



Present: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski.
Also present to observe: Nancy Schaar, Free Press Standard.

**IN THE MATTER OF
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

 9:01 AM


Commissioner Wirkner asked that everyone join in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN THE MATTER OF
ROLL CALL / BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE**

 9:02 AM

Commissioner Modranski: Present; Commissioner Ohler: Present; Commissioner Wirkner: Present

**IN THE MATTER OF
RECORDINGS OF PROCEEDINGS**


 9:02 AM

April D. Mayle, Assistant Clerk II certified that the entire recording of the proceedings at the prior meetings are captured completely and accurately in the electronic record and are available at the office.


**IN THE MATTER OF
MINUTES**

Motion: to approve the summary of the minutes from the regular meeting of Thursday, November 4, 2021, and electronic recording of the proceedings, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski, **Seconded by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:02 AM


**IN THE MATTER OF
TRANSIT NEW HIRES**

 9:03 AM

Sonja Trbovich appeared before the Board to advise that she has been seeking five new drivers currently for Transit, and this is the third time this year she has been seeking employees. Ms. Trbovich advised that Transit has had reduced operating hours since August 1, 2021, due to staffing issues. Ms. Trbovich is asking the Board to consider this an emergency and seeking approval to hire two full-time employees. She would also like to continue to advertise for part time employees as well. Ms. Trbovich advised that her part-time employees have had to work more hours than they were hired for and some of them are starting to complain. Ms. Trbovich advised that she feels that the hourly starting wage is too low compared to other companies hiring. She is asking to hire new employees at the wage of \$11.00 per hour if possible. She refers to an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) survey that was done for Rural Transit Systems and the current average wage is \$11.74 per hour. Ms. Trbovich is also seeking permission to increase her current employees' wages by \$1.00 per hour explaining that they have been very dedicated and hardworking during this shortage. Commissioner Wirkner advised that to bring clarity to Ms. Trbovich's request, the Board will break her concerns down into different topics to better assess what is needed. Commissioner Wirkner asked Ms. Trbovich if she felt that her part-time workers felt overworked and that hiring two full-time employees would alleviate that concern. Ms. Trbovich agreed that it would, and she would like to hire them emergently. Commissioner Wirkner addressed the second concern, asking Ms. Trbovich if she felt that driver's wages had fallen behind other businesses and that by increasing the starting wage it would make the job more competitive and easier to attract employees. Ms. Trbovich agreed that it would be a step in the right direction. Commissioner Wirkner asked Ms. Trbovich if she had the funds to support this. Ms. Trbovich explained that she has the Transit reserve fund, and she is allowed to utilize part of that for operating cost if ODOT gives her permission, which she expects they will. Commissioner Wirkner asked if Ms. Trbovich would be able to sustain this increase and she stated that she would. Commissioner Ohler asked if any of the current part-time employees would be interested in the full-time positions and Ms. Trbovich advised that possibly one of them would be interested in full-time. Ms. Trbovich advised that she reduced the hours due to the lack of employees and that Transit really needs to be available again from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm to accommodate the needs of the community. She advised that the reduction was only supposed to be temporary. Commissioner Modranski asked how much staff it would take to be able to make Transit available 12 hours daily and Ms. Trbovich advised that it would take at least five part time employees and one full-time employee. Commissioner Wirkner advised that there is a good amount of responsibility in driving the Transit vehicles and that at the current rate, individuals could work at McDonald's with less responsibility and a hire rate of pay. Ms. Trbovich advised that there are a lot of state required classes and training required to drive for Transit, including CPR, and first aid. Ms. Trbovich would like to offer more but cannot exhaust the grant money she has available. She hopes that next year, she can offer another bump in pay.


Motion: to approve the hiring of two full-time individuals to drive for Transit immediately and ongoing until positions are filled, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, **Seconded by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:13 AM


Motion: to increase the starting wage at Transit from \$10.00 an hour to \$11.00 an hour for all new hires, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski, **Seconded by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:13 AM

Motion: to increase all current Transit driver’s wages by \$1.00 per hour, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski, **Seconded by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:14 AM

