

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

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk; Jacob Stephens, Assistant Prosecutor; Lee Tansey, Engineer; Gina Hartman, Clerk of Courts; Rich Marett, Citizen; Jon White, Citizen; Jeff Colvin, Citizen; Brad Mesenburg, Citizen; Patricia Didion, Citizen; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News; Brian Gott, Norwalk Reflector; Maddie Monroe, Norwalk Reflector.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the January 18, 2024 and January 23, 2024 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the January 18, 2024 and January 23, 2024 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Harry Brady seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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

24-060

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

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, as per Ohio Revised Code 305.10, a resolution must be made by the Board of Huron County Commissioners to accompany the Claims Schedule to the Huron County Auditor’s Office for payment; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve the Claim Register and Then and Now’s for Payment Batch # 374431 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.

Harry Brady seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Mr. Boose will abstain from Custom Metal Works.

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

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes sub-totals for Department: Data Processing, Department: Treasurer, Department: Adult Probation, and Department: Adult Probation Total.

Huron County
Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes sub-totals for Department: Jail Operations, Department: Dog & Kennel, Department: Sheriff I-V-D Child Support, and Department: Sheriff I-V-D Child Support Total.

Huron County
Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes sub-totals for Department: Juvenile, Department: Sheriff, Department: Sheriff I-V-D Child Support, and Department: Sheriff I-V-D Child Support Total.

Huron County
Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes sub-totals for Department: Dog & Kennel, Department: Sheriff I-V-D Child Support, Department: Sheriff I-V-D Child Support Total, and Department: Public Assistance.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for Service-Credent Area Transportation, Department Public Assistance, and Department Child Support Enforcement.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for Filter Auto Parts, Department Records Technology, and Department Concatted Weapons.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for Department Auto Tax Administrative, Department Auto Tax Road, and Department T-Cap Grant.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Claimant, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for Department DYS Subsidy, Department Common Pleas Computer, and Department T-Cap Grant.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Client, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for various services like 'Language Line Bill' and 'Solid Waste Management District'.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Client, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for 'Landfill Equipment Reserve' and 'Solid Waste Management District'.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Client, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for 'Child Care' and 'Alternative Response'.

Claims Register for Payment Batches

Table with columns: Warrant Date, Client, Batch ID, PO #/Line #, Line Description, Amount, Warrant #. Includes entries for 'Solid Waste Management District' and 'Commissary Trust'.

Invoice Register for Payment Batches
 Batch ID PO #/Line # Line Description Amount Warrant #
 Grand Total: \$397,884.35
 Sign 1: Harry Brady
 Sign 2: Terry Boose
 Sign 3: Bruce Wilde

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INVOICE NUMBER	DEPARTMENT
324/JC787	115 Public Assistance
7746	177 Emergency Management Agency

PURCHASE ORDER
 2024-00111
 \$1,493.10

INVOICE VALUE
 115.1
 \$1,493.10

DESCRIPTION
 115.1 Catering for Critical Infrastructure Plans

INVOICE NAME
 American Dining School
 Catering by Design

Harry Brady
 Terry Boose
 Bruce Wilde

At 9:05 a.m. Public comment – none.

24-061

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Vickie Ziemba has asked for approval to hold membership in the County Administrators' Association of Ohio in the amount of \$380.00; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners recognizes that membership in this organization would be beneficial; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that Vickie Ziemba is hereby endorsed for membership in the above listed association; 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.

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

24-062

IN THE MATTER OF APPROPRIATING FUNDS IN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SECURITY GRANT FUND #194

Bruce Wilde moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners being in receipt of an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources for the Board of Elections Security Grant Fund #194 in the amount of \$0.12; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Board of Huron County Commissioners to appropriate these funds to the Board of Elections Security Grant Fund #194; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the appropriation as follows:

TO: 194-00475-194 Other Expenses \$0.12 and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the Huron County Auditor and the department requesting the appropriation; and further

BE IT RESOLVED 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.

Harry Brady seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Ms. Ziembra explained this was because of interest we received on the money. We have to return the interest.

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

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

24-063

IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING THE BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TANDEM AXLE CAB AND CHASSIS TRUCK

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Resolution 24-018 the County Engineer requested authorization to seek bids for the Purchase of a Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis Truck; and

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

WHEREAS, bids were received Friday, February 2, 2024 at 9:00 A.M from the following:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby award the bid to Valley Freightliner, Inc. Parma, Ohio, for the Purchase of a Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis Truck; and

FURTHER IT BE 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.

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

24-064

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH HENDERSON PRODUCTS FOR THE OUTFITTING OF A SINGLE AXLE CAB AND CHASSIS TRUCK FOR THE HURON COUNTY ENGINEER

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Resolution 24-046 the bid was awarded to Henderson Products. for the amount of \$94,083.00 for the Outfitting of a Single Axle Cab and Chassis Truck for the Huron County Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to enter into contract with Henderson Products, for such goods and services: now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve entering into contract with Henderson Products, Bucyrus, Ohio for Outfitting of a Single Axle Cab and Chassis Truck for the Huron County Engineer as attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein; and further

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

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

**Contract on file*

24-065

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT AND LETTING BIDS FOR THE ZENOBIA ROAD CONCRETE SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Huron County Engineer has requested approval for seeking bids for the Zenobia Road Concrete Superstructure Replacement project; and

WHEREAS, notice of this must be placed in a newspaper of general circulation and on the County’s website pursuant to Section 307.87 of the Ohio Revised Code; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve of letting bids for Zenobia Road Concrete Superstructure Replacement project; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that notice of this will be placed in a newspaper of general circulation and posted on the County’s website www.hccommissioners.com accessed by clicking on legal notices, until the bid is opened on Friday, March 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the foregoing resolution was adopted and all actions and deliberation 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.

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

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids may be submitted on or before the bid opening date of Friday, March 1, 2024 until 8:59 a.m. local time, at the Huron County Commissioner's Office, 180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7, Norwalk, Ohio 44857, for the following Project: Zenobia Road Concrete Superstructure Replacement. Bids shall be opened and publicly read aloud at 9:00 a.m.

Bid Documents, including contract terms & conditions, must be obtained for a \$20.00 (check only) non-refundable fee from the Huron County Engineer at 150 Jefferson Street Norwalk Ohio 44857, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (holidays excluded). Bidder may elect to have these documents mailed to them for an additional fee of \$10.00 for shipping.

Each bidder is required to furnish with its proposal a Bid Guaranty and Contract Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code. Bid security furnished in Bond form, shall be issued by a Surety Company or Corporation licensed in the State of Ohio to provide said surety.

Each proposal must contain the full name of the party or parties submitting the proposal and all persons interested therein. Each bidder must submit evidence of its experiences on projects of similar size and complexity. The owner intends and requires that this project be completed no later than November 8, 2024.

Bidders must comply with the prevailing wage rates on Public Improvements in Huron County, Ohio as determined by the Ohio Department of Commerce, Bureau of Wage and Hour Administration, (614) 644-2239.

Bid documents must be obtained from the Huron County Engineer, no copies will be accepted. All bid documents must be submitted bound in their entirety.

The Board of County Commissioners of Huron County reserves the right to waive any and all irregularities in the bids or bidding process and may reject any and all bids.

This advertisement may also be viewed by logging on to <http://www.hccommissioners.com> and clicking on the "Legal Notices" link or <http://www.huroncountyengineer.org> and clicking on the "Bid Information" link.

Advertise:
February 15, 2024

24-066

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO CONTRACT WITH ERIE BLACKTOP, INC. FOR THE GREENWICH MILAN TOWNLINE/SCRANTON ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; PID 116003 FOR THE HURON COUNTY ENGINEER

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Resolution 24-034 the bid was awarded to Erie Blacktop, Inc. for the amount of \$303,148.00 for the Greenwich Milan Townline Road/Scranton Road Intersection Improvements Project; PID 116003; for the Huron County Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to enter into contract with Erie Blacktop, Inc., for such goods and services: now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve entering into contract with Erie Blacktop, Inc, Sandusky, Ohio for the Greenwich Milan Townline Road/Scranton Road Intersection Improvements Project for the Huron County Engineer as attached hereto and expressly incorporate by reference herein; and further

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

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

**Contract on file*

24-067

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH HEALTHWORKS TO CONDUCT BIOMETRIC HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE PARTICIPANTS

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, biometric health screenings events are no longer being provided by CEBCO; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize the value of annual screenings and desire to continue offering this benefit to employees; and

WHEREAS, the Huron County Human Resource/Loss Prevention Director recommends entering into an agreement with Healthworks to conduct biometric health screenings for county health insurance participants; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Service Agreement submitted by Healthworks for the services stated above and as attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein; and further

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

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

**Agreement on file*

24-068

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUEST FOR PAYMENT AND STATUS OF FUNDS REQUEST FOR THE HURON COUNTY COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM (CHIP) B-C-21-1BJ-1 (DRAW #24) SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, requests for payment and status of funds requests have been prepared and submitted to the Board of Huron County Commissioners as attached herein by Great Lakes Community Action Partnership for the Board’s certification; and

WHEREAS the Board has reviewed the requests for payment and status of funds reports; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the requests for payment and status of funds request as attached herein and certifies that the data reported is correct and that the amount of the Request for Payments is not in excess of current needs; 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.

Harry Brady seconded the motion.

***Discussion:** Ms. Ziemba explained the total draw was for \$4,650 for Repair Assistance in Greenwich and for General Administration.

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

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

State of Ohio
Office of Community Development
Request for Payment and Status of Funds request

Submit To: Development Services Agency Office of Community Development P.O. Box 3001 Columbus, Ohio 43224-3001		Name and Address of Grantee: Huron County Commissioners 180 Milan Ave Norwalk, Ohio 44857		2086 E.E. RLF Balance: CDBG Housing P.J. Balance: Home Program Income Balance			
Contact Person Information Name: Stan Ziemba Phone number: (614) 332-4130 Email: sziemba@dcap.org		Grant Number: S-C-21-1B1-1 Draw Number: 24		Date: Voucher: Warrant#			
Project NBR	Project Name	Activity NBR	Activity Name	Housing Site Address (if applicable)	Amount Requested	Approved Activity/Site Budget (\$)	Balance of Activity/Site Budget (\$)
5	Repair Assistance	1	Home/Building repair	64 Market St, Greenwich	2000.00	33625.00	0.00
2	Administration/Fair Housing	2	General Admin		2650.00	123500.00	9634.00
Total Amount of this Draw:					4650.00	157125.00	9634.00
Certification of Reimbursement of Expenditures: Two Authorized Signatures are Required I Certify that this request for Payment was drawn in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement(s) cited and that the amount drawn is proper for payment to the drawer's depository. I also certify that the data reported above is correct and the amount of the request for Payment is not in excess of current needs.							
Date: 2/13/24		Signature: Terry Boose		Title: President			
Date: 2/13/24		Signature: Bruce Wilde		Title: V.P.			
State Use Only: Approved:							

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL

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

Mary Valentine, Lenora Minor, Nicole Cross, JFS, to Columbus, Ohio for Ohio Children’s Alliance Conference on April 15 – 16, 2024.

Mary Valentine & Lenora Minor, JFS, to Columbus, Ohio for Public Children’s Service Agency of Ohio Executive Committee meeting on February 29 – March 1, 2024.

SIGNINGS - none

Administrator/Clerk report

Ohio Public Works District 9 Commissioner appointments. These expire in April or May. Currently the voting member is Terry Boose, with the alternate being Harry Brady. Term runs from 2024 through 2027. Mr. Brady will be appointee and Mr. Boose will be the alternate. Ms. Ziemba will prepare the resolution for next Tuesday.

Region 19 alternate. Mr. Boose said Region 19 was asking if we had picked an alternate. He explained they do not have a proposed resolution and there is no administration to Region 19. Ms. Ziemba told them to let her know who they decide on and she will prepare a resolution.

Eclipse. Ms. Ziemba said she keeps getting questions on if the board has decided whether they are going to close county buildings for the eclipse. Mr. Boose said he had asked her to speak to Ms. Hozalski to see if it would interfere with any of the labor contracts. Ms. Ziemba said Ms. Hozalski indicated it would be the same as if they were to close the buildings for snow or any other issue. Mr. Boose asked how it would be handled for the regular employees. Would it just be a day off? Would they take it as a personal day or vacation day? Ms. Ziemba said if they close the building the employees are paid. It would be just like a snow day. Ms. Ziemba said she also spoke to the courts. They have anticipated this and have not scheduled

any hearings on that. Mr. Wilde thought they should shut it down based on the information they have. He did not know how accurate it was, but we are preparing for the worst with traffic, etc.

Bruce Wilde moved to close county buildings on April 8, 2024 for the eclipse. Harry Brady seconded the motion. This excludes the as needed personnel, including EMA & landfill. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Terry Boose

Aye – Harry Brady

Aye – Bruce Wilde

ARPA. Mr. Boose said he had asked Ms. Ziemba to check into extending the contract with McDonald Hopkins for two more years, through 2025 and 2026. We will need Ms. Gordon's help with the ARPA reporting. Ms. Ziemba had already done this. Mr. Boose wanted to do this because we have \$1.3 million that is very limited as to how we can use it. We have the broadband project and the consulting fees coming out of it. We are way under budget on that, so we need to appropriate more to those projects. The key is we want to spend every dollar there is, so we are going to have to overbudget and then whatever goes over we pay for out of general fund to make sure we use all that money.

While they were on ARPA, Ms. Ziemba said Mr. Tansey was waiting to find out if they wanted to move forward with the Jim Esker Drive resurfacing project. The board said they did. Ms. Ziemba will work with Mr. Tansey and prepare the documents. Mr. Brady asked if the catch basin was going to be paid out of ARPA money. Mr. Tansey said they were going to do all that in-house.

Ms. Ziemba said they still need to figure out if they are going to do the other projects. Mr. Boose said Mr. Welch and Mr. Minor spent several hours meeting with Garmann/Miller yesterday to get moving on the other projects they have identified. Mr. Wilde suggested having them come in on Thursday to provide an update. Mr. Boose said that Mr. Welch had called him with questions on the projects that hopefully he had been able to clear up.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Wilde update:

Transportation meeting last Tuesday. Received information from Jim Oliver about the new ODOT region. It appears we are in a new region, so now NCAT is not all in the same region. According to Mr. Oliver, it sounded like it was going to be similar to what we have been doing. Mr. Boose said Crawford will be with us and Seneca is in a different region. ODOT was now pushing NCAT to merge Marion County into NCAT. Mr. Boose thought that meant we may even have a third region. The good news is GLCAP is going to continue to help us and manage our local transportation planning for the county. Mr. Brady said the email from Mr. Oliver helped clear things up a little bit.

Board of Revision tomorrow. They only have one, it is a continuation from last time. They will make a decision and get a letter out to that individual.

Landfill bid opening tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Wilde will try to be here if he gets done with Board of Revision in time.

Mr. Boose has a meeting with some fair board members and the committee for the new barn on Thursday night at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Boose and Mr. Wilde will attend the Willard Chamber banquet on Thursday and Mr. Brady will attend the EHOVE Task Force meeting that night.

Mr. Brady is planning on being at the Firefighter's Association meeting on Wednesday night.

At 9:50 a.m. the board recessed.

At 10:06 a.m. the board resumed regular session for the Norwalk City Schools presentation. In attendance: Brad Cooley, Norwalk Schools; Eric Gonzales, Norwalk Schools, Brian Wolf, Garmann Miller; Eric Baltzell, Garmann Miller; Monica Bruaw, Garmann Miller; Dan Bauman, Norwalk Schools; Ben Chaffee, Jr., South Central Schools; Joyce Dupont, Norwalk Schools; Jeff Ritz, Willard City Schools.

Mr. Boose stated that this was an informative meeting and they were open to any questions. His goal at the end of the day was to know what the ask was from Norwalk City Schools and then take it from there.

The architects for the Norwalk City Schools, Garmann Miller, presented a plan to build a new school on Shady Lane Drive. Mr. Baltzell explained they had been engaged by Norwalk City Schools last year to help

with master planning. An executive committee and a facilities task force are the main groups who have been involved. They have been meeting on a regular basis. The executive committee is the administrative team. The task force is comprised of staff members, community members, business leaders, and some board members. They are trying to get a cross-section sampling of the community. Over the course of the meetings they have talked about things like hopes, dreams, fears, and what sort of challenges need to be addressed. They are trying to be thinking about what needs to happen with the facilities to best educate students and set the district up for success over the next 20, 30 years. The ultimate goal is what needs to be done with facilities.

Ms. Bruaw explained a couple months ago the district received some information from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). They manage and help run the facilities programs throughout the state of Ohio. The district was informed they were in a good position to receive funding from the State of Ohio in July 2024. The state would have money for the project as long as the district has money for their portion. The state's share is 80%, with the district having a local share of 20%. Because of this they have a target of having a master plan scope in April. April is when new construction costs come out, they get applied to the Master Plan committee to have an idea of what that scope is going to be. One of the pieces when developing a master plan is to look at enrollment. Enrollment is a 10-year projection of students in the entire district. It is added to the facilities to see what needs to be done – do then need to renovate, do they need to add on. Maybe they just need to be torn down. With the information they have now, there are roughly 2,400 students. OFCC rule of thumb, to be most efficient, is about 1,500 students to one building. So, if you are under 3,000 students, cost efficiency district-wide is two buildings. There are ways around it. They are working with some planners and talking through those things. But that is the recommendation, the two-building solution.

Mr. Baltzell noted that Ms. Bruaw had referenced the actual condition of the existing facilities. They have a very thorough process, there are 23 points they follow. This is the same process used by the state. It looks at everything from the structure - windows, doors, roofs, to all the systems – plumbing, HVAC, electrical, technology. In that report they give information on existing conditions and anything that needs to be addressed. There are recommendations assigned with each one of these categories and then a cost associated with bringing each one of those up to the current standards. So, the OFCC performs an assessment, then our team also goes through. The reason we do that is a verification. We are looking at what the OFCC has come up with. Some things we are challenging them on. They work together to come up with ultimate facilities report. The state has a standard that is called the two-thirds rule. They look at what it would cost to renovate existing facilities to get them up to current standards versus what it would cost to build an equivalent school building. If the cost to renovate exceeds two-thirds of the cost to build new, the state is going to recommend that you consider building new. Some of the common things we see through all the existing elementary and middle school buildings is there are a lot of systems needs. HVAC is dated, plumbing and electrical need updated. Once you start updating those things there is a domino effect, you have to upgrade finishes and all sorts of things. Every one of those buildings exceeds that two-thirds rule. When you combine the cost to renovate versus building new, along with the 80% from the state program, the overwhelming consensus from the task force and executive committee was to proceed with looking at a new facility.

Mr. Wolf pointed out from the site master plan there is an overall aerial showing the existing high school. The land across is owned by both the Huron County Commissioners and the school district. The schools have a 20-acre parcel for pre-k through eight, then the 23-acres owned by the county. Originally they started with that 20-acre site. They have a building that is going to be roughly 185,000 square feet. Using that 20-acre site, they put together a concept based on that size, but not just for the building. It is site circulation, playground space, detention, circulation for parents and buses, and then parking for visitors and staff. He noted that it was kind of shoehorned in, it wasn't working very well. Also, for a school district this size, or a building this size, the OFCC recommends starting with a 20-acre site, and then one acre for each additional 100 students. We have a 1,700 student enrollment, so that would be 17 additional acres. Their recommendation for this district would be 37-acres to fit a building that size, along with the circulation and the other accessory spaces. So, they put together a concept that would include 37-acres. That amount of space allows for the building to fit on the site, along with expansion and plenty of parking. The site circulation - the parent drop-off and pickup - is much better at this point. The 20-acre site did not allow room for physical education fields. That is a requirement by the OFCC, to have physical education fields. The 37-acre site allows for the requirement to have the PE fields, detention, playground space for pre-k through 4 and for the 5-6. It is also a requirement that those be separated out. The site circulation from the bus traffic, separating those from the parents, fits much better. It meets the requirements of the OFCC, it is completely adjacent to the high school. Mr. Wolf thought it was a terrific site.

Mr. Baltzell stated that was really all they had and opened it up for questions.

Mr. Boose asked him to explain the stacking area. Mr. Wolfe said this was a preliminary site, but it allows for stack space to happen on-site versus happening on Shady Lane. Mr. Baltzell asked Mr. Wolf to show

the bus circulation. They were trying to separate bus traffic from parent drop off. It was a real nice separation, making it very safe. They have expansion points. The last thing they want to do is design a building for a certain enrollment and then find the enrollment is going to grow and there isn't any space to add on. It allows for expansion in any direction. Ms. Bruaw said it allowed for parking lot expansion too. Mr. Wilde asked if there were three parking lots in the front; there were. Mr. Wolf pointed the bus expansion. He said they really thought through the expansion of the site. There was not a lot of land left. There is some area that could be used for potential water retention. Mr. Baltzell noted that with the larger site they were able to do the detention through the fields rather than going to underground detention which would cost more.

Mr. Boose asked about the six-acre site. Mr. Baltzell explained if they were to work something out with the 17-acres the six acres is what would be left. Mr. Boose showed a grassy area, and what we think of as the license bureau. Where the grass ends was where the property line ends. He showed where the entrance to the new Huron County Enrichment Center was going to be located. Mr. Wilde asked to go back to the first slide that showed the schools property versus the commissioners'. Mr. Boose pointed out some of the property lines. Mr. Baltzell said the current line would move a little bit to the west. Mr. Boose clarified that was what would happen if there were a trade of some of the property. One of the things Mr. Boose wanted to make note of was, when looking at site placement of the senior building, they were thinking about putting it up front. They found out they did not have enough land up front to do that. Mr. Boose said they will put flags and resurvey that line so the contractors know. We told them they could go all the way over to the line with their equipment. But we did not want them going on to any of the schools. He pointed out an area and said they probably would not farm it this year, but we told him to expect the farming to go that line.

Brad Cooley, Norwalk City Schools superintendent. Mr. Cooley said this was an exciting time in our district. Probably once in a lifetime opportunity to move on something that is going to impact thousands and thousands of kids and our community. This is a great thing happening, to have state assistance that we can build a top-notch facility. Obviously if you look at our district we have a lot of inefficiencies with six student buildings. Getting to two with our enrollment makes sense. Seeing the 20-acre site that they currently own, they talked about they would most likely have to have multiple levels. What concerned him greatly was when you look at Maplehurst and Pleasant elementary in the afternoon, those are wrap around into the streets. On Shady Lane they have the sheriff, there is a major hospital, there is one way in and one way out. To him it was critical to have that ability to have parent/grandparent/pickup off Shady Lane. That doesn't happen with a 20-acre site. There were two main areas where they could see the difference in sites. They have 1,700 kids. There are no play spaces for them, the PE/recreational side, and we are talking middle school so there are competitive sport fields there as well. We have the pickup as well. Mr. Cooley thought long term, if anyone who looks back and asks who were the decision makers that said we moved onto a 20-acre plot and made this happen, there will be regrets for many years to come. That is why, what we are asking for as a district, is if we could come to an arrangement that we could purchase 17-acres from the Huron County Commissioners. Mr. Boose clarified what that would look like on the drawings. Mr. Wilde confirmed there would be approximately six acres left. Mr. Boose wanted to talk about expansion. He was around at the time the sheriff's office was built. And people have asked all the time, why is that acreage there between Job & Family Services and the Huron County Sheriff's office. Back in the early 1990s the commissioners were smart enough to realize there was a good chance they would have to expand the jail. So, this jail was developed to expand this way.

Ben Chaffee, South Central superintendent. He pointed out he will be the school superintendent with the oldest buildings. Mr. Chaffee wanted to speak on behalf of all the Huron County Superintendents. He has been here for a long time. He didn't think they were a unique county of superintendents, but he didn't think you could find a tighter group of superintendents that support each other and help each other out in any situation we have – shortage of bus drivers, crises that happen, that sort of thing. He admitted he was jealous he doesn't get to have a newer facility at South Central, but he thinks it is awesome and exciting for the Norwalk City School District. And he said he could speak about the stackable component. If you are familiar with where South Central is, the building is right on the road. It is horrible. For drop off and pick up, it took a long time to figure out how to get cars off Greenwich Angling Road. It was an accident waiting to happen. So that is a good piece to be able to get cars off the road. Mr. Boose thought he read on Facebook last week, someone was complaining they were on Main Street at the time Pleasant was letting out and part of Main Street was blocked. They couldn't turn down Pleasant at that time. This is not just a want. If there is a sheriff car that needs to get through there the last thing we want is the road to be blocked.

Jeff Ritz, Willard City Schools. Mr. Ritz said they have the same exact situation. He was looking at 103, he remembered when the school opened he would get a dozen phone calls a day on that exact topic, where Main Street - or 103 - was blocked. He also liked the fact that they have separated the buses and parent drop off/pick up. People don't account for that. He thought the layout was very well thought out.

Mr. Cooley said he presented this plan at the Huron County Superintendents meeting last week. He did not ask for this, but the superintendents decided they wanted to write a letter. So he has a letter from all of them. Willard and South Central were represented today, but they have a docu-signed letter from all of them. We speak of the city schools, and he counted Bellevue in that too, Willard and then our local schools, with that representation. That speaks to we work together, we are professionals, we are friends, we are colleagues, we have been in that position, we support one another. He appreciated that, because that means a lot, to have that county level support. Because we know what is good for each school district in this county is very strong for the county.

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February 6, 2024

Huron County Commissioners
180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7
Norwalk, OH 44857

Subject: Support for Sale of County-Owned Property to Norwalk City Schools

Dear Honorable Huron County Commissioners,

We, the undersigned superintendents of Bellevue City Schools, New London Local Schools, Monroeville Local Schools, Western Reserve Local Schools, South Central Local Schools and Willard City Schools, write to express our collective support for the proposed sale of county-owned property to Norwalk City Schools for the construction of a new elementary building. We believe that this initiative is crucial for the educational development and well-being of the students within the Norwalk City Schools district.

We understand that concerns related to fairness may arise in such transactions, especially when it involves the sale of county-owned property. However, after careful consideration, we want to emphasize that, in our professional opinions, the sale of the property to Norwalk City Schools does not raise any issues of fairness. Instead, we view it as a positive and necessary step towards enhancing educational facilities in the region.

Our commitment to providing quality education to all students extends beyond individual districts. We believe that investing in the educational infrastructure of one district contributes to the overall improvement of the educational landscape in Huron County. As educational leaders, we recognize the importance of ensuring that each district has the resources and facilities necessary to provide a conducive learning environment for students.

Norwalk City Schools has outlined their plans for the new elementary building, and we are confident that this development will have a positive impact on the educational experience of the students within their district. We believe that supporting such initiatives fosters a collaborative spirit among the school districts in Huron County, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

We appreciate the careful consideration the Huron County Commissioners are giving to this matter. We trust that your decision will reflect the best interests of the students and

communities within our county. If you require any additional information or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Thank you for your dedication to the betterment of education in Huron County.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Troy Kelle
Bellevue City Schools
DocuSigned by:
Kristin Eagle-Jones, Ed.D.
Monroeville Local Schools
DocuSigned by:
Brad Roman
New London Local Schools
DocuSigned by:
Ben Chaffee, Jr.
South Central Local Schools
DocuSigned by:
Wesley S...
Western Reserve Local Schools
DocuSigned by:
J...
Willard City Schools

Mr. Boose asked about a timeline. He thought he saw committees were already meeting. Mr. Cooley stated they have their executive team, essentially some board members, their admin team, Garmann Miller and they have a task force. That is the broad expanse of outreach in the community – educators, business leaders. That group has met multiple times and was forming the direction of where we want to go. Two buildings, two schools makes the most sense for our district. The first time we essentially took it to the public and our community was when we tied it to our school board meeting. As we start nailing down and having actual numbers, we can talk to the community and make those decisions. Mr. Baltzell said Ms. Bruaw had touched on it that April is really the timeline of where they have to know where they are building so they can start putting a budget together and getting the community information, asking their questions. So, the sooner the better to keep the progress moving.

Mr. Cooley stated he loved the collaborative, with Huron County Enrichment right there. He would love to have a sidewalk that connects. He thought there would be retired teachers and other people who maybe have never been in education but love to support and work with children. And the sidewalk goes both ways. He thought that was a benefit. And then you look at having those parking spaces. If there is an event and you don't have enough parking spaces, it's right next door. So that is a collaborative piece between the county and the district that we can work together on.

Mr. Brady asked to read a statement. Garmann Miller has already said the school board needs to have an answer. He prepared a statement because he wanted to make sure that it was accurately reflected in the media. He had a copy for both Norwalk Reflector and Norwalk Ohio News. Mr. Brady read his statement:

In February of 2022, the Huron County Commissioners received a letter from the Norwalk City School District Superintendent, Brad Cooley, requesting that the Huron County Commissioners sell any and all of the county owned land located on the south side of Shady Lane in Norwalk. The commissioners understanding of the superintendent's request was that he was acting on behalf of the Norwalk Board of Education in its interest to expand the board of education's 20 acre parcel it purchased in 2004 from the Huron County Commissioners.

The Huron County Commissioners responded to the superintendent's request with a letter, signed by all three commissioners, dated February 17, 2022. The letter stated that the commissioners declined to sell the board of education any more property than what was included in the 2004 sale. However, the commissioners left open the possibility to sell a minimal amount of acreage to accommodate a school building that had not yet been built on the original 20 acres.

Afterwards, the commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Bruce "Skip" Wilde due to a conflict of interest, considered a combination land sale/swap between the commissioners and the board of education. In essence, there was consideration to sell additional land to the district and consolidate the county's isolated parcel with the property that is home to the sheriff's office, jail, EMA building, mechanic's shop, title/license bureau and the currently commenced senior center.

During this same time period when the commissioners were entertaining a parcel swap with the board of education, the commissioners were also addressing a proposed sewer district in the southwestern part of the county. The proposed sewer district would expand sewer service from Willard into both Celeryville and the home owner association known as Holiday Lakes. Included in this district would also be the townships of New Haven, Greenfield, Richmond and Norwich. The sewer district had the potential to impact 10,000-12,000 residents of Huron County. After a fellow commissioner asserted that the sewer district was not a county concern, the district was formed without commissioner involvement through a judgement from our common pleas court.

After hearing a fellow commissioner say many times that the sewer district was not a county concern, I became apparent that getting a school built wasn't a county concern either. I then expressed this consideration as it pertained to the sale of any further acreage to the superintendent and then board president Lisa Wick. The superintendent and members of the board of education later requested to be on the commissioners agenda January 31, 2023. Despite the advance knowledge that the board of education would not be sold any more property, several board members and the superintendent spent much of their time during the commissioner's meeting airing their grievances of an unrealized agreement and a school design that had yet to be revealed to the commissioners.

My position was further cemented after reviewing the proposed school plan prepared by the architects Garmin Miller, which they emailed to me for review. Garmin Miller's original plans clearly demonstrate that the board of education's 20 acre Shady Lane parcel can accommodate a proposed school. These plans would likely have reduced the complaining that occurred at the January 31st meeting, if only they existed at the time.

I believe former Commissioner Ardeth Chupp said it best during the December 20, 2004 commissioners meeting regarding the original 20 acre sale, "that she felt from day one...that property belongs to the taxpayers of Huron County." Ardeth further stated that, "she has nothing against the Norwalk School District...but feels that maybe years from now, like 50 years from now, because of all the changes that are taking place, the county may desperately need that land."

It did not take Commissioner Chupp's prediction very long to realize. Since the vote to sell the original 20 acres, the county has built their license/title bureau and is currently building a senior center. These projects are in addition to the sheriff's office/jail, Job and Family Services and EMA/mechanic building. The county has continued to build over the past 30 years while the school district has done nothing with the 20 acres in 20 years.

My position regarding the county's real property is the same now as it was a year ago: the county's concern for its real property and its building interest is paramount. While additional ground to the board of education's Shady Lane property may assist its campuses, including the 40 acres of its high school, 18 acres of its middle school, 13 acres of Maplehurst Street School, 4 acres of its Pleasant, League and Main Street Schools, and nearly 13 acres of its Whitney Field complex, the county continues to demonstrate its use for county property. Though the Norwalk Board of Education has shown passion for their cause, the county for decades has materialized its uses for its real property.

The school board's appreciation for the 20 acres a prior board has already sold them is recognized. Further, I am confident the Shady Lane corridor will be enhanced by both the Norwalk Board of Education and by the county, as we respectively realize our independent building goals.

Nancy Brady

Mr. Brady presented some photos showing the area where they were working on the new Senior Center to show that the county was actually doing something with their land. He stated he agreed with Ms. Chupp, he didn't have anything against the Norwalk City School District. In fact, he was at a point where he would encourage this board or a future commissioner board to talk to the school about purchasing back the property if they can't make it work.

Mr. Boose had a few comments - there were a couple issues he wanted to address. One, he was very disappointed that Mr. Brady wrote a statement before the meeting was even held. They were here to present information and Mr. Brady already had a statement prepared before he heard the presentation. That was very disappointing to Mr. Boose. The second part he brought up was the sewer district. That is a totally different issue. It has nothing to do with a piece of land that is land locked, that is inside the city limits, that may be the only place that you can build such a facility inside city limits. Going back to the sewer district, exactly what Mr. Boose predicted would happen, happened. If the county started a county-wide sewer district, then we were going to be flooded with people asking us to do it in their area. Greenwich, New London, North Fairfield, Monroeville - all those areas have septic systems. And almost immediately Mr. Boose received calls asking when they were going to get their sewer district. And remember, we were not in control of the sewage treatment plant. So that was a totally different issue. It has nothing to do with this issue whatsoever. Mr. Boose thought the fact they had two superintendents here from other schools saying that they were in support; we have a letter from the other schools saying they are in support. He didn't think, as much as South Central would like to move their building, that they are going to move it here. It doesn't make any sense to be comparing this to that. The other thing Mr. Boose would like to point out was, within a year or two, the plan was to demolish everything there, except for the Dog Warden. The plan was to not only demolish it, but to make it available so it can be developed. He asked, what's the difference? We could tear these buildings down and throw them in a hole. We could leave all the utilities where they are. But our plan is not to do that, but to plan for development. This will add approximately ten acres to the property that we now have vacant, or would have vacant, including this. We are talking about 17-acres the school is asking for, we are going to gain back ten by this property right here. Mr. Boose said he mentioned that we couldn't build this building right there. We can't do it, and this is not a huge building, it is the Senior Center. Without a swap, the acreage right in here - would be moved over to right in here - it is no longer developable. He guessed if they put a real small building up front they could. But if you want to talk about expansion for the county, and make it developable, we need to move the line over here so we now have a lot that is developable. Mr. Boose said there are all kinds of things they were talking about. We are going to gain acreage here, if we tear down this building we are going to gain acreage here. He didn't know what the county is going to need in fifty years. But he did know economic development drives this county. You can see that by the amount of money we put in to economic development. Mr. Boose said he has a son who moves around the country every two years. He is in the army. The number one thing he looks at when he is moving is what the education possibilities are for his children. Mr. Boose thought it was a huge economic development decision for the county. He did not know what our needs would be in fifty years. But we are sitting in excellent shape today. And that doesn't mean that we don't need ten acres here and seven acres here. If we have to, we have some acreage there and some other places. That's what you elect us to do, to make those hard decisions. We have owned this property, to the best of

Mr. Boose's knowledge, for over 150 years. And we still had a large part that we haven't developed. He couldn't guarantee we aren't going to need acreage two years from now.

Mr. Boose said what he heard at the presentation during the school board meeting were the opportunities for the current locations where the schools are. You can't do anything with them until this is built. So, you can't make any guarantees. But there are several properties in Norwalk that they own that could be used for great benefit to Huron County. One of the number one issues we have in Huron County today is housing. And at least one of the buildings, probably two, are right in the middle of residential neighborhoods. And there is some significant land, at least attached to one. We also talked about another school that has a beautiful gym in it that can be used for a long time in the future. Is there a possible community use for that property? Yes, there is. These are all things that the county needs. Mr. Boose couldn't stress housing enough. Housing is what we need at all levels. And this opens some opportunities for that. He asked if they could say if they planned to keep the other buildings they will no longer need because that facility is going to be built.

Mr. Cooley said from an instructional standpoint they will not need any of the other ones. Maplehurst Elementary sits in a residential space. That is likely to be demolished and sold. There is value there to bring in high, low, middle income housing. We have League, there is a lot of interest from local businesses. They like that because they want a business headquarters here within the city. We would like to move our Central office to that space as well. That potentially could become residential. You take an old building, good looking exposed brick, and that becomes residential living. Main Street has a lot of history, that is going to be up to the community to make that decision. Mr. Boose explained he was not asking them to say what was going in there, he was just looking at the general overall plan, and the thought process as to whether they were going to keep those buildings or were they going to look for the best possible purpose for those buildings. It might be something to do with the school, it might not be. Mr. Cooley said Pleasant Elementary is a nice building, it is a single level. He knew they had entered the business of what do we do for daycare. You have talked about housing, you talk about daycare. What is Huron County missing? Those are the two big areas. That would be a great opportunity there. That might not fall within our PK-12 instruction, however that could be a great space for that. And that is not just Norwalk. Because every other place needs daycare. So that is a critical space. He said Mr. Boose had addressed the gym, that is at the middle school. Where even if that is not instructional space, we have tennis courts, we have a main gym and that you can say that is a community piece as well. We have a beautiful facility at Ernsthausen, but that is another space that opens up to all. There are a lot of good possibilities. When you have that many properties you also have many challenges too.

Mr. Brady stated he wanted to make one statement. Last year, early in the year, the commissioners took an official vote, and it was one yes, one no and one abstain, to continue this conversation. So, it was an effective "no" vote. He was assuming that this is a presentation, because if it were a continuation of the discussion that would be disrespectful to the commissioner boards official vote. Mr. Brady said he has seen the representation. If anybody needs a copy of his statement it will be public record; he is giving it to Ms. Ziembra to scan into the minutes.

Mr. Boose said there was no disrespect for the commissioners. He asked for the meeting. They did not ask for the meeting. As president he can do that. He did not think there was any sense in getting into disrespect. Mr. Brady said if this was not a presentation, and since it is a presentation then it cannot be a discussion. He thanked them for their presentation.

Eric Gonzales, School Board member, asked to speak. He said there was a thought he can't escape. There should at least be some discussion for the record on this thought. There are so many potential avenues here. There are so many iterations of what could potentially happen down the road. His fear was, in trying to solve the problem, that we forget what the problem is we are trying to solve. Here is the reality of the situation. If you have gone to League and talk to the parents and saw those students, you know what kind of educational environment they are in now. We would all admit, if we really thought about it, that it is inadequate. That is the problem that needs to be solved. If you have gone to Maplehurst, you know that they are not learning in an environment that is conducive to learning right now. That is the problem that needs to be solved. So, we can tussle over, is it 20 acres, is it 17 acres, but at some point we have to answer the question. What story do we want to tell? Twenty years from now, 40 years from now, 50 years from now, what story do we want to tell? Do we want to say, you know what students, we did what was adequate. Or do we want to say we invested in your future because we believe in the future that much. What story do we want to tell? That is the question I would have from the commissioners.

Mr. Boose asked, where do we go from here? He asked the same thing last year when we took the vote and the vote didn't allow us to continue. He said he decided since then to collect as much information as he could. On what the problem is. And then look at the solutions. Let's say we were designing a new football field. We are not going to build a football field 52 yards by 120 yards. We are not going to do that. We could put this on 20 acres. But it doesn't serve all the needs. Just like that football field wouldn't. We

have to have a place for the team to be, a place for the fans to be, we have to have good ingress and egress. All those things need to be looked at. The fact that, is it possible to build this on 20? Maybe. He was not even going to say it is, because he think it is “maybe”. You are going to be talking about a whole lot of additional costs to figure on a small site as opposed to a reasonable cost, and then to have all the other facilities which are required by the state of Ohio. Mr. Boose asked why are we back here today and why are we talking about this. Because last year Commissioner Brady said he would not sell any land until he saw what the need was according to the architects. The architects talked with the state. A no was voted on the issue at the time. That doesn’t mean you drop it. When Mr. Boose was a state rep there was a bill he wanted to pass. And in lame duck, which is the last month before his 8 years were up, he got the bill passed. The same bill he introduced 8 years previously. He did his homework. He went out and found out what the other options were. What is the problem. The problem is not that we just want a brand new school in Norwalk. We have a problem. And now we have a solution. He will continue to push for discussion about getting this done. He would love to get this done by the April deadline they talked about. He thanked them for all the new information, for all the work they had put in. He wanted to have them give his apologies to any committees that were meeting that they don’t have a final decision yet. He said he was embarrassed that they don’t have that. In his opinion it was not a dead issue. A lot has changed since 2004 when Ardeth Chupp made that decision when there was no plan. Mr. Boose thought they have a lot more information than they had before. He promised to try to do what he could to get them an answer in April.

Mr. Wilde asked about the 20-acres. If they put a building there, would it be K-3, or K-4? The state says you need an acre for every hundred students, so K-8 could not be put there, was that correct? Mr. Baltzell stated that Pk-8 could be put there, it was a recommendation, it was not mandatory. It is just their opinion of what the best size is. He said it would have to be multi-story. It limits you with expansion, with getting people off the road. We would probably have to do detention underground, we couldn’t have detention out in the field. Mr. Wolf state there would have to be some variances.

Mr. Boose can’t stress enough. To him, it was not what you can do with the 20 acres. It is what you can do with an expanded facility. It would answer a lot of the questions and the problems he has been hearing about. It is not just Pleasant Street that has problems with people picking up and dropping off kids. He sees it all over the place. We will see where this goes. As opposed to a letter, Mr. Boose said he was here to work with them and say let’s see how we can get this done.

Mr. Cooley appreciated them for having them in for the presentation and just wanted to reemphasize, he thought it had been stressed, but a strong Norwalk City School District is a strong Huron County. A strong South Central Local is a strong Huron County. A strong Willard City School is a strong Huron County. So that is the critical piece. Mr. Brady, Mr. Boose, Mr. Wilde, myself, superintendents, we all sit on committees all the time. We say how do we develop and make our place better. Our city, our county, our state, our country. And to me this is the simplest approach one could make to impact thousands and thousands of people for years and years to come. Mr. Boose mentioned that all three of them were on the Facilities Task Force for EHOBVE. He thought it was an excellent idea to bring the community in to look at the facilities.

At 11:09 a.m. the board recessed.

At 11:25 a.m. the board resumed regular session

Mr. Boose stated he would like to finish the majority of what they need for open session before they go into executive session.

Commissioner Brady update

Mr. Brady said last Wednesday they were at Willard Area Economic Development. They made it very clear to them that the commissioners were not inclined to be pulling out of Firelands Forward. We were not sure where that came from and we were very much actively working with them. Sara Ross was there, she talked about the merger of the three entities – NEDC, HCDC and the Chamber. Mr. Brady thought she had a great presentation and was very clear in what she does.

The HCDC meeting on Thursday morning was held at the hospital. They talked about the merger again, which Mr. Brady thought was going to be best. It is now the Huron County Growth Partnership.

Mr. Brady is planning to attend the Firefighter’s Association meeting tomorrow night in Monroeville. On the 15th he will be attending the EHOVE Task Force. Friday the 16th he has TIC – Trauma Informed Community.

Mr. Boose wanted to add to the Willard meeting they had. It seems no matter what local government he talks to there is confusion about grants. Mr. Hammond thought the ARPA money was grant money the county was handing out. Mr. Boose had to correct him. They were looking for money for their housing situation and especially infrastructure. He asked Mr. Boose to let him know of any grants that may be available. Long discussion about the grant process.

Tomorrow night at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Boose has a meeting with some of the members of the committee to build a new barn at the fair, as well as some of the executive members of the fair board.

At 11:40 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. ORC 121.22 (G) (2) To consider the purchase of property for public purposes, or for the sale of property at competitive bidding, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

At 12:22 p.m. Harry Brady moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22(G)(1) & (2). Terry Boose seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

**No action taken*

At 12:23 p.m. Bruce Wilde 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 February 13, 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 12:23 p.m.

Signature on File