

CERTIFICATE OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 305.11, the Clerk of the Board of Richland County Commissioners hereby submits the following record of the Commissioners' December 29, 2020 meeting, for recording into the Commissioners' Journal, Volume 93, under the same date.

RICHLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 29, 2020
COMMISSIONERS' BOARDROOM
COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG., MANSFIELD, OHIO

Call to Order:	9:31 a.m.
In Attendance:	Commissioners: John, Banks, Vero
Clerk:	Stacey L. Crall
Guests:	See listed below
Tape:	DEC2920

Topic: Record of Proceedings

Tape: 0.0.51

Present: Peng Chen, from Richland Source, Via telephone: Gene Parkinson, News Journal, Cliff Mears

Discussion: The Board reviewed the Record of Proceedings for December 22, 2020.

Motion: Commissioner Banks moved to certify the Record of Proceedings for December 22, 2020 seconded by Commissioner Vero.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Building Maintenance

Tape: 0.01.20

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: Gene Parkinson, News Journal, Cliff Mears

Discussion: The Board reviewed the annual overtime resolution for snow removal for Building Maintenance employees.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to approve overtime for Building Maintenance employees for snow removal up to 32 hours per employee effective December 1, 2020 through March 1, 2021 seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Mansfield – Sales Tax Waiver

Tape: 0.01.39

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: Gene Parkinson, News Journal, Cliff Mears

Discussion: The Board reviewed the City of Mansfield's annual sales tax waiver to assist in paying for jail expenses. The amount for 2021 is \$300,000.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to accept the City of Mansfield's sales tax waiver for 2021 in the amount of \$300,000 seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Parkland Vacation Hearing – Walnut Hills

Tape: 0.02.00

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: Gene Parkinson, News Journal, Cliff Mears

Discussion: The Board reviewed a legal advertisement for a public hearing to vacate parkland in Washington Township in the Walnut Hills Allotment.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to authorize advertising on January 8, 15 and 22, 2021 for a public hearing on January 28, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. to review a petition to vacate platted parkland in Washington Township in the Walnut Hills Allotment seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: 2021 Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Tape: 0.02.39

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: Gene Parkinson, News Journal, Cliff Mears

Discussion: The IRS has set the 2021 mileage reimbursement rate at 56 cents per business mile driven.

Motion: Commissioner Banks moved to set the 2021 mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.56 per business mile driven second by Commissioner Vero.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: 2020 Budget - Encumbrances

Tape: 0.03.00

Present: Jodie Perry, Richland Source, Via telephone: Gene Parkinson, News Journal, Cliff Mears

Discussion: The Board reviewed the 2020 encumbrances submitted.

Motion: Commissioner Banks moved to approve the 2020 encumbrance requisitions as submitted seconded by Commissioner Vero.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Richland Area Chamber and Economic Development - CARES

Tape: 0.03.23

Present: Jodie Perry, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: Commissioner John reminded everyone the Commissioners partnered with the Chamber to provide small business and non-profit grants from CARES funds. Commissioner John thanked Jodie and her staff for administering the program. Commissioner John stated it was great to be able to provide some assistance to businesses that have been hurt by the epidemic. Jodie Perry, President, thanked the Commissioners for inviting her today to provide an update on the program. Round one of the small business grant program had 367 applications but only 221 qualified. There were several out of county businesses that applied and others that did not qualify. WMFD entered the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Jodie reviewed details of the businesses and a full list that were funded. In round two of the small business grant program eligibility requirements were expanded. 239 applications were received and 205 were funded. Commissioner John stated that is great that 426 businesses received funds. Jodie reviewed details for round 2 including a full list of those businesses funded. In both rounds the majority of businesses have been open for 11+ years. For the non-profit program 47 applied and 42 were funded. A list was provided with all non-profit agencies that received funds. Jodie stated she would provide some additional information on the non-profit grants later. It was a lot of grants provided in a small amount of time. Businesses are still providing their final reports. Commissioner Vero asked what happens if they do not provide the documentation. Jodie stated the agreement they signed stated they would have to return the funds. Each round had an end date to turn in the documentation. The staff is reviewing all the paperwork, now. Commissioner John stated she wanted to address the question of why we partnered with the Chamber for this program. Commissioner John stated one is the Chamber was also hit financially by the epidemic. Richland County is a medium sized county. Many other Counties have Administrators and Grant Departments. Richland County does not have those. With all the paperwork required the Commissioners thought it was best to partner with the Chamber and they are familiar with local businesses. Commissioner John stated she is proud of the strong partnership with the Chamber and RCDG. Jodie stated it was a team effort with her staff. Jodie stated she was surprised to find many businesses they did not know about. This was a good opportunity to talk to them to see what other needs they may have. Commissioner John stated the Chamber has been very helpful from the start of the pandemic communicating to all businesses. Jodie stated they have received many thanks from the businesses on the grants. Jodie appreciates the Commissioners stepping up and providing the grant funds. Al from the News Journal asked if there were any surprises through the process. Jodie stated they were surprised more non-profit agencies did not apply and finding out about businesses they had not heard of before. Some of them are substantial businesses. It has been interesting compiling the information.

Topic: COVID -19

Tape: 0.32.20

Present: Jodie Perry, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: Commissioner Vero stated it appears the positive COVID-19 cases are starting to trend downward, which is good news.

Topic: Sheriff - 911

Tape: 0.33.09

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: Cpt. Sweat provided a landowner's consent to sublet with Ohio Power and Donald Schroeder regarding a tower on Dininger Road. Commissioner Banks explained the agreement is needed for access to an additional building housing new equipment and a road to access the equipment. The new equipment is providing better communication for emergency personnel on the MARCS radio system.

