

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; Brad Mesenburg, Citizen; Patricia Didion, Citizen; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News; Brian Gott, Norwalk Reflector.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the June 27, 2023, July 6, 2023 and July 11, 2023 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 27, 2023, July 6, 2023 and July 11, 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

23-252

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE LANDFILL/RECYCLING FACILITY/TRANSFER STATION, AFSCME OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3764, AFL/CIO**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Huron County Commissioners and Landfill/Recycling Facility/Transfer Station, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, Local 3764, AFL/CIO for the purpose of modifying and changing the 2021-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Director of Operations has negotiated and recommends changes to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement:

- Article 43 Wages: Effective August 13, 2023, there shall be a \$4.00 per hour increase in pay for all members of the Collective Bargaining Unit.
- Article 54 Duration: The parties agree that as soon as allowed by law, they shall extend the current Collective Bargaining Agreement currently set to expire on November 30, 2023 until November 30, 2024. now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Huron County Commissioners and Landfill/Recycling Facility/Transfer Station, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, Local 3764, AFL/CIO. A copy of which is attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein; and further

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

Terry Boose seconded the motion.

**\*Discussion:** Mr. Brady explained the employees at the landfill, in our estimation, were underpaid compared to the rest of the markets. We have been losing people and having a hard time hiring the employees we need because pay is low; they are hoping this helps.

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

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

\*On file

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

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL - none

**SIGNINGS – none****Assistant Prosecutor updates:**

Mr. Strickler is working on the MOU for the Board of DD building the Commissioners recently purchased. Mr. Strickler confirmed that the lift station maintenance and repairs will be evenly split between the Board of Commissioners and Board of DD. The Board stated that was correct. Mr. Strickler stated DD is going to mow the lawn. Snow removal will be done by the Board of Commissioners. Trash removal - Board of DD is going to remove their dumpster from the property and each party will be responsible for their own trash removal. Mr. Boose asked if we have something out there to take care of the trash? Ms. Ziemba stated she had no idea. Mr. Boose suggested that Ms. Ziemba check with Mr. Minor when he comes in.

Mr. Strickler stated that Board of DD will have continued use of the garage through December 31, 2023 or until Board of DD's new garage is completed. Board of DD is going to list the Board of Commissioners as an additional insured for the liability of the buses being parked in the Commissioners garage. Mr. Strickler verified there will be no termination, until parties decide to terminate. Board of Commissioners stated that was correct.

Mr. Strickler stated that the sprinkler system is only in our building so we are responsible.

Mr. Strickler asked if we were going to split the exterminating 50/50, or are we doing ours and they would do theirs? Mr. Boose stated that Mr. Strickler needs talks to Board of DD, but he is ok splitting it 50/50. Mr. Strickler stated the Ms. Smith was ok with this, he just wanted to double check with the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners agreed to split 50/50.

Mr. Strickler stated he thought the backflow prevention testing was going to be the responsibility of each entity, the Board of Commissioners agreed.

Mr. Strickler explained that Board of DD has some additional keys. Ms. Smith stated she will get them to either Mr. Minor or Mr. Welch. Mr. Boose suggested they make sure Mr. Neuberger has an extra set of keys just in case. Mr. Strickler stated that they spoke about the security system, we will do our own thing with that.

Mr. Strickler discussed the July rent. Because the closing was done late in the month, he suggested just starting fresh in August. Mr. Strickler asked about the parking. He was under the assumption that we were going to allow them to only park so many cars. Mr. Boose stated the parking is all the Board of DD's. Mr. Boose explained that it wasn't necessarily for parking, Firelands Local wants to be able to drop off and pick up on the east side. It is more of a lane, not parking spots. Mr. Strickler said he would talk to Ms. Smith about this. Mr. Wilde stated that she totally understands this. Ms. Smith was there when the question was asked and she was ok with it. Mr. Strickler stated this was from her email to him. There were things he wasn't quite sure of, that was why he was bringing them up.

Mr. Strickler brought up custodial services. Mr. Boose asked if there were any suggestions from Ms. Smith. Mr. Strickler said no. She was unsure of where the county was with this, but asked if the county could help when her staff is on vacation. Mr. Brady asked if this was for the Board of DD building. Mr. Strickler stated that is what he assumed because we will have custodial staff for the Commissioners building. Mr. Boose suggested maybe working it into Firelands Local's contract that they do the custodial of the building. Mr. Welch stated that is a great idea. Mr. Boose suggested we could lower their rent, it would be part of the negotiations. He thought they may be in a position to do the custodial work for the whole building, not just their part.

Mr. Strickler asked if the utilities were separated, Mr. Wilde stated these are all done. Mr. Strickler thought we were waiting for the gas company, but that has been taken care of. Mr. Boose stated that the utilities are now in the Commissioners name as of August 2, 2023. Ms. Ziemba asked if there was a dumpster out there for the Commissioners. Mr. Welch stated we would have to purchase one. Mr. Boose asked do we buy one, or use a dumpster from whoever the hauler is? Mr. Welch thought it would be great to have an outside hauler come in and do it for all facilities. Mr. Welch stated we do this all in-house right now. Mr. Boose suggested that Mr. Welch get pricing for an outside hauler for 306 S. Norwalk Rd.

Mr. Brady asked Mr. Strickler to look into the transfer of titles for one of the DD buses. This was supposed to happen once we took possession of the building. Mr. Boose stated that before Mr. Strickler works on this, we need to figure out who the owner is going to be; we will know more after they go out and talk to them tomorrow. Mr. Welch asked if there was a timeframe for them to clear the garages out. Mr. Boose stated they will be utilizing part of one of the garages until their new garage is built. Mr. Welch asked if they had an agreement with Firelands Local because they have a lot in the other side of the garage. Mr. Strickler stated that a walk through will be needed. Mr. Welch stated that there is a lot that needs to be cleaned up now. Mr. Boose is not opposed to Mr. Welch having a discussion with them.

**At 9:25 a.m. County Project updates:****Joel Riedy, Network Administrator:**

Mr. Riedy explained that Clerk of Courts has been an ongoing project. They did major testing on Tuesday with their Case Management System. The testing went absolutely fantastic, they could not tell the difference from being on the local server and being connected down here. Mr. Riedy explained they did find some customization from the new server from the old did not transfer. They are currently working on this now. Once they have these ironed out they will be going live. Hoping to have this done by the end of the month. Mr. Riedy explained they have let Common Pleas have access to the test system to examine it and check all the functions.

Mr. Riedy explained they are working on all the engineering for the Broadband circuit. This is quite a process. They have to look at every First Energy pole from here to downtown and document everything that is on it, its height and the condition of the pole. Mr. Riedy stated this was a lengthy process and the ETA for completion is December 2023-January 2024. Mr. Riedy stated that regarding the grant they have to May 2024 to get this completed.

NorthCoast Wireless has completed their project using the HB2 funding. There is going to be a ceremony coming up in the next couple weeks for lighting this up. They did request that the Commissioners attend. Mr. Riedy will let them know as soon as they have a tentative date. Mr. Wilde asked that the other part of this HB2 is the Spectrum? Mr. Riedy stated yes.

On our broadband project, Mr. Riedy was told they should be receiving supplies coming in around October and we should see some of the first new radios go up and online in November. Mr. Riedy stated he asked NorthCoast Wireless to focus on the northwest area of the County. This is the area he has received the most phone calls from.

Mr. Riedy said the phone vendor has informed him that most of our hardware has hit end of life. We will need to replace the hardware, this will be a big project for next year. The software is still supported. Mr. Boose suggested that Mr. Riedy and Ms. Ziemba sit down and get this in the budget for next year. Mr. Riedy is meeting with vendors right now to get some preliminary figures for next years budget.

Mr. Riedy stated the color copier is scheduled to be here on August 11.

Mr. Boose said he met with Judge Weisenberger, who talked about how far they have come technology-wise. Mr. Boose asked if we had helped them with anything. Mr. Riedy noted that was Norwalk Municipal, they have not contributed to them. He has heard from the Clerk's office that they have been wanting to join us; they have the same case management system. Mr. Boose asked Mr. Riedy to touch base with them to see if there is anything we can do now that the County has an IT Department. Mr. Riedy stated he would like to hold off until they have the Data Center migration completed. He will look into this to make sure that there is no additional risk to us in supporting them.

Mr. Boose said there was an issue with the Auditor's office and the new flooring that was going in. Mr. Riedy stated he had discussed this with Mr. Minor already.

**Pete Welch, Director of Operations & Steve Minor, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor:**

Mr. Boose wanted to talk about the Recorder's air conditioning. They have contacted three companies; have received one cost. Everyone is too swamped to even push out quotes. One quote they did receive is just short of \$26,000. This is for Air Force One to replace two units. Mr. Boose would love to get another quote; however their air has been out a long time. He did not want to quit trying to get a quote until we pass a resolution to accept their quote. Mr. Welch said there were two things. One, Air Force One has been historically high. Second, he would like to put a timeframe for the work to be done in their contract. We can't wait three months. The air handlers for the Administration Building keep being pushed back. Supposedly this is due to the availability of the equipment. However, every time we have called Air Force One with issues they have responded immediately. Mr. Welch recommended waiting until next Tuesday. He called Hartland and DK again this morning.

Generac generators. Mr. Wilde explained that RKS had sold part of the business. Another dealer will be handling the servicing of the units. Mr. Welch asked if it sold locally. Mr. Wilde said they are not in the county, but they are not that far away.

Mr. Welch said that speaking of HVAC, we have had no bites on the job posting. We are looking at the option of staffing with Air Force One. They would send a guy down once or twice a week, depending on our needs. They would handle filter maintenance and fixing minor issues. Mr. Minor stated they were coming out next Monday and Tuesday to evaluate all of our equipment and make a list of everything we have. Mr. Boose thought now might be a good time to try this out, while we are struggling. Mr. Minor stated their

evaluation next week will help them know how much they would charge us. Mr. Welch said he was hoping to get this in place. If we can, he would recommend hiring a maintenance person instead of HVAC.

Mr. Boose wanted to thank them for tracking down the parking lot guys. Mr. Welch drove around town and found them the other day. It sounds like this will be done fairly soon. They have indicated they can do this while there are cars parked on the lot; they don't have to wait for it to be empty.

**Commissioner Wilde updates:**

Mr. Wilde said yesterday morning they had a quorum present at the Solid Waste District plan meeting. They approved the draft. Mr. Welch said everyone from the policy committee had been present. Mr. Wilde said the next step is to send letters out. Mr. Welch clarified that the townships and municipalities have to approve the plan. A hard copy will be sent out to everyone. They have 90 days to approve it. Mr. Welch said historically they have been fine. He did not expect it to be a problem this time.

**At 9:50 a.m. Reese Dunton/Lorain Medina Rural Electric Co-Op:** Also present were Audrey Flood, Manager of Key Accounts and Economic Development and Justis Clifford, Chief Strategy Officer. Ms. Flood explained they jointly manage two co-ops. They have a second in the Seneca/Crawford/Wyandot area. Today they just wanted to introduce themselves and provide some information about their resources, how they work and what they do. They are not here to ask for anything. She said Mr. Dunton would give them an idea of why they were here.

Mr. Dunton said it was their plan to talk to all the counties they serve, whether they serve a few hundred members or if it's Lorain/Medina where their primary members are. He explained the history of LMRE. They are similar to Firelands, just in a different area. They have about 600 members in Huron County, mostly in the New London, Clarksfield and Wakeman area.

Ms. Flood wanted to explain their programs and services. Their department focuses on economic development. The more development on their lines the better it is for all their members. They will partner with other entities to assist economic development. Mr. Brady asked if they participate with HCDC. Ms. Flood said they are on her list to contact. Mr. Brady said they were just discussing getting an energy person on their board and he would give Mr. McCoy their contact info.

Ms. Flood said they do a lot with legislative affairs. They encourage their members to be involved with government and directly advocating with legislators when there are things that put electric reliability and affordability in jeopardy. There is a lot going on right now with new regulations coming out.

The co-op also has funding opportunities for community projects, youth programs and scholarships for seniors. Mr. Boose welcomed them to Huron County and stated we have a really good group of people that service the area. He said our IT department may reach out sometime. We are really trying to do a lot with internet connectivity and affordability. Ms. Flood said they have some unique three-way co-ordinations going on to try to get broadband out to their members.

**Administrator/Clerk updates:**

Ms. Ziemba said we have health insurance renewal coming up soon. The question that has come up is whether they want to allow employee spouses on the plan as a secondary insurance. It is allowable, but it will affect the plan. The Board is going to think this over.

Ms. Ziemba said they held two payments on Tuesday. She had to leave before she could share the responses she received. The one for EMA was a contract to Michael Frey. Mr. Stevens responded that they signed a contract for that last January.

Ms. Newton responded regarding the SRO cell phone payment. She said *"They have always paid the cell phones; this was the cell phone payment out of the SRO fund. We have always paid the cell phones out of fund 114 even when not in school. I would assume they give their contact information out so it is possible they would have to field phone calls involving the schools and students during the summer. It has never been an issue in the past and we have had this bill for years. If it is a problem we can take it out of 023/Contracts"*. Mr. Boose said there is a lot that is going to change and just because they did it one way in the past . . . Ms. Ziemba asked if they would like them to take it out of 023/Contracts. After discussion it was decided to have Ms. Ziemba let Ms. Newton know the Board would like it taken out of 023 during the summer months.

***Bruce Wilde moved to release the payment to Michael Frey in the amount of \$1,544.00. 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***

Mr. Boose wanted to comment on the response from the Sheriff's office. There are a lot of things that have been done in the past that maybe we didn't scrutinize enough. Everybody thinks we are too tough on the claims schedule. Now we are seeing how some programs work and the way we always did things is not necessarily how it should be done. Mr. Brady agreed, saying even if it was a payment that was legitimate, it needs to come in and out of the legitimate accounts.

Mr. Boose thought that in 2017, when they set up the account for the School Resource Officers, lines were set up for Salaries, Medicare and PERS at the time. He asked if there was an "Other" account. Ms. Ziembra said there is an "Other" line that came in at some point and that is what they have paid their cell phone allowances out of.

**Commissioner Wilde updates: – continued**

HCDC meeting yesterday morning.

Already discussed the Solid Waste meeting.

Tomorrow he will be here early for the 9:00 a.m. Special meeting in Seneca County for transportation.

**Commissioner Brady updates:**

Did not make WIEDC meeting yesterday.

HCDC. Mr. Boose wanted to discuss this. Mr. Brady said Bill Bader stepped down as president and Dave Weisenberger is now president. They discussed the fact they have an open board position and where they want to go with it. They discussed Land Bank. This is utilizing a lot of time for them. Right now Land Bank pays HCDC \$75,000/year to handle the administrative duties. But the Land Bank has become a bigger operation so they are discussing how to move forward with that. Discussion on the bylaws. They were supposedly adopted on one date but took effect on a different date. Nobody has any record of them being approved. They want to clean that up. They also want to change banking institution, but are in the middle of an audit. Mr. Boose said there was one thing that glared out at him in the documents they sent out. They listed everyone's investment, except the commissioners. Mr. Brady thought this may be because the commissioners pay quarterly. Mr. Wilde mentioned they were also looking for a new accountant. Mr. Boose thought it didn't look like the county was as invested in this as they are, and he was concerned about that.

**Commissioner Boose updates:**

Mr. Boose added the Stepping Up meeting to the calendar for tomorrow. This is an important meeting, but he wasn't sure they will be back in time. Mr. Brady said he already has a 12:00 appointment. Mr. Boose has a 2:00 appointment.

Firelands Forward yesterday. A lot of change going on. Old director is leaving, they are working on new leadership. Different employees doing different jobs. They have always talked about adding a third person. Now they are down to one. Going out soon to hire. New programs they want to start up. Mr. Boose brought up that now may not be the time to start new programs.

Mr. Boose met with all three judges in the last week and had great discussions with all three. One of them shared some changes in personnel. Judge Weisenberger discussed some changes in technology in the last few years.

Had a good discussion with Norwalk City Schools regarding School Resource Officer.

*At 10:32 a.m. Terry Boose moved to enter into Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official; (G)(2) to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest; and (G)(6) specialized details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or public office. 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*

*At 12:02 p.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1), (2) and (6). 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*

**Commissioner Boose updates – continued**

Mr. Boose said they had received the July statement from the Auditor's office. He thought it was good news. Cash balance is higher this year than it was last year. Revenue coming in is good. The exception was the casino money was down 5%.

The county distribution of LGF money – local government fund – is down. Even though our percentage went from 1.67% to 1.70%. The state brags they are giving us more, but they cut a lot of the revenue. The overall revenue from the current LGF is down.

Counties Current. Mr. Boose said there was something really important on page 5 of the most recent version. Ms. Cardone is also following it. Two bills at the federal level that would help with the provision of health care for pretrial detainees. Would significantly lower our health care costs in the jail.

Ohio delegates to NACo strongly supported changes in the windfall elimination provision in social security.

Mr. Boose wanted to bring up a firefighter equipment grant that has been expanded based on task force recommendation. Volunteer firefighters can now apply for up to \$15,000 every three years for gear such as trousers, boots, suspenders and jackets. He thought this was huge to our volunteer fire departments and wanted to make sure they are aware of this.

Mr. Boose mentioned that Ms. Ziemba really thought we should update our dog kennel facility. He noted that Lucas County Commissioners are on the cusp of a groundbreaking ceremony at the new Lucas County Canine Care and Control building. They are preparing the site for construction of a \$20 million facility. Ms. Ziemba was sure our dog warden would like a new facility, but updating it is at least better than what he has.

Counties Current also had a good explanation of the difference between a levy replacement and a levy renewal. Is very much like Mr. Strickler's explanation.

Region 19 meeting tomorrow. They are going to try to finalize the application process for grants that go through. They are only five months away from the state making their decision on the \$3 million our district has for this year.

Ms. Ziemba asked Mr. Strickler if she should take the recorder when they go to Seneca County for the special meeting. He said she could.

**At 12:20 p.m.** Bruce Wilde 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 August 3, 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 12:20 p.m.

Signatures on File