

**Present:** President Jeffrey L Ohler, Vice President Robert E Wirkner, Commissioner Lewis A Mickley.

**IN THE MATTER OF  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

 11:00 AM

Commissioner Ohler asked that everyone stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF  
ATWOOD LODGE**

 11:00 AM

Those in attendance were: Commissioner Jeffrey L Ohler, Commissioner Robert E Wirkner, and Commissioner Lewis A Mickley; Janice Leggett, Christopher Modranski, and Valerie Mossor from the Commissioners' office; Barry Willms, Atwood Lake Boats; Jon Baker, Times Reporter; Mike Balash, The Repository; Sara Klein, News Leader/Mr. Thrifty; Nancy Schaar and Carol McIntire, Free Press Standard; Ed Yasechko, Jr., observer; and William E. Burns, buyer.

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Commissioner Ohler thanked everyone for attending and advised the purpose of the meeting is to make the official announcement that the transaction has now been closed transferring the property from the Carroll County Commissioners to William Burns.

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Mr. Burns announced the Atwood Lodge will become a world class facility dedicated to helping those with drug, alcohol and prescription drug addiction. He read the following statement: "The opioid problem that is plaguing the state of Ohio is catastrophic, and I have personally seen the effects and the impact it has on families. Friends that I went to high school with have passed away because of their struggles with addiction. Unfortunately they were not able to get the help they needed. An adequate treatment center will not solve Ohio's opioid problem, but it is a step in the right direction and it will stop some of the heartbreak that is happening to families in our communities. Unfortunately, I don't think there is one person in the state of Ohio that hasn't been affected one way or another by this problem. We lose 120 Americans a day from overdoses; of that 120, about five are dying each day in Ohio. There is an estimated 200,000 people struggling with an opioid addiction statewide. That's roughly the size of the City of Akron. I envision this to be a premier high-quality treatment center. The scenic surroundings and peaceful nature of the facility alone is a therapeutic experience..."

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Commissioner Ohler read a statement: "It is a great day for Carroll County. We welcome Mr. Burns and his management team to the Carroll County business community. Our journey over the last 5 years started with our receipt by donation of the Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center ("the Lodge") from Muskingum Watershed on January 22, 2012. It certainly was a challenge at times but the final results, both short-term and long-term, for the Lodge are now accomplished. The process has been well documented in the local papers detailing what has transpired from January 22, 2012 through today. From our agreement to lease operations to Radius Hospitality, their notice in March 2016 to cease operations, and then our intentions to sell the property culminating in the auction last fall and the closing today transferring the property to Mr. Burns. When the Commissioners took ownership of the Lodge our initial goals were to help sustain the Lodge using the signing bonus of the oil and gas lease for a period of time until it could once again be self sustaining, returning jobs back to the community and ultimately saving the well-known facility. It was never our intent to be involved in private enterprise for the long-term. We understood the process was going to be a stretch but felt that it was our responsibility to give it our best effort. It was our commitment and sound fiduciary responsibility when dealing with the Lodge transaction that at no time would it cost the county general fund and its tax payers one cent, and I'm proud to announce it hasn't and it never will! Where do we go from here? We will provide whatever assistance we can as a Board to support Mr. Burns and the future success of his new endeavor. Our next major focus will be the Northern Corridor Water and Sewer Project that will make our County more competitive in the market place in attracting new businesses. The Lodge transaction, even though it was a challenge at times, will provide a boost of \$1.3 million towards this project. This was only accomplished by the net proceeds of the sale and a grant from MWCD. We are presently working on other grants totaling \$2.6 million which will give us about 66% cash towards the total cost of the Northern Corridor project. We hope we can get that project started within the next 6 to 9 months and scratch that off our bucket list. Again, congratulations to Mr. Burns and we look forward to his future success in his new endeavor. We as a Board will continue to be good stewards of our present tax base and continue to look for every opportunity to improve the quality of life of our residents and the financial strength of our County."

