

**RESOLUTION HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING NUMBER 1 ON LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO PURSUANT TO SECTION 4504.24 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE**

WHEREAS, this being the date set by Resolution No. 2023-246 adopted on April 25, 2023 to hold the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing on the Resolution levying an additional five dollars (\$5.00) motor vehicle license tax for Ashtabula County, State of Ohio pursuant to Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 4504.24, as enacted by House Bill 26 of the 132nd General Assembly, authorizes a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution levying an additional motor vehicle license tax upon the operation of motor vehicles on the public roads and highways in the county, which tax is in addition to the tax levied by Section 4503.02, 4503.07 and 4503.18, and any other taxes levied under Chapter 4504 of the Revised Code to include ORC Sections 4504.02; 4504.15 and 4504.16; and

WHEREAS, additional funds are necessary to adequately finance the planning, constructing, improving, maintaining and repairing of public roads, highways and streets, and the maintaining and repairing of bridges and viaducts; and

WHEREAS, public comments were heard, as follows:

Tim Martin, County Engineer explained the history of the Motor Vehicle Gas Tax and the reason for the additional \$5.00. There have been three, \$5 permissive fees instituted. The first in 1968, the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1988 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1998. The Engineer's office is not able to continue to service the roads at the current level. The proposed \$5 would bring in an estimated \$450,000 per year that would be expressly used for county road servicing and the county wide ditching program. He explained there is an increase in cost for road servicing and the current ditching program. Since the last \$5 which was 25 years ago, his office has reduced forces by 30% and utilizes cost-saving equipment. The additional funds are necessary to support countywide roadways.

Public: John Ginnard asked if the \$5 proposal is in addition to the \$15? Yes. He spoke about maintenance on the roads themselves, seems like it is focusing on Ashtabula residents, when others use our roads, such as trucks and factories use of trucks. Where is the focus on getting money from those people, instead of more taxes and burden on residents of Ashtabula County.

Tim Martin, County Engineer, responded in reference to the trucks that Ohio partners with other states, regardless if trucks are registered in Ohio, we still receive some funds. Other states share the registration costs, and the county receive some of those funds.

Commissioner Ducro thanked everyone for their comments. Doesn't like to pay increase himself, but 25 years is a long time to maintain services. What are consequences if we do not have the additional permissive tax, what can community expect to happen?

Tim Martin, County Engineer answered that the affect isn't immediate as the roads are in fair to mid condition. We probably wouldn't see degradation of roadways for 5-6 years, which would be more costly and challenging, with some roads would be in terrible condition and waiting to phase in. The Engineer's office tries to keep roadways on a 15 year paving cycle, while they can lengthen the time with crack/chip seal that buys a few more years to find funds. You would see a lot more chip sealing if funding is not secured. The funding sources of revenue are about

half motor vehicle license fees with the other half being gasoline tax. There is no county road levy or sales tax in place. This is the last \$5 permissive tax allowable by law. The legislature did modify the sales tax in 2018. History shows there is less gasoline being purchased. There is a study on alternate funding sources for roadways underway.

Denny Toth stated: 2.5 billion dollars the state is getting from us, what did we get? There is a truck stop at every exit, getting .48 cents per gallon, 38.5 is what Ohio gets, diesel is more. How much is coming back to the county? Mr. Martin replied: the gasoline tax is collected throughout the state and divided using a formula, split 88 ways. Discussion was held regarding this. This is for motor vehicle registrations.

John Ginnard asked how much would be collected with this new tax? \$450,000.

Edward Best stated: curious have roughly 90,000 motor vehicles, how many did we have 25 years ago? Mr. Martin responded that portion of the budget has remained roughly the same.

John Ginnard asked: does this only go before the Commissioners or to the people to vote? Only allows for the Commissioner, there is no direct path to place this to the voters under the statute.

There were no additional comments today.

