



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MOUNT VERNON, OH

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024

MORNING SESSION

10:00 AM Call to Order

Present: Commissioner, President Teresa Bemiller
Commissioner Thom Collier
Commissioner Bill Pursel

Additional Staff

Jason Booth, County Administrator

Penny Doyle, Clerk/Executive Assistant

10:00 AM Virtual Meet-N-Greet with Sharon Thibodeau, Central Ohio Regional Liaison from Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Commissioners met with Sharon Thibodeau, Central Ohio Regional Liaison, from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in a virtual meet-n-greet. Sharon introduced herself, explained her role as part of the Office of External Affairs and asked the Commissioners for the needs and concerns for Knox County, in regards to mental health and addiction services. She explained part of her position is to connect agencies, organizations, board members, and service providers to the individuals that need mental health and addiction services. She is reaching out to the counties in her territory and gathering information on what services are available, what programs are needed and possible funding options. Sharon reported she recently visited Knox County for the kick-off of the Behavioral Healthcare Partners (BHP) Mobile Crisis Unit and The Freedom Center's new facility. The following are highlights from the meet-n-greet discussion:

*Commissioner Bemiller stated she is excited to have the BHP Mobile Crisis Unit available in Knox County and it will enable individuals to have easier access to Mental Health and Addiction Services - She stated she has worked closely with Kay Spergel with Mental Health and Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties and with the local and state OneOhio Committees and challenging funding application process - Commissioner Bemiller encouraged Sharon to reach out to Kay Spergel, as she will be the representative for Knox County and Regional OneOhio Committees

*Commissioner Pursel stated the Freedom Center is an asset to the community, in hopes of room for expansion to grow - He inquired if there is any funds in the portfolio that helps with housing/rental assistance for mental or addictive behaviors of individuals and how to access these funds

*Sharon reported there is Landlord Mitigation Funds and Access to Wellness Funds available - interested agencies and organizations could contact the Mental Health and Recovery for Licking and Knox Counties agency or Behavioral Healthcare Partners (BHP) to inquire about the funds and the process to obtain funds - these funds are for rental/housing assistance for individuals transitioning from jail or in-patient facilities and help with rent/deposits, household items and/or job related expenses - Another option is for Case Managers/Jail Social Workers to access funds for basic needs of transitioning inmates

*Sharon thanked the Commissioners for their time, exchanged contact information and value the input of their concerns and needs for the Knox County community

Resolutions to be Presented

RESOLUTION 2024-764--APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR THE KNOX COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SWINE BARN PROJECT TO TRIPLE D BUILDERS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$442,000.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bid Award for the Knox County Fairgrounds Swine Barn Project to Triple D Builders, in the amount of \$442,000.00 (base of \$475,000.00 less alternate of metal panel siding of \$-33,000.00). The Engineer's Estimate is \$500,000.00.

A copy of the recommendation letter is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Pursel
SECONDER:	Thom Collier
AYES:	Bemiller Collier Pursel

RESOLUTION 2024-765--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM LICKING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FOR 3923 TO 4412 GROVE CHURCH ROAD IN CLAY TOWNSHIP.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Licking Rural Electrification for 3923 to 4412 Grove Church Road in Clay Township - Multiple Service of Electrical Utility - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width 60 feet.

A copy of the application is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Thom Collier
SECONDER:	Bill Pursel
AYES:	Bemiller Collier Pursel

RESOLUTION 2024-766--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM LICKING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FOR 22002 TO 22143 DEAL ROAD IN CLAY TOWNSHIP.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Licking Rural Electrification for 22002 to 22143 Deal Road in Clay Township - Multiple Service of Electrical Utility - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 60 feet.

A copy of the application is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Pursel
SECONDER:	Thom Collier
AYES:	Bemiller Collier Pursel

RESOLUTION 2024-767--APPOINT DANIEL WECKESSER AS THE INTERIM SHERIFF FOR THE KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners appoint Daniel Weckesser as the Interim Sheriff for the Knox County Sheriff's Office effective January 1, 2025 (Interim Term from January 1, 2025 through January 6, 2025).

