

REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY

NOVEMBER 18, 2025

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 James R. Morgan.

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziembra, Administrator/Clerk; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Shelia Poffenbaugh, Resident; Walt Poffenbaugh, Resident; Jon White, Resident; Callie Chaplain, APEX; Colton Dive, APEX; Lee Tansey, Huron County Engineer; Dominic Mills, Resident; Bill Kaltenbach, Resident; William Seaman, Resident; Matt Perry, Schonhardt & Assoc; Matt Roche, Norwalk Ohio News; Jocelyn Leber, Norwalk Ohio News; Dale Daniels, Wakeman Township; Mircea Handru, MHAS; Lenora Minor, MHAS.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Harry Brady made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 4, 2025 meeting(s) and approve as presented. James R. Morgan seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

25-318

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

Harry Brady 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 for Payment Batches #413654 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.

James R. Morgan seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

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WHEREAS, the Huron County Engineer has requested approval for seeking bids for the Hartland Center Road Improvements Phase 1 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; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve of letting bids for the Hartland Center Road Improvements Phase 1 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.hcommissioners.com accessed by clicking on legal notices, until the bid is opened on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 1:05 p.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.

James R. Morgan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Tansey stated this is a 2-year project. It will be happening Hartland Center Rd from Scranton Rd all the way to the county line. Some of the culverts are being done by the Engineers works, in the winter they will contract some work out and then by spring time get our employees back out there.

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

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids may be submitted on or before the bid opening date of Thursday, December 18, 2025 until 1:04 p.m. local time, at the Huron County Commissioner's Office, 180 Milan Avenue, Suite 7, Norwalk, Ohio 44857, for the following Project: Hartland Center Road Improvements Phase 1. Bids shall be opened and publicly read aloud at 1:05 p.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 **October 9, 2026**.

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.hcommissioners.com> and clicking on the "Legal Notices" link or <http://www.huroncountyengineer.org> and clicking on the "Bid Information" link.

Advertise:
November 28, 2025

25-320

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT

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(VOCA) GRANT AWARD FOR 2026 AND COMMITTING A MATCH; AND THE APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE STATE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE ACT (SVAA) GRANT AWARD FOR 2026

Harry Brady moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Huron County Prosecutor's office prepared and submitted an application for the 2026 VOCA and SVAA Grants; and

WHEREAS, the Huron County Prosecutor's office has been awarded the grants and is requesting a grant match in the amount of \$14,351.45 for the VOCA grant; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves and accepts the 2026 VOCA and SVAA grant awards and commits a match in the amount of \$14,351.45 for the VOCA grant, 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.

James R. Morgan seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

25-321

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE TRANSFER OUT FUND #099 TO THE VOCA GRANT FUND-A # 183

Harry Brady moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Resolution 25-320 committed funds to the VOCA Grant in the amount of \$14,351.45; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the transfer of moneys from Transfer Out Fund #099-00600-001 in the amount of \$14,351.45 to the VOCA Grant Fund-A #183-10300-183; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the Department requesting transfer, and the Huron County Auditor, and the Auditor's office will make the journal entry to the account; 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.

James R. Morgan seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

At 9:05 a.m. Public Comment -Walt Poffenbaugh, Norwich Township Resident

Mr. Poffenbaugh stated that APEX has been granted permission to build Emerson Creek. He is here with the rest of the group today that opposes APEX's initiative towards wind turbines. The people are not in favor of giving a tax abatement to APEX. Mr. Poffenbaugh stated, you have unique opportunity to say no to this project. The conditions that the Power Siting Board put on these people included a RUMA, if you don't approve the RUMA then they don't get the project. There is at least one township in this county that has questions that need answered. He urges the board not to rush to do this. Mr. Poffenbaugh thanks the board for their time.

