The Board of Hocking County Commissioners met in regular session this 6th day of December 2016 with the following members present Larry Dicken, Jeff Dickerson and Sandy Ogle.

**MEETING:** The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Ogle.

**MINUTES:** December 1, 2016 minutes approved.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Larry Dicken seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the agenda.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**MIKE MCGHEE – INSURANCE:** Mike McGhee representing Superior Dental presented the new rates for Plan B – Family as he had the rate reduced to match the current rate.

Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the rate change for the dental insurance - Plan B- Family.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

Auditor Ken Wilson stated as the office that administers the payroll deductions that is 100% cost to the employee unless a department chooses to assist with the cost and fortunately we have three pay periods and we will be able to do the deductions as they are collected a month in advance..

**AMEND AGENDA:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to amend agenda to appointment Bill Kaeppner at 9:12AM.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**BILL KAEPPNER:** County resident Bill Kaeppner stated that when Marjorie Davis retired from working for the commissioners she took the position of the Safety Director and the amount of savings to the county would offset her paycheck. Over the years she took courses and has gotten grants so the county would be in compliance. Commissioner Dicken stated that they considered this and it did save the county money and the he took part of it and Peggi; and no one got any extra money. We have not lost on dime and that he and Brian Wyskiver attend those meetings. Bill also stated that the Sheriff’s Office and the Prosecutor’s Office are separate entities so they are not influenced by each office. Bill questioned if the Prosecutor is buying the cars for the Sheriff. Larry asked if he had that in writing or hearsay. Bill said he can get them the information.

**AMEND AGENDA:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to amend the agenda to General Business at 9:19AM.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the following Appropriation Transfers:

1) Commissioners - $40.00 from B05-03/Supplies to B05-10/Spay & Neuter

2) Recorder - $0.07 from A06B03/Supplies to A06B09A/PERS

3) Recorder - $38.27 from A06B03/Supplies to A06B06/Contract Services

4) Municipal Ct - $5000.00 Special Projects to G13-01/Salaries.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**CORONER REQUESTS:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the amount of $942.10 from the General Fund to be transferred to A02F02/Employee Salaries to cover the 27th pay this year.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the amount of $5,000.00 from the General Fund to be transferred to A02F17D/Lab & Morgue.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**TRAVEL**: Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the following travel requests:

1) Auditor - Ken Wilson to attend IRS Fringe Benefits Workshop – Ohio University Zanesville, December 15, 2016.

2) Auditor - Ken Wilson to attend the HCTC quarterly meeting– Columbus, December 19, 2016.

3) Auditor - Ken Wilson to attend the CIC meeting – Logan, December 20, 2016.

4) Auditor - Ken Wilson to attend the SEORJ Finance Committee – Nelsonville, December 21, 2016.

5) Auditor - Ken Wilson to attend the Laurelville Seniors’ Meeting, December 21, 2016.

6) Auditor - Ken Wilson to attend the Murray City Senior’s meeting – December 28, 2016.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the 911, Prosecutor, and Lodging Tax Reports for the month of November.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**EMPLOYEES REINSTATED:** Commissioner Dicken read from the CCAO Handbook 4.01regarding the Organizational Meeting that the county commissioners organizes on the second Monday of January of each year. Larry continued reading section 4.02 regarding the appointment of the Clerk of the Board and the assistant’s statutory duties and other functions specified by the commissioners and they are to be considered to be in the classified service, unless, by affirmative action they are exempted from the classified service into the unclassified service. When a fulltime clerk is not appointed, the county auditor is secretary of the board by virtue of his or her office. Larry stated that Peggi Warthman and Barb Kemper are classified service and cannot be let go and their hours changed and they will get their pay back, hours back and Barb will be hired back. We have to follow the laws and it was just a mistake. Peggi will resume her duties in full with back pay and call Barb. Commissioner Jeff asked if Barb had been notified. Larry stated she would be. Larry stated the only time classification can be changed is at the beginning of the year when you organize. Commissioner Ogle thanked Larry for reading it and clearing it up. Larry stated the Board apologizes for any inconvenience.

Teresa Salizzoni of SAMFM asked will they get their back pay that they lost. Larry stated yes. Commissioner Ogle stated it would only be the right thing to do and based on what Larry read our office will resume their regular hours.

