

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY**

**JANUARY 4, 2018**

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Regular Session. Roll being called found the following members present: Terry Boose, Bruce Wilde. Joe Hintz absent.

18-003

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE HURON COUNTY CLERK OF COURT TO HOLD MEMBERSHIP IN THE OHIO CLERK OF COURTS ASSOCIATION FOR 2018**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Susan Hazel, Huron County Clerk of Courts, has asked for approval in accordance with Section 325.21 of the Ohio Revised Code to hold membership in the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association for 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners recognize that membership in this organization would be beneficial; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Susan Hazel, Huron County Clerk of Courts, is hereby endorsed for membership in the above listed association; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the attached travel request for attendance of these meetings, related meetings, and educational meetings, is hereby approved by the Board of Huron County Commissioners; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the foregoing resolution was adopted and all actions and deliberations of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Huron, Ohio relating thereto were conducted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose

Absent – Joe Hintz

Aye – Bruce Wilde

18-004

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND LETTING OF BIDS FOR CONCRETE, GROUT & LOW STRENGTH MORTAR BACKFILL FOR THE HURON COUNTY ENGINEER FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2018.**

Bruce Wilde moved for the adoption of the following:

**WHEREAS**, the Huron County Engineer has requested that bids be received for Concrete, Grout & Low Strength Mortar Backfill; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to publicly advertise for bids for said materials and the Board has been presented with the proposed legal advertisement for review; and

**WHEREAS**, the Huron County Engineer has requested that the bid bonding requirements as provided in O.R.C. §153.54 be waived for said bids and in its stead a certified check in the amount of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) be required; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to O.R.C. §307.88(B), the Board of County Commissioners, by a unanimous vote of the entire board, may permit a contracting authority to exempt a bid from any or all of the requirements of O.R.C. §153.54; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Huron County Board of Commissioners hereby approve the legal advertisement as attached hereto and further, authorize the advertisement of bids for Concrete, Grout & Low Strength Mortar Backfill for the Huron County Engineer; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the necessary publication of notice of bids will be in the Norwalk Reflector and

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will be posted on the Huron County Website at <http://www.hccommissioners.com> and is accessible by clicking on Legal Notices; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that bids for the **2018 Concrete, Grout & Low Strength Mortar Backfill** will be received until 10:00 a.m. on January 19, 2018 in the office of the Huron County Commissioners at 180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7, Norwalk, Ohio, 44857. Said bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at 10:01 a.m.; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to O.R.C. §307.88(B), the Board, by unanimous vote, hereby waive the bid bonding requirements as provided in O.R.C. §153.54 for the bids herein; a certified check in the amount of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) will be required for bidding purposes; all other requirements of Section 153.54 of the Revised Code still apply for these bids; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the foregoing resolution was adopted and all actions and deliberations of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Huron, Ohio relating thereto were conducted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose  
Absent – Joe Hintz  
Aye – Bruce Wilde

**ADVERTISEMENT/NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Huron County Commissioners will receive bids for Concrete, Grout & Low Strength Mortar Backfill to be used in various Huron County highway projects and maintenance programs during the 2018 calendar year. **BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL 10:00 A.M.** on Friday, January 19, 2018 at the Huron County Commissioners office, 180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7, Norwalk, Ohio 44857.

Bidders may submit bids for any or all of the Proposals, however bids for each Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope, with the name of the Bidder and the name of the Proposal written on the outside of the envelope.

Proposals and Specifications may be obtained or examined at the office of Lee E. Tansey, Huron County Engineer, 150 Jefferson Street Norwalk, Ohio 44857. This legal notice may also be viewed by logging on to <http://www.hccommissioners.com> and clicking on the “Legal Notices” link.

All contractors and subcontractors involved with the project will to the extent practicable use Ohio products, materials, services, and labor in the implementation of their project.

Additionally, contractor compliance with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 123 is required.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Huron County, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Wage and Hour Administration, 614.644.2239.

By a unanimous vote of the Board of Huron County Commissioners, all of the bid bonding requirements of Section 153.54 of the Revised Code have been waived for these bids. A certified check in the amount of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) will be required for bidding purposes for each Bid submitted. All other requirements of Section 153.54 of the Revised Code still apply for these bids.

The Board of County Commissioners of Huron County reserves the right to waive any and all irregularities in the bids or bidding process and may reject any and all bids.

**HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
Vicki Ziemba, Clerk

**REGULAR SESSION  
HOLIDAY NOTICE  
NOTICE**

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ALL HURON COUNTY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018 TO OBSERVE MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

**THE HURON COUNTY TRANSFER STATION WILL BE OPEN**

HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Terry Boose, Joe Hintz, Bruce Wilde

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL**

Bruce Wilde moved to approve the following travel request this day. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose  
Absent – Joe Hintz  
Aye – Bruce Wilde

Lacey Bova, DJFS to Lucas City, Ohio on January 16, 2018 – January 17, 2018 for Core 2 Training.  
Lenora Minor and Charlene Steffanni, DJFS to Hancock County, Ohio on January 24, 2018 for CSEA Meeting.

**Administrator/Clerk report**

Mrs. Ziembra stated she shared a draft meet & greet and room dedication flier with the board. The board agreed to the date and time of Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The flier looks good and is ready to send. Would like Mr. Mead to order the plaque. Ms. Norton to send the notice out and purchase cookies, coffee, water. They would send the bill to the commissioners' office to pay.

Mrs. Ziembra updated the board that she spoke with Sharon Locke, Board of Election regarding the voting machines. Mrs. Locke informed that the voting machines were purchased under a managed service plan. This is a six year purchase plan. They will own the machines at the end and have an option to upgrade at the end or sign a new maintenance plan. Mr. Boose asked for them to check with their association to verify they are in line for a reimbursement. Mrs. Ziembra stated she didn't know if Ms. Locke has it in writing but she did state they already verified they are in line with a reimbursement if the state approves.

Mrs. Ziembra stated she spoke with Ms. Beck about putting the minutes on the website. Ms. Beck has been working on this but the problem she is running into is the website is very old and the creator of the site has gone out of business. We have been piecing it together for years. Every time she tries to change something, something else breaks. She has reached out to Mike Regan who is the IT for the office and he was unable to help because it is an old Dreamweaver program. We have asked him for a quote to create a new website. Mr. Boose asked that we reach out to Susan Hazel to see who redid their website and possibly get a quote.

Mrs. Ziembra stated she received a response from Mr. Brady that he had no other interested individuals for the airport board position. Mrs. Ziembra has scheduled Mr. Birchfield and Mr. Silcox for interviews for Monday during the reorganization meeting.

**At 9:15 a.m. Peter Welch, Director of Operations**, came before the Board to discuss custodial needs. Senior Enrichment has hired their own custodial person. Mr. Minor stated that Mr. Hintz stopped into their office to discuss that the custodial staff is understaff. Mr. Minor stated that if you look at the numbers they had a staff of 12 now they have a staff of 6, which included a floater. Mr. Minor stated he feels a floater would work now. Mr. Boose asked is there a way to hire someone who would have the ability to help Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Welch stated he wanted to look into hiring a maintenance 1, person to do both maintenance and custodial work. Mr. Welch stated there is a custodial who is looking to retire the end of February, but officially have not received a letter that they are retiring. Mr. Boose stated his opinion is to hire a maintenance 1 worker.

The Board discussed file storage. Mr. Tkach said he was told to get his files out of Shady Lane and he stored them where the room is that the Judge. Mr. Boose asked if Mr. Tkach was told to put his files here, Mr. Welch stated no, Mr. Tkach was just told to remove the files. Mr. Minor stated that Mr. Tkach would like to know where the Commissioners would like the files placed. Mr. Minor suggested that section that

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is being walled off down there, they can be placed on skids and tarped over. Mr. Tkach stated that would be fine for now. Mr. Minor stated another part of that conversation was, Mr. Tkach wanted to know where you want him to move his real estate people too. Mr. Boose stated that they were under the assumption that he did not need that spot. Mr. Welch stated Mr. Tkach said that those conversations did not happen. Mr. Boose stated that Mr. Tkach needs to talk to the Judge.

Mr. Welch stated that the tree cannot be removed by the engineer. They will need to take a crane back and the ground isn't frozen enough. The Commissioners would like this done ASAP because it is a safety issue.

**At 9:35 a.m. Public comment**

No Comment

Mr. Hintz and Mr. Welch are going to meet with Erie County tomorrow regarding the hauling contract at the landfill/transfer station. The way the contract works now is that we are contracted to Erie County for all of our waste to go up there. Erie County hires the hauling company to haul the waste up there as their subcontractor. We are having issues with the subcontractor since August 2017, we are at the last straw with them. Mr. Boose asked if it would be an issue if Mr. Hintz could not be there due to him being sick. Mr. Welch would like the force of a Commissioner to be there. The hauling contractor is not able to keep up with the waste flow with the current equipment they have. Another issue is you cannot leave any waste on the floor at the end of the night. Having a lot of incidents with a lot of waste left on the floor. Mr. Boose asked if there was a backup, Mr. Welch stated Erie County is working on it.

