

# March 27, 2017

## Agenda

### *Pledge of Allegiance*

9:30 Kris Lowdermilk HR Progress Report  
 10:00 Sales Tax/MCO/Financial Health Discussion

### Approve Minutes

### Before/after Expenditures

### Supplemental Appropriations (2)

### Transfer of Funds (1)

Engineering Services Community Development Allocation Grant

### Pay Bills

### *Other Business*

### Adjourn

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF TUSCARAWAS MET IN REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2017, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Abbuhl  
 Kerry Metzger  
 Joe Sciarretti

Commissioner Abbuhl presiding.

*The Lord's Prayer was said.  
 The Pledge of Allegiance.*

### **RESOLUTION (293-2017) APPROVE MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as written.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, abstain;  
 Kerry Metzger, yes;  
 Joe Sciarretti, yes;

### **RESOLUTION (294-2017) BEFORE/AFTER EXPENDITURES**

It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to approve the following before/after expenditures:

LEADS (Prosecutor)	3120.00
ComDoc (Prosecutor)	428.88
Average Joe's Tree Service (Park)	1200.00
Pathway, Caring For Children (JFS)	2257.52
Community Mental Healthcare (JFS)	396.00
Steve Pompey (Community Corrections)	282.62
Cristal Studer (Community Corrections)	280.17

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
 Kerry Metzger, yes;  
 Joe Sciarretti, yes;

**RESOLUTION (295-2017) SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS**

It was moved by Commissioner Sciarretti, seconded by Commissioner Metzger, to approve the following supplemental appropriations:

DEPARTMENT	FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
Engineer	K000-K40	K000-K06	\$1,000.00	Travel/Training
Sheriff	B016-B20	B016-B03	\$600.00	Supplies

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
Kerry Metzger, yes;  
Joe Sciarretti, yes;

**RESOLUTION (296-2017) TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to approve the following transfer of funds:

DEPARTMENT	FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
Water/Sewer	Q070-Q07	Q070-Q01	\$8,776.93	Construction

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
Kerry Metzger, yes;  
Joe Sciarretti, yes;

**Discussion:** Commissioner Abbuhl requested a resolution approving the engineering services for the Community Development Block Grant activities #1 Sandy Township – Paving, #3 Village of Barnhill – Paving, #4 – Village of Port Washington – Paving and #5 Village of Tuscarawas – Sidewalks.

**RESOLUTION (297-2017) ENGINEERING SERVICES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION GRANT #B-F-16-1CT-1, ACTIVITIES #1,3,4,5**

It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to authorize Scott S. Reynolds, Director of the Tuscarawas County Office of Community & Economic Development to enter into negotiations with The Thrasher Group for Engineering Services in connection with Community Development Block Grant – Allocation Grant #B-F-16-1CT-1, Activities #1, 3, 4 & 5. The Thrasher Group was rated the top respondent after evaluation of all of the responses to the Request for Qualifications.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
Kerry Metzger, yes;  
Joe Sciarretti, yes;

**RESOLUTION (298-2017) PAY BILLS**

It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to approve for payment the following bills:

<b>911</b>				
American Electric Power	Tower Electric		216.28	
<b>Clerk of Courts</b>				
Jeanne Stephen	Travel		90.62	
<b>Commissioners</b>				
Connolly Hillyer & Ong	Pipeline Right of Way Matters		800.00	
NP Postmaster	BRM Permit Fee		225.00	
American Electric Power	Electric/JFS		2,175.45	
American Electric Power	Electric/JFS Light		86.59	
<b>Common Pleas</b>				
Staples Credit Plan	Supplies		550.56	
OH Association for Court Administrators	Registration			175.00
RJ Beck Protective Systems	Alarm Monitoring		345.00	
<b>Community &amp; Economic Development</b>				
Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone Service		151.32	

**Community Corrections**

Tusc Co Sheriff's Office	Gasoline	140.51
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**Engineer**

Liniform	Supplies	25.00
Triple R Trailer Sales	Repairs/Part	160.00
Ziegler Bolt & Nut House	Bridge & Culvert Supplies	18.75
Fastenal	Bridge & Culvert Supplies	59.19
Dover Brake	Repairs/Parts	229.85
RJ Wright & Sons	Supplies	69.00
National Lime & Stone	Mat'l per bid	1,057.19
Carpenter Heating & Cooling	Repairs	114.50
Kyle Weygandt	Safety Training	500.00
Ace Truck Equipment	Repairs/Parts	60.31
Yoder Small Engines	Repairs/Parts	280.82
Snyder Brothers Sales	Repairs/Parts	681.80

