

January 4, 2023

Agenda

Lord's Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance

1:15 p.m. Human Trafficking Awareness Month – Kristi Campbell-Meiser, Community Engagement Coordinator

1:30 p.m. Tuscarawas Arts Partnership Presentation – Wilma Mullet, Executive Director

1:45 p.m. Cody Petit – State Treasurer's Office

2:00 p.m. Dee Grossman, Executive Director, CVB – Year in Review

Approve Minutes

Declare Obsolete – Office Chairs – Veterans Services

Declare Obsolete – Equipment – Water & Sewer

Approve Road Maintenance Agreement – Engineer

Release & Satisfaction of Mortgage - Housler

Pay Bills

Other Business

Adjourn

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY MET IN REGULAR SESSION WEDNESDAY, THE 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2023 WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Abbuhl
Kristin Zemis
Greg Ress

Commissioner Chris Abbuhl presiding.

The Lord's Prayer was said.
The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

NOTE: Commissioner Abbuhl welcomed Commissioner Zemis and Commissioner Ress to their first meeting of 2023. This is their first term and Commissioner Zemis will be serving four years and Commissioner Ress will be serving a two-year term. I wanted to welcome you both and looking forward to 2023.

RESOLUTION (1-2023) APPROVE MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Abbuhl, seconded by Commissioner Zemis, to approve the minutes from the December 28, 2022 meeting as written.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kristin Zemis, yes;
Greg Ress, yes;

NOTE: Commissioner Zemis' term officially began January 1, 2023 and Commissioner Ress' term officially began January 3, 2023. It is necessary for the new Commissioners to approve the minutes from December 28, 2022 held by the previous Commissioners.

RESOLUTION (2-2023) OBSOLETE PROPERTY – OFFICE EQUIPMENT – VETERANS SERVICE

It was moved by Commissioner Ress, seconded by Commissioner Zemis, to declare, as obsolete for the use for which it was acquired in accordance to Ohio Revised Code 307.12 (B).

- V384 Office Chair Worn Trash
- V385 Office Chair Worn Trash

The items will be disposed of in accordance to ORC.

DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE ITEMS

DEPARTMENT	Veterans Service Office
PERSON REQUESTING	Debra S. Cook
DATE	December 29, 2022

I/we are hereby requesting the Board of Commissioner to declare, as obsolete for the use for which it was acquired in accordance to Ohio Revised Code 307.12 (B) the following item(s) which will be disposed of in accordance to ORC:

Quantity	ID #	Description	Reason	Offered Inter-Office	Gov Deals	Proposed Disposal Method
1	V384	Chair, Office	Worn			Trash
1	V385	Chair, Office	Worn			Trash

<i>For Commissioner's Office Use</i>	
Date Received: DEC 30 2022	Date of Action: JAN - 4 2023
Commissioner Abbuhl	Approved/Denied
Commissioner Zemis	Approved/Denied
Commissioner Ress	Approved/Denied

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
 Kristin Zemis, yes;
 Greg Ress, yes;

RESOLUTION (3-2023) OBSOLETE PROPERTY – EQUIPMENT – WATER & SEWER

It was moved by Commissioner Ress, seconded by Commissioner Zemis, to declare, as obsolete for the use for which it was acquired in accordance to Ohio Revised Code 307.12 (B).

**TUSCARAWAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR
UNFIT PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 307.12, we hereby request that the Board of Commissioners, Tuscarawas County adopt a resolution authorizing the disposal of the following unneeded, obsolete and/or unfit personal property.

County ID #	Description	Quantity	Purchase Date	Purchase Value
Garage	One gallon metal safety gas can	1	Leaks	
SV WWTP	Rain Guage w/data logger	1	Broken	
SV WWTP	Cl2 gas dispensing system Regal #216	1	Obsolete	
SV WWTP	Heater 2000 W 48V	1	Broken	
Zoar LS	Submersible pressure transducer KPSI	1	Broken	
MV State Street	Keen 2HP grinder Pump K4vnx 10m6-21	1	Burnt up	
WH WWTP	Ryobi power washer	1	Broken	
Garage	Battery Jump Pack	1	Broken	
WH Lab	SO2 gas dispensing system regal #716	1	Obsolete	
WH Lab	Overflow funnel for WTW DO Probe	1	Obsolete	
WH Lab	Probe ATC Orion 917002	1	Obsolete	
WH Lab	Probe PH WTW 41-3	1	Obsolete	
WH Lab	Probe PH/combination Orion 91-05	1	Obsolete	
WH Lab	Probe BOD Bottle YSI	1	Obsolete	
WH Lab	Stirrer, Magnetic Thernix #120M	1	Obsolete	