Mr. Welch gave handouts in regards to the updated five year plan. Mr. Welch stated the bulk of the five year plan is parking lots and roofs. Mr. Boose would like to add the air conditioning unit in the old antique mall.

**At 9:45 a.m.** Chad Stang, Aaron Robinson, Nathan Soil & Water District to discuss the Stieber Metro Parks District. Mr. Boose stated that they have never done one of these with the group of people we have, Mr. Boose is saying help, what do we do? Mr. Strickler stated that apparently we have a petition, however we do not know if this petition is correct. Mr. Wilde asked what do you mean by correct, Mr. Strickler stated legally correct and follows the statue. Mr. Wilde asked what the next step, Mr. Boose stated that is what we are trying to figure out. Mr. Strickler stated that the petition in front of him does not comply with the statue. Mr. Boose asked if there was a contact person, Mr. Stieber, Mr. Stang stated yes.

Mr. Stang stated the question here is since there has been so much back work done, they had a petition that went all the way to end, however did not have a final hearing, so right now it is getting the landowners to approve the start of this process. Mr. Stang stated they are not even to a petition portion, Mr. Stang stated if the petition is what is needed to be signed and filled out before we move any further, before the first hearing, then that is what they need to do. Mr. Robinson asked if the petition can be signed at the showing, Mr. Strickler stated no, the petition is what starts the whole process with the time clock going. Mr. Boose asked Mr. Tansey if that is correct, Mr. Tansey stated yes, if there is a fee involved they must file that. Next step is everyone is sent a certified letter inviting them to meet at the site, the Commissioners will then take into consideration the Engineers Report. Mr. Tansey stated that the Commissioners can move forward with this with a 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing. Mr. Boose asked without being a legal representative, can they guide them on this. Mr. Stang asked does this piece of paper work for a non-voluntary group, Mr. Strickler stated no because it is still not a petition. Mr. Stang stated you don't need a petition for a non-voluntary group. Mr. Strickler stated he does not know what a non-voluntary group is.

Mr. Boose would like to have Mr. Strickler to take a couple more days to look over this, look at the couple different options. Mr. Boose then stated maybe they can have an informal meeting with the Stieber's regarding this. Mr. Stang that paper wasn't something they came up with, it was already developed. Mr. Strickler stated he represents Soil and Water so he can sit down and tell Stieber's what the process is. Mr. Stang asked if they need to reinvent the petition paperwork, Mr. Strickler stated no. Mr. Strickler stated that once the proper petition is received then the time clock starts.

**At 10:06 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to enter into Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual. Discussion: For compensation & creating a part time position in the prosecutor's office. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote**

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*resulted as follows:*

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*Aye – Terry Boose  
Absent – Joe Hintz  
Aye – Bruce Wilde*

**At 10:27 a.m.** *Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G) (1). Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:*

*Aye – Terry Boose  
Absent – Joe Hintz  
Aye – Bruce Wilde*

**\*No action taken**

**At 10:30 a.m.** Mr. Boose asked Cary Ashby, Norwalk Reflector if there was anything he needed. Mr. Boose stated that long term goals they are meeting Monday to reorganize and hoping by the end of March having a list of long term goals. Mr. Boose explained that we will lose \$780,000 a year due to Medicaid. They also discussed moving Senior Services and Veteran's from Shady Lane due to the building falling down.

Mr. Ashby stated they have gotten some feedback from "Second Chance K-9" what is their big issue. Mr. Ashby asked what that has to do with the dog pound and Commissioners. Mr. Boose stated he appreciates what they are trying to do, they are trying to do something for the animals. Mr. Boose stated on the other hand he thinks there is some confusion about what our Dog Warden does overall. Mr. Boose stated his opinion on the Dog Warden is they are supposed to pick up dogs and try to get them back to their owners as soon as possible, and if they can't then they go up for adoption. Mr. Boose stated that Mr. Ousley has done a pretty good job getting the dogs adopted. There are some differences of opinion especially to animal issues. Mr. Ashby asked does the policy fall under the Commissioners, Mr. Boose stated that he must follow the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Boose stated that some of the things the group is looking to change, it requires them to change the law.

