

The Board of Greene County Commissioners met in regular session at 1 P.M. Those present were: Richard D. Gould, Tom Koogler and Rick Perales.

The minutes of Thursday, July 22, 2021 previously circulated and available for public viewing were approved. The work session minutes of Thursday, July 22, 2021 previously circulated and available for public viewing were approved. The public hearing minutes of Thursday, July 22, 2021 previously circulated and available for public viewing were approved.

Dorothee Bouquet of Yellow Springs asked for additional information about the T-CAP grant approved at last week’s meeting. Brandon Huddleson, County Administrator, provided the contact information for the Director of the Adult Probation Department to which the grant was awarded.

IN RE – APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Mr. Perales moved Resolution 21-7-29-1 for approval of vouchers.

Mr. Koogler seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – APPROVAL OF TRAVEL/TRAINING EXPENSES

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 21-7-29-2 for approval of travel or training.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

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Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Perales moved Resolution 21-7-29-3 authorizing the transfer of appropriations.

Mr. Koogler seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

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Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 21-7-29-4 approving the personnel actions as presented.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – DECLARING PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED, DONATE TO POL. SUBDIV.

Mr. Perales moved Resolution 21-7-29-5 declaring personal property, miscellaneous office furniture, as no longer needed for public use and surplus, and donating the items to a political subdivision, Ross Township, for use, pursuant to ORC 317.12(D).

Mr. Koogler seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – AMENDING RES. NO. 21-5-20-14 (CLOSING DATE GWM)

Mr. Koogler moved resolution 21-7-29-6 amending Resolution No. 21-5-20-14 to change the date of the closing of the County’s Greenwood Manor Nursing Home from July 30, 2021 to November 30, 2021.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – AUTH. ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR PEP+ SAFETY GRANT

Mr. Perales moved Resolution 21-7-29-7 authorizing the Director of Animal Control to apply for the PEP+ Safety Grant for up to \$1,000 in expenses for the purchase of qualified safety equipment. The Department plans on purchasing high-visibility safety vests and LED light bars for the back of County vehicles.

Mr. Koogler seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS: J&FS

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 21-7-29-8 authorizing the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$200 by Job & Family Services for the purchase of food for staff appreciation/training during Child Support Awareness Month in August.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – TABLING ITEM

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 21-7-29-9 to table the Montgomery County Transportation Improvement District Cooperation Agreement until a change is made to the agreement. The change will eliminate the provision that the County Administrator will sign future agreements and include the requirement that the Board approves future agreements.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – APPROVING TECHCRED GRANT AGREEMENT (JUVENILE COURT)

Mr. Perales moved Resolution 21-7-29-10 approving a State of Ohio Development Services Agency TechCred Grant Agreement for Juvenile Court. The grant would allow

Juvenile Court to provide employees with training via Sinclair Community College. It is a reimbursement grant of \$13,995.

Mr. Koogler seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

IN RE – APPROVING RECORD PLAN: NATHANIAL’S GROVE

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 21-7-29-11 approving a record plan for Nathaniel’s Grove, Section Five, Beaver Creek Township, and that same be recorded.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

Commissioners recognized Kwami Galli for his contributions while working as an intern at the Department of Development. Department of Development Director Eric Henry said Mr. Galli has done great work for the Department and worked on the Strategic Plan RFP and Business Retention & Expansion visits. Commissioners presented Mr. Galli with a letter of appreciation. Mr. Galli said his internship was a great opportunity and he is interested in working with local government in the future.

Commissioners recessed at 1:20 p.m., until 1:30 p.m., at which time the second Public Hearing was advertised.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Koogler called the second public hearing to order at 1:30 p.m., for a proposed levying of an additional 0.25 percent to the County Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of supporting Criminal and Administrative Justice Services in Greene County, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5739.021.

Mr. Gould welcomed everyone in attendance and read an opening statement into the record. A copy of his statement follows this page in the journal.

Sheriff Gene Fisher, Major Kirk Keller and Major Shawn Prall spoke on behalf of the Sheriff’s Office and the need for a new jail.

All agree that the current Jail and Adult Detention Center (ADC) are past their usefulness. The lack of space prevents the Sheriff from providing needed programs for those with substance abuse issues and mental health issues. There is no space for the law enforcement and administrative side of the Office. The safety of not only the inmates, but the staff is crucial.