Commissioner Wirkner advised that Ms. Trbovich has done a good job of making Transit available to a wide variety of individuals as possible and he has even observed Veterans using the service. Commissioner Wirkner asked Ms. Trbovich how that was working out and she stated that they transport Veterans to the Veterans Administration in Cleveland a couple times a month. Ms. Trbovich advised that it is working well, and they ask the Veterans to make their appointments early in the morning so that the driver can get back to the Carrollton before Transit closes. Commissioner Ohler suggested that Ms. Trbovich could offer her current employees an incentive or bonus if they introduce a new perspective driver to the workforce and if that individual stayed on with Transit for at least 6 months. Ms. Trbovich advised that at her Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) meeting, such incentives were brought up and she was told that it would be an allowable expense. Commissioner Wirkner asked Ms. Trbovich if she would check into the possibility of such incentive and prepare a proposal for the Board. Ms. Trbovich advised that she would contact OMEGA and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and prepare a proposal. Commissioner Wirkner advised Ms. Trbovich to reach out to former Transit employees and find out if there is anything besides wages and hours that contributed to their decision to leave so the job can be improved upon.


**IN THE MATTER OF
APPROPRIATION AMENDMENT(S)**

Motion: to approve the following appropriation amendment(s):


FUND	FROM		TO		AMOUNT
	NAME	CODE	NAME	CODE	
Public Assistance	Contract Services (H28)	20400-51321-53402	Other Expenses	20400-51320-56090	\$5,000.00

Action: Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, **Seconded by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:18 AM

**IN THE MATTER OF
REPORT OF COUNTY DOG WARDEN**


 9:19 AM

Cason Leggett, Dog Warden, filed his report for the week of October 31, 2021, to November 6, 2021, showing 5 dogs impounded, 5 adopted out, 0 redeemed, 0 euthanized, 2 citation(s) for no license, and 0 citation(s) for running at large.

**IN THE MATTER OF
RUMA AGREEMENT – LEEPER CR ORG
EAP OHIO, LLC**

Motion: to approve an agreement by and between the Board of Commissioners and EAP, LLC to commence use of 1.72 miles of CR 22 (Azalea Road) for the purpose of ingress to and egress from the Leeper CR ORG, for traffic necessary for the purpose of constructing sites and drilling horizontal oil and gas wells, completion operations and production of product such as the hauling of gas and liquids at the Leeper CR ORG hereinafter referred to collectively as Drilling Activity. **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, **Seconded by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski.


Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:21 AM

**IN THE MATTER OF
CULVERT NO. PER-C37-4.21 REPLACEMENT PROJECT
CHANGE ORDER**

Motion: to approve a change order for Culvert No. PER-C37-4.21 Replacement Project to increase the contract time by 127 calendar days with a start date of March 1, 2022, and a completion date of May 1, 2022. The change order is requested due to weather conditions which will prevent the project from being started and completed on time. There will be no increase in price from original contract, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, **Seconded by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski.


Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:23 AM


**IN THE MATTER OF
WORK ORDER
UNION TOWNSHIP**

Motion: to approve a blanket work order for Union Township for permacoat mix, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski, **Seconded by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:24 AM


**IN THE MATTER OF
RESOLUTION 2021-36
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS BROADBAND GRANT**

 9:24 AM

Commissioner Modranski advised that two hours after resolution 2021-36 and 2021-37 were passed, the County Commissioner’s Association of Ohio (CCAO) sent a notice strongly recommending not using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as leverage for the Ohio Residential Broadband Agreement because the state did not set up the grant program in a way that allowed the correct competitive bidding process for the federal funds. Commissioner Modranski advised that it met state regulations but in the CCAO’s opinion it did not meet the federal requirements for competitive bidding. The state sees broadband as a 25-megabyte upload and 3 megabyte download and the federal use of the ARPA money is requiring it to be 100 megabyte upload and 100 megabyte download. Commissioner Modranski has spoke to both vendors and advised them that the Commissioners would most likely be rescinding the financial leverage part of the resolution. Commissioner Modranski advised that both vendors understood and advised that they would be applying and it should be a level playing field across the state with the removal of ARPA funding and the end result should be the same even without the ARPA money.

Motion: to rescind the motion made by Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski and seconded by Commissioner Jeffrey L. Ohler on November 4, 2021, to adopt Resolution 2021-36 to support, by monetary contributions and public resolution, a Residential Broadband Infrastructure Project by Spectrum Mid-America, LLC as managed by Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”) in Carroll County, Ohio, \$1,000 per household with a max of \$1,000,000, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski, **Seconded by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler.


Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 9:27 AM

**IN THE MATTER OF
RESOLUTION 2021-37
PATTERSONVILLE TELEPHONE CO. BROADBAND GRANT**

Motion: to rescind the motion made by Commissioner Jeffrey L. Ohler and seconded by Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski on November 4, 2021, to adopt Resolution 2021-37 to support, by monetary contributions and public resolution, a Residential Broadband Infrastructure Project by Pattersonville Telephone Company in Carroll County, Ohio, in the amount of \$1,000 per household with a max \$1,000,000 total, **Action:** Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, **Seconded by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.


 9:28 AM


**IN THE MATTER OF
2021 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND
BID ACCEPTANCE & NOTICE OF AWARD – PROJECT E**

Motion: to accept the bid of Dayton Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$23,800.00 for installation of two septic systems under the 2021 Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Project E and to issue a Notice of Award regarding the same,


Action: Vote was recorded as follows: YEA: President Robert E. Wirkner, Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler, and Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski; NEY: None; ABSENT: None; ABSTAIN: None, **Moved by** Commissioner Christopher R. Modranski, **Seconded by** Vice President Jeffrey L. Ohler.

Motion carried on unanimous vote.


 9:29 AM

**IN THE MATTER OF
OHIO SE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** 9:30 AM

Mike Jacoby, President; Ed Looman, Engagement Manager; and Bill Arnett, Project Manager from the OhioSE appeared before the Board to provide an update on Carroll County's Economic Development. Mr. Jacoby advised that there are newer economic resources and programs available through JobsOhio, which includes an Inclusion Grant, which Golden Protective Service took advantage of. This grant can support smaller projects or companies that may be creating only a handful of jobs in distressed geographies or have disadvantaged ownership, such as minority, female, veteran, or disabled owners. Mr. Jacoby advised that there is also the Ohio Site Inventory Program (OSIP) which can help develop speculative sites and buildings particularly and typically for manufacturing or distribution operations. He advised that in the last budget bill, the Rural Industrial Park Loan (RIPL) was reauthorized which allocated \$15,000,000.00 in each of the two budget years. This is a loan program, but part of the money is forgivable. Commissioner Ohler advised that the county was most likely going to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to put in water and sewer in Carrollton's Industrial Park, as well as roads. Commissioner Ohler asked if the funds from either program Mr. Jacoby mentioned could be used for speculative buildings. Mr. Jacoby advised that yes, money from either OSIP or the RIPL could be used for speculative buildings. Commissioner Ohler asked if the funds would be a loan or grant to the county and would it be forgiven. Mr. Jacoby advised that the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) would be the applicant for the any project on behalf of the county and the county is asked to back the project financially. Mr. Jacoby explained that if OSIP is used with RIPL, at least 50 percent of the loan will be forgiven, and principal and interest payments will be deferred for up to five years or until the park or building gets sold or leased. Mr. Arnett advised that there is risk involved with speculative sites, but they have the potential to work well if a company decides to lease the building and complete the work to make it operational. Mr. Jacoby advised that at present, construction prices are high, but interest rates are low. Mr. Jacoby advised that RIPL will be available for at least the next 18 months and OSIP will be available for the next three years. Mr. Looman advised that OhioSE also has some funding available to help get sites prepared. Commissioner Modranski advised that the county used one grant for the layout and a cost analysis of running utilities, but a cost analysis did not get completed. Commissioner Modranski has spoke to the consulting company and is waiting on the analysis to get completed. Commissioner Modranski advised that the part of the Industrial Park he is referring to is 175 acres, but the entire park is 250 acres. Mr. Looman advised that there is a guidebook for the ARPA funds that give ideas and tips on how to best use the funds within the county. Mr. Looman advised that Coshocton County, for example, decided to use their ARPA money on broadband and they are working to expand broadband to more of their county. Mr. Looman advised that OhioSE would provide the Commissioners with a link to the ARPA guidebook. Mr. Jacoby advised that ARPA funds can be used to extend lines or make improvements for existing residential customers and those funds would not be eligible to use in areas where there are no current customers. Mr. Jacoby advised that if the county is using ARPA funds for items that were already budgeted for, it will free up some other money that is more flexible. Mr. Jacoby advised that the next ED Now meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 12, 2021, at from 9:00 to 10:30 via Zoom and there will be several speakers, including JobsOhio talking about their guidebook. Mr. Looman advised that Coshocton County would be on the Zoom meeting discussing their broadband project and they he will forward the link to Commissioner Modranski. Mr. Jacoby asked the Board the status of the oil and gas industry in Carroll County. Commissioner Wirkner advised that the oil and gas operations are starting to increase and that the county's revenue is higher than anticipated. Commissioner Ohler advised that the workforce is currently an issue in Carroll County. Mr. Jacoby advised that he has been reading that labor was already tight prior to the pandemic and then a lot of baby boomers decided to not return to the workforce. Additionally, the birth rate is not keeping up with the loss of population over the last 10 years due to increased deaths in 23 of Ohio's counties and labor force participation rates are very low, currently below 60 percent. Commissioner Wirkner advised that there has been a shift from concern over job creation to how to improve the work force. Mr. Jacoby advised that Carroll County has a high percentage of residents that work outside the county and with wage inflation, some residents are driving out of the county to make higher wages. Mr. Jacoby advised that since he has been in economic development, he has never seen an environment like this where companies are starting to send out mass mailers offering higher wages to attract employees. Commissioner Wirkner advised that there are so many jobs available outside the county that can offer higher wages and he is concerned that people may leave the county to be closer to jobs where they can earn more money. Mr. Jacoby advised that with the increase in real estate prices, there are barriers to relocating to another community. Mr. Jacoby advised that the OhioSE is trying to address the workforce challenges and they intend to apply for a Good Jobs Challenge grant in January to help students find good jobs by developing and strengthening regional workforce training systems.


