

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.

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk; Cherise Crable, Clerical Assistant; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Roger Hunker, Lyme Township Trustee/APEX; Brad Mesenburg, Citizen; Patricia Didion, Citizen; Matt Roche, Norwalk Ohio News; Brian Gott, Norwalk Reflector; Dave Light, Mayor of Norwalk/Humane Society.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the June 20, 2023 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Terry Boose seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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

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

23-232

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

Terry Boose moved the adoption of the following resolution:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve the Claim Register Payment Batch #361601 and authorize the Huron County Auditor to make the necessary warrant;
and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the foregoing resolution was adopted and all actions and deliberations of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Huron, Ohio relating thereto were conducted in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Bruce Wilde seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Mr. Boose thought the bill from Air Force One on page 2 was for the Administration Building. He noted an air handler may possibly be going in tomorrow at the Public Defender’s Office.

Chainsaws for tornado damage on June 15, 2023. Mr. Boose thought we need a policy for owning chainsaws. This was not normally something EMA would be doing, this is usually done by the cities, townships and villages. Mr. Boose understands there were tornados and that we needed extras, and should have been purchased for the department that was using them. Mr. Boose would like a policy and for the equipment to be maintained. Mr. Boose discussed that after the Firefighters Association meeting he went to, they have a full educational training you have to go through before you can use a chainsaw. Mr. Boose stated he is not sure who is using this equipment if they are volunteers. Ms. Ziemba said the explanation she received was that this equipment is used by the Fire Departments. These are part of our inventory and the Fire Departments use them for storm cleanup. Mr. Brady stated his understanding was EMA is providing a service of coordinating efforts and they are not doing the hands on down on the ground. Mr. Brady stated chainsaws are a very nice tool, but a very dangerous tool to handle.

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

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

SIGNINGS - none**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS****Assistant Prosecutor updates**

- Kim Priestap from Attorney General's office stopped by their office last week regarding some additional opioid monies. Mr. Strickler explained *we have already accepted the money*. Mr. Strickler explained one of the settlements would be \$156M over 13 years; the Allergen settlement will be \$93M over 7 years; the CVS settlement will be \$206M over 10 years; and the Walgreen's settlement is \$224.3M over 15 years.
- Mr. Strickler stated he had been asked about evidence-based stuff last week. He said that the only thing in this which talks about something close to that is about people in jail. He said it is evidence informed treatment. The only place this is located is in a section of Exhibit A. Mr. Strickler discussed this with Ms. Cardone and she concurred. Mr. Strickler thought the issue would be that the provider would need to be someone who is approved by OMAS and can't be just anyone. Mr. Boose asked if it could be another government agency. Mr. Strickler told him probably, but would need to be someone who is qualified to do the service.
- Mr. Boose received an e-mail regarding the budget which states the whole process does not have to follow the open meetings law. Mr. Strickler said the supreme court was hearing that and he thought that because they have now obtained their 501c3 status they are a charitable corporation. Mr. Boose noted that as of 2 weeks ago they were still saying it was an open meeting rules and noted the House and Senate but something in the budget which specifically states that. Mr. Boose thought it sounds like it overrules what the supreme court is doing. Mr. Boose thought for now we would continue to have our Region 19 meetings open. Mr. Strickler thought that would be the more prudent thing to do for transparency but thought we need to do that because the way we organized was as an intergovernmental service agreement. So, we are all public bodies meeting. We didn't organize as a private foundation or corporation. Unless we want to dissolve the intergovernmental agreement and reorganize in another way he feels that Region 19 needs to continue to meet in open meetings. Mr. Boose said he would forward anything he receives pertaining to this. Discussed needing to notify the media of these meetings, but they are not discussing anything secretive.
- Mr. Boose said there was some talk of Family and Children First working with DD and JFS on some programs. Mr. Strickler stated there is an agreement with MHAS and Family and Children First Council. Mr. Strickler needs to do some type of MOU between the 3 parties regarding the types of services which will be provided for in the contract between MHAS and Family and Children First Council.
- Ms. Ziemba had asked Mr. Strickler about the New London water tower and some antennas that needed to be moved. Mr. Strickler said we are fine because we are only moving 2 antennas and are leaving one there, so we will still be on the tower. Mr. Boose asked if the antenna which we are leaving is the Sheriff's. Mr. Strickler said yes. Mr. Boose noted when this originally happened there were seven different entities up there and we were considered two. Mr. Stricker said we would need to amend that and he will need to talk to New London.

Commissioner Boose updates

- Mr. Boose wanted to talk about action taken by the Fair Board last week.
 - Mr. Boose received a call from Bob Morgan on Friday and was told at Thursday night's meeting they approved to go out and get a loan for the rest of the money which they need to go out to bid. The board approved that and it sounded like it would work almost like a line of credit as opposed to going out for a loan. They would only take as much money out as they needed.
 - Mr. Boose asked Mr. Strickler if that was okay for ARPA. Mr. Strickler thought under the statutes, the Fair Board has the power to borrow money. Under the Agricultural Society statutes. Mr. Brady said we needed to know if this would muddle ARPA. Mr. Strickler said we would need to ask Ms. Gordon about that because she is our ARPA expert. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba if we could get that to Ms. Gordon. He was not sure if we need to have a discussion between the Fair Board as part of it. The Fair Board needs to have an answer fairly soon because we gave them dates and in order to meet those dates they need to keep moving.
 - Mr. Brady asked if the loan was to be used after the ARPA money was expended or before. He noted that initially we said that the ARPA money would be used to fill in whatever wasn't acquired, up to \$1.8M. Mr. Boose thought it sounded like it would be after ARPA because they were only going to use what they need. Mr. Brady said that in essence we are saying they will use the whole \$1.8M. Mr. Wilde said maybe. Mr. Boose said they have not gone out to bid yet, so you never know until you go out to bid. Mr. Boose said his understanding is that they can make this loan several different sizes, but they didn't know what the bid would be and they did not want to borrow any more than they had to.
 - Mr. Hunker added that the committee is still committed to getting whatever funding they

could get and are planning to cover the loan and whatever else they can get. He said the grant writers are actively working to get additional grant funding. They have talked to three different organizations/individuals who are ready to give another \$25,000 each. This has not been accounted for yet. One of those is the Huron County Farm Bureau. The Fair Board accepted that money at the last meeting.

- Mr. Brady said he just wanted to make sure we were clear on the process. He also said the Fair Board needs the estimate to come in from a contractor who is willing to build it for a certain amount of money. Mr. Boose said they have hired Schmid to move it forward, so they are moving forward. Mr. Boose noted this was just another piece of the puzzle that he wants to make sure we are not holding anything up.
- Mr. Wilde said he was all for that. It has to be done or it's over and we stop. He added that we are not stopping and will know more in two months. In the mean time we are doing what we have to do to make it work. Mr. Wilde told Mr. Hunker that he knows they are working hard on funding. Mr. Boose said this is a new way which they are helping it move along.

Commissioner Brady updates:

- Mr. Brady will be at the HCDC meeting Thursday at 8:00 a.m.
- He will attend LEPC at 1:00 p.m.
- Township Association Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- There is an EMA meeting at 7:00 p.m also. Mr. Boose said he would not be able to attend that meeting.

Commissioner Wilde updates:

- Mr. Wilde said he could attend the EMA meeting.
- Workforce Development meeting yesterday. DD board was there and for the first time in a long time there are 2 or 3 positions filled. One of them being custodial. Mr. Welch is going to find out how they are advertising for jobs and Mr. Boose told Kari Smith to send them our way.

Commissioner Boose updates: continued

- Workforce Development meeting yesterday. They continue to discuss transportation, housing and childcare. They are asking the people at the meeting to go out and spread the word to get help. Mr. Boose said the housing study is a challenge right now and the question is where do we go from here. The commissioners have the least ability to do anything because there is no county water, sewer or zoning. Somebody will need to take the lead. Mr. Boose had hoped somebody would step up after the housing meeting and say they would lead this. He said the commissioners would like to be involved but whether they need to lead our not is an interesting question because we do not have control over anything.
- Mr. Wilde stated we have Huron County Economic Development, Norwalk and Willard. He felt there are organizations who are better built to lead. Mr. Boose said he understood that but how do we move forward. Mr. Boose noted that when the state talks about affordable housing, they are talking about low income housing. He also said at the last CCAO Board meeting this was a big issue for the large counties.
- Statehouse report.
 - Local government fund changes update is entertaining. They increased us from 1.66% to 1.70% and then you start taking all the deductions from there. Mr. Boose asked Mr. Strickler about a section of this and Mr. Strickler did not know what he meant. Mr. Boose said he thought it was some type of cap saying the minimum you can get is a \$750, but thought the minimum any county could get was \$850 but we are well over that, so it does not affect us. Mr. Boose said there was also something about having to meet every 5 years. Mr. Strickler said they have to meet every 5 years to make sure the formula they are using to receive the local government funds is correct or whether they need to modify it. He thought it was the Budget Commission that had to do this. Mr. Boose said then there is a whole paragraph about the cuts in revenues the state has in the budget. CCAO is still trying to figure out the budget too, but the original estimate we got from them, going from 1.66% to 1.70%, we will probably get less money, not more money due to all the cuts in revenues. It is based on the total revenue the state brings in.

At 9:45 a.m. Jennifer Evans, Humane Society. Ms. Evans stated she is currently the Treasurer and a board member of the Human Society. She introduced those in attendance: Amanda Fearing, Shelter Medical Director; Daphne Nelson, Humane Agent for the County; Samantha Trushel, one of their Cleaners; Tracy Koch, Assistant Manager and Cleaner; Kathy Molek, who has a long history with the Humane Society; Darla Gow, Community Development Director. Also in attendance, Mayor Dave Light, City of Norwalk.

Ms. Evans wanted to start with what the shelter is and what they do. She has been volunteering at the shelter for more than 15 years. It is not simply about cats and dogs. They work with people every day throughout the year. There is not one animal that has been in their care that has not come from a human being; they do

not come in by themselves. A lot of the things they do deal with are surrenders, where people lose their jobs, they have to move out of state, they have to go serve our country, somebody passes in their family, leaving behind an animal. They have a place to bring that animal knowing that animal is going to be cared for, trained, re-trained, medically cared for, and turned out to a family through an adoption. This is a blessing to many families.

Some of the things they also deal with are humane cases – abuse, neglect, hoarding, abandonment. Since October they have had five significant hoarding cases and have been inundated with animals at their shelter. At one point they had 37 dogs for about five months. They have twelve kennel spaces at the shelter; they had dogs in crates everywhere. They end up dealing with other human services in the county, such as Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, and other agencies through the calls they received. It is about human service and animals are the byproduct of what they do.

Not only do they deal with surrenders, hoarders, abuse and neglect, the community expects us to deal with all the stray cats and kittens in our area. Stray cats and kittens will bring in communicable diseases, which would negatively affect the animals we have in our shelter. This is why we don't take strays. However, if people bring them, we try to accommodate to the best of our ability. Most of the time we ask them to return them to the outside and let nature take its course. That is not the answer the community wants from us.

The Humane Society is a great need for our county and every county in this country. We are all dealing with the same issues today. Ms. Evans said she had looked up some statistics, and found one from the FBI. It stated that animals are one of the most vulnerable in our society. A lot of the abuse and neglect towards animals eventually turns into abuse and neglect towards people. They coincide, it is proven.

Last year our Humane Agent submitted her report to the Huron County Sheriff's department. We received 248 animals last year. Our normal rate of animal intakes are around 200 every year. Ms. Evans pointed out they also assist other agencies, including the Huron County Dog Warden. In 2022 they dealt with 45 outside agencies; they are at 37 so far this year.

Since the hoarding cases last October their expenses have increased. Their utilities increased \$11,000. Their veterinary expenses have increased by \$10,000. Their payroll increased \$28,000, and that is at a very low pay rate. Their starting rate for a cleaner at the facility is \$9.25/hour. It is very hard to hire anyone; it is very hard to keep people. Statewide and nationally Humane Societies are dealing with the same thing. They are required by law not only to respond, but also to take animals out of the situation they are in and bring them into their care whether they have the space or not.

Ms. Evans said they tried to figure out what was happening and how these expenses got out of control. The pandemic has changed the world for everybody. When people started working from home animal adoptions increased. Throughout the country Humane Societies were concerned about what would happen to those animals when people went back to work. And what they thought would happen is happening. Pet relinquishments are on the rise all across the country. Animal care costs versus household costs make people choose their home over their pet. Inflation. Everything is expensive for everyone, including us. Volunteers are very difficult to come across these days. They used to cut our four hour shifts down to two. But the work is hard, its strenuous, its emotional, its difficult work.

Donation income is fluctuating. Ms. Evans said they work very hard fundraising all year. We wouldn't stop, even if we received support from the Commissioners. They do not have a constant, dependable source of income. Their animal law firm has told them it is going to get worse before it gets better.

Ms. Evans stated that in ORC §1717 humane societies are defined, and defined very well. ORC §1717.07 discusses how municipalities, villages and the County Commissioners should be paying toward our Humane Agent's salary through the general fund 001. We are asking for that support not just for the humane agent, but for what we do. We get grants and trusts. We apply every year; grant money is specified. It is restricted, we can only use it for what the grant allows us to use it for. It is never payroll, never utilities, never the things that keep us running. Trust are very few. People have to pass away for that to happen. Ms. Evans said they need a new, dependable funding source so we can support our staff, our mission and our community. We are asking for help today.

Ms. Evans said a second opportunity for the Commissioners to help would be through the disposition of the surplus fund, which is the Dog & Kennel fund 105. The ORC states anything over \$2,000 at the end of each year could be given to a humane society, or a society that helps children. We are asking to be considered so that we can have a steady income source so that we can plan our future and the future assistance we provide for our community. It states anything over \$2,000 in the Dog & Kennel fund, and that you *may* pay.

Again, we are asking for the Humane Agent's salary and support for our operations as well.

Mr. Brady said that they had someone coming in at 10:00. Ms. Evans said she was almost done.

Ms. Evans went on to tell them that she had provided the profit and loss statements for 2022 and 2023. She also submitted the Humane Agent documentation to confirm that she is the legal humane agent serving Huron County. Ms. Evans thanked them for their time and said that it was her hope that they could form a committee and have a separate meeting to discuss the opportunities for the Commissioners to support them financially so they have a steady income source for their future.

Mr. Boose said he thought Ms. Ziemba had asked Ms. Evans to keep it shorter so they could ask questions. We don't have time to ask questions. Without questions he cannot make a decision. Mr. Brady suggested they could have her come back

At 10:00 a.m. Transit 911 & Seneca Crawford Transit, Transportation Discussion: Present were: Ben Cappelle, Transit 911; Jim Oliver, GLCAP; Mary Habig, Seneca/Crawford Area Transportation; Ron Davidson, SCAT Safety Manager; Steve Beal, Huron County Senior Enrichment Services; Carlos Vasquez, Senior Enrichment Services; Kristen Cardone, MHAS.

Mr. Brady stated they wanted to start with Mr. Cappelle. The Board had asked Transit 911 to reach out to other transit agencies in the area to potentially partner with them in some way. Mr. Brady asked Mr. Cappelle to bring them up to speed with his conversations with ODOT, why they were talking to Seneca/Crawford, and what ODOT thinks.

Mr. Cappelle said last time he was here had been at the end of March. Between then and now a lot has happened behind the scenes. He had a lot of telephone calls with ODOT and with surrounding counties. He talked to a lot of different people at ODOT, including Chuck Dwyer, who was Director of the Office of Transit. Mr. Cappelle said he intentionally spoke to different people to make sure there was no internal conflict. In this case everyone at ODOT had the same opinion. They discussed Lorain County, Erie County, Seneca County and Richland County. When he talked with ODOT about who was a high performing transit system, who is well regarded by ODOT and what ODOT's opinion was, Seneca was the most highly regarded transit system that is adjacent to Huron County. By quite a significant margin.

Mr. Cappelle explained there are financial issues in Lorain County. Their Commissioners used to put money into transit; they stopped. It has sort of imploded in on itself. Sandusky has a system; Erie has a system. Those haven't really come together yet. When you look at Ms. Habig and Seneca, you have a system that is doing really well. You also have experience providing service in another county. Seneca used to be just Seneca Transportation, until they took over operation of Crawford County in 2017. ODOT thinks it was done well, it is a model of how communities should work together. Sometimes ODOT will push things from behind the scenes. In this case they didn't. Mr. Cappelle stated when talking to ODOT about Huron County's desires, they very strongly supported the idea of talking to Seneca about a partnership.

They discussed OCTA in Ottawa County. ODOT has a high opinion of them also. But ODOT's main comment was Seneca and Huron have geographic boundaries that make sense. Mr. Dwyer got very excited and loved the idea. About half way through the conversation Mr. Dwyer started to talk about the budget that would be required for the transition. He said it seems like \$300,000 these days is the magic number for a transition. Mr. Cappelle said Mr. Dwyer kind of skipped some steps, but he was so positive about it that he was already talking about how to fund it to make it a reality.

Mr. Brady was aware that Ms. Habig had some experience with Huron County and had worked with Mr. Vasquez. Ms. Habig commented that she loved Mr. Vasquez, he was a great guy. Mr. Brady said that had been one of his concerns – we have transportation being operated now by Services for the Aging. We are not trying to dismantle what we have. We do have a location. Mr. Brady offered to take them out and show them to the building the County was purchasing for transportation.

Ms. Habig said she has been doing transit management for 31 years. She has been with Seneca for nine years. FTA has been talking about regionalizing for years. In 2016 ODOT approached them about taking over Crawford County. They went in and expanded those services. Seniors still have their transportation, but we do the general public. There is no age or income base to ride public transit. Ms. Habig thought it would be a similar transition if they chose to do this. But she answers to a board of directors of 12. SCAT is a non-profit. They are not county owned or operated; there are no county benefits. Ms. Habig thought this would be a similar transition; probably even better because they have experience. Mr. Vasquez was amazing, and Ms. Habig said she would love to show him how to write grants, which grants to go for and who at ODOT to talk to. The bottom line is you have to follow the money. She thought they could help Huron County in any capacity they wanted. But her board would have the ultimate say. But Ms. Habig saw nothing but growth; she did not think they could go backwards. She didn't see any reason they couldn't renovate the buildings. There was OTP 2, Ohio Transit Partnership program, funding available. It does not require a match.

Mr. Brady reiterated that Ms. Habig will have to take this to her board, and that this was the first time the whole Board of Commissioners had a chance to meet her. He asked if she had had any conversations with her board, or if she foresaw any problems. Ms. Habig thought they would be very open to the idea and to meeting with everyone. She noted they all have day jobs, they are all volunteers. But she said they could set up a date when the Commissioners could come down and meet them, see the facility and how it is set up. See how the interactions go on at our location.

Mr. Wilde said that this morning Mr. Boose told him about somebody who didn't feel comfortable here because they couldn't get the transportation they needed at an off hour. Mr. Wilde loved hearing Ms. Habig's experience; he believes most things are about relationships. He said he would love for her to see where we are going and would love to see everybody get together at some point.

Ms. Habig said FTA is pushing regionalization, and if we are going to move this we should do it at our pace, instead of being forced at the last minute. Mr. Boose said that it was important that we do it at our pace, because we have some good people doing transportation now. For it to work there has to be a plan. There are a million things the commissioners would love to see in transportation, but we don't have the millions of dollars that go along with that. The plan for the transition is key, for one. The second thing is, one of the reasons the commissioners are getting involved in transportation is not because we don't like Senior Services. Mr. Boose thinks the future of our local transportation is going to be figuring out where to get money, how to get money, it may even be subsidized by the commissioners. Because we may want to do certain programs that there are not grant for. Ms. Habig suggested having someone become a member of their board. She said when they expanded their services to include Crawford County, they requested that somebody from Crawford County sit on the Board of Directors. Because one of the Commissioners lived right on the county line he was the one that was picked. It can be anybody you want to assign.

Mr. Boose said it was important that the commissioners have some involvement in it. He asked if there was a program that certain agencies in our county wanted to do that was not being done in Seneca or Crawford County, could we do it? Ms. Habig said that as long as it follows the guidelines of their federal dollars there is not a problem. Mr. Boose asked even if the Commissioners fund it? Ms. Habig said yes, because you are using federal vehicles. Mr. Cappelle said it was unlikely that something you wanted to do would be outside those guidelines. They are not that restrictive. Ms. Habig said they do wedding reception shuttles. They just have to have a statement at the bottom of the contract "open to general public".

Mr. Boose said we do not have Uber in Huron County. Ms. Habig said they do not have it in Seneca either. Mr. Boose thought that was the type of service that is needed. Ms. Habig said that was not public transit, that would be taxi service. Mr. Boose believed with a creative approach they could do something like that. Mr. Brady stated that on-demand rides were more what they were looking at. Mr. Boose said 24/7 including weekends. They wanted to look at all that. They know it costs money. But as Commissioners they want to look at something that addresses that. He asked if they would be able to do that if it doesn't fit in to the Seneca/Crawford system. Ms. Habig said if they are running public transit they have to follow the guidelines. She said she was always looking for creative ways to do things. Ms. Habig said she would never tell them not to look into something and in fact she would encourage them to. But she stated she does not have a magic wand to do evenings. Mr. Boose understood. Mr. Brady clarified that Mr. Boose just wanted to make sure they were open to flexibility. Mr. Boose said they go to many meetings each week and hear at all these meetings different things that people are asking for. When we hear the same thing over and over, we want to be able to at least look at it. The commissioners want some kind of involvement in this. We don't want transportation over here and they just do their thing and we never talk,

Mr. Wilde said that workforce development is an issue and one of the answers that you hear every other Monday is transportation. He asked in the other two counties, is there third shift, second shift transportation? Ms. Habig said no. Crawford and Seneca are Monday through Friday, 5:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. They have just started a flex route – they are going to start an evening route. Their hope is to take the morning shift in, bring home the midnight shift. Take the afternoon shift in, bring home the morning shift. Take the midnights in, bring home the afternoon shift. That is what they are shooting for. But we are struggling to get CDL drivers. That is the only reason it is not up and running in Seneca County. It used to be it cost \$300 - \$400 to get a CDL. In February of 2022 legislators passed it to where it is now \$4,000 - \$8,000. They linked us in with truckers. Mr. Wilde asked if they had to have a CDL. Mr. Vasquez said it depends on the bus. Ms. Habig said if it is 15 or more passengers you have to have CDL. But if Huron County doesn't have them that might be something we look into. ODOT is opening up a grant. You have to send a letter of intent by next Monday, for workforce development, and they will fund a service like this. Mr. Beal said he has the email, he was waiting for today to send it. Mr. Brady said if we send it, ODOT seems to be willing to work with the change over at some point. Ms. Habig said there were rumors that it had to be out of the service area, now they are saying it doesn't have to be. She sees no reason not to apply.

Mr. Boose asked if it was money for vehicles or money for operating. Ms. Habig said operating. It will cover your evening shifts. There may be capital later, which would be your vehicles. Mr. Boose said he was

a little frustrated with the state in general that they are good at sometimes giving you capital money but no operating money. Mr. Cappelle said they have changed the rules for grants literally within the last 24 hours. It has been a whirlwind.

Mr. Wilde asked about the employees of SCAT. Are they county employees? Ms. Habig said no, they are a nonprofit. Mr. Wilde clarified that, if they came here those employees would be employees of SCAT, a nonprofit, but we would have a seat on the board. Ms. Habig said that would be a requirement that somebody from Huron County sits on our Board of Directors.

Mr. Boose said that something they were going to need to hear from Mr. Beal and Mr. Vasquez, not today, but what does this mean to them? We are not trying to run employees out, we are trying to keep our employees. Mr. Vasquez said the team he has now just asks, when are we moving? That is all they are waiting on. He has not heard any negatives, no one is threatening to leave. Mr. Wilde clarified that the drivers would be employees of SCAT. He asked about Mr. Vasquez. Ms. Habig said he would also be an employee of SCAT.

Mr. Brady restated where they were at. He would like them to stick around so that he and maybe Ms. Ziemba could go out and show them the building. He said he had talked to three of the stakeholders: Job & Family Services, who could not be here; Senior Services, who was present; and MHAS, who does not provide transportation but a lot of funding for it. He thought this was a great opportunity. And if ODOT is on board that is a big key because they are the money. Mr. Brady had seen the SCAT operations and hoped to get the rest of the board over to check it out. He believed there was already a lot of relationships crossing the county line and building on those made sense. Ms. Habig state that SCAT already goes to Willard a couple times a week. Mr. Brady clarified that Ms. Habig would be going to go to her board meeting next week and have a conversation. If this was something they were interested in, then at some point they would have to sit down with all the stakeholders.

Ms. Habig said if anybody in the public has any concerns they are welcome to come out to our office. We will give you a tour, talk to you, let you see what we do. Mr. Boose thought it was crucial that we have a conversation with stakeholders before they make any decision. Everyone agreed. He said GLCAP has a good list of most of our interested people and we can use that list. He thought it was crucial that people that are requesting, require, need, want the service, hear about it before they make a decision. Mr. Brady was not opposed to that. He just wanted to make sure they got through the initial part and were comfortable with each other.

Ms. Habig said they could call her anytime. They are opening the 2024 – 2025 grant season up on Monday, so she will be a little busy. They write one grant for both Seneca and Crawford Counties. She thought that, since they were in the middle of transition during the grant period, that ODOT would make sure Huron County had the funding. Mr. Brady said they seemed to be very flexible with people that were serious about moving transportation forward in their counties, as far funding. Ms. Habig agreed they were very good about that.

Mr. Brady wanted to reiterate that they were not looking for a forced takeover of Senior Express. He asked Ms. Habig if they operated senior services in Seneca or Crawford county. Ms. Habig said they were doing public transportation, which was 5311. And because our home base is in Seneca County, they can still apply for operating for 5310. And then you get 5311 operating money too, because the home office is in Seneca County. Seneca cannot get it, but Crawford can get both 5310 and 5311 as long as the services are not duplicated. She said that was more money for Huron County.

Mr. Davidson, SCAT Safety Managers, said if they receive a call from an individual they are not able to service because of conflict they refer them to the seniors. It works both ways; they kind of partner up. Ms. Habig said they get the same software so they can see who we have and we can see who they have and we would just work together on that. Mr. Brady said that was what he was looking for, was that coordination and cooperation. Ms. Habig said this also opens up more money to do those workforce development trips they were talking about, because we are not duplicating the service. They are actually coordinating services so that frees up a pot of money. Its like a jigsaw puzzle.

Mr. Brady thanked them for coming in. He asked if they would be interested in going to look at the building. Ms. Habig said absolutely. Mr. Brady said they were done with resolutions, they were working on reports, so they should finish the meeting shortly. Ms. Ziemba suggested they go with Mr. Beal and Mr. Vasquez to look at the current building.

Commissioner Boose updates: - continued

- LEPC meeting on Thursday.
- Mr. Boose asked if they had an opportunity to look at the information from the Office of Ohio Public Defender. It looked like we were going to get less money than previously. Not less money, less percentage. He said the state elected officials think the counties are just spending more money. He thought that in this budget our state elected officials totally forgot about inflation. And they have

acknowledged that we have operated being underfunded for a long, long time. Mr. Boose said we have asked them, if you think we are spending too much money on indigent defense, then you do it.

- John Husted is going to be at an Ohio AI forum for in Cleveland. The day we received that notice Mr. Boose tried to register for it and it was already full.
- Mr. Boose will forward the email from Tom Stuber to Mr. Strickler regarding what the House did in the budget. “*Budget language labels OneOhio as nonprofit*”. However, they assigned the AG as its lawyer.
- He forwarded the copy of the application and the application cover sheet with how they are moving forward with Region 19.
- Mr. Boose stated they received an email from Courtney Hipp he thought they might find interesting. He read the email: “*Commissioners, I just saw on Facebook that Huron County Public Health put in a health vending machine on Executive Drive. I understand that this is a county program.*” Mr. Boose said it isn’t. Mr. Strickler said they had received a grant to do that. Mr. Boose continued. “*This is in a neighborhood of Norwalk that is made up of several young families and elderly people. As a mother, this is very concerning to me to the type of people this vending machine will attract at all hours of the day. Also, I was reading the instructions and there is nothing that will stop kids from taking things out of the vending machine. I am sure that if I took my six-year old daughter up there tonight she could easily punch in numbers and get something out. How is this acceptable? Was there any discussion on this about the appropriate place to have it?*” Mr. Boose responded and said this is Huron County Public Health; they have no ties to Huron County Commissioners. They have their board, they have their own funds, they do not answer to the Commissioners or discuss their actions with us. He told her she would need to bring up her concerns with their board.
- Mr. Boose said they had received some information regarding the 9-1-1 levy. It is not the information he asked for, he is still waiting for the information he asked for.

10:58 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to enter into Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(I) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. 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*

At 11:27 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(I). 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*

****No Action taken***

Ms. Ziemba said she spoke to Mr. Strickler and they have it set up to make the payment on the property out at Board of DD. The additional fees come to \$2,596.25. She thought they would also like that to come out of the ARPA funds.

Bruce Wilde made a motion to pay the additional fees for the purchase of the Board of DD property out of ARPA funds. Terry Boose seconded the motion.

****Discussion:*** Mr. Strickler clarified that was the escrow fee, one-half the title search, one-half the owner’s title policy and the recording fee. Everything was being split between us and Board of DD. He said Ms. Gaston wanted to come up next Tuesday to have them sign the paperwork at the end of the meeting. He asked what time she should come up. Ms. Ziemba said that was the meeting she had scheduled the afternoon for review of the Personnel Policy Manual. Mr. Boose asked how detailed the review needed to be. Ms. Ziemba said that was what she had asked them and they said they decided they wanted to do it in the meeting and go through it section by section. Mr. Boose asked how many changes there were. Ms. Ziemba said she sent a list. He asked if she sent a list or sent a redline version. Ms. Ziemba said she sent both. Mr. Boose said he did not want to go through and make grammar corrections. If there was a significant change he had no problem discussing them. Mr. Brady thought if they discussed the major changes, he did not think it would take that long. Mr. Wilde reminded them they still had a motion on the table.

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

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY

JULY 11, 2023

Aye – Terry Boose

Aye – Harry Brady

Aye – Bruce Wilde

Mr. Strickler said the credit card policy may need to be changed now. With the passing of the budget, they now say credit cards can be used for any governmental purpose. They can take out the nine items that had been specified before. Ms. Ziemba asked Mr. Strickler to ask Mr. Stevens where he is on finding out about allowing the county to apply for a credit card. Mr. Strickler said he was waiting for the master agreement from the credit card holder.

Mr. Brady asked about the personnel policy manual review. Ms. Ziemba asked if they wanted to take it off of Tuesday afternoon and just do it Thursday late morning. Mr. Boose said he was good with Thursday late morning. The key word was the things that were changes. He wasn't interested in updates or corrections; just what changed.

At 11:36 a.m. Terry Boose moved to adjourn. Bruce Wilde seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFICATION

The Clerk to the Board does hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct record of all actions taken by the Board of Huron County Commissioners on July 11, 2023.

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 11:36 a.m.

Signatures on File