



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO**

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***TOM ARISS
PAT ARNOLD SOUTH
DAVID G. YOUNG***

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO**

MINUTES: Regular Session – February 28, 2012

The Board met in regular session pursuant to adjournment of the February 23, 2012, meeting.

David G. Young - present

Pat Arnold South - present

Tom Ariss - present

Tina Davis, Clerk - present

Minutes of the February 23, 2012 meeting were read and approved.

- 12-0276 A resolution was adopted to Cancel regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting of Thursday, March 1, 2012. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0277 A resolution was adopted to declare various items within Coroner as surplus and authorize the disposal of said items. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0278 A resolution was adopted to Advertise for Bids for the Little Muddy Pump Station Improvements Project. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0279 A resolution was adopted to Advertise for Bids for the 2.0 Million Gallon Lytle-Five Points Elevated Storage Tank Protective Coatings Project. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0280 A resolution was adopted to approve following Record Plats. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0281 A resolution was adopted to approve Repayment of Cash Advances within the Lower Little Miami Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Phase III and approve an Operating Transfer from Fund 580-3319 (surplus). Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0282 A resolution was adopted to approve Supplemental Appropriation into Sewer Improvement Fund 581 - Warren County Vocational School. Vote: Unanimous

- 12-0283 A resolution was adopted to approve Appropriation Decreases within various Funds. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0284 A resolution was adopted to approve Sub Fund Adjustments within Water and Sewer Department Fund 583. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0285 A resolution was adopted to approve Appropriation Adjustment within Motor Vehicle Fund #202. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0286 A resolution was adopted to approve Appropriation Adjustment within Community Corrections Fund #101-1224. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0287 A resolution was adopted to authorize payment of Bills. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0288 A resolution was adopted to approve payment of Bills.
Vote: Mr. Ariss - Yea; Mr. Young - yea; Mrs. South - abstain
- 12-0289 A resolution was adopted for Certification of Delinquent Water and/or Sewer Accounts - Warren County Water and Sewer Department. Vote: Unanimous
- 12-0290 A resolution was adopted to Modify Rules and Regulations - Warren County Water and Sewer Department. Vote: Unanimous

DISCUSSIONS

On motion, upon unanimous call of the roll, the Board accepted and approved the consent agenda.

On motion, bids were closed at 9:05 a.m. this 28th day of February and the following bids were received, opened and read aloud for Improvements on Various Township Roads for the Warren County Engineer's Office:

Barrett Paving Middletown, Ohio	\$ 337,632.25
John R. Jurgensen Co. Cincinnati, Ohio	\$ 326,769.55
Mt. Pleasant Blacktopping Fairfield, Ohio	\$390,843.50
Normac Company LLC Middletown, Ohio	\$ 359,042.50
Roberts Paving Inc. Hillsboro, Ohio	\$ 298,124.80

Neil Tunison, Warren County Engineer, will review bids for a recommendation at a later date.

On motion, bids were closed at 9:15 a.m. this 28th day of February and the following bids were received, opened and read aloud for Guardrail & Roadside Vegetation for the Warren County Engineer's Office:

The Daltons Inc. Warsaw, Indiana	\$ 97,600.00
DeAngelo Brothers Oak Harbor, Ohio	\$ 136,599.27
Naturchem Inc. Nashville, Tennessee	\$ 47,160.00

Neil Tunison, Warren County Engineer, will review bids for a recommendation at a later date.

PUBLIC HEARING

CONSIDER MODIFICATION TO THE RULES AND REGULATION OF THE WARREN
COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO SANITARY SEWER
RATE INCREASES

The public hearing to consider modifications to the rules and regulations of the Warren County Water and Sewer Department was convened this 28th day of February 2012, in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

Patti Solinski, Business Manager within the Water and Sewer Department, stated that the modification to include a 3% increase in the bi monthly sanitary sewer rate for 2012 and 2013 as well as a \$2.50 bi monthly sanitary sewer repair and replacement fee is necessary in order to cover debt payments as well as the riding cost of utilities increase within the sewer system. She stated that the average sewer rate in southwest Ohio is \$115.95 and our proposed increase would make Warren County's rate in 2012 \$97.13 and in 2013 would be \$99.83, still well below the average. She then stated that they do not see the need to increase the water rates at this time but she will continue to monitor the funds.

Commissioner Ariss stated that he has no problem with the proposed increase as Warren County is still below the average rate.

Commissioner South commended the staff for working hard to keep the rates as low as possible. She then stated she does foresee a day the tap-in fees will need to be increased but is proud to have one of the lowest rates in the region.

Warren Sheehan, Waynesville resident, questioned if Warren County sewers are subsidized by general fund.

Commissioner Young stated that by law, the Water and Sewers funds are enterprise funds and are not subsidized.

Commissioner Young stated that the sewer rates were artificially low due to the growth in the area. He stated that now that the growth has slowed, we will have to increase rates to a more normal amount in order to maintain the system. He then stated that they have made administrative cuts inside the sewer department on a "real" basis and that the end result is a top quality system that benefits the users.

Upon further discussion, the public hearing was closed and the Board resolved (Resolution #12-0290) to Modify Rules and Regulations - Warren County Water and Sewer Department.