Mr. Boose discussed the AEZ meetings that will be held tonight, first one at 5:30 p.m. for local governments, second one at 7:00 p.m. for the public.

**At 11:05 a.m.** the board recessed to attend the Muck Crop lunch and will return for the evening meetings.

**At 5:30 p.m.** the board resumed regular session. Commissioner Boose and Commissioner Wilde in attendance. Commissioner Hintz absent.

Mr. Boose stated this meeting is for local government officials to hear your opinion. Give a generic description of what we are talking about tonight. 1. AEZ (Alternative Energy Zone) it is for the whole county. 2. Pilot (Payment in lieu of taxes) which is project specific. 3. Wind energy or wind farm.

There are two projects now one in Greenwich which has been going on for a while. The one being discussed now is in the Bellevue area. The company is Apex. The project is Emerson Creek.

Mr. Boose stated right now they are not excited or looking at AEZ. Mr. Boose stated that what is going on in Greenwich is totally different then what is going on in Bellevue. Two different companies, two different processes and approaches. Apex is saying without an AEZ we can do a Pilot project. Mr. Boose stated when it goes to a Pilot project we lose some local control on the project, which means road agreements and other agreements will have to go to the Power Sighting Board at the state level, they will have the final say.

Mr. Boose stated that according to ORC if you do a pilot project it states how much money will go to the mileage and the county general fund, in a Pilot program in the amount of \$8,000 per megawatt. Has nothing to do with how much energy it produces. It is based off the label on the turbine that states how much it can handle. Mr. Boose stated the payment would not fluctuate, this would be for 30 years. Mr. Tkach stated that this is in the political subdivision where the project is, and the formula is the percentage of the total tax rate. Mr. Boose asked is it safe to say that a majority of this will go to the school, Mr. Tkach stated yes, around 75%.

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Mr. Boose stated they average out over 30 years, besides the 8,000 there is another \$1,000 that goes to the general fund at the county. It would be 450,000 annually that would go to the county general fund. That's if both phases of the project go through. Apex is looking for this because it evens out the payments.

Mr. Boose explained that they already had one meeting for the public come to speak. Spoke with counties that have an AEZ and a county that did and rescinded.

Mr. Boose explained that they have received 20 to 30 letters asking us to support this project included Seneca County Commissioners and Sandusky County Commissioners, they are asking us if we don't do an AEZ that we do a Pilot.

Mr. Boose read a list of supports by the City of Bellevue, Seneca Regional Planning, North Coast Young Professionals, Huron County Economic Development, Seneca Economic Development, Bellevue Development Corporation, Huron County Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue City Schools, Seneca East City Schools and Seneca County Cattleman's.

Mr. Wilde read excerpts an email from Apex:

One thing to note, under the Huron tax rates, full taxes over the 30 year project timeline are estimated to average between \$8,500-\$8,900/MW. Year 1 is around \$16,000/MW and Year 30 around \$2,500. This is actually lower than the PILOT payments of \$9,000/MW.

By spreading it out equally, the project pays its fair share over the entire 30 years. Additionally, the PILOT guarantees Huron County that we will secure a Road Use Agreement, provide emergency services training, and partner with an educational institute and is separate from standard taxes and will not affect your valuation

Mr. Boose stated that this has nothing to do with the construction of this piece, there will still be people put to work. Mr. Boose stated remember this is like a pipeline, they will be in and out.

Mr. Boose opened the floor for comments:

Dave Lepley, Lyme Township asked about the road maintenance. Mr. Boose stated that currently for a lot of the pipeline projects we have/or had we have RUMA's that the township actually signs off saying that this is a road use agreement for this project. Mr. Boose stated they have been told instead of the township having the final say regarding the rules, it really is the Power Sighting Board that does. Mr. Boose assumes that they will be talking to the townships, and Apex stated they will be involving the local governments into the discussion. Mr. Lepley stated that when the utopia pipeline went through the township trustees did sign that road use agreement.

Lee Tansey, Engineer, stated RUMA's with giving up control is scary. With the pipeline RUMA, they had someone out taking pictures weekly and are working with the pipeline companies to get these fixed. With the windfarms the heavy load will be more frequent. Mr. Tansey stated there is no roads in the county that can handle that kind of repetitive load which will be costly for the Engineers Office. Mr. Boose stated the Power Sighting Board is also there for the community and not just the company. Mr. Boose stated that they are a state organization, they will not allow these companies to come in and not pay for damage.

