

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Board of Hocking County Commissioners met in a regular session this 4th day of January 2024 with the following members present: Sandra Ogle, and Jason D'Onofrio.

MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Sandra Ogle.

MINUTES

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve December 21, 26, and 28th minutes.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

AGENDA

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

BILLS

NAME	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
OFFICE CITY EXPRESS	SUPPLIES	85.26
VISION GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS, I	W-2S AND 1099S	235.06
GORDON FLESCH COMPANY	COPIER MAINT	80
LOGAN-HOCKING TIMES	LEGAL NOTICE FOR 2022 AUDIT	25.5
COMDOC INC	MO MAINTENANCE XEROX 5550	89.53
TREASURER STATE OF OHIO	IPA QUALITY REVIEW-2022	615
OFFICE MART	SUPPLIES	339.1
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES FOR OFFICE	37.97
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	TV MOUNT & SAMSUNG 75 IN TV	703.97
MODERN OFFICE METHODS, INC	COPIER CONTRACT-2024	136.79
JUDGE RANDY DEERING	MILEAGE	229.25
AVERHEALTH	GPS MONITORING	2630
GFC LEASING	COPIER LEASE-DECEMBER IMAGES	30.17
OFFICE CITY EXPRESS	SUPPLIES	765.75
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	NEW COLOR PRINTER	339.99
HEINLEIN-BROWN FUNERAL HOME I	!! TRANSPORT OF DECEDENTS	700
SAMS, STACEY	OTHER EXPENSE	604.46
ITECH	COPIER FEES	163.85

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THE RECEPTIONIST	SERVICE CONTRACT	1757.07
VAL TECH	LONG DISTANCE SERVICE	511.55
FRONTIER	CO INTERNET,SUMMARY BILLING,ETC	1797.92
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	SERVICE	8204.04
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.	SERVICE	1899.27
NAPA AUTO PARTS	CRUISER SUPPLIES	1029.73
FRAZIER'S HOME FURNISHINGS,IN	EVIDENCE FRIDGE	313.47
STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL LEASING	EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT INSTALL	28158
ROCKY SHOES & BOOTS OUTLET	DUTY BOOTS	74.99
RED DIAMOND UNIFORM & POLICE	UNIFORMS	10152.7
HOCKING HILLS COLLISION REPAI	!! REPAIRS	5000
TANSKY MOTORS, INC	CRUISER MAINT & REPAIR	2186.99
DAUBENMIRE AUTO PARTS	!! WRECKER SERVICE	75
HOCKING CO SHERIFF	INITIAL WITHDRAW FOJ FUNDS 2024	15000
OFFICE MART	SUPPLIES	594.57
GORDON FLESCH COMPANY	MONTHLY SERVICE FEE	16.41
TREASURER STATE OF OHIO	BCMh-2023	4541.28
JONATHAN PUBLISHING	UPDATES BOOK B&C LAW CHANGES'24	150
BARNES ADVERTISING CORP	2024 BILLBOARDS-OUTREACH	6831
R.K. SHAW LIMITED	2024 RENT-30657 REDROCK CT	14400
BAUM LAW OFFICE	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	2508.78
BAUM LAW OFFICE	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	3575.28
JACKSON, STEVEN F.	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	225
BURKETT SANDERSON, INC	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	4837.1
MEADOWS, JORDEN M	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	892.5
MOORE, WILLIAM	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	1867.5
WEAVER, CAMERON M.	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	1005