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At 9:15 a.m. Matt Perry, Schonhardt & Associates - Cost Allocation Plan

Mr. Perry stated they assist the county with the preparation of their Central Service Cost Allocation Plan. Mr. Perry explained this Plan allows departments to recoup costs through state and federal grants, essentially focusing on Job and Family Services. They do a lot of work with JFS and the county auditor's office. Mr. Perry stated they use Super Circular to figure out costs and such. The new version came out August of 2024. The new cost allocation plan should be ready next week.

25-322

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUESTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$5,000.00
SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD NOVEMBER 18, 2025.**

Harry Brady moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, requests for expenditures of over \$5,000.00 have been submitted for approval by the Board of Huron County Commissioners as follows:

Job and Family Services

Seagate Office Supplies	Desks	\$8,135.40	now therefore
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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the requests for expenditure of over \$5,000.00 as listed above; and further

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

James R. Morgan seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

25-323

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND HURON COUNTY ENGINEER TO ENTER INTO A ROAD USE AGREEMENT WITH FIRELANDS WIND, LLC RELATIVE TO THE EMERSON CREEK WIND ENERGY PROJECT

Tom Dunlap moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Firelands Wind, LLC (hereinafter "Firelands") has applied to the Ohio Power Siting Board to obtain a permit to develop a wind energy generating facility known as the "Emerson Creek Wind Project" in Lyme, Norwich, Ridgefield, and Sherman Townships in Huron County, Ohio (hereinafter "Project"), consisting of up to fifty (50) wind energy conversion systems ("Turbines"), an electrical substation, transmission line, and other related facilities and improvements (collectively "Wind Energy Facilities"); and

WHEREAS, On June 24, 2021 the Ohio Power Siting Board approved the permit application for the Project in Case No. 18-1607-EL-BGN, and further approved an amendment to the original permit approval in Case No. 21-1055-EL-BGA on November 14, 2023 (hereinafter "Permit"); and

WHEREAS, Firelands intends to use certain designated roads under the jurisdiction of Huron County, Lyme, Norwich, Ridgefield, and Sherman Townships for the construction of and routine maintenance for the Project, including, but not limited to, transporting components for Turbines that will be erected in the County and Townships; and

WHEREAS, the Huron County Board of Commissioners has previously determined that the Emerson Creek Wind Project is a qualified energy project as defined in Ohio Revised Code section 5727.75 and as such, Firelands Wind, LLC is required to make certain service payments and repair all roads, bridges, and culverts affected by construction as reasonably required to restore them to their preconstruction condition, as determined by the county engineer in consultation with the local jurisdiction responsible for the roads, bridges, and culverts. In the event that the county engineer deems any road, bridge, or culvert to be inadequate to support the construction or decommissioning of the energy facility, the road, bridge, or culvert

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shall be rebuilt or reinforced to the specifications established by the county engineer prior to the construction or decommissioning of the facility;

WHEREAS, the parties herein have negotiated a Road Use Agreement setting forth the rights and responsibilities of each party relative to the maintenance, repair, and use of the county and township roads to be utilized during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning of the project;

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners has determined that it is necessary to execute the Road Use Agreement as it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of motoring and pedestrian traffic on the county roads to be utilized within the project area by Firelands Wind, LLC and its contractors during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning of the project;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Huron County Commissioners, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Road Use Agreement relative to the Emerson Creek Wind Project, a copy of which is attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Huron County Commissioners, hereby authorizes and directs the Huron County Engineer to execute the Road Use Agreement relative to the Emerson Creek Wind Project, a copy of which is attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein;

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.

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

***Motion dies for a lack of a second.**

SIGNINGS

Harry Brady moved to approve signing the letter of support for ODOT funding application. James R. Morgan seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

*Kierra Branch
Section 5310 Program Coordinator, Office of Transit
1980 West Broad Street, Mail Stop 3110
Columbus, Ohio 43223*

RE: CLI Incorporated's ODOT Application for 5310 funding

Ms. Branch:

The board of Huron County Commissioners fully supports CLI Incorporated's request for 5310 funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation in order to purchase 1 full size gas wheelchair van and 1 full size electric wheelchair van.

CLI Incorporated is a 501(c)3, headquartered in Norwalk, Ohio, that provides comprehensive services to local residents with developmental disabilities. Most of the services provided require that CLI transport its clients throughout the Firelands region. As a significant portion of this clientele uses wheelchairs, specialized, expensive vehicles are required.

CLI's requested vehicles will be utilized to expand community access and transportation for individuals with developmental disabilities. CLI will also utilize these vans to otherwise fill gaps and needs in our area.

The use of these vehicles will not duplicate any services and/or local resources.

Sincerely,

HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL

Harry Brady moved to approve the following travel request this day. James R. Morgan 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 – James R. Morgan

Harry Brady going to Lima, Ohio on November 19, 2025 for a CEBCO meeting
Harry Brady going to Nashville, Tennessee on March 1, 2026 to March 4, 2026 for the AGRIP Conference
Heather Kocher going to Westerville, Ohio on November 19, 2025 to November 21, 2025 for a Death Penalty Seminar.
Charmise Lewis going to Summit County Public Health, Ohio on November 14, 2025 for PCSA Training
Nicole Cross going to Columbus, Ohio on November 17, 2025 for an Advocates for Ohio event.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Brady Report: Mr. Brady will be at a Transit meeting tomorrow morning then to the CEBCO meeting and finally to the OPTA conference. Winter Conference is coming up.

Commissioner Morgan Report: Mr. Morgan stated he attended the Land Bank meeting to review the bids to tear down the Shady Lane Complex. The bid will be awarded to AJ Riley. Mr. Morgan stated the Landbank wanted to know if the Commissioners wanted to tear down the maintenance garage. It was listed as an alternate in the bid. After discussion it was determined that the county maintenance is still using the garage.

James R. Morgan moved to leave the maintenance building on Shady Lane and advise the Landbank not to award this alternate. Harry Brady seconded that motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Harry Brady
Aye – Tom Dunlap
Aye – James R. Morgan

At 9:30 a.m. Mircea Handru- MHAS

Mr. Handru thanked the board for allowing him to speak today. He is grateful to the voters for approving the renewal for the MHAS Levy. He shared that the Huron County MHAS Board met on November 10, in a special meeting and they discussed the outcomes of the board's future. He has provided the Board with Resolution 2025-11 which is a Resolution recommending the merger of the Huron County Mental Health and Addiction Services board with the Mental Health & Recovery services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties, a joint alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services district. This passed with a vote of 13-0 at the MHAS Board meeting. Mr. Handru included a map of the mental health boards in the state of Ohio. With 88 counties there are 50 Mental Health Boards. Some consist of 3 or 4 counties and there is one in Southern Ohio with 5 counties. The benefits of a merger include; significant cost savings, streamlined operations, expanded access & enhanced services, overhead reduction and facility cost elimination. Mr. Handru thanked the commissioners once more and emphasized how much this will benefit Huron County. This merger will have a financial backing of all counties to reduce operational costs. All tax levy funds collected in Huron County will remain for Huron County residents. What the MHAS Board has recommended is a good option for the county. In the resolution it does list the 7 main reasons why the MHAS Board has made this decision. Another big reason is that many of the services that should be available in rural communities currently are not. An example would be a person looking for a Mental Health group placement would not find it in Huron County, when they go elsewhere two things happen, the person pays higher costs and usually that person is put on the bottom of the list for placement. The beauty of it is that the district is considered one big county, costs are the same across all counties. Names do not get bumped to the bottom of lists. Everybody will have top priority. Mr. Dunlap wanted to clarify that the tax money stays in Huron County. Mr. Strickler said yes, it is in the Ohio Revised Code that it has to stay in the county. They are just administered by what would be a new 5-member board. Mr. Dunlap asked if they get a seat on the Board? Mr. Handru said yes, there is an 18-member board and 12 seats are made up of county commissioners. Based on the projections right now, they are looking at July 1, 2026 for the 5-county district. The state appoints 6 members. The five counties appoint 12 members. The ORC requires that some board members have life experiences that pertain to Mental health and/or addiction. Mr. Handru mentioned that in 2021 they merged their district to the 4-county district, adding Ottawa County. They went through this same process. It was a very successful transition. Everything that is collected from Ottawa County stays in Ottawa County. The levies don't collect the same. If in ten to twenty years from now Huron County decided to get out of the 5 District Merger, whatever funds Huron County has acquired will transfer back to Huron County. Mr. Brady asked if there is an intention of keeping an office here or will our constituents have to go other places for services? Mr. Handru stated first, as MHAS Boards, we are not providing direct services regardless of office location. They are contracting with various agencies for direct services. As of today, the plan is to keep the Norwalk office. They will ultimately do what makes the most financial sense. Another thing to keep in mind is if we need space for the employees. This would ultimately be up to the 18-member board. The board is always looking at what the best interest is for the