Sheriff Fischer went over the age of each facility and the number of beds currently in use versus the number of beds for the proposed facility. There are two additional beds proposed in the new facility (384) with a current combined total of 382 beds at the Jail and ADC. As of July 21st, there are 238 inmates, 50 females and 188 males. The total number of outstanding warrants is 1,100 with 752 for failure to appear and 113 on OR (own recognizance) and violated that order.

He said the estimate of a \$50 million facility is just that, an estimate. He said the exact final price won’t be known until they are able to sit down with an architect. The Sheriff said the

building should save the County money in the long run with new technology. He urged the Commissioners to place the request on the ballot.

Major Keller said building the right number of beds (capacity) with the right design (function) is crucial for the facility. The mental health and safety of the inmates and staff are vital and would include appropriate program space and allow for inmate movement/separation, when needed.

He said the Sheriff isn't responsible for who comes to jail, but must have space for those sent to jail. According to Major Keller, the national incarceration rate is not the norm for Greene County's incarceration rate. Greene County is less than 21 percent of the national rate and is leading the way in limiting incarcerations, he said, which shows how effective the County's justice system is. The County has an efficient system and model system and has been doing bail reform.

Major Prall said the law enforcement and administration side of the Sheriff's Office has been greatly impacted by the lack of space in the current administration building which was built in 1929. He said the building is old and beyond repair, there is no privacy for the registration of sex offenders and those coming in for a CCW permit have no place to wait. Filing cabinets are in hallways and staff share offices, he said, and the safety of the public, staff and vehicles is also a concern. Major Prall stressed that some people do need to be in jail and as public servants it is their job to protect the public. He said some people do not want help out of a situation, but for those that do help it can't be offered in the current facility. He said they want the ability to help those who want and need the help.

He said the proposed tax is a way that Greene County residents are not asked to pay for the entire project; 40 percent of this jail would be bought by people not from Greene County. It is a temporary, small tax. Major Prall said everyone is saying the same thing, a new jail is needed and they want the ability to help those who want and need the help. He said it is offensive when he hears people say they want the biggest jail possible; that has never been the goal.

Kathryn LeVesconte of Yellow Springs said as a psychologist who worked at TCN, she respects the Sheriff's Office and wants to work with them on the issue of helping those incarcerated with mental health issues. She said she is in 100 percent support of decommissioning the downtown jail. She questioned the design of the proposed jail and the need for 384 beds, and urged more space for programs. She said they have the same goals, just different ways of getting there. She spoke about an experiment in Miami Dade, Florida that was a diversion program which looked at ways to reduce the number of men in prison. Ms. LeVesconte said the diversion program reduced the number of incarcerated from 7,000 to 4,000.

Janis James of Xenia thanked law enforcement for their service. She said while there is a need for a new jail, there needs to be more treatment in jail and programs on-going beyond jail. She said they are not getting to the core issues. Ms. James said there needs to be education, intervention and prevention to end the cycle for non-violent offenders. She suggested extra training for jail personnel and probation officers as well as a support system to deal with issues. Ms. James asked that a panel of experts be convened to look at the design of a new jail, and this should be done before placing the issue on the ballot.

Dorothee Bouquet of Yellow Springs urged a proper trajectory to address mental and health and drug issues of those in the system. She asked that the Board anticipate bail reform bills being approved and not building a jail with more beds but more services.

Jill Becker of Yellow Springs said she is part of the Greene County Coalition for Compassionate Justice and asked that the ballot language for the new jail includes programming. She said alcohol, drug and mental health rehabilitation are needed. She mentioned a program in Cuyahoga County that has been successful through the use of a diversion center.

Caden Ohlwiler of Beavercreek thanked the Commissioners and Law Enforcement for the work they do and asked that there be alternatives for those with mental health and substance abuse. He said he would be more inclined to support the proposal if funding would

be used to rehab the ADC for services or if services are included in the new jail. Mr. Ohlwiler said even if there are services in the jail, they should be available elsewhere to break the cycle.

Wendy Dyer of Bellbrook said there been a lot of miscommunication about this project. She said there is a real effort on both sides to help those with drug and alcohol abuse issues, but the County didn't do a good job in selling the proposed increase. She said the goals weren't explained and the public needs to know why there is a need and what the County plans on doing to mitigate other factors.

Candy Prystaloski of Beavercreek said the mental health of those in prison is an issue, but she is concerned about the mental health of the staff. She said the safety of employees is paramount and they need help in order to help others.

