

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Regular Session. Roll being called found the following members present: Harry Brady, Tom Dunlap and Bradley Mesenburg.

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News.; Jon White, Resident; Dale Daniels, Wakeman Township; Patricia Didion, Resident; Chris Hipp, Mayor of Wakeman; David Ditz, Huron County Sheriff's Office; Todd Corbin, Huron County Sheriff's Office; and Rachel Fuleki, Wakeman Resident.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the April 15, 2025 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Harry Brady made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Tom Dunlap seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

25-116

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES SUBGRANT AGREEMENT FOR STATE FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027

Tom Dunlap moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, this Subgrant Agreement is entered into between the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (hereinafter referred to as “ODJFS”), the Ohio Department of Medicaid (hereinafter referred to as “ODM”) and the Huron County Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as “Board”), in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 307.98, 5101.21, and 5160.30; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the Subgrant Agreement is to establish between ODJFS, ODM, and the Board the relationship of two “pass-through entities” and a “subrecipient” as those terms are used in 2 CRF 200, promulgated by the United States Office of Management and Budget (OBM); and

WHEREAS, this Subgrant Agreement is applicable to all subawards by ODJFS and ODM to Huron County for the operation of the Huron County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS) that is a combined agency and performs all CDJFS duties set forth in ORC Section 329.04, and all public children services agency (PCSA) duties and all child support enforcement agency (CSEA) duties; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Subgrant Agreement, 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 – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

**Subgrant Agreement on file*

25-117

IN THE MATTER OF REAPPOINTMENT TO THE HURON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES BOARD

Tom Dunlap moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the terms of the Huron County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board members Wendie Parsons-Nuhn and Dayna Mills expire on June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Parsons-Nuhn and Ms. Mills wish to be reappointed for an additional term beginning July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby reappoint Wendie Parsons-Nuhn and Dayna Mills to the Huron County Mental Health and Addiction Services Board for an additional four-year term effective July 1, 2025; 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 – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

25-118

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (LESSOR) AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING INC., D.B.A. ENRICHMENT CENTERS OF HURON COUNTY (LESSEE)

Tom Dunlap moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to lease to the Services for the Aging, inc., d.b.a. Enrichment Centers for Huron County, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Ohio (hereinafter the “Lessee”), the premises located at 325 Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk, Ohio 44857, (hereinafter referred to as the “Premises”); and

WHEREAS, the initial term of the lease shall be ten (10) years, commencing on January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2035 pursuant to the authority set forth in R.C. 307.092, unless this Agreement is terminated sooner. Lessee may renew this Agreement for up to two (2) additional five-year terms as provided in the attached Lease Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Lessee agrees to pay to the Lessor as rent for the Premises, with the current equipment in the leased premises, during the initial term of this Agreement the sum of One dollar and no/100 (\$1.00) per annum during the entire initial term of this Agreement. However, Lessor retains the right to renegotiate the annual rental at any time during the initial term of the lease after the first ten (10) years of said initial term; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the lease agreement with the Services for the Aging, inc., d.b.a. Enrichment Centers for Huron County, 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 – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

**Lease on file*

25-119

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (LESSOR) AND NORWALK ARTS CENTER, LLC (LESSEE)

Tom Dunlap moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners desires to lease a portion of the building located at 22 East Main Street, Norwalk, Ohio to Norwalk Arts Center, LLC, an Ohio not for profit corporation,

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(hereinafter the “Lessee”). The portion of the building being leased by the Lessee is approximately 10,000 square feet on the first and second floors and is depicted on the floor plan drawings attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and made part hereof (the “Premises”); and

WHEREAS, the initial term of the lease shall be twenty-eight (28) months, commencing as of April 1, 2025 and ending on July 31, 2027, unless this lease is sooner terminated as hereinafter provided. There shall be no additional renewal term of this lease; and

WHEREAS, the Lessee agrees to pay to the Lessor as rent for the Premises, during the term of this lease the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per month, which constitutes the sum of fourteen thousand dollars and no/100 (\$14,000.00) during the term; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the lease agreement with the Norwalk Arts Center, LLC, 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 – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

**Lease on file*

At 9:05 a.m. Public comment - None

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL

Tom Dunlap 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 – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

Roland Tkach, Auditor, to Columbus, OH on May 7, 2025 for the CAAO Legislative Day and Executive /Legislative Committee meeting

SIGNINGS – None

At 9:10 a.m. Sheriff Corbin and Wakeman Mayor Chris Hipp, discussion of HCSO covering shifts for Wakeman PD.

Sheriff Corbin stated that what has been going on is that the Sheriff’s department has been taking on extra duties for the Village of Wakeman due to their lack of man power. It’s his understanding that they have had several officers resign. Sheriff Corbin did have a conversation with Mr. Hipp previously about trying to get this rectified. Wakeman PD (WPD) does have an intern Chief that is working third shift. The Sheriff’s department is getting phone calls last minute stating WPD does not have anyone to cover a shift. This is costing the Sheriff’s office money. This is why he wanted to meet today. Deputy David Ditz did point out that there is a difference between mutual aid and coverage. Sheriff Corbin explained that what they are doing is covering for the Village of Wakeman for all needs that they have and that accrues an expense for the deputy’s time and any other resources used during coverage. He just wants to come to solution. Whether it be if the Mayor for the Village of Wakeman keep their police department or contract with the sheriff’s office.