A copy of the recommendation letter is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Thom Collier
SECONDER:	Bill Pursel
AYES:	Bemiller Collier Pursel

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes from Tuesday, October 29, 2024, and Tuesday, November 5, 2024, were presented and approved by the Board of Knox County Commissioners.

Approval of Transfer of Funds, Supplemental Appropriations and Bills

RESOLUTION 2024-768--APPROVE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Appropriation Adjustment and that the following transfer be made:

Amount: \$12,450.00

From Appropriation Account: 257.1530.50334 - Grant

To Appropriation Account: 257.1530.50140 - Shared Cost/Personal Services - JFS

Amount: \$14,141.88

From Appropriation Account: 257.1530.51317 - Adult Training Contracts - JFS

To Appropriation Account: 257.1530.50140 - Shared Cost/Personal Services - JFS

A copy of the Appropriation Adjustment is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Thom Collier
SECONDER: Teresa Bemiller
AYES: Bemiller Collier Pursel

RESOLUTION 2024-769--APPROVE BILL LIST.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bill List dated November 7, 2024.

A copy of the Bill List is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Thom Collier
SECONDER: Teresa Bemiller
AYES: Bemiller Collier Pursel

RESOLUTION 2024-770--APPROVE BILL LIST - THEN AND NOW.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Then and Now Bill List dated November 7, 2024.

A copy of the Then and Now Bill list is attached to Journal No. 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Thom Collier
SECONDER: Teresa Bemiller
AYES: Bemiller Collier Pursel

Executive Session

RESOLUTION 2024-771--ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:24 AM REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners enter an Executive Session at 10:24 AM with David Shaffer, Knox County Sheriff, Jason Booth, County Administrator, and Drew Esposito, Attorney at Clemans Nelson & Associates, via telephone conference, regarding Collective Bargaining Matters - to prepare, conduct, and/or review collective bargaining strategies, in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G)(4).

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Pursel
SECONDER:	Thom Collier
AYES:	Bemiller Collier Pursel

RESOLUTION 2024-772--EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:45 AM REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners exit an Executive Session at 10:45 AM with David Shaffer, Knox County Sheriff, Jason Booth, County Administrator, and Drew Esposito, Attorney at Clemans Nelson & Associates, via telephone conference, regarding Collective Bargaining Matters - to prepare, conduct, and/or review collective bargaining strategies, in accordance with ORC 121.22 (G)(4). No Action Taken.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Bill Pursel
SECONDER:	Thom Collier
AYES:	Bemiller Collier Pursel

10:30 AM Departmental Update - Knox County Sheriff

Commissioners met with Sheriff David Shaffer in a regular departmental update. He answered questions from the Commissioners and discussed the following items:

*Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Matters with Drew Espisito, Attorney from Clemans Nelson and Associates

*Sheriff Shaffer reported the current jail census includes 14 females and 57 males for a total of 71 inmates - 5 inmates are housed out of county for treatment, assessments, etc.

*Jail Inspection was completed with 100% rating on 176 standards - Healthcare Service was present during inspection to assist with medical portion of inspection - Becky Newport did an excellent medical presentation

*Sheriff Shaffer reported meetings continue for the transition/implementation of Right Stuff timekeeping/payroll software from PlanIT Scheduling software - software does not offer all functionality that the department needs - PlanIT software contract expires in February and it may be in the best interest to continue contract rather than transitioning to Right Stuff software

*Sheriff Shaffer reported he met with the newly elected Sheriff and gave him all the required paperwork to start the hiring process - nothing has been returned yet - notified I.T. Department to set up county email account

*Wrapping up administrative functions, closing accounts and charge cards for a smooth end of year transition - creating instruction check-off list for setting up new accounts, credit cards, etc.

*The Audit for the Evidence and Property Room will be completed the first week of December - Outside individuals will be brought in for accountability/verification as 2 people must sign off on account - will reconcile the fund to prepare for transfer of account holders

*Staffing - 2 deputies on light duty due to injuries - down 1 Patrol Deputy - fully staffed in Jail - waiting for background checks on 2 potential hires - have temporarily moved detectives to open spots until employees return to full duty and positions are filled

NO AFTERNOON SESSION

Adjourn the Meeting

Commissioner, President

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Penny R. Doyle
Clerk/Executive Assistant