

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2009

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Regular Session. Roll being called found the following members present: Mike Adelman, Gary W. Bauer, Larry J. Silcox.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the February 17, 2009 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Larry J. Silcox made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Mike Adelman seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye – Mike Adelman
Aye – Gary W. Bauer
Aye –Larry J. Silcox

09-053

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUESTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$500.00 SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FEBRUARY 19, 2009

Mike Adelman moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, requests for expenditures of over \$500.00 have been submitted for approval by the Board of Huron County Commissioners as follows:

Permanent Improvements #310

Moto Electric replacement air compressor \$1,698.00 + approximate \$200.00 for installation now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the requests for expenditure of over \$500.00 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.

Larry J. Silcox seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Mike Adelman
Aye – Gary W. Bauer
Aye –Larry J. Silcox

09-054

IN THE MATTER OF VOUCHERING FUNDS TO THE HURON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Larry J. Silcox moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, funds have been appropriated from the Huron County General Fund for the Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District in 2009; and

WHEREAS a first quarter P.O. for these funds, was authorized by the Board of Huron County Commissioners to voucher the following sum of \$36,250.00 for the first quarter to be paid from the Code listed in the Commissioners’ Budget to the Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District for the first quarter of the year 2009; and

WHEREAS, a second quarter P.O. for these funds needs to be authorized by the Board of Huron County Commissioners to voucher the following sum of \$25,062.00 for the second quarter to be paid from the Code listed in the Commissioners’ Budget to the Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District for the second quarter of the year 2009 to meet payroll and health insurance expenses; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby authorize their Clerk to

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voucher the following sum to be paid for the second quarter from the Code listed in the Commissioners' Budget to the Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District for the year 2009:

From: 028-00558-001 Soil & Water Conservation District \$ 25,062.00 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.

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

Aye – Mike Adelman
Aye – Gary W. Bauer
Aye –Larry J. Silcox

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL

Larry J. Silcox moved to approve the following travel request this day. Mike Adelman seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Mike Adelman
Aye – Gary W. Bauer
Aye –Larry J. Silcox

Cheryl Nolan, Commissioners' Office, on February 27, 2009, to Delaware, Ohio, for CCC/ESAO committee meeting. Driving personal car to Mansfield, Ohio and riding with Ashland County clerk.

Huron County Department of Job & Family Services
In-Service Training Request

Date: February 13, 2009

To: Huron County Commissioners

From: Amy Leibold, HCDJFS Business Administrator

4/20-4/22/09 Spring CSEA Conference-Trainer Columbus \$500.00
Julie Gubala

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR LEAVE

Sue Bommer/Human Resource Director/ vacation/8:30 a.m. May 15, 2009 – 5:00 p.m. May 18, 2009/leave without pay/1:00 p.m. June 29, 2009 – 5:00 p.m. July 2, 2009/

Bill Duncan/Dog Warden/sick, family medical leave/8:00 a.m. January 27, 2009 – 4:30 p.m. February 6, 2009/compensatory time/12:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. February 13, 2009.

Gary Ousley/Dog Warden's Department/sick/1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. February 11, 2009.

Jason Roblin/EMA/sick/8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. February 11, 2009.

Christina Norton/EMA/vacation/8:00 a.m. March 2, 2009 – 4:30 p.m. March 9, 2009.

SIGNINGS

Ms. Stephanie Swann
Detroit Airport District Office
Metro Airport Center
11677 South Wayne Rd.
Suite 107
Romulus, MI 48174

Dear Ms. Swann:

We, the Board of Huron County Commissioners are in full support of closing the Huron County Airport on Friday, June 26, 2009 – 8 p.m. to 12 midnight; Saturday, June 27, 2009 – 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, June 28, 2009 – 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, August 1, 2009 – 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. for egress purposes during the events of the *National Event* and *Night Under Fire* at Summit Motorsports Park. We feel that this is a major safety concern for all involved. If the airport runway could be used as an exit on to State Route #20 it would elevate this traffic backup.

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These events will bring in thousands of spectators that will be arriving in the a.m. and departing in the p.m. all at once, which will cause an enormous traffic back up at the already dangerous intersections of State Routes #601& #20 and #18 as there is only one exit from the raceway park. These two intersections have had numerous accidents without this extra influx of traffic.

Along with the safety concerns there are also economic concerns to the airport as well as Huron County businesses. The Board of Huron County Commissioners is reducing the funds to the airport from the county general fund budget by 20% or \$4,000, which is the same reduction that all general fund budgets have received. Also the only renter of commercial space is moving out in the spring which will further reduce revenues. On the other hand to help off set some of this reduction Summit Motorsports Park has offered \$5,000 for the use of the runway for park egress.

Other economic concerns is that more than 60,000 fans will come to Summit Motorsports Park using hotels, restaurants, fuel stations, and carry-outs. According to the visitors' bureau information, spending occurs at a rate of \$187.00 per person, not including ticket cost for entrance to the raceway. Huron County is in a period of economic depression and every sales tax dollar is needed.

It is of great importance that the FAA takes the request of closing the Huron County Airport for egress purposes during the above stated events most seriously as it could not only be life saving, but also help improve Huron County's bleak economy situation.

HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Adelman, Gary W. Bauer, Larry J. Silcox

pc: Airport Authority Board

shltairportclosing021909

The Honorable Bob Lata
United States House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515-3505

Re: NASA Glenn Plum Brook Station

Dear Representative Lata:

We are writing to you today to urge your support for a project that has far reaching economic benefits for our region and the entire state of Ohio. We are pleased to make this request in support of both Erie and Cuyahoga Counties as they will be direct beneficiaries, and Huron County will also benefit as this will bring jobs and economic growth.

NASA Glenn Research Center is one of our state's most important research and economic engines. While their main campus is located in Cuyahoga County their testing facility located at Plum Brook Station in Erie County is crucially important, a fact that has only recently gained the recognition it deserves. As you know, Plum Brook Station has been identified as a primary testing site for the Orion program, which is integral to our nation's space exploration mission to return to the moon and go to Mars. While we are excited that this work will be done at Plum Brook, it is but the beginning of opportunities that will span generations.

In order to achieve its full potential, it is essential to add a 9,000 foot runway to the property at Plum Brook Station in Sandusky. Such a runway will immediately put Northeast Ohio in a competitive position for public and private contracts. Without a runway, we are severely limited by the fact that components used in the production of space exploration vehicles must be flown to Mansfield, Ohio and travel by surface roads to Sandusky. The inherent risks for damage to such components make other sites, such as Houston, Texas and Huntsville, Alabama a more attractive location, despite the fact that the capabilities at Plum Brook are far superior to any other location in the world.

NASA Glenn is supervising the design and construction of the service module for the Orion project, due to be ready for flights in five years and for lunar missions by 2018. The addition of a runway at Plum Brook Station will make Ohio extremely competitive for the numerous contracts that will flow from the Orion project.

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It is estimated that the cost to construct a runway will be \$80 million, an investment that will yield economic benefits for decades to come. In fact, it has been estimated that contracts associated with Orion that could be done at Plum Brook would result in \$300 to \$500 million; other NASA contracts and private sector contracts would produce even more. Success of this magnitude will spur private sector development at NASA Glenn Lewis Field in Cuyahoga County and Plum Brook Station in Erie County. Work could begin on this project almost immediately and could be completed within two years, making it an appropriate recipient for federal economic stimulus funds.

This could be a once in a lifetime opportunity for Ohio and we would urge you to support this request. We stand ready to provide assistance in any form necessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely

THE BOARD OF HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mike Adelman, Gary W. Bauer, Larry J. Silcox

Pc Erie County

Cuyahoga County

* Letter also sent to Representative Kaptur, Senator Brown, & Senator Voinovich.

Mr. Bauer explained the importance of this letter and runway.

At 9:30 a.m. Public Comment

Harry Brady stated that the invitation is still open for the board to visit the apprentice school in Richfield, Ohio.

At 9:31 a.m. Sheriff Howard thanked the board for allowing him to come before the board today, and presented a break down as to what they have done in 2008 as an office as a whole. The Sheriff referred to the civil division, road patrol division and the jail and/or corrections. The stats that are generated from that are 55 thousand telephone calls were generated in the sheriff's office last year, above and beyond that 11,000 9-1-1 calls came into the sheriff's office, 13,756 civil papers were served by deputies and 4,000 criminal complaints were handled by the deputies. The Sheriff also stated that the county is comprised of 60,000 + residents and 500 square miles that they cover currently with 3.3 uniformed road deputies. We currently have 14 uniformed road deputies, two detectives in plain clothes which are down from five plain clothes from two years ago. We have two uniformed mandated deputies at the courthouse. This doesn't count any sick, vacation time, or any court time which is mandated. This is if everything is running perfectly which normally doesn't happen generally we have just shy of over 2.4 per shift on average. Three road positions were not filled in 2004 after cuts. The sheriff referred to the jail fund and discussed a program that would generate additional money by housing inmates that would increase our inmate population. Over the last year our inmate population was 102 beds and this last week it was as low and 88 and as high as 96, so we would have some room to house out of county inmates. The sheriff also explained how they have generated some interest from out of county departments, and stated that Lakewood is ready to sign a contract with us for between 10 and 20 inmates on a regular basis and we have averaged that at 15 inmates not counting Wood County if they become interested and not counting the work we are doing ICU Marshall's office. This addition of inmates will add \$261,000 per year gross, which is a conservative estimate and if this program goes well we will be able to produce more gross income. The additional food cost has already been added into the budget so this will be your county profit margin to operate this jail if this program comes together. The goal obviously is to keep the jail a fully operational full service facility as we are currently and meeting the adult detention standards. There will be layoffs in our jail even with this extra funding, and there will be layoffs in our road patrol division. The dispatch and road patrol can not cut courthouse staff, and stated that he has to maintain the 9-1-1 center and obviously we need to maintain a road patrol and we are hoping to keep as many bodies there as possible. With that in mind we are requesting some additional funding of \$75,000 extra dollars we would be able to keep from laying off 4 more personnel in the road patrol. We would still be laying off 2 deputies. If we would have to lay off an additional six personnel and being short the 3 from 2004 that is nine that we are short on the road patrol which takes our average of road patrol coverage to 1.9 people per day to cover 500 square miles and that is not holidays, vacation, sick or court time. We will be losing one

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deputy to surgery for 12 weeks which will put us to 1 deputy per shift. The Sheriff stated that this is just to tell you what the true numbers are. The #036 fund money of \$261,000 is a conservative figure and again stated who is interested in contracting. The sheriff stated that he would like to have several contracts because if we just have one and lose it then we will lose our income base and their intention is to get at least three agencies and hopefully five agencies to increase the funding and be at the max of 135 inmates per day. Mr. Adelman stated that he had spoken with the Sheriff about the housing agreement with Lakewood, and asked if Lakewood had agreed with the contract. The sheriff stated yes everyone was on board, but are waiting on the decision as to where the money will be appropriated. Mr. Adelman stated that they have discussed this as a board and will not speak for Mr. Bauer or Mr. Silcox but for him he certainly supports this housing agreement which was something that we have done in the past and went away from it. Obviously if you feel that you are in a position to pursue it and make it work and operate the jail he is good with it. Mr. Bauer stated that he is as well. Larry Silcox stated that he had a couple of comments or questions. The layoffs in the jail what does that do with the jail standards? The sheriff stated that we are going to be below jail standards and will have to change a couple of our postings and that was by the advice of the Assistant Director of Bureau of Detention from a discussion held with him last week. We discussed it in detail what we can do and has some pretty strong ideas, of which are not ideal but we will change a couple of postings inside the jail and schedules and we should be able to make it. We have a lot of sick time and have changed our policy to address that problem. It is not ideal by any means but we should be able to make it. We have increased training for office safety, because the criminals that we are bringing in from other agencies are going to bring in different ideas and we have addressed this with our staff to make sure they are as safe as possible.

Mr. Silcox asked what does this do with reducing staff and has talked about closing one of the centers out there. The sheriff stated if we can not generate the funding we will close a good part of the entire operation. Mr. Silcox asked what is the effect of that on having more prisoners where you are running out of space. We have changed ours schedules, work responsibilities and consolidated a couple of different jobs where one of the individuals that we are cutting would be one of our transport officers who doesn't work in the jail anyway and we will pick up that slack. We still stay fully operational. Mr. Silcox stated the money that would be generated from renting bed space where do you want to see that go? The sheriff answered directly back into the jail operation or in other words jail salaries. After it was explained that this was just for jail operations he stated that he was on board with it as well. Mr. Silcox stated that is if we can handle it properly and asked Roland Tkach, Auditor to speak to this and asked can we make that work?

Mr. Tkach stated that the first thing he wanted to do was make sure we are all on the same page in regards to the equation as to how much will be taken in per prisoner per day. The Sheriff stated it would \$58.00 per day gross and \$50.00 and some change is the county's profit, and food cost of \$7.48 has already been factored in to the line item, so the majority of that money is going to be generated to be used or usable income. Mr. Tkach asked what other jails are charging and the sheriff answered \$58.00 per day. Mr. Bauer asked Mr. Tkach if he had any more questions to ask the sheriff, and Mr. Tkach stated that his concern is that it does take cooperation to do what you want to do, and it is one of those deals where we need to walk before we run. Essentially what we are talking about here is increasing the county estimate of revenue and then at that point when he does that then it gives the county commissioners more money to spend and it is their decision to make as to where they put it. Mr. Adelman stated that we have fund #052 in the general fund that this money would fit right in to; it was a fund at one time that was for sales tax money that went to the jail. Since 2003 or 2004 there hasn't been any excess sales tax money that would go in that line that was beyond the expense to operate the facility. This would be the line that this revenue would go into and would be used for jail operation and expenses. Mr. Bauer agreed and stated that this money is coming in for that purpose and will be used for jail operations. Mr. Adelman stated that for a starting point we should use the sheriff's conservative estimate of \$261,000 and if that increases that is great but this is a good starting point. The sheriff asked if he could add that this should be monitored on a regular bases. We need to have a good understanding as to how this is going to work. Mr. Adelman stated that the sheriff should come in to a board meeting once a month to monitor how this is working. Mr. Silcox stated that one of the concerns he has coming in and looking at the operations of the jail and obviously that is your area but we do have a tax to operate that jail and recently it hasn't covered the cost and he would like to see it get more in line especially once we get out of the budget crunch that we are in now. If this works it could help that in the future and we need to look at all our options to keep this in line.

Mr. Adelman mentioned that the sales tax estimate for that ½ % for this year. Mr. Tkach stated that the sales tax for the jail was \$2,375,000. Mr. Adelman stated that right now the budget was set at \$2,459,000 so you can see that the estimate on the sales and if we were to hold to that amount generated the jail wouldn't be a fully functional facility. The sheriff also stated that the county does not have to pay for any of the out of county housed inmates' medical fees. The home county pays all of that so that would not be a liability. Mr. Tkach also stated that this is a two way street, we can increase the revenue but if at some

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point close to the end of the year those revenues are not met then we would have to do an amended certificate to take away funding. So looking at a very conservative number is to everyone's benefit so that we don't over spend. At the end of the year if the county as a whole is able to generate more than the estimate then we can also do an amended certification to bring that number up. All agreed that they were comfortable with starting the estimate at \$261,000.00. Further discussion was had as to how this will all work out. Mr. Silcox asked if the Sheriff had discussed this with the judges, and the sheriff stated that Huron County inmates would come first and stated that the judges are working closing with the sheriff's department. Mr. Tkach stated that he is a person of equations and if the average was 18 prisoners at \$58.00 per day for 250 days that is \$261,000 so when you look at those kinds of numbers Mr. Tkach stated that he really did not have a problem with the \$261,000 to up the estimate.

Mike Adelman moved to proceed with the contracts for housing prisoners from Lakewood, and other entities. Larry J. Silcox seconded the motion. Discussion: The sheriff stated that they will still have layoffs with this program. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Aye – Larry J. Silcox

Mr. Bauer referred back to the \$75,000 extra for the Sheriff's budget that was requested earlier. The sheriff stated yes that we have made some extreme cuts out of the #023 fund and the only other cut that can be made is significant layoffs which is going to be real and will have a real impact on this decision. The spoke to the crime which is up in every department and spoke to the fact that he is very concerned about being able to provide a strong service. The Sheriff stated that even if you were able to find this additional funding we would still need to layoff 2 but hopefully would be able to save 4 employees. The sheriff stated that they are doing some things in house to try to generate some money as far as holiday pay and stated that he is having a department wide meeting this Friday at 1:00 p.m. which is voluntary for employees, the OPBA attorney will be there. The Sheriff stated that they are going to take care of some business across the board and present some options to them and put some of their own destiny back on them as far as their holiday pay and maybe their raise and things of that nature. The sheriff stated that he doesn't expect that to actually happen and even if it did it would save maybe 2 jobs. Mr. Bauer explained that the maintenance union and landfill union had re-openers and agreed to no raise for next year. The Sheriff again stated that if the board can find this additional funding it will have a big impact on them as they are short 3 from December that were not replaced, and they are down 1 detective as well. The board agreed to take a look but would not promise. Mr. Silcox stated also that when these budget numbers were put together we were around \$31,000 short from where we were projected to be. Mr. Silcox also asked that the Sheriff advise the board what the union decided as well. The Sheriff stated that will not be until the middle of March and the board agreed that would be fine and the board would welcome anything the union would do to prevent layoffs. Mr. Bauer asked the Sheriff if he was on board with centralized dispatch. The Sheriff stated that he is on board with the point of the idea but after seeing the budget he is not pushing hard to see it this year. Mr. Tkach stated that he just wanted to remind the board that payroll was paid yesterday and on a cash bases the county had \$70,000. We started the year cash wise with a little more than 1 million dollars and that is really the reason why we need to keep our eye on carryover for next year. This is a real concern with the 2009 budget at this time and what has already been appropriated.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Adelman stated that he made a couple of minor adjustments to the final budget and after reviewing the buildings & grounds budget it was found that it could be reduced by \$10,560 and the \$560 was appropriated to the contingencies fund #041 and because he had miscalculated the clerk of courts budget which she had asked about and he recalculated it and she was correct so that fund was increased to \$270,731 which would make the 20% cut.

Mr. Bauer reported on the security meeting at the courthouse and the committee decided to provide \$4,000 for the camera system at the courthouse and put the other \$11,000 in the communication fund, which means we are still \$4,000 short to pay for the camera system at the courthouse. After further discussion the board agreed to pay this \$4,000 from permanent improvement fund #310.

Mike Adelman moved to put up to \$5,000 in the courthouse security camera project from permanent improvement fund #310. Larry J. Silcox seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Aye –Larry J. Silcox

Mr. Bauer reported on the 9-1-1 committee meeting and stated that there was positive discussion there. It was decided to pursue research the technology to centralized 9-1-1. There will be tours for such research.

At 10:18 a.m. Mike Adelman moved to adjourn. Larry J. Silcox seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

IN THE MATTER OF OPEN SESSION

The Huron County Commissioners hereby attest that all actions and deliberations of the Board legally required to be public were conducted in an open session on this date and that the foregoing minutes represent the official action of the Board.

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 February 19, 2009.

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 10:18 a.m.

Signatures on File