

Stephen D. Hambley called the special meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. with Colleen M. Swedyk and William F. Hutson present. The meeting was held in the commissioners' conference room. Mr. Hambley stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss budgetary items relating to the Sheriff's Department.

#### OCJS Grant Award

Sheriff Grice stated that the OCJS grant award in the amount of \$1,469,209 has not yet been received. It is expected to cover the cost of six deputies for the period of 4/1/22-3/30/33. Of those six positions, one is currently budgeted for and there will be a vacancy in court security due to a transfer of another employee to the Civil Division. Sheriff Grice stated that there would be a net increase of five deputies – (2) court security; (2) transport division; and (1) road division. The benefits include: the current position will be funded for 1.5 years through the grant; increase in court security was already planned for and will save general fund monies for 1.5 years; it allows deputies to be hired and in place prior to 2023; makes up for shortfall in transport division and helps increase road coverage to provide better coverage. That money is already budgeted for and out of the ESO fund. Mr. Miller explained that years ago, Judge Kovack wanted court security, so they created a fund that was to be funded by the courts through fees/fines. It ended up where Domestic Relations was the only court putting money in there, so the general fund was making up a significant portion of the cost. Domestic Relations stopped contributing, so the general fund has been funding it completely. He noted that in 2008, there were actually six part-time officers. There are currently one fulltime and one part-time. Brief discussion occurred regarding the status of Domestic Relations current security and potential security plans for the new Domestic Relations Judge. Mr. Miller explained that there are no currently hearing rooms for magistrates in Common Pleas, but there will be in the new courthouse resulting in multiple hearings going on at the same time which is the reason for the additional officers. Mrs. Swedyk asked of the grant includes healthcare and benefits; Sheriff Grice confirmed. Mr. Hambley noted that after two years, the cost would need picked up. In answer to a question by Mr. Hutson, Mr. Miller stated that the ESO funds collected were reallocated for other purposes. Sheriff Grice noted that there are currently 18 deputies eligible to retire and these positions equate to 87 weeks of vacation.

#### Projected Budget Summary

Kris Conwill reviewed a five year projected budget summary prepared by the Sheriff's office with Sheriff Grice and Mr. Miller noting budget items that fall outside the general fund. Discussion occurred regarding the percentage the total budget is of the overall county budget over the five year projections. Currently the Sheriff's budget is approximately one-third of the county budget. Sheriff Grice asked if 4% projections will be used for all of the county offices because if not, these numbers will be skewed. Mrs. Swedyk stated that all of those departments wouldn't have a 4% increase every year. Mr. Hambley added that such a large grant that requires hiring additional people with a long term commitment is a concern because they do not want to get into a position which could result in future layoffs. Sheriff Grice agreed noting that their department has not gotten back to a number prior to 2008. Mrs. Swedyk stated that no one is questioning the need, but the question is how will we pay for it. Sheriff Grice stated that they have lost six corrections employees this year to other occupations, so he understands the unknowns with pay increases. There was discussion regarding staffing issues and union negotiations as well as contingency plans in the event of a recession.

Mr. Hambley noted his interest in humane officers and having the component of providing those services. The importance of that does rise to law enforcement.

#### ARPA Projects

Sheriff Grice briefly reviewed the following ARPA projects that were previously submitted to the commissioners:

##### Training Center

The training center request was based off \$280 per sq ft. Sheriff Grice stated that there were discussions with University Center, but no one got back with him.

##### Vehicle Storage

Sheriff Grice indicated that this is storage for the SWAT vehicles. If they would do a training center, it would be combined with that facility. Otherwise, it would be built in the back. Kris Conwill noted that there are multiple vehicles parking outside. Captain Ross explained that an evidence cage was installed in the garage and multiple vehicles need to be moved out when an evidence vehicle comes in.

##### Mental Health Wing

Mrs. Swedyk noted that this project has not been moved forward by the commissioners. Sheriff Grice stated that there may be another funding source for this project.

##### Dispatch Radio Tower and Consoles

Sheriff Grice stated that they received another quote, but it was still too expensive (\$370,000) and that was with Seville using the tower at their Village Hall and them paying the fiber connection. He noted the potential warehouse on Route 3 that would be higher than Village Hall, so they may wait. Mr. Hutson noted that the tower was switched out for Tyler Civil software package. Sheriff Grice stated that the software was approximately \$100,000 but didn't include the data conversion.

Shooting Range

Sheriff Grice stated that they are still waiting on general estimates from contractors to determine if it will reach the \$50,000 bid requirement. There was brief discussion regarding the shoot house plan for construction.

Sheriff Grice inquired if Mr. Miller had received any updates on the parking lot bids; Mr. Miller indicated he did not.

ONSET Grant

Discussion occurred regarding an \$89,000 shortfall in the prior year grant period with Sheriff Grice noting that they are no longer paying Copley. When the grant was initially accepted, it was stated that it was going to cover benefits, then they modified it so that they would not be covered.

Mrs. Swedyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hutson seconded the motion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The special commissioners meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this twenty-fifth day of July, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rhonda J. Beck  
Clerk to the Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

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Colleen M. Swedyk

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William F. Hutson

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Stephen D. Hambley