

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

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Roger Hunker, Lyme Township Trustee/APEX; Patricia Didion, Citizen; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News

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

Mr. Boose noted that the elections were over. Nine people put their name on the ballot. Mr. Boose said he appreciates each and every one of them doing that. He appreciates all the work they have done over the last few months. Anybody that has ever had to campaign during the winter knows it is not an easy task. Mr. Boose also gave a lot of credit to those who have come to their meetings for the last couple of months. This is just a campaign, they still have another job. Especially Jeff Colvin, Dani Smith, and Rich Marett. And of course, Brad Mesenburg has been coming for months and months. Mr. Boose knows the amount of time it takes to campaign and just putting your name on the ballot is huge. He wanted to thank them all. Good luck to Mr. Mesenburg in the general and to Mr. Dunlap.

Mr. Boose said after he was elected, he had been given a lot of materials before he took office. He thought they might want to do that for Mr. Dunlap. Ms. Ziemba said that Mr. Dunlap was still receiving the agenda. She will ask him to see if he wants any of the information ahead of time. Mr. Brady said he told Mr. Dunlap that CCAO had said it was okay, and the county is inclined to have the new commissioners go to Winter Conference. He suggested Mr. Dunlap may want to keep the dates open. Mr. Brady also thought that come November or December they may want to include him in any executive sessions.

**At 9:05 a.m. Public comment - Roger Hunker, Apex.** Mr. Hunker wanted to let them know they will start the road borings next week. Ms. Chaplain reached out to all those townships two weeks ago. The last one did get back to her yesterday, so everybody is aware. Mr. Boose said he had one township official call him and say they were not informed of the testing that had already started. He asked Mr. Hunker to take this back to them and make sure everyone gets the information. It was Norwich Township. Mr. Hunker said he knew Ms. Chaplain spoke to someone at Norwich Township a few weeks ago. Mr. Wilde said they haven't done any boring yet, they have only put markers out. Mr. Boose did not think she had to tell more than one trustee, just ask that one to pass on the information. Mr. Hunker said one of them had called him on another matter so he had reiterated it to him. Mr. Wilde hoped they were also sending emails. Mr. Hunker said they do but he was not sure if they look at it.

Mr. Boose called attention to the fact that the Ohio Legislators website does not give out email addresses for senators. They are also not on their personal website. Mr. Boose found it on the CCAO roster. It lists all the senators and states that the email address is: *senatorlastname@ohiosenate.gov*.

24-117

**IN THE MATTER OF ORGANIZING THE HURON COUNTY 9-1-1 PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE AND APPOINTING MEMBERS PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 128.06**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to O.R.C. 128.06, every county shall maintain a county 9-1-1 Program Review Committee, which shall serve without compensation and shall consist of six voting members as follows:

- (1) a member of the board of county commissioners, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the committee
- (2) the chief executive officer of the most populous municipal corporation in the county
- (3) a member of the board of township trustees of the most populous township in the county as selected by majority vote of the board of trustees
- (4) a member of a board of township trustees selected by the majority of boards of township trustees in the county pursuant to resolutions they adopt
- (5) a member of the legislative authority of a municipal corporation in the county selected by the majority of the legislative authorities of municipal corporations in the county pursuant to resolutions they adopt
- (6) an elected official within the county appointed by the board of county commissioners; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Huron County, Ohio, that the Huron County 9-1-1 Program Review Committee is convened in accordance with the O.R.C. 128.06. and further

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Huron County, Ohio, that the following individuals are hereby appointed as voting members of the Huron County 9-1-1 Program Review Committee:

- Terry Boose, Huron County Commissioner (pursuant to O.R.C. 128.06(A)(1))
- Sheriff Todd Corbin, Elected official (pursuant to O.R.C. 128.06(A)(6)) and further

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Huron County, Ohio, that the 911 Coordinator be directed to communicate the necessity for the municipal corporations and townships to proceed with the appointment process for the remaining members of the 9-1-1 Program Review Committee; 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 explained this was something Ms. Spears had been working on. This was just to make sure she has a resolution even though the state is unclear if they need one. Ms. Ziemba stated there was a deadline and they were not going to take any chances.

