

JULY 2, 2024

The Gallia County Board of Commissioners met on this date for the purpose of approving the minutes of the previous meeting and current transfers, appropriations and bills. At 9:00 a.m. the meeting was called to order by President Q. Jay Stapleton. Roll Call: President Q. Jay Stapleton, present; Vice President Leslie Henry, present; Commissioner David K. Smith, present.

The President entertained a motion for approval of the June 27, 2024 minutes. David K. Smith moved and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

2024 Canine Shelter Weekly Report														
Week Ending	Came in	Adopted	Reclaimed	Euthanized	Out to Rescue	MIA	Died (Natural or unknown Causes)	Destroyed (in field)	Total Out	Remaining at shelter	Out to County Foster	In from County Foster	Died in Foster (Natural or Unknown Causes)	Total in Foster
6/23	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	32	0	0	0	19

US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE – AGREEMENT

County Administrator Brian Rutherford presented the Commission with the United States Department of Agriculture Equal Opportunity Agreement to be signed by the President of the Commission. President Stapleton entertained a motion that would allow him to sign the agreement as presented. David K. Smith moved and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

USDA – ASSURANCE AGREEMENT

County Administrator Brian Rutherford presented the Commission with an Assurance Agreement from USDA stating that the County acknowledges and agrees to comply with applicable provisions of national laws and policies prohibiting discrimination. President Stapleton entertained a motion that would allow him to sign the agreement as presented. David K. Smith moved and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

AMENDMENT – AUDIT- EMPLOYEE OVERPAYMENT

Susan Hill, from the Auditors office met with the Commissioner's to discuss the decision they had made last week concerning the employee overpayments. Ms. Hill stated that some of the employees had signed contracts with the Auditor's office, that they would not have to pay the debt until termination of employment. David K. Smith moved to amend the decision clarifying that any employee who had signed a contract with the Gallia County Auditor's Office would not be a part of the payroll deduction process for repayment of the overpayment. Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

SENIOR CENTER FUND LINE CREATION

President Stapleton entertained a motion to request the County Auditor's Office to create a new fund titled "Gallia County Council on Aging New Facility", and give that fund number 417, and create the following revenue and expense line items for the \$2,500,000.00 One Time Strategic Community Investment Fund:

Create 417.0417.531100 Gallia County Council on Aging New Facility

Also, request the County Auditor's Office to create the following revenue line items:

Create 417.6000.400100 Gallia County Council on Aging New Facility Revenue (estimated revenue \$2,500,000.00)

Leslie Henry moved and David K. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – PORT AUTHORITY

- Cole Massie, Director of Economic Development at the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, discussed establishing a Port Authority for Gallia County. There are more than 60 Ports Authorities throughout the State, including in neighboring counties such as Lawrence and Jackson, as well as regionally in Ross, Athens, Washington, and Scioto counties.
- As an economic development tool, Massie discussed some of the special powers the Ohio Revised Code gives to Ports, specifically the ability to offer sales tax exemptions on construction materials as another incentive the County can offer to stimulate new commercial and industrial growth, particularly as the region experiences the impact of Nucor. Ports can also issue revenue bonds for various projects, and in many cases avoid the use of prevailing wage and competitive bidding requirements that governments often must follow.

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- In order to use a Port Authority's powers right now, Massie said the County would have to work with a Port outside of the County, which would likely mean project fees leaving the County versus staying here and being redeployed into future economic development projects.
- Massie noted that he envisioned the Port to be as a strategic tool used on an "as-needed" basis to facilitate a major project, versus an active agency.
- He also noted that it should be used in close coordination with existing entities involved in the business community, such as the Community Improvement Corporation, Land Bank, Chamber of Commerce, and Convention & Visitor's Bureau.
- No action taken.

LEAVE DONATION APPLICATION

Commissioners received leave donation applications going to Cody McAvena (Engineer's Office) from Steve Calvert (Engineer's Office). Total hours 8.14 for the pay period dated 7/12/2024.

President Stapleton entertained a motion to approve the leave donation application as requested. Leslie Henry made and David K. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

LEAVE DONATION APPLICATION

Commissioners received leave donation applications going to Cody McAvena (Engineer's Office) from Stanley Bowman (Engineer's Office). Total hours 16 for the pay period dated 7/12/2024.

President Stapleton entertained a motion to approve the leave donation application as requested. David K. Smith made and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

LEAVE DONATION APPLICATION

Commissioners received leave donation applications going to Cody McAvena (Engineer's Office) from Denzel Campbell (Engineer's Office). Total hours 16.63 for the pay period dated 7/12/2024.

President Stapleton entertained a motion to approve the leave donation application as requested. David K. Smith made and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.

SEWER CUSTOMER – COMPLAINT

Keith Gilbert, a Sewer customer who lives on Cora Mill Road met with the Commissioners to express his disappointment over his driveway. Fields Co. has fixed the concrete driveway with a layer of asphalt as Mr. Gilbert had wanted. Commissioner Smith and Stapleton both stated they had been out to look at the finished project and feel it is the same, if not better than it was to begin with. No action taken.

ADJOURN

At 12:00 p.m. the President entertained a motion for adjournment. David K. Smith moved and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Mr. Stapleton, yea; Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Smith, yea.




Q. Jay Stapleton, President



Amanda Phillips, Clerk to the Board



Leslie Henry, Vice President



David K. Smith, Commissioner

CASTO & HARRIS, INC. — RE-ORDER NO. 25403-23