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WEAVER, CAMERON M.	!! PUBLIC DEFENDER	1230
FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S	VARIOUS VENDORS-HOUSING INMATES	6900
U.S. CORRECTIONS, LLC	PRISONER TRANSPORT	2920
MADISON ENERGY COOPERATIVE	DOG POUND ELECTRIC	122.09
COMDOC INC	MO MAINTENANCE XEROX 5325	41.62
PATTERSON, JAY M	!! MEDIATION SERV. CIVIL CASES	773.5
OFFICE CITY EXPRESS	SUPPLIES	807.01
JONES, CASEY	REIMBURSEMENT FOR MILEAGE	17.16
AVERHEALTH	FELONY DRUG CRT SCREEN CONFIRM	30
RAHTER LAW OFFICE, LLC	!! CASA GAL SERVICES	243.75
KIMES-BROWN, TRECIA	!! SUPER GAL	779.49
ARCHER JR, WILLIAM L.	!! SUPER GAL	1335
KIMES-BROWN, TRECIA	!! SUPER GAL	865.61
MOSES, FRED	MILEAGE REIMB. (DECEMBER)	578
GORDON FLESCH COMPANY	CANON COPIER LEASE	3.33
GFC LEASING	CANON COPIER LEASE	145.09
OFFICE MART	MO-WEEKLY APPOINTMENT BOOK CAL	21.79
SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL, LLC	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	19680
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, LL	!! CONSULTING SERVICES	5300
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	HP LASERJET C3516A TRANSFER KIT	314
FRONTIER	TELEPHONE BILL	66.93
VALTECH COMMUNICATIONS	LONG DISTANCE PHONE	21.76
U.S.A. BLUE BOOK	TESTING SUPPLIES 2023	252.6
MASI, INC	TESTING MACHINE-SAMPLES	577.9
NELSONVILLE UTILITY OFFICE	MURRAY CITY & CARBON HILL SEWER	7367.82
CITY OF LOGAN	CHIEFTAIN,UF,ENTERPRISE SEWER	3467.93
FRONTIER	SERVICE	685.34

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AT&T	MURRAY CITY/CARBON HILL	1720.25
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	SERVICE	848.28
CITY OF LOGAN	RICKETTS SEWER RENTAL	187
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	SERVICE	722.14
TREASURER STATE OF OHIO	RECOVERY SUPPORT COSTS ATP	490
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	SUPPLIES 911 CENTER	300.48
AT & T MOBILITY	SERVICE	89.88
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	SERVICE	119.99
VAL TECH	SERVICE	36.25
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.	SERVICE	132.7
LOGAN SCREEN PRINTING	!! 911 SHIRTS	844.5
QUILL CORPORATION	OFFICE SUPPLIES	764.47
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	ELECTRIC SERVICE 187 S SPRING	692.87
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER	ELECTRIC SERVICE 580 RADIO LANE	411.74
K.G. HELBER CONSTRUCTION LLC	!! 2023 SNOW REMOVAL	575
LEE'S DETAIL SHOP, LLC	!! VEHICLE CLEANING	270
LOGAN POLICE DEPT	ALARM RENEWAL	20
MADISON ENERGY COOPERATIVE	GAS SERVICE SHEWC 580 RADIO LN	119.62
SMITH, DEBRA	!! EXERCISE CLASS INSTRUCTOR	60
SOUTH CENTRAL POWER	LAURELVILLE SR CTR ELECTRIC SER	115
LEFFLER, GINA M.	!! CAKES FOR EVENTS	55
US BANK	PRINTER BILL	94.72
MINUTEMAN PRESS	BUSINESS CARDS	53.71
OFFICE CITY EXPRESS	OFFICE SUPPLIES	772.72
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE & EOC EQUIPMENT	3223.8
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE & EOC EQUIPMENT	2666.68

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

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APPOINTMENTS

9:30 - Susanne Simpson, South East Regional Liaison for State Auditor Keith Faber, introduced herself and wished everyone a Happy New Year on Behalf of the State Auditor's Office. Julie Stevens, Field Representative for Congressman Brad Wlinstrep. Brynn Stepp, Lt. Governor'[s Office, Bonnie Ward, Governor's Office, Jordan Leatherwood, Secretary Of State's Office, informed that the ballots should be approved this month sometime.

Commissioner Ogle asked if they could help with Infrastructure and help for the Fire Departments. Bonnie Ward stated that she would look into it, as there are grants this year for Fire Departments and Local Municipalities. There was discussion of the strain that tourism creates.

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to go into Public Comment.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Nihiser voiced concerns about the rising property taxes that are getting hard to afford because of out of towners buying up the property, young people not being able to afford a place to live. and it needs to be fixed. Mr Nihiser also discussed that Florida does not raise taxes until property is sold, which gives property owners a break from continually raising taxes. A stated that the state representatives need to be looking into that.

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve going back into appointments.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve going into General Business.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Auditors Software Program

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve renewing the software support agreement for budgetary and payroll .