Ms. Morgan stated according of what you read that at the beginning of the year her status could change from classified to unclassified so does that mean at the beginning of the year that you intend to make that decision? Larry stated he will not be here. Ms. Morgan stated will the other two commissioners. Jeff stated he has no intentions. Sandy stated she would wait till the first of the year.

**SEWER –HAYDENVILLE:** Larry stated they’re working on the sewer in Haydenville and the biggest problem is the tree roots in the sewer and they need to have them removed.

**AUDITOR KEN WILSON:** Auditor Ken Wilson spoke about wrapping up the budget as it is the end of the year and they have two areas hit hard this year, the Public Defender and there is a bill that needs to be paid this week to be approved today with an additional appropriation with a minimum of $8,500.00. Auditor Wilson stated the Southeastern Regional Jail bill is approximately $96,000.00 and there is only $5,000.00 left in that line item and the medical bills are not here as of yet. Larry stated we need to appropriate what we need. Jeff stated we have no way to control the expenses of the jail and there is nothing we can do to defray the cost. Treasurer Diane Sargent asked if the other counties were keeping up with their payments. Jeff stated they are making payments. Ken stated regular payments but they are not current. Judge Moses stated the core problem with the jail cost is the State has decriminalized all the felons that you can’t put them in prison but you can put them in county jail. The judge stated he might be able to help by reducing them to house arrest a cost of $10.00 instead of $68.00 a day.

**JUDGE MOSES:** Judge Moses explained the increase in his budget and that in June he restructures his departments and gave his department a 2.5% raise. Jeff stated that he has been very fiscal responsible and he appreciated it but we came in with $800,000.00 in the hole when Larry and I came into office and sometimes spending cannot be helped. Judge Moses said I know they say a million in the hole but that really doesn’t add up and I understand the operating budget but those were choices before you guys were here and money that should have went into the general fund went to other funds. So the question is the living wage for the employees which are vital. Judge Moses stated they need to think outside the box that he thinks there are opportunities to bring things in; we need our employees. The judge also spoke on healthcare for the employees. Sandy stated you do a fine job. Treasurer Sargent commented that there is one thing with a lot of budgets offices were told no changes to the budget but at times there are changes within offices that they have released employees and never filled the spot but their line items never changed in the their funding. And I use my special funds to pay half my employees so I only have one full time employee paid out of the general fund and one part time. I have seen it in more than one office that even though they make changes with their employees their budgets remain the same. Larry we know but it is not shown in the budget. Jeff suggested they do an all-county department head meeting in the general fund to discuss it. Diane suggested even meeting with one commissioner to gather the information.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Beth from the Logan Daily News confirmed that Peggi will resume full time and Barb will be resuming part-time and they will get back pay and what did Larry read. Larry stated it was from the CCAO with the laws.

Treasurer Diane Sargent stated that her staff is unclassified which means they can be let go at will.

Teresa Salizzoni of SAMFM stated that since the staff here is classified even if they are not doing their job to your satisfaction according to that you cannot let them go until your restructuring next year. Sandy stated there is a proper way to go about it. Larry stated you can but it has to be something they done really bad. Teresa said so restructuring and cutting budget has to be done January 2nd. Larry stated no just classification. Teresa so when you have your restructuring at the beginning of the year you can make employees unclassified but they can still work here. Larry stated yes, there are only certain people who are classified most are not classified but the commissioners can classify anybody. Teresa asked can they work here as unclassified. Larry and Sandy said yes. Larry stated these two are classified because they work with the commissioners and they do most of the work and a lot of the stuff that comes in here on one end is classified and on the other end it is not. Teresa asked what the difference is between unclassified and classified. Larry stated that unclassified they are at will you can change their hours or whatever you want as long as they’re classified you can’t do that.

Cindy Kessler of Municipal Court asked whether they are classified or unclassified after the first of the year does it take all three of you terminate a person. Larry stated two. Jeff stated two commissioners make a quorum.

