The Board of Hocking County Commissioners met in regular session this 7th day of February 2017 with the following members present Sandy Ogle, Gary Waugh and Jeff Dickerson.

**MEETING:** The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Dickerson.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to approve the February 2, 2017 minutes with correction.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandy Ogle to approve the agenda.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**COREY COPSER:** County resident Corey Cosper stated he opposes the placement of the homeless shelter as it is close to the park and the lack of sidewalks, the traffic, and no streetlights. Corey continued sharing his concerns that it is in the heart of the tourism and asked about the screening process of the people staying in the shelter and the possibility of it being a criminal element in the area and the property values. Corey stated that he doesn’t oppose the shelter but the placement.

**AMY BLACK:** County resident Amy Black shared her concerns for the community stating she understands the importance of the need for a shelter in our area but has concerns of the location of the shelter with the lack of sidewalks and lighting that it is a dangerous situation and they are inundated with low-income housing in that area and the safety concerns as that property sits adjacent to her 18 acres. Another issue is a petition for closing an alleyway in order for the project to obtain title insurance and at this time it doesn’t feel good for us at this point and the funding if it dries up it becomes another HUD housing and the property values and would like the commissioners to reconsider their letter of support.

**DON KAPLAR**: County resident Don Kaplar stated he wanted on record that he publically thanked the commissioners and their support regarding the Mayfield project.

**JOYCE KLUCAR:** Manage and Board member of Hocking Hill Inspire Shelter (HHIS) stated that they do background checks and folks staying there have hours from 7:00AM to 7:30PM and they have to follow the program or they are let go.

**KEITH CONNER:** Board member of HHIS Keith Conner stated he appreciates their concerns and gave a summary of the shelter and its program. Keith talked about the transportation they provide - the need to provide shelter and that it’s not just a shelter it is a program. And they are providing a home for those having a tough time.

**PAULA TUCKER:** Board member of HHIS Paula Tucker stated that they have a 100 plus members and a core of volunteers and that they are hands on and they know exactly what is going on in the shelter. That they drive clients to job interviews, jobs and to school and she wanted to allay some of the fears that the shelter will be efficient and ready for new homeless people in this county and the average stay is 3-weeks and they work with them spiritually and nurture them to find a better life.

Commissioner Ogle asked about the screening process. Joyce said they do three different screenings, through the sheriff, county and national. Commissioner Ogle asked if anyone has been turned down. Joyce said not really turned down but they have had those who did not want to deal with the program.

Commissioner Ogle asked how long the people have known this was going to happen. Amy Black said she was aware that they were in the fund raising stage but not aware of the public meeting and as an adjacent property owner it would have been the right thing to do.

Commissioner Dickerson stated he doesn’t know the rules or regulations surrounding adjacent property as far as notices. Nathan Blatchley of Metropolitan Housing responded saying with the exception of the road petition - the funding there is no specific requirements however through OFFA notices were sent to elected officials within a 5-mile radius when we applied in 2015.

Commissioner Ogle asked if it is true that the property is owned by Metropolitan Housing and there will be a lease given to HHIS for a long extended period of time. Nathan stated it will be a 40-year automatic renewing lease plus the funding source for obligation and use agreement is for 15years.

Corey asked if the homeless reject the program where do they go. Joyce stated we cannot track them. Nathan stated they may not choose to stay at the homeless shelter but they have caseworkers and they track them. Keith stated they have guidelines they must follow with the program and they offer a lot of services.

**MISSY SWAIM:** County resident Missy Swaim stated she attended a meeting regarding the homeless shelter on Saturday and that she feels that education needs to be sent out to the people who are concerned and there are many success stories. Missy continued sharing her support but gave comment that the meeting she attended there were no commissioners were present.

Commissioner Dickerson stated that as far as the Saturday meeting they are on many different boards and have many meetings to attend and received the message about the meeting on Friday and that he supports the HHIS project.