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

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

24-118

#### **IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTING MEGAN BURSLEY ACTING TREASURER**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, March 31, 2024, will be the last working day for Kathleen Schaffer, the duly elected Huron County Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §305.02(D), the Board of Commissioners may appoint a person to hold the office of Treasurer as acting officer and to perform the duties thereof from the occurrence of the vacancy and the time when a successor can be appointed by the current office holder's political party central committee, is qualified, and takes the office; and

**WHEREAS**, Kathleen Schaffer has recommended that Megan Bursley be appointed as acting Huron County Treasurer; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby appoints Megan Bursley as acting Huron County Treasurer, effective 12:01 a.m., April 1, 2024, the occurrence of the vacancy, and the time when a successor can be appointed by the current office holder's political party central committee, is qualified, and takes the office, pursuant to R.C. §305.02; 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

**At 9:15 a.m. County Project updates:**

**Joel Riedy, Network Administrator.** Mr. Riedy said the biggest thing that has happened is with the Norwalk west wireless tower. They have a couple people on the six-gig band. Everybody seems to be happy with the results.

The project between here and downtown is going well. They have the sleeve installed going down Milan Avenue and Main Street. Soon they will insert the actual fiber into the sleeve.

Revize has presented a concept drawing for the county website. Mr. Riedy only has feedback from a couple departments. So far, they are all good. Mr. Boose wanted to make sure they put everybody's email on the new site. Mr. Riedy said a lot of websites don't want emails published. That is how website crawlers get it and start spamming counties. Mr. Boose thought we are a public entity and need to have them on there.

Mr. Boose assumed Mr. Riedy was staying on top of internet going into the new enrichment building. Mr. Riedy said he was. He spoke with Luke about the issue that came up. Mr. Riedy thought they had a solution. Luke was communicating his thoughts to the electrician. They should hear back soon. Ms. Ziembra asked about the phone. Mr. Riedy said it was the same issue.

Mr. Boose said there was another issue with the enrichment center. A question was brought up as to why the new sign has to have both BMV/Title and Enrichment Services on it. It was suggested we just put Enrichment Services on that sign, since we are moving the sign that currently says BMV/Title to the other driveway. Mr. Wilde said he talked to Mr. Tkach about this. Mr. Tkach said the state thinks they are going to change the logo. Mr. Boose thought if they were going to pay for a new sign, let them pay for a new sign. He agreed that they should move forward with just a Senior Enrichment sign and move the other sign to the other driveway. He suggested Mr. Welch could talk to Garmann Miller and the contractor to see if that was a reasonable solution.

**Steve Minor, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor.** Mr. Minor had just received information on flooring for the stairwell and the hallway. Mr. Boose asked which hallway. Mr. Minor said it was everything except the brand-new tile in the basement. He is meeting with another contractor tomorrow to get another cost on the same kind of flooring. The same company also provided a cost for the 306 complex. Mr. Boose said they were possibly going to use the ODOT money for this, with Ms. Habig's approval. Mr. Minor said this was for everything except the restroom out there that has the nice tile floor. Also, none of the concrete.

Mr. Minor said he is waiting on a cost for the ceiling replacement at the same facility. Someone came out and looked at it, but has not provided a cost yet. He had another contractor that was going to look at it, but was informed they are booked until December 2025. Mr. Minor is looking for someone else.

Mr. Brady noted the flooring quote was \$78,802, over the \$75,000 bidding threshold, so they will end up putting it out to bid. Mr. Minor said he has one more cost coming. Ms. Ziembra thought if they were going through ODOT they would definitely need to bid it. She suggested they sit down with Ms. Habig to discuss it.

The last thing Mr. Minor had was the back entrance at the Office Building – the roof repair and redoing that. Mr. Boose said he would not do the back entrance until the roof was done. Mr. Minor said he had the shingled roof and the back entrance all together. The contractor knows the roof needs to be done first. Mr. Boose did not think that would be happening in the next couple months.

Mr. Minor said the group that had formerly given them a price for the bathrooms on the third floor of the Courthouse is the group that is booked until December 2025. Mr. Minor will look into other options. Mr. Boose thought that might be acceptable. He thought Mr. Minor should go ahead and get an updated price; they have waited this long to do it.

Mr. Boose said they had talked about something on Tuesday and nobody has responded to him yet. He thought they had a contest for this. He was referring to the front of the Administration

Building. If you look at the brick layout on the front of the building, there are different levels that stick out and form the shape of a truck. The building was originally owned by Norwalk Truck Lines. Mr. Boose would like somebody to paint it and enhance it.

24-119

**IN THE MATTER OF PROMOTING KYE STEVENS TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE HURON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA)**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Art Mead, EMA Director, expressed the need for a deputy director for the Huron County Emergency Management Agency (EMA); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Mead recommends promoting Kye Stevens for the deputy director position; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the promotion of Kye Stevens to the position of EMA Deputy Director, effective March 25, 2024, at the rate of \$25.00 per hour with a \$1.00 increase after the successful completion of a 180 calendar-day probationary period; 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 clarified we were not adding an extra position. We were changing the position Mr. Stevens has to better serve the community and to suit his abilities.

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

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

24-120

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE DIGITAL DATA TECHNOLOGIES INC. (DDTI) AGREEMENT**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners entered into a Huron County 911 Location System GPS Road Centerline Project Data Maintenance Agreement with DDTI on October 4, 2005, Resolution 05-378; and

**WHEREAS**, DDTI has submitted a Data Maintenance Service Addendum Revised Exhibit A: Service Components and Fees for Renewal Period January 15, 2024 - June 30, 2025 for a \$0 fee; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Digital Data Technologies Inc. Data Maintenance Service Addendum 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.

**\*Discussion:** Ms. Ziembra had talked to Mr. Mead, who said the state covers the fees for this.

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

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

*\*Agreement on file*

24-121

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF NEW LONDON WATER TOWER ANTENNA EQUIPMENT AGREEMENT**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners entered into an Agreement with the Village of New London to purchase, construct, install, and maintain antenna equipment on the New London water tower on April 16, 2019, Resolution 19-118; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agreement has been amended to identify the Parties of the Agreement and establish the contributions of each Party to the Antenna Equipment Maintenance Fund; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Amended Village of New London Water Tower Antenna Equipment Agreement 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

*\*Amendment on file*

24-122

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE PROPOSAL BY GARMANN MILLER & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR A STRUCTURAL REVIEW OF THE HURON COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires architectural and engineering services to determine the cause of concrete heaving of the sidewalk and water issues in the basement of the Huron County Office Building; and

**WHEREAS**, Garmann Miller & Associates, Inc. has submitted a Proposal for two phases: Preliminary Design and Implementation of Design; and

**WHEREAS**, the Proposal identifies Phase 1 – Preliminary Design and Opinion of Probable Cost Budget at a lump sum cost of \$8,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Proposal identifies Phase 2 – Implementation of Design at a cost that will be determined through a negotiated contract based on the results of Phase 1; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Proposal for Phase 1 of the project as submitted by Garmann Miller & Associates, Inc., a copy of which is 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

*\*Proposal on file*

24-123

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

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, funds have been appropriated from the Huron County General Fund for the Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District for 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, a P.O. for these funds for a yearly payment is authorized to be issued by the Board of Huron County Commissioners; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby authorizes their Clerk to voucher the following sum from the Code listed in the General Fund budget to the Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District for the year 2024:

From: 037-00558-001 Soil & Water Conservation District \$180,000.00 yearly 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

24-124

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING LEASE AGREEMENT FOR TILLABLE LAND AT THE HURON COUNTY SHADY LANE FARM**

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 21-339, IN THE MATTER OF AWARDED BID AND ENTERING INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR TILLABLE LAND AT THE HURON COUNTY SHADY LANE FARM needs to be amended to utilize the provision set forth in Paragraph 8 of the original lease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to withdraw approximately six (6) acres of property from the total acreage in order to construct the new Huron County Senior Center; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Amendment to Agreement and Lease for the Shady Lane Farm 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

*\*Amended agreement and lease on file.*

Mr. Wilde asked Mr. Pickworth to provide some background about where they were with the Shady Lane. Mr. Pickworth said from what he understands, Shady Lane is owned by the county commissioners, and has been for a very long time. This means the county contributed to the contamination of the property. Because the county is the contributing entity, the state is saying the county is not eligible for the grant. Today they are here to see what options are available.

**At 9:48 a.m. the board recessed**

**At 10:00 a.m. the board resumed regular session with Land Bank and MAkSolve** to discuss 2024 Ohio Department of Development Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program. In attendance: John Bowen, MAkSolve via Zoom; Shawn Pickworth, Land Bank/Village of New London; Sarah Ross, Growth Partnership/NEDC; Judy Lykins, Land Bank; Mitch Loughton, Land Bank/City of Norwalk

Mr. Wilde explained they were going to discuss the Shady Lane project, the pre-Civil War building and how they could get that building put on the list. Mr. Wilde asked Mr. Bowen to tell them where they were at and how they got here.

