

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL**

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

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

- Meredith Tavenner, JFS, to Akron, Ohio for CORE Training on March 3 - 4, 2020.
- Steve Minor, B&G, to Elyria, Ohio to pickup up “Visitor Only” signs on February 20 or 21, 2020.
- Vickie Ziemba & Cherise Webb, Commissioners, & Tracy Konik, Engineers, to Marysville, Ohio for CCC-EAPA Regional Training on March 6, 2020.

**Commissioner Boose report**

Report on Public Defender webinar. We need to send them something by the 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Boose would like to inform them we are at the rate we need to be at by July 2020. We will readdress it by July 2021. Our pay scale is in line with every other County in the area, except Richland County. They were the ones that told everyone not to give in and raise rates, and then they went ahead and raised theirs.

**At 9:10 a.m. Public Comment – none**

**At 9:11 a.m. Terry Boose moved to enter into 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 and ORC 121.22 (G) (4) preparation for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions for public employees, concerning employee compensation or other terms and conditions of employment. Bruce Wilde seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:**

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

**At 9:43 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) and (G)(4). Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:**

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

**\*No action taken.**

At 9:44 a.m. **Budget Work Session.** Mr. Boose noted that Ms. Ziemba had done a good job of identifying for them what was used in #021, #022 and #310 in the Capital Budget. They decided to start with **Capital Improvement Projects**, since it would affect other things. Ms. Ziemba stated the Treasurer’s office had said if the check scanner went down they would need \$20,000 – that was not in there yet. Mr. Boose thought #320 was done, we should not look there for money. Ms. Ziemba said that was correct.

#310 cash balance – \$447,325

Mr. Boose explained to Mr. Wilde that when you move money into **Permanent Improvements**, it takes a Court order to move it out of there if it is not a permanent improvement.

**At 9:49 a.m. the board recessed**

**At 9:58 a.m. the board resumed regular session.**

Mr. Boose would like to reseat the remaining parking lots and use #310. He estimated this will roughly cost \$50,000. He questioned if they should put it in #099 or just not worry about it since there is enough in there now. Ms. Ziemba said they have \$100,000 set aside like they do every year. She suggested they use #310 and then stick with the plan to move \$100,000 over if it is not needed.

**Administration building:** Elevator – need \$250,000. We still don’t know if we can use the CI grant. They will make a decision on whether to move forward with the project when they get further into the budget. Basement offices. Mr. Boose would like to take money from #021 for renovations. We don’t know what we are going to have to do - \$25,000.

**Courthouse:** Prioritize projects that need to be completed. Mr. Boose suggested putting a certain amount aside for the Courthouse. Because we don't know how much they are, we prioritize what we want done from that money. If we can get them all done, great, but if we can't we don't. After discussion it was decided on four items in the following order:

1. Building handicap ramp needs to be done.
2. Clock tower base structure repair. The sandstone and brick are deteriorating. Somebody was supposed to have a renovation specialist come in and give us ideas of what they think needed to be done. Damschroder said they don't do that. It has nothing to do with the roof, it is the actual structure of the clock tower – the base.
3. 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway floors. Mr. Boose had a discussion with the floor guys. They were concerned about compromising the historical look of the building. Also, he thinks they need to find out why it is cracking before they cover it up. Mr. Wilde asked if that would require an architect. It will.
4. Outside lighting. Mr. Boose would like it to look better at night. Mr. Wilde thought the clock tower should be lit. Everyone agreed it was a beautiful building.

Mr. Boose thought we would need about \$200,000. This would have to come out of #310. He thought it would help with everything else if we got a CDBG grant for the ramp. Ms. Ziemba said this would require an architect or an engineer to provide a quote. She asked if they wanted her to go out to get RFQs for architects and engineers. They did.

**Common Pleas Court.** Attorney meeting room. They have already agreed to do this. Mr. Boose would like this to come out of #021 - \$6,850.

**Office Building.** Stair treads all need replaced to look good and match. After discussion it was decided to hire this out rather than try to do it in-house. If railings are loose fix those at the same time. Estimated \$2,000 from #022.