County resident Linn Warthman asked for the reason behind this decision that you would reduce Peggi’s hours and let Barb go. Sandy stated that part of Barb’s job went upstairs there is not enough work here and second is the budget. Linn commented that Judge Moses really clarified the budget and the 17 million dollars people are seeing it’s not as it has been appropriate to other agencies and it needs to be readjusted like the line items like Diane was talking about. Diane stated they are not all out of the general fund. Linn asked about the carryover that no one has put a number on and as November 23rd the carryover was 2.7 million dollars and that almost gets you into April so what budget issues do you have if we have 3 or 4 months carryover that would need to let people go or reduce their hours and newly elected officials and reelected officials just got a big raise. And I understand you don’t set those it is the State and they are mandated but it still comes out of the general fund. Sandy stated correct. Linn continues so if you are getting raises and you want to make cuts in other areas it kind a puts a bad taste mouths of the citizens in Hocking County because it looks like elected officials are making money and the common man is losing money. Sandy stated they take their information from the Auditor. Linn stated that is where he got his numbers. Sandy stated from what she understands part of that is carryover and part is operating budget. Diane stated he is correct and you must look at that and plan on a good carryover to get you through the first quarter and at this time this county is way ahead of some other counties and it is because a lot of offices have watch what they’ve done. Linn stated right. Diane wanted to clarify that some of these funds are not from the general fund and some elected officials have not received raises since 2001 except one year they gave us an incentive of 1.9%. Judge Moses shared concern about the no family plan insurance and people came to work for these jobs taking less salary but for the benefits. We have to take care of our people so they stay. Larry stated since he has been here he has tried to help.

Ms. Morgan commented that it doesn’t seem right to have unclassified to handle classified information.

Larry stated that Peggi and Barb do their jobs well this office would not run like it does if they didn’t.

Cindy Kessler asked if all three agreed to that. They stated yes.

County resident Jim Kalklosch asked how much deficit does the county have from last year to this year.

Bill stated the purpose for classification is that newly elected could not let people go.

Ms. Morgan asked the reason Peggi was reduced in hours and Barb was let go because of monetary does that mean there may be others in the courthouse that may have reduction of hours in lieu of those two. Larry stated no.

Ken Wilson stated that on November 30th the balance report revenue is $7,256,000. and spent $7,462,000.00 so we are deficit spending.

Jim stated then if nothing changes the carryover will be gone in 4-6 years.

Auditor stated before that.

**AMEND AGENDA:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to amend the agenda to general business at 10:50AM.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**VOCA:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to transfer $9,211.00 into the VOCA Fund.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**JUDGE MOSES:** Judge Moses thanked the commissioners and stated they have a hard job and to remember we are all here for the common good of the people.

Sandy stated they all three want what is best for the county. Jeff said this board wants to be transparent and he enjoys working with the other two commissioners.

**RECESS:** 11:00AM **RECONVENE:** 11:17AM

Jeff requested clarification on the 17 million whether it can be touch or not. Sandy stated it belongs to DD, Engineer and all agencies that there is a misconception of that money. Larry stated we collect interest from those.

**BUDGET REVIEW**

**AMEND AGENDA:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to amend the agenda to general business at 1:05AM.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the following Appropriation Transfers:

1) Commissioners - $10,000.00 from A01A02/Salaries to A15A17A/Contingencies

2) Commissioners - $1,400.00 from A01A11A/PERS to A15A17A/Contingencies

3) Commissioners - $7,000.00 from A01H01/Examinations to A15A17A/Contingencies

4) Commissioners - $7,941.00 from A14A03/Insurance Liability to A15A17A/Contingencies 5) Commissioners - $35,000.00 from A14A06/Group Hospitalization to A15A17A/Contingencies

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the following Additional Appropriation:

1) Commissioners - $70,000.00 to A15A17A/Contingencies

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the following Appropriation Transfers:

1) Commissioners - $9,211.00 from A15A17A/Contingencies to A15A15/Transfers

2) Commissioners - $18,000.00 from A15A17A/Contingencies to A15A14/Public Defender

3) Commissioners - $94,000.00 from A15A17A/Contingencies to A06A15/SE Regional Jail

4) Commissioners - $489.09 from A15A17A/Contingencies to A02F12/PERS

5) Commissioners - $942.10 from A15A17A/Contingencies to A02F02/Employee Salary

6) Commissioners - $5000.00 from A15A17A/Contingencies to A02F17D/Lab Morgue

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**FUND TRANSFER:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to approve the following Fund Transfer:

1) General - $9,211.00 from A15A15/Transfers to 062/VOCA Grant

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Larry Dicken and seconded by Jeff Dickerson to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Dicken, yea, Dickerson, yea, Ogle, yea.

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| Peggi Warthman, Clerk |  |  |
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|  |  | Board of Hocking County Commissioners |
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| This is to certify that the above is the true action taken by this Board of Hocking County Commissioners at a regular meeting of the Board held on December 6, 2016. |
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| Peggi Warthman, Clerk |  | Sandy Ogle, President |