Mark Risner, Greenwich Township against AEZ and Pilot. Mr. Risner feels turning it over to someone over 200 miles away is a poor way to do it, it needs to stay in the control of Huron County.

Dale Daniels, Wakeman Twp. they are not in favor of giving up local control. Mr. Daniels asked in regards to the Pilot, what about the mileage for the schools how does that effect the 20 million floor. Mr. Tkach stated it is a percentage. And inside millage and 20 mill floor is not affected.

Wendy Kidd, New London Twp. asked which county had an AEZ but changed it and why they did. Mr. Wilde stated it was Van Wert County. Mr. Boose stated they spoke to Van Wert County in open session. They said the Townships came to them and told us they didn't like it. Ms. Kidd is not in favor of giving up the local control.

Dale Daniels, Wakeman asked what does an AEZ give you that we don't have now.

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Mr. Boose stated it's almost like a pilot program for the whole county. If we have an AEZ then they will not have to come to the commissioners for approval they just begin their project.

Dave Lepley, Lyme Twp. Mr. Lepley stated Lyme Twp. will be heavily involved. Initially was for this project but went through the links that they were sent from Wendy Kidd and did not see one positive thing in any of them. Mr. Lepley feels they need more time to research. Mr. Boose stated there are thousands of articles out there where you will see article for and against. What we are seeing in Huron County is 2 totally different projects and ways they are done. Mr. Boose stated Apex has an office in Bellevue and is vocal in communicating regarding this project.

Mr. Lepley talked about compatibility in agriculture. They will not be able to spray and it will impact agriculture if you can't use all the tools. Subsoil will not be as productive for the yield. If production goes down then the payment will don't be worth it. Mr. Lepley stated he has not signed or had an attorney look at the contract.

Mr. Boose stated to be careful with just reading articles. Also technology changes drastically through the year. These are bigger than any you've seen.

Mr. Lepley asked how long do we have, if we do not have an AEZ or Pilot what happens to the project. Mr. Wilde stated there has not been a windfarm to date without an AEZ or Pilot.

Chad Stang, S&W stated AEZ lose all control, Mr. Boose stated they have to follow state and federal laws. Mr. Stang questioned with an AEZ would they also have control over the road use agreements?

John Arehart, Apex stated the pilot and AEZ are set up identically. Only different is AEZ is countywide. Pilot is project specific. The State requires with both the AEZ and Pilot a mandated RUMA, to provide emergency services training, and partner with an educational institute. Mr. Boose stated there is a local RUMA.

Kris Green, Western Reserve school board, if the county doesn't approve either will the project go in other counties. Mr. Boose said that's what he understands.

Dick Wiles, Norwich Twp. at the last meeting didn't they say there is only 6 counties that have AEZ. Mr. Arehart stated he believes 8.

Steve Rospert, Bronson Twp. is there a board that is in control of the AEZ. Who makes up the regulations? Mr. Boose stated the ORC made the process. The Power Sighting Board is the agency. Mr. Rospert asked that it would be easier for a windfarm to come in if there is an AEZ. Mr. Boose stated yes but they still have to follow the rules and guidelines. Mr. Rospert asked if the county could set up different rules, Mr. Boose stated no.

Wendy Kidd asked if the difference in a pilots study and non-pilot study, Mr. Boose stated it is not a study it's a pilot project. Ms. Kidd asked what part of the ORC mandates this, Mr. Boose stated to go to the ORC alternative energy zones.

Jim Scott, Plymouth Twp., what point is environmental study done and who does it. Mr. Arehart stated it happens in advance of submitting the application to the power sighting board. The board has members who review this section and will give back any feed back to you. Mr. Scott stated wind turbines of this size can cause an environmental impact on the residents. Mr. Scott is not taking a side.

Mark Risner, Greenwich Twp. The environmental study done ahead of time. The person benefiting from it is the one doing the study.

Wendy Kidd, New London Twp., she stated she still does not understand the rules and regulations under the ORC, the ORC is only regarding the money and taxes, says nothing about protecting the farmers, townships and roads. Mr. Boose stated that's all totally different, the ORC tells you what an AEZ does. Mr. Boose stated that they have no local control over the environmental study that is controlled by the state and federal government. But what we do have control over is that tax money or in lieu of tax money

Dick Wiles, Norwich Twp., if you don't have the AEZ or pilot what is the tax. Mr. Boose and Wilde stated it differs. The front would be 16,500/MW the end would about 2,500/MW.