Mr. Bowen explained MakSolve was working with the Land Bank. Grant funding has been made available through the Ohio Department of Development for either Brownfield projects and/or demolition projects in every county. Every county has been given \$500,000 for demolition and \$1 million for Brownfields. Brownfields are properties that have inherent or perceived environmental issues which restrict or inhibit their development. In our discussions with the Land Bank on what projects they wanted to submit for grant application, the Shady Lane property came up. Mr. Bowen was going through the preliminary assessment of that site to determine what its eligibility was from a Brownfield perspective. He came across the fact there is was an open leaking underground storage tank incident regarding a former gasoline tank that was on the property. It has since been removed, but is going through a corrective action or remediation process. It is nearing the end of that process, but has not achieved No Further Action letter from the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations. With the county being the responsible party for the incident, that blocks them from being eligible for Brownfield funding.

Mr. Bowen explained that one way to get around that is to have the Land Bank acquire the property. Therefore, they would not be the responsible party to that particular incident. However, at the same time, we need to have this underground storage tank issue resolved. He thought the ultimate goal of the county was to demolish the building. Mr. Bowen thought the Brownfield was the best path to go for demolition money. But with the open incident, the fact that the county owns the property and is the responsible party to that incident, is a roadblock. You would not be eligible to submit an application for funding.

Mr. Boose explained they had Pete Welch, Buildings & Grounds, present. Mr. Boose stated they had been working on this underground storage tank issue forever and asked Mr. Welch what the holdup was. Mr. Welch said there was no holdup. He wanted to verify that the lack of an NFA letter was the only thing holding this up. Mr. Bowen thought there could possibly be another issue. He was doing a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and on the southern part of the property it appears there used to be some sort of orchard in the past. Typically, he would call that out as a potential source of contamination. Old orchards used lead and arsenic based pesticides. This can be overcome through some simple soil sampling of that area to eliminate that as a concern. Once the tank and the orchard issue are resolved, then it is a go.

Mr. Boose said this whole area in northern Ohio has had orchards all over it for years. It has to do with location to the lake. He never heard of demolition being held up because of agriculture applied chemicals. Mr. Boose asked Mr. Welch what the holdup was with the storage tanks. Mr. Welch explained there would be another round of sampling happening in the next month or two. If that comes back clean we can apply for the NFA from BUSTR. Mr. Boose thought they had already taken samples. Mr. Welch said they did, but they did not come back clean. It has been a year now, and they are re-sampling. They had put bacteria in the soil to degrade the petroleum products. Ms. Ross asked Mr. Bowen to talk about the timeline based on what they had just said about the county timeline for the NFA. Mr. Bowen said he had a conversation

with the Ohio Department of Development a couple days ago and explained everything to them. They said they want the Land Bank to go ahead and submit an application for demolition and/or whatever the asbestos situation might be out there, from an abatement perspective. They expressed their interest in making sure every county gets this money. They said, even if you don't have all your ducks in a row, submit the application. Because what happens is there will be a cure period, a couple of months after the application. At that point, if the merits of the project are agreed upon, then there is a chance to go back and get the NFA, get the property transferred, whatever needs to be done. So, it all doesn't have to happen in the next week and a half. Mr. Pickworth noted they still have to have the application submitted by April 1. Mr. Boose clarified it was the Land Bank that was going to make that happen, not the commissioners. Mr. Bowen explained that if they get the No Further Action from BUSTR there doesn't have to be a property transfer. The county can go after the demo money through the Brownfield program as owners of the property.

Mr. Bowen shared a photo of the orchard. He said it was 1950. Mr. Boose said whatever we need to do for that we need to do. The chemicals that were used at that time were different than what they use today. Mr. Welch agreed and said lead could be an issue if that is what they used. Mr. Bowen said lead and arsenic were the concerns, and they don't go away. Mr. Welch asked if it was documented that it was an orchard, or if they were just basing that off the picture. Mr. Bowen said they had the photograph, as well as topographic maps. Evenly spaced green dots like that are typically considered an orchard from their perspective. Mr. Bowen thought it was probably fine, but when it shows up in historical documents it is hard for them to write it off. Mr. Boose stated he was all for testing it and whatever needs to be done. If there was an additional cost to get that done then the commissioners would pay for it. Mr. Bowen said that was his next point. If we go after demo, as part of that we are going to have to come up with a number for asbestos abatement. He asked if the building had ever been surveyed for asbestos. Mr. Boose said it had not. Mr. Welch said they just assume it is there, based on the date. Mr. Boose thought some of it was removed when some heating and air conditioning was done a long time ago. But there needs to be a full assessment. Whatever Mr. Bowen recommended, Mr. Boose thought the commissioners need to get it done as soon as possible. He didn't expect the Land Bank to cover the cost. He asked Mr. Bowen to get that amount to them. Mr. Bowen said he could do that immediately. His thoughts on what they should do were: he will talk to the demo contractor and get an idea of what the demolition/abatement may cost. They can put that number in the application, submit it, and wait for them to come back. In the meantime, we get the asbestos survey done and get a Phase 1 done - go out, get some samples from that particular spot, that orchard, to get rid of that issue. And then you lean on BJAAM to get the No Further Action. Mr. Welch said the sampling was based on an interval of a certain time. We are on one year and we have not hit that year mark yet. But we can speed that up and take a chance.

