

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

Aye – Terry Boose
Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Bruce Wilde

At 9:05 a.m. Public comment - none

22-159

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM ACCOUNT #099 IN THE GENERAL FUND TO FUND # 205 BOND RETIREMENT

Harry Brady moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a transfer of moneys from the 099-00600-001 needs to be made to the fund #205 bond retirement fund to pay the invoice for interest for the OMB Pool; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the transfer of moneys from 099-00600-001/transfer out in the amount of \$47,967.05 to Fund #205; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the Department requesting transfer, and the Huron County Auditor, and the Auditor’s office will make the journal entry to the # 205 account; 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.

Terry Boose seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Ms. Ziemba told them these are interest payments on bonds. Mr. Boose said we make 2 bond payments every year. The payment for this time of year is for interest on the bonds, the December payment is principle and interest.

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

Aye – Terry Boose
Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Bruce Wilde

22-160

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE TRANSFER STATION ACCOUNT #500 TO THE BOND RETENTION FUND #520

Harry Brady moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a transfer of moneys from 500-00550-500 needs to be made to the fund #520 for landfill bond interest; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the amount of \$4,485.00 be transferred from Account 500-00550-500 (Transfer Out) to #520, Bond Retention Fund; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huron County Auditor’s office will provide the Huron County Treasurer with a journal entry and the Huron County Treasurer will wire said money to the proper agency; 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.

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

Aye – Terry Boose
Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Bruce Wilde

22-161

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES SUBSIDY GRANT, JUVENILE COURT FUNDING APPLICATION UPDATE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Harry Brady moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Huron County Juvenile Court has submitted the Ohio Department of Youth Services Subsidy Grant, Juvenile Court Funding Application Update, for Fiscal Year 2023 to the Board of Huron County Commissioners for their approval; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners has reviewed the Juvenile Court Funding Application Update for Fiscal Year 2023 and approves as submitted; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Ohio Department of Youth Services Subsidy Grant, Juvenile Court Funding Application Update, for Fiscal Year 2023 on behalf of the Huron County Juvenile Court as attached hereto and incorporated herein; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huron County Juvenile Court will be the responsible reporting party as to complying with the eligibility terms and conditions, the program performance, the fiscal accountability; and audits and monitoring as required by this grant; 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.

Terry Boose seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Ms. Ziemba told them that this is the second year of the grant, so it is just an updated amount.

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

- Aye – Terry Boose
- Aye – Harry Brady
- Aye – Bruce Wilde

**Ohio Department of Youth Services Subsidy Grant
JUVENILE COURT FUNDING APPLICATION UPDATE**

Submit electronically in PDF format by June 1, 2022 to:

DYSGrantsreporting@DYS.Ohio.gov

Juvenile Court: Huron

Fiscal Year 2023 Projections:

- a) Projected number of admissions to DYS in FY 2023: 2
- b) This represents (check one) from the previous year:
 an increase a decrease no change
- c) Projected number of admissions to a CCF in FY 2023: 4
- d) This represents (check one) from the previous year:
 an increase a decrease no change

Authorized Signatures:


Administrative Judge

17 May 2022
Date


President, Board of County Commissioners
or County Executive

5/19/22
Date

Required Attachments to this page:

- Attachment A, Page 1, for FY 2023
- Attachment A, Page 2, for FY 2023
- Budget Forms for each program listed on Attachment A, Page 2

A Program Narrative (Attachment B) only needs to be submitted if one or both of the following is true:

- The court is creating a new program for FY 2023
- The program has changed to the extent that the current Program Narrative (Attachment B) is no longer accurate

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL

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

Aye – Terry Boose
Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Bruce Wilde

- Terry Boose-Commissioner-Columbus- Opiate Conference- June 6 & 7, 2022
- Terry Boose, Harry Brady, Bruce Wilde-Commissioners-Valerie Stebel-Commissioners Office-Bowling Green -CCAO Budget Roundtable- June 16, 2022

SIGNINGS - none**At 9:15 a.m. County project updates.****Pete Welch- B&G updates:**

- Veterans Entrance – John Wasniak looked at it yesterday and will provide a cost. Will then have 2 quotes.
- JFS Roof – Hoping to wrap up within 2 weeks. They want to get out of doing the efis work now. Mr. Welch will talk with Mr. Strickler about that and said that we were in contract for this, everything was signed. It is whether or not we want to let them out of the contract. Not sure if there is a penalty in the contract. Mr. Strickler said that he would have to look. Mr. Wilde asked if we did something wrong? Mr. Welch said that we have not been very successful with this contract and have never worked with them before. Mr. Boose said that despite the problems we have had, they are doing a good job. Mr. Welch felt that the issue might be with the company's cash flow. Mr. Boose said that if it was a new company and is not uncommon for new companies to have these problems. He also saw no reason to let them out of the contract. Mr. Welch will discuss with Mr. Strickler and get back with them on Tuesday.
- Courthouse Boilers- Talking with Chris Monnin from Garmann Miller about getting one of their HVAC personnel up here to assess what was actually built versus what is in the design drawings. Mr. Boose does not want us to drop the ball on this and hear from the staff that they have no heat next fall. Mr. Welch told them that the parts are 10 weeks out right now. Will approve the work, waiting for Ms. Hozalski to get back to deal with insurance company about getting the claim processed. May have Ms. Milks help deal with the claim. Mr. Welch will deal with the technical aspect of the claim. Mr. Brady asked if we had ordered the parts; Mr. Welch told him we were close. Mr. Boose asked Mr. Welch to stay on Garmann Miller about this.
- Ad Sign at Administration Building- will be completed by Brady Sign in June. Waiting for them to finish another job. We have received approval from Richland County. Mr. Minor has contacted the electrician; once Brady Sign gives us a firm date, Mr. Minor will contact the electrician, the electrician said it should only take 2 days.
- Mr. Welch was asked why he skipped the elevator; he said that we can't do anything with it right now because it was a grant. Ms. Ziembra stated that the grant cycle would not start until late fall.
- Administration bathrooms- Legends will be in to repaint 1st floor women's bathroom.
- Courthouse ramp is done; waiting for RMH to clarify a change order. Then can release final payment. They intend to come back this fall to treat the concrete. Mr. Brady asked why they wanted to wait until then, Mr. Welch was not sure.
- Jail roof- started, 25% of the river rock has been removed, a ballast and membrane have been put down. They are doing sections at a time. Mr. Welch talked with Dave Ditz from Sheriff's office; they have requested access to the stone. They would like to use it for their impound lots and the islands out front. Mr. Welch said there should be more than enough to do it. Mr. Boose asked who was going to do it and if there was a cost involved. Mr. Welch told him the Sheriff's department would do it, but not sure of cost. Discussed cost of moving it, can this be used for impound lot? what happens to leftover rock if we don't use? Mr. Welch will get details before they do anything. Mr. Minor would like some of the rock for Seminary St., behind the old jail. The commissioners told him to take some.
- Building assessment- Garmann Miller completed walk thru at end of April, they are pushing to have the report to us by the end of next week. Should have at least a draft report in hand by the May 31st meeting.
- Performing arts building- back door and electrical panel have been taken care of. Mr. Wilde said they were going to be inspected for occupancy permit and have been given approval by the fire department. Waiting on Richland County building inspector for the occupancy permit. Mr. Wilde said at that point there may be some changes in the lease. Mr. Welch said that a south side upstairs room has items in it that the Richland County Inspector asked to be removed. Unsure of contents or any regulations that say you can't store items. Mr. Strickler is working on this. Mr. Welch asked if they were going to rent the second floor from us? He was told that they already were using it. Mr. Boose heard that there was a hole in one of the ceilings. Mr. Welch will go up to look at what is in the room.