Requested By: Michael Spurr Date: 12/30/22

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**TUSCARAWAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF UNNEEDED, OBSOLETE OR
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Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 307.12, we hereby request that the Board of Commissioners, Tuscarawas County adopt a resolution authorizing the disposal of the following unneeded, obsolete and/or unfit personal property.

County ID #	Description	Quantity	Purchase Date	Purchase Value
WH WWTP	Flow Meter OCMIII Endress Hauser Q Meter	1	Broken	
WH Pump House	Circular Chart Recorder Sparling	1	Broken	
TK#15-19	Lufkin 30' tape	1	Broken	
TK #19-23	Propane torch	1	Broken	
TK #19-23	Stanley Battery Spotlight	1	Broken	
Camera van	Fat Max Flashlight	1	Broken	
Garage	Pipe Cutter 5 1/8 to 2 1/2	1	Broken	

Requested By: Michael Spurr Date: 12/30/22

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The items will be disposed of in accordance to ORC.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kristin Zemis, yes;
Greg Ress, yes;

RESOLUTION (5-2023) SATISFACTION & RELEASE OF MORTGAGE – HOUSLER

It was moved by Commissioner Ress, seconded by Commissioner Zemis, to authorize a member of the board of Tuscarawas County Commissioners to sign the Satisfaction and Release of Mortgage for the Elizabeth Jane Housler and Gary Anthony Housler Property in relation to the FY2006 CHIP Program. The current remaining Mortgage in the amount of **30% balance (\$6,000.00)** is to be released. This motion was based upon the recommendation of Scott S. Reynolds, Director of the Tuscarawas County Office of Community & Economic Development.

SATISFACTION AND RELEASE OF MORTGAGE

FOR One Dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable consideration, The Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners hereby releases a certain Mortgage, executed by **Elizabeth Jane Housler and Gary Anthony Housler**, as husband and wife, the Mortgagor(s), in favor of the Tuscarawas County Commissioners, and recorded in **Volume 1308, Page(s) 2635 - 2641**, of the Tuscarawas County Mortgage/Official Records, being the **Final Direct Loan Portion** of the Mortgage Loan Obligation as to the following real property:

(2262 Main Street, Midvale, Ohio 44653)

Situated in the County of Tuscarawas, in the State of Ohio, and in the Village of Midvale.

Known as Lot No. 6 of Nagley's and Goudy's West Midvale Lots. Now renumbered as Lot No. 137.

Auditor's Parcel # 27-00079.001

Pursuant to the terms of the FY 2006 CHIP Mortgage and Promissory Note signed by the Mortgagor(s), the *Direct Loan Obligation* of **\$6,000.00** (\$20,000.00 minus the declining portion of \$14,000.00) is hereby released.

Signed this ____ day of January 4, 2023.

IN PRESENCE OF:

ON BEHALF OF THE
TUSCARAWAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BY: *Chris Abbuhl*
Chris Abbuhl, President of the Board
Tuscarawas County Commissioners

STATE OF OHIO

§

COUNTY OF TUSCARAWAS

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared the above-named members of the Board of Tuscarawas County Commissioners who acknowledge of said board.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at New Philadelphia, Ohio this ____ day of January 4, 2023.

