

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 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.

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

21-079

**IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH WM. DAUCH CONCRETE FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONCRETE FOR THE HURON COUNTY ENGINEER**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, per Resolution 21-054 the bid was awarded to Wm. Dauch Concrete for the Supply & Delivery of Concrete for the Huron County Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to enter into contract with Wm. Dauch Concrete for such goods and services; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve entering into contract with Wm. Dauch Concrete, 84 Cleveland Rd, Norwalk, Ohio 44857 for the Supply and Delivery on Concrete for the Huron County Engineer as attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference 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. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

*\*Contract on file*

21-080

**IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH ZIMMERMAN PAINT CONTRACTORS COMPANY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC PAINT ON VARIOUS COUNTY ROADS FOR THE HURON COUNTY ENGINEER**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, per Resolution 21-053 the bid was awarded to Zimmerman Paint Contractors Company for the Installation of Traffic Paint on Various County Roads for the Huron County Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to enter into contract with Zimmerman Paint Contractors Company for such goods and services; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve entering into contract with Zimmerman Paint Contractors Company, 2710 Hayes Ave. Fremont, OH 43420 for the Installation of Traffic Paint on Various County Roads for the Huron County Engineer as attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference 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:** Mr. Boose asked if this included Townships or if they went out separate. Mr. Tansey said they can, but the Engineer's office will usually take care of it.

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

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

*\*Contract on file*

**At 9:05 a.m. Public comment – none**

21-081

**IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH LAKE ERIE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF GUARDRAIL FOR THE HURON COUNTY ENGINEER**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, per Resolution 21-055 the bid was awarded to Lake Erie Construction Company for the Installation of Guardrail for the Huron County Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to enter into contract with Lake Erie Construction Company for such goods and services; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve entering into contract with Lake Erie Construction Company, 22 South Norwalk Road, Norwalk, OH 44857 for the Installation of Guardrail for the Huron County Engineer as attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference 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. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

*\*Contract on file*

21-082

**IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF LARRY SILCOX FROM THE HURON COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners is in receipt of a letter of resignation of Larry Silcox from the Huron County Airport Board; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby accepts the resignation of Larry Silcox effective 11:59 p.m. March 8, 2021; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners wishes to thank Mr. Silcox for his services on the Board; 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 explained Mr. Silcox had been in last week to discuss his resignation.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 4, 2021**

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

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

21-083

**IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE HURON COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Larry Silcox resigned from the Huron County Airport Board leaving a vacancy; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Herbert K “Nick” Burch has expressed interest in fulfilling this vacancy; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 15-292 sets the terms of the board members to three years; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Board of Huron County Commissioners to appoint Mr. Burch to fulfill the term beginning March 9, 2021 and ending December 31, 2022; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby appoints Mr. Herbert K “Nick” Burch to the Huron County Airport Board to the term beginning March 9, 2021 and ending December 31, 2022; 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 clarified that, even though it is a three year appointment, Mr. Burch would be fulfilling Mr. Silcox’s term which expires on December 31, 2022.

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

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

Mr. Boose noted that Mr. Brady will stay on the Airport board for one month after Mr. Silcox’s resignation. After that another seat will need to be filled, so Mr. Boose would like to begin advertising. However, for the sake of voting, only one Board member can rent a hangar and purchase gas at the airport. If there are two, and if there were a chance for rent or fuel increases, two members would have to abstain, leaving only one voting member. Since Mr. Burch both rents a hanger and buys fuel, the next appointment will not be able to do this. Mr. Wilde noted that one applicant had not been chosen because it would cause a conflict. The Board will send a letter and Mr. Hintz will also call him.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL – None**

**SIGNINGS - None**

**OLD BUSINESS**


Architect for roofs. Garman Miller had provided a lump sum proposal, but the contract was on a percentage basis of the total project. Mr. Welch will discuss this with them.

Cook Road. Mr. Strickler was working on the final edits on the Motion for Default Judgment.

Old jail. Mr. Stephens spoke to Mr. Damm at the Engineer’s office. Mr. Gillen had previously prepared a survey to split the lot, but it was not signed. Mr. Strickler thought it would need to be redrawn and the lot split finalized with the City. Mr. Stephens was also working on the application to separate the buildings for the National Registry.

Apex resolution. Mr. Boose spoke to Mr. Tkach and explained what numbers they were looking for. If the County does not do a PILOT program and it were to fall under property tax, how much would the County receive? They also discussed the issues with the pipeline. The pipeline applied to have their property taxes reduced by 50%. They only have to pay that 50% until the appeal is resolved.