For those unable to attend, the next public hearing is Tuesday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. The Comrs. welcome additional testimony may be emailed to the Clerk at [llhawkins@ashtabulacounty.us](mailto:llhawkins@ashtabulacounty.us) for those who cannot attend.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing on the matter of the proposed Resolution levying an additional five dollars (\$5.00) motor vehicle license tax for Ashtabula County, State of Ohio pursuant to Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code is hereby declared adjourned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Conference Room, 25 West Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 44047.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

**Resolution No. 2023-268**

**May 16, 2023**

**RESOLUTION HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING NUMBER 1 ON THE PROPOSED  
RESOLUTION LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) MOTOR VEHICLE  
LICENSE TAX FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 4504.24 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE**

**Upon the motion of J.P. Ducro IV, seconded by Casey R. Kozlowski.**

**VOTE:**

**Casey R. Kozlowski  
Kathryn L. Whittington  
J.P. Ducro IV**

**Aye  
Absent  
Aye**

**CERTIFICATE OF CLERK**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



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Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of the Board  
Board of County Commissioners  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

**SIGN IN SHEET**

| <b>NAME</b>    | <b>ADDRESS</b>                     |  |
|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Tim Martin     | 186 E. Sofin St. Jefferson OH      |  |
| Ed Best        | 3417 Wilkins Dr 44004              |  |
| Brian Webster  | St. Lucas                          |  |
| JOHN J GINNARD | 1068 Holcomb RD Jefferson OH 44047 |  |
| DENNIS JOHN    | 6230 TURNER RD PIERBOUT            |  |
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**RESOLUTION LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL FIVE DOLLAR (\$5.00) MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO PURSUANT TO SECTION 4504.24 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE**

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 4504.24, as enacted by House Bill 26 of the 132nd General Assembly, authorizes a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution levying an additional motor vehicle license tax upon the operation of motor vehicles on the public roads and highways in the county, which tax is in addition to the tax levied by Section 4503.02, 4503.07 and 4503.18, and any other taxes levied under Chapter 4504 of the Revised Code to include ORC Sections 4504.02; 4504.15 and 4504.16; and

WHEREAS, additional funds are necessary to adequately finance the planning, constructing, improving, maintaining and repairing of public roads, highways and streets, and the maintaining and repairing of bridges and viaducts; and

WHEREAS, the county wishes to levy an annual license tax upon the operation of motor vehicles on the public roads and highways in the county, which tax is in addition to any of the taxes levied under Chapter 4504 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, tax collected by the county pursuant to Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code shall be at the rate of \$5.00 per motor vehicle on all motor vehicles registered in Ashtabula County; and

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of any resolution authorizing the county to levy an additional motor vehicle license tax under Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code, the county must conduct two public hearings thereon; the second hearing to be not less than (3) but not more than ten (10) days after the first hearing; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code, the county is required to provide notice of the date, time, and place of both hearings by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, or as provided in Section 7.16 of the Ohio Revised Code, once a week on the same day of the week for two consecutive weeks, the second publication being not less than ten (10) but not more than thirty (30) days prior to the first hearing; and

WHEREAS, Ashtabula County has provided public notices twice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in the Gazette Newspapers on April 26 and May 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, two public hearings are set and held for May 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and May 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners meeting room, Old Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 40047, as required by law, with proper notice being sent; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio:

1. That the board of county commissioners, pursuant to Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code, hereby determines that it is necessary to levy an additional county motor vehicle license tax.

2. That an additional license tax is hereby levied pursuant to Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code; this tax is in addition to any tax levied pursuant to Section 4503.02, 4503.07 and 4503.18 of the Ohio Revised Code and any other relevant tax levied under this title of the Revised Code; the tax shall be at the rate of five dollars (\$5.00) per motor vehicle on all motor vehicles in the district of registration of which is Ashtabula County, Ohio; the rate shall be in addition to the taxes at rates specified in Sections 4503.04 and 4504.16 of the Ohio Revised Code.

3. That this resolution shall become effective thirty days following adoption and is subject to referendum as provided in Sections 305.31 to 305.41 of the Ohio Revised Code.

4. That the clerk to the board of county commissioners shall provide written notice of the adoption of this resolution to the legislative authority of each municipal corporation and the board of trustees of each township that is located in the county in accordance with Section 4504.24 of the Ohio Revised Code.

5. That the clerk to the board of commissioners is hereby directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the county engineer, the county auditor and the county treasurer.

6. That the clerk to the board of commissioners is directed to certify this resolution to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Attention: Tax Distribution Section.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all formal actions of the board relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of the board in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.