

# COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Board of Hocking County Commissioners met in a regular session this 29th day of March 2022 with the following members present: Sandra Ogle, Jeff Dickerson, and Gary Waugh.

## **MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Dickerson.

## **MINUTES**

Motion by Sandra Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to approve the minutes.

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

## **AGENDA**

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve with discussion; Commissioner Ogle asks if anyone attending would like to be added to the agenda. Mike Roach says yes, we do. Hank Topf requests to be added.

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

Commissioner Ogle asked what time, and Commissioner Dickerson replied, after reviewing the agenda, tentatively for 10:15 a.m.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Fairhope**

Fairhope CEO Kristin Glasure introduces herself and presents the Commissioners with a bag of Fairhope items. Kristin is the new CEO of Fairhope Hospice and Palliative Care in Lancaster. She stated that she was appointed in July, and has been with Fairhope for 6 years. Glasure is proud to serve the Hocking County area, and surrounding area. There is a satellite office located here in the county, nurses and part of the grief team works there. Glasure adds that she wants the Commissioners to reach out if they ever need anything. Commissioner Dickerson adds that he knows of many people that have benefited from these services, including his late father. Commissioner Dickerson shows the public attending what was included in the gift bag; notepad, ink pen, clip, mouse pad, small stick on 2022 calendar, keychain, and a lanyard.

**FOR THE RECORD** Next appointment is taking place at 9:36 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Motion by Jeff Dickerson and seconded by Gary Waugh with Marjorie Kemper under personal compensation of a public employee at 9:36 a.m.

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

**EXIT:** at 9:54 a.m. with no action taken and no decisions made

### **Board of DD Interview**

Commissioner Dickerson asked Nicole to introduce herself, about her job, and if she has worked with anyone on the board. Commissioner Ogle had no questions, but stated she was and is still a supporter of Help Me Grow. Commissioner Waugh commented that Nicole's application says it all, and all his questions were already touched on.

Motion by Sandra Ogle and seconded by Gary Waugh to appoint Nicole Hanh to the Board of DD, effective 03/29/2022.

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

### **AHSWD**

Jane Forrest Redfern discussed the problem with scrap tires in the area. While meeting with some representatives, it was discussed that a location is needed for township trustees and different agencies to store found scrap tires. Commissioner Waugh asked if there would be any costs, and Jane replied no. Jane requested the approval and signature of the landowner at Sutton Road, to store tires and give access to the Sheriff's office, Health Department, and Townships. When 200+ are collected, EPA will be notified for pick up. The tires will be sheltered. Commissioner Ogle asked if the tires will be up off the guard, and Jane replied that they do not need to be because they will be covered. Commissioner Ogle asked for Jane to show her on a map where she would be storing the tires at. Commissioner Ogle would like to check with insurance to see if there would be an increase in insurance for liability reasons.

The document will be tabled until Thursday, once Commissioner Ogle obtains information from the County's insurance rep.

Jane discusses upcoming dates of recycling and collection events. Commissioner Dickerson asks that Jane makes sures no vehicles are parked around or adjacent to the Youth Center during the May 7th event due to Rotary Club's pancake feast event the same day.

### **Hocking County Agriculture**

**FOR THE RECORD** Commissioner Dickerson asked the clerk to note that at 10:08 a.m. the board was addressed by Mr. Hank Topf, representative from Hocking County Agriculture.

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Hank Topf thanked the Commissioners, especially Commissioner Dickerson, for bringing it to the light of possible missing funds that Dickerson brought up in a previous meeting, \$140,000 or \$142,000, the amount is unclear. I would like to know if the Commissioners are doing any type of investigation because it looks poorly on the fairboard that there may be missing funds. Our last audit shows the books are very good right now. Topf stated the fairboard does not have, as far as we know, we don't know where there is any missing money. So he asks the question, if Dickerson knew, if you made that statement that there are possibly missing funds, I would think that you want to pursue to find out or investigate where they are.

Commissioner Dickerson stated we didn't pursue or investigate because the state had extended the audit form what we were told, by someone from the auditor's office. Commissioner Ogle stated to the President to not say we, because she did not know anything about it. Commissioner Dickerson replied okay, and corrected himself and said I.

