

Portage County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

449 South Main Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
<http://www.co.portage.oh.us>

JoAnn Townsend, Acting Clerk
330-297-3600

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

9:30 AM

Commissioners' Board Room

*The Commissioners' meeting minutes are summarized; Audio recordings and backup material are available.
Please contact the Commissioners' Office for specific details.*

The Portage County Board of Commissioners' meeting came to order with the following members present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Vicki A. Kline	President	Present
Kathleen Clyde	Vice President	Present
Sabrina Christian-Bennett	Board Member	Present

Also attending throughout the day Brian Ames, Record Courier Reporter Diane Smith, Bob Springer, Karyn Kravetz & John Garrity, Mental Health & Recovery Board, Sarah McCully, Townhall 2.

DISCUSSION

Present: Department of Budget & Financial Management Director Todd Bragg

Director Bragg discussed the outcome of their meeting with Sheriff Doak. There are two things on the miscellaneous list and the official salaries. An additional \$1.2 million will be needed to pay for 17 additional corrections officers for the jail. The Board of Commissioners agreed to Director Bragg's recommendation for the 2019 appropriation by \$500,000 to facilitate the hiring of additional corrections officers and to facilitate the staffing of the new jail. The \$500,000 needs to cover the salaries, PERS, Medicare, and Worker's comp for the additional employees. The additional health benefits associated with those hires will need to be included, adjustments to that line once the selections by those employees are made. \$500,000 will be set aside to cover any additional expenses for the construction of the jail. The remaining \$800,000 will be for drug prevention programs. Commissioner Kline said if we implement these programs, we hope to keep people from using the jail. Director Bragg said it is true for long term, but not short term.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to add \$64,387 to the Sheriff's contractual lines to cover the CAD costs that used to come from 911 funding, plus \$31,666 to cover official salary increases as well as uniform allowance increases per the contract. The FOJ line will also be increased by \$2,174. Once the expenditures have exceeded the current amounts, changes will be made to the food and medical contracts.

Director Bragg said if the State representatives approve the indigent defense funding reimbursement it would benefit our budget tremendously.

Director Bragg recommended increasing the storage space for the County but doing an analysis of the usage of each department. Some programs are bigger now and more usage is

being used. Director Bragg indicated IT would like an additional staff member and would like to hire them soon. There are open tickets, increased security needs and trying to prevent cyber attacks. Internal Services Director Townend asked for alternatives for outside assistance, such as fixing a printer. Commissioner Kline thought the end result that it was more expensive. Commissioner Kline said IT really needs an additional person. Commissioner Clyde believes Commissioner Kline would know more about the need for an additional person since she is on the Data Processing Board. Director Bragg indicated this additional staff member would be paid by the General Fund. Majority of the departments within the county use IT for services.

Upon the recommendation of Director Bragg, the Board of Commissioners agreed to increase the County's storage space by \$100,647 and to also appropriate \$24,521 to cover the salary of an additional employee at \$20.11 per hour for ½ a year.

Director Bragg asked the Commissioners' if they decided how to distribute the drug prevention funding. Director Bragg asks how we would extend funding to agencies such as Hope Village, Enough is Enough or Free Agents for Recovery. Hope Village is licensed. Commissioner Christian-Bennett wonders if Hope Village could contract with the Sheriff's Office. They are currently providing classes at the Sheriff's Office every week. The total cost of all proposals is approximately 1.2 million. Director Bragg recommended keeping \$500,000 set aside until the jail is completed for radios, furniture, etc. until the jail is built and running. The Board of Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Kline asked if any of these agencies are getting funding from the State. Director Bragg indicated that Townhall II – Too Good for Drugs provides an educational piece through the schools. Enough is Enough and Free Agents for Recovery could ask for funding through local agencies. Commissioner Kline said this is not an easy decision to make.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to use \$359,440 of the \$800,000 for drug prevention programs to renew the grant to Portage County's 11 school districts and Maplewood Career Center that provides six social workers for \$314,000, the Board of Commissioners also agreed to fund the SCRAM and SCRAMx proposals through the Adult Probation for Municipal and Common Pleas Courts. Director Bragg indicated that the Commissioners' could add another agency to fund prior to July 1st if they wished. Director Bragg suggested letting the agencies who are getting funding know and the others pending further consideration.

The Board of Commissioners decided to inform the agencies who received funding. The funding period would go through July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. Commissioner Christian-Bennett expressed support for Hope Village, who requested \$50,000 for their program that assess and plans treatment for inmates at a risk for substance abuse. Director Bragg said if the Commissioners' are committed to seeing that those programs continue as long as possible, they may want to fund a second year of the grants, ensuring that the programs would remain in place. Commissioner Clyde said the proposal who were renewals vs. creating a new program has less of an impact than a longer term who has already started and have outcomes. Commissioner Christian-Bennett said it was well noted they are not guaranteed to be funded year to year. The funds were intended to be seed money.

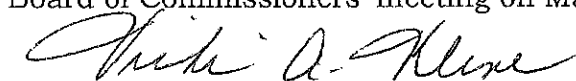
Commissioner Christian-Bennett asked if we have heard from Chris Meduri regarding the levy and

Director Bragg said Chris Meduri is still reviewing the memo and will have comments to the additional levy.

Motion: by Kathleen Clyde, seconded by Sabrina Christian-Bennett to adjourn the Official Meeting of May 21, 2019 at 10:48 AM

Roll call vote: Commissioner Christian-Bennett, Yea;
Commissioner Clyde, Yea;
Commissioner Kline, Yea;

We do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Portage County Board of Commissioners' meeting on May 21, 2019.



Vicki A. Kline, President



Kathleen Clyde, Vice President



Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Board Member



JoAnn Townsend, Acting Clerk