Engineer Luke Underwood. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Sherman-yes **V113-279**

Roll call resulted as follows:

_____, YES/NO
President of the Board-Fred M. Rush

_____, YES/NO
Joseph C. Sherman

_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest _____
Clerk of the Board