

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 Ziembra, Administrator/Clerk; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Lee Tansey, Engineer; Roger Hunker, Lyme Township Trustee/APEX; Callie Chaplain, APEX; John Arehart, APEX; Brad Mesenburg, Citizen; Rich Marett, Citizen; William Seaman, 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 November 2, 2023 and November 7, 2023 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 2, 2023 and November 7, 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

William Seaman. Mr. Seaman was present on behalf of Patricia Didion. He read a prepared statement:

3 minutes on 12/5/2023

William Seaman – 4584 SR 547, Bellevue (Lyme Township)

Is Huron County government making the right decisions to attract residents and businesses to our county?

Is Huron County endorsing policies that make this county an attractive place to live and work?

First some numbers from the State of Ohio office of research....

Erie County had an annual GDP of \$4,539,350,000 in 2021 – a population of 75,622 – a median family income of \$66,607 – 33.5% of its residents have either an associates, bachelor or masters degree. Erie County enacted a 10-year ban of all utility scale renewable projects in all unincorporated areas in their county in August 2023.

Huron County had an annual GDP of \$2,701,076,000 in 2021 – a population of 58,218 – a median family income of \$61,559 – 23.4% of its residents have either an associates, bachelor or masters degree. Huron County has NOT enacted any SB 52 ban on renewable projects anywhere in their county.

Seneca County had an annual GDP of \$2,425,693,000 in 2021 – a population of 54,632 – a median family income of \$59,585 – 26.6% of its residents have either an associates, bachelor or masters degree. Seneca County, with the full support of their county commissioners, defeated the wind project in their county at the initial level of the OPSB process in 2021.

Crawford County had an annual GDP of \$1,540,406,000 in 2021 – a population of 41,522 – a median family income of \$55,283 – 24.7% of its residents have either an associates, bachelor or masters degree. Crawford County commissioners passed a SB-52 ban of all utility scale renewable projects in May 2022 and APEX challenged the ban. APEX lost the referendum to overturn the ban 10,964 votes to 3,744 votes in November 2022. Every single precinct voted against APEX's attempt to overturn the ban on wind and solar projects.

Now some questions for the current commissioners and those running for the office....

- 1) Is the embrace of a central tenet of the woke left of the Democratic party – renewable energy development – in line with the majority of Huron County residents? It is clearly not the case in Crawford, Erie and Seneca County.
- 2) How do you create and attract businesses to Huron County when you have the lowest percentage of college graduates vis-à-vis Crawford, Erie and Seneca County?
- 3) Do people wish to move to Huron County, or remain in Huron County, if they live within, adjacent to or in the viewshed, day and night, of sixty or so wind turbines, which will be the 4th tallest structures in the entire state of Ohio? And do Huron County residents want to live next to large solar fields that have virtually no setbacks from property lines?

These are rhetorical questions of course, but the candidates for commissioner need to address these issues during their campaigns.

Roger Hunker, Lyme Township Trustee. Mr. Hunker explained the City of Bellevue had presented Lyme Township with a fire contract in September. Lyme Township asked Mr. Stephens with the prosecutor's office to review it. Mr. Stephens sent the city a response within a couple days. Lyme Township did not hear back for two months. Now, at Thanksgiving, Bellevue sent a response that they will not make any of Mr. Stephen's changes. Mr. Stephens indicated he felt the contract was inadequate and did not meet Ohio Revised Code. He met with City of Bellevue legal counsel last night, but they did not get anywhere. Mr. Boose asked if the City had a separate contract. Mr. Hunker stated they have a separate contract with each township they cover. Mr. Boose asked what happens on January 1. Mr. Brady clarified all the issues had to do with the ORC. Mr. Hunker stated that was correct; they have no issues with amounts. Mr. Stephens had indicated that the contract was so inadequate that if Lyme Township signed it he would have to issue a cease and desist order.

Mr. Boose suggested sending a brief letter of support to the City of Bellevue encouraging them to sit down and work through this with the township.

Mr. Wilde moved to send a letter to City of Bellevue, with a copy to Lyme Township, expressing support of Lyme Township in this issue and asking them to please work with the township and the prosecutor's office. 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 9:18 a.m. Pete Welch, Director of Operations & Steve Minor, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor. Mr. Boose stated he had been at a lunch meeting last week and Representative Stein asked if we were applying for any of the money the state is going to have available in their capital budget. These funds were typically used for museums, stadiums, those sorts of things, so Mr. Boose was surprised by the question. Mr. Boose sat through a webinar and learned this capital budget is completely different than previous capital budgets, in that there are two funds of money. There is the one they always do, an example of which are the funds the City of Norwalk are using for a new amphitheater. This year there is a pot of \$700 million of one-time money that doesn't have the restrictions the capital budget has. Local government can apply for that money. It can be used for a new jail, for work on the Courthouse, to buy a new fire truck or police cars. They're saying it is available to use for anything to do with capital, buildings, grounds, equipment, etc. That's the good news. The bad news is the application is due by December 18th. Mr. Boose wanted to suggest to Mr. Welch and Mr. Minor that they put some projects together by December 18th to apply for. The application is more of a letter explaining what you would like to do with the funds and an estimated cost. He was hoping to get more information at Winter Conference later this week. Some of the projects Mr. Boose thought might be good to apply for were the tile flooring in the Courthouse; part or all of the Shady Lane demo - including preparing it for future use; and fixing up the S. Norwalk Road building – replacing ceilings and flooring, and another set of restrooms. Mr. Boose expressed the possibility of using this building for some kind of child care/day care, which is one of the three big workforce development issues.

Mr. Welch said he could put together a project description and an estimated cost. He already has two of the three from the architect/engineer. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba to share the letter they wrote when they applied for this a long time ago for the elevator. He thought they could use that for an example. It would need to be sent to two Senators and two State Representatives. Mr. Boose believed they would be the ones to prioritize the projects.

Mr. Brady thought if they were going to ask for money, they should include the big million-dollar roof project downtown. Mr. Boose pointed out they would not receive the money until late 2025. Discussion on whether this project would be able to be done next year. Mr. Welch said this was the only project they could not do with ARPA money. There was not enough left.

At 9:30 a.m. Roger Hunker and Callie Chaplain, APEX. Ms. Chaplain wanted to provide an update on what had been happening. First, the Supreme Court case was approved against the permit. She thought that was huge. However, they still had an amendment and two supplements out with the state. On November 16, the amendment and supplements were approved. This was also great news. As far as the RUMA, Road Use Maintenance Agreement, they heard back from the engineer last week. They plan to schedule a meeting with Mr. Green from the Huron County Engineer's office, Mr. Strickler, and the APEX engineer to discuss the final details. In 2024 they plan to go to market, secure some financing, secure their large equipment and start construction by the end of the year. If all goes well, they will be operational by 2025.

Mr. Brady asked if they were getting close on the RUMA. Mr. Strickler and Ms. Chaplain both said they were. Mr. Tansey said his office had written a letter back in December of 2022. Those issues still have not been addressed. He thought they would need answers on those items before any meetings could take place. For instance, they have not gotten any clear indication of what county roads will be used. If it is going to be necessary to make any improvements – culverts upgraded, radiuses widened – those things take time. They are talking about construction next year and Mr. Tansey's office hasn't seen any plans giving them any direction where local facilities might be impacted. Mr. Boose asked that they work as closely with them and as quickly as they can, and that goes both ways. He thought it was time for the project to start moving forward. Mr. Strickler asked Mr. Tansey if he had received the email about setting up a meeting. Mr. Tansey said Mr. Green had received it, but he thought they should receive a written response to all their question from December last year and their latest letter before a meeting. Things seem to be getting forgotten. Mr. Brady asked as a commissioner that Apex respond in some way. That way they have a better understanding of what everyone is thinking. Mr. Wilde liked the idea of no meetings until questions were answered. Mr. Tansey invited a commissioner to attend the meeting when it does happen, so they can stay up with what is going on.

Mr. Boose asked how many turbines were a part of the project. Ms. Chaplain said the amendment removed nine, she thought the total was 71 now. Mr. Boose wanted to make it clear for the record that Erie County would also have wind turbines in their county, as well as Huron County.

23-370

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 Payment Batch #370545 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 suggested paying for the IT work at 306 S. Norwalk out of the transportation line instead of IT. The board expressed their frustration with the Administration building elevator project.

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

Payment Type: All	Warrant #	Batch ID	PO #/Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
Warrant # Range: All	12/7/2023 to 12/7/2023					
Payment Batches: 370545 to 370545						
Fund: 001 - General Fund						
Department: Commissioners		370545	2023-001091	2024 Associates Dues	\$180.00	
Account 001.001.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:					\$180.00	
Department: Treasurer		370545	2023-001101	Copy charge	\$52.60	
Account 001.001.00525 (Contract Services) Total:					\$52.60	
Department: Commissioners Total:					\$232.60	
Department: Microfilming		370545	2023-001071	Court Cases	\$193.55	
Account 001.002.00525 (Contract Services) Total:					\$193.55	
Department: Data Processing		370545	2023-000031	Webex & CIS 1/1/2023/2024	\$3,760.00	
Account 001.003.00275 (Contract Services) Total:					\$3,760.00	
Department: Data Processing Total:					\$4,247.26	
Department: Auditor		370545	2023-000091	Notice to Taxpayers	\$28.71	
Account 001.004.00325 (Advertising & Printing) Total:					\$28.71	
Department: Auditor Total:					\$28.71	
Department: Treasurer		370545	2023-003151	2 boxes ink for postage machine	\$56.39	
Account 001.005.00175 (Supplies) Total:					\$56.39	

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Warrant Date: Claimant	Batch ID	PO #/Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #	
12/7/2023	370545	2023-003151	Treasurer Association Dues 2024	\$2,587.24		
Account 001.005.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:				\$2,587.24		
Department: Treasurer Total:				\$5,123.63		
Department: Juvenile		370545	2023-002091	SSL Certificate Registration & Set Up	\$60.00	
Account 001.013.00175 (Supplies) Total:				\$60.00		
Department: Juvenile Total:				\$60.00		
Department: Juvenile Probation		370545	2023-002731	Child Travel Expenses Reimbursement	\$200.00	
Account 001.013.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:				\$200.00		
Department: Juvenile Probation Total:				\$357.00		
Department: Juvenile Probation		370545	2023-002741	Document Shredding	\$487.78	
Account 001.014.00475 (Other Expenses) Total:				\$487.78		
Department: Juvenile Probation Total:				\$844.78		
Department: Clerk of Courts		370545	2023-000031	TRICOUNT Stamps for Clerk Notarize	\$472.58	
Account 001.017.00175 (Supplies) Total:				\$472.58		
Department: Clerk of Courts Total:				\$472.58		
Department: Police Multi Court		370545	2023-001171	Witnesses w/ Jurors Fees	\$190.00	
Account 001.019.00504 (Norwalk) Total:				\$190.00		
Department: Police Multi Court Total:				\$190.00		
Department: Capital Improvements		370545	2023-001001	Dug Weidens Floor	\$12,831.60	
Account 001.021.00527 (Other Expenses) Total:				\$12,831.60		
Department: Capital Improvements Total:				\$12,831.60		
Department: Building and Grounds		370545	2023-001211	Light Bulbs	\$17.00	
Account 001.022.00175 (Supplies) Total:				\$17.00		
Department: Building and Grounds Total:				\$17.00		
Department: Building and Grounds		370545	2023-001211	Whose waiting Bulb, scrub brushes, toilet brush	\$76.19	
Account 001.022.00175 (Supplies) Total:				\$76.19		
Department: Building and Grounds Total:				\$433.63		

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Warrant Date	Claimant	Batch ID	PO Bill Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
12/07/2023	Proxim	370545	2023-00316	Printer	\$172.88	
Account 193.193.0025 (Contract Services) Total:					\$172.88	
Department 9-1-1 & Countywide Communications Total:					\$172.88	
Fund 193 - 9-1-1 & Countywide Communications Total:					\$172.88	
Fund 197 - EMA Hazard						
Department EMA Hazard						
12/07/2023	Atkins Emergency Solutions	370545	2023-00031	Gas mill for miller	\$60.30	
12/07/2023	Caven Holden	370545	2023-00031	Calvin Rodon One Training	\$60.00	
12/07/2023	Luna Sapp	370545	2023-00031	Luca Sapp One Training	\$60.00	
12/07/2023	Sam McCall	370545	2023-00031	Sam McCall One Training	\$60.00	
12/07/2023	Tim Sager One Training	370545	2023-00031	Tim Sager One Training	\$60.00	
Account 197.197.0020 (Equipment) Total:					\$887.20	
Department EMA Hazard Total:					\$887.20	
Fund 197 - EMA Hazard Total:					\$887.20	
Fund 310 - Permanent Improvements						
Department Permanent Improvements						
12/07/2023	Air Force One Inc	370545	2023-00112	Provisional fee for baseline-Admin	\$14,430.00	
12/07/2023	Dimensional Roofing Inc	370545	2023-00112	Development on maintenance-Admin Tool	\$44,707.00	
Account 310.310.0045 (Project Expenses) Total:					\$59,137.00	
Department Permanent Improvement Total:					\$59,137.00	
Fund 310 - Permanent Improvements Total:					\$59,137.00	
Fund 500 - Landfill						
Department Landfill						
12/07/2023	City of Cincinnati Consultants Inc	370545	2023-00081	October WPDES	\$550.00	
12/07/2023	City of Cincinnati Consultants Inc	370545	2023-00081	November WPDES	\$550.00	
12/07/2023	City of Cincinnati Consultants Inc	370545	2023-00081	December WPDES	\$550.00	
12/07/2023	City of Cincinnati Consultants Inc	370545	2023-00081	Annual WPDES Discharge Fee	\$200.00	
12/07/2023	City of Cincinnati Consultants Inc	370545	2023-00081	Agency Fee for Hazardous Wastebags	\$200.00	
Account 500.501.0020 (Contract Services) Total:					\$1,650.00	
Department Landfill Total:					\$1,650.00	
Fund 500 - Landfill Total:					\$1,650.00	
Fund 525 - Solid Waste Management District						
Department Solid Waste Management District						
12/07/2023	Peer / Wilson	370545	2023-00361	July & August Mitegard, Call & Fax Power	\$291.33	
Account 525.525.0030 (Travel) Total:					\$291.33	
Department Solid Waste Management District Total:					\$291.33	
Fund 525 - Solid Waste Management District Total:					\$291.33	
Fund 635 - Commissary Trust						
Department Commissary Trust						
12/07/2023	Geigha Maintenance King Janitorial	370545	2023-04031	Account, lobby seat pans, trigger sprayer, 30 gal	\$491.51	
Account 635.635.0080 (Expenses) Total:					\$491.51	
Department Commissary Trust Total:					\$491.51	
Fund 635 - Commissary Trust Total:					\$491.51	
Fund 840 - Canine Trust Fund						
Department Canine Trust Fund						
12/07/2023	Ray Allen Manufacturing LLC	370545	2023-00451	Revised checks for 4 calendar year	\$6.00	
12/07/2023	Ray Allen Manufacturing LLC	370545	2023-00451	Honors & Collar for Hon	\$24.97	
Account 840.840.0020 (Expenditures) Total:					\$308.05	
Department Canine Trust Fund Total:					\$308.05	
Fund 840 - Canine Trust Fund Total:					\$308.05	
Grand Total:					\$311,886.43	

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Warrant Date	Claimant	Batch ID	PO Bill Line #	Line Description	Amount	Warrant #
12/07/2023	Peer / Wilson	370545	2023-00361	July & August Mitegard, Call & Fax Power	\$291.33	
Account 525.525.0030 (Travel) Total:					\$291.33	
Department Solid Waste Management District Total:					\$291.33	
Fund 525 - Solid Waste Management District Total:					\$291.33	
Fund 635 - Commissary Trust						
Department Commissary Trust						
12/07/2023	Geigha Maintenance King Janitorial	370545	2023-04031	Account, lobby seat pans, trigger sprayer, 30 gal	\$491.51	
Account 635.635.0080 (Expenses) Total:					\$491.51	
Department Commissary Trust Total:					\$491.51	
Fund 635 - Commissary Trust Total:					\$491.51	
Fund 840 - Canine Trust Fund						
Department Canine Trust Fund						
12/07/2023	Ray Allen Manufacturing LLC	370545	2023-00451	Revised checks for 4 calendar year	\$6.00	
12/07/2023	Ray Allen Manufacturing LLC	370545	2023-00451	Honors & Collar for Hon	\$24.97	
Account 840.840.0020 (Expenditures) Total:					\$308.05	
Department Canine Trust Fund Total:					\$308.05	
Fund 840 - Canine Trust Fund Total:					\$308.05	
Grand Total:					\$311,886.43	

23-371

IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING THE BID FOR THE HURON COUNTY BASELINE ROAD BRIDGE DESIGN/BUILD PROJECT; HUR CR 011-03.24; PID 113808

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Resolution 23-318 the County Engineer requested authorization to seek bids for the Huron County Baseline Road Bridge Design/Build Project; HUR CR-011-03.24; PID 113808; and

WHEREAS, notice was given in accord with Section 307.87 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, funding for this project will be provided in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, bids were received Friday, November 17, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. from the following:

- R&I Construction, Inc.** **\$734,204.00**
- Great Lakes Demolition Company, LLC.** **\$1,087,500.00**

Sign 3 *Mary Brady*

Sign 2 *John Boyd*

Sign 1 *Bruce Wilde*

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Huron County Commissioners do hereby award the bid for the Huron County Baseline Road Bridge Design/Build Project; HUR-C.R.-011-03.24; PID 113808, as recommended by the Huron County Engineer to R&I Construction, Inc, Tiffin, Ohio in the amount of \$734,204.00; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that all further matters relative to this award be coordinated through and with the Huron County Engineer’s Office; 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. Tansey said this was 95% federally funded.

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

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

23-372

IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING FOR THE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING & DESIGN BUILD DOCUMENTS FOR THE PERU WEST SECTION LINE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT HUR CR 065-02.11, PID 119355

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the County Engineer was successful in applying for Federal Funds for preliminary engineering and construction costs for the replacement of the Peru West Section Line Bridge located in Peru Township; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to provisions of the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Consultant Selection Procedure, the Engineer received proposals from Engineering Consultants to provide Preliminary Engineering & Design Build Documents for the for the Peru West Section Line Bridge Replacement Project; and

WHEREAS, proposals were received on May 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Engineer has selected a firm based upon the information submitted from the acceptable and pre-qualified consultants:

**Burgess & Niple, Inc.
330 Rush Alley, Suite 700
Columbus, Ohio 43215**

now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huron County Board of Commissioners does hereby award for the professional services for preparing the Preliminary Engineering & Design Build Documents for the Peru West Section Line Bridge Replacement Project and enter into Agreement No. 40186 prepared by the Ohio Department of Transportation with Burgess & Niple, Inc., in the amount of \$139,600 funded from Federal sources; 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. Tansey stated that typically on these bridge projects the preliminary design is not eligible for funding, but in this case they allowed it. This is 100% paid for through a federal grant. ODOT has a process to award a contract to a consultant. They followed that process and ODOT provided the agreement.

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

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

**On file*

23-373

IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATING UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN THE PUBLIC DEFENDER’S STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT FUND #192

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there are unappropriated funds in the Public Defender’s State Opioid Response Grant Fund #192 that need to be appropriated for expenses; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of appropriating \$284.35 of unappropriated funds as follows:

TO: 192-00200-192 SOR Grant \$284.35 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

23-374

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN THE GENERAL FUND PROBATE COURT ACCOUNT #016

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there is a need for appropriation adjustments; 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 adjustments:

FROM:	Dept.	Account	Fund	Amount	TO:	Dept.	Account	Fund	Amount
	016	00360	001	\$4700.00		016	00475	001	\$4700.00
		Probate Court – transcripts					Probate Court – other expenses		

and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huron County Auditor is authorized and instructed to record said appropriation adjustment as approved; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is instructed to certify a copy of this resolution to the Huron County Auditor and the department requesting said adjustment; 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

23-375

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR THE REPLACEMENT WITH AN INCREASE OF THE LEVY OF A TAX FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING OR MAINTAINING SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES OR FACILITIES IN EXCESS OF THE 10 MILL LIMITATION, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(Y) OF THE REVISED CODE; AND CERTIFYING THE SAME TO THE AUDITOR OF HURON COUNTY, OHIO.

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation will be insufficient to provide for the necessary requirements of the Board of Trustees of Enrichment Centers for Huron County, Ohio (the “Enrichment Board”), a board subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board is currently levying a 0.60 mill operating levy for a period of five (5) years for the purpose of providing funds to provide or maintain senior citizens services or facilities in Huron County (hereinafter the “Existing Levy”) pursuant to R.C. 5705.19(Y), which Existing Levy is a levy outside the ten-mill limitation which expires in tax year 2023 and will collect in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Enrichment Board passed a motion, at its regular meeting on October 19, 2023, requesting the County to seek voter approval to replace all of the Existing Levy, with an increase, for the purpose of providing or maintaining senior citizens services or facilities in Huron County; and

WHEREAS, a resolution declaring the necessity of replacing the Existing Levy, with an increase, must be passed and certified to the County Auditor of Huron County in order to permit the Board to consider the replacement with an increase of such a tax and must request that the County Auditor certify to the Board the total current tax valuation of the County and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the tax pursuant to R.C. 5705.03; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Huron County, Ohio, two-thirds of all of the members elected thereto concurring, that: it is necessary to replace all of the Existing Levy, with an increase, which is a tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of providing or maintaining senior citizens services or facilities in Huron County, Ohio pursuant to R.C. 5705.19(Y); and further

BE IT RESOLVED, the question of replacing all of the Existing Levy, with an increase, shall be submitted to the electors of the entire territory of the County at the election to be held therein on March 19, 2024. All of the territory of the Enrichment Board is in Huron County, Ohio; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, such replacement tax levy of 0.60 mill, with an increase of 0.25 mill, shall be at an annual rate not exceeding 0.85 mill upon the entire territory of the County, for a period of five years. Therefore, the Board respectfully requests that the Huron County Auditor certify to this Board of Commissioners the total current tax valuation of Huron County, Ohio, and the amount of revenue which will be generated by the replacement of all of an existing tax levy of 0.60 mill, with an increase of 0.25 mill, which shall be at an annual rate not exceeding 0.85 mill; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, such replacement tax levy, with an increase, shall be placed upon the tax list and duplicate for the 2024 tax year (commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025) if a majority of the electors voting thereon vote in favor thereof; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, The Clerk of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the County Auditor of the County. This Board hereby requests that the County Auditor certify to this Board the total current tax valuation of the County and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the aforementioned replacement levy if approved by the voters of the County; 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 wants the prosecutor’s office, commissioners, Board of Elections, and Senior Enrichment Services to work extremely close and as fast as possible on this. He thought it was very important that this gets on in March, but we are almost out of time because there are additional

resolutions that need to be done. Mr. Strickler said they would do the resolution of intent next Tuesday. He wanted to explain what was going on. They currently have two levies. They have one for .60 and they have one for .55. Mr. Beal told him they want to replace the .60 with this increase and they're going to let the .55 mill expire and not renew it. That will leave them with only one levy, this one. If it does not pass in March they can try again at the general election in November. Mr. Brady wanted to make it clear to the public. There are two levies right now; they will end up with one. The one that's a .6 would be a 0.85. While it seems like it's an increase, it's really going to be less.

Mr. Boose thought Mr. Strickler was giving them the information second hand. He suggested the media should have their questions answered by the Senior Enrichment board. They need to talk to Mr. Beal. Mr. Beal has been working on a budget for the new building for over a year and has already set aside some of the money from the 0.55 levy for coming expenses. Mr. Beal has done the budgeting, he's got all the numbers and can better explain what they are doing.

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

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

At 10:10 a.m. Sue Wilson and Stephen Burggraf, Family Life Counseling. Dr. Burggraf expressed his appreciation at being able to use the building on Shady Lane. Mr. Boose said that was what they wanted to talk about. The County has been talking about tearing those buildings down for the last couple of years. We want to be open about what we are doing. When they tear those buildings down, we want to prepare that area for future development. Part of the discussion will be whether it makes sense to leave the building Family Life Counseling is in. This is the only building they are talking about leaving, besides the Dog Warden. If they decided to take down the building, Mr. Boose wants to make sure they still have a place to go in Huron County. Mr. Boose wanted to keep open discussion with Family Life Counseling on this matter. Mr. Brady pointed out they most likely would not do anything with that building until the seniors have moved out, so they still had some time.

Ms. Wilson handed out pamphlets on the services offered by Family Life Counseling. She explained the different kinds of therapy and other services they provide and how they utilized the building. Mr. Boose told her about Region 19 and thought there could be some collaboration with Richland County. Long discussion on substance abuse and mental health in Huron County.

At 10:40 a.m. the board recessed.

At 10:45 a.m. the board resumed regular session.

Village of Plymouth bridge discussion

Mr. Brady referenced an email from Attorney Jon Burton in Mansfield. It had to do with the bridge in Plymouth that was closed and had been owned by Ashland Railroad. The state has agreed to supply some funding to replace the bridge. To do that, from what Mr. Brady understands, the village has to take ownership of the bridge. Mr. Boose addressed Mr. Tansey and said he thought that bridges, no matter where they were in the county, ended up being the responsibility of our engineer's office. Mr. Tansey said anything within a municipal corporation or on a state route is not theirs. Mr. Boose said this was the railroad's bridge. If Plymouth was willing to do it themselves and accept the money, he wanted to make sure that 20 years down the road, when it needs to be replaced and fixed, they aren't going to come to our engineer's office saying it's the county's problem. Mr. Tansey agreed. His confusion was the letter states that it's the railroad's bridge; they're giving it to the village. He questioned why the county had to grant permission. They were two separate entities, he did not feel it was any of the county's business. Mr. Brady read the highlighted part of the letter that stated: “. . . because one of the criteria is that the structure must be owned by a municipality, the condition of the award is that the village must assume ownership of the structure by passing a resolution by Friday, January 12, 2024.” Mr. Brady said that tells us Plymouth is going to accept ownership of the bridge. He continued reading: “Additionally, there shall be an agreement between the village and the railroad and the village and the county outlining that the village is the owner of the structure and responsible for all inspections, minor maintenance, and major maintenance by the above deadline as well. This ensures the structure is eligible for the Municipal Bridge Program.” The way Mr. Brady saw it was they were asking to assert that the village owns the bridge, not the county. Mr. Strickler agreed. Mr. Brady did not have a problem with that. What worried Mr. Boose was, twenty years after a project happens, somebody wants to put responsibility on the county. Then you have to go back to see what the commissioners did. He didn't want it to look like the county took responsibility. Mr. Strickler thought the resolution stated they don't have responsibility. Mr. Boose would like it stated “now and in future”. Mr. Brady thought the resolution made it very clear the village is going to be responsible. Mr. Boose noted this was near the county line and asked

if Richland County was doing the same thing. Mr. Strickler offered to call the Richland County Prosecutor's office. Mr. Brady explained the south side of the bridge was in Richland County; the north side is in Huron County. The county line splits the center of this bridge. Mr. Brady thought if everything was okay this should be ready for next Tuesday. Mr. Tansey thought the letter stated it was a requirement. But he did not believe it was a requirement for the funding. The only requirement for the funding of the Municipal Bridge Program is that the municipality owns it. Mr. Boose wanted to check into that. If we don't have to do this and they can still get the money he did not think the county needed to get involved. But if ODOT tells us that is the only way Plymouth is going to get the money, that is another thing. Mr. Tansey thought they had already been granted the money. It was decided that Mr. Tansey will make some calls on this. Mr. Strickler will also call Richland County.

At 11:00 a.m. Mary Habig and Ron Davidson, Seneca-Crawford Area Transportation. Mr. Brady said he had asked them to come in through this transition period to provide an update. Ms. Habig said unfortunately they have had some delays in getting set up and going. Yesterday they finally received the titles and registrations to the three vehicles they took over on October 5. One of those vehicles is not repairable. ODOT owns the title, Ms. Habig is going to see if they will give it to them to be used as a supervisory vehicle. Ms. Habig thought she had the new phone number for the location at S. Norwalk Road, but she has not heard back for sure. Phones have been ordered, they should be in on Monday. Mr. Boose told her if there are delays at the state level to let them know and they will contact our state representatives. Ms. Habig said she is still working on transferring titles. She wants all the vehicles to be put through maintenance and have their required state inspections done. They have new computers and have supplies ordered. Mr. Davidson has been in contact with a locksmith to get new locks put on. Mr. Boose agreed they needed to change the locks, but wanted to make sure we could get in in case of emergency. Mr. Davidson said someone in the building would have a master key, and another master key would be provided for the commissioners.

Mr. Brady said they had mentioned a soft opening. He asked Ms. Habig to explain what she meant by that. Ms. Habig said they were going to start having people call the transportation number, make reservations, and start taking them. Just to make sure there were no kinks. She did not think they would be able to do that now because of the delays they have encountered. She thought about possibly having a grand opening in February or March and inviting the legislators.

Mr. Brady asked Mr. Davidson if they would have enough drivers. Mr. Davidson stated that they were in the process of doing the background checks for most of the drivers who put applications in. They are beginning the training portion. He said they were in good shape as far as drivers. There will be a short period of time where the drivers will have to drive a SCAT vehicle, but after everything is in place they will be able to stay with their same vehicle. Ms. Habig noted that three of the Huron County vehicles had been moved to the SCAT insurance. She would get the information to Ms. Ziemba so she could remove them from the county's policy.

Mr. Brady asked how confident Ms. Habig was that they change would take place in January as planned. Ms. Habig said she was "9.9 out of 10" confident.

Mr. Brady also noted that Mr. Strickler was working on the agreement between Huron County and SCAT. Mr. Strickler said he had brought a copy with him. He wanted to discuss what the commissioners wanted to put in the agreement. Mr. Brady suggested they discuss this next Tuesday, since Mr. Wilde would have to leave shortly.

Ms. Habig wanted to mention they had been awarded \$65,000.00 in state funds, with no local match, for new radios for all the vehicles and a base radio. Mr. Beal can use that money toward his vehicles too. Ms. Habig said they also wrote a grant for new software, so they are getting new software. They are working on getting that going now. They also have a marketing grant to rebrand.

Mr. Brady wanted to do a motion and second to have him sit on their board.

Bruce Wilde recommends Harry Brady be appointed to the Seneca Crawford Area Transportation Board. 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 said he had read an article about a coffee shop opening. He went over and took a look, and suggested they apply for some of the Huron County Region 19 money. Ms. Cardone had agreed with him, but pointed out they did not have an application form for Huron County. However, there was a Region 19 application form that Ms. Cardone had worked on. Mr. Boose wanted to get the commissioners approval to

use this, at least as a starting application for the local OneOhio money.

Bruce Wilde moved to approve the One Ohio Region 19 Funding Application as prepared by Kristen Cardone, MHAS. 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 11:25 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to enter Executive Session 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 11:30 a.m. Bruce Wilde left the meeting.

At 12:20 p.m. Terry Boose moved to End Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1). Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

****No action taken from executive session.***

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL - None

SIGNINGS – None

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ziemba had a request from Board of Elections to pay out their comp time. The total amount of the request was \$17,803.35. Mr. Boose said this is exactly what he said a year ago would happen. When they did it a year ago he said it was going to become a regular thing. He believed their board needed to look at whether this was a proper use of money or whether it made more sense to hire a bunch of temporary employees, as opposed to paying the top dollar for their director and assistant director for doing some of these tasks. Mr. Boose said he would not vote for this. Mr. Brady said he had received a call from one of the board members saying they were going to do this. However, he agreed with Mr. Boose. He would like to personally have a conversation with them. He understood why they didn't have enough time to take their comp time, with having three elections this year and one they will be getting started on in the next week or so. But his question was the same as Mr. Boose had just phrased it. If there are certain things the state mandates the director or the deputy director have to do, he understood that. But if they can use part-time people to do the bulk of the stuff, then they wouldn't have this issue.

Ms. Ziemba said they had received a request from Matthew Beebe regarding the antenna tower behind 21 Benedict, which is the old jail. He stated he represented himself and the AOS nonprofit here in Norwalk. He was interested in renting a spot on the tower for a low-powered FM radio station. Ms. Ziemba had sent this out to everyone, including Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch had pointed out we don't know the condition of the tower, whether it is safe to climb or attach additional equipment to. He also asked if the commissioners were looking to repurpose the old jail. Mr. Boose noted this tower had previously been used by EMA. He had no idea of the condition of that tower, and had no idea how you would figure that out. As an alternative, Mr. Boose suggested putting it on top of one of the other buildings downtown. He was not interested in charging them rent if they were truly using it for AOS – as long as they didn't ruin the roof. Mr. Brady agreed. Ms. Ziemba thought there should at least be an MOU. Mr. Strickler agreed there should be some sort of agreement.

Ms. Ziemba stated that Mr. Boose had received an email about the meeting on the NOAT2 abatement use reporting tool online. She will work with the auditor's office on the final budget to get different revenue lines so that each different funding source is separated out. This will make it easier for future reporting. Mr. Strickler explained this was for the Mallinckrodt settlement, because Mallinckrodt had filed bankruptcy. This was a requirement of the bankruptcy court as to how we spent the money. There is a list of things that you can do, he thought it was similar to the OneOhio Memorandum. Mr. Boose thought separating everything out just complicated everything. Ms. Ziemba agreed, but said that it would be a lot easier if they do it from the beginning instead of trying to figure out what happened three years from now. Mr. Boose said it was

going to get more complicated in the future because Region 19 would be giving money to every county. Mr. Strickler said there would be a separate line item for that. Mr. Boose thought these were going to be once a year, once a project type thing. He didn't want to make it more complicated than they had to and suggested waiting until final budget to do anything. Ms. Ziemba said that would be when it was done. Mr. Strickler thought that there should at least be a separate line item for the Mallinckrodt money because of the particular reporting requirement. Mr. Boose didn't have a problem with that.

Ms. Ziemba noted Mr. Brady had received an email from Storage Masters, LLC, who owned land on Laylin Road and for which the Huron County Airport Authority would like to remove trees. It stated "*The tree removal would cause increased storm water to flow upon the planned development area. Storage Masters engaged an engineering firm to devise a plan where the water could be diverted to contiguous land owned by the Huron County commissioners. Storage Masters is willing to consider donating substantial lands containing trees if the Huron County commissioners can accommodate storm water runoff from the donated lands, and would like to be on the agenda of the December 21, 2023 commissioners meeting, along with the principal member of Storage Masters, to discuss a possible property donation and storm water accommodation.*" Ms. Ziemba said the email was from George Henshaw. Mr. Boose asked who was going to pay for the study to know how to handle the runoff. Mr. Brady noted he would not be at the December 21 meeting, so he would prefer to have them come in in January. Mr. Boose said when someone is willing to give you something, you always need to check all the consequences of it. Ms. Ziemba asked if this was something Mr. Tansey should be invited to. They thought he should. Mr. Boose wanted to make sure going into it the commissioners aren't saying we're willing to pay for whatever it takes.

Mr. Brady said he had also sent Ms. Ziemba something about the potential of loaning the airport board money. He asked her to forward it to the board. He would also like to talk to Scott Sparks and see if he can come in and give them some more information.

Mr. Welch had messaged Ms. Ziemba indicating he had a meeting with John Schwartz and James Johnson to address the remaining items for Firelands Local. The commissioners were invited to attend.

Mr. Boose had received a County Advisory Bulletin from CCAO on Issue 2: Adult Use of Cannabis. It stated "*County appointing authorities are advised to inform employees in writing that the passage of Issue 2 will not excuse a positive test result for cannabis or marijuana in violation of the employer's drug-free workplace policy*". They were telling people not to rely on their personnel policy manual; people don't look at them. It should be put right in front of their eyes. Mr. Strickler suggested just copying and pasting it out of the policy. Mr. Boose wanted to make sure to get it to everyone.

At 12:51 p.m. Terry Boose moved to adjourn. Harry Brady 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 December 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 12:51 p.m.

Signatures on File