Sandy Woodruff of Beavercreek said there needs to be separate areas for detox and a full-time staff to assess those in the system. She said that the discussion has been on the needs of staff, a new building and the community, but, what about the inmates. Has anyone asked the inmates their thoughts on a new building? Ms. Woodruff suggested that a good on-site transition program be available for those leaving the system. She would like to see an expansion of the Greene Leaf program offered in the jail.

Dr. Greta Mayer, CEO of the Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) of Clark, Greene and Madison Counties, wanted to share the partnership between the Mental Health and Recovery Board, the Jail and the Courts. She said both a new jail and services are needed. In order to provide the treatment needed within the jail, space is needed. Dr. Mayer said there are crisis and quick-response teams used to divert people to where they should be, but the process needs law enforcement's help. She said there are an increased number of providers offering re-entry programs and long-term help. She said with COVID-19 pandemic a lot more telehealth services were offered; a new facility with up-to-date technology would be very helpful. Dr. Mayer said there will be an effort to do a better job of sharing all the good that is going on in the County related to mental health programs.

Jim Leonard of Yellow Springs said he is for a new building and decommissioning a terrible place. From a voter's perspective, he said he cannot vote for a jail when the cost is not yet known, there is no design available and no money for programs. Mr. Leonard said to have just brick and mortar isn't enough, we need to change the trajectory. He urged the Commissioners to look at different things and talk to different people to make those needed changes.

David Hayes, Greene County Prosecutor, supports a new jail and alternative programs, but if nothing is done now, nothing will get done. He said the state does not provide enough funding for mental health and drug services, but crime is still being committed and those committing the crimes need to be held accountable. The public is protected by holding those who have committed crimes in jail. He said if people want to see mental health funding increase, talk to the County's representatives in Columbus. What the Commissioners can do with a new jail is keep the employees, the public and the inmates safe, and provide flexibility and much needed space. This discussion, Mr. Hayes said, is the product of hard work and hard conversations between the Board and the Sheriff. It is long overdue and it is the right thing to do, he said, and the Prosecutor's Office stands behind the proposal.

A gentleman spoke who wanted to remain anonymous. He said he was put in jail and then sent to the ADC. He said it was terrible. He was unfairly treated and harassed. He said the police should take note of bad experiences.

Laura Curliss of Yellow Springs said she was a relative of a person held in jail. She said the Board is problem solvers and what problem is trying to be solved. She said 80 percent of the people in jail are there because of drug and mental health issues. Ms. Curliss said to make Greene County safer there needs to be effective solutions, alternatives to jail for those with mental health and drug issues. She said the County should reconsider public safety and maybe offer an in-patient crisis center rather than a jail. A copy of her comments follows this page in the journal.

Mr. Koogler said there were good comments today. He said in order to put programs into play in the jail, there needs to be a new jail. A new facility is the building block to start. He

said one of the proposals from HDR was to use the ADC for a treatment option and have it operated by a third-party such as TCN, but there has to be a new facility available.

Mr. Perales thanked everyone for their input and said he learned a lot today. He said a new jail was needed eight years ago and it is needed now.

Mr. Gould thanked the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Hayes and Dr. Mayer for their comments. He said mental health funding comes from the State and with a new facility those programs will be able to be implemented. Mr. Gould said no beds are being added to the new jail, they are just better beds.

Mr. Gould closed the public hearing at 3:05 P.M.

IN RE – PLACING 0.25% SALES & USE TAX INCREASE ON THE PRIMARY BALLOT (ORC 5739.021, 5741.021)

Mr. Koogler moved Resolution 21-7-29-12 to place before the voters of Greene County at the General Election an increase of 0.25 percent to the Sales and Use Tax for the purpose of supporting Criminal and Administrative Justice Services, specifically for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, equipping, or repairing a detention facility in the County, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code, Sections 5739.021 and 5741.021.

Mr. Perales seconded the motion, and on roll call the result was as follows:

Copy follows this page in journal.

Mr. Gould-----Aye
Mr. Koogler-----Aye
Mr. Perales-----Aye

Mr. Koogler said the COVID-positive cases have increased again. This week there are 160 cases, last week there were 75 cases and the week before that, there were 25 cases.

Mr. Perales said the Emerge Center, located at the former Greene County Career Center, is opening to provide assistance to and programs for those in recovery. The Emerge Center will also help youth aging out of the foster care system. He said this center will be a win-win for the community.

Commissioners adjourned at 3:10 P.M. and will reconvene Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

Attest: _____
Clerk