

SPECIAL MEETING OF HETTINGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 27, 2022

Chairman Tom Geerts called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with commissioners Todd Lutz and Angela Carlson in attendance. Also, in attendance were Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor and Devan Laufer.

Lutz motioned to approve the previous minutes as presented for the June and July 11th meetings, seconded by Geerts. Roll call was taken; Carlson nay, Lutz and Geerts voting aye, motion carried. Carlson mentioned that the minutes for the July 11th meeting was better, but believes that there should be more written for county resident knowledge.

The few expenditures that had come in at the end of the month that are due for payment were presented for the following funds for payment approval: General \$410.42; Road & Bridge \$3,873.88; Weed Control \$1,066.65; Sheriff \$4,195.86. Carlson had a question on the Lexipol LLC bill for Sheriff fund for the Annual Law Enforcement policy manual and daily training bulletins. Sheriff was unavailable at this time.

Carlson motioned to transfer \$150,000 from the Road and Bridge Fund into the Highway Distribution Fund, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Sherry Adams, representing SW District Health Unit, met with the commissioners to discuss it's budget. She mentioned they are planning on requesting the same amount again this next year that is split between the eight counties in this district. A lot of their funding comes from grants, with the counties funding portion through mill levy is about 32%. This levy funding covers items such as environmental health, some General costs such as travel and other costs that can't go under grant funding. Adams told the board that when she comes for budget funding next year, there will probably be an increase. The Annual Joint Commission/Board of Health meeting will be August 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Gary Greff met with the board to request county representation when he goes to a meeting at the Heritage Center on August 16th. Greff is also hoping he'll get representation from Stark County. He will be meeting with the State Historical Society, the State Parks division and the Governor's Office to see how he will be able to incorporate the needs of funding for upkeep and future needs for the Enchanted Highway through them. He's hoping to get funding for a full-time welder and a part-time helper. He also expressed they are looking at changes to the Enchanted Highway board. His hope and dream is for the Enchanted Highway to continue on after he no longer can do the work and would like to train someone to take care of all the sites. Some sites, such as the Fish, take a lot more work and time. Geerts will be checking and see if he would be able to make the meeting in August.

Greff also was going to ask about the Fish site work for the parking area and Elliott Finck, Road Supervisor mentioned that gravel and asphalt millings, will be going out there today. Chris Fitterer, donated two truckloads of the millings.

Carlson made the motion to appoint commissioners, Todd Lutz and Tom Geerts along with appointing county residents, Shawn Wolf, Dorothy Sheldon and Heather Jahner to the County Park Commission, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

The commissioners have a special meeting on August 1st, beginning at 2:00 p.m. to interview the engineering firm(s) to do the construction engineering for the Bentley Bridge project.

Road & Bridge applicants for the position on the road crew will be interviewed Thursday morning, July 28th, by Lutz and Finck. Sondra Bullinger, Human Resources, will also be in attendance.

With all items covered on agenda, the commissioners began the review and work on the budget requests.

Finck began with his Road and Bridge and Highway Distribution Funds. He mentioned that this year the department has been able to do three, possibly four, months of township gravel work where usually it is two.

Sheriff Warner was able to come into the meeting and answer Carlson's question regarding the Lexipol bill. She stated that this is an annual service her office pays to keep up to date on Federal and State laws that affect the policies and procedures.

With no more questions on the bills presented, Carlson motioned to approve payment on the bills submitted, seconded by Lutz. All voting aye.

Sheriff Warner continued with her budget request for her office, which was followed by other offices, departments, and taxing entities budget requests.

Commissioners adjourned for lunch, upon return, Chairman Geerts called the meeting back to order and they continued on their work for the 2023 budget.

Auditor will put the requests together along with the commissioner changes and present the Preliminary 2023 budget at the next meeting on August 10th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

ATTEST _____

Jeri G. Schmidt, AUDITOR

Tom Geerts, CHAIRMAN