

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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 January 5, 2021, January 7, 2021, and January 12, 2021 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 5, 2021, January 7, 2021, and January 12, 2021 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Joe Hintz seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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

21-046

IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFYING CLAIMS SCHEDULE FOR PAYMENT BATCHES TO THE HURON COUNTY AUDITOR FOR PAYMENT:

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, as per Ohio Revised Code 305.10, a resolution must be made by the Board of Huron County Commissioners to accompany the Claims Schedule to the Huron County Auditor’s Office for payment;
now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve Claim Register for Payment Batches #311070 and authorize the Huron County Auditor to make the necessary warrant;
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.

Joe Hintz seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Ms. Ziemba said the descriptions for the Staples invoices for the Sheriff’s office had been corrected on the Claim Schedule. Mr. Boose explained it looked like there was a \$912 payment for a La-Z-Boy chair. This was actually for three office chairs. Mr. Boose was concerned since the descriptions are all they have to look at, and there is not much of one. These are critical for them to figure out what is being paid.

IT contracts. Mr. Boose is seeing a lot of payments for IT contracts and support on the Claims Schedule. He would like to discuss at the Elected Official/Department Head meeting later this morning. Before going out and paying for support, he would like to see what can be done in-house. Mr. Boose understands there will still be a lot of contracts for software.

Mr. Boose noted that some of the descriptions indicated “indigent” and some indicated “appointed counsel fees”. He asked if that was another description error. Ms. Ziemba said it was, it depends on who is entering the bills.

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

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

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WHEREAS, Mr. Scheel shall be compensated at the rate of \$12.00 per hour, plus the current IRS mileage reimbursement rate per mile driven in the performance of his duties, not to exceed the total sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00);
and

WHEREAS, the term of this Agreement shall remain in effect until December 31, 2021; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Agreement with Steve Schell to serve as the Huron County Deputy Apiarist as attached hereto and incorporated herein;
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.

Joe Hintz seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** This had been discussed last week, but Mr. Scheel was out of town so the contract could not be signed.

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

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

**Agreement on file*

21-048

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUEST FOR EXPENDITURES OVER \$1,000.00
SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Bruce Wilde 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:

<u>Building & Grounds #022</u>		
GLA Water, Inc.	Water Chemistry Management Service (Admin. Bldg., Office Bldg., JFS, Sheriff’s Ofc.)	\$1,854.00
<u>Commissioners #001</u>		
Meritech Office Technologies	PowerEdge T440 server	\$10,000.00
<u>Job & Family Services #115</u>		
Warwick Communications	Phone system maintenance	\$6,247.67
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.

Joe Hintz seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Mr. Boose asked about the payment to GLA Water. Ms. Ziemba said it was a proposal for the water chemistry management service program. GLA supplies all water treatment services for the cooling tower and closed loop water systems. There is one for each of the buildings.

Mr. Wilde asked Mr. Riedy to provide some background on the server purchase. Mr. Riedy explained the Commissioner’s office has the oldest server still in use. It had hit end of life by Microsoft. He will replace the server and bring the software up to current versions. This will be supported for the next ten years and will keep them safe from hacks and viruses.

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Mr. Boose then questioned the phone system maintenance. Ms. Ziemba said it was annual maintenance for the JFS phone system. Mr. Boose thought it was a lot of money and asked if we had phone maintenance at the other buildings. Ms. Ziemba said we did, they had been purchased in phases, so they would probably be coming due.

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

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

21-049

IN THE MATTER OF DISPOSING COUNTY PROPERTY

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Huron County Airport has various equipment which no longer work and/or are obsolete and cannot be repaired; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners hereby determines that they are not needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 307.12(I), the Board has the authority to discard or salvage such property; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby directs that the list of obsolete county property as attached hereto and incorporated herein be disposed of; 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.

Joe Hintz seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Mr. Boose thought it was always good to get rid of items that weren't being used.

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

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

**List on file*

21-050

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND LETTING BIDS FOR THE 2021 TOWNLINE ROAD 12 PHASE 1 RESURFACING PROJECT

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Huron County Engineer has requested approval for seeking bids for the 2021 Townline Road 12 Phase 1 Resurfacing Project; and

WHEREAS, notice of this must be placed in a newspaper of general circulation and on the County's website pursuant to Section 307.87 of the Ohio Revised Code; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve of letting bids for the 2021 Townline Road 12 Phase 1 Resurfacing Project; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that notice of this will be placed in a newspaper of general circulation and posted on the County's website www.hccommissioners.com accessed by clicking on legal notices, until the bid is opened on Friday, February 19, 2021 at 9:01 a.m.; and further

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the foregoing resolution was adopted and all actions and deliberation 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.

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

Aye – Terry Boose

Aye – Joe Hintz

Aye – Bruce Wilde

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids may be submitted on or before the bid opening date of February 19, 2021 until 9:00 a.m. local time, at the Huron County Commissioner's Office, 180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7, Norwalk, Ohio 44857, for the following Project: 2021 Townline Road 12 Phase 1 Resurfacing Project. Bids shall be opened and publicly read aloud at 9:01 a.m.

Bid Documents, including contract terms & conditions, must be obtained for a \$20.00 (check only) non-refundable fee from the Huron County Engineer at 150 Jefferson Street Norwalk Ohio 44857, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (holidays excluded). Bidder may elect to have these documents mailed to them for an additional fee of \$10.00 for shipping.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety.

Each proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed no later than September 25, 2021.

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.

All proposals must be submitted bound in their entirety, and on the forms furnished in the Contract documents. Bid documents must be obtained from the Huron County Engineer, no copies will be accepted.

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.

This advertisement may also be found on the Huron County Commissioners website at <http://www.hccommissioners.com> and can be accessed by clicking on Legal Notices.

Advertise February 4, 2021

TRAVEL REQUESTS - None

SIGNINGS

Ms. Ziemba stated Tacy Bond submitted a Payment Request Form for the final payment to Cleveland Communications Inc. in the amount of \$576,270.75 for the 911 communications project.

Bruce Wilde moved to approve signing the Payment Request for the final payment to Cleveland Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$576,270.75 for the 911 communications project. Joe Hintz seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose

Aye – Joe Hintz

Aye – Bruce Wilde

Mr. Boose stated he has received calls from a resident that lives out by Sandhill Road. The signs indicating the road is closed have been disappearing. This has happened more than once. A lot of cars get right to the road before they know it is closed and have to turn around. Mr. Boose would like to contact the Engineer's office just to make sure they are aware of it. Mr. Fridenstine from the Engineer's office was present. He said they have erected permanent signs and are in the process of putting "Road Closed Ahead" signs along the state route.

At 9:30 a.m. Cecilia Blevins and Ben Kline, Board of Elections – Ms. Blevins told the Board that Brett Harbage, ADA Coordinator from Secretary of State's office, had planned to attend today's meeting, but had been unable to make it due to the weather. She provided a copy of his email:

The concern with the board of elections being on the second floor is largely due to the non-compliant elevator that is needed for people with disabilities to access the programs, services and activities offered by the board of elections. There is concern that at any given time a person with a disability could potentially be discriminated against when trying to access the board office due to the limitations with the elevator. The elevator has multiple accessibility compliance concerns that could limit access to the county board of elections for people with disabilities, the compliance issues are listed below:

- **No audible signals**
- **No braille floor designations on hoistway**
- **No braille on the in-car controls**
- **Emergency intercom does not have braille**
- **Emergency intercom not usable without voice communication**

The compliance issues listed above have the potential to severely restrict access for a person who is visually impaired or blind. All these compliance issues do not allow a person who is blind or visually impaired to know which way the elevator is traveling, not having any braille prevents them from knowing what floor they are getting on or off on, having no braille on the in-car controls prevents them from selecting the floor they need to travel to and the intercom is not identified with braille, which prevents a person from identifying the intercom if help is needed on the elevator. The last compliance issue is the emergency intercom is not usable without voice communication, which would prevent someone with a disability that affects their verbal communication from being able to call for assistance if needed.

The main concern from an ADA perspective is the physical access to the elevator, **the elevators in-car dimensions do not meet the minimum ADA requirements and the elevator door opening is only 32" wide**. These two compliance issues for a full size elevator provide a very restrictive space for people using mobility devices to be able to safely maneuver in and out of the elevator independently. It is also my understanding that there has been some mechanical issues with the elevator causing it to be out of service for hours or a day or two at a time. These accessibility compliance issues and the elevator possibly being out of order could potentially prevent someone with a disability from accessing the board of elections.

Although, there is not a specific ADA requirement for the distance a person should travel to get to the county board of elections office, there is obviously a long distance to travel from the accessible parking spaces, down the long ramp, into the building and then up to the second floor. This could potentially be a barrier to some people needing to access services offered by the county board of elections.

Ideally, the solution and obligation under the ADA is to remove barriers to the county board of elections to ensure that no person is discriminated against when trying to access the programs, services and activities offered by the board of elections. I am sure both the financial feasibility and structural feasibility of replacing or trying to bring the elevator into compliance are very prohibitive in this situation. It is my understanding there might be an opportunity to move and occupy some vacated space on the lower level of the building. This would be a great opportunity to make all these ADA compliance issues go away for the board of elections, moving the office is readily achievable because the space is now available and seems feasible, versus bringing the elevator into compliance or replacing it. This will eliminate the need for a person with a disability from using the elevator, which limits the potential for a person with a disability from not being able to access the board of elections.

If the commissioners have any questions or concerns, please have them call me directly at 614-387-6039 and I would be more than happy to discuss the accessibility concerns identified above and in my attached reports.

Mr. Kline stated the last time they met the Board of Elections had been presented with a temporary solution for the 2020 elections. They had been told to see how things worked and then the situation could be reevaluated. That was why they were in today. After holding both the primary and the general election in Meeting Room A last year they are looking for one location. Being on two floors created a number of issues for the staff and the voters. They had posted signs out front instructing people to park out back; they posted signs in the building. Ms. Blevins explained they had also posted directions on the website. People still went to the office upstairs to vote. Mr. Kline said they would like to have one location for everything and not have to go upstairs for this and downstairs for that.

Mr. Kline explained they have something called L&A – logic and accuracy - of all the machines. After they were done checking the machines, they would have to run the card back up to the office. They are required to have both a democrat and a republican in each room at all times. Therefore, when he was done checking a machine, he had to make sure someone else came down so he could go upstairs. This caused the amount of people they needed to increase. Also, moving the machines from one room to another created issues for other people trying to hold meetings – the machines are noisy.

Mr. Kline moved on to the issues they had with early voting. During the general election they had 8,000 people come in for early voting and another 8,000+ ballots requested by mail. This was probably one of the biggest elections they will ever have. Again, they had people come to their office trying to vote. There was some confusion and some upset people. Mr. Kline said, for the staff, there had been two big obstacles to being in two locations. Board of Elections offered curbside voting, which is just what it sounded like – they voted in their car. When someone would show up, both a democrat and a republican had to go out to the car. If there were only three people in the office, they had to put everything away and lock it up so two of them could go outside. Also, there is no phone system in Meeting Room A. Curbside voters would call the office, then the office would have to call the workers downstairs on their cell phones. If they did not have enough people they would have to send someone downstairs.

There was concern that the budget for seasonal workers will increase if they are in two locations. They do not expect this year's primary to be very busy. Not every location will be open, since there are not issues in every precinct. If they were in one location their costs would go down. It would also make it more feasible for them to do their work, as well as provide services, including curbside voting and provisional ballots.

Ms. Blevins explained that provisional ballots were another issue. They were printed in the office, then both a democrat and a republican had to take them downstairs. These cannot be printed until people actually come in. They had over 700 of these during the last election. The staff in Meeting Room A would have to use their cell phones to call upstairs to the office for the provisional ballot. The ballot would be printed upstairs, then a democrat and a republican would have to take it downstairs. They had to have enough people to keep the office open upstairs and still have two people available to run to the basement, even during the last week when they were open until 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Blevins said it was trial and error. The Commissioners had asked them to try it, and they did. There had been issues – up and down the stairs, no phones on the basement. It was a lot of running around. But it was a busy election, and they understand that.

Mr. Kline explained that if there were any issues, he and Ms. Blevins are responsible. Having two locations was difficult. For example, if there is an upset voter they asked the poll workers to inform them about it. Being in two locations made those situations hard to handle. The elevator did go down one day. They had an employee that could not report to work because she could not use the stairs. Mr. Kline acknowledged it had been fixed pretty quickly. But the fact was it did go down.

Mr. Kline said they realize any move is going to cost money, inevitably. They have some money left from the security grant. The State extended the date that has to go back, so they do have some. The money can only be used on certain things, but they would like to use that if the space is allotted to them. Also, because of Covid they had to purchase a lot of additional items, such as barriers and aprons. The State has told them to hold onto these things for future elections. They have to figure out what to do with them to keep them in good shape.

Ms. Blevins said they did appreciate the space for early voting this past year. If they hadn't had it they would have had lines out the door and into the parking lot. Their office would only allow four people in at a time to vote; Meeting Room A allowed them to have at least 15 people in at one time. Erie County could only allow four people in and had an hour and a half to an hour and forty-five minute wait at times.

Mr. Wilde said it was hard to argue with the ADA issues. The elevator wasn't ADA. He explained the County does have a new IT person and he would like to see what is going to happen with IT. He would love to have Board of Elections all on one floor. But we need to figure out how IT may expand and what may come of that.

Mr. Hintz appreciated they were trying to work with us, and the Board was trying to work with them. He understood how it could be one headache after another. It was his hope that they could work something out so Board of Elections could be down on the same floor. The elevator is an issue, but it is a very expensive issue. To him it sounded like moving downstairs would eliminate a lot of their problems. He would like to look towards that in the future.

Mr. Boose asked if this was the biggest election there has been in a while, or maybe ever. Mr. Kline said it had been the biggest election ever – there had been about an 82% turnout. Huron County was one of eight counties to have 80% turnout. Ms. Blevins said in-person and early voting was the biggest they have ever had. The mail-out was also the biggest ever. However, Election Day was not as busy as normal because everybody came in early or mailed their ballot in.

Mr. Boose asked if some of the issues and the running around had to do with the size of the election. Ms. Blevins said it very well could be. Even so, they would still be running up and down since there is no phone system downstairs to field calls. If the offices were located downstairs she and Mr. Kline could field calls while they were working. This time they would go downstairs for a while, then back upstairs to work. There were phone calls they had to make. The computers in the basement are only for voter registration; they could not work on any documents or answer emails when they were downstairs.

Mr. Boose noted it was the biggest election ever, and in the middle of Covid. He asked if she knew of anybody that didn't get to vote. Ms. Blevins said there were a couple, but they were mail issues. That was a whole different issue.

Mr. Boose thanked them for coming in and the prior information they had provided.

OLD BUSINESS

Coroner report. Ms. Ziemba forwarded the report to the Board. Dr. Harwood has been very busy. Mr. Boose noted that our cost for autopsies has more than doubled in the last seven years. Mr. Wilde agreed, saying that in 2013 the coroner budget was \$23,193. Last year it was \$61,259. The County transferred in an additional \$18,000 for a total of \$79,000. There was discussion on the report. Overdoses were up, but suicides appear to be down. There were a lot of unanswered questions, but it was good data. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba to forward the report to MHAS. Ms. Ziemba said that Dr. Harwood had called the last week of December and told her there would be some autopsies coming through. The money was encumbered; it was less than \$3,000.

Mr. Wilde attended a Manufacturers meeting. They discussed what was happening, some law, and whether worker's comp dividends will be taxable. The new President of the Manufacturer Alliance, which encompasses six counties, decided to reach out. It had always been mostly Richland County.

Mr. Boose had read an article on the current unemployment fraud. People that did not receive unemployment may be receiving 1099s. Therefore the federal government is going to expect them to pay taxes on money they never received. It is estimated that 50% of the claims are fraudulent. The State is blaming it on a 17 year old system, and on federal rules being lessened for applications. Mr. Boose wants a solution.

At 10:00 a.m. Public hearing for proposed Transfer Station rate increase. Pete Welch stated the purpose of the meeting. As they have discussed in the past, they are running into a shortfall. This is due to the cost of disposing waste, hauling waste, recycling, and EPA regulations for the groundwater monitoring program with the closed land fill. Recycling is costing a lot right now. They need to raise rates to make sure they can pay the bills for the next few years.

Terry Boose called once for testimony in favor of the Transfer Station rate increase. Mr. Welch thought if they choose to change the rates, it may be better to do it on April 1 rather than April 5. Mr. Boose asked why they had chosen April 5. It was the first Monday of the month. April 1 would be a Thursday. With the way the billing cycle works April 1 may be better. Mr. Welch will let them know for sure.

Terry Boose called second for testimony in favor of the Transfer Station rate increase.
Terry Boose called thrice for testimony in favor of the Transfer Station rate increase.

Terry Boose called once for testimony against the Transfer Station rate increase.
Terry Boose called twice for testimony against the Transfer Station rate increase.
Terry Boose called thrice for testimony against the Transfer Station rate increase.

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Hearing one discussion for and nothing against it, Mr. Boose stated the next meeting was Thursday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m. Terry Boose closed the hearing.

Pete Welch updated the Board on county projects:

Snow plowing. It went better today than yesterday. Mr. Welch thought Mr. Homan and Mr. Sweet do a good job. Mr. Boose said he saw two Facebook posts thanking the County and the City for their efforts.

Door at back of Meeting Room A. Mr. Boose mentioned he had discussed this with Mr. Minor. He also thought there should be some soundproofing put in the office wall. Mr. Welch thought the biggest noise outlet was through the side door. He would look into soundproofing that door. Mr. Wilde asked if it was necessary to put a door in; he thought they could just walk around. Mr. Boose pointed out there are a lot of ups and downs in that short distance, as well as having to pass through five doors. Installing a door directly into the room would not cost that much.

Airport HVAC quote. Mr. Boose asked if the email had been passed on to the Airport Board. Mr. Hintz thought everyone had received it and had not forwarded it. Mr. Boose thought, if it was just the HVAC, he would be okay with it. But the building needs other repairs, including new windows and doors. Mr. Welch said the question is - what is the 5-year plan and does the building need to be saved? He reminded them there are underground storage tanks out at the airport also. The old tanks had been pulled and new ones put in. The soil tests that are being done now are because of the old tanks.

Shady Lane. They know there is soil and ground water contamination; they are trying to determine to what extent. Mr. Boose wondered, if the contamination was not spreading, if they could put off doing anything until they do the demolition of the buildings out there. Mr. Welch thought BUSTR may be willing to negotiate.

At 10:25 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. Joe Hintz 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 11:15 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1). Joe Hintz 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**

But they will be interviewing people for appointment to the Airport Board.

At 11:16 a.m. the board recessed.

At 11:30 a.m. the board resumed regular session for the Elected Officials and Department Heads meeting. The meeting is held in person and via Zoom. In person guests: Joel Riedy (Network Administrator); Sheriff Todd Corbin, Chief Deputy Dave Ditz; Recorder Jan Tkach; Auditor Roland Tkach, Beth Horvatic (Auditor), Megan Bursley (Auditor); Public Defender Dave Longo, Cecilia Blevins (Board of Elections); JFS Director Lenora Minor; Pete Welch (Director of Operations); Steve Minor (Custodial Supervisor); Prosecutor Jim Sitterly. Attending via Zoom: Clerk of Courts Susan Hazel; Allyn Schnellinger (Board of DD); Engineer Lee Tansey; Coroner Jeff Harwood; Tacy Bond (911); Julia Armstrong (HR Assistant); Chris Mushett (Juvenile Court); Don Starett (HR Director); Ben Kline (Board of Elections); Carol Knapp (HCDC); Matt Roche (Norwalk Ohio News); Treasurer Kathleen Schaffer; Kristen Cardone (MHAS); Kari Smith (Board of DD), Mark Fridenstine (Engineer), Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Boose thanked everyone for what they do to maintain the County during the recent snow storms.

IT Discussion. Mr. Wilde introduced the Network Administrator, Joel Riedy. Mr. Riedy explained his plans for the County. This included everything from bringing the software up to date to negotiating contracts with vendors. Discussion on how to transition the County offices from independent vendors to the IT department.

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Then and Now discussion. Mr. Boose noted there had been a considerable increase in Then and Now's at the beginning of this year. He would like Auditor Tkach to come to a meeting in October to explain any changes to the process in the hopes that will cut down on the number next year. The Claims Schedule is a big part of what the Commissioners do, so any time things change it can make things difficult for them.

COVID related topics. Mr. Boose reminded everyone that Covid is not over. There is new administration in Washington, and it will be difficult to stay up to date for a while. He suggested that all departments continue to track their Covid expenses. Mr. Kline (Board of Elections) questioned where county employees stood as far as the vaccine. Mr. Boose stressed that vaccines were completely out of the control of the Commissioners; they have no authority whatsoever. Discussion regarding the Covid vaccine.

Budget process. Mr. Boose said they now have carryover; it was very good. He felt this was due to everyone working to keep spending down last year. The Board had asked for interim budget to be set at 95%. It is now time to start looking at final budget. The Board would like everyone to start budget at 100% of last year's final. This had previously been submitted; if anyone had changes, he asked that those be turned in as soon as possible. The Board would also like 1% payroll increases and special requests at this time.

Mr. Boose mentioned that 50% of unemployment claims are fraudulent. Ms. Minor said it was her understanding that the Governor was forming a committee to check into this. Mr. Boose said the problem is the federal government is going to expect people to report unemployment income they never received. Sheriff Corbin said they have had a lot of people in to file complaints. Mr. Boose asked if that was the proper place to go. The Sheriff said it was. They will file a police report and follow up on it. Ms. Minor said there was also a website available, but she cautioned against giving any more information than what was on the form.

Mr. Schnellinger said he has had a number of staff ask him about the Roth 457 being offered through Ohio Deferred Compensation Program. This is something the County has to get into as a whole. Mr. Boose said they will check into it.

At 12:30 p.m. the board recessed

At 1:10 p.m. the board resumed regular session

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilde is going to meet with Veterans to find out about their new event. Mr. Boose thought it was a committee more than an event. Mr. Wilde said it was called "Standing Together" and they were going to do webinar presentations. Mr. Boose was concerned that the Commissioners had not received notice that this was happening.

Zoom meeting. Mr. Wilde was not real thrilled with how it went and spoke to Mr. Riedy afterward. Mr. Riedy said there is a Zoom "meeting room" that can be purchased that would work much better than a laptop. Mr. Boose would like to look into it.

Jail roof. Sheriff Corbin asked if they were discussing this. Ms. Ziemba had told him they were. They had received contracts from the architects and would be putting together the estimate and bid packet. Ultimately it will depend on how the bids come in as to how they move forward. There is not a 100% guaranty it will get done but it looks promising.

HCDC. Ms. Ziemba noted that Mr. Hintz and Mr. Wilde were both on the HCDC email list, but Mr. Boose was not. She will ask Ms. Knapp to add him.

Mr. Boose has a meeting today with MHAS Board. This is set up for the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Boose and Ms. Ziemba have a meeting tomorrow morning 8:00 a.m. at Job & Family Services.

Mr. Boose requested an Executive Session for the February 4 meeting. If they don't have much else on the agenda he would really like to work on budget.

Mr. Boose said they may need to cancel the meeting on February 18. He would like Ms. Ziemba to try to keep it open if they can.

Meeting Room A scheduling. At the end of last year, Ms. Malone and Ms. Lorcher reserved the room for the typical dates OSU would need it for the year. Mr. Boose would like to determine if these dates are actually going to happen; he did not want the room reserved for a "maybe". There are other people that may want to use the meeting room. He would like to offer it to MHAS to allow them room to spread out.

REGULAR SESSION**TUESDAY****FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

Board of Elections has Meeting Room A reserved for most of the month of April, as well as the first week of May. Mr. Boose said there is almost nothing on the ballot, yet the room will be tied up for a month. Basically the room is tied up for two months out of the year for early voting. Ms. Ziemba said the room had been used quite a bit before Covid. Things were getting back to the way they were.

Mr. Hintz is now the FCFC liaison. Mr. Boose cautioned him that they tend to get involved with a lot of MHAS issues. He thought this was something Mr. Hintz should keep an eye on.

Mr. Boose has a Firelands Forward Board meeting next week at 8:30 a.m. He will have to let Ms. Minor know he will not be able to attend their meeting next week.

At 1:35 p.m. Bruce Wilde moved to adjourn. Joe Hintz seconded. 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 2, 2021.

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 1:35 p.m.

Signatures on File