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Commissioner Wirkner added, "There were many in the public that were somewhat confused by the extensions and how long this process was taking. I am very pleased to say that our ability to see through the shaft and the smoke to envision this day...everybody who had their fingerprints on this project had the best interest of the County at heart and here we are today with the closing. I'm very pleased to be here and I congratulate Mr. Burns."

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Commissioner Mickley advised, "As a newly elected Commissioner, I have not had much to do with this process. But I wholeheartedly commend Commissioners Ohler and Wirkner and former Commissioner White for all the hard work they put in to bringing this to a positive conclusion. I'm glad to see this iconic Carroll County landmark be given such a bright future."

**IN THE MATTER OF  
NEWS MEDIA**

 11:07 AM

Nancy Schaar, Free Press Standard, asked:

1. Has Kiko auction company been paid, how much and when?
  - A. Commissioner Ohler advised he believes Kiko was owed an 8% commission (\$88,000) and it shows on the closing statement. The gross transaction was \$1.1 million and the net received by the County was approximately \$995,000. These funds will be earmarked for future use by this Board for the Northern Corridor project.
2. Mr. Burns, do you plan to keep security through the Sheriff's office?
  - A. Mr. Burns initially advised security was to be determined but later answered he would keep the Sheriff's office.
3. Are you going to be changing the name and to what?
  - A. Mr. Burns advised no name had been chosen yet.

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- 4. When will Mr. Burns be assuming the expenses such as the sewer bill and all the others?
  - A. Commissioner Ohler answered as of February 1 the utilities will be the responsibility of Mr. Burns, but Mr. Burns will reach out to the vendors on Monday. Commissioner Ohler advised the two maintenance staff, Mr. Snider and Mr. Jennings, will be paid through the next two weeks to give Mr. Burns ample time to get them on his payroll. Commissioner Ohler advised he did review that issue with the Prosecutor.
- 5. When will Mr. Burns have the keys?
  - A. Commissioner Ohler advised as soon as he drives to the Lodge and gets them.
- 6. Mr. Burns, will you be partnering with someone else or is this just your company/corporation?
  - A. Mr. Burns answered there will be further announcements in the future about his plans.
- 7. Is there any opening date in mind?
  - A. Mr. Burns answered no.
- 8. Are you planning to keep it as is, demolish, enlarge...?
  - A. Mr. Burns advised he would keep it as is with some adjustments.

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Sara Klein, News Leader/Mr. Thrifty, asked:

- 1. Do you have a sense right now of any changes you might make to the building or the grounds as part of your plan?
  - A. Mr. Burns answered not yet.
- 2. Do you have a sense of when you might start working to get it into shape for its new life?
  - A. Mr. Burns answered within the next couple of weeks.

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Jon Baker, Times Reporter, asked:

- 1. What kind of experience do you have operating a treatment facility for alcohol and drug addiction?
  - A. Mr. Burns advised he will have further announcement about the operation but personally he has been involved in several different businesses.
- 2. What led you to want to put this kind of facility in there?
  - A. Mr. Burns answered it was his personal experience.
- 3. Will you be working with some kind of treatment center to provide staff?
  - A. Mr. Burns answered there will be more details on the operations later.
- 4. Do you have any idea how many people might be treated there?
  - A. Mr. Burns advised not at this point, but there are 103 rooms at the facility.

**IN THE MATTER OF  
ADJOURN**

**Motion:** to adjourn, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Jeffrey L Ohler, Vice President Robert E Wirkner, and Commissioner Lewis A Mickley; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Vice President Robert E Wirkner, **Seconded by** Lewis A Mickley.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 11:19 AM

/s/Janice E. Leggett  
Janice E. Leggett, Clerk Supervisor  
(PREPARED BY)

We hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct.  
/s/ Janice E. Leggett  
Janice E. Leggett, Clerk Supervisor

Carroll County Commissioners

/s/ Jeffrey L Ohler PRESIDENT  
Jeffrey L Ohler  
/s/ Robert E Wirkner  
Robert E Wirkner  
/s/ Lewis A Mickley  
Lewis A Mickley  
/s/ Jeffrey L Ohler PRESIDENT  
Jeffrey L Ohler