At 9:30 a.m. Norwalk Economic Development, Heather Horowitz.



**WHY INVEST IN NEDC?**  
An Investment In NEDC Is An Investment In Norwalk

**Mission Statement**  
As a public-private partnership, the Norwalk Economic Development Corporation's mission is to identify and capitalize on opportunities to continuously improve the Norwalk area's business base.  
Our responsibilities are to:  
- Encourage the creation of quality employment  
- Support the growth of existing businesses and entrepreneurs  
- Work collaboratively with local business, institutions and economic development partners to strengthen the Norwalk Area's position within the global economy  
- Encourage individuals and businesses to live and work within the City of Norwalk, by way of a continuous and calculated promotional effort.

Investing in NEDC means more than simply supporting local business retention and expansion programs. It also means having the resources of NEDC at your fingertips, and having the strength and breadth of our networking support as you create deep and lasting ties to the Norwalk area business community.

**Yes, I want to help improve our economy and our community by investing in the Norwalk Economic Development Corporation**

NAME: Huron County Commissioners  
 COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPANY ADDRESS: 180 Milan Ave Ste 7  
Norwalk OH 44857  
 PHONE: 419-668-3099  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAY WE LIST YOUR NAME PUBLICLY AS A SUPPORTER?  Yes  No  
 SIGNATURE: Dickie Combs

**Investment Options**  
 CHECK (ENCLOSED)  
 CREDIT CARD  
 CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* 2.5% credit card service fee will be applied to your balance.  
 INVOICE  
 ON THIS DATE: 3-30-21  
 BREAK OUT OUR TOTAL INVESTMENT  
 QUARTERLY  MONTHLY  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Checks are payable to:  
 Norwalk Economic Development Corporation  
 12 Benedict Avenue Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Associate \$250  
 Bronze \$500  
 Silver \$1000  
 Gold \$2,500  
 Platinum \$5,000  
 Diamond \$7,500 +

Also attending were John Lendrum, Board President, and Zach Jones, Vice President. Ms. Horowitz explained the information in the packet she had given to the Board. The left side had been presented to the Council last year, just before Covid hit. The annual report was sent out last October/November, along with their annual appeal to investors. Ms. Horowitz had updated the information with 2021 YTD income and expenses. She also included the new investors for 2021. They continually increase their investor base. Currently there are 63 private investors, up from 57 last year.

Ms. Horowitz provided an updated list of members for the Board of Directors and Executive Board. She gave a breakdown of their 2020 income. 23% was from public support, 46% was from private. 14% came from grants. In addition, they do charge fees for some services. NEDC owns a building, but the rental income offsets the building maintenance. Everything that comes in goes to actual economic development, not toward the building. When Covid hit early in 2020 they had to pivot quickly. They pooled their reserves and helped 41 Norwalk small businesses by establishing the Norwalk Small Business Stabilization grant. Mr. Boose noted that because their grant did not have federal money in it, it did not affect the County grant.

Ms. Horowitz continued. With Covid, NEDC focused on taking in the data from the changing landscape to figure out the next step so businesses wouldn't have to. When masks became necessary, they contacted Norwalk Furniture. They were able to make masks, which were distributed to 38 local companies.

Ms. Horowitz outlined more of their activities. NEDC has a very good relationship with Job & Family Services. This will be their third year of providing education for the JFS FYRE program. Firelands Manufacturing Alliance is NEDC's industry sector partnership. This was started about four years ago based on training needs. NEDC's Drug Free Clubs of America had been doing well until last year's shut down.

Ms. Horowitz explained the Director's Report, which was very short since it only included information for January and February. Every time the Board meets they receive a snapshot of all the projects NEDC is working on. One of these is the Drug Free Safety Program. Fisher Titus had provided necessary drug-free workplace education until they were no longer able to so because of the pandemic. Businesses are required to have this every year. The NEDC investors brought this to her attention. She discussed it with Ms. Cardone, who wrote her into the opiate grant MHAS was applying for. She found out two weeks ago they have received funding for this program.

Ms. Horowitz provided more information. 29% of Huron County lives in the City of Norwalk. She felt that 29% of the County residents were greatly served by NEDC. 6,174 people come into Norwalk to work; 5,500 leave to go to work; 2,400 are staying. NEDC's current investors represent over 4,000 employees. But it is

not a membership, it is investment. NEDC will work with anybody that needs help, even if they haven't invested any money. They are a resource connector; if they can't help they will find someone that can. For example, she works closely with North Point and attends the Superintendent meetings. When the ORC made it necessary for each school district to have a Business Advisory Council, NEDC was asked to coordinate this for the entire county. Since its inception the program has continued to grow and recently received an award from the State.

Finally, NEDC has a Site-Ohio Certified industrial site. They are one of two in Team NEO's region; the other is in Richland County. It had consisted of 102-acres, but they just sold a portion of it. They receive good exposure through Team NEO for that site.

Mr. Boose asked if NEDC had levels of investment or if they just let people invest. Ms. Horowitz explained they offer Associate, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Platinum or above receives a seat on the Board. There are three seats open to gold investors. Every two years these seats are nominated by the gold investors. Silver receives two seats, which are nominated every two years. Bronze has one seat. So every two years the Board switches people. For the Executive Board, every year the past president falls off and they get a new secretary. There is constant movement. Mr. Lendrum invited the Commissioners to attend an executive meeting or a board meeting. They could see what they do and participate in the discussion at any time they would like to.

**At 10:00 a.m. Jan Tkach, Recorder,** scanning project. Ms. Tkach had sent the proposal for the project that the Board had requested. Mr. Wilde asked if all the records had been removed from the old jail. Ms. Tkach said she had not been in there personally, but Probate had informed her that all their records had been relocated. Ms. Tkach will confirm with Ms. Hazel that hers had been moved as well. Mr. Boose thought there might still be some landfill records there, but they will follow up on that.

Ms. Tkach started with the \$50,000 request for records storage. Probate Court has records in the old vault in their office, the majority of which are old estates. These records are old and frail. Probate has requested \$30,000, which is the amount they have been given in the past. That would allow them to get what they can safely send to Strategic Solutions for scanning. Last year Ms. Hazel canceled her \$20,000 project because of Covid, so that hadn't even been started. Ms. Tkach would like to request \$50,000. This amount will be divided \$30,000 to Probate and \$20,000 to Clerk of Courts so those projects can move forward. Eventually everything that needs to be scanned will get done.

Ms. Tkach's next request was for the re-scanning project for the Recorder's office. She read the letter from US Imaging that explained why they needed to come back. In the past, a document would be recorded and microfilmed. The film would then be made into prints and put together in a book. Because Ms. Tkach's office had been unable to locate the original films, US Imaging had to scan the jackets made from the printed books. They explained this resulted in ". . . a third generation image that had been converted from color, to greyscale, then from greyscale to black and white prints, then from black and white prints back to film". Because the images had been black and white in the books, the 256 shades of grey could not be regained. These 256 shades of grey are necessary for US Imaging to enhance the scans. Since they did the scans, the original film has been located. These were original mortgages, and a lot of them had handwritten payoff information on them. If paper records exist, her office will still make handwritten notes on them. It is all vital data. For this reason Ms. Tkach needs to have U.S. Imaging come back and rescan the information to obtain all the data.

Mr. Boose asked if this was considered Phase 2 of the project. Ms. Tkach said she considered this part of Phase 1 to fix an error that US Imaging hadn't see coming. Instead of charging the full amount US Imaging was only charging to get the guys here to do the job. This will come to \$22,145.82, which is half of what the fee would normally be. She considered the scanning to be Phase I. Phase 2 would be to enhance the images and bring out the correct shades of grey. Uploading to the DTS website would be Phase 3. Mr. Boose asked what the total cost for Phases 2 and 3 would be. Ms. Tkach said the total for 2 and 3 came to \$152,061.86.

Mr. Boose thought they should put this project into 021/Capital Improvements. Ms. Ziemba wanted to clarify the amount Ms. Tkach was asking the Board to pay from 021. Ms. Tkach explained the rescanning was not part of the original deal. She was willing to take unencumbered funds from Technology/131 to cover the \$22,000. Ms. Ziemba verified that they would need to budget \$152,061.86 in 021/Capital Improvements. Ms. Tkach said that was correct.

Ms. Tkach mentioned she was also working with Mr. Riedy regarding off-site storage. In case of a disaster she would like to be able to access the records from wherever she was.

Mr. Boose stated this project was something they had been working on, but it became more important with Covid. Allowing people to access documents digitally made things better for everyone. They have no idea if there will be more Covid money. However, he would like to mark this as a Covid project in case more money does become available.

