

RESOLUTION HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING NUMBER 2 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 2nd 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, there was one member of the public in attendance at the public hearing, with no comments being made; and

WHEREAS, 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 2nd in 1988 and the 3rd in 1998, which is 25 years ago. Inflation has eroded the Engineer's ability to continue to service the roads at the current level. The proposed \$5 is estimated to bring in \$450,000 per year that would be used for county road servicing and the countywide ditching program. The ditching program carries water away from county roadways, which benefits the roadway and county as a whole. They do contract paving of some state roads, more rural roads are treated with chip seal by county forces. He explained there is an increase in cost for road servicing and the current ditching program. Since the last \$5 which was 25 ago, his office has reduced forces by 30% and utilizes more efficient equipment and maintenance techniques.

WHEREAS, the consequences and any alternatives if the Engineer's did not receive the additional \$5 were discussed. The County Engineer explained that the impact is not immediate, they shoot for roadways to have a 15 year recycling cycle. At the last hearing question was asked regarding registrations in 1998 versus currently. There were 110,000 registrations in 1998 and 114,000 in 2020. It would be a slow decline using a surface band aid on the existing roadways. The funds are not immediately received. If the resolution passed and \$5 adopted before July 1, fee begins to be collected starting the first of year. To revisit the matter, if not approved, the process would have to be restarted with two public hearings and depending on the timeline, would need a decision before 7/1 to allow for a 2025 year collection. The Board could act today. There was one email submitted in opposition to the increase.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the 2nd 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 Board will make the decision to move forward or not to move forward with the proposed resolution. The Agenda Session was recessed to allow time for Board members to think on the matter. If it is the board's decision to act today, the resolution will be brought up for consideration at 1:00 p.m., when the session is recalled to order.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2023-287

May 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING NUMBER 2 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 Kathryn L. Whittington.

VOTE:

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

**Aye
Aye
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.



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