Mr. Brady asked them to explain what BJAAM was. Mr. Bowen said BJAAM was an environmental consultant similar to them, but they are heavily focused on underground storage tanks.

Mr. Wilde told Mr. Bowen that sounded like a great idea. Last they had talked, a couple weeks ago, they didn't have all that information. If in fact, worst scenario, if everything doesn't go well, then we would look at the other alternative of deeding the land to the Land Bank, and at a further date it would come back to us. Mr. Pickworth thought that would still have to happen. Mr. Bowen said what he was saying earlier was that, if we get the No Further Action form BUSTR, produce a Phase 1 Site Assessment that says there is nothing else going on, it was his understanding they don't have to have what is called the Clean Hands Affidavit to submit for grant funding for asbestos and demolition. Mr. Wilde thought they should move forward. Mr. Bowen said he would provide proposals for the asbestos survey and Phase 1. The Land Bank already has numbers for that but he can reissue it. And then just for some basic sampling of that area j to get that off the table.

**At 10:27 a.m. the board recessed**

**At 10:33 a.m. the board resumed regular session with Veteran Services board - Jerry Huffman; Thom Price; Jim Hager; Mindy Soisson-Calhoun; Steve Oblender; and Jacob Stephens, Prosecutor's office**

Mr. Boose said it was brought to their attention that the amount set for the Veteran Services board was done by the commissioners. Mr. Stephens explained that compensation for the board members of the Veterans Service Commission are, by statute, set by the Board of County Commissioners. He had asked when the last official resolution had been done that set that package. They found out it had been twenty years ago. Mr. Stephens thought it may be time for a review. Some things to consider are that the board members for the Veterans Service Commission fall under the definition in the Ohio Constitution to be officers. They are all appointed for five-year terms, and they cannot receive an increase in compensation during those terms. An increase can be approved, but it will not begin until that commissioner starts a new term. They are also subject to the same provisions that everybody else is for submitting Travel Requests to the Board of Commissioners, all of those things still apply. Mr. Stephens said those particular things should still be included in the overall compensation package. When the Board of Commissioners look to update the current resolution addressing the compensation package for the Veterans Service Commission, he would recommend that it be as detailed as possible concerning that compensation package. Not just salary but access to benefits and fringe benefits such as per diems, reimbursements, travel expenses, health insurance,



vacation time, sick time, etc. Mr. Stephens thought they should have a conversation with the veterans to get a better understanding of all the intricacies of what they have to do throughout the year concerning their qualifications, certifications - things they have to have to even be in their position as a commission board member.

Mr. Boose said Ms. Ziemba had provided numbers for every county from 2022 that breaks things out three ways – director salaries, staff salaries and commission salary. They are talking about commission salary today. In 2022 for Huron County the total amount for the commissioners was \$39,000. What was put in for the final budget this year was \$52,000, which is a 33% increase. Mr. Boose wanted to know why the rates are set where they are and how to go about the formal process of getting it done. Ms. Soisson-Calhoun, President of the Veteran's Service Commission, stated that when they submitted their paperwork last November and it was approved, they assumed that meant the increase had been granted. She apologized and explained they are without a director and are trying to figure things out as they go. Mr. Boose wanted to clarify that what they approved was the Veteran's budget. They really just approve the bottom line. There is a certain amount that the Ohio Revised Code states goes to the veterans. How that is divided up is determined by their board. Except now we hear the County Commissioners approve the salaries.