Mr. Wilde noted there had also been an \$8,000 request and asked what that was for. Ms. Tkach explained it was for fraud alert. DTS has a module on their software that allows the public to sign up. Any time a document is recorded with their name on it they will be alerted. Mr. Wilde thought that was a huge service. Mr. Boose asked if this was an annual charge. She said \$8,000 buys it for the program and they are done. It is a simple thing, but it would give people peace of mind. Ms. Ziemba clarified she was asking for this from the General Fund. It was decided to add it to her budget, 024/Recorder - Other.

Ms. Tkach reminded the Board that they had been asked to not do any traveling. She asked if there would be a point in time where they will be allowed to attend conferences in person again. Mr. Boose said they were open to it. The Recorder's Associations has their Spring CE on April 13. If that was still too early she was fine with it. But she would really like to attend the Summer Conference, which will be sometime in mid-June. Discussion regarding the different conferences and how they were being handled.

**At 10:41 a.m. the board recessed.**

**At 11:05 a.m. the board resumed regular session.**

### **OLD BUSINESS *continued***

Meeting Room A - doors and soundproofing. There was concern that the soundproofing the Board was planning would not accomplish anything if it did not go all the way to the ceiling. After discussion it was decided to have the company come in and measure all the possibilities, with the understanding that the Board has not made a decision yet. However, there was one door Mr. Boose specified had to be replaced no matter what.

Clemans, Nelson. The attorney the County has been dealing with, Aaron Weare, is leaving. The new attorney will be Pat Hyre, who has been with the firm for many years. Ms. Ziemba has not had an opportunity to speak with him yet. She was aware that Mr. Strickler had referred Clemans, Nelson to the Sheriff and wanted to clarify who had authority to contact Mr. Hyre. Mr. Boose thought it was just the Commissioner's office. Other offices can use them, but the Board needs to be in control. Mr. Starett had mentioned to Ms. Ziemba that HR would like to see if they can help with any issues before involving Clemans Nelson.

Congressman Gibbs' office. Jennifer Kiko from the Congressman's office had sent an email wanting to set up a meeting after a regular Commissioner meeting. This was not possible but she can attend a regular meeting. Ms. Ziemba will inform her that she can be scheduled to come before the Board if she wishes.

TIRC meeting schedule. Ms. Ziemba had provided the list of the dates and times for these meetings.

Email from Mr. Raymond requesting reimbursement for BWC from the refund. Mr. Boose thinks this is possible but would like to run it by Mr. Stephens first.

Sheriff's vehicle request. Ms. Ziemba explained the Sheriff was requesting the purchase of a vehicle for the Detective Bureau. The purchase price of the 2021 Dodge Durango came in at \$30,997.71, which was below the purchase price of the 2021 marked cruisers. The Detective Bureau's current vehicle, a 2013 Chevy Equinox, would be moved to the Civil Division. The 2007 Ford Explorer being used by Civil would then be sold on GovDeals. The sale proceeds would be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. The LETF, along with the Inmate Calling Solution fund, had been used to purchase the vehicle. Mr. Boose noted the Sheriff had only purchased three cruisers this year because they were going to order this fourth vehicle, so he was okay with this. However, normally the Detective vehicle would be traded in to offset the cost of the new vehicle. Instead it was going to replace something that had been purchased out of a special fund. Mr. Boose didn't have a problem with giving the money back to the special fund. However, the Commissioners should get money from the Trust fund for the detective's car that, instead of trading in, was being given to them. Mr. Wilde tried to clarify: there is a car that the Commissioners paid for. That is going to be passed on. This could have been traded in on the new vehicle and whatever that trade-in was should come back to the Commissioners. Mr. Boose was frustrated that every time somebody sells something they want the benefit of it without having to pay for it in the first place. They will discuss this with the Sheriff when he is in next Tuesday.

### **Commissioner Wilde report**

District Advisory meeting next Monday. Mr. Boose and Mr. Wilde will both be attending. Mr. Boose believed they would be appointing Board members. He thought there should be a nominating committee rather than just accepting what the Health Department gives them.

Land Bank webinar on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

Firelands Forward meeting on Wednesday.

TIRC next Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in Bellevue.

CCAO Policy Committee conference call on budget on Friday, March 12.

CCAO State Budget Briefing webinar last week. Mr. Boose questioned them about local government funds. When they talked at that webinar they told us local government funds were going to remain flat, but the revenue estimates were up for the two years of the budget. and when I talked to Roland, Roland said that came from the Tax Commission. The question I had was, why is the Tax Commissioner using revenue numbers that aren't up, they are down rather than going up. the answer is complicated in that what the Tax Commissioner was talking about was for the first six months, not the rest of the year. That things and the tax commissioner I still don't know why or how this works out, estimated that taxes were going down in 2020. Which they didn't, they went up. but his estimate was down. I am assuming somewhere in there there is a true up that will make that right on estimate vs. actual. That was my question. There were only 3 questions asked and two were from Huron County. Mr. Boose was talking about CARES Act money for this year, the Gov and LT Gov announced last week at one of their conferences that the way the federal government, in the past I think they did it for the CARES Act money but I am not sure, they had talked about the way the federal money would be divided up to States and local government was based on population. In this new stimulus money they are going to send out, it is going to be based on unemployment rates. So if you did a good job of keeping your State up and running and they didn't have to lay a lot of people off, you are not going to get as much money as a State that did a really crappy job and a bunch of people were laid off. Mr. Wilde asked how they were going to deal with Ohio having 50% fraudulent unemployment claims. Mr. Boose said that would complicate it. but, here is the interesting part of that – I don't know if you saw last week's unemployment rates by county, but Huron C

Licensing fees – what fees and local were being paid for food services body art, pools, camps. a list of a CARES Local and state fees. Look at utilizing Small Business grant – business had not turned in receipts for 10,000. Skip called the business owner He understood. Despite being two pages long, the d.

**At 12:11 p.m. the board recessed.**

**At 12:55 p.m. the board resumed regular session.**

## **BUDGET**

Commissioners determine Commissioners - said to add the \$8,000 fees but try to

**021 – Capital Improvements.** Mr. Boose stated that, if they were to go forward with the \$152,000 scanning project for the Recorder, this is where they would put it. Ms. Ziemba reminded them that the \$31,000 for the Sheriff's car was going to go here too. Mr. Boose noted that brought the total to \$183,000, yet there was only \$138,000 in the account. Because the County has one-time money this year, he thought that could be put toward things that were not part of a sustainable budget. He pointed out the PNC loan for JFS/HVAC on the Claims Schedule – payment number four of five. He suggested they make the fifth payment. Ms. Ziemba had done some research. There was a prepayment penalty, but it was the same as the interest. So they would pay the same whether it was paid this year or next. However, this would free up some money from next year's budget. We have the money this year; next year we might not have as much available. Mr. Wilde thought they should pay it and get rid of it. Ms. Ziemba said that would come out of Equipment. She would use \$130,000, which would be the two payments of \$65,000. Mr. Boose said they also need to include the \$31,000 for the Sheriff's vehicle they were paying for. Ms. Ziemba told him that would only leave \$42,000. Mr. Boose said there are normally things that come up throughout the year that they end up paying for. He thought they should add \$50,000 to Other, since this line was easier to pay out of. That would take care of Ms. Tkach's request and leave a little extra. Ms. Ziemba wanted to clarify. For Capital Improvement/0200 – Equipment, the total amount committed was \$337,790. The amount available in that line was \$42,000. Other Expenses - 557 they had budgeted \$170,000. Ms. Tkach's \$152,000 scanning project would go in there. That would leave \$18,000 available. They had also discussed putting \$50,000 in for the County scanning project, but now there wasn't enough. Mr. Boose thought instead of budgeting \$170,000 they should budget \$270,000. Mr. Wilde noted that the new total was \$650,000.

**022 – Buildings & Grounds.** Mr. Boose had discussed the budget with Mr. Welch. Overall he is comfortable with what was put in. Mr. Boose had reviewed the expenses and noted this was an account that is often hit with unknowns. He recommended they just leave it as is. Ms. Ziemba said there had been a request made after the interim budget. They would like to add a line for Clothing Allowance. However, Ms. Ziemba said it was something related to the union and thought they may want to reference it as such. Mr. Boose asked why they were changing things. Ms. Stebel indicated it was for tracking. Currently she pays this out of Supplies, but it can be pants, gloves, etc. Mr. Boose asked if the County had to pay for the uniforms. Ms. Ziemba said they do, for all of Buildings & Grounds. Ms. Ziemba said it was typically paid out of Supplies, they just want to set up an account line for uniforms. Money would then be moved from the Supply line to that line. They are not asking for additional money, just an additional line to track it. Mr. Boose said as long as it did not hold up the budget to add the line he was okay with it. Ms. Stebel mentioned she thought they would need more in the Internet line. Internet and phone both used to be paid to Frontier out of the same line. Now that they have

switched internet to Spectrum they will be receiving a separate bill. She will have to pull some money from the phone line to pay internet. Mr. Boose thought they should offset each other. Ms. Stebel agreed. Mr. Boose said as long as the bottom line didn't change, he did not care how they changed up the account.

**023 - Sheriff.** Mr. Boose had asked Ms. Stebel for the last five years of the Sheriff's budgets so he could figure out the percentage increase from 2016 to 2020. Salaries had increased 32%. Total budget increased 30%. Mr. Boose thought that was huge. In reviewing payroll, he noted the most recent payroll amount was \$67,381.87. If you multiply that by 26 pay periods, the number was a lot higher than what the Sheriff had requested. Ms. Stebel pointed out that number also included overtime, as well as Salary Officials. After adjusting for those amounts, Mr. Boose said payroll still came to about \$25,000 more if he just continues doing what he was doing now. Ms. Ziemba said the interim request had been \$1.7 million.

Mr. Boose thought the additional amount the Sheriff was paying this year over 2020 could be the 3% contract increase. Ms. Ziemba explained it had been a 3.25% retroactive increase last year, plus an additional 3.25% this year. Mr. Boose was not happy that the Sheriff was asking for more money when they had received the contract increase. They were already getting more than everybody else was getting. He asked Ms. Ziemba what his straight payroll request was for interim. \$1,713,111. Last year it was \$1,506,600. This was a 14% increase in salaries, which Mr. Boose thought was unheard of. Mr. Wilde would like to ask him how he came up with a 13.7% increase in salaries. Mr. Boose thought the Sheriff would be able to provide an explanation. For some reason Mr. Boose thought he remembered that they had planned to hire more dispatch people. Ms. Ziemba said that, in addition to the contract increase, there had been a parity increase as well. Mr. Boose checked the numbers and pointed out that since they have been in office as Commissioners, the Sheriff's salaries have increased by 50%. Mr. Wilde noted that was 10% a year. Mr. Boose thought they had given him a lot of employees and had been very generous. This is a huge difference in his budget since this Board has been in office. Each time there was a salary increase, this led to an increase in OPERS and Medicare. If there is a 15% increase in salaries, there is a 15% increase in each of those as well. Because of this there was also an increase of \$50,000 for benefits on top of the salary increase. Mr. Boose wanted to move on and come back to this on Tuesday.

**024 – Recorder.** Mr. Boose reminded the Board they needed to add \$8,000 to the "Other" line item. Ms. Ziemba said that would bring her total to \$154,388. Mr. Boose explained the majority of the increase in her budget was because of salary for officials.

**025 – HCDC.** Mr. Boose would like this line item changed to Economic Development and to have three separate line items under it. One for Huron County Development Council, one for Firelands Forward and a third for Norwalk Economic Development. Ms. Horowitz had solidified this for him when she explained all they do. Mr. Boose would like to continue to give HCDC \$47,000/year and Firelands Forward \$50,000/year. He would like to do a platinum donation of \$5,000 to NEDC. Mr. Wilde agreed. Mr. Boose reminded the Board that last year they had requested that all Economic Development work together. They are still not working together. Rather than punish them the Board will fund them with the expectation that they will work together better than they have in recent past. Mr. Hintz was good with that. Ms. Ziemba provided the new total for Economic Development - \$102,000. **026 – EMA.** Mr. Boose thought they wanted to purchase a car. Ms. Ziemba said they did, but they wanted to purchase it out of Fund 177, their special fund. That way they can submit it to the State and get about 50% reimbursed. Mr. Boose did not have a problem with them getting a new vehicle. The one they have is old, it has been around a long time. However, he wanted to limit what they did with the vehicle once they purchased it. They don't need all the bells and whistles or expensive detailing. Also, Mr. Boose did not think they needed the newest and best if Mr. Mead was going to be driving it back and forth from Lorain County. Ms. Ziemba wasn't sure he would be driving it since he had the Suburban decked out the way he wanted it. They were looking at a Dodge Durango, a Utility Interceptor or a Ford F150. Mr. Boose asked if the Durango, the least expensive of the three, was good enough to go off road if it were to be necessary. Ms. Ziemba read the description, which stated it was AWD. Mr. Boose wanted to approve the purchase of the Dodge Durango. Ms. Ziemba said she would let Mr. Mead know, he would have to put it in his special budget now before they did final.

Mr. Boose went back to EMA. For now they will keep payroll at what is was last year like they asked every other department to do. The Board will address their request on Tuesday.

**027 – Public Defender.** Mr. Longo had provided an update. Mr. Boose reminded them they can't use the net, they have to use the gross. However, they will get reimbursed. Ms. Ziemba said he had updated his whole sheet with new numbers. The new total was \$463,297.

**028 – OSU Extension.** Mr. Boose thought the OSU Extension office had intended to raise their budget in two areas, Technology and Salaries. Their request did not increase either. They were going to get by simply because they hadn't hired everybody yet. Mr. Boose thought the only way the Board should give them the same amount as last year was if they set up a meeting with them and the State. It had been suggested that they do it with CCAO, but Mr. Boose was not concerned with what other counties were doing. OSU needs to



understand how what they do affects Huron County. Rather than doing one resolution to allocate all the funds, Mr. Boose would only like to allocate one-quarter of the funds. No other payments will be made until the Board has a sit-down meeting with the State. Mr. Boose would like to budget the total amount, but the only payment will be for the first quarter until they have that meeting.

**029 – Health/Welfare.** There should be no change.

**030 – Health/Vital Statistics.** No change.

**031 – Children’s Services.** Mr. Boose would like to see this go down but what he was looking at in the budget, their expenses are going to go up. They will leave it at \$465,000.

Treasurer up to 8000 with the agreement that she goes back to the bank and find out why it went up and estimates for the future. Can we get a better deal?

**At 2:05 p.m. the board recessed.**

**At 2:10 p.m. the board resumed regular session**

**032 – Mechanic.** Ms. Ziemba said the only request was that Mr. Kleinhenz never has enough left in his account to pay bills at the end of the year. If someone wants him to fix their car at the end of the year they have to cover the bill. The Board thought they needed to fix that. Mr. Boose said his salary has to go up, it can’t be the same. He noted the whole budget was \$69,750 and that included salary. Ms. Stebel said Mr. Kleinhenz only had \$297 left in his Supply line last year. After discussion they decided to increase the Supply line to \$15,000. Mr. Wilde thought what he didn’t use would get carried over. After including OPERS and Medicare, the new total for the Mechanic budget came to \$74,250.

**033 – Veterans.** Mr. Boose thought the Veterans had about \$50,000 that they could encumber, but they only encumbered part of it, so the rest rolled over. They used to encumber it all.

**034 - Soldiers Relief.** This will stay the same.

**035 – Public Assistance.** This amount is given to the County.

**036 – Jail.** Mr. Boose would like to come back to this. Although, after initial review, he didn’t think they would be making many changes.

**037 – Soil & Water.** They will leave this at \$180,000.

**038 – Fair Board.** This will stay at \$3,000. Mr. Boose reminded the Board that last year they had agreed to give the Fair Board up to \$50,000 for improvements. The improvement they decided to do was to make a bigger campground. Ms. Ziemba clarified this was our portion of a grant. Mr. Boose said it was, but noted it hadn’t been paid and will have to be in this year’s budget. They will put this in 099 until it is time to pay the bill.

**039 – Insurance/Tax.** Mr. Boose thought they cut this pretty close last year. Fortunately the County has been getting credits from CEBCO. Ms. Ziemba had discussed this with the Auditor’s office to see if they were comfortable with the number. She thought the amount for the Wellness Grant was low. It should be based on whatever the contract was; it was a reimbursable grant. Ms. Ziemba thought they were about \$7,590 short on that. They will review this further on Tuesday.

**040 – Miscellaneous.** They needed to go back and look at this. Ms. Ziemba said every year they budget in 099 to transfer \$50,000 for the transit grant. Senior Services sent the letter back in the summer requesting that \$50,000 for 2021. She asked if they wanted to leave it in 099 and track it by resolution to 040, or if they just wanted to put it in 040 and pay it. Mr. Boose thought they should put it in 040. It looked like they were putting a large amount in 099 as if it weren’t going to be spent. However, it was going to be spent, it was just going to be transferred. Ms. Ziemba will add the \$50,000 to 040. Mr. Boose noted it was currently at \$460,000 instead of \$275,000.

Ms. Ziemba had questions about the 040-00525 line, Contract Services, which had \$40,000 in it. She said this had been created when they were in negotiations with New London for the tower. The tower was completed, but Ms. Ziemba knew there was still an ongoing cost. Mr. Boose said it was small, less than \$5,000. It was decided to reduce Contract Services from \$40,000 down to \$5,000. Other Expenses would be increased by \$50,000 for transit, which brings that line up to \$325,000. The grand total for Miscellaneous was \$475,000. Mr. Boose thought that was cutting things pretty close and suggested making Other Expenses \$350,000. This increased the total to \$500,000.