**Information Technology**

Experts Exchange	2 License Subscriptions	349.00
OARnet	Internet Connection	104.00
Provantage	Supplies	55.50

**Job & Family Services**

Charles & Karla Neal	Transportation	198.26
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**Juvenile/Probate**

Atty Alvaro DeCola	Atty Fees/Consulting	200.00
Staples	Supplies	427.99
Ziegler Tire	Auto Repairs	22.82
Ziegler Tire	Auto Repairs	19.08

**Park Department**

Miller & Co	Portable Toilet @ CLP	70.00
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**Public Defender**

Quickprint Center	Supplies	115.00
Frank Bair	Utilities	270.09

**Sheriff**

Wadsworth Service	Maintenance Contract	2,975.00
Interstate Fire & Security	Sprinkle System Repair	900.00
Vance Outdoors	Ammunition	1,600.10
Linda Neff	CPR Instructor	322.50
Holmes County Sheriff	Confidential Funds	1,500.00
G & L Supply	Supplies	796.82
MNJ Technologies	Supplies	41.00
American Electric Power	Electric	11,803.03
Steel Valley Portable X-Rays	Inmate X-Rays	370.00
Interstate Fire & Security	Annual Inspections	1,174.65

**Southern Court**

Atty Michael Cochran	Acting Judges Fees	75.00
Quill	Supplies	345.44
Hilscher Clarke Electric	Repairs	223.65
Dudgeon Electric	Service/Repairs	818.00
Twin City Water & Sewer	Service	79.00

**Veterans**

Tusc Co Sheriff's Office	Fuel/Transportation Vans	193.13
National Association of County VSO	Membership	90.00

**Water & Sewer**

Newcomerstown Water	Sewage Disposal	6,074.65
MCTV	Internet	169.95
Troy Pantelis	Cleaning Services	320.00
Cintas	Uniform Rental	358.78
Dover Municipal Utilities	Utilities	507.29

WE Quicksall & Associates	Dundee Waterline Project	3,910.88
Elite Excavating	Dundee Waterline	61,500.00
Elite Excavating	Dundee Waterline	153,735.05
WE Quicksall & Associates	Dundee RPR Services	438.42
WE Quicksall & Associates	Dundee RPR Services	4,452.40
Tusc Co Commissioners	Truck Payment	1,219.50
Tusc Co Commissioners	Truck Payment	777.78
Hull & Associates	Bolivar LS Closure Assessment	725.58
RJ Wright & Sons	Fuel	2,303.62
Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone Service	306.27
Twin City Water & Sewer	Sewage Disposal	9,278.16
IMC	Calibration Services	2,938.00
Chargin Safety Supply	Materials	122.52

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
 Kerry Metzger, yes;  
 Joe Sciarretti, yes;

**Other Business:** Commissioner Abbuhl attended the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) conference held in Washington DC to advocate for the reinstatement of ARC and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. He met with local legislators in relation to concerns with continuing ARC and other funding. He explained that the President has proposed to eliminate ARC, Rural Development and Economic Development Alliance funding. These federal programs are critical to Tuscarawas County as funds to match state and local dollars for projects such as water/sewer and community development block grant that could not be accomplished without these funds. He gave an example how a project in Lawrence Township to help with flooding issues in the industrial park were funded with these dollars as well as funds from the State of Ohio, ODOT, Lawrence Township and the County. Congressman Gibbs, Congressman Johnson, Senator Portman and Senator Brown are on board with the reinstatement of this funding and need to convince the rest of the senators and representatives to reinstate this funding. Commissioner Abbuhl feels that those that represent our county have a good feel this will be resolved.

