

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 4, 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.

21-051

IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING BID AND ENTERING INTO CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF #9 AGGREGATE

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution # 21-019, and after notice was given pursuant to Section 307.87 of the Ohio Revised Code, Huron County sought bids for The Supply & Delivery of #9 Aggregate for the Huron County Engineer;

WHEREAS, bids were received and opened on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 10:01 a.m., the results shown on Attachment A;

WHEREAS, these bids have been reviewed by the County Engineer as to their compliance with applicable terms and conditions of the bid with a recommendation from the Engineer that such bid be awarded to Mesenburg Brother, Inc., Collins, Ohio; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby award the bid to and enter into contract for The Supply & Delivery of #9 Aggregate for the Huron County Engineer, with Mesenburg Brothers, Inc., Collins, Ohio; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that all further matters relative to the award of this bid is to be coordinated through and with the Huron County Engineer; 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 said they were passing this rather quickly since the Engineer needs this to mix with road salt.

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

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

At 9:05 a.m. Public comment – none.

TRAVEL REQUESTS - None

SIGNINGS – None at this time

OLD BUSINESS – No updates

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Wilde updated the Board on his attendance at the Veteran Services meeting and the Standing Together program. Both MHAS and Enrichment Center are involved. This is a Zoom campaign aimed at trying to bring more social interaction to area seniors. Mr. Boose wanted to know why the Commissioners had not received the information. He was concerned that a County agency had not informed the County Commissioners of what was going on. Mr. Wilde explained the director was new and had not thought to let them know. He had explained to her that a lot of times people will contact the Commissioners first. It is helpful if they are aware of what is happening so they can answer questions.

Lawsuit prep next week.

Meeting tomorrow with the Governor.

HCDC meeting next Thursday.

At 9:15 a.m. Tacy Bond, 9-1-1 updates. Ms. Bond presented the updated Huron County Special Needs Registry form with the requested changes from the Board and Mr. Strickler. If the Board was okay with the wording it can go live this week and be placed on their website. Mr. Wilde and Mr. Hintz were okay with that. Mr. Boose stated his only concern was this could include 1/3 to 1/2 of the county. Ms. Bond agreed but said it was geared more towards mentally incapacitated/special needs individuals. She did not think most people would want to share their information with law enforcement or first responders unless they really thought it would help them. It was a service they can provide that may help somebody, as well as give a heads up to the officers as they are responding. For instance, it can let them know that someone in the house is confined to a wheelchair and might need extra help if the house is on fire.

Mr. Wilde moved to approve and authorize Tacy Bond to move forward with using and promoting the Huron County Special Needs Registry form. 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*

Huntington Acceptance Certificate. Ms. Ziemba asked Ms. Bond if the project was complete, if they had received everything and it was all in working order. Ms. Bond said as far as Cleveland Communications went, they have received everything and it was all installed. Right now they are making some tweaks to the dispatch software, which they had not had to replace. Mr. Boose asked if the new system was up and running. Ms. Bond explained they were using it, with the exception of the dispatch portion. They were waiting on Frontier to tie in all the PSATs. Also, there is an issue where they are losing signal out by Bellevue, but that was not totally unexpected. The area is located in somewhat of a depression. The vehicle radios are okay, it is only the handhelds. Ms. Bond is working on a fix. Mr. Boose said that, as she is collecting her data, they need to know how many residences and businesses are in that area.

FEMA. Mr. Boose had received emails from CCAO with information on what is happening. They seem to think the 25% match to the FEMA grant is going to be reimbursed. Ms. Bond had not heard that. She said they just finished closing out theirs for the 75%. Mr. Boose said the real confusing part will be that the County paid the 25% with CARES Act money. Does the money go back to CARES Act or to the County? Ms. Bond noted it made things very difficult to keep track of.

Mr. Wilde moved to approve and authorize Terry Boose to sign the Huntington Acceptance Certificate for the 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*

At 9:30 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; ORC 121.22 (G) (2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest. ORC 121.22 (G)(3) a conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. 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 9:59 a.m. the board recessed the executive sessions.

At 10:00 a.m. 2nd Public hearing for proposed Transfer Station rate increase. Pete Welch stated the purpose of the meeting. After doing financial projections on the facilities it looks like they will need additional funding to continue to operate. The last rate change was 2009, when it was increased to \$58.25. That was dropped to \$54 in 2010 and is still where they are today. They would like to raise the rate back to \$58/ton, which includes all regulatory and other fees. This pays to operate the Transfer Station and for the closure

activities at the landfill. It also covers some of the recycling, since they use Transfer Station personnel to recycle. In addition, the cost of doing business is increasing. Rumpke transport rates will go up \$2.25/ton over the life of the contract. Mr. Boose noted that at the last hearing Mr. Welch had indicated April 1 was a better date for the rate increase than April 5. Mr. Welch said, even though April 1 is in the middle of the week, it would be better for their bookkeeping.