**LENA OSBORNE:** Lena Osborne of HAPCAP stated that notices are required by grant statue and explained the Public Hearing Notices.

**JUDY HELBER:** County resident Judy Helber expressed her concerns of the homeless people roaming around as she has seen them and what the solution is if they are supposed to be doing the program.

**JULIE TOBBINS:** Julie Tobbins Coordinator Integrated Services commented to address your concerns that you’re going to see homeless people and that is part of the community and having a shelter will get them connected with us to help them.

**JOYCE BLANKENSHIP:** County resident Joyce Blankenship commented on Metropolitan Housing and her concerns.

**KEVIN FARMER:** County resident Kevin Farmer stated he feels the homeless shelter is a good thing but gave concerns regarding the cost to maintain the shelter and that there is no sidewalks at the location.

Commissioner Ogle clarified that she talked to Karen Raymore of the Tourism and she didn’t see how it would affect the tourism.

Kevin asked for clarification on the two-apartment facility. Nathan explained the qualifications of the grant and the process of the project. Discussion continued how the grant works and if Metropolitan Housing will make a profit.

Commissioner Ogle asked about the $200,000.00 that if it is from a competitive grant you don’t know if you’re going to get it. And are the two apartment consider to be transitional. Nathan stated that they are permanent housing. Amy stated that they are inundated with public housing. Sandy commented on the petition for road closure that the County Commissioners in the past that any road if there was a landowner adjacent to that it never got closed. Jeff clarified that if an adjacent landowner objected. Nathan stated that they own all the land around the road.

Commissioner Dickerson stated he appreciated the participation of everyone.

**RECESS:** 10:15AM **RECONVENE:** 10:25AM

**APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS:** Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandy Ogle to approve the following Appropriation Transfer:

1) Probate Ct - $951.60 from A02D02A/Mag Salary to A02D02/Employees Salary

2) Probate Ct - $133.22 from A02D02A/Mag Salary to A02D13/PERS

3) Probate Ct - $16,042.68 from A02D02A/Mag Salary to A02C22D/Juv Mag Salary

4) Probate Ct - $2,245.98 from A02D13A/Probate PERS to A02C30A/Juvenile PERS

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A NEW FUND:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to approve the Request to Establish a New Fund.

1) OWDA-Murray City Sewer - Contract Services - $250,000.00

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**911 REPORT:** Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandy Ogle to approve the 911 Report for the month of January 2017.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**ROAD REDUCTION:** Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandy Ogle to approve the request for a 50% reduction on all roads in Good Hope Township effective immediately through April 30, 2017.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**COUNTYWIDE AGREEMENTS:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to approve the County Wide Agreements for Marion and Laurel Townships for the amount of $692.09 each.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL CONTRACT:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to approve the 2017Washington County Jail Contract for as overflow housing prisoners at $60.00 per day for each person incarcerated.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**FOR THE RECORD:** Commissioner Dickerson stated that the jail cost for January was $102,000.00. Commissioner Waugh shared his concern about the jail cost.

Jeff also stated there will be a meeting held February 8th at 3:00PM with Good Hope Trustees and the Health Department at Good Hope Township Garage regarding the Rockbridge Sewer. Sandy stated the clerk asked her if our sewer man should attend the meeting and she said it would be a good idea and he could come in later as we do not want to pay overtime.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Ogle shared her concerns with terminating the Assistant Clerks services stating when she was elected by the people to do the best jobs we could and the problem she is having is in our department when we did the sewer there was work here for an assistant clerk and the sewer was taken upstairs and the assistant clerk was paid out of sewer and out of our general fund.

Motion by Sandy Ogle to terminate the services of our assistant clerk based on the fact that the job she was doing went upstairs and is no longer here.

Sandy continued saying that her pay has been coming out of the general fund and I understand the general fund is a lot more than one person. It is coming out of the general fund and before I ask the taxpayers in our county to fund a 0.25% sales tax I feel that our office should do everything we can to show that we are trying to save money before we ask the voters.