**Treasurer.** Mr. Boose thought if we were going to do this ourselves he would add another \$1,000 for the HVAC freeze & leak. #022.

There is a light, ceiling tile and wall that need redone in the back room. He would add another \$1,000 for that. #022

**22 East Main St.** Mr. Boose wanted to prioritize projects that needed to be completed there. He asked if there was anything they could do to insulate any part of that to make it more efficient.

1. First priority is to look at the vestibule to see if it can be insulated or something can be done to increase heat/air savings.
2. Second priority would be the windows on the second floor. They didn't think anything had ever been done with those. Discussion on how much this would cost.
3. Mr. Boose wanted to do something with the lighting in the building, but they weren't sure what the building will be used for. Mr. Wilde liked the lighting in Meeting Room A and would love to do that – drop ceiling and LED lights. Arts Council probably would not like the idea of a drop ceiling.

After discussion it was decided to set aside \$50,000. Mr. Boose couldn't see putting any more into it than that. #310.

**Shady Lane Complex.** No one thought this would happen this year. Mr. Boose suggested setting aside \$25,000 for the new pole barn. Ms. Ziemba will mark this as a 2021 project. We are still waiting on the EPA for further instruction regarding the underground storage tanks that were removed. This will be #022.

**Old BMV/Title.**

Wait to talk with Family Life Counseling before billing utilities. Mr. Boose thought we needed to put meters in to split the utilities. Mr. Welch needs to determine how everything is hooked up. If it's cheaper to do this when we demo the old buildings then okay to wait. Would like to put utility meters, \$5000, #022.

**JFS.** Mr. Boose asked if carpet was more expensive than the floor we just put in in Meeting Room A. Mr. Wilde would like to get a quote on the hallways. If they pull the carpet they will have to grind the glue off the floor. Mr. Boose suggested we put that all down for 2021 and take time to figure out the best way to do it. He would like to just do the roof in 2020. \$150,000 out of #310.

**Jail.** Roof and fencing – only if state money.

**BMV/Title.** Can use remaining funds they have if they want to do anything.

**Old Jail.** Mr. Hintz would like to keep the old jail in the short term and only if there is a need for it. He thought they would have a difficult time getting the historical society to give the okay to tear it down. Mr. Boose said he has talked to them. Mr. Wilde said they don't want it. Mr. Boose had spent the first two years of his term trying to sell it, give it away, do something with it. Mr. Hintz feels we have so many other things going on and it is not a priority. He did suggest possibly taking down the eyesore between the old jail and the Courthouse. Mr. Boose said that was where the heat was located. We are still providing minimal heat to the building. Mr. Wilde thought we ought to spend the next year checking into what can be done. Mr. Boose thought we should put no money into it; if something happens we will have to find the money for it. Mr. Hintz asked if we could look into whether the heat runs across the catwalk. They will check with Mr. Bettac. Mr. Boose pointed out the Courthouse and the old jail are considered one building.

**Airport.** They don't have a good estimate on the underground storage tank. They have quoted \$14,500 to remove the tanks, but Mr. Boose thought they were already gone. Ms. Ziemba will find out if they are still there or not. The laws are changing, so we need to take care of this in 2020.

Mr. Boose noted there are a lot more roofs that needed to be done at the airport. We already paid \$25,000. He does not want to do any more this year. He would like to get a long term plan for all the buildings at the airport. They will talk to the Airport Board about this.

**Fairgrounds.** West side electrical upgrade - \$50,000 is the preliminary estimate. Mr. Boose would like to contact the Fair Board to find out if they are any closer on their numbers. Mr. Boose considers this a utility upgrade to County property. If they can get a grant for part of it and are willing to put in some of their own money, he is okay with it. Ms. Ziemba said we can earmark \$50,000 in #099. If they receive the grant and need the match we can transfer it to #038 - Fair Board. Mr. Boose pointed out we would be done paying the bonds in 2021.

**At 11:15 a.m. the board recessed.**

**At 11:45 a.m. the board resumed regular session.**

Ms. Ziemba said that of the projects discussed today, #021 totals \$33,150 additional. #022 is \$34,000 additional. #099 is an additional \$50,000. #310 shows \$450,000 total for the projects that were ranked. Mr. Boose pointed out there was \$447,325 in there that was not spoken for. Ms. Ziemba wanted to confirm with Ms. Stebel that there were no projects hanging from last year or earlier this year. Mr. Wilde said the new budget number according to the Auditor is approximately \$20,000,000. This does not include the adjustment for the Public Defender.

Review of the budgets from 2016 – 2019. Overall there was about a 7.5% increase over the last three years.

Mr. Boose had reviewed the budgets line by line. He had no changes to #001, #002, #003, #004. He pointed out the Auditor budget had increased 9% over the last three to four years.

**Treasurer.** She has requested an additional \$2,000. She does a great job with what she has, and she spent almost everything last year. Mr. Boose had no problem giving her the \$2,000. This will put it at \$190,308.

**Prosecutor.** Mr. Boose said while the Commissioners' budget has gone up 7.5%, the Prosecutor's budget has gone up 37.5%. He was asking for \$767,000; we gave him \$746,000 in the interim budget. He is saying he needs the whole \$767,000, which doesn't include the 1% salary raise. Mr. Wilde suggested giving him \$750,000. Mr. Boose said the other problem is the Public Defender is comparing himself to the Prosecutor and it is not even close. The Prosecutor spent \$757,000 last year. Knowing he purchased things like servers and dehumidifiers, Mr. Boose thought they needed to challenge him to do it with \$750,000.

**Board of Revisions.** This is fine.

**Human Resources.** Mr. Boose had changed his mind and thought they should leave this where it was.

**Juvenile.** Three of them will need to go up based on the salary increases. Juvenile Court – #013 needs to be \$418,582. #014 needs to be \$399,163. #015 stays the same. #016 is \$195,256.

Mr. Boose asked why Probate Court was more than the budgeted amount last year. Ms. Ziemba said that was where they transferred the money from #099 to pay for the scanning project.

**Clerk of Court.** This is okay.

**Coroner.** This is okay. \$121,961.

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

**Municipal Court.** This went up because they said it needed to go up. Ms. Ziemba said it needs to go up again – we just did a transfer in of \$1,549.95. \$240,550.

**Board of Elections.** Mr. Boose wants to look at this again. They asked for \$503,316. We rounded it to \$500,000, but that doesn't include pay increases. However, they are just guessing at what they need because of a big election. He thought \$500,000 would be okay.

**Capital Improvement.** Ms. Ziemba said there are only two lines in there – **Equipment** and **Other Expenses**. The amount needed to cover all the payments is already in the **Equipment** line - \$152,055. Mr. Boose asked if this included the Sheriff's cars. Ms. Ziemba said it did not – we don't have the numbers yet. Mr. Boose suggested using top of the range they had given us - \$175,000. Ms. Ziemba was concerned \$35,000 wouldn't be enough in **Other Expenses** - they did a lot of little projects last year. Mr. Boose suggested putting \$75,000 in the **Other Expenses** line. Total of \$402,055 – round to \$400,000. Mr. Boose noted that the last two years they had paid for the Sheriff's vehicles in full. Starting next year, the payments would be dropping off and changing these numbers.

**#022 – Buildings & Grounds.** Mr. Boose thought they were okay; Mr. Welch was not aware of any major changes. There was just the \$34,000 for projects discussed earlier that day, but Mr. Boose thought there was plenty in there for that.

**#023 – Sheriff.** Skip this for now.

**Recorder.** No changes.

**Huron County Development Council.** Mr. Boose thought we should give them \$24,000, since we don't know how much the other study is going to cost. We have already more than doubled what we are spending on economic development. He hates to go over the \$97,000, especially since they turned us down to do the study. Mr. Hintz kind of understood – NEDC turned us down too. Mr. Boose said regardless, we still have to do it. Mr. Hintz thought it was a mistake to go backwards on HCDC. Mr. Wilde would like to give them the full amount this year. Mr. Boose forgot to mention he only wants to give this amount if we have a seat at the governance part of the committee. Mr. Wilde thought the meeting had been a wake-up call for them and he hoped going forward we would get some things we asked for. Mr. Boose suggested we guaranty payment to them for the first two quarters. The second two quarters would be based on whether they are moving in a direction that the Commissioners feel benefits the county. Also, the Commissioners would have a seat on the governance board. Mr. Wilde was okay with that idea.

Ms. Ziemba wanted to confirm the numbers. They were saying half to HCDC – she wanted to be sure that was half of the \$47,000. So that would be \$23,500 for HCDC. Mr. Boose said we will leave \$50,000 in 099. If we see things are getting done, then we will pay for the second half - \$23,500, as long as there is money in their to pay for the airport study. There is also \$50,000 in **#099** to pay for Firelands Forward. There is no change to **#099**.

**EMA** – no changes. We gave them what they asked for, the reason it is down is because the \$60,000 got taken out of there for her salary line item. The only payroll in **#026** would be the EMA Director.

Mr. Boose noted there were no raises in any of the budgets. He had approximate figures - a 2.5% raise it would be \$82,000 and a 3% raise would be \$98,000. Mr. Boose pointed out that government employees used to get paid less because their benefits were so good. That is especially not true anymore with their pension. Who knows what kind of pension the new people starting now would get. There probably won't be any health care in it. That used to be why people would take less money to work for the government – they knew when they retired they would have what they need. Mr. Boose does not believe that is the case anymore. He believes other businesses are beginning to give benefits comparable to what government used to give. He thinks we need to treat our employees fairly, because it is no longer the situation where they get better benefits than everybody else.

**At 12:28 p.m. the board recessed.**

**At 2:00 p.m. the board resumed regular session**

**Terry Boose reported on his conference call – General Government and Operations Committee.** Talked about several things, including making holding a cell phone while driving a primary offense. Everyone agrees it is a safety issue, but the one thing that hadn't been addressed is what this could possibly do to our Court system. If people want to fight it, they will have to go municipal or juvenile court. He thought all juvenile traffic offenses required a court appearance as well. This could end up being a burden to the Court system. But the big topic of discussion was the response due to the State Public Defender's office by February 27. The Committee recommended that the first thing we tell them is we want them to take over the public defender system in total. We should also oppose any rules that they have, even though

we abide by them. We don't know what the next budget is going to do. If we agree to those rules, and the next budget gets cut back to 40%, then we end up paying more. CCAO really doesn't think a public appointed commission should be allowed to tell us how to do things in our county. They want to make the point that we went them to take it on entirely and they should not be making rules for our local government. There is no guaranty what our reimbursement is going to be.

**Budget work session continued**

**027 – Public Defender.** Mr. Boose believes overall we are going to save money if we add a legal counsel. They requested approximately \$84,000 additional. This includes money for a new attorney plus money to bring the seasoned attorney up to the same rate. Mr. Boose recommended we give him \$85,000 based on this request. He is to add an attorney and increase the pay for the existing attorney. If he decides to use it any other way, then we will have to readdress in next years' budget. Mr. Boose pointed out he was given 3% last year. He gave it out as he saw fit rather than to each employee. When he starts falling behind because he did not give the raises provided, that is his decision. Bring his total to \$425,611.

**OSU – 4-H.** Ms. Ziembra received a note saying they can live this year but it will go up \$10,000 next year. Mr. Boose said we need to discuss this sooner rather than later. He is not for giving more money for something the State says they have to do.

**Health and Welfare.** Good

**Health and Vital Statistics.** Good

**031 - Children's Services.** Mr. Boose was concerned after the last Claims Schedule and how we can keep paying that much for the rest of the year. He would like to leave it where it is, but he would like Ms. Minor to come in as soon as possible. He would like her to confirm she is okay with that dollar amount based on the population we have in the expensive foster care.

**032 - Mechanic.** We need to give whatever raise the union gave him and then apply that to PERS and Medicare. \$69,750. This includes everything.