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Mr. Tansey asked is that money guaranteed or is that by production? Roland Tkach, Auditor stated the Pilot is based on the rated amount. This is just like paying real-estate taxes.

Wendy Kidd, New London Twp., stated she sent the Commissioners the same email she sent the other townships.

Dale Daniels, Wakeman Twp., stated he is not in favor of the AEZ. If you want to go with it the pilot is the way to go.

Mr. Boose asked the gentleman from Wester Reserve School since they are the only school how they would like it if it's in their area for budget purposes. The only thing that bothers them about this is that if they did receive money, the state will look at them and say you're wealthy and cut their stated funding. Mr. Boose explained how the schools are funded.

Lee Tansey, Engineer stated economic development is good. From the office standpoint it's indifferent. Pipeline does the RUMA in good faith and he's concerned with the negotiation of RUMA with windfarms. Mr. Tansey asked if there isn't a mutual agreement who is the deciding factor? John Arehart stated he thinks the power sighting board. Mr. Tansey stated he is concerned with the burden it will put on their office. RUMA's are mandatory.

Mr. Boose stated now's the time to speak up. Not sure if there will be another meeting like this. They will need to make a decision soon. Mr. Boose stated if they have problems then get it to them.

Dave Lepley, Lyme Twp., his concern is the information he got was all negative. Did not research the positive side. Mr. Arehart said there are many links and people are welcome to come to their office to discuss. Mr. Lepley stated he understands and appreciates the process they are doing to try to make a decision.

Dick Wiles, Norwich Twp., their township recommends they don't do an AEZ. Mr. Boose asked about a Pilot, Mr. Wiles stated that they don't know enough about it.

Mr. Boose stated to get a hold of us to let us know if you agree, disagree or have questions.

Mr. Boose stated they really trying to understand.

Wendy Kidd, New London Twp., major benefit is the money and are you looking at the farmers.

Mr. Boose and Mr. Wilde stated absolutely this is not a money only decision.

**At 6:46 p.m.** the board recessed.

**At 7:00 p.m.** the board resumed regular session for public comment from citizens. Mr. Boose stated they just had a meeting for local governments.

Mr. Boose made a correction to the discussion earlier regarding for money for schools. If they have and AEZ or Pilot that it is not tax money. Meaning the state will not look at the schools and see they have additional tax money. This is not considered taxes it is payment in lieu of taxes.

Mr. Boose stated that if anyone is here from the previous meeting please sign in for the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Mr. Boose stated going to go over definitions for 3 topics they will discuss tonight.

1. AEZ – countywide – commissioners not in favor of this.
2. Pilot - project only basis. Payment in lieu of taxes.
3. Wind farm – not individual wind turbines. This is a project of a group of wind turbines that a group puts together that buys and sells energy.

Mr. Boose asked speakers to state if they are for or against a pilot, AEZ, or windfarm.

Mr. Boose stated he has the first page of individuals signed up to speak. 3 minute limit. Would like to know where you are from.

Someone asked if there are tax abatements. Mr. Boose stated it is not a tax abatement. Mr. Boose stated that if we have an AEZ or Pilot Project, the money is not going to be collect as a tax. Mr. Boose stated it



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is a payment in lieu of taxes. Mr. Boose explained how the County gets the money, according to the ORC the payout is \$9,000 per megawatt annually. This is not by what is being produced that is what the label/stamp on the turbine. Therefore if this turbine says it produces 10 megawatts, it doesn't matter how much it produces that year. The money they pay is based on how much they could possibly produce. Mr. Boose stated that there is a total of \$9,000 per megawatt paid for 30 years, of that money \$8,000 of that \$9,000 will go to the subdivisions or tax district based on the tax rates for that subdivision. Mr. Boose stated that a majority of that \$8,000 will go to the school. The other \$1,000 per megawatt will go to the General Fund for the County. These are not taxes they are in lieu of taxes. Mr. Boose stated that if the county doesn't have an AEZ or Pilot program then they will pay taxes which is called "Public utility personal property tax". This is based on the value of that item and that item depreciates every year.

Samuel Randazzo, Columbus Ohio representing the citizens in Greenwich. Whether it is a AEZ or Pilot which is tax exempt. That exemption is triggered by an application that is filed with the Ohio Development Services Agency by the project developer. They determine if the project is a qualified energy project. If the agency determines it is a qualified project, no tax exemption becomes effective unless or until favorable action by the County Commissioners. Mr. Randazzo stated that if the Commissioners do not approve this, they still have tools at the County level. Mr. Randazzo asked the Commissioners before you make any decision await project specific information, the turbines are getting bigger and bigger and they tears communities apart.