Gary asked if he could give it thought for consideration. Sandy stated it has been under consideration for how long. Jeff said that for sake of discussion they need a second. Gary seconded with discussion.

Discussion followed on the hours/rate of pay and that no job description of the assistant clerk was present at this meeting to know what the job entailed. Sandy reinserted that they are still paying for the assistant clerk and its cost them money to send it upstairs, the taxpayer’s money when they sent it upstairs and she wants the people of Hocking County that voted for her to speak up for them that she wants them to know that she is trying to do her job because we are wasting money in this office and would like to talk to officeholders to see if there is any way they can cut back but how can we do that when we haven’t done anything ourselves. Jeff said the way he looks at it and he sees her point, it’s a matter of a drop in the bucket compared to, like taking an eyedropper of water and dropping one little drop in the ocean. Sandy stated that’s correct. Jeff states he doesn’t see other office holders making changes in their departments. Sandy said why would they if we don’t in ours. Sandy said we have to set an example. Jeff said he would like time to think about this, but we will have to vote as we have a first and seconded. Sandy said that’s correct. Gary stated that basically first we need to sit down with other officials and see what they are willing to do and tell them what we’re willing to do. Sandy asked what the commissioners are willing to do. Gary stated he truly believes that nobody would pay attention to the sacrifice and that every department is going to protect their own interest. Gary said that the budget issue is so broad that every department is going to have to do something and would like to see what they are willing to do. Sandy said by being the leader of the pack so to say we need to do ours that just because they are not going to do anything doesn’t mean we are not going to do anything. Sandy continued saying she understands it’s very small but you have to start small and the next thing she is going to address is she went to the prosecutor and asked him if he would check about how we could go about to make it fair that the county employees pay 10% of their insurance that would save us $50,000.00 to $52,000.00 but she knows there are bargaining units but that is the next thing she is working on and they have to start someplace. Clarification was given on terminating the services of the assistant clerk and not the position. Jeff stated he would feel more comfortable having the facts and figures with the amount they were going to save. Sandy stated it’s not the amount we will save it’s the fact we’re paying somebody we don’t need. Jeff stated it’s the amount that’s going to be saved rather than putting somebody in the unemployment line – if this was such an issue having this position prior to my being here the county was $800,000.00 in debt and no one thought of making a change at that time. Sandy said because the sewer was paying. Jeff stated the fact is we were still $800,000.00 in debt and no changes were made in this office. Jeff stated he would like the time to think about it, as he is not ready to say yes or make a decision he wants time and doesn’t appreciate the pressure. Sandy said she is not pressuring him. Jeff said that it is definitely pressure and a blind side. Gary stated that the intimation is that if you don’t support this you are not representing your constituents and that’s not true – everything has to weighed and legally it’s called Di Minimis it’s such a minor issue and if he thought it would make a big difference he would support it and that he understands being responsible for the public’s money but there are just limits and it’s such a minor issue.

Roll Call: Ogle, yea, Waugh, nay, Dickerson, nay.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**RESCIND ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to rescind the adjournment of the meeting.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Jeff Dickerson and seconded by Gary Waugh to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters of compensation of a public employee.

Roll Call: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, yea.

**IN SESSION:** Jeff Dickerson declared back in session at 11:00AM with no action taken

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Beth Lanning of LDN asked if there was anything new with the Murray City Sewer system. Commissioner Dickerson stated not yet. Beth also inquired about the process on the sales tax. Sandy stated that there has to be hearings to take place and it take a while.

Beth asked about the county insurance increase would it be elected official and county employees.

Sandy commented that if we make that a policy for Hocking County any agency that has a union it would disqualify them. Sandy stated that’s why she contacted the prosecutor to find out how we go about doing that.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandy Ogle to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ogle, yea, Waugh, yea, Dickerson, 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 February 7, 2017. |
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| Peggi Warthman, Clerk |  | Jeff Dickerson, President |