

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; Randal Strickler, Roger Hunker, Lyme Township Trustee/APEX; Brad Mesenburg, Citizen; Patricia Didion, Citizen; Rich Marrett, Citizen; Madeline Anderson, Norwalk Ohio News; Brian Gott, Norwalk Reflector.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the August 15, 2023 meeting were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting 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**

23-274

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

Bruce Wilde 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 and Then and Now Payment Batch #365008 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.

Terry Boose seconded the motion.

**\*Discussion:** Mr. Boose noted that they were making the quarterly payment to OSU Extension. They received a notice that that amount will be going up next year by \$1,000 per educator. Not much they can do about it.

Mr. Boose questioned the payment to Black Creek Integrated Systems for engineering submittal - \$33,510. Mr. Boose said that at one time Black Creek provided the camera system for the jail. Ms. Ziemba thought they also did the computer system for the doors. Mr. Boose asked the board if the Sheriff has discussed his plan going forward? Mr. Brady and Mr. Wilde stated they had not had conversations. Mr. Boose voiced his concerns of what the project cost will be if this was just the engineering costs.

Mr. Boose questioned the payment to North Coast Wireless for the ARPA Broadband Expansion project. Ms. Ziemba stated this is for the purchase of equipment. Mr. Boose asked if they have sent proof of receipt of the property. Ms. Ziemba thought this was they payment for them to order the equipment. Believes this is detailed in the contract but will check. Mr. Boose requested the payment be held.

Mr. Boose questioned if the payment to Cleveland Communications is a duplicate from last week. Also, has concerns that climbers were called out when there were no issues. His understanding was this was preventative due to the tornados that went through the area. Mr. Boose does not want this to become the norm. Asks Ms. Ziemba to have this conversation with Mr. Mead. Mr. Boose requests the payment to be held.

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

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

Huron County  
Claims Register for Payment Batches

Warrant Date	Claimant	Batch ID	PO #/Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
09/07/2023	Smart Dismantling LLC	36008	2023-001211	Floor Pads	\$83.60	
Account 001.022.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$83.60	
09/07/2023	Smart Dismantling LLC	36008	2023-001211	2x6 10' x 6'	\$170.96	
Account 001.022.00200 (Equipment) Total:					\$170.96	
09/07/2023	Reel	36008	2023-001241	Others	\$71.95	
09/07/2023	Reel	36008	2023-001241	Others	\$29.15	
09/07/2023	Reel	36008	2023-001241	Vic Tracker Repair/HI, Coupling and Chisel Stud	\$29.15	
09/07/2023	Reel	36008	2023-001241	Tire Seal	\$26.20	
09/07/2023	Reel	36008	2023-001241	Drain and Plug	\$11.04	
Account 001.022.00275 (Repairs/Maintenance) Total:					\$100.01	
09/07/2023	Staley Access Tech LLC	36008	2023-001251	Handicap toolless door opener/sheriff	\$1,535.21	
Account 001.022.00280 (Service Contract) Total:					\$1,535.21	
09/07/2023	Electric 3085Nokowabi	36008	2023-001251	Electric 3085Nokowabi	\$1,446.02	
09/07/2023	Electric 3085Nokowabi	36008	2023-001251	Electric 3085Nokowabi	\$1,077.74	
Account 001.022.00526 (Electric) Total:					\$2,523.76	
09/07/2023	Gas Utility-Jal	36008	2023-001252	Gas Utility-Jal	\$113.99	
Department Building and Grounds Total:					\$4,228.89	
Department: Sheriff						
09/07/2023	James Gilliam	36008	2023-003021	Reimbursement for TIC waps for lab hearing, Case #	\$27.87	
09/07/2023	James Gilliam	36008	2023-003021	Phone case	\$34.49	
09/07/2023	Vehicle Associates LLC	36008	2023-003041	Tow # trailer 80177	\$150.00	
Account 001.023.00275 (Contract Repairs) Total:					\$212.36	
Department Sheriff Total:						
Department: Huron County Economic Development					\$20,000.00	
Account 001.025.00570 (Huron County Development Council) Total:					\$20,000.00	
Department Huron County Economic Development Total:						
Department: Disaster Service					\$20,000.00	