Kevin Ledet from Greenwich is against AEZ. Mr. Ledet asked how can the school boards agree to this if they don't know the figures regarding a financial gain or loss. These figures are for the life of the project not 30 years. The tax values may be a little more then why do they say if they don't get it they will walk away. Mr. Boose stated it is because it is less money for them to start the project. Mr. Ledet asked is enterprise zone is an option. Mr. Ledet stated the Power Sighting board is not here to protect the citizen's interest.

Sarah Moser from Van Wert County and they have an active windfarm. Ms. Moser works for Apex. Ms. Moser stated she was the Economic Development Director at the time this windfarm came into Van Wert, and she had many similar questions that the Huron County is having now. Ms. Moser stated she saw the windfarm as the biggest economic development opportunity for their county. Ms. Moser stated that Apex is asking for a Project Specific Pilot, they are not asking them to open the entire county to an AEZ. Ms. Moser stated that regarding the taxes, this is a huge investment upfront. Ms. Moser spoke about the health and sighting, the Ohio Power Sighting Board the way they have this set up is they have people that are paid to research, study, to be smart on this regarding shadows and noise. Ms. Moser stated that this will help with Economic Development.

Tyler Duvelius, is the current State Director for the Christian Coalition of Ohio and her represent the thousands of Christian Coalition supporters from Ohio and around the country. The Christian Coalition is a conservation political organization that has a membership of pro-family Americans who care deeply about ensuring that government at all levels serves to strengthen and preserve American families. Mr. Duvelius stated he is here tonight to speak about, and voice my support for, the Emerson Creek Wind Project. This is a tremendous opportunity for families of Huron County. That is why he is asking the Commissioner to approve a project – specific Pilot so Emerson Creek Wind can move one step closer to reality. The Christian Coalition supports a true "all of the above" approach to achieving energy independence in the United States. Through the achievement of energy independence, America will become safer and more resilient to international geo-political pressures, we will create jobs and opportunity for our families, and we will be able to be consistent with God's call to be good stewards of our home here on Earth. The Emerson Creek Wind project is set to provide many benefits to families in Huron County. Over the next 30 years, nearly \$100 million will go to the landowners and local schools. An additional \$27 million will be paid to the county and local townships. It will also create 130 jobs. That means 130 families that will be able to have good news to share as they sit around their dinner tables. Opportunities such as this do not come around often and when they do, it is imperative that they are acted upon so that families may benefit. The benefits won't only serve Huron County residents in the short term, but this project will be a boost to the economic competitiveness of Huron County for generations to come. Mr. Duvelius stated he would be remiss if he did mention the benefits that this project would have for the agricultural community. Being able to create an additional revenue stream without impacting farming practice provides additional income security for our farmers. Harvesting the wind to produce clean and affordable electricity will provide families who farm an increased peace of mind. This is why the American Farm Bureau shares the perspective of the Christian Coalition in calling for the "further

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development and use of renewable energy sources.” Mr. Duvelius explained the experience he had while visiting Van Wert a few months ago. While he was there he was able to meet with the Chamber of Commerce President who told him how local wind projects had provided a much-needed boost to local small businesses. Mr. Duvelius then met with a local school board president who talked about how the schools have benefited from a Pilot agreement. He then met with local families who spoke about how wind developments had improved their way of life. Even the employees at his hotel marveled at how full the hotel had been since the wind projects began. It was clear that the entire community was benefiting from wind developments and that same success can be enjoyed here in Huron County. Mr. Duvelius urged the Commission to support Emerson Creek Wind and approve a project specific Pilot for Emerson Creek Wind.

Tom Yingling from Bellevue, for the wind project. Scientifically no negative health impact. Mr. Yingling stated that this is 9 years in the project and the efficiencies are much better. Do what’s best for Huron County and he would like to see you vote in favor of the Emerson Creek project specific.

Don Ruffing, Seneca County, in favor of project specific pilot. Wind energy is clean energy as opposed to nuclear. Would like the board to support Emerson Creek project specific project.

David Fox, Norwich Twp. In favor of pilot for Emerson Creek.

Brad Rhine, Bellevue, in favor of wind. He wanted the Commissioners to know what the youth prospective is.

William Todteryeen, Willard, in favor of pilot project.

Steve Erf, Lyme twp. is in favor of pilot program. He feels that the Pilot Program will be beneficial for the schools.