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Lodging Tax Update

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve the Lodging Tax update report.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

EMA Director Mitigation Plan

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve EMA Director Mark Edgar, using the County Vehicle, to attend various Township meetings over the next six weeks accompanied by Hocking County Health Department Commissioner Doug Fisher, to inform Trustees of the upcoming update of the Hocking County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

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ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Sheriff - Laurelville - Salaries Rotary (X32-21) - Other Expense Sheriff's Rotary - X-32-12 - \$3,438.62
Hocking Soil & Water Conservation District - Soil & Water - Contract Services - L15-05 - \$600.00
Other Expenses - L15-13 - \$2,034.07

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Advance Request

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to table request by EMS until February.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

FUND TRANSFER AMENDMENT

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve amending the budget amount transferred from the County Fund to Soil and Water fund from \$88,265.19 to \$106,270.30.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea

FUND TRANSFER

Ho. Soil & Water Cons. District - County General - A07A01B - Soil & Water Fund 015005 - \$106,270.30

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

SOUTH CENTRAL POWER

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve South Central Power to place two new poles and replace 1 existing pole on Big Pine Road.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve South Central Power to replace 1 existing pole on Blackjack Road.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

EMS Appointment Slip

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve EMS Certificate of Appointment.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Capital Improvement

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve rescinding a previous motion to appropriate 1 million dollars into capital Improvement.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Raise

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve correction that two persons are to get a \$1.00 raise.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

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Library Board

Commissioner Ogle Stated that Dr. Carr sent in a resume for the Library Board seat, Commissioner D'Onofrio said he also had a couple people reach out to him, interested in the seat, and was referred to the Library board.

Meeting Minutes Book

Commissioner Ogle stated that the Commissioners need to sign the meeting minutes book to get it up to date.

Open House

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve having Maintenance Supervisor Troy Vanbibber get about 30 chairs from the Youth Center to set up in the Atrium for the folks listening to the Choir during the frozen Festival.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

January 26 Meeting

Commissioner Ogle informed that the January 26th meeting is the evening meeting, at 6 PM.

Organizational meeting

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve the organizational meeting at 11 AM on January 8th 2024.

Camper Sewer

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to send to legal for review.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Marc's Tower

Motion by Sandra Ogle and seconded by Jason D'Onofrio to approve to not allow a radio station to put a booster on the Marc's Tower.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Logan Hocking Times Editor Deb Tobin, stated that she had questions but wanted to wait until after the Executive Session to do so.

Sue Morgan asked about the exempt employees on the 3 percent raise, and if they were an Office or something,

Commissioner Ogle replied that it was new hires and that it was agreed upon when they were hired.

9:54 - RECESS

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

10:00 - RECONVENE

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

10:01- Motion by Sandra Ogle and seconded by Jason D'Onofrio to go into Executive Session with Jonathon Downs via telephone regarding Employees Compensation.

Roll Call Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea

EXIT ; 10:42

No action taken and no decisions made.

Recess

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve going into recess.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Reconvene at 10:46

Executive Session

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve going into Executive Session for compensation of an employee with Kaula Funk.

Roll Call Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

10:52 - **Exit** - With no action taken and no decisions made.

General Business

Further of Justice Grant

Prosecutors - A01C03 - \$38,897.86 Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Auditor's request of approval of resolution

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve Auditor Chris Robers request of a resolution requiring two Commissioners to sign off on the bi-weekly payroll and the Certificate of Appointment of employees under the Commissioners direct supervision.

Roll Call Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Correction of payroll of an employee

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to approve a correction of payroll of a Commissioner employee due to procedural error of not being properly implemented.

Roll Call Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

Public Comment

Mike Nihiser asked if the Commissioners modified the Agenda for the second Executive Session.

Commissioner Ogle said she forgot that.

Mr. Nihiser also asked what the details of the salary correction was. Commissioner ogle said she didn't want to say something that would get her in trouble,

Mr. Nihiser stated that you voted on a motion so what did you vote on.

Commissioner Ogle stated that they voted to correct something that was done wrong.

Logan Hocking Times Editor Deb Tobin stated that public employees salaries wages are public record.

Commissioner D'Onofrio stated that they made a motion to lower an employee's salary.

Mr Nihiser asked if it had been raised before? Commissioner D'Onofrio replied yes. Mr. Nihiser said that's good enough for him, it just seemed all mysterious. Commissioner Ogle apologized for not amending the Agenda.