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

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. Hearing none.

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. Hearing none.

Mr. Boose asked if there was anyone at all that would like to say something before he closed the hearing. Receiving no response, he then stated the third hearing would be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:07 a.m. Terry Boose closed the hearing.

At 10:08 a.m. the board resumed the recessed Executive Session for ORC 121.22 (G)(1), (2), and (3).

At 11:53 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Sessions ORC 121.22 (G)(1), (2), and (3). 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**

NEW BUSINESS cont.

Meetings will continue with DJFS Director on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. There will be a resolution to continue the lease agreement as is.

MHAS meeting first Wednesday of every month. Mr. Boose had concerns that all the money is going to just a few people. He learned that it does have to go to providers who have certain credentials. Would like to try to find ways to increase competition rather than just continuing to give it to the same groups. Discussion on the need for recovery housing in Huron County and the increased challenges presented by Covid. Talked a little about Dr. Harwood's numbers. Ms. Cardone indicated they had been trying to get those numbers for a long time, as well as other numbers. She was a little surprised – they think Huron County has a bigger mental health issue than anybody knows.

Mr. Boose has consistently noticed since Covid began that Zoom meetings are not as effective as having real, in-person meetings. But you have to follow all the rules.

Mr. Boose wanted to mention an issue that had been brought up to him. The number of Covid deaths has been going back and forth between 41 and 44. Yesterday, it went from 44 to 76. It sounded as if the deaths had occurred over the last three months. Mr. Boose thought there was sketchy information coming out. Business owners have expressed concern to Mr. Boose – their businesses are being closed, yet the numbers aren't accurate. When something like that happens, Mr. Boose feels the local Health Department should hold a press conference explaining what is going on and what repercussions, if any, will follow. He said nobody understands what is going on because it is not being explained to us. People are being told "trust us". Yet how can there be any trust when something this major comes out and there is no explanation. Mr. Boose would like to send an email to Mr. Hollinger telling him our constituents deserve an answer immediately, in detail, as to what happened, and what affect it is going to have on their businesses.

Mr. Boose would also like to send an email to Dick Stein, Nathan Manning, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor asking why, once again, the small counties were overlooked in a State issue. The first rollout for the school vaccines went to all the big counties. Why do the big city/county schools get the vaccines first before Huron and other small counties?

Mr. Boose said, as Commissioners, they typically leave federal issues to the federal government and state

issues to the state government. However, he felt they should speak up for their constituents. A lot of people are frustrated with the U.S. Postal Service. It has had a big impact on Huron County because real estate tax bills have not been delivered. Everyone knows there are issues. Mr. Boose has not heard the federal government offer a solution. He did not even know if they considered it a problem; but it is. He would like to forward what happened with the Treasurer's office to our Senators and Congressmen and tell them they need to find a solution. It is not a big issue in the national news. Mr. Hintz thought it was as shame the media was only focusing on the impeachment. Mr. Boose noted that all kinds of executive orders are being passed. Yet there is not one about what is, to us, one of the biggest national problems that we have today - the postal service. It affects every single person.

Mr. Boose also wanted to talk about a state issue, the problems with unemployment. They were blaming it on a 17-year old system that couldn't handle the claims. Mr. Boose wanted to know how the state was going to help his constituents when they receive a 1099-G saying they owe taxes. Mr. Wilde pointed out that the State also hired extra people to handle the increase in claims that weren't real. Now they need more people to take care of the problem. Mr. Boose thought the leadership in the House and Senate should be screaming for something to be done. If the unemployment system failed because it was old – what about Bureau of Workers' Comp or the Department of Taxation? They have offered people steps to take if it happened to them, but Mr. Boose didn't think his constituents should have to do all those things. He thought the state should fix it. Mr. Boose thought both federal and state government were more worried about politics than getting the things done they needed to do. It was affecting the constituents.

Mr. Boose said, as far as budget was concerned, he was not planning on going into detail today. What he would like to accomplish would be to come up with a timeline. Figure out what they want to do and when they want to do it. There had been more confusion with the budget than he thought. The Department Heads he spoke to seemed to think there was no chance they would get the 5% back. Ms. Ziemba stated that the initial interim budgets they had submitted had been final budget plus the required elected official increases. Mr. Boose asked if she could send those out and indicate that, instead of the 95% budget, the Commissioners were going to use 100%. Ask them to review what we have in the next two weeks and get back to us if there are changes. Ms. Ziemba said she would.

Mr. Boose forgot to mention on Tuesday that he believes they should give the 5% back to the departments because the carryover came in so well. However, of that carryover number about \$2.3 million of it was a result of CARES Act reimbursement. The carryover without CARES Act money from the year before to this year was about the same. That was awesome; it was a really good carryover the year before. But the County did not really spend \$2.3 million less than what was appropriated – a lot of that money came from CARES Act money.

Mr. Boose asked what budget information they were looking at. The spreadsheet was dated 11/18/2020. Ms. Ziemba said that was the one without the 5% reduction. Mr. Boose noted it showed the 2020 interim budget at \$20,007,364. Ms. Ziemba said that, so far, she has the 2020 budget that was approved last year; a column for the 2021 interim with the 5% reduction; and a 2021 final budget number. This was the initial interim budget for each department with the increase for the elected officials and union contracts. She was still verifying some of those numbers.

Ms. Ziemba had combined all the 1% increase numbers into one spreadsheet. She also had combined anticipated retirements and special requests into one spreadsheet. Mr. Boose thought they should look at the final 2020 budget and the first interim budget as a starting point. Ms. Ziemba had been comparing these numbers to see where they were off. The only difference she could find was for the elected official salary increase and a couple union contracts. Mr. Boose thought these were the exact numbers they needed to get started. Ms. Ziemba will verify the mandated amounts and get it out to the Board for their review.

The other thing Mr. Boose thought was needed to start progressing on the budget was information on accounts such as Capital Improvement, Miscellaneous, Permanent Improvement and Transfer Out. Every year they know they have to put money in Transfer Out to pay bonds. They need a list of those accounts and what has been obligated from them. That is where a lot of big decisions are going to have to be made in final budget.

There was discussion on the Coroner budget. Typically the same amount is budgeted every year, then funds are transferred in if necessary. This can really throw things off. Ms. Ziemba told them she had received information from the Coroner. He showed what was budgeted in 2018, what was transferred in and what his actual expenses were. He did the same thing for 2019 and 2020. His actual expenses for 2020 were at \$79,259, with more coming in. Mr. Boose thought that was helpful. In 2019 they spent \$66,000; in 2020 it will end up being over \$80,000. He suggested Ms. Ziemba send him an email asking what a realistic number would be for 2021 so he would not have to come back and ask for more. Mr. Wilde thought \$90,000 might be the number – a 50% increase.

Mr. Boose thought the accounts they referred to earlier were very important. They are the ones used to make decisions as to what projects can be done in the final budget. They put off a lot of projects last year, which helped with carryover. Ms. Ziemba would like to look at the transfers that were done. She wants to make sure these carry over and show in the budget.

Mr. Boose thought it was important to make sure the amount they budgeted would be sustainable. The County will not continue to receive \$2 million in CARES Act money every year, so it should not build a budget relying on those dollars.

Mr. Boose mentioned that the Board that is in office now should have replaced all the Sheriff's vehicles by now. He was glad they had been able to do it in the last few years without bonding or borrowing funds.

Mr. Wilde wanted to check into the 27th pay and make sure they were on track. Mr. Boose thought it was a couple years out, but thought they had put quite a bit in when they received the one time supplement from Medicaid. Ms. Ziemba said the amount in Benefits Reserve was \$125,000. Medicaid was a separate fund she does not have access to, so she did not know the dollar amount. The intent had been to use that when it came time for the 27th pay. She believed the funds had to be put into the General Fund and then moved out.

Mr. Boose said one of the things they should think about for this year's budget was having our own rainy day fund. At one time this couldn't be done, but he thought it could now. Mr. Boose suggested using the carryover as the rainy day fund. People often use the Contingency fund as a rainy day fund. But the Contingency fund has a cap on it based on the size of the total budget.

The other account Mr. Boose would like to talk about every year during budget was the insurance account. Mr. Wilde thought this was the in and out because of the way insurance was set up. Ms. Ziemba said that was correct. They budget \$3.7 million because of the rolling in and out. As of December 31, 2020 the actual cash balance was \$1,977,000. Mr. Boose would ultimately like to keep that money in there until the next recession. That way, rather than increasing deductibles or decreasing benefits, they could pull the money from there.

Ms. Ziemba will email them out a budget sheet for review. She reminded them to look at all the tabs.

At 1:16 p.m. Joe Hintz moved to adjourn. Bruce Wilde 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 4, 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 1:16 p.m.

Signatures on File