

August 19, 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:

V114-107 Minutes of August 14, 2025:
1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V114-108 Additional Appropriation
1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes

Commissioner Sherman attended the HCCBA Economic Development Breakfast Friday morning and the Housing Coalition meeting. On Saturday all three Commissioners attended the grand reopening and new sign unveiling that the museum held at the fairgrounds. It was well attended, and the museum did a wonderful job. Commissioner Sherman and Commissioner Striker both attended the grand reopening of the museum on Main Street Sunday morning. Everything is situated very nicely, and the Curator has done very well. Commissioner Rush will attend the Board of DD meeting this evening at the Simon Kenton School. And Commissioner Striker will be attending the Council on Aging meeting this evening.

Jason Fleming with Garmann Miller stopped in to discuss our Annex retaining wall repair project. Jason will oversee the project. Since it has been deemed an emergency, the Commissioners can issue a direct PO to the contractor. We need to inform Jason when the Contractor plans to start. Jason attempted to contact HSX several times to get a quote from them but never received a response so we will go with the lowest we have out of the three quotes we did receive.

Darrell Bodine- funding for first responders and sheriff mental illness- everyone is aware of the circumstances surrounding my son's death. Very touching the support from the community and officers. There is not much presence for mental health in the policy at the sheriff's department. There are a couple counseling services available. There were only two council sessions for the officers after this, and the Sheriff was going to pay for any extra out of his pocket. I know they are working on a new policy. My son is the first person as a deputy to take his own life. That is not guaranteeing they will take advantage of that. I think it should be mandatory after a tragedy that everyone get extended counselling. He was never the same after the shooting he was involved in. I am asking for funding for more counseling or mental health services for all first responders. Second thing I want but in know tis more difficult. Our guys don't get paid enough to put their life on the line. They can go to Marysville and get \$5 more with better benefits. I would like you to consider finding funds to help with that. That's all I have. The situation with my son and with all the brotherhood and all his friends and no one noticed. I think something should be done and I know Sheriff Everhart is working on it but he will need your guys help with funding. I am asking about those two things. Mental health services and raises. Commissioner striker- we will look into it and talk to the sheriff. Have you seen the county not step up and pay for services.? Darrell-that's not what I'm implying, I said there is stuff in place but there is not enough. We need more. Commissioner Striker-we will review policies and I promise you we will look into it. Darrell- that's all I ask, to see if you can you look into it and get more services for all of our first responders.

Hardin County Engineer Luke Underwood, NCOSWD President Tim Metzner, and Operation Manager James Lee- Luke- every 5 years we negotiate our tipping fees. October 31 is end of last 5-year agreement we are looking at negotiating fees. The commissioners have a property tax that property owners pay to support tipping fees and landfill. Our tipping fees are not covering fees at transfer station . The commissioners in the past have decided to leave it that way because we have money. Our 30-year agreement with EPA and landfill is getting re-negotiated. We're looking at reducing testing. Not sure how that is going to look going forward. If we have less testing it's less money we pay on the landfill side. CDC is doing reports. This calendar year we plan to have that ironed out. We are thinking of going with a

ten-year agreement. If after ten years we can reduce it, we will. Right now, we collect \$60 at transfer station, and it costs us \$75. Tim has been in discussion with Cherokee. With the money we are bringing in and spending it's working. Trying to make sure we don't have an increase for the public at transfer station. Luke- if we want to reduce the property tax and increase tipping fees or keep going where we're at. Some commercial property owners do complain about the property tax. We can decide as a county if we want to raise tipping fees or reduce property tax. Tim- round trip from transfer to Cherokee is roughly 45 miles. Bucyrus in Crawford county is 106. Commissioner Sherman- so if we get a contract, it'll be 5 years with Cherokee? Tim-yes with roughly 3-5% increase. Rumpke just got village of forest contract. We manage that for them to get a better price. They like the commercial price of Rumpke over republic. Commissioner Rush- so you are currently talking with Cherokee. Tim- yes, he's hoping next week to have final prices for me. I will get with Luke. Commissioner Rush- what do you anticipate? Tim- I'm looking at the 3-5% BUT I'm not sure. Luke- 2021 we hauled 11,000 tons of solid waste and now were over 14,000 tons. We're seeing a lot more solid waste from adjoining counites because our tipping fees are lowest. Once we see what the numbers come in at, I can lay it all out for you guys. Commissioner Striker - do away with the levy? Luke- no because there is always a cost with the transfer station. Mike bacon- brought current landfill assessments. Luke asks mike was that done by resolution with public hearings. ? Luke- to look at reducing that it would be similar process. Mike – 1999 it looks like it was done. Tipping fees are set by commissioners by resolution. Commissioner Rush- and we've kept tipping fees the same since when? Luke- the last time they increased was November 1 2020. Commissioner Sherman- we will wait to get solid numbers. joe- how long do the containers usually last. Luke- we've been buying a couple new ones a year. they last a long time. we replace rollers when they need it or any of the wear parts. Luke- we need to have a resolution passed by then. Mike- November would be a good cutoff for that big of a project to make that big of a change it'll take time. Luke- when you get those numbers do you want to come back for a follow up meeting. Everyone agreed to meet again after final numbers are negotiated.

Scott Ribley and the Commissioners reviewed applications for the housekeeping position.

Commissioner Sherman moves to Hire Peggy Vires as a full-time housekeeping assistant, starting at \$13.00 an hour with a \$1 increase after a 90-day probationary period. V114-109 Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes

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