

Portage County Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

449 South Meridian Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
<http://www.co.portage.oh.us>

JoAnn Townend, Acting Clerk
330-297-3600

0386

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

9:31 AM

Commissioners' Board Room

*The Commissioners' meeting minutes are summarized; there is an audio recording available.
Please contact the Commissioners' Office for specific details.*

The Portage County Board of Commissioners' meeting came to order with the following members present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Vicki A. Kline	President	Present
Sabrina Christian-Bennett	Vice President	Present
Mike Kerrigan	Board Member	Present

Also attending throughout the day Record Courier Reporter Diane Smith.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Department of Budget and Financial Management Director Todd Bragg

Director Bragg gave the Commissioners a handout regarding the Sheriff's Department budget. The average increase per pay is 2.25%. The amount budgeted in 2018 averaged \$421,000 per pay. The 2019 proposed budget would be \$430,000 per pay. The current proposals averages a 2.25% all payroll lines, including health benefits, if health benefits is removed, the proposed increase only averages 1%.

Director Bragg suggested that giving 1% to non-union and 2.25% for union employees; this would eventually lead to workers who make just as much as their supervisors, a situation we had recently had. Commissioner Kerrigan indicated there needs to be a separation in the two since the Sheriff's office did not participate in the study.

Director Bragg would not be surprised if a lot of the non-union supervisor employees are refactored higher. Commissioner Kline suggests adding 2.25% for union staff. Director Bragg said the Sheriff has reduced his staff. Did the Commissioner want to add to the existing expenditure levels or to the budgeted average? Commissioner Christian-Bennett said the Sheriff had enough in his budget before for his staff but overspent in the beginning of the year.

Director Bragg said the new pod is for prisoners and employees to move into while their area is being remodeled. They shouldn't need additional staffing right away. Also new remodels reduce positions; the kiosk would reduce his staff. Commissioner Christian-Bennett indicated that in 2020 additional staffing may be needed as the jail population grows. Towards the end of 2019 they would need to be hired and trained. Director Bragg wonders how many extra employees will be needed. The current staffing levels seem to be working. Director Bragg is concerned if the money is given to the department now, it could be spent on non-correction officer positions. Commissioner Kerrigan said there needs to be some control. Commissioner Christian-Bennett suggested not giving the money all at once. Commissioner Kerrigan recommends 2.25% for union employees and 1% for non-union employees. Director Bragg said that would be more than what

was in the current proposal. Commissioner Christian-Bennett said the Sheriff's office has the biggest administrative staff than any Portage County sheriff has had. Director Bragg will draft a letter for Board of Commissioners review.

Commissioner Kline asks how much he going to be short this year. Director Bragg said approximately \$170,000 this year. The Board agreed to add to the 2018 average figure of \$421,000 per pay, adding 2.25% for union and 1% for non-union positions to come to the 2019 figure. The 2.25% and 1% would only be calculated on Salary lines, not average in with the health benefits line. The Board of Commissioners agreed to wait until end of the year to see if the Sheriff uses the extras in contingency.

Director Bragg suggested scheduling preliminary budget hearings. The Board of Commissioners agreed to schedule the hearings on November 19th, 20th and 21st and December 3rd, 4th and 5th. December 6th and 11th will be for the finishing touches and the final budget will be adopted on December 13th.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to include a 1% increase at this time and wage study increases will be processed later.

Director Bragg will draft a generic letter to elected officials and a letter for the Sheriff.

Director Bragg will check to see how much the Public Defender's Office needs to get through until the end of the year.

Director Townend will contact Chris Meduri to see if he is available to meet with the Board of Commissioners on Thursday, November 1st.

Commissioner Christian-Bennett indicated that the County Prosecutor had contacted her and questioned the Public Defender issue. The County Auditor is requesting an opinion. Prosecutor Viglucci asks that one of the Commissioners call him tomorrow after the Public Defender's office discussion.

Motion To: Adjourn the Official Meeting of October 31, 2018 at 10:32 AM

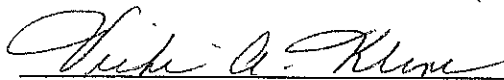
RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVED: Mike Kerrigan

SECONDED: Sabrina Christian-Bennett

AYES: Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Mike Kerrigan, Vicki A. Kline

We do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Portage County Board of Commissioners' meeting.



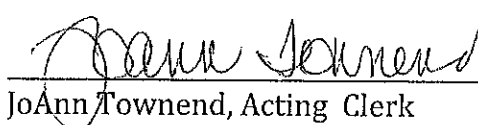
Vicki A. Kline, President



Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Vice President



Mike Kerrigan, Board Member



JoAnn Townend, Acting Clerk