

RESOLUTION HOLDING HEARING ON THE 2024 ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT BUDGET REQUEST

WHEREAS, This being the date set for the public hearing on the proposed 2024 appropriations to the Ashtabula County Common Pleas Court in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 307.01(b); and

WHEREAS, Common Pleas has submitted their proposed budget for 2024 for consideration and discussion; and

WHEREAS, persons in attendance included: : Kathy Thompson, April Grabman, Christine Davis and Jessica Hatfield. Brian Haytcher; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners reviewed the budget as submitted by the Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas. Discussion was held regarding the Courtview upgrade project of \$1 million dollars (paid from ARPA funds), which has been ongoing with no outcome as of yet. An incident was described which shows how updated/obsolete the current system is, showing the important need for the upgrade ASAP. The upgrade deadline is October 2024. Received email from Judges and frustration has been expressed that the project is not moving forward or completed. The first presentation made many months ago was under the auspices that it would be a collaborative effort. At this time only one party is part of the conversation, the other two parties Common Pleas and Commissioners have been removed from discussions regarding the contract. If the parties are not brought back together to work collaboratively, cannot move forward and funds may not be provided if the contract does not come before the Board of Commissioners. There is a need to put aside personal issues to talk about the project collectively to ensure all needs can be addressed to move the project forward. It was clarified that the Courtview project can move forward, without the court computer fund issue being vetted. Set up a meeting with all parties prefer at least a judge, lower court and common pleas. Budget reflects a 3% raise, health insurance costs, etc. Adult Probation used grant funds, no General Funds were used. It seems like it will be 2% raise, but the decision has not been made. Court Computer fund is not a general fund expense, but is being subsidized by several hundred thousand dollars by the General Fund. Historically, paid by a variety of non-general fund sources, including special project funds. The Clerk of Courts is not contributing any of its revenue. Prosecutor's office provided an optional proposal, have not heard anything back. Discussion was held regarding how the court licenses were historically paid; and

WHEREAS, There being no further comments or questions, the public hearing was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the hearing on the proposed 2024 budget for the Common Pleas Court is hereby adjourned.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2023-525

October 17, 2023

**RESOLUTION HOLDING HEARING ON THE 2024 ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMON
PLEAS COURT BUDGET REQUEST**

Upon the motion of Kathryn L. Whittington, seconded by J.P. Ducro IV.

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