



Portage County Board of Commissioners
Meeting Minutes

0046

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

Amy Hutchinson, Clerk
330-297-3600

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

9:12 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 via Zoom video conference.

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

Also attending throughout the day Chief Administrator Gene Roberts, Department of Budget and Financial Management Director Todd Bragg, Regional Planning Commission Director Todd Peetz and Lisa Reeves, Neighborhood Development Services Mike Bogo and Jen Davis, The Haven of Portage County Anne Marie Noble, and Portage Chapel Pastor Mark Miller

Discussion:

1. The Haven of Portage County

In December of 2019, the Haven of Portage County was notified that an additional \$130,000 to \$150,000 was needed to run water and sanitary sewer to the facility. This expense was a surprise and not in their budget, so they made a proposal to receive CDBG funding. Ms. Noble pointed out that \$150,000 will be returned to the County through Water Resources from the tap in fees.

Commissioner Kline noted their request was for \$250,000 and Ms. Noble explained the additional amount of funding includes materials, supplies and installation for the waterline, along with the tie in fee to the County which is between \$130,000 to \$150,000. Pastor Miller noted one of the largest expenses is the connection fee, plus State inspector costs, contractors, plus the Fire Department's request of a front connection.

Commissioner Kline noted there are 3 requests for funding from The Haven of Portage County: \$66,195 (public water main); \$48,180 (public sanitary sewer); \$130,000 (estimated tie-in costs), which equals \$244,355 and asked Administrator Roberts how much of the funding will be returned to Portage County and Administrator Roberts replied based on the last estimate, the Water Resources Department provided the ability to go to The Haven in Summit County or any other organization to obtain a bed count and a water bill from them, in order for the Water Resources Department to provide a possible reduction. Currently, \$81,607.50 is the sewer tap, and the water tap is \$25,850; total \$107,457.50, based on the lowest possible number the department could provide as a summer cottage. If The Haven of Portage County could obtain a water bill from Summit County, it may further reduce the

sewer side. Pastor Miller has been waiting 3 weeks to get in touch with Summit County's Haven and Administrator Roberts noted they need a year's worth of water bills (if they have it) and the number of beds served in order to calculate the fees. Pastor Miller noted the Summit County site is a 160 bed facility vs. 62 for the Portage site and Summit County's maximum capacity is 250 vs. 100 at the Portage site. Pastor Miller will touch base with the Summit County Haven again.

Commissioner Clyde noted her concerns about the proposal are both the amount of the request, which is the largest single request for CDBG funding, and with the data that the County provides to the US Department of Housing. As part of the continuum of care for the homeless population, Portage County is showing the unsheltered population over the last several years is between 8-15 people, and she is concerned the data is not there to support the need for such a large proposed 65 bed facility. Ms. Noble assumes Commissioner Clyde is referring to the PIT count (Point In Time) count and it's done on one day between certain hours, and the numbers have never been accurate and they have never been able to count couch surfers. In addition, parents are very protective and will not come out and say they are homeless because they are at risk of losing their children. There are 199 kids in foster care and a percentage of those kids will start ageing out.

Pastor Miller noted they were already on their way to provide this outreach before they joined the community group, so they intended on putting up some type of a sheltering system because the numbers fluctuate. They were also looking into trafficking and incorporating addiction focused services, not just a facility for sheltering with beds, and medical with services provided through Kent State nursing, along with 2 doctors, 10 nurses, an Ophthalmologist and a Dentists, overseeing services offered for free to the County.

Pastor Miller noted everyone is worried and scared sick about landlords running tenants out of the homes if they cannot afford to keep making the payments. If The Haven gets flooded after 36 million Americans have applied for unemployment with the need for more housing and the shelter is not up and running, it will be very sad. Ms. Noble mentioned before COVID, 4% to 5% of rentals in Ohio resulted in evictions and now they are projecting eviction rates to rise to 20%.

Ms. Noble explained she has been involved with the Center of Hope, the County Clothing Services and Kent Social Services and saw first hand how many homeless people were there and had children that did not want to come forward for fear of losing their kids.

Commissioner Kline noted an important item that is being overlooked is the difference between homeless and unsheltered. At Ravenna School District, there are 118 homeless students but that means they may be living with relatives, so they are not actually homeless and it's important to understand the difference. It's important that the tax payers understand why the Board is considering this project.

Commissioner Kline asked if the Board makes a commitment to The Havens and all of the funding is not needed, can the funding be returned to CDBG and Director Peetz explained

it could be an amendment to the CDBG application or it could be amended and added to a new project. Commissioner Kline asked about the timeline and Director Peetz noted the Board would want to have at least 8-12 months' notice for a new project, but it can be moved.