Motion: Commissioner Banks moved to approve a landowner's consent to sublet between Ohio Power, the Richland County Commissioners and Donald L. Schroeder seconded by Commissioner Vero.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: 2021 Budget

Tape: 0.35.40

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: The final budget for the General Fund for 2021 is \$38,491,692.23.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to approve the 2021 General Fund budget seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Coronavirus Relief Funds

Tape: 0.36.46

Present: Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: The Board reviewed the year end transfers and appropriations. Commissioner Vero stated during the budget process it was discussed 2021 would not be a year to build our carryover. Also regarding the CARES Act funds; the Federal Government has extended the spending deadline until December 30, 2021. The President signed the Bill on December 27, 2020. However, Ohio has not extended the date. So, as of now our deadline is still December 30, 2020. There is approximately \$334,000 that has not been appropriated from the CARES funds. Since this is the last meeting of the year we cannot afford to wait to see if the State will change the date. Commissioner Banks stated we need to protect those funds instead of sending them back to the State. Commissioner John agrees. Commissioner John stated she does not believe the Legislature has a meeting scheduled and it is not entirely clear who has the authority to extend the date.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to encumber any remaining balance of the Coronavirus Relief Funds to Public Safety salaries seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Appropriations and Transfers

Tape: 0.41.58

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: The Board reviewed year end appropriations and transfers. Commissioner Vero noted \$250,000 is being held out for records management but he feels it should be transferred to the Reinvestment Fund that way all funds for renovating L2 of the County Administration Building will be in the same fund. The only additional funds being carried over into 2021 would be the CARES funds reimbursements. Then any additional funds left at the end of 2020 will be transferred to the Reinvestment Fund to pay for capital projects.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to approve the 2020 year-end appropriations and transfers including any 2020 balance be transferred to the Richland Reinvestment Fund seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Appropriations and Transfers

Tape: 0.45.43

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: Al from the News Journal asked about amounts of the transfers. Commissioner Vero reiterated the only thing being added to the carryover is the CARES funds approved above for safety personnel salaries. Just over \$2 million will be added to the Reinvestment Fund.

Topic: Sheriff

Tape: 0.47.08

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: The Commissioners received a letter from the Richland County Sheriff dated December 14, 2020 stating his plans to retire December 31, 2020 and start his new term of office on January 4, 2021. Sheriff Sheldon recommended appointing Major Joe Masi as the interim Sheriff January 1 through January 3, 2021.

Motion: Commissioner Banks moved to approve a resolution appointing Joseph Masi as Interim Richland County Sheriff effective January 1 – 3, 2021 seconded by Commissioner Vero.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Sheriff

Tape: 0.48.23

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: Al from the News Journal asked about legalities of retiring and assuming the new term. Commissioner Vero stated any questions should be directed to the Sheriff. Other Elected Officials have done the same thing.

Topic: Wastewater

Tape: 0.50.06

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: The Board reviewed a request from Director, Amanda Miller,= requesting wage increases for 2021 for non-union personnel.

Motion: Commissioner Vero moved to approve 2021 wage increases for non-union employees at Wastewater effective January 1, 2021 seconded by Commissioner Banks.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Coronavirus Relief Funding

Tape: 0.50.25

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: The Board reviewed requests for reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses from Child Support, Sheriff and the Auditor totaling \$78,564.03.

Motion: Commissioner Banks moved to authorize the reimbursement of COVID-19 expenses to Child Support for \$43,316.56, Auditor for \$21,495.60 and Sheriff for \$13,751.87 seconded by Commissioner Vero.

Other Comments: None further.

Vote: Mrs. John, yes; Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes. Motion carried.

Topic: Commissioners

Tape: 0.51.28

Present: WMFD, Richland Source, Via telephone: News Journal, Cliff Mears, Gene Parkinson

Discussion: Commissioner Vero thanked Commissioner Marilyn John for her six years of service as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Vero stated we will still bother you as our State Representative. Commissioner Vero told Commissioner John it has been a pleasure to work with her. Commissioner Banks added his thanks and added not only is this an important part of her life but also Richland County's as you become our State Representative. We are grateful you are taking on the challenge. Commissioner John stated she woke up this morning thinking of this last working day as Commissioner. Commissioner John stated Commissioner Vero has made her laugh hard and wanted her to hit her head against the wall more than anyone else. Thank you. Commissioner John stated she has worked with Commissioner Banks since she first became Mayor of Shelby and always felt comforted walking into a county meeting knowing he was there. Commissioner Banks added that Commissioner John has offered that same comfort level over the last four years. Commissioner John thanked Stacey Crall, Clerk and Belinda Fulton, Assistant Clerk for so many things. Commissioner John stated Clerk Crall helped her learn how to avoid the "pot holes." Commissioner John stated she hopes she gets that same help at the Statehouse. Al from the News Journal wished Commissioner John good luck at the Statehouse and hopes she

has as much success there as she had here in the County. Al believes this Board of Commissioners as worked very well together. Commissioner John thanked Al for covering the Commissioners' meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further county business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m. Tape at 0.57.17.

Submitted by: Stacey L. Crall, Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED the Richland County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the foregoing as the correct record of proceedings of the board meeting held December 29, 2020 in Mansfield, Ohio.

Mr. Vero moved adoption of the foregoing resolution. Mr. Banks seconded the motion. The roll, being called upon adoption, resulted as follows: Mr. Banks, yes; Mr. Vero, yes.

ATTEST: _____

CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

CERTIFICATE

The foregoing is hereby certified as the official record of proceedings of the Richland County Board of Commissioners meeting December 29, 2020.

Darrell E. Banks, Vice Chairman

Stacey L. Crall, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO