

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Regular Session. Roll being called found the following members present: Terry Boose and Bruce Wilde. Harry Brady absent.

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Lee Tansey, Huron County Engineer; Roger Hunker, Lyme Township Trustee/APEX; Brad Mesenburg, Citizen; Patricia Didion, Citizen; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News; Jessica Walsh, Apex; Chief Deputy Dave Ditz

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the January 9, 2024 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the January 9, 2024 minutes of the meeting(s) and approve as presented. Terry Boose seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose

Absent – Harry Brady

Aye – Bruce Wilde

**At 9:05 a.m. Public comment.** *Chief Deputy Dave Ditz.* Mr. Ditz said he appreciated the opportunity to speak last Tuesday. It started off well, and then it changed. Mr. Ditz said he let his frustration and passion for the services that the Huron County Sheriff's office provides rear its ugly head. He probably should have used some different words. He said them out of spite and to get a reaction, which he did. He had said he wasn't going to apply for grants. That is obviously not the case. In the past few years they have received over \$570,000 from MHAS. They had also received \$2.2 million in Covid reimbursement for salaries. In addition to that they have a mental health professional inside the jail now because of grants. That does not count the psychotropic drug grant or the bulletproof vest grants. Mr. Ditz said he will continue to seek grants and ensure the Huron County Sheriff's office has the funding to provide the highest services possible.

Mr. Boose said he hoped Mr. Ditz would abide by Ohio Revised Code when they receive grants. Mr. Strickler explained they have worked that out. In regard to the MHAS grants, he has had a conversation with Ms. Cardone that they need to add the commissioners on those, unless there is some kind of statutory exception. Mr. Strickler will be providing Ms. Ziemba with a signature page for the SOR grant that they talked about Tuesday so the commissioners can confirm that grant, or not. But, there has already been a vote to buy the equipment. Mr. Strickler said from this point forward, pursuant to the Revised Code, the commissioners will sign off on those contracts unless there is some exception. Mr. Boose said to him that was the key, that they we move forward and abide by Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Boose stated he had been in a meeting with 30 different counties that were all saying the same thing. He may not be a lawyer, but he spent eight years in Columbus dealing with Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code. That does not make him a lawyer. But you don't need to be a lawyer to be a State Representative and pass policy laws. He said the Ohio Revised Code needs to be followed. And there is a reason for that. The reason for that is not so commissioners can stick their nose in other peoples' business. It is not so we can tell judges and law enforcement how to do their job. Mr. Boose said the way county government is set up with the State of Ohio is that there are various elected officials. All those elected officials and department heads are supposed to have their contracts approved by the commissioners. The reason for that is because the major responsibility of the commissioners is the budget. The commissioners have a unique aspect on the budget in that they look at the budget as a whole. Everybody looks at their own independent budget. The commissioners have to make it all tie together. Mr. Boose said a wise person in government once told him, once you buy an asset, it is probably there for a long, long time. And now that we are into the grant process that the state makes us use more than we want to, we can't have people going out and getting grants without talking to the commissioners. The commissioners need to know, at the very least, a plan for future expenses of that equipment. There is a reason the commissioners need to sign off on contracts. It doesn't have to do with getting into the business of a judge or getting into the business of a sheriff. It has to do with one of the major tasks of being a commissioner is to budget. Mr. Boose had an example of one of the things that came up, and how it affects commissioners. That goes back to the VOCA grant that was received a long time ago. We added Victim's Assistance to the county, based on a grant from the federal government. Then the federal government began to put less and less money into it, for various reasons, so it is not self-supportive anymore. We strongly support Victim's Assistance, but all of a sudden, if we wanted to continue we are pretty much forced to use general fund money to subsidize it. That is the reason commissioners need to be involved in contracts. Not because we don't like somebody, not because we want to hold power over anybody. It is that we have to make sure what we are doing is the right thing and it is sustainable. We have sufficient money in our budget today. But the economy goes up and down, recessions come along. For example, at one time a recession hit the county and they didn't have enough money for payroll. The commissioners at the time studied it thoroughly, and Mr. Boose thought they came up with a good decision. But it hurt the employees. They reduced the employee hours to 32/week, so they could still get all the benefits. But in the meantime, that was a pay cut that the employees took. That is a heavy burden on commissioners to have to do those things. So sustainability of the budget is key. To Mr. Boose, that was what they were talking about.

**SIGNINGS**

***Bruce Wilde moved to approve signing the letter of support to Ohio Department of Development. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:***

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

February 1, 2024

Ohio Department of Development  
Lydia Mihalik, Director  
77 South High Street  
29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Mihalik,

The Huron County Commissioners are committed to seeing our jurisdiction's businesses, community, and individuals thrive. We are supporters of local public-private economic development efforts including the efforts to promote and prepare the Site Ohio Certified Site – North Central Ohio Industrial Park at Furniture Parkway in Norwalk, Ohio.

While North Central Ohio Industrial Park has been Site Ohio Certified since 2016, further site preparation work is needed to make the site as prepared and attractive as possible to attract outside investment. As such, the Huron County Commissioners support the local for-profit organization in its pursuit of funds from the All Ohio Future Fund. We appreciate their willingness to develop project-ready sites to improve the economic welfare of the people Huron County.

Huron County Commissioners support JHI Properties LLC and Norwalk Economic Development Corporation's effort to prepare the site to attract an end user in light manufacturing or logistics and distribution. Because manufacturing and construction are two of the top three industries, in employment and gross regional product, in Huron County, the two occupation classes of (1) machinist and (2) laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, handler make up over 10% of our total jobs in Huron County. Given the existing infrastructure to support these occupations, our community and JHI Properties' site could immediately support development bringing 50-250 jobs at the site. For development bringing 250+ jobs to the site, our community would require additional support from partners including but not limited to JobsOhio and Team NEO to develop appropriate recruitment and training plans.

Thank you for your consideration of North Central Ohio Industrial Park at Furniture Parkway in Norwalk for the All Ohio Future Fund. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Terry Boose, Harry Brady (absent), Bruce Wilde

***Bruce Wilde moved to approve signing the letter of recommendation for the Medal of Honor Upgrade for LTC Arthur F. Gorham. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:***

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

February 1, 2024

Subject: Recommendation for the Medal of Honor Upgrade for LTC Arthur F. Gorham

Dear Members of the Army Board of Awards and Records,

The Board of Huron County Commissioners are writing to strongly recommend the upgrade of the Distinguished Service Cross Medal awarded to LTC Arthur F. Gorham to the Medal of Honor in recognition of his extraordinary valor, heroism, and leadership during Operation Husky in Gela, Sicily, which significantly contributed to the success of Allied operations in Europe during World War II.

LTC Arthur F. Gorham's actions during Operation Husky exemplify the highest standards of military service and bravery. Between July 9-12, 1943, LTC Gorham demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership when he successfully repelled three German tanks, exhibiting unparalleled heroism at great personal risk. His decisive actions not only saved the lives of his comrades but also played a pivotal role in accomplishing the mission and paving the way for future operational success across Europe for the Allies.

LTC Gorham's leadership by example, unwavering commitment to the mission, and exceptional bravery in the face of adversity are qualities that go beyond the criteria for the Distinguished Service Cross. His actions during Operation Husky set a precedent for the kind of selfless dedication that defines the Medal of Honor.

We are aware that the Medal of Honor is reserved for those who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. In the case of LTC Arthur F. Gorham, his actions during Operation Husky undoubtedly meet and exceed these criteria.

We urge the Army Board of Awards and Records to thoroughly review LTC Gorham's heroic actions and consider the significance of his contributions to the success of Allied operations. Upgrading LTC Arthur F. Gorham's Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor would not only honor an exemplary individual but also serve as a testament to the valor and sacrifice of all those who served during World War II.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Terry Boose, Harry Brady (absent), Bruce Wilde

Ms. Ziemba said they had a request from Dawn Alberts to use the Courthouse steps and yard for the event of Justice for Wyatt Duchette. The proposed date is February 13, 2024 from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.; she does not require the use of electricity.

Mr. Boose noted the times and date were during courthouse operation. It is during the middle of the week, during hours the courthouse is open. He said in the past, the commissioners have not approved things happening on the courthouse steps and yard during normal operation hours of the courthouse. He asked if the board had a preference. Mr. Wilde stated, based on previous, he would not approve this, because court is in session. He thought it would be intimidating for people to come into our courthouse if there are people on the steps. He thought they could use the sidewalk; that is not county property. But we do not want to have things during courthouse hours.

***Bruce Wilde moved to deny the Property Use Request for the courthouse steps and yard submitted by Dawn A. Alberts for the event of Justice for Wyatt Duchette on 2/13/24. Terry Boose seconded the motion.***

***\*Discussion: Mr. Boose wanted to make sure to get back to Ms. Alberts today to let her know we did not approve and the reason why we did not approve it. It is nothing against what they are doing; it has nothing to do with what their purpose is. It has to do with normal courthouse operations.***

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

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

### **County Project Updates**

#### **At 9:20 a.m. Joel Reidy, Network Administrator**

##### ***Broadband***

*The towers serving the Willard area and Monroeville area are set to go live at the end of January or early February. Weather and other site complications have caused some delays in getting the equipment on the towers. NCW has a crew scheduled to climb the Monroeville tower this Friday and mount all the necessary equipment.*

##### ***HB2 Broadband***

*Brian Young from Spectrum has said they are still waiting on pole permits for Huron County. Spectrum will be filing a progress report with Broadband Ohio on February 25 and will provide us a copy on the report.*

##### ***Eclipse Internet Access***

*NCW feels that they have the extra capacity already in place to handle any surge in usage. Spectrum is treating the eclipse like a major sporting event, and will be monitoring their network for performance issues.*

**IT**

EMA was able to get grant funding for penetration testing. IT is working with EMA and the provide to provide the necessary information for penetration testing.

**At 9:30 a.m. Jessica Walsh & Roger Hunker - Apex/ Emerson Creek update.** Ms. Walsh said they have shared an updated draft of the RUMA since their last meeting. They are waiting to schedule a meeting with the county engineer's office to discuss this. They will also need to do a study on the roads for their transportation plan. A preliminary plan was submitted with the Power Siting Board application, but there will need to be something more in depth tests to determine the current conditions of the road, and give them more information on what upgrades will be needed. This will entail some borings and about five or six days of work in the roads. She will coordinate this with the engineer's office. Mr. Wilde asked if they needed to know where the turbines were going to go before they did that. Ms. Walsh said they have the approved layout by the state. So, they just need to know which roads they will need to use.

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Boose said he had checked into the Recorder's salary discrepancy they had discussed the other day. Her increase should have been 1.75%, but had only been budgeted at 1%. This was due to the fact last year they overbudgeted in her account – two numbers got transposed. She was not paid that amount, but the numbers were never changed.

**Assistant Prosecutor report**

County office building parking. Mr. Strickler had done some research and suggested they draft a resolution and do proper signage to prohibit people from parking in the assigned spaces. He said they should establish the public spaces as 2-hour parking. Enforcement will be the big issue. Mr. Strickler was not sure how that could be done. Mr. Boose thought, if they see continuous misuse, he would have no problem with the staff taking a time-stamped picture. Later, if the vehicle is still there, they could take another time-stamped picture. He would only do that when they repeatedly have a problem. Before they do anything, Mr. Boose suggested they re-document who the spaces are for so that everybody knows, and make sure they get the proper signage. He would like to talk to the judges, too. Mr. Boose mentioned Judge Conway called him yesterday and they discussed budget. The judge is adding a person to his staff. They have numbers as to what the budget needs. At the end of the conversation the judge wondered if the commissioners would be willing to give up their spot for his new employee. Mr. Boose told him he would bring it before the board, but he had no problem doing that. Mr. Wilde agreed. Mr. Boose thought they needed to started going through the process of figuring out the best way to do all this.

**At 9:50 a.m. Pete Welch, Director of Operations and Steve Minor, B&G Supervisor. County project updates and ARPA update.**

**Huron County updates:**

- *Pipes on the 5th floor of the office building repaired  
The office is scraped and repainted*
- *Energy Controls has been uptown to Address and fix a lockout code on boiler number one for low water pressure*
- *The garage doors at the 306 South Norwalk RD Huron County Building are getting repaired for any weather stripping that needs replaced and new transmitters for the automatic openers are ordered for all the doors (Action Door).*

Mr. Welch asked if this was being paid for out of the \$100,000 that was set aside. Mr. Boose said it was. Ms. Ziemba stated they would need to do a resolution, so she would need to know ahead of time. Mr. Boose told Mr. Welch and Mr. Minor to make sure they work with Ms. Ziemba so everything is done properly, including the concrete work that was discussed the other day.

- *I have received a quote to replace valve controls (5) for the radiators on the 3rd floor of the office building from Hartland*
- *The lights at job and Family Services are beginning to present a challenge not only for replacement but availability. There are three types of bulbs being used there: incandescent, fluorescent, and LED.*

Mr. Minor said the ballasts are hard to find and cost more than a new fixture. They have been replacing these with LED. He is working with New Haven to get a quote to do the hallways and breakdown the other fixtures.

- *All Parking Lots need to be sealed this year. This will have to be bid.*
- *Still waiting for prices on removing the walkway from the old jail to the courthouse.*
- *Would like to move forward with getting quotes to repair the walls and repaint the recorders whole area. Mr. Boose would like him to move forward; Mr. Wilde agreed.*

Mr. Boose said this brought them to the issue of not enough light in the recorder's area. If they don't do the drop ceiling, how are they going to fix that problem? Mr. Minor said the sodium fire ballast bulbs that he and Mr. Armstrong replaced three years ago are starting to go out again. The fixtures they are in are

very brittle, that is part of the problem. Mr. Boose asked if they could be replaced. Mr. Wilde asked if they could be changed to LED. Mr. Minor said an electrician could. He will have someone look at it.

#### ARPA Discussion

Mr. Welch provided the board with the meeting minutes from the November 2, November 7, and December 12, 2023 where they discussed the ARPA projects and what the plan was. Through that process, he came up with a chart. He believed they had prioritized HVAC first, roofs second and then miscellaneous projects. He looked at the anticipated HVAC jobs, which included the Administration Building, Office Building, S. Norwalk Road and 22 E. Main. It was their understanding at the time that S. Norwalk was going to be paid for through an ODOOT grant. That wasn't until June. The problem with that is, they might not have air if they don't do the project prior to that. Mr. Boose said if they want to use ARPA money, it will have to go out to bid. He thought they should go out to bid first, and then figure out what money they are going to use. Mr. Welch clarified that they would go out to bid for both the heating and the air. Everyone agreed that should be the case. Mr. Boose stated that in a couple weeks they would have a very good discussion about other uses for the building. He did not know how to prepare for that, or include it in the bid, other than a flexible type system will be needed. Mr. Welch asked him to explain what he meant. Mr. Boose said one of the things he was looking at for the rest of the building was child-care related. Mr. Welch thought he was referring to bathrooms and things like that. Mr. Boose explained they will be having a presentation from the group that went out and looked at the building. They have a lot of questions. But since it has not officially been identified what is going to be out there, he did not want to put in an HVAC system that would need to be totally remodeled for parts of the building. Mr. Welch said last year they looked into whether they could qualify HVAC companies the same way we do architects and engineers. He thought the answer was no. So, they will have to get an architect involved to prepare bid documents and specs. Mr. Boose asked if they could get a quote. He would like to know what they are going to charge to do that. One of the things coming from today's meeting, we need to start the process for all of these projects. Time is running out. We have to know by the end of the year how much ARPA money we are appropriating and we have to have bid numbers. He did not want to wait on any of these projects. Mr. Welch confirmed they are all on board for all of the projects. Ms. Ziemba said she had discussed the best way to handle the projects with Ms. Gordon – whether to put all the HVAC projects together, or projects by building. Mr. Boose stated he was ready to start moving on all the projects – time was running out. But it was not a final go until they receive the total dollar amount.

Mr. Welch outlined the potential roof jobs. The Treasurer/Office Building, which was the whole block. That is estimated at \$1.1 million. Mr. Welch thought they only had about \$1.2 - \$1.3 million of ARPA money left over to spend. Mr. Boose thought there was more. That was why he wanted to look at this today. He wanted to add it all up. In his opinion, all the projects were important enough they should either use ARPA money or capital money. We have money in Permanent Improvements. He believed they planned to put more money in Permanent Improvements this year. Mr. Boose thought, when they went through the list of projects, all three commissioners said these were projects they want to move forward on. He felt, especially on HVAC and roofs, they need to get quotes on all of these, because they are all important. Mr. Welch said he would talk to Garmann Miller to see if they can package it in one bid document. That would be ideal. Ms. Ziemba said she had three questions she was posing to Ms. Gordon right now – can all HVAC be one bid; can all roof be one bid; or does it have to be by building.

Mr. Wilde thought not having to use ARPA money for the HVAC - because of the rules - might be better. He said they could use ARPA money for the roofs. Mr. Boose thought they had the majority of the money they needed to do most of these projects with ARPA. He thought they could mix ARPA money and our money. But we need to know by the end of the year where we are. We need to allocate that money for those projects before the end of the year. Obviously, we want to use all the ARPA money first, then fill in the rest with our Permanent Improvements. Mr. Wilde said they were all perfect projects for one-time money. Mr. Boose asked if they were ready to go on the Administration Building roof. Mr. Welch said they have already awarded the contract. He thought they were paying it out of Permanent Improvements; it is not an ARPA project. Ms. Ziemba said that was correct.

EMA roof. Mr. Welch said that was a shingle roof; the west side is the only side that is bad. It is not leaking. Mr. Boose said it was thirty years old and if they were doing roofs they should do them all. Mr. Welch will keep that on the list.

The rest of the projects fell under miscellaneous. This included the downtown office building/courthouse tuck point/masonry work. Mr. Boose asked them to include the S. Norwalk Road parking lot in the resealing project. He didn't know if they would need to replace the blacktop or if it just needed to be sealed. Mr. Welch said there were areas that needed to be patched. Mr. Boose said signage was also an issue that needed to be resolved at the building. He asked Ms. Ziemba to check with Ms. Gordon to see if that can be included. The reason he worries about using an ODOT grant for signs is we want the signage to be more than transportation.

JFS carpet. Mr. Wilde asked how much they had done. Mr. Minor said it was the hallway, the middle conference room, front and back lobby and one unit. Mr. Welch said they have administration, veterans and two units left to do. Mr. Boose said the plan was at one time to do a section at a time. That way the whole building is not tore up and there isn't a huge project they are trying to administer. He asked if that was still the way they were doing it. Mr. Welch said the board has gone back and forth on that. Ms. Ziemba said they should not be breaking it up. Mr. Wilde asked if they should bid it all, then do the project in sections. Both Ms. Ziemba and Mr. Strickler said yes. Mr. Boose suggest using Permanent Improvement to do this instead of using ARPA money. Ms. Ziemba suggested they use that also.

Mr. Boose asked about the Treasurer's window. He didn't think there was a problem with it. Mr. Welch explained it was a single pane window. Mr. Boose told him, if he could everything done that needed to be done for the window for \$10,000, he was okay with it. He didn't even think it would be close to that amount. Mr. Welch said he would get some quotes. Discussion on whether this should be paid for with ARPA money. Mr. Boose did not think it was a good ARPA project. The bigger the project, the easier the reporting will be. He did not want to do a lot of small projects if we had big projects we could use the ARPA money for.

Mr. Welch asked about the catwalk between the courthouse and the old jail. Mr. Boose asked if they had quote. Mr. Welch had one quote, but it did not include the masonry work. They are waiting for the cost of the masonry. The second subcontractor has his quote put together to remove it, but is waiting for a mason to give him a number to repair the courthouse after it has been ripped off. Once again, Mr. Boose absolutely wanted it done, but did not think it should be ARPA money. Mr. Wilde agreed.

Mr. Boose asked where they stood with fixing the courthouse ramp. Mr. Minor stated it had been awarded to Wozniak. They will repair it as soon as weather permits. Custom Metal will contact him when they can come out and look at the railing. They will determine if it needs to be repaired or replaced. Mr. Boose wanted to know if the driver's insurance was paying for the repairs. Ms. Ziemba said, as of mid-January, their insurance company was supposed be cutting a check to the county.

Mr. Boose asked about the painting of the front door of the courthouse. To him, that had to get done. Mr. Minor said they were waiting on weather.

Mr. Boose wanted to talk about a project they have never talked about before. He did not know where it would be paid from. But he understood it was going to be a large project, so it may be ARPA money. Every time he walks into the Office Building, he is embarrassed. The way the door fits, the way the door looks, it is very uninviting. He thought that whole area needs to be renovated. After talking to some people in that building, he believes there are some structural issues that need to be addressed to do it right. It has to do with underneath the doorway. If it is going to be expensive, and we still have ARPA money, Mr. Boose would rather use ARPA money to do that instead of the catwalks and windows and carpeting. Mr. Welch said the problem is that the sidewalk is underneath the basement. That is the way it was constructed back then. It is not really a structural issue, like something will fall in. But the concrete slab gets water in it and will heave in the winter, so we are always having to adjust that door so it can open better. He did not know what the solution was; he thought you might have to backfill the whole area and reconstruct. But he did not know if that was possible – they would have to get the engineer involved to take a look at it. Discussion on the rooms located underneath the entrance. Mr. Boose thought they may have some damage to them. Mr. Welch said water leaks through; they capture and dispose of it. Mr. Boose asked if they were doing the area above, if we look into possibly resolving that issue. Mr. Welch suggested backfilling that whole area. They would have to build a retaining wall and then backfill. He pointed out that, for a major project like that, they would have a hole opened up for a couple months. They will have to figure out how they are going to continue to operate. Mr. Boose said the other thing was the sidewalk may need to be closed, so there will have to be some discussion with the City of Norwalk. Mr. Welch said there would be. Mr. Boose thought it was an important issue.

### **Capital Projects**

Mr. Welch said the projects for the House have already been submitted. The ones for the Senate are done. They deadline is not until April 9, but they can go now.

Courthouse floor. Estimated cost on that was about \$500,000. They are looking at doing both floors, which is about 18,000 square feet. That is something they would replace the floor and try to mirror what is there now as best they can to keep the same historical look to the building.

Shade Lane complex demo. This includes taking everything down and making the property available to be built on again.

Scale house replacement. That is estimated at about \$200,000.

Mr. Boose thought they needed to have a discussion as to how much ARPA money they have left and to work with Mr. Welch to have him give them estimates. Then they can figure out the total of the ARPA projects, and also figure out how much money to put into Permanent Improvements to cover some of these projects. We think all of the projects are important, and we need to be moving on those. ARPA more so than the others, but we need to move on all of them. Mr. Boose suggested the next time they give a Building and Grounds update, they can give a brief update on these projects as well.

Ms. Ziemba said they had received the email from Hannah Holtzapple about the Senior Center project for the construction testing proposals. Ms. Ziemba sent this to Mr. Strickler for review. Mr. Welch thought it was soil testing to see if they can use the soil across the road.

Mr. Boose noted they had discussed using an architect for some of the projects. He asked if ARPA money could be used to pay the architect. Ms. Ziemba said it could. She already checked with Ms. Gordon to see if we can use the prequalified architect, or if we specifically have to go out. Because of the way we prequalified, we do not have to go out for a new architect.

The only other thing Mr. Welch wanted to discuss was the 30-yard roll-off boxes for the eclipse. He asked if they wanted the letter to come from EMA or from the commissioners' office. Mr. Boose thought it needed to come from them, because there may have to be decisions made about who gets dumpsters if they get more requests than they have available. Mr. Welch asked if they were going to coordinate the effort, or was EMA? Mr. Boose said EMA was, they work for the commissioners. Mr. Welch clarified the letter will go out on commissioner letterhead, but the contact will be EMA. Mr. Boose said that was correct; he liked that plan. He would like to review the letter before it goes out. Mr. Welch said that wouldn't be a problem.

#### **BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba if there was anything they needed to know about the documents she had given them. Ms. Ziemba said she will set it up so they can see the difference between what was requested and what was approved.

Mr. Boose stated the last sales tax report received from Mr. Tkach showed total sales tax for 2023 was \$13,160,213. One-third of that is the jail sales tax to be used for jail purposes. That comes out to \$4,386,738. Mr. Boose had a report printed by Ms. Stebel that showed the total amount spent on the jail last year was \$3,828,374. To the best of Mr. Boose's calculations, the amount of money we need to move into Jail Permanent Improvements is \$558,364. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba to put that number in 099. They also had a request to transfer \$17,000 into Jail Permanent Improvement from the sheriff from an account that had money in it that was not spent. Ms. Ziemba asked if they were leaving that in as well. They were.

Mr. Boose said there had been a request to do two projects at the jail. He agreed with the sheriff that we should be using Jail Permanent Improvement to do them. These projects were the kitchen and windows and doors. Ms. Ziemba saw the kitchen was estimated about \$8,500. Doors and windows - \$77,325. She noted that may need to be bid, since it was over \$75,000. She will talk to Mr. Ditz. He will at least need to get more than one quote.

Mr. Boose had one last thing he wanted to bring up. He heard that the Budget Commission was not meeting until February 14 to give final budget numbers. That was way too late. We should have had that information in January. He questioned how they could work on final budget when we don't have the final budget numbers. Mr. Boose noted the treasurer was busy collecting taxes. Ms. Ziemba pointed out they only need two members to meet. The Prosecutor and the Auditor could do it. Mr. Strickler said he would talk to Mr. Sitterly. Mr. Boose said February 14 only gives them a month to get budget done. He would like Ms. Ziemba to send an email to all three – the prosecutor, auditor and the treasurer.

Ms. Ziemba said they had some budget hearings scheduled: next February 6 was Board of Elections and Sheriff. February 15 is Clerk of Courts and possibly Judge Conway. Mr. Boose said he had a discussion with the judge yesterday. Mainly what the judge wanted to talk to us about was the adding of one person to his staff. He has already sent us those numbers. Ms. Ziemba said she spoke to the office afterward, he asked to still be left on tentatively. His new employee will be starting so it may be a good opportunity for them to come in to see the budget process and be introduced.

***At 11:00 a.m. Bruce Wilde moved to enter into Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual and ORC 121.22 (G)(3) a conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:***

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

*At 12:25 p.m. Bruce Wilde moved to end into Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1) & (G)(3). Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:*

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

*\*No action taken*

**At 12:28 p.m.** Bruce Wilde moved to adjourn. Terry Boose seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

**IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFICATION**

The Clerk to the Board does hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct record of all actions taken by the Board of Huron County Commissioners on February 1, 2024.

**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 12:28 p.m.

Signatures on File

The following bids for the Tandem Axle Cab & Chassis purchase were opened on February 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**PURCHASE OF TANDEM AXLE CAB AND CHASSIS TRUCK**

*Bid Opening: Friday, February 2, 2024 9:00 a.m.*

Purchase of Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis Truck as specified.

**Delivered to 150 Jefferson St, Norwalk, Ohio 44857  
(1) Lump Sum**

Valley Freightliner	Stoops Western Star of Ohio
\$ 147,655.00	\$ 164,415.00