Chris Brausch, Sanitary Engineer, was present and discussed the following matters:

- MSD Updated Contract—Staff has approved tentative new sanitary sewer agreement reflecting lower rates to Warren County. They are waiting a response from Hamilton County Commissioners.
- Sewer Agreement with Village of Waynesville for treatment of sewage from Harveysburg and Corwin—He has been in negotiations with Waynesville regarding the new agreement since last year. We have been operating on two amendments that extend the current agreement. Waynesville desires to have another extension. We are currently being charged \$5.50 per 1000 gallons which is a higher rate than we charge our customers. We believe rate under existing contract should be \$4.37. The Board stated their desire to be aggressive with a fair rate. Board agreement to a three month extension of current agreement and if no settlement is reached, allow the courts to interpret the existing agreement.

Various fire and police chiefs were present along with Sheriff Sims and representatives from the Warren County Emergency Services Department to discuss a possible contract with the Sheriff to provide management of the E-911 Dispatch in Warren County.

Dave Gully, County Administrator, stated that the Board is in fact-finding mode only and that any employee or interested party is welcome to express their opinion without fear of repercussions. He then explained the plan of how the operations of Dispatch would work including the creation of a committee that would be responsible to review the progress of the agency if the Board chooses to proceed with the plan.

Sheriff Sims stated that this is not a “power grab” on his part and he will not be offended if the Board chooses to not move in that direction. He also reiterated that he will not take personal any opinion that is expressed relative to the proposed plan.

Samantha Hall, Emergency Services employee, stated her opinion, on behalf of herself and the other dispatchers within the union that since the departure of Frank Young, there has been instability within the agency. She stated that they are afraid that a bias would be created to favor the police agencies and the fire agencies would not be treated fairly. She stated the need for common ground and consistency. She also stated the need for a dedicated department head that would not be subject to the Sheriff’s rotation policy as the department needs a dedicated person who is in for the “long haul”. She stated that anyone in the Sheriff’s Department did not join a law enforcement agency to be in charge of Dispatch.

Chief Mitten, Harlan Township, stated his opposition to a law enforcement agency assuming control over Dispatch. He stated the need for an independent person. He stated that Warren County Dispatch is better than any other around and he desires for it to stay that way.

Doug Wehmeyer, Deerfield Township Battalion Chief, stated that police and fire departments don't need to be in the dispatch business. He stated the need for a 3rd party agency with no bias. He also stated the need for a permanent full time employee, not subject to rotation, and his desire to stay with the current system.

Commissioner South stated they have had some excellent candidates apply for the Emergency Services Director but the Board felt the need to explore all options prior to any decisions being made.

Commissioner Young stated he has no preconceived notion of how this agency should be and he is totally open minded relative to this discussion.

Chief Ferrell, City of Mason Police Chief, stated his opinion that the agency has gotten even better since Dave Gully has been here. He stated that he does not care if a fire or police person runs the agency. He stated the need for an administrator who can manage an organization that large and the need for a smaller Board (smaller than the Emergency Communications Board) to have a stronger voice in the administration of the agency.

Chief Kruithoff, City of Springboro, stated that they closed their dispatch in 2004 and moved to Warren County's. He then stated his opinion that two issues are getting "mushed" together. He then stated that the quality of dispatch will not change and that if you remove that from the equation, the issue is professional management. He also stated his opinion that Emergency Management should be removed from the Dispatch Director.

Paul Bernard, Emergency Services employee, stated he has the utmost respect for the Sheriff but is not in favor of this plan. He stated that it will put the Telecommunications Department in a bad position between two elected officials. He stated his agreement with Samantha Hall relative to the concern of bias, the rotation of administrators within the Sheriff's Office and his opinion that no one on the Sheriff's current staff has the technical qualifications to do the job.

Chief John Moore, City of Mason Fire Chief, stated the need for a manager in this ever changing profession.

Commissioner Young questioned Chief Moore of his opinion of whether the leadership or technical knowledge is more important for the director position.

Chief Moore stated that the leadership is more important.

Chief Westendorf, City of Franklin Fire Chief, stated his opinion that the Emergency Management portion of this agency needs to be separate from dispatch.

Scott Carlisle, Emergency Services employee, stated his opinion that the director needs knowledge of technology as well as leadership. He stated that both are equally important.

Rick Murray, Emergency Management, stated his agreement that the director needs both skill sets as well as the need for Emergency Management to be separate from Dispatch.

Chief Mark Greatorex, Hamilton Township Fire Chief, stated he appreciates the equipment that the Board provides and also his opinion that a 3rd party needs to study the question and make a recommendation.

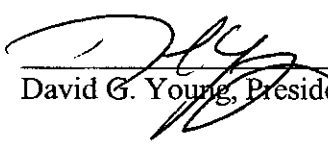
Commissioner Young acknowledged receipt of Chief Greatorex's email suggestion regarding that matter and stated the Board considered that option but decided against it due to budget concerns.

Upon receipt of additional comments, concerns and opinions, the Board stated they will take the matter under advisement for a decision at a later date.

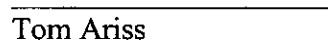
Commissioner Young acknowledged the loss of a Warren County leader, George Terwilleger, who served as Hamilton Township Clerk, County Commissioner, and State Representative. He expressed the Board's sympathy to the family and that he will be missed.

On motion, upon unanimous call of the roll, the Board entered into executive session at 11:12 a.m. to discuss matters required to be kept confidential per federal or state law pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(5) and exited at 12:30 p.m.

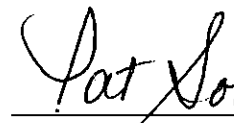
Upon motion the meeting was adjourned.



David G. Young, President



Tom Ariss



Pat Arnold South

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on February 28, 2011, in compliance with Section 121.22 O.R.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Tina Davis, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Warren County, Ohio