Mr. Topf continued saying, the fact that the accusation was made of missing money, and as a fairboard member we've done a very good job of spending and tracking our funds and spending and when an accusation is made of missing money reflects poorly on the present fairboard. And there has been a lot of scuttlebutt around from our current contributors, asking why should I contribute to the fairboard and donate money when there may be missing funds. This really opened up a can of worms, now that it's open, what are you going to do about it? Is there is an investigation, cause you don't just say I heard there is missing money, especially as a Commissioner you would want to investigate it and not just throw it out there. That's why I'm here today, to see where we stand, because we're going to pursue it if you do not. I would just like some light shed on it. Commissioner Dickerson replied that is all he would like to, if you want I can ask the Sheriff office to do an investigation or who we should have to do an investigation. Topf replied back that would be greatly appreciated because we would like your help, we have always felt like we work great, and we appreciate the Commissioners through everything we have done. Commissioner Dickerson replied that he does think they work well together, and he is proud of that. Topf yes, but since this was brought up, I don't think we can let it go. If there is missing money we need to find out if it is a legitimate circumstance or is somebody making something up on other issues. I would like to know what the Commissioners stance on it.

Dickerson replied we will have it investigated then, he stated he did not make anything up. I have had anonymous calls from people regarding different issues with the fairboard one reasons one might ask how can this money be missing, and I have had people call me that has had children that had animals in the livestock sale, and it took forever and a day to get paid, that is an exaggeration, but it took way too long to get people who sold an animal, in september to get paid. Many of them, I was told, were paid in November and then somebody else called and said do you realize that the fairboard is selling animals that haven't paid for last year's animals. Topf replied with a "really". When you're hearing stuff like that, from different people, not from the same families, you have to wonder, well could this be, I mean is there \$142k missing, how or why. Topf replies, Well that is something we are working on. As far as the last livestock sales, there has been some hiccups on who ran the sales, were trying to get that more of a clear process. Dickerson asks it is true isn't it? There are people who bought animals a year ago, maybe two years ago. Topf added no, not two years ago, I have not heard that. Mike Roach speaks up and says, that is not true. Dickerson said it is true about previous sales, Roach states no, and Dickerson says yes, it is true. Roach asked for the past two years, and Dickerson replied with a reminder that he has the floor, he has the meeting. Dickerson states to Mike and Hank, your fairboard secretary said, I asked for a public record request for a copy of the people who bought animals and did not pay for them, and people who had bought animals from a previous sale and did not pay for them, and I was told the list was all cleared up. Either someone is lying or I have been terribly misinformed, I'm not trying to be a horse's hind end here but I was told when asked. Roach questioned Dickerson and said was told by who, and Dickerson said your fairboard secretary. Roach replied yes and everybody who has sold an animal at the fair has been paid, not a single person has ever sold an animal at that fair that has not been paid. Dickerson says I'm saying a person who bought an animal still owes on last year's animal. Roach reminds the Commissioner that the fairboard secretary is present, and Dickerson said that he was aware. Roach asked Dickerson where are you getting this number, if people are calling you here and there about sales of animals, how is that \$140k. Dickerson replied that he said it makes you wonder if it is a contributing factor to what I am hearing about the \$140k. Roach asked where did Dickerson get that number from, you said somebody told you that, stated in a meeting, public meeting, that you told the public our board is missing \$142k. Dickerson stated I believe that is what Ms. Dicken stated. Dickerson says she said yes and they are working on it, they are trying to find it. And that is exactly what I was told. Roach asked where did you get your information from, Dickerson replies with I'm not telling you. I don't have to say. Roach, you as a public official can just throw this number out there, now you're hurting our board, with collecting money, sponsorships and all that. We have lost the trust of the public, because of your statement but you refuse to tell us so that we can investigate this. Dickerson replies yeah, I'm not evolving it. Topf states we are already working on this, if the Commissioners don't do an investigation we will. Sandra Ogle, asks for clarification with the words Commissioners, plural, being used. Topf says well Dickerson, one Commissioner, haven't gotten clarification on that. Dickerson states the previously asked questions about what to do, and says I said investigate, maybe the sheriff department. Jessica Dicken asked to speak, Dickerson asked her to state her name. Jessica stated her name, Jessica Dicken. She comments, I wasn't here today on behalf of the fairboard, I was just here how I have been attending the meetings. When you brought that up, when I presented the audit roughly two and half weeks ago, you asked about the livestock sales account and I explained to you and the commissioners that were present that day. I replied that the livestock sales account did have some delay in collecting money from buyers. Bigger businesses do have to run it through a billing cycle, so it does delay. Roughly, it was 2 months before kids got their fair checks, we do not have

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any current businesses that have not paid. They are all paid up . There was an issue two years ago, as a board we discussed with that buyer and specifically said if you choose to buy an animal again, you must pay the night of, or you do not get to purchase animals. And this year we did house the sale ourselves so there were some hiccups, just learning the logistics of the sale vs. working with a bank. We ran as a board pretty successfully, there were some mistakes on our part but we cleared those up, and moving forward we know the system and can run smoother this year. When it comes to the comment you made at the last meeting about the audit, when I presented all three with a copy, you Mr. Dickerson mentioned the fairboard was missing \$143k, maybe 40 thousand not sure on that number. I did not state we were missing money, and we can come back to those recordings. I did say that our audit did show we were missing receipts. I spoke yesterday to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, to the lady that did our audit, and come down for our exit conference, and she said there is no missing money from the fairboard standpoint. Everything was forensically investigated due to the fairboard mix up that took place in 2019-2020. It did hold up the audit, where there were some filing errors that myself and the treasurer did, yes, that was how we were taught, they explained this is what we do in the future so those things are never flagged for any audits. If there is any missing money, it is not from the fairboard standpoint. Jessican Dicken states I will stand here on public record and say that I am not aware of any missing money, receipts yes, but we have taken care of those. And have been cleared through the state of Ohio for our audit. She thanked the President for allowing her to speak.

Dickerson stated in regards to the missing money I asked Jessica, never stated, I asked what about the missing \$142k. Jessica went to speak and the President reminded her to state her name. Jessica Dicken, exact words " will this audit explain the missing \$140k/\$142k missing dollars. Dickerson states again, I asked. I didn't say, not even hinted at anything like that. Dickerson adds if I have caused problems I'm sorry, if you're not guilty, and I don't think you are, I never casted that. I asked, is there anything about this missing money. Dickerson states as a County Commissioner, and you are a county body, the fairgrounds are owned by the Commissioners, where the fair is operated, we are certainly allowed to ask. Nobody offered this information, hey if you hear this. You're wrong if you didn't think this was out before then. Roach said, our meetings are open just like yours are. Nobody told us. Jeff replies, well I apologize, but all I did in my mind was ask about the missing money. I'm not the only cat in town that has asked. Roach, I would like to know who these cats are. Jeff I never went to any meetings, anything with your budget that I asked, was directed and answered by Jessica. Topf states that he is confused, the recording I listened to said to a reliable source, you were told \$140k missing, that's why I am here. If there is missing money and you have a source, can you find out where the money is, because we could use it. If that's true, we don't know of any, and if you did as a commissioner, you would think you would want to get right on that and find out if it's factual. I'm confused. From what I heard, and even took off work. Commissioner Dickerson states my stance is I would like to know. Topf replies to Dickerson you are the only one who knows. Dickerson says I don't believe that. Topf states, if there is missing money I want to know, where it's at, and I would think i would be right on it, and I am. I'm here. I have to start with you, the source I heard it from. With your help let's do an investigation. I need guidance from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Ogle adds, I'm not sure who does the Audit, Jeff said sheriff, but I don't think so. For me, I would ask the county prosecutor but I don't know how they fit in, if they do that with the fairboard. Topf relies, the Commissioner that stated in public form said \$140k missing, that's where I would start. Ogle says to Dickerson, the reliable source that told you. Topf repeats that's what we need to find out, if there is missing money. In order to find out where it's at, that starts with you Mr. Dickerson, are you going to investigate this, you brought this up.

Deb Tobin from the Logan Hocking Times asks Dickerson, is this from this current board, or from the previous board. Dickerson replies with the missing funds, this board's audit. Deb states but if their audit came back okay, other than the few minor things, and Dickerson adds I haven't heard anything about the audit until Mrs. Dicken gave us each a folder with the audit in there. Deb said well I did read it and I did not see anything about missing funds in there. Dickerson says I haven't read it yet. Deb says I went to the website and pulled it, I did not see anything in there about missing money, from this board. According to what I read on the audit, there are no missing funds from this current board, so the question is, is it from this board or from the past board. Jeff states its from more than one board member, that I have heard it from. Topf asks, current or past. Dickerson says I think everyone that I have spoken to his past, and Topf replies, if that is the case what haven't you called the cops, call an investigator, you're in an important position for the county and if there is any missing funds, you can't just do that. Deb Tobin asked Dickerson when was the first time you heard this, recently, months ago. Jeff replies, when the audit took place and the audit was extended. Deb Tobin asked did you call the auditors and speak to them, and Jeff dickerson replies no i didn't. State of Ohio said we don't have any missing money says Topf. I feel like if Dickerson brought it up, he would already be checking into it to find out where this money is missing. Mike, the reason our audit was held up had nothing to do with the new board, it was the past board. It was held up because of the actions of the previous board. From 2019, the previous board. So if your source is from the old board, you shouldn't do that. Jeff states, again if what I asked about caused any problems, I apologize. Sandra Ogle replies it can't hang out there Mr. president. Jeff reminds the room that he has the floor. Dickerson said he will find out who can investigate, and if I'm wrong I apologize, I've always been a big supporter of the fair. Topf agrees and says you're not in this position because you don't, we know you do a lot for this county. Its done, wheels are spinning, fingers are being pointed, and those fingers are pointed to those who are in charge now. Dickerson said if the audit says there is no money missing, that is good enough for me, I accept that. Topf said whoever is telling you this, and Dickerson adds it was prior to the audit. Topf said well are they just "blowing smoke up your ass"? Dickerson replies, it is very possible that it is wrong. I will check into it. Topf says, yes check into it, and Dickerson says yes definitely. Commissioner Ogle clarifies, the reliable source, is a past

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fair board. I would suggest that the person with the reliable information should come forth and say I made a mistake. To straighten this out, whoever it is would be the only person or persons that could clear this up and come forward. I don't want to see the fairboard donations and hard work over the years, I don't want to see it go down the drain. Or anyone to come out with black marks. We have worked hard. Completing the electricity. Ogle states the fair was difficult for her last year. She adds again, the source should show proof or say I made a mistake. Dickerson replies, duly noted. Ogle asks for a time frame, and Dickerson replies I wasn't aware it had to be down to the date and hour. Ogle says It doesn't have to be.

Topf, already hurting us to let this go on, as soon as I heard about it I jumped on it, we need to find out, and handle it. Fairboard is ready to go to the prosecutor, bring back to the board, and may still pursue that. Was hoping that it was generated here, I was hoping the commissioners would take care of it. If I was the County Commissioner, I would be calling the prosecutor if it was a reliable source, and a past board member reliable with money and be responsible and do the same. Every minute it's getting worse. I would recommend that the commissioners seek proper legal action. To get a prosecutor involved or ask him how to move forward and not just let it go by. Ogle states it can't. It has to come out.

Dickerson replies, I will speak with the prosecuting attorney. And I thank you for your time.

Ogle states for the record, I knew nothing about this until it was brought up in the meeting.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**FOR THE RECORD** Current time is 10:41 a.m.

### **Vitality Medical**

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve the new account request form to Vitality Medical, for new customer Hocking County Court.

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

### **COSSAP**

Commissioner Ogle read the cover sheet for the grant agreement between the Hocking County Commissioners and the Logan-Hocking School District. Commissioner Ogle realized the date range on the cover sheet had a typo error, stating the grant year was 2021-2222. Commissioner Ogle and the clerk discussed if this should wait until the date is fixed, and the Clerk added that this was only the cover sheet for the Prosecutor's approval of the grant agreement and could be fixed following the meeting.

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve.

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

### **Certification of Additional Revenue Additional Applications**

Commissioners - A budget was not turned in for 2022 and additional revenue in the amount of \$46,880.82 needs to be certified to 325001 Court Covid-19 Grant. The money has already been appropriated so only the Revenue Certification needs done at this time.

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve.

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

### **Request to Establish a New Fund**

Probate - D10-01 Indigent Guardianship \$1,850.00

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve.

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

### **Crabtree**

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve the House Charge Application form for Courthouse Maintenance.

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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## ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Gary Waugh and seconded by Sandra Ogle to adjourn.

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

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Kaula Funk, Clerk

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Board of Hocking County Commissioners

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 March 29, 2022.

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Kaula Funk, Clerk

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Jeff Dickerson, President