Mayor Chris Hipp:

Mr. Hipp stated he has great news. He said that him and Sheriff Corbin did speak on the phone. Mr. Hipp states they have a great relationship and he knows that will continue. After talking with the Sheriff, he put a new chief in that only lasted a week. There have been a couple of times that the Sheriff’s office has called for mutual aid. Mr. Hipp wants it to be known that when needed they do help each other and for the past five months WPD has been struggling but he is dedicated to Wakeman and dedicated to the county. He stated he is bringing things into the Village of Wakeman that has never been done before. They did hit a bump in the road but they are dedicated to keeping the citizens protected. He appreciated the Sheriff talking to him so they can try to figure this out. As of Monday night, Mr. Hipp put in a new Chief and a

new Captain, reworked the system. He wants to keep up the good relationship with the Sheriff's Department but first and foremost he wants to keep the community safe, he admitted that yes, they do have a few shifts that need coverage. Also, there are other ones in the county that do the same thing. He is happy and he thinks they can work through this for the better of the people and the county.

Mr. Dunlap stated you are not alone; every agency has a certain time where they are in trouble and need help. Mr. Brady asked what are your prospects for being able to acquire some more officers to cover the shifts? Mr. Hipp said the academy graduated 1,000 before 2020, they graduate 100 now in one year. Everyone is struggling. The council's response to this was giving a \$2.50 per hour raise. When it comes to putting your life on the line these officers need more money. Mr. Dunlap asked have you talked with the sheriff and had a good look at the contract situation with the Sheriff to take the whole police department dilemma off your plate? Mr. Hipp said no he has not. Mr. Dunlap said he would love to see Mr. Hipp and Sheriff Corbin sit down and go over the pros and cons of it. Legislatively, within the bounds of Wakeman Mr. Hipp and Sheriff Corbin are equal so you would not be losing a say in things. Mr. Stickler said he just helped Castalia do this not to long ago, it is not hard to do mechanically. Mr. Brady said this doesn't have to be an all or nothing thing, you could contract out four shifts a week if you wanted to. Mr. Hipp said for mutual aid calls, some departments pay for those and some don't. Things are getting better here but it will take some time.

Sheriff Corbin said what he provided to the commissioners and Mr. Hipp are the numbers for if the Village of Wakeman did decide to disband the Police Department. Mr. Brady said we do have a council member here and he would like to hear from her since she is here. Ms. Fuleki said she agrees, they are in trouble. She used to be a school bus driver so she knows there are latch-key kids that are home alone and there are people alone at night. That's why they need coverage for second and third shift. If there are any open shifts she feels that they should be during first shift. She said financially they would not be able to contract with the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Hipp states he thinks they were doing a great job up until November. The program that they have they still want to try and if that doesn't work he will go to the Sheriff, whatever it takes to make sure the citizens of Wakeman are protected.

Mr. Mesenburg stated that he and Mr. Hipp have had many conversations over the years, surrounding the ambulance and people paying their fair share and getting the service they provide. He thinks this is a similar situation we could look at through the same lens and he doesn't want to see the other 56,000 residents of the county supplement Wakeman law enforcement. He wants to find a solution and he is glad that they are moving in that direction. If there is anything the commissioners can do to help, that's why they are here. Ms. Fuleki, asked instead of the Sheriff's office taking over is there any way we can just become a part of the county? Sheriff Corbin said that is what we would do, you would fall under the county. Once you contract with the Sheriff's Office the village starts to save money. How it starts to save money is not worrying about prosecutor's office, law director, overtime, resources, and operating costs. The numbers provided include a start up cost and then it goes down after that. If you disband the police department, you put the money you're paying now towards the Sheriff's Office and stretch it further than what you can alone. When you guys need to house a prisoner, you have to pay a cost, if we do it there is no cost. Ms. Fuleki stated that the sheriff's office deputies won't be in Wakeman at all times, you could be coming from Willard. If someone were to call in the middle of the night would you guys be there? Sheriff Corbin said he would provide more officers per shift. He would add more people to be there. The structure as it is, Wakeman will never attract more people for \$18.00 per hour. The people you currently have are not trained to the same standard that we are, you don't get the same service. It is part-time it's not a full-time police officer. He would be able to supplement more people. Mr. Dunlap asked Sheriff Corbin if they still had a contract with North Fairfield? Sheriff Corbin said no, they disbanded the police department long ago. Mr. Dunlap said when he was the Sheriff they had an actual law enforcement contract with the Village of North Fairfield. Sheriff Corbin said there would be a deputy that stays in the Village of Wakeman 24/7.

At 9:39 a.m. the board recessed.

At 9:57 a.m. the board resumed regular session. *Tom Dunlap 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. Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:*

*Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg*

At 11:17 a.m. *Tom Dunlap moved to End Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(1). Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:*

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Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

*No action taken from Executive Session

At 11:17 a.m. Steve Minor, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, addressed the board regarding water leak with the courthouse boiler lines. HVAC is recommending this be addressed sooner rather than later.

Bradley R. Mesenburg moved to approve the Request for Expenditure of Over \$5,000 to MG Energy to repair the waterline for the boilers at the courthouse in the amount of \$10,898.00 any overages to be reviewed and approved by the administrator. Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – Bradley R. Mesenburg

At 11:22 a.m. Tom Dunlap 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 April 17, 2025.

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 11:22 a.m.

Signatures on File