Ms. Soisson-Calhoun said she did not know what the averages were, but the majority of the commissioners meet for financial assistance only. Huron County goes above and beyond. We have events with our veterans at least once a month; she has five American Legions; she averages eight meetings a month as a commissioner. They have a breakfast once a month; they have a coffee club; they do outreach. Some counties don't do any of the finances or the budget or anything like that. They leave it all to the director. They have found, unfortunately, that they can't do that. They have to be more active. Their goal is to try to give the best for this county. Mr. Boose said going off the numbers from 2022, they went from 39 to 52,000, which was a 33% increase. He was curious how they got to that number. Ms. Soisson-Calhoun said she has only been there four years. When she came four years ago it was \$300. She asked Mr. Oblender if he remembered when it became \$300. He thought it was at least ten to fifteen years ago. Ms. Soisson-Calhoun said that was all they were looking at. It has not been increased in the last ten to fifteen years. One of the gentlemen on the Veterans Service Commission said they had been in Columbus for training when someone brought up pay. There was discussion and he thought that was where they came up with the number. We were one of the lowest paid. Mr. Boose said that was not what their numbers show. Their numbers go by population. Huron County is 46<sup>th</sup> largest. So, there are 45 counties larger than we are. As of 2022 the board salary was the 27<sup>th</sup> highest in the state. He did not think they were on the lower end. The gentlemen said all they were going by was what was put out at the meeting. This last year without an executive director has been a learning curve for them. Mr. Wilde asked if they had a director now. He was told they do have a new director who will officially start on April 15. Mr. Boose asked how many employees they have. Ms. Soisson-Calhoun thought they had five full time employees and five part time drivers. Mr. Boose noted that we are 46<sup>th</sup> for population, and they were 24<sup>th</sup> in the amount for director salary and staff salary. Ms. Soisson-Calhoun thought they probably allowed their director to guide them more than they should have in the past. That will not be how it is done in the future. They are learning as they go. Mr. Stephens had told them about the training form; they had never done that. By finding out what they did not know they realized how important it was for them to attend the trainings. They have to know how their organization and their commission organization is supposed to be ran, because how they can't assist the community if they don't know. Mr. Brady thought he was the liaison for the Veterans'. He offered to sit down with the Veterans Service Commission and Mr. Stephens. They could have a more detailed discussion about what needs to be done. Mr. Stephens thought they would still be able to complete the budget for this year. Any adjustments to compensation could be made retroactive to January. Mr. Boose told them if they need to move money around when it gets close to the end of the year they can. But he thought the budget they had provided was something the commissioners could pass.

**At 11:18 a.m. Art Mead & Kye Stevens, EMA to discuss issue with alerts.** Mr. Boose said he had asked for them to come in because he had a few questions about yesterday. People had been prepared to get texts and didn't get them. He heard the 4:00 test did not work either. Mr. Stevens said he would explain everything. In February he reached out to the FCC to get a waiver to conduct this test. The test he did should have overrode a test handling code. A handling code basically tells the system the severity of the alert. This would have been an eminent threat or public safety alert, so all phones would have tripped. That didn't work. Mr. Stevens reached out to their vendor, who works with Federal Emergency Management Agency's IPAWS. IPAWS is the system that does the alerts you hear on the radio and the tv. IPAWS is the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. They worked together and figured out his alert was going through, it was authenticated, approved by IPAWS and sent, but phones did not go off. So, they did more digging. Yesterday they learned it had to do with the formatting options on the alerting software. There are two different formats he can use. The first one, WEA Short, you can't use over 90 characters. The second option is WEA Long. Mr. Stevens thought the message would be short – "This is the Huron County Emergency Network test" – so he used WEA Short. Come to find out the provider no longer supports WEA Short, only WEA Long. That came from FEMA. They said it was a bug on their end and it has been addressed. Mr. Stevens said they were told to use WEA Long. Their vendor is actually working with their

engineers to fix the problem. Everybody in the area knows to use WEA Long. Now that they have it figured out he is going to do another test today between noon and one. This is targeted for the City of Norwalk but, since the alerts are sent off cell towers, people in Collins, Monroeville, and Bronson Township, may get it. Discussion followed on how phones should be set up to receive alerts. Mr. Stevens said he has been pushing everything out on social media to keep the public in the loop on everything that has been going on. He has had a lot of feedback from the citizens. A lot of them are supportive and very appreciative that they were taking immediate action and doing this before and not after an emergency.

Mr. Brady asked about the tornado sirens. The county does not own or maintain them. He asked if Mr. Stevens knew where they were at with that system. How many of them are actually working? Do they communicate with EMA on that? Mr. Mead said a few years ago he had asked to do a maintenance sweep of the county to see exactly what was working, what was not working and current locations. Some of the towers have been moved around. He doesn't know for sure because it is not his responsibility. Mr. Boose said Ms. Ziemba's idea was to send out a survey to everybody. Hopefully they will respond to a survey about if they have sirens in their area, if so are they maintained. Mr. Wilde did not think the township trustees had any idea. Mr. Brady does not think the county should take over the system. But he would like to know that the township trustees have a working relationship to keep EMA up to date on where these sirens are or if they even work. Mr. Boose thought when they send the email survey out, they should probably indicate that our taxpayers deserve to know whether they have a siren in their area.