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Logan Hocking Times Editor Deb Tobin stated that Commissioners may have remedied one of the things she wanted to talk about, I know you guys have been talking about budgets, been talking about pay raises, and over the past, you know, weeks, months, so this is a sensitive subject but it's probably a sore subject to for many, I did a public records request of six employees in the courthouse, I asked for how many years they were employed, their hourly rate, the past three years of pay raises, the dates that they were given, and the amount of each pay raise. What I found was, there was two pay raises given, One for \$2.00 that you approved (referring to Commissioner D'Onofrio) and one for \$5.00 that Jessica approved and took that employee up to \$28.00 an hour, four years been employed. She's making more than what someone that's here twenty years, How can this happen? What I got, you signed off on one Dino and Jess signed off on the other, Sandy's signature is nowhere around, So how can this happen? Commissioner D'Onofrio said that's what was corrected today. So the \$7.00 has been taken away? Commissioner D'Onofrio said yes. So then how many grants have been written by the grant writer. Commissioner D'Onofrio stated at this point he's not sure. Commissioner Ogle asked Ms. Tobin if she was asking her? Mr. Tobin said she's asking whoever can answer it? Commissioner Ogle Stated that she doesn't think there is any grants that's been written, The one grant that was going to go by the wayside, and did bring that back, So I would say umm, I asked that question, there's two grants that Gretchen had got and the other one that Commissioner D'Onofrio is working with Buckeye Hills for the Senior Center but Buckeye Hills is the one that they actually get the admin fee, they did the grant, and I think there's probably paperwork that has to be done on this end Ms. Tobin stated, when I talked to Gretchen who was here for two years as a grant writer, she made \$26.00 Dollars an hour but she said she wrote she couldn't remember if it was 8 or 9 but she said it was one of those numbers, she wrote 8 or 9 grants in the 2 years that she was grant writer, and she still managed those grants for the duration that she was here. Commissioner Ogle said that's probably the word I should have been looking for, manage when I was talking about the one from Buckeye hills. So, I also got a copy of the job title coordinator that was revised on February 15 ,2022 by you guys. Did you guys follow this? When you hired the grant writer. Kaula Funk Responded, May I talk, since this is about me? That job description was actually, there was a motion that supports it, was absorbed into the Commissioners Clerk job as well, so technically the Commissioners Clerk job title now has two, it has the job Coordinator as well as the Commissioners Clerk. Yes, I was given a \$2.00 raise that is something that was talked about and it was done, And it was given by Commissioner D'Onofrio, It was actually supposed to be more than that but he and I compromised together at \$2.00 an hour. For \$2.00 , because at the time I was doing both jobs. Commissioner Clerk and Grant Coordinator job. The \$5.00 is to actually go along with the Lethality Grant, I am wrote into the Lethality grant to do the job within the Lethality Grant at the \$28 Dollars an hour. That is why the \$5.00 came in ,I have to have an appointment slip for the grant to show that I am making that money. Again Im wrote into the narrative of that grant, that Gretchen wrote and Gretchen wrote herself in at \$28.00 an hour. I called and spoke to Lashonde, I have everything you can public record request it from me. I had talked with Lashonde and made sure I could replace Gretchen's name on that grant as is. She said yes, I would just have to submit again to get everything in place. So that Lethality grant, the narrative is wrote in for me to do that. And again you are talking about Gretchen writing that grant, Absolutely I wish I could but I do both jobs, and this is no way shape or form anything to the current extra Clerk. She is doing amazing but there are still some things that take a really long time to learn. I am still doing all budgetary, I'm back there paying bills right now, none of that is in the Grant coordinator job description. Yes i was making \$28.00 an hour under the grant narrative. That the grant is paying 50 percent of my salary, and the County is Paying 50 Percent of my salary because I'm doing grants as well as doing the Commissioners Clerks job. Ms. Tobin said So you are still making \$28.00 an hour? Kaula replied, I was, as of right now they just took it away. I was doing two jobs and I'm wrote into the narrative of the grant that Gretchen wrote. Ms. Tobin said so Christy's been here a year, and you're still doing part of her job? Kaula replied yes, I'm doing alot, Sandy still comes to me for a lot of the Commissioners clerk's job. So are you trying to tell me that Commissioner Ogle and Commissioner D'Onofrio cannot come to me about anything related to this? Well I'm just asking? Ms. Tobin responded ,I'm asking questions. because \$28.00 an hour is more than someone working twenty years here. Mrs. Funk replied I'm sure their job description does not match my job description either. Ms. Tobin said they have a pretty high position Mrs. Funk said ok and that is fine but they are obviously there for their reasons within their office, again the grant was paying me. It's not like i'm asking the county dollars right now to fund that and I am currently working on 4 different grants, budgetary on top of Commissioners Clerk. You have the Lethality grant that

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Im wrote into, We have Cosap grant that we are currently working on, Healthy Aging is with the Senior Center, we are receiving \$182,000 and I have to work with Marjorie Moore for that, we will bring admin fees for that as well, Buckeye Hills is no longer helping us with that. Marjie and I are going to work together. As well as brownfields to tear down the jail, that is still there ,we still have the money for that. I am still trying to get it there ,we have a state hold up because we are National certified for Historical Society, its taking a really long time. So I'm doing all of that, on top of the Commissioners Clerk jobs as well as helping Christy and this Office. Ms. Tobin said, Well I'm glad you are looking for grants.

Mrs. Funk replied I'm trying, would you guys like me to stay the night and never go home? Cause i can do that too!

Ms. Tobin said, well that's what I basically do at my job but that's my choice.

Mrs. Funk said, Exactly that's what we do, this is for the County and I'm doing the best I can as one person.

Mrs Tobin stated But you have to understand that from all of us that is taxpayer dollars going to pay.

Mrs. Funk replied, Yes for 50 percent of the year. 50 percent is from the grant, which technically is still lets face it, taxpayer dollars. But i'm not sitting here tooting my own horn, by all means, But I'm just saying, You are getting what your money is worth, I'm trying the best I can. Gretchen can tell you herself, you should have also asked her, when she did my job when i was out on maternity leave, or had blood clotting disorders and blood clots in my lungs, they hated every second of it. You can ask Mark Stout, I hate your job ,I would never do it for more than one day. They hated the whole thing, So i'm doing both jobs and I'm doing the best that I can.

Commissioner Ogle said she would like to add one thing to that, as the Clerk , it went to / grant writer, you did get a three dollar increase in pay, so you got a three dollar increase when you moved up to that, it wasn't like you were continued at your same pay.

Mrs. Funk replied yes.

Deb Tobin so over, including the 2 dollar and the 5 dollar, over a three year you got a 12.00 raise.

Mrs. Funk replied Yes, I was replacing someone who was making 26 dollars an hour that was only here 2 years. So you wanted me to do both jobs for 6 dollars less? And you're getting mad that I advocated for myself because I felt that that job was worth more?

Ms. Tobin said but you haven't been a grant writer for four years.

Mrs. Funk said Yes but Im wrote into that grant thats the only reason I got the 5 dollars. If i was not wrote into the grant, That 5 dollars would have never happened. I would only be sitting on that 2 dollars, that was a conversation i had with Commissioner D'Onofrio, he felt that I deserved that 2 dollars at the time.

Ms. Tobin asked why was it that only one person had to sign off for an increase?

Commissioner Ogle said that since she has been here there is only space for one signature, and in the past, is at budget time, we would look at the budget and would be discussing it, and I would say to the other fellas when they weren't here, when they would come to a meeting, it looks like we can afford to do which we did, Once Covid came along we got covid money, there was a lot of people here that was making \$12.50 an hour, which isn't much, we was able to give our people a raise, I think for three years. Something like that. To what I would consider a decent pay.

Deb Tobin said the ones that she pulled, most of them got a dollar there was some that was 2 dollars, and one got 93 cent raise and that person had been there 20 years, got a 93 cent raise.

Commissioner D'Onofrio asked if that was based off of the three percent? Ms. Tobin said probably, and that was in 22.

Commissioner Ogle said I think most everybody this year, when we was looking at the budget, it was around 3 percent. I know Mark had his in at 4 percent and he changed it to 3. Deb Tobin said well i did the average, ok, so for the person that has been here for twenty years, over the three years she got three dollars and eighty five cents, over three years. 37 years, she got four dollars and ten cents over the three years. And nineteen years, that person got eight dollars, but that's because she was bumped up to a higher position. And so she got that difference in pay. And then the other one got three dollars for the three years, but that person is now salary so it's just when I did the public records request it just floored me that it only took one signature to get someone a pay raise. And I know there is people out there that EMS those guys they work all the time and don't make that kind of money. Fire department they don't make that kinda money. Just bothers me

Mike Nihiser stated that he has some follow up comments, since we are talking spending public tax money, and employees salaries, I think that you should request what the like positions are making at the Tourist Association since they are spending public money, just as a comparison, with what they are paying their employees and what we are paying the Courthouse employees, for the same work, because we are all spending public tax money, and if you request it, then it becomes public information. I requested it and

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they told me they are a private corporation and don't have to tell me what they are paid. But you as Commissioners have the authority to request that, and I'm asking you to do that.

Commissioner Ogle replied that in answer to your question, Our Lodging Tax Administrator, every year I would call Karen Raymore up and I'd say because the money comes in here but goes back out to them, but Josh is a County Employee, And every year he has got a raise, a dollar sometimes two dollars, This year Karen said to give him two dollars. I didn't. He's our employee, and the other people got 3 percent so that's what he got.

Mike Nihiser replied, but that doesn't tell us how much they are making per hour for doing the same work or whatever.

Commissioner Ogle said per our deal what he was getting paid is equivalent to what everyone else is getting out there.

Mr. Nihiser responded I'm talking about all their employees. They have 8-12 employees out there I believe.

Sue Morgan asked Mrs. Funk, Did I hear you right, Kaula, the increase you got is because it was built into a grant therefore it is not going to cost the county anything, is that what you said?

Mrs. Funk responded, 50 percent of it will come back on the County, but I do bring in admin fees to help offset that money.

Sue Morgan said So I'm going to tell you what I do know, when I taught a beginning teacher did not make as much as a teacher that worked twenty years. Why, because you have experience. They did the same amount of work but got paid less, because of less experience. The more years of experience you got the more you got paid. My husband at the sheriff's office, when he first started, as he worked the pay increased. It wasn't like I'm doing the same amount of work as the person who has been here three years so I want the same amount of pay. That's the analogy I'm making. Now my question to you Commissioners is, ok, now you rescinded this, because some of this is built in are you down the road in the next week or two going to vote then on her getting this money back? Commissioner D'Onofrio said I don't know, Mrs. Morgan said I would think we would have a clue, I mean after what happened today, I would have a clue, Whether well you know,

Commissioner Ogle said at this point I don't intend to do anything different. And You? Toward Commissioner D'Onofrio, who replied not at this time.

Deb Tobin asked, so now it's going to take two signatures? At least two signatures?

Commissioner D'Onofrio said yes.

Commissioner Ogle said there is only room on there for an appointment slip, there is only room on there for one signature, but there is blank space and I just passed one over to Commissioner D'Onofrio, and he signed in the blank space,

Deb Tobin: So in the future Jason, you're not going to give someone a pay raise and not tell Sandy and Sandy you are not going to give someone a pay raise and not tell Jason, you're gonna talk about it?

Commissioner Ogle said in the past that's the way it's always been handled and I don't see any reason to change that, that's the way we've always did it. Maybe one person signed the appointment slip. But I can guarantee you while I've been in this chair all three commissioners knew it.

Deb Tobin then asked so did you then know about the \$7.00 pay raise within the three months?

Commissioner Ogle said no I did not know, Jason told me after the fact in an executive session one time, he told me what he did. And how I found out about the five dollars was on the Friday before Christmas and Kaula had taken vacation, Christy was not well that day, and I think you (Jason) had went to your moms, you was doing something with your mom, so I stayed here on the Friday before Christmas until 3:40 and during that time I was working on budget, I was down to putting in the dollar amount for salaries, amount in the salary line item, since I don't work with them I didn't know the numbers, so I went upstairs, and I got what everybody made, and that's how I found out about it, so I could figure it up as to how much money to put in the budget. But I did not know about it until then.

Deb Tobin: So then you were blindsided by this.

Commissioner Ogle said she was rather shocked.

Commissioner D'Onofrio said he didn't know about the five dollars until Sandy told him about it. And added that he still not up to speed on grants and how all that stuff works yet, I'm still learning. And the same with the one signature on the forms. It didn't make sense to me but that's the way it was done, so that's what I did. So I'm glad we got a new policy.

Sue Morgan you both said that you will be on the same page so far as if there was a pay increase, does this mean that it will be done because you are talking together or would this have to be passed in a public meeting.

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Commissioner Ogle said all pay increases, any modification, or establishment has to come through a public meeting just like the one we did today. It was a person from the EMS, it was probably a new hire. what they are paying, and that went through the meeting today. I signed in one place and Commissioner D'Onofrio signed in the other place.

Sue Morgan said so it's not like you two would know about it and sign it and the rest of us would never know.

Commissioner Ogle said that is correct. It'll go through a meeting.

We need to contact the people that have applied to the Library Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jason D'Onofrio and seconded by Sandra Ogle to adjourn.

Vote: Ogle, yea, D'Onofrio, yea.

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Christy Lindinger, 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 January 4, 2024

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Christy Lindinger, Clerk

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Sandra Ogle, President