**IN THE MATTER OF
CLERK'S REPORT** 10:16 AM

Melissa N. Schaar, Clerk appeared before the Board to advise that the statewide burn ban is currently in effect. Ms. Schaar advised that the burn ban can be found in Ohio Revised Code 1503.18 which states there is no burning between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for the months of March, April, May, October and November and the ban includes yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel. Ms. Schaar advised that she shared the Carrollton VFD's reminder on the Commissioners' Facebook page.

**IN THE MATTER OF
CLERK'S REPORT** 10:17 AM


Melissa N. Schaar, Clerk appeared before the Board to advise that the Community Christmas program is still looking for sponsors. They have approximately 70 children that still need sponsored. If residents or groups are interested in sponsoring a child for Christmas, please call Tonya or Jenna at the Friendship Center at 330.627.7017. Also, the CARES Team at Carrollton Schools has some children that need sponsored for Christmas as well. There are several children that still need sponsored, and more applications are coming in. The CARES team needs food donations to help families. Ms. Schaar advised that the Commissioners' clerks have adopted a child through the CARES Team program. Any residents or groups interested in sponsoring a child through the CARES Team should call Angie at 330.868.2096.

**IN THE MATTER OF
CLERK'S REPORT**

 10:18 AM


Melissa N. Schaar, Clerk appeared before the Board to remind viewers that all non-emergency departments will be closed on Thursday, November 11, 2021, in observance of Veteran's Day. Ms. Schaar advised Veteran's Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for our veterans. Ms. Schaar advised this holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on November 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

**IN THE MATTER OF
CLERK'S REPORT**

 10:18 AM

Melissa N. Schaar appeared before the Board to remind viewers that the Courthouse now has a flag collection box in the entryway, next to the security station. Ms. Schaar advised that residents have already deposited used flags in the box to be properly disposed of in accordance with the U.S. Flag code.

**IN THE MATTER OF
FIRE DEPARTMENT PAGERS**


 10:19 AM

Commissioner Wirkner advised that he spoke to Shane Thomas regarding the cost of the pagers for the fire department and the price is estimated to be around \$125,000.00. Commissioner Wirkner advised that he will have a firm number to share at the Commissioners meeting on November 15, 2021.

**IN THE MATTER OF
ADJOURN**

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

Motion carried on unanimous vote.

 10:20 AM

PREPARED BY:

/s/ April D. Mayle
April D. Mayle, Assistant Clerk II

We hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct.

/s/ Melissa N. Schaar
Melissa N. Schaar, Clerk
/s/ Robert E. Wirkner
Robert E. Wirkner, President

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY

/s/ Robert E. Wirkner
Robert E. Wirkner, President
/s/ Jeffrey L. Ohler
Jeffrey L. Ohler, Vice President
/s/ Christopher R. Modranski
Christopher R. Modranski, Commissioner