Ms. Ziemba asked if they were okay in Indigent. Ms. Stebel thought they were. Ms. Ziemba asked about Acting Judges. Ms. Stebel said she had not paid anything out of that last year. Mr. Boose thought they should put a little in there just in case, they have no control over that. There was \$5,000 in there. Ms. Stebel said she had discussed this with Mr. Perrani. He told her they had paid it out of their Indigent line last year. Mr. Boose would like to increase this to \$10,000. They will discuss Contingencies later. Ms. Ziemba said she was going to take the COVID line out. CARES could not be used for anything that had been budgeted, so they had not used that line. Any future Covid supply expenses could be tracked through 022, Buildings & Grounds.

**042 – Inspections.** Doesn't change.

**043 – Ditch Maintenance.** Doesn't change

**044 – Airport.** Doesn't change.

**045 – Plannign Commission.** No change.

**046 – IT Department.** Ms. Ziemba had some numbers on this. Mr. Boose had some thoughts. The County offices were still very much on their own. Mr. Riedy had done what he could so far, but there was a whole lot of work that needed to be done. Mr. Boose thought they should already take into consideration a second person. Everyone agreed. Mr. Boose would like to add \$70,000 to the Salary line item. He noted that the Commissioners lose control of anything that goes into "Other", so he did not want to put too much there. Ms. Ziemba had some recommendations from Mr. Riedy. A central email system came to \$53,200 per year. Centralized anti-virus system was \$16,000 per year. Everyone agreed this wasn't too bad, but Ms. Ziemba did not know if the anti-virus was contingent on a central email system. The Board was not ready to do the central email system. The rest of the IT budget was: 15,000 Supplies, \$49,000 Equipment, \$10,000 Contracts; \$2,500 Travel, \$40,000 Other. Mr. Boose suggested they put an additional \$70,000 in Salary and increase Equipment and Other both up to \$60,000. Ms. Stebel reminded them they would need to increase OPERS and Medicare. She figured that OPERS would now be \$24,400 and Medicare would be \$2,600. This brought the total budget for the IT Department to \$314,500.

**051 – Tax Map.** They have no choice in this.

**052 – Jail Housing.** Ms. Ziemba did not remember receiving an updated number and assumed Jail Housing was going to stay at \$75,000. Mr. Boose doubted it went up.

**099 – General Fund.** The County has no choice in the bond amounts, which comes to \$508,249.30. Victims Assistance grant is \$20,000. Ms. Ziemba reminded the Board there was an additional request from the Prosecutors' office to determine if they will put more money in for Victims Assistance. Mr. Boose asked what amount they were asking for. She said they wanted the Board to pay the employer's portion of the health insurance, which was \$15,275.52. They also wanted the Board to match the difference of what they didn't get from their grant, which was \$3,988. The total request came to 19,263.85. Mr. Boose wanted to clarify that hospitalization was something the Board has never paid before, it was an extra amount. Ms. Ziemba said that was correct. She said it had always been included with the grant match they paid. Now it is in addition to the grant match. Mr. Boose wanted to stay with just the \$20,000 grant match.

Ms. Ziemba did a review. Transit was going into 040 so that could be taken out of 099. Scanning will be moved to 021, so that was gone. Ms. Ziemba thought they had wanted to increase Benefits Reserve. She explained Benefits Reserve was the account set aside for the 27<sup>th</sup> pay. After discussion it was decided that, since this was not part of the sustainable budget, they would use the one time money. Ms. Ziemba will talk to Auditor Tkach to find out how much needs to be in that account. Mr. Boose would like to increase that account to cover that number.

Ms. Ziemba suggested skipping over Permanent Improvement for now. Mr. Boose said that the Permanent Improvement number needed to be \$1.5 million. It can be transferred as it is needed, but we need to pay for several things. The new roof for the Jail. New roof and carpeting for JFS; although the carpet might be moved to 021. Tear down the Old Jail and put in a parking lot. Mr. Boose wanted to keep those together, he didn't want to tear down the building and leave an empty lot. He thought those projects would be an easy \$1.5 million.

At 2:48 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to adjourn. Joe Hintz 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 March 4, 2021.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 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 2:48 p.m.

Signatures on File

The following bids for the Townline Road 12 Phase 2 Resurfacing were opened on March 5, 2021 at 9:01 a.m:

Kokosing	-	\$300,419.68
Erie Blacktop	-	\$304,670.08
A.J. Riley	-	\$319,476.00
Gerken	-	\$346,686.50

The following bids for Supply and Delivery of Various Aggregates were opened on March 5, 2021 at 9:06 a.m.

Mesenburg Brothers	-	\$ 99,690.00
Erie Materials	-	\$129,625.00