Greg Yingling, Bellevue is in favor of wind energy. In favor of a Pilot Program.

Melissa James, Norwalk is in favor of wind project. In favor of Pilot Program.

Greg Swartzmiller, Seneca Co/Huron Co, in favor of wind project. In favor of Pilot Program.

Carol Knapp, HCDC is in favor of project specific pilot. Ms. Knapp stated that it is very rare that the rural counties get an opportunity like this. Ms. Knapp stated the Apex has been very upfront regarding what is going on with the project.

Bonnie Rhine, Greenwich is not for AEZ or Pilot that involves a windfarm. Ms. Rhine stated that we have heard a lot about the benefits regarding this, she doesn’t dispute this, and however there are always costs. Ms. Rhine stated that there are health issues along with it being a huge lighting rods. Ms. Rhine stated the repairs to the roads would cost the county more money.

Heidi Johnson, Greenwich is against the AEZ & Pilot. Ms. Johnson stated that wind turbines are 30% efficient. Ms. Johnson stated that the only pro she can see is that there will be money. Ms. Johnson stated the con is the health and welfare of the residents of Huron County. Another con is losing control to the state. Ms. Johnson feels the money could be spent a better way towards the schools.

Audrey Vogel was from Greenwich, moved to North Fairfield is against windfarm. Ms. Vogel was an adjacent property owner to the Greenwich project. Ms. Vogel stated she asked the project manager about health issues, Ms. Jensen stated majority of people do fine, Ms. Vogel asked Ms. Jensen to explain that small percentage that don’t, Ms. Jensen never would. Ms. Jensen thought it would be a great idea if Ms. Vogel go to Van Wert for herself. Ms. Vogel stated that her husband and she went to Van Wert, there is noise it sounds like jets taking off. They spoke to some of the residents at Van Wert, they told them to fight them tooth and nail on this.

Mark Weaver from Texas there is a lot of economic resources and benefits with the turbines coming into the community.

Fred Ramsey, Norwalk is not in favor of wind turbines in Greenwich.

Karen Bomb, Sherman Twp. is in support of the Apex pilot.

Russell Maliki, North Fairfield is not for AEZ or Pilot. Not in favor of wind farms. Mr. Maliki stated that this torn neighbors apart. The community will never be the same. Mr. Maliki asked that everyone research this.

Jim Scott is a retired NASA scientist. Mr. Scott stated people’s lives are impacted by your decision. The needs of people come first, make sure all environmental rules are followed. Not everyone will benefit.

Steve Stockmaster, Huron County is for the project.

Roland Tkach Huron County Auditor, he addressed the values of property taxes. Mr. Tkach stated that they will treat everyone fairly with what they observe and see.

Joan Myers, Sherman Twp. is leaning towards windmills. Ms. Myers does have concerns about what our payback period is. How they will be placed in order to benefit as many as possible and be more efficient.

Gerald Oney, Greenwich commend the commissioners for having the public forum. Mr. Oney is opposed to wind turbines and opposed to AEZ. Mr. Oney doesn’t believe there’s a rush to approve, the Commissioners need to keep as much local control as you can.

Gene Lamorgaugh, Greenwich is not in favor of an AEZ, pilot or windfarm.

Marcia Ledet, Greenwich is against AEZ and pilot. Ms. Ledet stated that they have done 3 years of research on these windfarms.

Matt Erf, Bellevue is in support the pilot program and Emerson Creek. Mr. Erf stated that bringing people to the community is a great thing, there for he is in support of this project.

John Arehart from Apex, the number of permanent jobs considered 20 to 30 new high paying jobs and that job will be here for 30 years. Mr. Arehart stated they spent millions of dollars on consultants. Mr. Arehart stated they want the Pilot Specific, and why not an AEZ is because they heard the concerns regarding the project in Greenwich. Mr. Arehart stated they are 11 miles from Greenwich, they took this into consideration when designing this project. Mr. Arehart stated they have had 700 people who have signed up for this project therefore they would like the Commissioners to approve a Pilot specific.

Tim Williams, Greenwich is against an AEZ, Pilot and windfarm. He will be directly impacted with the Greenwich project.

**At 8:37 p.m.** Bruce Wilde moved to adjourn. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

**IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFICATION**

The Clerk to the Board does hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct record of all actions taken by the Board of Huron County Commissioners on January 4, 2018.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p. m.

	Terry Boose
	Absent
	Joe Hintz
	Bruce Wilde

**ATTEST**

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Clerk to the Board