#### **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

Art Mead, EMA, to Henry County to pickup SCBA for hazmat on March 27, 2024.

#### **SIGNINGS - None**

#### **OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Administrator report**

Ms. Ziemba noted the Donate Life Flag Raising Ceremony was going to be held on Friday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m. at Norwalk City Hall.

Mr. Boose said tonight there is a countywide Health Department meeting. This will be held at 5:30 in Monroeville at the MAC.

Ms. Ziemba saw the Firelands Electric Cooperative invitation to their 2024 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 6 at Ashland University. Mr. Boose had noted that someone should attend this. Mr. Boose said he has been to it many times. It is huge. Mr. Brady said he would attend.

Mr. Boose asked about the activities downtown for the eclipse – what day do they start and what day do they end? Mr. Wilde said they start on Saturday and end on Monday.

Ms. Ziemba said Chief Deputy Ditz had sent an email saying there were some 2024 Ford Interceptors that they were able to order this year. She reminded them that in December they ordered 2025 vehicles that will be delivered first quarter 2025. Originally there wasn't going to be any 2024's available. Now they are saying that they will have some. Mr. Ditz would like to know if they would be willing to place an order now so they could get them in the fall. Mr. Boose said he was not for ordering another car until they get a handle on the vehicles they already have. In 2017 we were told 24 cars. Today we have 35 cars. He did not know how it went from 24 to 35. The SRO officers each have their own car. Mr. Wilde said he would get with Ms. Stebel and Mr. Kleinhenz to see what they could figure out. They have a list of everybody that has a vehicle. And they have a list of all the vehicles. Mr. Brady said he would be all about continuing with the replacement policy but he agrees they need to get a handle on what they have first. Mr. Boose thought if they were going to charge for a vehicle to SRO officers they need to figure out whether we are charging them by the percentage of time it is being used on the job or by mileage. Mr. Brady said it was set up by mileage. He had a conversation with the sheriff and thought they had agreed to put it in the contract for the next school year. Mr. Boose reminded them that two of the SRO officers were part time deputies. His remembrance from 2017 was part time deputies didn't get vehicles. Mr. Strickler did not think they took their cars home. Mr. Boose wasn't saying they couldn't drive a vehicle, they just weren't assigned a vehicle.

Ms. Ziemba said the next part of the conversation with Mr. Ditz had to do with the transport van they wanted to replace. She thought the number they had provided was around \$90,000. They had been asked to make sure that number was still valid and to find out how long they had to order it. The response she received back was that they “. . . need to know now or as soon as possible because it is valid but Ford can close their order bank at any time”. Mr. Boose wanted to know how many transport vehicles will be taken out of the system when we buy this. Ms. Ziemba thought they put a van on GovDeals last year. She did not know if it had been a transport van. Mr. Boose had gone through the list and thought he saw three transport vehicles. Mr. Wilde suggested Ms. Ziemba email Mr. Ditz with that question.

Ms. Ziemba said the Auditor’s office has all the numbers for budget. They are still on track to have that for Tuesday. Mr. Boose did not think they needed to make any changes in the final budget. But, based on the conversation they had earlier today they may need money for an environmental assessment. He was pretty sure they put money in 099 or 310 for demolition of the buildings at Shady Lane. Ms. Ziemba asked Mr. Strickler if he knew if they could use 310/Permanent Improvement for assessment, or did it have to be an actual project? Mr. Strickler said it would have to be an actual project. Mr. Boose thought it was in Transfer Out. Ms. Ziemba said she would figure it out. She did not know how much an assessment would cost but they have 040 also. Mr. Boose just knew they put money aside for the demolition of Shady Lane somewhere because there is no guarantee they are going to get the grant. There is a guarantee they are going to tear it down. Ms. Ziemba thought it was on Mr. Welch’s list.

#### **Commissioner Strickler report**

Mr. Boose told Mr. Strickler they were in the process of approving the TIRC committee meetings. Tax Incentive Review Committee. Mr. Boose said he and Ms. Ziemba looked to see if they had ever received an invitation to the Norwalk meeting. They were not able to find it. Mr. Boose checked the Ohio Revised Code. There were two reasons to have a TIRC. From what he could tell, with one of them they are not even on the committee. The other one, all three of the commissioners, or a representative, is on the committee. All he knows is Norwalk had a meeting and there was no commissioner present. Mr. Strickler asked Mr. Boose if he could tell him which code section he was looking at. Ms. Ziemba said she sent him the email yesterday at the end of the day with the resolution that lists the ORC. Ms. Ziemba thought they had 60 days to approve it once they receive the minutes from the meeting. They had just received the minutes yesterday.

#### **Commissioner Wilde report**

Mr. Wilde has a webinar for CORSA at 1:30 this afternoon. After that he is going to Honda to pick up the new commissioner car.

Monday Mr. Wilde is going to go pickup one of the JFS vans. They need a commissioner to sign everything. Ms. Ziemba said they will need someone to go to Sharpnack to pick up the truck.

Health Department meeting this evening.

Mr. Wilde is on the committee for the Norwalk Comprehensive Plan, but they always meet on Tuesday from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m., so he is unable to attend.

Next Tuesday is NASA at EHOVE from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday is the DD Awareness breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m. Mr. Wilde is going to attend the IT interviews.

Land Bank next Thursday. Mr. Boose was hoping there was an update as to whether an application had been filed. Ms. Ziemba asked if they apply for the money, when does the tear down have to be completed? She said usually if you get a grant there is an end date, and the project has to be completed by that date. Mr. Boose thought it was December of this year. But he thought with a capital type project they have to give you a couple years. That was what Ms. Ziemba was hoping, but Brownfield applications are yearly. If they are yearly usually you have to complete them before the next grant cycle. Mr. Boose did not think this was the case with a capital project.

Mr. Brady noted he had a General Government Zoom meeting today at 2:30.

#### **Commissioner Boose update**

Commissioner Boose has a board meeting tomorrow.

The one other thing Mr. Boose would like to make them aware of regarding budget was that Ms. Hartman sent an email saying she had gone over some numbers. She wasn’t 100% sure on her numbers and Mr. Boose wasn’t 100% sure what she was saying. He told Ms. Ziemba that they just need to move forward

with the budget they have and if they need to adjust numbers later they can. Ms. Ziemba said the only other thing with budget was she had to move a few items around for the coroner. His membership dues were more than he anticipated. She just moved within his budget line.

Ms. Ziemba said Mr. Tansey had asked her if we wanted one of their cars. It is a 2012 Chevy Impala 4-door, 85,000 miles. No major maintenance issues, the tires are good. The engineer before Mr. Tansey drove it daily. Mr. Boose asked why we needed another car. Ms. Ziemba said IT drives from building to building. Also, Mr. Welch and Mr. Minor both drive their personal vehicles. She asked if we should have a car available to them. Mr. Boose thought we did. Ms. Ziemba said this car may be better than the Escape. She reminded them they had stopped all the maintenance on the Escape. Mr. Boose was okay with having a vehicle, but he was not okay with having two vehicles. So, whatever she wanted to do with picking out that vehicle he was okay with. Mr. Wilde clarified it was one vehicle in addition to the new vehicle. Mr. Boose said it was. Ms. Ziemba will talk to Mr. Kleinhenz.

Mr. Boose wanted to talk about sales tax. Sales tax for the first three months of 2024 is down. It was down by about \$17,000. Inflation is up. Mr. Boose thought the state sales tax was down as well. That means less money for local government funds. He brought this up as a question of stability. We haven't had to worry about our budget for the last few years. He has some concerns when he starts seeing a trend, although he wasn't sure three months was a trend. But we had a report in the same week that both state revenue and county revenue is down. He expected to hear from Mr. Tkach that it was above estimate. But the estimate was \$3 million below what we got last year. Mr. Boose hoped we will never be more than \$3 million below where we were. It gives the people a false sense of how our revenue is coming in and about the economy in general. Sales tax is always a very good indicator of how the economy is working.

Mr. Boose brought up the tornado sirens again. He thought the taxpayers of Huron County deserve to know if they have a tornado siren in their township. Mr. Brady said and if it is working. Mr. Boose also would like to know if they have a backup battery. He asked Ms. Ziemba to ask that question when she sends out the email.

Next week Mr. Boose is going to bring back his list of questions they have that they still don't have an answer to.

Mr. Boose let Ms. Ziemba know he was closer to getting an answer to the issue they had discussed at the OneOhio fund meeting about an EIN. He had an email from Sarah, who he thought was the Assistant Director. She indicated that every county will have a line called, in our case, Huron County Local Government. Then you can departmentalize and do a separate project under each application you have.

**At 12:55 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 March 21, 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 12:55 p.m.

Signatures on File