PROJECTS May 19, 2022						
	Architect/Eng.	Contractor	Est. Cost	Award/Start Date	Completion Date	Comments
Ad Building Roof	Garmin Miller					Proposal to design and prepare bid specs submitted to Board on 1/27 for review. Also, researching TIPS Program. Possible ARPA Funding
Downtown Office Complex Roof	Garmin Miller					Proposal to design and prepare bid specs submitted to Board on 1/27 for review. Also, researching TIPS Program. Possible ARPA Funding.
JFS-Veteran's Ent.			\$12,810			Advance Construction provided cost est. of \$12,810. Wasinak assessed the project on 2/18/22.
JFS Roof	Garmin Miller	Advance Const.	\$390,369	6/8/2021		Work in progress. According to Advance, the should be done in two weeks. EFIS Change Order approved.
Downtown Boilers						Received quote to replace all 3 boiler from Energy Controls for \$207,968 and \$36,478 to repair from BoilerTech. (1) Engaged with Garmin Miller to assess the total system.
Jail Sewer/Grinder	Garmin Miller					Meeting held with Architect, Jail Personel, and City on 1/20. Researching options and what other jails have implemented. Contacted J&H for help.
Courthouse Lighting	Garmin Miller	Stively Electric	\$49,000	3/22/2022		Awarded Project on 3/22 to Stively Electric. Fixtures are ordered. Estimate delivery time, mid June.
Administration Elevator	Garmin Miller		\$490,764			Proposal to design and prepare bid specs submitted to Board on 1/27 for review. Garmin Miller discussed with Board on 3/17/22.
UST Shady Lane	BJAAM		\$33,980	5/20/2021		Remediation Plan submitted on 12/2/21. Waiting for BUSTR'd approval. RAP out for public commnet (4/6)
AD Bldg Sign						Approval by Richland County with conditions. To be completed late June by Brady Signs.
Admin Bathrooms		Legends	\$46,463		2/22/2022	Project near 99% completed. First floor "Women" bathroom will be re-painted.
Courthouse Ramp		RMH Const.	\$22,401		5/2/2022	Completed. Waiting for CO clarification from RMH.
	Architect/Eng.	Contractor	Est. Cost	Award/Start Date	Completion Date	Comments
Jail Roof	Garmin Miller	Chaney Roofing	\$366,140	6/8/2021		CRM start the week of May 1. Roughly 25% of ballast has been removed and membrane installed.
Building Assessment	Garmin Miller		\$24K - \$48K			Garmin Miller completed walk through on 4/28. Final report to be completed by 5/31/22
Courthouse Security			\$47,500			Ohio Supreme Court Technolgy grant submittted on 2/14/22 for \$123,000. State awards grants in June.
Courthouse Floor		Midstate				Waiting on Assessment from Garmin Miller
Law Library Doors		Koch	\$7,112			Law Library Board looking for second cost.
Old Jail						
Recorder's Ceiling	Garmin Miller					Waiting on Assessment
Performing Arts Door		Koch	\$4,750	3/3/2022	4/21/2022	Completed
Admin Shelving Units		PBS	\$12,320	\$12,320	5/16/2022	Completed
JFS Carpect	Garmin Miller		\$115-\$135K			
Auditor's Carpet/Paint	Garmin Miller		\$100K			
Ad Bldg HVAC	Garmin Miller		\$173,363			

- Mr. Welch was able to locate a file on the Atlas, who did the electrical work on the courthouse boiler. He has not found any as built drawings. Contacted Poggemeyer, they are looking for their records. Mr. Boose suggested contacting Ralph Fegley to see if he knew whether they did them or not.
- Mr. Brady asked if we were waiting on Garmann Miller for the red items on the spreadsheet. Mr. Welch told him that these were items in the assessment. Mr. Welch told him that they are would look at those items and give the status. He also said that the carpet and paint for the auditor's office was up to the commissioners, he thought they had budgeted \$80,000 for it already. Mr. Welch thought that we were going to re-assess everything because costs were coming in higher on everything. Mr. Welch thought that projects would need to be cut. We could use the assessment to prioritize the projects. Mr. Boose asked if anyone in Mr. Welch's staff had talked to Mr. Tkach about what he wants. Mr. Welch told him no. Mr. Boose suggested talking to Mr. Tkach to see what he wants. Need to find out material and timing.
- Mr. Brady asked Mr. Welch about getting a local contractor to look at the basement, but then they can't bid. Mr. Brady told the board of elections that if we brought someone back in to look at this, then they would have to foot the bill. They were ok with it. Mr. Boose said that was our general fund money. Mr. Brady said that he asked them and was told that they had some grant money coming back, that was not general fund, which they were allowed to use for this. Mr. Welch did not know what they were expecting for \$80,000, anymore that is only a couple of walls and rerouting some duct work; it doesn't go very far anymore.

- Garmann Miller gave the estimate based on the drawings BOE gave them. Mr. Brady said what they would like to do is avoid using meeting room A for early elections. Whether it is where they are at or downstairs. Mr. Wilde would like it to be where they are at and open up room A. Mr. Boose told Mr. Welch that he did not want him to spend any money out of his budget on that. Mr. Brady said that he is not advocating for Mr. Welch to spend it out of his budget.

Joel Reidy, IT updates:

- Data Center- Mr. Riedy asked what we needed to do to get work officially started for this project. He thought that we had decided to use the room in the basement.

Terry Boose moved to use the current room utilized by Mike Armstrong for the Data Center. Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

*Aye – Terry Boose
Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Bruce Wilde*

- Mr. Wilde asked if there were any questions. Mr. Welch told him that he had Matt Finney working on getting costs to get air in the room. Mr. Welch said that however Joel wanted them to modify the room, they could do. Mr. Boose said that it was going to take some contractors; electricity , generator. The equipment is scheduled to arrive in mid-June. Mr. Brady said that Joel could coordinate with Mr. Welch to get what he needs done. If it requires another request from the commissioners, that would be fine. Mr. Boose asked them to keep Ms. Ziemba apprised of what is going on with the project. She will need to make sure how much was budgeted for this and keep them under that amount.

Department	Project	Status	5/18/2022
Common Pleas	Install new switch, install new Wi-fi	complete	
Common Pleas	Install new wireless phones in courtrooms	Complete	
Juvenile Court	Install new network switches	Completed	
Juvenile Court	Server upgrades for courtview system	50% complete, work needs to be completed after hours.	
JFS	Install new router, firewall and router	Complete	
Office Building	New Fiber Switch install	Complete	
MHAS	Server grant	Has moved to testing phase.	
MHAS	Technology grant		
	Adult Probation	in progress	
	Public Defender	in progress	
Fairgrounds	Wi-Fi install	in progress	
Admin building	Router, firewall upgrade	Complete	
Admin building	Wi-Fi upgrade	Locating Materails	
Law Library	Switch upgrade	equipment on order	
IT	Configure Intrusion Prevention System	Complete	
IT	NTIA Broadband Grant	No final announcement	
Recorder	Staff PC Upgrades and repurpose computers	Complete	
IT	Syslog Server	Operational, this is an ongoing project	
IT	Electronic Information Storage center	equipment on order	eta 6/14
Adult Probation	Network upgrades/recable	Complete	
Recorder	Switch upgrade	Complete	
Recorder	Fiber run	Complete	
Engineer Office	Firewall Replacement	Complete	
Admin building	Core upgrade	Completed	
Prosecutor Office	Switch upgrade/Replacement	on order* IT department loaned them a tempoaraly switch	
IT	Phone system 4 digit dial	in progress	

- New firewall in place at Administration building and have blocked foreign IP addresses from connecting and looking at us. Able to see a lot more of what is actually going on in the network. Have a list of over a dozen foreign IP addresses that we have blocked.
- Mr. Wilde asked about the WI-FI upgrade at the Administration building. Mr. Riedy told him that he was trying to locate equipment. Trying to keep all of the access points and controls the same throughout the county. Supplies are getting sketchy. 200 days out to order. Trying to stay ahead of supply chain issues by ordering now and keeping it on hand.
- Fairgrounds is moving along well. Access points are being mounted on the poles, a lot of the switches and outdoor enclosures are up and a lot of the fiber has been run. They are getting ready to move indoors. Mr. Riedy will get with Bob Morgan about getting them better access to the buildings. Mr. Boose said that most of the barns were not locked. Mr. Riedy told him that there were a few buildings in question about getting into.
- We need to ask the fair board to move on the electrical for the equipment. Mr. Wilde said that this would be a separate item. Mr. Riedy said that we just needed to make sure we have that in place so the equipment has power to run on. Mr. Riedy will check on that item and told the commissioners that they are still targeting a finish date of June 1, 2022. Have all equipment and just have to finish installing it. Mr. Boose asked him to check on the item that Ms. Ziemba was talking about. Mr. Riedy said that he made a note to check on the exposition building.

- License came in for 4-digit dialing in this building; working on building those connections. Then should be able to 4-digit dial anyone in the courthouse or office building.
- HCDC still has original landline number; waiting to be ported back. Has a desk phone that works over the internet. Mr. Boose said that DD is switching out their phone system and asked if anybody in the county wanted any; he told Ms. Stebel to get all of their phones, then if anyone in the county wanted them, they could come through our office to get them. Mr. Riedy had reached out to them to get the phones. Those phones would not work for HCDC because it is connected to our system.
- Mr. Boose wanted to make sure Mr. Riedy made cybersecurity a high priority. Mr. Riedy said it is always a high priority. Mr. Boose asked if they should send out an email to let everyone know that the minute they think they have a breach in security they need to contact IT and HR immediately. The sooner CORSA is involved the better. Mr. Brady asked if they could make the elected officials do this. Wasn't sure how far they could demand, thought the manner in which it was presented was important. Mr. Riedy said CORSA does have some guidelines available. Mr. Strickler suggested sending out those guidelines. Mr. Boose did not want to get over technical, he just wanted them to contact IT. Mr. Brady did not think this was being overly technical to send out the guidelines that our insurance company wants us to do as a county. It is showing that this isn't just a power trip, it is because our insurance company is concerned about this and so are we. We don't want to be on the hook for a massive breach.

At 9:56 a.m. the board recessed.

At 10:04 a.m. the board resumed regular session with Gary Obermiller, Park District updates.

Mr. Obermiller works for FTMC and they recognize the benefit of having community involvement as well as the benefits of having areas where we can recreate physically and mentally recharge. He approached them about volunteering at the park. Met with the park board, they had a vacancy and asked him if he would be on the board. Just held elections and was elected President. Previously worked with ODNR for 33 years. Park District is a struggling group that just need some direction and leadership. He is hoping to help Land Lab, it needs some attention. He has been working on cleaning things up. Some boardwalks in good shape, some of the other ones that were probably Eagle Scout projects, have too large of a span and not enough support joists. They will need to add some support. Has built lots of boardwalks when he was with the state.

Will move sign to other side of the road – should be able to set it perpendicular and not interfere with visibility. Mr. Obermiller is taking a group from the hospital to the park on the 28th to do a cleanup and move the sign. He met with Firelands Rails to Trails & Western Reserve Land Conservancy. These partnerships can help them to promote Huron County and offer some programming and other items that residents might be interested in without spending money to buy property. They have some money in the budget that the county has given them. Would like to bring on a naturalist, then reach out to the schools and do some public programming.

Need to update Face Book page. May need help with a candidate they have for a naturalist, she is an existing county employee. They had been working with Lara Hozalski and were going to contract with the employee to work part time. Will handle social media, do some programming and public outreach. Mr. Wilde asked if Mr. Obermiller had a budget for that person. Mr. Obermiller told him they have \$15,000 in that line item for summer help. Won't use it all; don't need a full-time person right now. Looking at a one-year contract, with some expectations, such as the # of public programs, # of schools they would like to reach out to and # of hours spent updating social media.

Mr. Obermiller would like to get the Park District in order, not necessarily grow it, unless that is what the people are showing they want. Will take it slow, but what they do, will do it right.

Mr. Brady appreciated Mr. Obermiller bringing fresh energy to the Park District. Thought it was a great idea to get it utilized more. Mr. Wilde invited him to come back in 3 to 6 months to give an update. Mr. Obermiller intended to do that.

Commissioner Boose update:

Read report from Auditor regarding sales tax funds in yesterday's Norwalk Ohio News. Respectfully disagrees with some of the information which came from the auditor. Mr. Boose feels we are already at a position where it should be a concern for the commissioners for next budget. Auditor says we are ahead of estimate, but that is easy when it is less than 80% of intake from the year before. That leaves 20% that you are not bringing in, that he is not talking about. In the last 5 or 6 years the Budget Commission has grossly underestimated the receipts. The 20% they underestimate goes into carryover, but \$3M+ was because they underestimated sales revenue. But when we are significantly collecting less money, that is going to affect our carryover. It won't affect our revenues because they are estimated extremely low.

The other thing that wasn't mentioned, this is the third straight month, thus starting a trend, of our sales tax being lower than it was last year. Everybody says that last year was so high, but the way the budget has always worked is that we don't go backwards in the budget. That will be hard to do when our revenue is coming in lower than it was last year. Mr. Boose feels that this is a significant issue that we need to look at.

Received estimate from April, it was down 8% in regular, 15% in automobile sales tax. This is all money we are not going to have for next years budget. Whether you say it is above estimate or not, that doesn't make a difference because our estimate is set so low. This is real money that we will not have next year to budget. We are grateful for the sales tax money that we do get, but our trend for the last 3 months is down, the estimates that we are getting from the state for the next 2 months is down even more. To say that it is above our estimates so it's OK, is not a true statement. Mr. Wilde stated that it doesn't matter if the number they give us for our budget is up or down because what's real is real. Mr. Boose told him that was right. Mr. Wilde asked Mr. Boose if he wanted them to be higher in their estimates. Mr. Boose said that he has always said that. He does not know any other government agency that grossly underestimates the revenue. Does that mean that the money is not coming to us, no the money is coming to us in the carry over; but, that is not how you budget. You don't budget on the errors of the guestimate of what is coming in. The number has always been low, but that is not his concern, they can estimate however they want. The real money is the real money that we are going to get. Just don't use a number that is not accurate as the number that we are comparing it to because this is real money that we are not bringing in, He doesn't care how you compare it to the other one.

Mr. Wilde said with this budget if we are not careful their conservative number may be real. Mr. Brady said that last year was an anomaly. Mr. Boose said that it has been going that way for about 3 years. It might be a little bit higher than normal. Mr. Brady did not think anyone expected to see record sales tax last year. After an election it typically goes the other way. The markets screamed up, now we are seeing the correction, but sales tax screamed up. That had to do with possibly people not being able to go anywhere so they bought more. Mr. Boose said that maybe it was the federal government dumping money into the economy. Mr. Brady said that that was true. In this respect Mr. Brady is glad that they estimated low going into this year because that may become the real number and instead of having a high estimate and a budget that's not workable, we may get out of this year with a budget that's pretty much straight on to what we end up receiving. Mr. Boose said that the thing he was not looking at is this has happened over years, it isn't a one-year anomaly. They have considerably and grossly underestimated revenue. When you are using that number to define whether you are doing ok or the county is not going to have as much money next year makes a huge difference. If you are going to do it the way you are, then you need to talk about estimate and carryover, not just estimate.

Mr. Brady said that was true, but an estimate is an estimate and you can project what you have received over the last 10 years, but it doesn't mean squat for what you will get next year. Mr. Boose asked if you were a business and you budgeted and planned based on your budget. Every year it was over 20% off from your revenue, you'd make adjustments. Mr. Brady said that was possible or He would be stocking up because the day would come when you are going to have a real downturn and then you have money. Mr. Wilde said that he understood what Mr. Boose was saying. Mr. Boose said that the information coming out of the auditor's office on a monthly basis is not all of the information and it is going to look like to our employees at the end of the year it was above estimate all year and why can't we get our salary increases. There are only being told part of the information by the auditor.

At 10:32 a.m. the board recessed.

At 10:37 a.m. the board resumed regular session with:

Attorney John Albers- Holiday Lakes sewage treatment discussion.

- Mr. Strickler introduced Mr. Albers and told everyone that Mr. Albers was with the law firm of Albers and Albers, in Columbus Ohio. Mr. Albers has done 25 or 30 sewer and water districts over his career and still represents a bunch of them. Mr. Strickler has known Mr. Albers from prior work with him. He contacted Mr. Albers about this sewer situation and Mr. Albers said that he would be interested in coming to talk to us today with the understanding that if we decided to move forward with this that project, that we could hire him to do all of the legal work. It is a specialized niche of the law and Mr. Albers knows it well.
- Mr. Albers provided a hand out with information. He said that this presentation was provided to the township association. It lists all of the potential ways to provide water and sanitary sewer services in unincorporated areas of the county. By the county, regional sewage district, etc... There are 14 ways listed (13 ways, watershed district not a way) Mr. Albers told us that he knew we were still at the point of looking at what kind of district or vehicle we want to use for providing water and sewer services, if we proceed with the project.
- Mr. Wilde asked him what other options they had, other than a sewer district. Mr. Albers said if you are doing a multi-jurisdictional district, the one that is tailor made for that is the regional water and sewer district. It is the last one on the list. It is formed by going through a court process which creates an independent political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The board of directors of the district is appointed by the county and potentially other entities who become part of that district. Mr. Albers has done a lot of those around the State of Ohio. You want to involve multi-jurisdictional districts serving an area. Mr. Boose asked what he meant because to them regional means several counties, could this mean several townships? Mr. Albers told him that a regional district could include municipalities, townships, the county, all as a part of that regional district. He will get into more detail if that is the direction they may want to go.

- From talking with Mr. Strickler, it sounds like the easiest and quickest way, even though it may be serving multiple jurisdictions, was under county authority. Instead of forming an independent political subdivision of a regional district. Mr. Albers told them that a lot of counties form their own district. Under Chapters 6103 and 6117 of the Ohio Revised code, that is # 1 on the list of potential vehicles for providing water and sewer districts. Out of 13 ways he has listed, those two were the best. Every other vehicle is one that the law has established to do something else. Like a Conservancy District, which was primarily established for flood control, water reclamation and that sort of thing. They also have authority to provide water and sewer services, but aren't tailor made to provide water and sewer services like a county or regional district. He does not recommend we go in that direction unless you are looking at also tackling a flood control issue.
- The mechanism that we should probably focus on is the county water and sewer district under chapter 6103 & 6117. An oddity of this statute is that you have to establish a sewer district if you are a county commissioner's board in order to provide water services. You establish the district under 6117, then are free to provide water or sewer services under 6103 as the water chapter and 6117 as the sewer chapter.
- Mr. Boose told him we have a water district; can we use it as a sewer district. Mr. Albers said that he would have to look at the paperwork to see if it was established under 6117 and it is probably a county water district. Mr. Boose said that it was multiple county. Mr. Strickler clarified that he was talking about the rural water district, which Mr. Boose said yes. Mr. Strickler told Mr. Albers that we have a rural water district that provides water to a lot of the unincorporated areas. Mr. Albers asked which district it was. Mr. Strickler told him it was the Northeast Ohio Rural Water Authority. They said it had a separate board. Mr. Albers told them that this was a regional district and said that we could use that district to provide water, but it would be under the auspices of that entity and controlled by that board. Mr. Strickler asked Mr. Boose if he was asking if they could also provide sewer and was told yes. Mr. Albers told them that it depends when it was set up by the court whether they got authority to set up and provide sewer services. Mr. Strickler said that he was at the courthouse when they did that and thought that it was for water only and have expanded their territory.
- Mr. Brady read a portion from the regional district, section 1423. This said the following political subdivisions or combinations of subdivisions; which include one or more townships, counties, cities, villages, etc. can petition the court to establish a district? Mr. Brady then questioned that the City of Willard and the township could petition the court and the county would not be involved. Mr. Albers told him potentially yes, a single township can petition the court to form a district, so any combination of municipalities, townships and counties can petition to form a regional district. Water, Sewer and storm sewer; or any of the above.
- Mr. Brady then verified that it is possible for Holiday Lakes, Willard & Celeryville to proceed without the county. Mr. Albers told him yes, but did not know what the goal was or how financing might play into that, but they have the legal authority to form the district. Mr. Brady then asked how that would impact the district. What would be the advantages of doing it that way? Mr. Albers asked if he meant in terms of creating a regional district versus a county district? Mr. Brady said in terms of forming a regional district without county involvement. Mr. Albers said that it depends what goals you are trying to achieve. If you are trying to create an entity that can serve an area in which the county does not have to be involved, does not have to appoint board members to the board and does not have to play any part in the formation of that entity or its ongoing operations and control, then yes you can form a regional district. A county can even help finance the construction of projects for a separate regional district.
- Mr. Boose asked if that regional district could apply for an EPA grant. Mr. Albers told him yes; a regional district basically has the same authority under Ohio law as municipalities and counties have to provide water and sewer services. It has the full range of grants and loans that it can apply for from EPA, USDA, OWDA, etc. It has the same operational authority, in fact some of its operations are better than the counties; for example: if they want to assess budding benefitted land owners for projects that are installed, their procedure is easier and better than a county's procedure. A county can even issue county bonds to help finance the construction of facilities by that regional district, which then that regional district pays back to the county over time.
- Mr. Strickler asked if the city of Willard already has their own, can they be a part of it. Mr. Albers confirmed they could and said that when you form a district, sometimes a municipality will have its facilities included as part of that new regional district or maybe a treatment system, but not a collection or distribution system is included. You have a lot of flexibility when you form a regional district as to who is going to be involved, who's appointing the board of directors and how the projects are going to be funded and constructed.
- Mr. Wilde asked about the options on the front page of his handout. Mr. Albers said county water and sewer districts under 6117 and 6103. Mr. Albers explained that it was very simple to form a county water and sewer district, you pass a resolution and you can form a district for the whole county or for a particular sub-district area instead. It depends on what kind of projects you think you want to tackle. Mr. Albers told them that he usually recommends the sub-district because you can always pass another resolution expanding or creating another sub-district in the future.

- Once you create that district there are certain hoops you have to jump through and things you have to do to then proceed with the construction of projects. The formation itself is pretty quick and easy as opposed to a regional district which takes more effort and money. When you create a regional district, you go through a court process; you petition the common pleas court of your county, that court has to find that it is necessary and conducive to the public health, safety, convenience and welfare; and the plan for provision of services is economical, feasible, fair and reasonable to establish the district. Mr. Albers has not had one turned down. It's not a huge laborious procedure, but it takes 2 to 4 months to accomplish.
- Mr. Wilde stated his concern was, the commissioners don't want to own it, they have enough. Mr. Boose suggested they let him do the presentation before we ask questions hit and miss throughout, he can explain a lot of it and save the questions.
- Mr. Albers continued with the explanation of county districts. They are owned operated and maintained by the county. The county funds construction of the facilities, potentially jointly with other entities. A county district, if you do that for these projects, you can contract. When you create the district, you can create the contracts necessary between the political subdivisions, to agree on how the projects are going to be done and funded, what grants will be applied for, if any. When you form a county district and you want to serve multiple areas, you can specifically go through that process when you form the county district or you can just form the county district, then try to complete those contracts and figure out the specifics. Once you form a county district, you have to go through all of the code sections and procedures to complete a project. Must comply with prevailing wage, public bidding requirements and all of the public works project requirements.
- Mr. Albers went on to explain regional districts (which was in section 14 of his handout). A regional district is an independent political subdivision of the State of Ohio, established under ORC chapter 6119. Any combination of political subdivisions or any single political subdivision can establish a district. They are formed to provide needed services, prevent and abate pollution, promote and encourage economic growth etc. There are a lot of various reasons why entities form districts. A regional district is established by going through a set procedure. Mr. Albers formed his 40th district last year. It has a checklist, so you just go down the checklist and figure out whether or not you have the necessary prerequisites to form a regional district. In our case it would not be an issue. You put together a plan of operations of the district and present it to the court as part of the petition process. The court has to decide if the plan is economical, feasible, fair and reasonable. It is not a detailed engineering plan, it is just a general plan that outlines how your likely to provide services to the area your forming as a district. Ultimately, you will have a hearing before the court, if you prove the threshold requirements that were already discussed, the court will establish the district and you will have created an independently political subdivision. Its finances are separate from the county, its board sets its rates and fees, it would have basically the same power and authority as a county district or a municipality has with respect to the provision of services.
- Mr. Albers was willing to discuss the other options, but he did not think they were of interest to the County. He thought county or regional were the best options. He would be glad to talk about any of the other options if we want him to.
- Mr. Boose and Mr. Wilde asked if ARPA can be used for either district? How complicated for a regional district? Mr. Albers said ARPA could be used for either. If a regional district is formed and the county is part of it, then the money ARPA can be used. If a regional district is formed and the county is not a participant, just potentially assisting with the funding, then he is not sure of ARPA can be used. He would have to look it up, but thinks it probably would be able to. He had a county ask if they would be able to loan the ARPA money to the district and when he looked it up the treasury said they were allowed to loan the money, but were still under the timeframes that are established by law. Which means you have to get repaid that money, and still be out to bid by the end of 2024, then construct the project by 2026.
- Mr. Brady realized everything was related to the intricacies of the individual project and said that Mr. Albers told us a county district would take 2 to 4 months to set up. About how long did it take to set up a regional district and how much was the investment. Mr. Albers said the regional would take two to four months, if he uses the expedited method. You can take a longer route to set it up, but did not see the sense of that. It is two to four months after everything is in place; You need to have everything pretty much in place before you file the petition with the court. Then two to four months for the court process. Getting everything in shape depends how motivated you are. Add another month or 2 to that, start to finish, four to six months for a regional district. A county district – to pass the resolution to establish it is very easy. There is some engineering and legal prep, but it can be done in a couple weeks.
- Mr. Strickler said that in the event we would do a county district or subdistrict could the commissioners enter into a contract with the city of Willard for forty years to say it is now yours, we have established it, we wash our hands of it, then negotiate a 40-year contract because that is the longest time a county can do a contract for anything. They would do all of the engineering and put everything out to bid. Is that a possibility? Mr. Albers said yes, a county could be a participant in the formation of the district and the funding of a project.

- If they are the entity that borrows the money to fund the project in addition to ARPA money or whatever else there is, then at the end of that loan term they can turn over the facilities to another entity. They may have to hold on to them in the interim. Mr. Stickler stated that we would hold them, but turn over the operations and maintenance of them. Mr. Albers agreed and said that O & M could go to whomever and at the end of that period of time they could automatically be transferred.
- Mr. Wilde clarified that it would be transferred after forty years. Mr. Stickler said that it could be, but does not have to be. Mr. Brady asked if Mr. Albers services are retained, then he would be available to do the pre- work and get everything in line to present to the court. He also asked for a ball park amount for Mr. Albers services in creating a regional sewer district similar to this. Mr. Albers said that he usually tells clients that for legal and engineering it will run around \$25,000 to \$50,000. He usually works closely with the engineer on this because you don't need detailed engineering, only general plan engineering. He worked with them to make sure we have what we need to prove to the court that we can and should be able to establish the district. Mr. Albers said that these entities can be contested. He has had EPA, residents and other political subdivisions object. It can turn into a mini trial, in which case the fees do not pertain.
- Mr. Boose asked if the regional district had to be a government entity because Holiday Lakes is a private homeowner's association, which is one of the areas that would like this done, but they are not a political entity. The township would be the political entity; does the township have to agree to the regional or can the nonpolitical entity do this. Mr. Albers told him that for unincorporated areas to actually include them within the boundaries of your district, either the township or the county can be the entity that participates in the formation process. Mr. Albers then said, you can form a district without including that area, but then serve that area. He did not want to make this sound complicated but regional districts can serve outside their jurisdictional boundaries. There are reasons why you want to include an area within the jurisdictional boundaries, but he did not go into those reasons. Mr. Albers told us that either the township or the county or both should be the petitioner that petitions to include that area. The homeowner's association can play a part and he can prepare letters of support for them and can prepare contracts that are executed as part of the formation process. So that everyone understands when the district is formed; what is likely to occur, what their part in it is and what they are likely to pay for, estimates of costs are an important part of what you have to develop when you form a district. Mr. Albers said that he typically represents all of the entities. The other entities may have their own council as well. But, when we actually petition the court, he typically petitions on behalf of all the entities.
- Mr. Boose asked if township trustees were present or were they involved in any of this discussion. Mr. Bush from Celeryville said they had talked to their trustees. Mr. Strickler said that he had talked to Dick Wiles, who is the president of the township association and lives in the townships which Holiday Lakes is in Norwich/Greenfield.
- Mr. Wilde asked if Mr. Albers would be available after the initial formation of the district. Mr. Albers told him absolutely. He loves to represent districts after he forms them. It is a lot of what his firm does; represent the districts. Mr. Wilde clarified ARPA money could be used for consultants. Mr. Albers told him yes it could.

Mr. Wilde opened it up for audience questions:

- Tom Secor said he really didn't have questions, was here learning. He would defer to Willard, they have been wonderful with helping and they are the ones that need to understand. Holiday Lakes just want a sewer district, not sure if they care how it happens. From his experience, the more government entities involved, the cloudier it gets. He thought it would be great if the county created the district then handed it to the city of Willard, only because he has no idea how long this would take.
- Mr. Boose thought we would need the same data the court would for us to be comfortable to make the decision, so time would be the same.
- Mr. Brady thought it was necessary, but knowing they can form it themselves. Mr. Strickler did not think the community/association could form the district with the city. Mr. Brady clarified the townships could. Mr. Brady said that if the county set it up, then the county would own/control/set rates. Doesn't want to be in sewer business. Would prefer that the townships and the city work together along with Celeryville to form a district, even if it requires some help from us. Then they own it, control it, have the board and set the rates. Would rather see the local government and townships control this and the commissioners could help with some ARPA funding.
- Mr. Boose said they were at Regional county meeting last week. Several had them, no one offered success stories. Mr. Brady said another one did everything they could to not form one. He wanted them to know he supported the project, but would rather do the regional than the county district.
- Mr. Secor thought no matter how it gets formed, it would be the same. You would create a district and they would be the ones to operate it, regardless of regional or county. Mr. Brady told him that the county owns it, appoints the board, sets the rates and controls it. Mr. Secor thought that the board would be appointed by a multitude of entities. Mr. Albers confirmed that a county district is owned, operated and controlled by the county.

- The county can contract with other entities with respect to purchase or sale of services, but they still own and operate them. Mr. Wilde did not want to support a county district; Mr. Boose thought they should take time to analyze the information.
- Mr. Bush from Celeryville asked if a township could keep the project from moving forward if they deny supporting it. Also, as far as the townships are concerned, does the boundary of district have to encompass the whole township or can it be sliced up. There are other unincorporated areas within our townships and unincorporated areas that don't agree. Mr. Albers said a district could be single neighborhood; can slice and dice to make it whatever size you want. If you establish a regional district that includes territory in a township that does not have the support of the township for that area is not a petitioner. It would have to be the county that would be the county who is the petitioner to get that area included. If the township sought to prevent the establishment of the district, he thought that it would be unlikely that they would succeed, but they could create issues that would have to be dealt with. It would probably turn it into a mini trial, in which event their trying to prove that the district is not necessary and conducive to public safety, etc. and we are trying to prove it is. Mr. Albers has formed about 40 districts and never had one not formed except one time they tried to form a water and sewer district knowing the sewer wasn't likely to be approved by the court and it wasn't. Typically, you do your ground work and strategize. Sometimes they include less territory to begin with because you can always add the territory later without going back to court.
- Mr. Albers thought that we were trending in the direction of a regional district and said that the good thing about a regional district is they are very flexible. The county could be a participant and a petitioner to form the district, but then take no active part in the district after that point and not appoint people to the board. That may be necessary for the utilization of the ARPA funds anyway. He will have to look at that. Can tailor the different needs and desires of the entities.
- Mr. Boose asked if the county forms a district and 10 years down the road something goes wrong. Who will the EPA come down on? Mr. Albers said it would be the county commissioners. If you had a regional district, it would be the board of trustees for the regional district.
- Mr. Strickler said the EPA could come down on them regardless. Mr. Boose responded that he could not say that. It is not a county issue, it is an issue for the home owners and the association. Mr. Boose did not feel that if we did nothing and their sewage problems are going into the lakes, that the EPA can come down on the commissioners. Mr. Strickler asked the Health Department if they had anything to say. Mr. Hollinger did not agree.
- Mr. Secor said he has asked the question to the EPA, if we don't do this will you sue Holiday Lake and he was told that since they were in an unincorporated area and it fails, they will sue county. Mr. Boose asked Mr. Strickler to get that in writing from the EPA.
- Mr. Brady told him that he would like to work with the townships and cities down there. Mr. Boose said to remember that it is in a township to, so the township may be the one responsible, instead of the county. Mr. Secor said that is just what they told him. Mr. Brady thought Mr. Secor was very helpful and thanked him for his time. He liked what he said and recognized that his concern was that we get something set up so they can have sewer. Mr. Brady would like to see this worked out and work with the townships. Mr. Brady thought that this was a viable project that has a definite use between Celeryville, Willard and Holiday Lakes.
- Mr. Hamons asked if we set up the regional district, when the region expands, does it have to be in connecting areas or can it skip around? If we create it in this area and they have problems outside of Norwalk or Wakeman, would you have to go through this whole thing again? Mr. Albers said the law is not terribly clear. If you include part of a township and you later try to include remaining parts of that township, you can include them without going back to court. You may have to go back to court to include areas that are outside of that original township in which you have established the district. You can do it and it's not that big a deal, the statute says included within the unincorporated areas. If you have part of X township and you want to include more of it, you can include them without going back to court. Go through a short procedure and do an engineering study to make sure it is feasible. The necessary resolutions are passed and the area is added. Contiguity not an issue. You may have to go back to court to add the territory, but you can skip and jump all over the county.
- Mr. Hamons was concerned on down the road as more systems fail in other parts of the county. Other question – what about property assessments? If they create the regional district, is it still ran through the county bill. Mr. Albers said no, the regional district itself can levy special assessments and can even do a voted tax. Special assessments have benefitted budding adjacent land owners by the water and sewer lines. The regional district board can assess it and the regional board has a better procedure than the county commissioners. You can't hold off a district project once the assessment process is completed like you can with a county project if you object to it. You can't access ag property, it gets a deferment from assessment. You can access benefitted homeowners. He is doing a lot of voluntary assessments. Instead of doing a mandatory assessment, where everybody is assessed, if you get enough people who want to do it and they want to pay for it over time, they sign up for a voluntary assessment and it goes on their property taxes. They can pay it off over the number of years decided.

- Mr. Boose told Mr. Albers that there is a community of over 400 houses, currently all have septic. If this is formed, do they have to use the new sewage systems and what happens to all the septic systems? Mr. Secor said the law says you have to unless you are over 200' from the road. Mr. Albers said that a regional district can force people, even if they are over the 200'. The board of health can require the connection and it usually is the board of health, not the regional district that forces that decision, but it can.
- Mr. Boose asked if the district included the pipelines in between holiday lakes & Willard; Do those homes in between have to connect to the system? Mr. Albers said it depended if it was a gravity system or force main. With a force main people are not typically forced to tie in, if it is a gravity system, the board of health might require connection. Mr. Albers said that wherever you go in the state, you get a different decision from the board of health. A lot of times the regional district says that they are not going to force connection, if the board of health wants to they can. Often the board of health does not; until the septic system fails. Mr. Wilde said when it fails they will have to connect. Mr. Albers agreed, also new construction
- Mr. Boose asked what happened to old septic systems. Mr. Matula said the septic systems would have to be abated. They would have to be crushed and filled with stone. Mr. Boose asked if the homeowner would pay for this? Mr. Matula told them that they would have to talk about that during the process. Mr. Matula is the current president of the Holiday Lakes Homeowners Association. He said that they have talked about the abatement and whether it would be an individual cost or if they could bid it out and get together by somebody and alleviate some of the costs by having them all abated by the same person/company. When the sewers go in, you must abate your tank.
- Mr. Cherry, Health Department stated that was their role in the process. Once the homeowner decides to tie in, the health department would ensure the system was properly abandoned. It was pretty easy from their end, they just ensure there are no health and safety issues.
- Mr. Boose asked if there was a mile between Willard and holiday lakes and it was connected with a pipeline. If you are a farmer with an existing septic on your property and that pipeline goes through your property, are you going to be forced to tie in? Mr. Cherry said it would be up to the board of health. Mr. Boose said that was important to him and asked him to find out. Mr. Boose told him that it was very important to him as far as forming a district, what we do to other people in the area.
- Mr. Secor had a question for the attorney and said that Holiday Lakes had hired an engineering Company to do a preliminary study and the company explained to them about the 200' setback and it was not so much about holiday Lakes, if they ran down Niver Road to connect, then every house on Niver Road would have to connect if it ran in front of your property. Mr. Secor said that they did have another option. There was a farmer who was willing to give them an easement to run the line through his property. Still could be in a situation were there are some homes on Egypt Rd., that are not a part of Holiday Lakes, that could be affected. Mr. Albers said that was a requirement for the county. If you are not within 200' you are considered not accessible.
- A regional district can set that requirement at whatever they want or have no requirement, but that decision is not necessarily going to be supported by the Board of Health. Ultimately whether the regional district likes it or not, the board of health could decide that a property is accessible.
- Mr. Secor asked if it was normal for a board of health member to be on that regional board. Mr. Albers said that they can be on the regional board, but it is not normal for them to be on it. Mr. Hollinger thought it was unfair to ask the Board members a hypothetical question. Mr. Boose did not think it was unfair. The commissioners are trying to make a decision for the future of the people of Huron County. They can't hold future boards to their decision, but to him, how the County Health Board is going to react to this being formed was critical.
- Mr. Secor said in his dealings with the Health Department to get this going, they have been phenomenal.
- Mr. Thornton, City of Willard engineer, told them that with the regional district, you have to understand that the EPA is going to require a general plan. That plan would lay out what is going to happen in the district for the sewer line. Mr. Thornton thought that everyone was way out ahead of themselves. They don't even know for sure the system that will be used. There are also 2 different types of connections. The city may not want people to connect into certain types of mains. Mr. Thornton did not think that they would have much of a gravity system. Mr. Boose thought this reinforced his opinion. Mr. Boose thought that he was putting the cart before the horse. He would not be making a decision for the county that obligates us to do certain things in the future that we don't even know about. He would want to know everything about the system, all of the options, all the issues that could come up before we approve a district not after.
- Mr. Thornton said that would come with the district. The outline of the district is going to determine it. Anybody that is in that district is going to have a system. If we create the district we are going to say that the district people are going to have water and sewer. Mr. Brady said that it was also dependent on the district and that is why he prefers to have the regional district, to allow the townships and municipalities that are directly involved with it to deal with it.

- Mr. Albers told them that he did not want to step on anyone's toes, but his observation throughout the state is that typically people are not required to connect if they have functioning home septic systems. New construction would be required.
- Mr. Boose has a septic system personally. What happens if there is a commercial business in the area? Are those regulations different than residential? Mr. Albers deferred to Mr. Thornton. Mr. Thornton explained if it was a business, they would have to go directly to the EPA for their system. They would need to have their system designed by a special engineer and it's approved by the EPA. Mr. Boose said so they have one of those and now they are included in the sewer district? Mr. Thornton said there really is no difference for them. The only thing that the city has, is a free treatment program. If it is a business or industry, potentially, they are some rules that we have. Once the city or region decides this, they are the entity that has to talk to the EPA. The city/regional entity will have to watch what they discharge into the system. If they are discharging what they are not supposed to be discharging, then they will penalize them for doing that.
- Mr. Boose said, so there is a commercial system, they go to EPA and get everything done that they are supposed to, now they are part of the district. Do they throw out all those costs and convert? Mr. Thornton said if the line is available, it was his guess the EPA would require them to tie into new line. Their approval is different than a citizen's. A business approval is through the EPA and the EPA will say that there is a line available, you are tying into it. Mr. Wilde clarified even if they weren't failing. Mr. Thornton agreed, saying that the EPA would push to get everyone tied into a system. It was coming down the line. The city of Willard gets the permit for everyone that is tied into their system. If they did not do that, then each household would have to get their own permit.
- Mr. Cherry wasn't a commercial expert, but thought generally he was right. EPA would probably not renew NPDES permit. The EPA would probably say that there is another, better option available. Mr. Cherry thought that even though there might be a large investment from the company into the system they currently have, he felt that in most cases they would be willing to tie in to the line because it was much cheaper to maintain and operate as opposed to maintaining and operating their own system, which costs much more. He felt that a lot of the commercial facilities would welcome this with open arms because it would eventually save them lots and lots of money. Mr. Boose did not think a new business that had just put in a system would be happy. Mr. Brady said there are going to be some people that may not be happy about this at first or ever. That is just the nature of the way it was. There are going to be some people that are going to be very upset, but ultimately, if it is going to be an issue down the road for the majority of people in the area. We have septic systems that are failing like crazy all over the county, but in this area particularly, some people are going to get caught at that moment when they just put a lot of money in it, not sure what you can do about that. Would be nice if we could say we would pay them back or they could tap in for nothing.

Mr. Wilde asked if there were any final questions:

- Mr. Matula asked what the next step was? Where do they go from here? Mr. Wilde told him the commissioners would need to look at their options and possibly look at using ARPA money. He asked if Willard has some ARPA money; Mr. Hamons said they had some.
- Mr. Boose said over the past couple years the commissioners were told that they were the ones who had to do something to fix this issue. Today they found out different. If it were him and he had the issue, he would be checking the options. A regional district is definitely an option. Not thrilled about forming our own district and all of the issues that can come in the future with that. We are told all of the time, when we try to make decisions for different parts of the county, that there is such a thing as local rule. It is the best decision, the best governments, the most local government you can get. In this case there is an option for the local governments to do something. Without that being pursued, he is not ready to move ahead as a commissioner and say ok. Mr. Boose feels that now that we have found out we aren't the only option, somebody other than us needs to do an analysis as to what the best option is. Mr. Brady said that with a regional district, we do not have to be involved at all. Mr. Boose said that he would not make a decision today. Mr. Boose felt that before he could make a decision, he wanted to know about the regional area and why that is not being pursued. It is more local and more about that particular area. So that we are not making a decision that ties the whole county into the liability for a local issue. Mr. Boose also said that the City of Willard does not want us making decisions for them and the same for the townships. Sometimes the decisions should be made more locally, rather than having the county make the decisions for everyone. Mr. Wilde agreed and said most of us aren't for us being involved.
- Mr. Wiers asked if the decision was to do something in Celeryville and in 10 or 15 years, Centerton decides to do something, do they have to do the same thing we just did or is some of the ground work already done. Mr. Albers said that a county district could be formed and it could have form subdistricts or a countywide district and attack the projects as they come along. If a regional district is formed, you would set it up for the particular area the you want to serve then it can be expanded in the future if need be. Mr. Wiers said the reason he asked, if he was outside of the region, he is going to look at the county and the commissioners saying, we had an opportunity to get this done all at once and but we didn't want to do it.

- Mr. Wilde said they could be included in the regional district now. Mr. Wiers said he thought if they want it they would have to be included again. Mr. Wilde thought it opened more liability for the county
- Mr. Brady told Mr. Wiers that he understood what he is saying. Erie County in process of shutting down two of their plants because they don't want to be in the waste water treatment business. The issue that comes up is, right now, what is going to make this project work really well? Should it go forward? Willard is willing to take the lead and already has the capability of doing this, but if you get in certain parts of the county, you don't have it. There is not a waste water treatment plant already in existence. The next thing you know the county is building waste water treatment plants.
- Mr. Boose said it was a huge asset having Willard in the area. Makes it a totally different decision. All the more reason to make it regional. Mr. Brady agreed and said if you get outside of Norwalk and Willard how many plants do you have?
- Mr. Secor said originally, they just wanted Willard to expand theirs, but they wouldn't let them do that correct?
- He was told that they had to have to township or the county do it. Mr. Wilde said that is where the regional or county would come in. Mr. Secor told him that is why they came to the county, because the city said that they could not do it.
- Mr. Albers said a regional district can be tailored to the level of participation we want. Your participation in the set up of that district and use of ARPA funds might be necessary for you to participate, then the ownership, operation, etc. devolves to the district only. The county's participation in the formation of a regional district and/or assistance in the funding, might require you to participate.
- Mr. Brady said that it was still different than us starting a district. Regional we can participate in formation but don't have to own, operate or maintain. Mr. Albers said that we would just be the petitioner with the other entities that form it and then we would play no active roll in it.
- Mr. Boose asked Holiday Lakes if anyone had statistics of Holiday Lakes owners that are not Huron County residents. Auditor Tkach said they could look into addresses of where they send the bills. Mr. Boose said that he remembers being on the board of revisions and every three years a man would come from Cleveland and fight his property values. He was using his house in Holiday Lakes as a summer home. Mr. Secor did not think it was as great a percentage as it used to be, because there have been so many primary homes built there, but it probably still exists.
- Mr. Matula asked for copies of Mr. Albers handout.
- Mr. Wilde asked the commissioners what they were going to do next. Wait for them to provide a proposal? They are leaning towards a regional and would like to involve the county in case they need to use ARPA funds. Mr. Boose said there was no guarantee we would use ARPA funds. Mr. Wilde said that he understood, but if they don't ask ? It's really easy, if they do ask.
- Mr. Brady was not interested in a county sewer district. Is interested in the regional sewer district. Does not like bigger government but if it requires us to be participants to potentially use ARPA money he is not opposed to being a participant. He would like to get more information. Comfortable moving forward with Mr. Albers.
- Mr. Boose thought he heard him saying what he has been saying all along. The County Commissioners are not taking the lead in this process. If they want to make a proposal, there will be questions back. Mr. Brady thought that they should talk to our legal representation or our ARPA consultant. Mr. Boose advised that they use this consultant and Mr. Brady said that we had not engaged his services yet. Mr. Boose noted that townships also have ARPA money. They may want to use that for a consultant.
- Mr. Brady wanted to do our due diligence to determine if we had to be a participant if we wanted to use our ARPA. Mr. Brady thinks that the city has done a really good job in collaborating thus far and does not see a reason why the county should jump in and take that over, but if we have to be a participant in it to help it get done, then he is not opposed. Wants to find out how far we potentially have to go to make this happen.
- Mr. Wilde asked if everyone was somewhat comfortable going forward. He dismissed Mr. Albers.

At 12:04 p.m. the board recessed.

At 12:14 p.m. the board resumed regular session

Commissioner Boose update:

Mr. Boose thought Mr. Wilde took care of Norwalk Arts Council. Mr. Wilde left a message with her.

Mr. Boose said they received an email from an individual asking who was in charge of sewer districts. He thought they should respond. Mr. Brady did not respond since it was an issue they were currently discussing. Mr. Boose thought they should tell him it could be local/township or it could be commissioner, depending on the type of district set up. Mr. Boose said they should have Ms. Ziemba respond.

Mr. Boose sometimes gets stuff from the Treasury regarding ARPA. Asked if the other commissioners had received an email regarding what they call SLFRF funds, which is the ARPA funds.

(State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds). Treasury urges state and local governments to use SLFRF for expanding the workforce and providing competitive wages; expanding access to affordable housing; and keeping families and community safe. Mr. Wilde asked him to forward this to him. He continued. *“As we look ahead Treasury encourages state and local governments to share this success publicly. Highlighting how SLFRF funds are getting people back to work and into jobs, expanding affordable housing and improving public safety in your community.”*

Mr. Wilde didn't think this fell into any of the buckets. Mr. Boose said that it all fell into one bucket. If you go back and look at the buckets, it would be the low-income bucket. Economically distressed. Mr. Brady said that most of it was not directed at what it claims to say in the bold print.

Invited to Ribbon cutting- RC&D opening in Ozark, Alabama.

RC&D meeting – June 10, Wood County (Bowling Green). One of the things they are doing was a demonstration on the little robots that go around bowling green.

Mr. Boose had information from District 9 Integrating Commission. Public Works commission for roads. Meeting last Friday, not enough people - no quorum.

June 1, Mr. Boose has to go to Columbus. The same day, there is a virtual Area 7 meeting. Workforce Investment Act (WIOA). Meeting in Dayton. They had a special meeting during Winter Conference last year, because they cannot get enough for a quorum. Mr. Wilde is going to see about filling in for Mr. Boose. Mr. Brady can do it if he is unavailable.

Mr. Boose returned to District 9 Integrating Committee and said that the meeting was tomorrow but it said executive committee. Mr. Boose said that he sent them a note, asking who was on the executive committee because the last time he went, he could not vote on anything.

Commissioner Brady updates:

Mr. Brady attended FCFC meeting yesterday morning.

CCAO General Gov't and Operations at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Boose said at the Wellness Fair yesterday he was talking to Mrs. Ditz, who will be coming to them to discuss the connecting of water from the administration building to the garden in the back for Master Gardeners. Mr. Boose explained the Commissioners have agreed to pay the water.

Judge Conway setting up a meeting to discuss funding for no bars program. They always fell short on funding and it has been covered by MHAS. They had a 2- year deal with MHAS and would pay an additional half for the 3rd year, which is the end of this year/beginning of next year. The judge is still looking for the money for the rest of that, which as he understands, could be as high as \$100,000. Looking at other places now, but wanted to let us know ahead of time.

Mr. Wilde will be inducted into the Young Man's Library Association tonight.

Richard Russell's graduation

At 12:21 p.m. Harry Brady moved to adjourn. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFICATION

The Clerk to the Board does hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct record of all actions taken by the Board of Huron County Commissioners on May 19, 2022.

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 12:21p.m.

Signatures on File