

January 7, 2021

MINUTES OF JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup> MEETING

All Commissioners were present. Staff recited the pledge at 9:00. Purchase orders and bills were reviewed and signed. Pending issues were discussed with the following resolutions approved and signed:

- V105-264 Minutes of January 5, 2021:  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2-Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes
- V105-265 Reimbursement Annex Utilities December  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes
- V105-266 Bills  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
- V105-267 CHIP PY20 Contract for Professional Services CDC of Ohio, recommended  
by Mark Doll  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
- V105-268 CHIP PY 20 Contract with CARDNO ATC Lead Hazard Risk, recommended  
by Mark Doll  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Striker-yes, Crowe-yes, Rush-yes
- V105-269 Payment of Bills Ditch Maintenance  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes
- V105-270 Hardin County CHIP and Hancock Metro Housing Authority for Tenant Based  
Rental Assistance Program PY20, recommended by Mark Doll  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Crowe-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
- V105-271 Reallocation: Window Change Orders N04  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Crowe-yes
- V105-272 Release of Funds: Children's Services to Public Assistance  
1<sup>st</sup>-Striker 2<sup>nd</sup>-Rush Roll call: Rush-yes, Crowe-yes, Striker-yes
- Signed: MOU with Transfinder for GIS Data  
1<sup>st</sup>-Rush 2<sup>nd</sup>-Striker Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes

Holli Underwood and Jacqueline Fitzgerald, **Hardin Chamber and Business Alliance**. Holli noted due to vacations and holidays there has not been a lot of activity. A grocer is interested in locating in the former Kroger location. Once Kroger removes their equipment the offer may go away. Commissioner Crowe: Prosecutor wrote an opinion and the Auditor was consulted regrading a grant program for economic development. It is Commissioners intent to offer the \$50,000 to the investor to stock the store, but commissioners will need assurances and details. This needs put together prior to giving the funds. The elderly are not leaving their homes and this has left a huge need in the community. Wal-mart is trying. People are going out of county, eating and spending money. Sales tax is up mostly due to ecommerce. Commissioner Rush asked about the issues with the (former Kroger) facility. Jacqueline noted the sewer issue is being resolved. The owner took care of everything outside the building with the lessee taking care of the inside per the contract. The Alliance will make contact with the owner. Holli proposed a Business Incentive Grant Program to use 10% of PILOT money/Phase I with a request of \$120,000 to be capped at \$300,000. Commissioner Crowe would rather not specify any percentage of funds from PILOT when the income is not known. Holli presented a preliminary concept noting numbers could be changed. Focus is on job creation. These funds would be placed in a special fund for auditing. It needs established how this grant would be awarded, by resolution from the Commissioners. Commissioner Striker noted Phase I of the Solar has been turned on. Commissioners will do research with the Prosecutor to see how this could work, maybe not tie into the PILOT. Update on Downtown: no Parade, Santa visits went very well with 300 children attending. Several buildings around the downtown need attention. The Architecture review board is back looking at issues. Structural integrity is an issue.

The Final Hearing for the Mast Ditch #1129 was held in Veteran's Hall. Commissioner Crowe introduced all officials participating. Trent Bass, Assistant Engineer, gave an overview of the Petition to this point. Ditch has 742 acres/62 parcels in the watershed including the extension surface drainage. ODOT has agreed to replace the existing 2'x3' culvert with a 12'/15'x4' or up through SR 31 if this project moves forward. Project is to locate, repair, and maintain a 12/15" tile and relocate a section under Osborn's fence. Surface is 40' wide and 1.8' deep grass waterway with a new 6" sub main tile. The main tile is to be replaced. The extension will be 40' wide with 2' deep grass waterway and a 6" sub main tile. They are replacing the existing tile. Estimate of work is \$107,045.50 with other cost a total of \$128,618.53. Value of the ditch after work is \$149,180 with 5% maintenance assessment the first year. Hardin County uses a target method of assessment. Assessments are calculated off the bid. Greg Osborn asked if the project would interfere with his building. Trent Bass-no, an easement thru the petition to access. Tile being routed around. Greg Osborn-noted there is no benefit as water currently gets off in a couple of days. The state water lays weeks. Why a concern with a small spot? Luke Underwood-comments will be taken shortly. We are here to act on improvement with ODOT paying to replace the culvert. Hamilton Robinson Jr.-this is an economic decision. The profit you are taking is one year of income from me to install. It doesn't help me. I have 88 acres at \$82 acre assessment. Testimony was then taken: Luke Underwood reminded the group the Engineers nor the Commissioners filed the petition. They are acting on the petition. No costs were known before today. Commissioners will decide today following procedures. They will act on the mainline and the extension separately. Peter Hogshead-this will be a long-term impact on my pond verses my property values and taxes. No don't do. Greg Osborn-does anyone else want but Alvin? The economy is bad. Steve Hackthorn/Barb Miller-how much water is coming from the coon chase? Luke Underwood-17 acres goes that way and they are paying. Steve Hackthorn/Barb Miller-the last one inch of rain we could see coming from there. It kills the grass. Peter Hogshead-is the known cost of increased property tax and assessment? Luke Underwood-no effect on your property tax, if Commissioners deny today the landowners will pay for work up to this point. The Auditor borrows money for the project, that is determined now how long you have to pay. The petitioners bond pays for up to the first hearing. The fence by B. Miller is planned to be removed and cost is included. Hamilton Robinson-I vote no, hear the people. Jon Stevens asked what work is being done on his property? Trent Bass-none, no work thru you or on you, not going thru your driveway. Mr. Stevens discussed previous projects he did for Mr. Mast. Mr. Stevens stated he was against the project. He feels a criminal act to push water off on someone else. He was aware of the water when he bought his land and wants to enjoy the wildlife. Luke explained if the projected is denied ODOT will not replace the culvert which they were replacing at no cost to the project. Hamilton Robinson-Inconvenient to taxpayers, again please vote no. The tile put in to Wingfield's was put in the 1900's when maintenance was not included. It is flooding the area and probably plugged. Peter Hogshead-I oppose with no benefit to me and out of pocket expense for my 3 acres. Greg Osborn-I oppose as a hardship to please one person. This water issue has gone on for several years, 15 yrs plus. The state needs to enlarge their culvert. Luke Underwood noted it is now a 6 sq ft and with this project it will increase to 48'. Jon Stevens noted in 1986 he bought his property and in 1994 Wingfield's had some minor tiling done. Mr. Mast bought in 2009 and wanted tile 3' down at 15" wide 150' out in his field and increase the culvert. This would increase the flow to someone else's property. In 2011 Billenstine's tiled his field. Which greatly increased water. He was draining the water table. You are messing with nature. Luke Underwood noted the range of assessments is up to \$300 acre and could be considered high compared to other projects. It is also considered the landowner is in favor if not present. Alvin Mast-I have 20 acres going in old tile, in 1976 I tiled to Wolf Creek. There is too much water. Mr. Bontrager-I tiled everything to Wolf Creek. His assessment is \$290 for benefited acres. Luke Underwood-Mark McCullough has the greatest expense with the most acres and highest rate. He filed the extension. Commissioner Crowe- drainage is the controversy. You are asking others to pay for the project. We have rejected before. There is a lot of cost here to the landowners and I agree with Mr. Robinson. Is that why Mr. McCullough filed the extension. The same amount of water only faster. It is a benefit and will improve but I am concerned

with the cost at \$149,000 for value vs. \$128,000 for work to be done. The cost exceeds the benefit. Commissioner Rush-I agree the cost verses the benefit. Commissioner Striker moved to dismiss the petition and the extension with cost being assessed to this point to the watershed. Statements to come from the Auditor to be paid in 30 days. Commissioner Rush second. Roll call: Rush-yes, Striker-yes, Crowe-yes. **V105-273**

Roll call resulted as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
President of the Board-Roger E. Crowe

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
Timothy L. Striker

\_\_\_\_\_, YES/NO  
Fred M. Rush

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board