

Minutes 2013

Thursday January 24, 2013
Boardroom of the Commissioners
622 Croghan St., Fremont, OH 43420

Session began at 8:00a. Commissioner Polter was late due to his attendance at an EDC meeting. He reported that there was information shared at the meeting having to do with interest in used buildings in the area. Also noted was that the Whirlpool Corporation has been in the world news recently.

Throughout the day the following occurred:

Commissioners reviewed numerous mailings. Several other items for other offices were signed and/or reviewed by the Commissioners. Minutes from the regular session on 01.22.2013 were reviewed and signed. Invoices were cared for in electronic fashion.

Then & Now certificates: One presented from the office of the County Commissioners having to do with the courthouse belfry renovation project. The Vanguard-Sentinel Schools did the work and had some transportation costs in bring materials and students to the job site. These were not anticipated in the original estimate and a purchase order could not be opened in advance of the transportation being performed. Commissioner Polter offered a motion to care for the certificate as presented and Commissioner Thatcher offered a second to the motion. The ensuing vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Vanguard-Sentinel Schools - \$57.90

County Administrator issues: Requested an addition of \$1100 to the amount approved from the Permanent Improvement Fund for the needed painting in the jail cell area. This would cover two vestibules that should have been included in the original quote but were overlooked by the Facility Management Director. Commissioner Thatcher moved to include this amount needed to care for the matter. Commissioner Polter added the second to the motion. The ensuing vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Also requested was the payment of late fees, which are ordinarily not allowed, on a credit card bill that could not be cared for due to the bookkeeping office ceasing to pay bills in mid-December. Once access to the bill paying system was allowed for 2013 and by the time the invoice was processed the due date could not be met. There is \$28.77 in late fees assessed. The Commissioners discussed the matter and decide to see if the fees could be forgiven. The County Administrator will call the credit card issuer and request that the fees be eliminated.

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County Administrator also requested to cancel session on 07/11/2013 due to vacation schedules among the staff and the fact that there would be no coverage for session on that particular day. The Commissioners agreed to same.

Greg Telecky and Dave Koppelman, both from Poggemeyer Design Group, met with the Commissioners. They presented some ideas that have been drafted since a tour was performed at the current Elks building. The Commissioners have the first right of refusal on the building and requested a walk through just to get an idea of what could be done with the facility if they make a move to purchase the building. PDG performed a very rough feasibility study and noted that from the practicality side of things that there would be no major issues. It is currently rated as an "assembly use" and a move to a "B" use code is a good and somewhat easy transition. The square footage is good. All the elements for fire rating are in place. Some of the challenges would be a fire separation distance from the exterior walls where offices might be located. Windows, doors and the lack of insulation are other concerns. The elevator shaft is of some concern as it is not deep enough and would need conversion to today's standards. This is of some concern but the matter is not an insurmountable problem. There was much discussion about whether or not the possible project would be one worth pursuing. Bottom line cost, albeit very rough, is \$120-130/sq. ft. New construction for a similar building is \$160-170/sq. ft.

Steve Gruner and Andy Brown, from the Sandusky County Parks District, met with the Commissioners to discuss the Mull Covered Bridge issue having to do with a grant application and renovations. Discussions have been had to look at some grant opportunities from ODOT. There is a deadline of 02.01.2012 looming. There is already a three way partnership among Ballville Township, the Park District and the Commissioners collectively agreeing to split costs at an amount of 1/3 per partner. They presented some cost estimates that showed possibly a cost of approximately \$37K per partner. A request was made for the Commissioners to act on the grant letter of intent. The Commissioners agreed that this project is worth pursuing at this time. It was noted that we need to get to the point where each partner knows their monetary commitments and can make a final decision based on that number.

Travel Request(s) approved: none

Personnel Action(s) approved: none

Public forum portion of session proceeded.

Citizen attendees: none

Media attendees: none

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RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED ON THIS DATE

*** RESOLUTIONS ***

2013 – 47

Authorizing lease agreement with the Sandusky County Agricultural Society (SCAS) and the Sandusky County Commissioners on behalf of the Sandusky County Soil & Water Conservation District (SCSWCD) and the Sandusky County Ditch Maintenance Office (SCDM)

Commissioner Polter noted that a conversation has been had with the Soil/Water office, the Ditch Maintenance office, the County Engineer and the Agriculture Society. A new lease is being prepared which should include language for the lease to be broken if necessary.

This resolution was tabled from 01.22.2013 and remains tabled this session.

M -

S -

Vote –

2013 – 50

Authorizing agreement on behalf of the Sandusky County Sanitary Engineer with the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) for a loan on the Grandview lift station replacement project

M - Thatcher

S – Polter

Vote – all, yes

Jerri Miller, CVB Director, noted that 88 people went through the jail and dungeon tour activities last held on this past Monday night. She and Katherine Rice have attended several tourism events recently which have resulted in quite some interest in our area. They are working with the Hayes Center and working with Terra College to expand their horizons. Work continues on the War of 1812 celebration.

Judge Brad Smith and County Auditor, Bill Farrell and Crystal Souders from the Auditor's staff met with the Commissioners. The bulk of the conversation revolved around figures that were incorrectly placed in line items that caused grant fiscal reporting problems for the RECLAIM grant. This placed the grant in jeopardy and caused funds for the newest grant year to be held up. As a fact, the new grant year has not yet been finally approved due to the errors in the previous years' fiscal reporting. The Judge indicated that even as recent as this morning the numbers still are presenting problems. The Auditor and his staffer explained how these problems arose. They noted that the grants run on project years which are much different than the standard calendar year. They partially owned the mistakes and indicated that if the court personnel can do a monthly balance that mistakes like this can be caught early and fixed sooner. There continued much discussion having to do with owning blame in the instant matter and how to be sure that this did not arise again. The auditor indicated that his office can

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produce reports that will pass muster with the State Auditor's office. There is certainty that the reports can be produced that will be approved by the state and show that the previous grants' fiscal reports are correct which should allow this issue to be cleaned up once and for all and allow the newest grant year to proceed.

Another matter addressed was the issue of personal fringe benefits taxes being levied against some juvenile probation staff for what the Court considers safety related equipment. Jackets were purchased that have been called into question as possible taxable fringe benefits but the Judge sees that as unreasonable and most gather in the meeting agreed that this particular piece of outerwear is a safety oriented matter and should not be taxed. There was extensive discussion about departments that have been taxed and not been taxed. Finally, the Judge noted that he would send to the auditor his position on the items in writing. He noted that it should stop there based on the discussion and the consensus of opinion that the items are safety equipment. It is unclear if the auditor will file some request for determination on the matter again with the IRS to get another opinion.

At 12:48p Commissioner Damschroder moved to adjourn session with a second to the motion offered by Commissioner Polter. The ensuing vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio

Attest: _____
Clerk to the Board

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy from the official record of said Board of County Commissioners as recorded in its Journal.

Clerk, Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio