

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

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the June 30, 2020 and July 2, 2020 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Terry Boose made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 30, 2020 and July 2, 2020 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Bruce Wilde seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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

20-181

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUESTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$1,000.00 SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD JULY 16, 2020

Terry Boose moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, requests for expenditures of over \$1,000.00 have been submitted for approval by the Board of Huron County Commissioners as follows:

Job & Family Services

MNJ Technologies Microsoft Surface laptop (16) \$19,904.00

Commissioners

MNJ Technologies Microsoft Surface laptop (3) \$3,732.00
now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the requests for expenditure of over \$1,000.00 as listed above; 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.

Bruce Wilde seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Mr. Wilde asked if this was considered a Covid expense. Ms. Ziemba said it was.

The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Boose asked if a meeting had been set up with the Park Board. Ms. Ziemba stated she has left messages and is awaiting a call from their board contact. Mr. Strickler had not reached out to Paul Dolce yet. Mr. Boose stated the purpose of the request is to find out what parks they take care of and if they are aware of people partying at the Land Lab.

Discussed setting up a meeting with the Norwalk City Schools, George Fisk and Enrichment Centers for Huron County, Steve Beal.

At 9:10 a.m. Public comment - Howard Krikke. Mr. Krikke explained everyone that was with him were residents of Ripley Township. He said they have a goal and have sent recommendations to their local zoning officials. Mr. Krikke was concerned about the chicken facility being built at the corner of Edwards Road and Route 224. It is located about 800’ from his back porch and 500’ or 600’ from three other houses. They have already discussed this with Soil & Water and RCS. There will be about 110,000 chickens in two facilities; which will turn about 8 or 9 times a year. This means that almost one million chickens will go through each year. This facility is only located on about 15-20 acres of tillable ground. That number of chickens will produce approximately 1,100 tons of manure and 30,000 to 40,000 dead animals each year. This will all have to be disposed of somehow.

Mr. Krikke provided more data: It has been reported that there is up to 40% residential property devaluation within ½ mile of these facilities. There is a 66% increase in odds of community acquired pneumonia. He had obtained this information from Pennsylvania Department of Entomology and Health Services. Mr. Krikke also had a report from the United Nations, which referenced a report from the Ohio Department of Health that read: “residences that are located in close proximity of poultry facility, within one-half mile, have 83 times the average number of flies”. Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri all had problems and have established regulations. Mr. Krikke noted that if these requirements were put in place in Ohio, the individual at the corner of Edwards Road and Route 224 – Case Farms - would not be allowed to build. He thought regulations could be established at the township level. However, Morgan County has done it at the county level, stating “We are trying to protect our residents as we grow and protect our existing farmers. There are concerns about air quality, water quality, waste disposal”. Mr. Krikke thought the chicken facility was not only going to affect Ripley Township, but also Greenwich Township, New Haven Township, New London Township, as well as Fitchville, North Fairfield and others.

There is also concern with disposal of the large quantity of manure. There is only so much agricultural land and the manure has to be put someplace. If the manure is used to meet the nitrogen requirements in crops, there is a substantial buildup of phosphorus that occurs in the soil. Mr. Krikke explained the phosphorus will drain into the upper water sheds of the Vermilion and Huron Basins and eventually end up in the lake. This will cause fish kill and toxic algae blooms.

Mr. Krikke referenced another article entitled The Exploitation and Abuse of a Chicken Plant, which is written about Case Farms. He noted that Case Farms was listed as having OSHA violations at the rate of 74 per 1,000 employees. With the exception of one other chicken farm, the average number of violations was 10 per 1,000. This included such farms as Tyson and Purdue. He thought that was a good indication of how Case Farms ran their business.

Mr. Krikke wanted to close with a comment from the U.N. Report. He quoted: “the geographic location and intensity of poultry activity is thus less and less linked to agriculture and land use parameters”. In other words, poultry production is shifting from agricultural use of the land based on biophysical criteria – soil quality, climate, length of growing season – toward industrial use of the land. This is not just plain farming anymore.

Michelle Morris. Ms. Morris’ family has lived in Ripley Township since 1941. She said they are traditional farmers, and are not against farming. They are against the poultry barns not having setback or other requirements. They have talked to the Township. The Township says they have no say in the matter. Ms. Morris said few years ago there had been chicken manure flying everywhere around them. Her mother, who has had three strokes, could not breathe. She ended up with an infection in her lungs and has had trouble breathing ever since. The chicken barns are affecting the health of the residents. Ms. Morris said they are just asking for protection for their community and the county. She said beside the manure, over 14 wells in the township have gone dry. This only became a problem after the industrial size barns were built. Now the residents have to pay for Rural Water, yet the chicken barns do not. She feels they are taking resources from the land. They are industrialized, this is not traditional farming.

Sharon Sehira. Ms. Sehira said they have been farming for 40 years and moved into the area five years ago. Two chicken barns were built just over a year ago, each holding 110,000 chickens. Her husband has COPD, and has experienced severe breathing problems. Ms. Sehira has never had breathing problems, but said she now basically lives on Benadryl because she can’t breathe. They have suffered loss of enjoyment – the flies are too heavy and the smell is too bad to do anything outside. Despite the fact that they have invested well over \$100,000 in their home, the value has decreased from \$250,000 to \$200,000. Now they want to build more chicken barns across the street from their home. Ms. Sehira feels these chicken barns are a public nuisance.

Mr. Boose noted that they had mentioned 110,000 chickens and asked if there was a certain number where the regulations change. Mr. Krikke said when they hit 125,000 the ODA has more oversight on the facilities. So they stay just below that. Mr. Krikke thought Ripley Township should put something in their zoning similar to what was done in North Carolina. Mr. Strickler explained ORC §5119.211 restricts townships from regulating agriculture except in limited ways. He said the township cannot adopt regulations similar to North Carolina because Ohio law will not let them. Mr. Strickler has spoken to Ripley Township. The Trustees want to do something, but there is nothing they can legally do. Mr. Krikke thought it was time things changed.

Mr. Boose said Mr. Stein is already working with the Legislative Service Committee to draft something. Mr. Krikke explained they are looking to protect their residential home values and their health. Mr. Boose suggested they might want to ask Senator Manning to draft something similar to what Representative Stein was working on. This would allow it to be passed in the House and Senate much more quickly.

Emily Krikke. Ms. Krikke is a Registered Nurse and is in grad school to be a Nurse Practitioner. These chicken barns are impacting the health, the community, and the property values they have worked so hard to build. She attended the Township Trustee meeting. They are very frustrated with the Trustees, who said there was nothing they could do. All the Trustees really did was basically advise going against the rules. This is what they have been trying to avoid. Mr. Krikke said he raises hogs – they have very strict practices and principals. The chicken industry does not. He feels this makes all livestock look bad.

At 9:45 a.m. Terry Boose 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 and ORC 121.22 (G) (6) Specialized details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or public office. 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 10:45 a.m. Terry Boose moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) and (G) (6). 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*

**No action taken*

Commissioner Wilde report

Board of Revision meeting July 22nd. This will last all day.

GLCAP transportation meeting next Wednesday, July 22 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Mr. Boose will be able to attend since Mr. Wilde will be at Board of Revision.

Land Bank meeting next Thursday. This is a Zoom meeting also.

Commissioner Boose report

Mr. Boose had received an email from FCFC. He wanted to know why they were involved in things that had nothing to do with them. The email referenced a disconnection order from PUCO. That is not what they are supposed to be doing. They are supposed to be wrapping around issues that families have with children, mostly special needs type issues. They should not be doing these type of things.

At 10:53 a.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 July 16, 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 10:53 a. m.

Signatures on File