**Veterans.** No change.

**Soldiers Relief.** No change.

**Public Assistance.** New number that they gave us.

**Jail Operations.** Will come back and discuss at the same time we discuss Sheriff.

**Soil & Water.** No change.

**Fair Board.** If we put the \$50,000 for the electrical upgrade somewhere else we are okay. Ms. Ziembra already had it in #099.

**Insurance and Taxes.** No change. Ms. Ziembra verified this with Ms. Horvatic at the Auditor's office, since they pay the insurance portion. Mr. Boose said at the meeting they had they discussed a bill that would allow first responders to get PTSD help under Workers' Comp. This can become very complicated and very expensive.

**Miscellaneous.** This is where we pay for indigent defense. Mr. Boose would like to increase indigent defense fees for the Court of Appeals to \$75. A lot of counties have already gone to this rate, and if we are not where they are we not get anybody to take the cases. Since we were increasing the rate by 25%, he said they should increase that portion of the budget by 25%. Discussion on where this was paid from. Ms. Ziembra was not sure which fund it was paid from. Mr. Boose pointed out there are not many of these and suggested putting \$5,000 in their budget. Ms. Ziembra will determine where to put that. This would put the budget amount as \$385,000. We will also need a resolution for the fee increase.

**Contingencies.** It is what it is.

Mr. Boose had no changes to the rest of the items, other than **Transfer Out** and #099. Ms. Ziembra said there was a small cushion in the interim budget, which she thought would cover the additional \$50,000 for the Fairgrounds. \$1,274,000.

Discussion returned to **Sheriff** and **Jail Operations**.

**Sheriff.** Mr. Boose went back to the 7.5% increase in the budget over the last few years. The Sheriff is up 30% since 2016. Mr. Boose thought this was a huge increase, regardless of whether the old Sheriff was

where he needed to be or not. Almost every line item is showing a 30% increase. Mr. Wilde was concerned about what would happen when we expand the jail. The Sheriff had asked for \$2,452,299. They had given him \$2,207,934 in the interim budget. The Sheriff had brought the budget down to that number, which included the 3% salary increase. It was decided this was a good number.

**036 - Jail Operations.** Mr. Boose said the jail has gone up 35% since 2016. Some of this was due to the number of prisoners, but that was definitely not the whole 35%. The money that was used for the bonds should be going for Capital Improvements, but instead it has gone into Operations. Mr. Boose did not think they were doing a good job of controlling costs at the jail. He used the water as an example. After paying \$20,000 for a new system to control the water, the bill has still gone from \$48,769 in 2016 to \$53,706 last year. After discussion it was decided to leave them were they had been for the interim budget - \$3,610,501.

**IT account.** Mr. Boose did not think we should start with less than \$200,000. Mr. Wilde noted we don't know when it would start. Mr. Hintz pointed out if there wasn't money set aside it would never start. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba to set up an IT account line, with all the detail lines as well. He wanted her to put \$100,000 in **Salaries**, \$50,000 in **Equipment**, and \$50,000 in **Other**. He thought this would be a good place to start. \$200,000 is just a random number. However trying to determine what we have spent over the past year on IT would require searching Equipment, Supplies, Other, Contract Services, etc. Mr. Wilde is going to contact Mr. Miller from Green County. Ms. Ziemba clarified they wanted her to work with the Auditor's office to get an I.T. account set up for the final budget, with the appropriate line items. Mr. Boose said if we can get someone hired this year and put a budget together for next year, he would be happy.

Mr. Boose said the last thing they needed to discuss was percent raises for the employees. He thought that after today's discussion there would be enough for 3%.

Ms. Ziemba determined they were currently at \$18,996,078, with nothing in **Contingencies**. Mr. Boose suggested they send preliminary final numbers to each department. If they know of any emergency or something that is not in there they can come back to us before the final budget. They can also move numbers around within it without adjusting the bottom line.

At 3:07 p.m. Terry Boose moved to adjourn. Bruce Wilde 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 February 20, 2020.

**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 3:07 p. m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Boose

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Hintz

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Wilde

**ATTEST**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board