Warrant Date	Claimant	Batch ID	PO #/Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
09/07/2023	Leipol	36008	2023-003061	Subscription 701223-72624	\$750.00	
Account 001.026.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$750.00	
Department Disaster Service Total:						
09/07/2023	Mary Jackson	36008	2023-003071	Private/Envelope Reimbursement	\$750.00	
Account 001.027.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$11.53	
Department Public Defender Commission Total:						
09/07/2023	The One State University	36008	2023-001701	Quarterly Payment	\$11.53	
Account 001.028.00557 (OSU-A-H) Total:					\$44,450.00	
Department OSU Extension Total:						
09/07/2023	Huron County Public Health	36008	2023-001711	Quarterly Payment	\$48,450.00	
Account 001.029.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$3,000.00	
Department Health Welfare Total:						
09/07/2023	Huron County Jail & Family Services	36008	2023-003211	Transfer from General Fund to PCSA	\$3,000.00	
Account 001.031.00525 (Contract Services) Total:					\$42,272.73	
Department Childrens Services Total:						
09/07/2023	Huron County Jail & Family Services	36008	2023-001701	Quarterly Payment	\$36,864.25	
Account 001.035.00580 (Grants) Total:					\$36,864.25	
Department Public Assistance Total:						
09/07/2023	Paper Towns & Cities	36008	2023-003071	Paper Towns & Cities	\$81.55	
Account 001.038.00176 (Supplies) Total:					\$81.55	
09/07/2023	Aramark Dallas Loxbox	36008	2023-003091	Inside meals 727- 82323	\$14,364.01	
Account 001.036.00178 (Immate Food) Total:					\$14,364.01	
09/07/2023	Treasurer State of Ohio	36008	2023-004011	Baier Inspection	\$66.25	
09/07/2023	Business Power Sales Co Inc	36008	2023-004011	Jail generator repair	\$306.00	
09/07/2023	Offender Watch	36008	2023-004011	348 notifications mailed	\$230.34	

Huron County  
Claims Register for Payment Batches

Warrant Date	Claimant	Batch ID	PO #/Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
09/07/2023	Transpacific Imaging/Hurry Registration-Hurry Study	36008	2023-001071	Registration-Hurry Study	\$191.88	
Account 001.001.00300 (Travel) Total:					\$428.99	
09/07/2023	US Bank Equipment Finance	36008	2023-001101	Copyr	\$271.89	
Account 001.001.00625 (Contract Services) Total:					\$700.88	
Department Commissioners Total:						
09/07/2023	Huron County Commissioners	36008	2023-001851	3 cases copy paper	\$119.94	
Account 001.002.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$119.94	
Department Microfilming Total:						
09/07/2023	Scheider Group/Alta LLC	36008	2023-000311	Quarter Bill	\$3,750.00	
Account 001.003.00275 (Contract Services) Total:					\$3,750.00	
Department Data Processing Total:						
09/07/2023	Smart Bill	36008	2023-003201	2023 Past Due Tax Bills	\$189.81	
Account 001.005.00625 (Contract Services) Total:					\$189.81	
Department Treasurer Total:						
09/07/2023	Roush Associates Inc	36008	2023-000851	Calendars	\$34.70	
Account 001.008.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$34.70	
09/07/2023	CMV Government	36008	2023-000851	Logi Wks Wave MK550	\$55.35	
Account 001.008.00200 (Equipment) Total:					\$55.35	

Warrant Date	Claimant	Batch ID	PO #/Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
09/07/2023	Foreign Judge Message Reimbursement	36008	2023-000911	Foreign Judge Message Reimbursement	\$90.34	
Account 001.008.00280 (Foreign Judges) Total:					\$90.34	
09/07/2023	Document Detention	36008	2023-000941	Document Detention	\$35.00	
Account 001.008.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$215.39	
Department Common Pleas Total:						
09/07/2023	Donnie-CFR Cases	36008	2023-001141	Donnie-CFR Cases	\$69.50	
Account 001.012.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$69.50	
Department Human Resources Total:						
09/07/2023	Wetland Workshop & Mouse Copy Paper/Jurimile	36008	2023-002811	Wetland Workshop & Mouse Copy Paper/Jurimile	\$95.00	
09/07/2023	2024 Calendar Appt Book Ink Pad	36008	2023-002811	2024 Calendar Appt Book Ink Pad	\$277.33	
Account 001.013.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$141.22	
09/07/2023	Typewriter Repair	36008	2023-002811	Typewriter Repair	\$119.00	
Account 001.013.00275 (Contract/Repairs) Total:					\$445.00	
09/07/2023	Spanish Interpreting	36008	2023-002721	Spanish Interpreting	\$245.00	
Account 001.013.00380 (Child Support) Total:					\$50.00	
09/07/2023	Document Shredding	36008	2023-002731	Document Shredding	\$50.00	
Account 001.013.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$1,209.15	
Department Juvenile Probation Total:						
09/07/2023	PO Travel Expense Reimbursement	36008	2023-002741	PO Travel Expense Reimbursement	\$197.68	
09/07/2023	PO Travel Expense Reimb	36008	2023-002741	PO Travel Expense Reimb	\$291.35	
Account 001.014.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$429.03	
Department Juvenile Probation Total:						
09/07/2023	Cases of Paper/Cas of Courts	36008	2023-000311	Cases of Paper/Cas of Courts	\$29.94	
09/07/2023	Sealair other products	36008	2023-000311	Sealair other products	\$25.96	
Account 001.017.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$265.96	
Department Clerk of Courts Total:						
Department: Building and Grounds					\$265.96	





ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL VALUE	INVOICE DATE	DEPARTMENT
1	BRUCE WILDE					
2	TERRY BOOSE					
3	HARRY BRADY					
TOTAL VALUE				\$1,979.21		

23-275

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUESTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$5,000.00 SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, requests for expenditures of over \$5,000.00 have been submitted for approval by the Board of Huron County Commissioners as follows:

**Building & Grounds (Acct# 022-00280)**

Energy Control, Inc.	Replace Boiler #2 (Courthouse)	\$6,569.00	now therefore
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**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the requests for expenditure of over \$5,000.00 as listed above; 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 stated it was for a boiler motor.

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

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

23-276

**IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE HURON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES BOARD**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, there is an open board seat on the Huron County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners wishes to fulfill this unexpired term ending June 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Wendie Parsons-Nuhn has expressed interest in serving on the Huron County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby appoints Wendie Parsons-Nuhn to the Huron County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board effective immediately and expiring June 30, 2025; 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 said they were very appreciative that she was willing to do this.

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

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

23-277

**IN THE MATTER OF HIRING A 911 COORDINATOR FOR THE HURON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the position of 911 Coordinator for the Huron County Emergency Management Agency was posted and advertised and interviews have been conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, Jessica Spears has been chosen through the selection and interview process for this position; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby appoints Jessica Spears to the position of 911 Coordinator for the Huron County Emergency Management Agency, effective September 11, 2023, as a full-time, unclassified, FLSA exempt employee at the rate of \$33.00 an hour; contingent upon successful pre-employment physical, drug test and background check; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Jessica Spears shall serve a 120 calendar-day probationary period in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Huron County Personnel Policy Manual. After successful completion the rate will be increased to \$34.00 per hour; 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

23-278

**IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS PRIMARY GRANT FUND #161**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there is a need for an appropriation adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners finds the request to be reasonable; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the following appropriation adjustment:

FROM:	Dept.	Account	Fund	Amount	TO:	Dept.	Account	Fund	Amount
	161	00125	161	\$10,104.44		161	00475	161	\$11,665.58
		Salaries					Other Expenses		
	161	00400	161	\$1,414.62					
		OPERS							
	161	00460	161	\$146.52					
		Medicare							

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 is authorized and instructed to record said appropriation adjustment as approved; 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. Boose explained that a few months ago the Board of Elections had to quickly appropriate money for the August election. At the time it was just their best guess based on their knowledge of previous elections. It turns out they need to spread the money a little differently than they anticipated.

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

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

**IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL**

Bruce Wilde moved to approve the following travel request this day. 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

- Lara Hozalski & Brenda Milks – HR & Harry Brady – Commissioner – Columbus, Ohio – CORSA Annual meeting – September 8, 2023
- Joel Riedy – IT & Juvenile Court – Medina County – Review of the Case Management system – September 11, 2023

**SIGNINGS**

Terry Boose moved to approve the Property Use Request Form submitted by Donna Jenkins, Hope Restored for the Hope Gathering, Kick-off to Domestic Violence Awareness month on October 7, 2023. Requests use of electricity. Bruce Wilde seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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

**HURON COUNTY  
PROPERTY USE REQUEST**

VENUE REQUESTED:  Courthouse steps & yard  Old Jail

ORGANIZATION/PERSON REQUESTING PERMISSION: Hope Restored

NAME OF EVENT: Hope Gathering (Kick-off to DV Awareness Month)

PROPOSED DATE: 10-7-23 TIME: 10-11AM

ALTERNATE DATE/TIME IN CASE OF CANCELLATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON: Donna Jenkins

ADDRESS: 269 W. Main Street - Suite 110 Norwalk, OH

PHONE NUMBER: 330-635-6505



EMAIL: hoperestored2013@gmail.com

WILL YOU REQUIRE ELECTRICITY?  Yes  No  
\*You must submit request at least 30 days prior to your event if requesting access to electricity.

THE ORGANIZATION AND/OR PERSONS USING THE COURTHOUSE STEPS, YARD, OR OLD JAIL AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES, LIABILITY AND EXPENSES RELATING TO OR ARISING OUT OF DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PERSONS (INCLUDING DEATH) RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THE COURTHOUSE, YARD, OR OLD JAIL PROPERTY.

*revised 9/19/2023*

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, 180 MILAN AVE., STE 7, NORWALK, OH, 44857, 419-668-3092, MAIN@HCCOMMISSIONERS.COM

This request is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">             County Commissioner President         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">             Date         </div> </div>
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**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

**Assistant Prosecutor updates:**

Randy Strickler stated he corrected the 911 & Countywide Communications System ballot language and sent it back to the Board of Elections. Mr. Boose clarified that the one they had received via email was not correct. Mr. Strickler said it was not, but it had been fixed. Mr. Brady requested an email of what had been changed. Mr. Strickler suggested he contact Ms. Blevins at the Board of Elections. He thought Mr. Tkach had done the mills the wrong way; the decimal point had been in the wrong spot.

Firelands Local contract. Mr. Strickler will finish this up after the Board tours the facility. He thought they were already sending checks. He had instructed Ms. Smith to tell them to make checks payable to the Commissioners. He thought maybe the check was late because of the holiday. Mr. Boose said he did not have a problem continuing the existing contract until the end of the year and starting a new contract at the beginning of next year. Mr. Strickler thought this might not be a bad idea; they would need to move stuff around at the building to consolidate it. He asked if they wanted a five-year contract or a three-year with two one-year renewals. Mr. Wilde said he did not have a problem with five years. Everyone agreed.

**Commissioner Wilde updates:**

Mr. Wilde said they had a very nice lunch with CCAO, it was very productive. CCAO was going to get on some things the board wanted them to address. Mr. Brady noted that Ms. Lykins with HCDC had already been contacted by DOD. Mr. Boose thought we would see how quick the money comes. He thought Land Bank may want to build some money up so the vendor does not have to wait so long to be paid. Discussion about the housing situation in Huron County and if the Land Bank could help.

Mr. Wilde thought they should discuss the information they had received regarding health insurance. Mr. Boose said there are several different plans; they can either approve the current plan we have or we have other options. He assumed next week they would have the consultant come in and explain the other options. He pointed out that, if we go with the same option we have today, our health insurance is going to go up 11.8%. They will have to make some decisions soon - he assumed this would have to happen sometime before open enrollment, which is in October. They will need to know the breakdown of the amount that the employee pays and the employer pays. Mr. Brady thought we were at a 90/10 split. Mr. Boose said an 11.8% increase would be a \$435,628 increase in health insurance for the county. Mr. Brady noted that they still have the reserve account sitting from when the county was self-funded. Mr. Boose had no problem looking at that. Discussion regarding the pluses and minuses of using the reserve account. They will look at different options and make a decision.

Mr. Boose said a lot of people come down on them for some of the discussions they have with the Sheriff, and the way they look at the money. The fact that the Sheriff wasn't looking at health insurance costs is a big deal. Mr. Wilde noted health insurance was \$4.1 million. Mr. Boose said it doesn't hit the Sheriff's accounts, that is why it is not a big deal to him. Mr. Boose noted the county has been very fortunate and has been able to keep health insurance costs down over the last few years. But this year will be a significant increase, 90% of which is paid by the commissioners. That is why they have to look at the big picture. Mr. Brady noted that when you start looking at insurance costs, they add up quickly. That is why it is important to get



reimbursed whenever possible. Discussion regarding the state of the economy. Mr. Boose stated that credit cards had just hit \$1 trillion indebtedness for consumers. He did not think things were looking good in the economy for consumers, and thought they should take that into consideration when making the decision on health insurance. Mr. Brady agreed, but noted they would still see an increase. He knows there are people living paycheck to paycheck and it is hard, but there is only so much they can do. Mr. Boose pointed out the increase was not necessarily due to their claim's exposure, but also to the increased cost of health care. He suggested they continue to look at the economic forecast. He did not think they should necessarily watch state or national news and base their information on that because a lot of their information is political. He thought if you want real information you have to go to the private, independent sources. Mr. Wilde noted that the July preliminaries sent to them by CCAO showed that food and gas were up. This affects every employee. He thought if they could help with health insurance costs that would be great.

Mr. Wilde said tomorrow they would all be attending the North Coast Wireless Fiber Project lighting ceremony in New London.

**Commissioner Brady updates:**

Mr. Brady stated he and Mr. Boose were at the parade in New London last Saturday.

**Commissioner Boose updates:**

Mr. Boose said the only meeting they hadn't talked about was the Muck Breakfast last week. He thought these were very informational meetings. Discussion regarding the effect of the recent heavy rain and hail on the crops.

*At 10:25 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to enter into Executive Sessions ORC 121.22 (G)(2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest and ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual. 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 11:35 a.m. the board recessed the executive session for the scheduled meeting with Victims Assistance.*

*At 11:35 a.m. recessed the meeting.*

*At 11:43 a.m. the board resumed regular session.*

**\*Action taken from Executive Session**

Mr. Boose noted that in executive session they had a discussion about the Senior Services building and he would like to make a motion to move forward. They had an original bid and 2 new estimates. One of the new estimates includes moving the site. The site we have been looking at is behind the BMV. There is now another option in which we could move it next to the BMV instead of behind it. To do that option would delay it a minimum of 6 months and possibly increase the costs due to inflation and the cost of products going up on a daily basis. Also, the land is not level and will need to have some fill dirt added and moved it around. With all this being said,

*Terry Boose moved to give the architect the go ahead to bid the Senior Center Project based on keeping it at the site where it is, but with all the alternates that they have. They cut the building back by 1,000 square feet and have many alternatives which would be minimalist with code. One alternate which was not in it, which they would like to talk about adding is the alternate for the soil which is needed as fill for the building. The alternate would be that the county will provide the soil and/or transportation/hauling of the soil as well. 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 11:50 a.m. Victims Assistance discussion. Linda Border, Victim's Assistance; Jim Sitterly, Prosecutor; Common Pleas Judge Conway, Probate/Juvenile Judge Cardwell.** Mr. Sitterly stated that in the early part of the year, Victim's Assistance had asked for some money to be able to carry them through until budget. He thought Ms. Border had asked for about \$48,000. \$36,000 was given, although only \$24,000 have been allocated. He thought there was still \$12,000 that had yet to be provided. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba if this was correct. Ms. Ziemba said they transferred \$24,000. The additional amount was for the grant match that comes in October. Ms. Border said they were separate. The VOCA match is the 20%, that

will be coming in October. What they are discussing is the 184 Fund that the Board helped them use through the AG's office. They have nearly drained that money. She said the Commissioners did give them \$24,000 to get by but they are nearly out of funding now. They are asking for funding to continue Ms. Mutchler and Ms. Doughty's positions from September until December. Mr. Sitterly stated that it appears, despite the grant money being devoted to Ms. Border's position and the General Fund funding for Ms. Mutchler and Ms. Doughty, that is separate. It appears to them, the way the Commissioners thought the money would be released is that the General Fund money somehow tracks the federal grant, even though it is still paid for differently. Even with the \$12,000 that is still sidelined, there is a shortcoming of either \$6,000 or \$10,000 and Mr. Sitterly said he believed that was also after Ms. Doughty had reduced her hours to 32 hours. He thought it might be because the math becomes a little bit nebulous once you start considering the position people "by grant" and the position people "by county", along with the health care pay.

Mr. Boose said he was totally confused. He said going back to March, this board made a decision as to what level we were funding Victim's Assistance. It wasn't at the level that you asked, because we continually go back to the fact the state and federal government originally funded this program. But they are not funding it at the levels they did before. And this board, in the budget, made a decision that the federal government money is what it is. He thought they have had this discussion like two times a year for the last three or four years. And the Board's answer has always been the same. State and federal government are the ones that are putting the requirements on. State and federal government funded them at one level at one time and it is no longer there. We do not feel that it is the Commissioners responsibility to fund them according to the state and federal mandates. Mr. Boose said when they made the decision in March, it was an agreed-upon decision by all three of them. He did not think they need to come back in October and revisit it.

Mr. Brady asked what the \$12,000 was. Ms. Ziemba clarified that they had budgeted an estimate based off 2022 for the grant match. They received \$14,351 in 2022. The board put \$15,000 in for whatever that grant match comes in at this year. That is the October grant that is done every year. Then there was an additional ask for funding and it says "Victim's Assistance additional person is \$24,000". Ms. Border stated they had asked for Ms. Mutchler and Ms. Doughty; they were both around \$24,000. Ms. Mutchler makes a little more money; Ms. Doughty works more hours. What was given was the \$24,000. They have gone as far as they can.

Mr. Boose said he would repeat what they tell all department heads and elected officials. When we give you money, that is what we expect you to live with for the year. He said that same thing to those that, for instance this year, use gasoline. We did not increase many people's gasoline budget. And our discussion when we put the budget out was, it is what it is, we expect you to manage it and we expect you to live within what we appropriated. And we specifically said that going into approving the budget. We knew there were going to be some management challenges in this budget. When we pass a budget we don't pass a three-quarters of a year budget, we pass a whole year. Mr. Wilde said there was no extra \$12,000. We did \$24,000, not \$36,000. Ms. Ziemba agreed, saying the Board did not do the full request.

Mr. Sitterly wanted to attempt to clear up whatever confusion they may have on this. The difficulty with being able to say we can only give a department so much is, states all the time have mandates. All the elected officials have state mandated amounts. He thought it would be difficult to honor some of these but not others, especially when the state passed HB343 right after the money was allocated. We foresaw that there was going to be more work not only imposed upon the Prosecutor's, but the Courts. Mr. Boose said we took that into consideration in the budget. It is not like 343 popped up. Mr. Boose said he had a discussion with Senator Manning and told him we don't have money budgeted in for that. Mr. Manning went back and looked at the bill and did not think there would be an increase in expenses for the counties.

Mr. Sitterly said that those of them that have had to deal with it know there were more expenses involved, certainly in dealing with the victims, the notices, and the time spent with those victims. Mr. Strickler thought it was more time spent with the victims than actually doing mailings. There were a lot of administrative costs that were not covered by this budget. He thought they were looking at it as an unfunded mandate but reminded them that it was a Constitutional right, it is in the Ohio Constitution and there is a bill that specifies what needs to be done. He thought, at least in regards to Victim's Assistance, their thoughts on unfunded mandates was kind of provincial thinking. Mr. Boose 100% disagreed. He said it was like going back to the Sheriff, who tells them he is required to keep the peace in the county. That can mean many things. We as commissioners always have to make decisions based on the amount of money we have. Mr. Boose did not think it specifically said how many hours someone needs to spend with the victims and thought the Judges may be able to clarify things for him. But he said there were all kinds of government programs out there that provide whatever they can with the money they have. There may be a bill that says a letter needs to go out, but he did not think there was anything that said you have to spend so many hours with the victim.

Mr. Brady said he appreciated the Judges taking time out of their day to attend and asked them to speak to the issue if they would like.

Judge Cardwell said he believed Victim's Assistance was very valuable before 343, and even more so after 343. There are extra obligations to notify victims that they did not have before, but they have been able to absorb that. However, Victim's Assistance plays an invaluable role. At every stage of the proceedings the victims are entitled to be heard. Victim's Assistance has done a very good job of explaining the rights of the victims to them. Now, in addition to these rights the victims have, they have the right to appeal. If they feel their rights are being trampled on they can file a notice of appeal, which halts the court proceeding until that appeal is resolved. Judge Cardwell said he was not here to advocate for money for this or money for that but he said he had a very firm belief about the value of Victims Assistance to our community and to our courts specifically. Mr. Boose wanted to be clear that, every time we have this discussion we have said the exact same thing. We are all for Victim's Assistance. We think it is a great program. But we also think, especially since it is a Constitutional right, that state and federal government should be the ones funding it.

Judge Conway said as far as their court, he could second the comments Judge Cardwell made. He thought from a practical standpoint, no one really knew what they were getting into with the new law. He would estimate his day-to-day engagement with Victim's Assistance has increased 50-70%. There are mandates as to the times the victims have to be contacted. It is not one time and then they are done. It is every hearing, every probation violation, every judicial release, every application for transitional control. Because the statute allows him to, he forced that duty on to the Prosecutors' office. There has been some legislation trying to reverse that; he thought it might be because of the cost involved. The amount of involvement they have currently in criminal cases has increased exponentially. The real issue for him is, they can't take a plea until they receive the Victim Impact Statement. This is already causing delays in our hearings. If we didn't have Victim's Assistance to try to work with the victims to get agreements to move those cases, it will delay those cases more and more. Judge Conway thought at some point it would be nice if the state legislature would address this and provide funding for what they have required us to do. But until then he wanted to urge the commissioners to consider the possibility, at least until the end of the year, of making some additional funding available to Victim's Assistance and see if potentially there is funding down the road or alternate sources of funding. He would hate to lose the good victim's advocates we have while we are waiting to make that decision.

Mr. Sitterly reminded the board that they had started with three full time employees. They have trimmed down. Mr. Boose wanted to make it clear that was not due to the county reducing their funds. The money they received from the federal government has gone down. Mr. Sitterly agreed that the federal contributions have gone down. But, the positions don't go away by virtue of the funds tightening up; nor do the victims. Mr. Boose wanted to make it clear, the commissioners did not cut their portion of the funding for Victims Assistance. Mr. Sitterly said there is always a match that they must provide, which is based on a percentage of the grant. Mr. Strickler noted that match has gone down.

Mr. Boose noted we were four months away from the new budget and asked if they were just supposed to accept that from here on out the county has a higher portion of Victim's Assistance? What is the process to try to get the people who originally funded it to continue to fund it at the necessary level? Discussion regarding the county's contribution to Victim's Assistance. Mr. Boose did not think the amount had changed. Ms. Border explained the county paid a match that was 20% of the grant award. So, the county's contribution had gone down as their grant award had decreased. But for the past couple years it has been the same amount - the match has been \$14,351. Mr. Brady asked if she knew how much they were getting this year. Ms. Border said she just called the grant specialist to see if there were any updates. She did not have any word on anything for certain, but she did say there were talks about possible cuts. There was \$1.9 billion in the president's budget and now they are talking about \$1.2 billion. Mr. Boose commented that the federal and state government cut, and the counties are expected to pick it up. When is enough, enough? He just talked to two State Representatives three weeks ago and told them they talk one thing but their actions show other things. They talk about how much they support local governments. They supported local governments so much that they increased the local government fund by 0.07% - not taking inflation into consideration. We lost money.

Mr. Wilde asked what number they were looking for. They thought there was another \$12,000 that isn't there and wasn't there. After discussion Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba what they budgeted. Everyone agreed it was \$24,000. Ms. Border said she asked for \$48,000; what they gave was \$24,000. Mr. Brady wondered if there was \$12,000 from some other place that was just sitting there. Ms. Ziemba did not show it in the budget. Ms. Border said they have \$11,828 in their cash balance; that might have been it. But she thought they should look at the landscape of what it would look like if they don't assist her with funding. She won't have Megan Doughty, an advocate that is NOVA certified, which is the highest accreditation an advocate can get, in Judge Cardwell's court. She won't have Kimberly Mutchler, who is also NOVA certified with a higher step-up, in Judge Conway's court. Victim's rights will be trampled. They can't go forward with hearings if victims aren't notified. Someone would have to pick up. Mr. Boose asked what they were doing to try to get the state and federal government to pay more. Ms. Border stated she has emailed the federal government, she has emailed local, she speaks to the AG's office grant specialist. They do ask for more, but they don't get it. Mr. Boose said it is not that they don't support Victim's Assistance. But he did not like the fact that it was getting pushed down on the county. He said that if the commissioners continue to just pay it, then the federal

government and the state government are never going to pay their fair share.

Mr. Strickler said he had talked to Steve Hall, who is the Assistant Director of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. He informed Mr. Strickler that every county's Victim Assistance office is running out of money and they are going back to their Commissioners for more money. Mr. Boose thought this was the wrong place to go.

Mr. Brady asked the Judges how they felt this would impact their courtrooms. Judge Cardwell stated they cannot resolve cases unless there has been notice to the victim and they have an opportunity to be heard. They have statutory time guidelines they have to meet in processing cases. Practically, he will be going to the prosecutor and asking if they talked to the victim or the victim's mother. He will be asking that questions to someone, even if the victim's assistant isn't there. He thought that was a significant burden for the Prosecutor's office to bear. Mr. Wilde asked, if you have somebody in detention and you can't get everything you need, then they stay in detention. Judge Cardwell said that was correct. He said they have very efficient courts now and was concerned about the effect the absence of Victim's Assistant would have on that.

Judge Conway pointed out that most counties our size have two judges. We only have one. We are very busy, very efficient. Victim's advocacy has become such a part of that over the last year compared to what it was because of the rules they now have to follow. They are fortunate that they have victim advocates that are well trained. 95% of their cases are done by plea agreement as opposed to trial. The victim advocacy makes that happen much quicker and more regularly. The law has already slowed them down; it would slow them down tremendously if they were to lose one or both of those that help them.

Mr. Boose asked Ms. Border to provide them with the amount she was asking for. The commissioners will decide if they can come up with that money. He wanted her to let people know that it was not the county, it was the state and federal government because over the years they have been blamed for not supporting Victim's Assistance.

Mr. Brady said there are two sides to this. There is the prosecuting side and there are the people who are defending themselves. But there is a third party in there, who are the victims. Mr. Brady said they totally support this, and thought Ms. Border did an incredible job. But, as commissioners, they do not have the luxury of making decisions based on emotions; they have to make decisions based on fiscal reality. For the public to understand, we are not debating over \$10,000 or \$12,000. We are talking about when does the budget get to the point to where you just can't squeeze it anymore.

*At 12:43 p.m. the board resumed executive session.*

*At 1:25 p.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) & (2). 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 1:26 p.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 September 5, 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 1:26 a.m.

Signatures on File