SEAL



Rhonda Jordan
Notary Public Signature

5/15/2027
My Commission Expires

This instrument was prepared by: Brooke A. Yates, Administrative Coordinator, Tuscarawas County Office of Community & Economic Development and approved by the County Prosecutor's Office

Discussion: *Commissioner Abbuhl stated this is a good program that runs through our Community and Economic Development Office. It helps homeowners do improvements on their homes and they show that they are paying their bills and making sure things are being improved upon the way they are supposed to be so they can get release of mortgage when completed. This program has helped a lot of residents within the County.*

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kristin Zemis, yes;
Greg Ress, yes;

RESOLUTION (6-2023)

PAY BILLS

It was moved by Commissioner Ress, seconded by Commissioner Zemis, to approve payment for the following bills:

Meeting Date - January 4, 2023

911

Frontier	Services	\$225.54	
Frontier	Services	\$45.80	
Frontier	Supplies	\$221.13	
Staples	Supplies	\$907.56	
			\$1,400.03

Child Support

First Communications LLC	Long Distance Fax Service	\$13.19	
Kayline Company	Janitorial Supplies	\$179.99	
Quadient Leasing USA Inc	Postage Machine Lease	\$457.39	
Staples Business Credit	Supplies	\$407.93	
Total First Aid	Supplies	\$142.50	
Verizon Wireless	Broadband Wireless Serv	\$80.22	
			\$1,281.22

Clerk of Courts

AT & T	Services	\$88.23	
Dan Loibl	Supplies	\$127.00	
Frontier	Services	\$54.43	
Graphic Enterprises	Services	\$838.65	
Independence Business	Supplies	\$80.55	
			\$1,188.86

Commissioners

AEP	Electric Utility	\$4,504.10	
Dominion Energy	Gas Utility	\$1,606.15	
Frontier	Services	\$224.22	
Holland & Muirden	Services	\$5.00	
Jimmy Hitchcock	Dec '22 Humane Agent Sal	\$500.00	
Kayline	Supplies	\$289.92	
Sherwin Williams Co	Supplies	\$41.99	
VEIT	Supplies	\$361.28	
VEIT	Supplies	\$418.57	
VEIT	Copies	\$33.67	
Zashin & Rich Co LPA	Services	\$1,122.50	
Zashin & Rich Co LPA	Services	\$3,521.50	
			\$12,628.90

Dog & Kennel

Crystal Digenova	Supplies	\$10.68	
Crystal Digenova	Travel Reimbursement	\$16.56	
Tusc Co Sheriff's Office	Fuel	\$483.25	
			\$510.49

Engineer

Ace Truck Equipment	Repair/Parts	\$233.91	
Black Horse Bridge Construction Inc	Proj #1-2022	\$19,597.31	
Black Horse Bridge Construction Inc	Proj #1-2022	\$2,412.85	
Cargill, Inc	Salt	\$13,489.00	
CEAO	Annual Dues	\$5,427.15	
Company Wrench	Repair/Parts	\$109.21	
Company Wrench	Repair/Parts	\$2,750.00	
Fastenal Company	Supplies	\$38.50	
Flynn's Tire & Auto Serv	Tires/Repairs	\$4,948.53	
Gemstone Gas & Welding Supplies	Supplies	\$21.05	

	Travel & Misc		
Joe Bachman	Reimbursement	\$963.77	
John Deere Financial	Repair/Parts	\$658.15	
JT Sales LLC	Supplies	\$280.00	
Marzane Inc	Materials	\$157.10	
Ohio Concrete	Training	\$1,000.00	
Precision Repair Services Inc	Repairs	\$6,000.60	
Snyder Brothers Sales & Serv	Repair/Parts	\$1,057.92	
Triple R Trailer	Repair/Parts	\$660.51	
Young Truck Sales	Repair/Parts	\$1,851.83	
			\$61,657.39
Human Resources			
Harris Computer Systems	Uniface License	\$126.67	
Harris Computer Systems	Computer Systems	\$23.45	
Harris Computer Systems	Additional Uniface License	\$43.15	
Staples	Supplies	\$83.48	
Staples	Supplies	\$83.27	
Tusc Co Health Dept	Reimburse Legal Fees	\$1,443.00	
			\$1,803.02
Information Technology			
Zoho Corporation	Licensing Renewal	\$3,515.00	
			\$3,515.00
JFS			
Amazon	Kinship/Bed	\$511.16	
Andy & Laurie Chaffee	FC Preschool	\$2,710.00	
Capital One	Microwave	\$70.00	
Capital One	FACES	\$873.39	
Clear Communications	Interpretation Services	\$241.50	
David & Marybeth Miller	FP Reimbursements	\$76.82	
David & Marybeth Miller	Travel Reimbursement	\$52.80	
Frontier Power Company	PREV/Electric	\$224.59	
Lowe's	Relaxation Room Door	\$463.06	
Luke & Megan Kneuss	FP Reimbursements	\$83.90	
Menards	Relaxation Room	\$212.74	
Michael & April McKelvey	FP Reimbursements	\$56.62	
Midland-Brightwood Ltd	Relaxation Room	\$48.72	
Rick & Tammy Christopher	FC Violin Lessons	\$198.00	
Sherwin Williams	Relaxation Room Paint	\$121.00	
	Workforce Initiative		
Speakwrite	Expense	\$77.67	
Treasurer, State of Ohio	Fingerprinting Services	\$425.25	
Tusc Co Health Dept	Birth Certificate	\$25.00	
	2022 Foster Care Prev		
Tusc Co Treasurer	Grant	\$2,640.69	
Tyler & Holly Mummert	FP Reimbursements	\$71.84	
			\$9,184.75
Juvenile/Probate			
Allied Infotech Corp	Services	\$7,319.86	
ComDoc	Copier Contract	\$50.89	
ComDoc	Copier Contract	\$46.30	
Parkway Auto Group	Repairs/Maint	\$762.83	
Staples	Supplies	\$399.13	
Vista Solutions Group	Annual Support/Maint	\$968.39	
			\$9,547.40
Recorder			
Staples	Supplies	\$39.94	
			\$39.94