Commissioner Kline noted one organization was concerned that The Haven is going to be in competition with that organization and she wants to make it clear that this money is going for materials, installation and the County water tie in and she doesn't foresee in the future The Haven going after public funds and being in competition with the other organization. Pastor Miller explained they've always clarified that transparently to the public and doing that specifically not to accept any HUD funding that would change their protocols.

Commissioner Christian-Bennett pointed out the funding is done in phases and the Board has had numerous projects that have run over or under that have required a re-allocation of funding. If the funding is not completely utilized, the agency doesn't get to keep the funding and Director Peetz agreed stating the projects are bid and the money never goes into the hands of The Havens.

Ms. Noble thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk with them about the project.

Recessed: 9:58 AM for the Budget Commission Meeting.

Reconvened: 11:03 AM

Commissioner Clyde explained one project not included in the funding due to technical issues that did not allow it to move forward. Other potential funding sources such as HOME Revolving Loan Funds and Economic Development Revolving Loan Funds for projects will be discussed at a later time.

The Board determined the amount of funding for each project for CDBG funding and the Resolution will follow on June 11th after the Public Hearing:

- The Haven of Portage County Water and Sewer Facilities \$225,237
- Windham Village Neighborhood Development Facility/Community Center \$148,000
- Freedom Historical Society/Public Rehabilitation \$24,763
- Fair Housing, City of Streetsboro and Regional Planning Commission Administration \$10,000, \$150,000, and \$72,000
- Approval for Coleman Professional Services Public Rehabilitation as the alternate project in case one approved activity is either not funded or not able to move forward.
 - The Board will know in August or September whether there's extra money or if a project didn't get funded or more money available from a project, the Board can do an amendment to the process.

JOURNAL ENTRY: The Board of Commissioners approved the Haven of Portage County Water and Sewer Facilities for submission to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Community Development Allocation Grant Application to the Ohio

Developmental Services Agency, Office of Community Development for the amount of \$225,237.00

Motion: Commissioner Kline

Seconded: Commissioner Christian-Bennett

All in Favor: Commissioner Kline, Yea; Commissioner Christian-Bennett, Yea;

All Opposed: Commissioner Clyde, Nay;

Motion Carries

JOURNAL ENTRY: The Board of Commissioners approved the Windham Village Neighborhood Facility/Community Center for submission to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Community Development Allocation Grant Application to the Ohio Developmental Services Agency, Office of Community Development for the amount of \$148,000

Motion: Commissioner Kline

Seconded: Commissioner Christian-Bennett

All in Favor: Commissioner Kline, Yea; Commissioner Christian-Bennett, Yea;

Commissioner Clyde, Yea;

Motion Carries

JOURNAL ENTRY: The Board of Commissioners approved the Freedom Historical Society/Public Rehabilitation for submission to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Community Development Allocation Grant Application to the Ohio Developmental Services Agency, Office of Community Development for the amount of \$24,763

Motion: Commissioner Kline

Seconded: Commissioner Clyde

All in Favor: Commissioner Kline, Yea; Commissioner Clyde, Yea;

Commissioner Christian-Bennett, Yea;

Motion Carries

JOURNAL ENTRY: The Board of Commissioners approved Fair Housing, City of Streetsboro, and Regional Planning Commission Administration (County) for submission to the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), Community Development Allocation Grant Application to the Ohio Developmental Services Agency, Office of Community Development for the amounts of \$10,000, \$150,000, and \$72,000

Motion: Commissioner Kline

Seconded: Commissioner Christian-Bennett

All in Favor: Commissioner Kline, Yea; Commissioner Christian-Bennett, Yea;

Commissioner Clyde, Yea;

Motion Carries

JOURNAL ENTRY: The Board of Commissioners approved Coleman Professional Services Public Rehabilitation in case one of the approved activities is either not funded or not able to move forward.

Motion: Commissioner Kline

Seconded: Commissioner Christian-Bennett

All in Favor: Commissioner Kline, Yea; Commissioner Christian-Bennett, Yea;
Commissioner Clyde, Yea;

Motion Carries

Motion: by Vicki A. Kline, seconded by Sabrina Christian-Bennett that the Board adjourn
the Meeting of **May 26, 2020 at 11:15 AM**

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

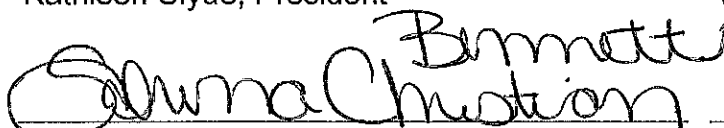
We do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Portage County
Board of Commissioners' meeting of May 26, 2020.



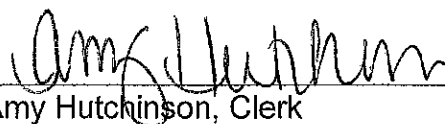
Kathleen Clyde, President



Vicki A. Kline, Vice President



Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Board Member



Amy Hutchinson, Clerk