**RESOLUTION (299-2017) RECESS**

It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to go into recess at 9:13 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of Human Resources Progress Report.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
 Kerry Metzger, yes;  
 Joe Sciarretti, yes;

*Commissioner Abbuhl called the meeting out of recess at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of Human Resources Progress Report.*

**Discussion:** Kris Lowdermilk, Human Resource Manager, thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to attend the State Personnel Review Board seminar Friday. There was a good panel of attorneys that provided great resources and spoke on timely topics including the latest revision in the Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Mr. Lowdermilk then presented a progress update on Workers' Compensation. He began employment with the County July, 2015. He reviewed the retrospective rating vs experience rating as well trends and observations. Rashes due to plants, lumbar sprain, neck sprain, finger laceration and lumbosacral sprain were identified as the top 5 injuries. He praised the County Auditor for discounts received regarding the early payment of the premium. Mr. Lowdermilk showed a cost savings of \$73,354 due to discount programs. 2016 additional savings or added revenues have been realized through the elimination of legal services (\$13,702), retro reduction (\$185,771), and rate reduction (\$36,837). He will continue to manage the claims, attend hearings and focus on continued improvement. The commissioners appreciate everything he has done for the county.

**SALES TAX/MCO/FINANCIAL HEALTH**

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Jeffrey Cameron, David Haverfield, Larry Lindberg, Allan Sayre, Kris Lowdermilk, Jeanne Stephen, Sarah Kneuss, Elizabeth Stephenson, Judge Brad Hillyer, Lori Smith, Orvis Campbell, Julie Stamets, Sean Miller, Traci Berry, Gloria Steiner, Tracy Haney, Scott Reynolds, Patty Levengood, Michael Jones, Chris Zoller, Julie Gordon and Judee Dzigiel.

Commissioner Abbuhl began the presentation by providing some recent data on the financial health of Tuscarawas County. It was a very successful audit as the county received a green rating (positive outlook) on all but one of the 16 categories. The only category that received a cautionary outlook notation was the condition of capital assets. The county keeps vehicles to their fullest usefulness even though the Sheriff's

cruisers are on a rotation schedule the age of the vehicle is older than the state recommends. There currently are not monies available for additional capital projects. The sales tax in Tuscarawas County is a critical source of revenue for the area, consisting of 57.2 percent of General Fund revenue. The tax is a one percent renewal, not an increase, and will be on the ballot May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many neighboring counties also use a property tax, however, Tuscarawas County has been able to provide similar quality services without a heavy reliance on a property tax. If the sales tax is not renewed, it would be impossible for Tuscarawas County to provide the same level of service. Many programs, such as job and family services and the children currently in foster care, as well as different agriculture programs, including 4-H and Soil & Water, may suffer without a tax renewal. The commissioners viewed the sales tax as the fairest way to tax and provided data showing that there are only four counties in Ohio who have a lower sales tax than Tuscarawas County, and seven counties who have a lower property tax. State offices reported to Tuscarawas County that sales revenue related to the tourism industry in Tuscarawas County alone totaled approximately 397.6 billion dollars, 14.4 million dollars in state taxes, and 9.3 million dollars in local taxes (a total of 23.7 million dollars in state and local tax revenue). Several years ago the Local Government Fund (LGF) was severely cut, which resulted in a loss of \$2.7 million dollars annually. Tuscarawas County keeps 35 percent of revenue it receives from the LGF and distributes the remaining 15 percent to municipalities. Tuscarawas County has gave approximately seven million dollars to municipalities over the last twelve years, in conjunction with the belief of the commissioners that Tuscarawas County is only as strong as it is from within. Along with revenue loss from the LGF and over 2 million dollars loss in interest income, it has also been proposed at the state level to cut the Medicaid Sales Tax on Managed Care Organizations (MCO) funding, resulting in another loss of approximately 700,000 dollars in revenue. These current and proposed losses have resulted in the heavy reliance on the sales tax. In 2016, the end balance of Tuscarawas County was approximately four million dollars in unappropriated funds, 36,322 dollars of that four million to be transferred into capital projects. This end balance is in conjunction with the recommendation of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that counties keep an end balance of 16 to 18 percent of previous year expenditures. Finally, Commissioner Abbuhl encouraged local officials to attend an Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on April 26<sup>th</sup> to express support for continued funding to replace Medicaid MCO tax loss.


**NO FURTHER BUSINESS COMING BEFORE THE BOARD.**


**RESOLUTION (300-2017) ADJOURN**


It was moved by Commissioner Metzger, seconded by Commissioner Sciarretti, to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. to meet in Regular Session, Wednesday, the 29th day of March, 2017.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;  
Kerry Metzger, yes;  
Joe Sciarretti, yes;

*We hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct account of the proceedings as had by and before us on the day and year first written above.*

  
Chris Abbuhl

  
Kerry Metzger

  
Joe Sciarretti

Attest:   
Acting Clerk