Sheriff

Blasenhauer	Services	\$2,622.89
Frontier	Services	\$5,807.90
Sirchie Acquisition Co LLC	Supplies	\$488.79
Staley Technologies	Supplies	\$255.00
Steel Valley Portable X-Ray Service	Services	\$300.00
Watch Systems LLC	Services	\$35.00
Wells Fargo Financial Leasing, Inc	Copier Leases	\$96.80

\$9,606.38

Water & Sewer

AEP	Electric Utilities	\$659.33
AEP	Electric Utilities	\$198.07
Agri-Sludge Inc	Services	\$15,390.00
Charter Communications	Services	\$99.99
Frontier	Services	\$54.56
Frontier	Services	\$66.42
Gemstone Gas & Welding Supply	Cylinder Fill	\$181.26
Go Shred	Services	\$70.00
Hawkins Water Treatment Group	Supplies	\$100.00
Hawkins Water Treatment Group	Supplies	\$60.00
Heritage Cooperative	Fuel	\$1,381.70
Iron Mountain	Services	\$245.94
JA's Auto Service	Parts/Repairs	\$394.46
Koorsen Fire & Security	Inspection	\$50.20
Koorsen Fire & Security	Equipment	\$571.00
Koorsen Fire & Security	Inspection	\$256.50
Koorsen Fire & Security	Inspection	\$50.20
Koorsen Fire & Security	Inspection	\$256.50
Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp	Gas Utility	\$293.50
Ream & Haager Lab	Services	\$3,640.18
Ream & Haager Lab	Services	\$526.32
Ream & Haager Lab	Services	\$1,162.00
Ron Austin	Travel Reimbursement	\$33.00
Troy Pantillis	Cleaning Services	\$320.00
USA BlueBook	Materials	\$433.97
Verizon Wireless	Services	\$425.46
World Fuel Services Inc	Fuel	\$3,190.27

\$30,110.83

GRAND

TOTAL \$142,474.21

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
 Kristin Zemis, yes;
 Greg Ress, yes;

TUSC AGAINST TRAFFICKING: *Kristi Campbell-Meiser, Community Engagement Coordinator for COMPASS and also the Day Per Day Facilitator for Tusc Against Trafficking along with Melanie Anderson from COMPASS and Tusc Against Trafficking were present. Kristi stated when it comes to Human Trafficking and Tuscarawas County, people think it does not happen here in our community. Human trafficking does not look like it does in the movies. Trafficking is not always a van driving by and snatching someone off of the street or a man following someone around the mall. This is not usually how trafficking happens, especially in rural communities. Traffickers are usually already close to their victim; family members, loved ones, friends, significant others and people who get close to someone who has vulnerabilities. The traffickers will find a way to exploit this person by finding their weak spot. A vulnerable person may be working two jobs to keep the lights on to feed their kids or they want to see the world, but need to figure out a way to make it happen. The trafficker will latch on to that desire or vulnerability. They will build trust with the individual they are targeting and break down their barriers*

and push any set of boundaries they have. It starts with really small acts and over time they build up to the bigger trafficking activities.