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whole district. The board members do have a good vision for the district. Mr. Brady stated that he doesn't want people to feel disembodied or disenfranchised. Mr. Strickler added that we do have a local employee with the plan to keep that employee. Mr. Handru stated that services in Huron County will be enhancements if they decide to merge. Mr. Dunlap asked if they, MHRSB, has to accept Huron County. Mr. Handru stated that this is just the second step in the process, pass the resolution and move forward. He is hoping that he can send a final document to the state department and get it signed off on by the end of December. He is asking for a starting date of July 1, 2026. The Board is in favor and asked to have a resolution prepared for an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Dunlap Report:

There is a courthouse renovation meeting today at noon today and architect interviews on Friday.

RUMA Discussion

Mr. Dunlap asked if we need the townships in to a meeting to discuss this? Mr. Brady added that he wasn't ready to make a motion to approve but what he would like to do is just simply state, waiting until the townships have their questions answered. He thanked the group for coming in and voicing their concerns. It is an important and critical conversation to have. He doesn't want to see the county step in front of the townships. Mr. Brady knows of two potential problems. Mr. Strickler stated it's not a problem it's a conflict of interest. Quite frankly about having them come in, he wouldn't want them in to discuss it because they can't due to the conflict of interest. Mr. Brady hopes that Norwich will take this and if they have questions he hopes that they would contact Mr. Strickler or whoever they need to get their questions answered. Mr. Dunlap stated traditionally we always sign after everyone else in every contract, is that a hard and fast rule or is that a legal thing? Mr. Strickler stated it is just the way we do business. Mr. Dunlap asked how much money in the pilot do the townships get? Mr. Strickler did not know but stated they do receive a portion of it. Mr. Dunlap continued by asking if the townships that have conflicts would they be able to spend the money, isn't it essentially dirty money? Mr. Strickler stated he did not know definitely. The \$9,000.00 that Mr. Poffenbaugh mentioned, comes from the statute based on per megawatt, that is where that base number comes from. Mr. Dunlap said yes there is a conflict now but what happens in the future? How can we find out? Mr. Strickler said he can research it and try to come up with an answer. It's relevant to the trustees but not the commissioners. Mr. Dunlap said we need to be aware of this being a potential problem down the road. He looks at the RUMA as an insurance policy for the county. Mr. Brady wants the townships to be able to deal with this how they are going to. Mr. Morgan asked if it doesn't get signed then what happens? Mr. Strickler answered that if it's not signed and APEX continues their construction they are potentially in violation of a permit they received that requires a RUMA. If APEX decides to go without the RUMA that is something they would have to deal with later on. Mr. Strickler stated that he knows Richmond won't be required to sign it because none of their township's roads will be used for the project. Two townships that have conflicts of interest relative to signing the RUMA. The board is the contracting authority for the county, he also asked our county Engineer to sign it so that he can make sure the work is done properly. Norwich is ground zero because the majority of the wind turbines will be in Norwich township. Mr. Brady stated that these are discussions that the township trustees are going to have to have.

At 10:03 a.m. Harry Brady moved to adjourn. James R. Morgan 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 November 18, 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 10:03 a.m.

*Signatures on file