We also have a large Guatemalan population, and with that comes unaccompanied minors. Tuscarawas County was 4th in the state last year in the number of unaccompanied minors. Unaccompanied minors are children that come to the border and say they have a sponsor in Tuscarawas County. ICHA verifies this person exists in Tuscarawas County and they don't have a criminal record. The child is dropped off at that address and there is no follow up. There is no notification to schools or CFS. The trafficker will then use debt bondage to keep control of that child and will force them into trafficking. They may work 18 hours a day, this is Labor Trafficking.

Commissioner Ress asked if the schools report that a student is there and then gone? Kristi replied the schools do report this. Not all of the unaccompanied minors are ever enrolled in school.

Melanie Anderson, does a lot of direct service with survivors of human trafficking and sexual assault and domestic violence. One of the important things for people to know, is that these victims are among us, people that we know, they don't always disappear. It is hard to identify them because the victim may not call a trafficker a trafficker. They may call them a friend, family member, they were the only people who stuck by me during a really tough time, etc. There was that trust built. Sometime the victim is not willing to give up someone they care so much about even though bad things are happening.

Commissioner Abbuhl wanted to know how the unaccompanied minors are followed up on when they go to a home and are some of them working underage? Kristi replied Tusc Against Trafficking is not an investigative agency, they are a support and educational agency. Law enforcement would have to get involved for something like this. Melanie stated one thing traffickers will do to get around that is coach a 16 – 17-year-old to say they are 18 and apply at a place of business under a different name and false age. This happened recently at a local hospital. An employee was hurt and had to go to the hospital. The information the employer was giving the hospital was not matching what the patient was giving. It was later discovered the patient was only 16 years old and seriously hurt on a job. The police got involved at this point.

Commissioner Abbuhl stated there are many things that fall under the umbrella of Human Trafficking, not just one thing like we would think. Commissioner Ress thanked Kristi & Melanie for everything they do and this type of thing is just a shame and should not be happening.

The Clerk read the Proclamation onto the record.

RESOLUTION (7-2023) PROCLAMATION – HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

It was moved by Commissioner Zemis, seconded by Commissioner Ress, to approve the following resolution proclaiming January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

PROCLAMATION
HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

Whereas, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month has been recognized in January of each year since President Obama first recognized it by Presidential Proclamation in 2010; and

Whereas, due to the nature of Human Trafficking and the way it presents, it is incredibly hard to identify and track, therefore, it is accepted among the organizations against Human Trafficking that any statistics are vastly under reported; and

Whereas, in 2021 the National Human trafficking Hotline received 51,073 contacts through their various means of access and 13,277 of those contacts were from victims or survivors of human trafficking; and

Whereas, in 2021 the National Human Trafficking Hotline received 291 separate cases of human trafficking in Ohio. Those 291 cases involved 424 identified victims; and

Whereas, in 2021 there were 1,161 of total contacts to the National Human Trafficking Hotline came from Ohio, 355 of those contacts came from victims or survivors of Human trafficking in Ohio; and

Whereas, of the 291 identified cases, 232 involved only sex trafficking, 23 involved only labor trafficking and 16 involved both sex and labor trafficking. 81% of the identified victims identified as women or girls, 14% of the identified victims identified as men or boys and 5% identified as other gender minorities; and

Whereas, Human Trafficking is an over \$150 Billion business worldwide; and

Whereas, the identified victims were overwhelmingly individuals who were either U.S. citizens or those who hold Legal Permanent Resident status in the United States; and

Whereas, Tuscarawas County is known to contribute to these Trafficking Statistics

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim the month of January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month and encourages Tuscarawas County citizens to support and report Human Trafficking activities to the:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
1-888-373-7888

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS




Chris Abbuhl

Kristin Zemis

Greg Ress

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kristin Zemis, yes;
Greg Ress, yes;

RESOLUTION (8-2023) RECESS

It was moved by Commissioner Zemis, seconded by Commissioner Ress, to recess at 1:23 p.m., for the purpose of the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership presentation.

VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kristin Zemis, yes;
Greg Ress, yes;

Commissioner Abbuhl called the meeting out of recess at 1:26 p.m. and back into Regular Session, for the purpose of the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership presentation.

ARTS PARTNERSHIP: *Wilma Mullet, Executive Director, Tuscarawas Arts Partnership, wanted to meet with the Commissioners about long-term sustainable planning for Arts & Culture Support. Wilma has been looking to find opportunities for Arts & Culture to grow in our County. We have seen a renaissance of arts, culture and creative movements happening across the County which is really encouraging and inspiring. Funding for this is often limited and competitive. We have our own grant program.*

The point of attending the meeting for Wilma was just to initiate a conversation to see if there are any solutions that we can create for opportunities of bringing long-term sustainable arts funding. Recently there was an Ohio Arts Council meeting with arts organizations around Tuscarawas County because some of our organizations are eligible for Ohio Arts grant funding. This shows that we have a healthy and robust arts and culture community. There is still work that can be done locally to be able to continue into our own local organizations to see them grow and be involved in the community. Arts & Culture bring people together and improves the communities.

Commissioner Abbuhl wanted to know who the support group is for the arts? Wilma stated there is a Board of Directors with 16 -18 members, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Fund-Raising Committee, and an Art on the Alley Committee. Commissioner Abbuhl asked if there has ever been a Strategic Planning for the future? Wilma stated there is a Five-Year Strategic Plan for where we want to go for our organization.

Commissioner Abbuhl inquired if there is a Board of Directors already in place, why would we keep forming little foundations? Why wouldn't you have a central clearing house and do the things you are doing now with one board? Wilma stated she is looking for options and opportunities to getting the funding plan more organized and build something new for Tuscarawas County. Everything is definitely worth looking into and bringing everyone together to see what we can do to look at the long-term sustainability.

Commissioner Zemis stated at the United Way, it is one Board and it funds 22 different organizations at one time. This streamlines and funnels other 501C3 and requests go directly to that one Board. This could be a model to be looked at. One Board to streamline instead of several boards trying to do their own thing. Commissioner Zemis stated she cannot get over the beautification that has been happening. We do want to bring the whole County in on some of these projects. The United Way could be used as a template. Wilma is going to take these ideas back to the Board of Directors.

CODY PETIT: *Cody Petit from the State Treasurer's Office was present to meet the new Commissioners and give some state updates. Cody stated the AGLINK Program has been renovated and this has saved farmers about \$2 million across the state of Ohio, which is a pretty big win when inflation is hitting them especially hard. It is important to have a program that can make sure the cost of their money does not rise, this is what AGLINK does. It is a program that lowers the interest rate, it is an agreement with a bank that agrees to deposit under the market rate through the State Treasurer's Office and pass those savings onto farmers. It can be anywhere from a 1% to 4% savings.*

Cody also wanted to bring up Vision to Learn which has completed its first year. It was a huge success. It is through Results Ohio which is a program that allows the State to test private ideas/non-profit ideas through the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio. If the idea succeeds after being evaluated by a third-party auditor, they will get their money back on that initial investment. Vision to Learn is a mobile vision clinic in Appalachian Counties, especially in poorer schools. This has connected quite a few students with vision care that they would not have gotten otherwise. It is a great program and we are pretty sure it will succeed in the future. Commissioner Abbuhl stated there might be a good partnership established if each of the communities contacted their local Lions Club to help the children get glasses. Cody stated this concept of care could expand to dental and medical for students.

Cody stated that last year the credit rating for Ohio went up and we are now AAA, the highest you can get. This is a huge win for the state of Ohio as a whole. Commissioner Ress asked what our credit rating was before the change and Cody stated we were AA+. Standard & Poor is the global ratings credit rating company.

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU: *Dee Grossman, Executive Director, Convention Visitor's Bureau (CVB), was present to talk about Year in Review and Year in the Future. Ms. Grossman stated the focus for 2023 on the visitor's guide will be the Arts. The CVB is funded by the lodging tax. The CVB does not get any of the Municipality lodging taxes, only County. Several towns have enacted a 3% Municipality Lodging Tax. Commissioner Ress asked if someone stayed in a hotel in New Philadelphia, they would pay the 3% lodging tax for County, 3% lodging tax for Municipality and 6% State Sales Tax? The CVB will get 97% of the lodging tax and a portion of the sales tax, but nothing for the Municipality Tax. Ms. Grossman stated the lodging tax is set by Ohio Revised Code (ORC).*

Commissioner Zemis asked about the increased number of Air BNB's in the area. Ms. Grossman stated it is on the CVB and the State's priority list. In Tuscarawas County, there are 156 Air BNB's, this represents 961 places to sleep. The challenge with the Air BNB is they are not regulated with anyone. There are no safety precautions, no health concerns, people just basically open up their homes and rent rooms to people. There is a real struggle trying to figure out what to do with these. The CVB currently does not list them for the health and safety of our visitors. We don't know if the windows are painted shut or if there are working elevators, etc. Currently, the ORC allows you to set the collections of lodging taxes on properties that have one or more rooms. Tuscarawas County is set at ten or more rooms. Anything under ten rooms, there is no lodging tax collection, no regulations and no treatment of them as an actual business for Air BNB's. This is one thing we need help with in Tuscarawas County, we need to lower that collection to one or more rooms. The revenue Tuscarawas County lost in 2022 because of the Air BNB's is approximately \$4.6 million. The average occupancy is about 40% at about \$187. The lost bed tax revenue on the \$4.6 million is \$139,000.

There is some revenue to be gained by lowering those collections, but would also treat the air BNB's as an actual business, which would allow the Health Department and Fire Marshall to go in. Currently, because it is treated as a home, the Health Department and Fire Marshall cannot go in and inspect.

There is an appointed seat on the CVB Board of Directors for the Commissioners. The first meeting of CVB will be January 18, 2023. Commissioner Abbuhl advised THE re-organization meeting will be on January 9, 2023 and the seat for CVB will be decided. The annual audit for CVB is set for the end of January.

One other thing CVB needs help with is the lodging tax collection from three hotels is only accepting cash. The Auditor does have the authority to go into those properties and audit their books. It is assumed they do not have books. There needs to be a discussion with Larry Lindberg, Auditor, to see what can be done. Two of the hotels are owned and managed by the same company. They do not take credit cards and there are no phones at the properties. There is one phone that the Fire Marshall mandated they have in case there is a 911 call, they had to get new fire extinguishers, the pool is out of order, half the rooms are out of order, the hotels are a mess. The CVB does not list them on their website or in their Visitors Guide, the CVB does not market them.

Commissioner Ress asked how many visitors were staying at these hotels? Dee replied people are staying there by accident because the sign is still working, it is late and they are on an exit, and other hotels are full because of different events. The main things CVB needs help with is dealing with the air BNB's and figuring out what to do with the three cash only hotels. Commissioner Zemis stated the City of New Philadelphia is already looking into the Air BNB businesses.

Commissioner Abbuhl asked who decides how the lodging tax is collected? Dee replied the ORC states it is collected on one or more rooms, but the County has the right to decide their own. Tuscarawas County is at ten or more rooms before the lodging tax has to be collected. The Air BNB's are collecting the lodging tax, but are not paying it to the County. These places cannot be audited for the tax because they are not calling themselves a business. This is a home. All of these issues will be brought up at the CVB Board Meeting.

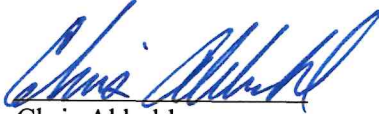
Dee stated good things going on in 2023 is Ft. Laurens is going to be rebuilt. Commissioner Abbuhl stated he appreciates the partnership the Commissioners have with CVB and the understanding both entities have for the economic value of travel and tourism. CVB reinvests in the County and brings in a lot of revenue from the visitors.

RESOLUTION (9-2023) ADJOURN

It was moved by Commissioner Zemis, seconded by Commissioner Ress, to adjourn at 2:18 p.m. to meet in Regular session Monday, the 9th day of January, 2023.

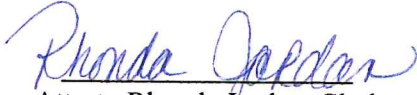
VOTE: Chris Abbuhl, yes;
Kristin Zemis, yes;
Greg Ress, yes;

We hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct account of the proceedings as had by and before us on the day and year first written above.


Chris Abbuhl


Kristin Zemis


Greg Ress


Attest: Rhonda Jordan, Clerk