

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; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News; Patricia Didion, citizen; Tom Dunlap, citizen; Brad Messenburg, citizen.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the July 30, 2024 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the July 30, 2024 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Harry Brady seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

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

At 9:10 a.m. Public comment - None

24-265

IN THE MATTER OF HIRING FOR THE POSITION OF CUSTODIAL WORKER, A FULL-TIME, CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FOR THE HURON COUNTY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, AND COVERED BY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND AFSCME/OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 710, CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE UNIT.

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Huron County Commissioners to hire a Custodial Worker as a full time, classified employee for the Huron County Buildings and Grounds Department; and

WHEREAS, this position was posted and advertised in accordance with the AFSME, Ohio Council 8, Local 710 Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Huron County Personnel Policy Manual, and

WHEREAS, the Huron County Director of Operations recommends hiring Malachi Granneman for the position of Custodial Worker; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the appointment of Malachi Granneman to the position of Custodial Worker, effective August 26, 2024, at the starting rate of \$14.00 per hour. Contingent upon successful pre-employment physical, drug test and background check; 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 asked if the cleaning at the BMV/Senior Enrichment Services new building has been worked out. Ms. Ziemba said not that she is aware of however, she believes in the BMV contract the commissioners are to supply the person. As far as the Senior Center she believes they hire their own. Mr. Boose said the discussion, at one time, was that there would be one person who would do these two buildings and the people occupying the two buildings would pay the bill. Ms. Ziemba said she does not know if anyone agreed to this or not. Mr. Beal did not get back to her.

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

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

24-266

IN THE MATTER OF DISPOSING COUNTY PROPERTY

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Recorder has various equipment which no longer work and/or are obsolete and cannot be repaired; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners hereby determines that they are not needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 307.12(I), the Board has the authority to discard or salvage such property; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board hereby directs that the list of obsolete county property as attached hereto and incorporated herein be disposed of; 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

**On file*

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

Nicole LeMaitre, JFS, to Columbus, OH on 9/9/24 – 9/10/24 for the Public Children Services Agency Organization Annual Conference.
Arthur Mead and Kye Stevens, EMA to Lore City, OH on 12/4/24 – 12/6/24 for the EMAO Winter Conference.

SIGNINGS

Discussion of the Analysis of Impediments response as presented by Deb Martin, GLCAP on Tuesday. Ms. Martin requested the County review and complete the responsible party section. Ms. Ziemba forwarded the document to Huron County Growth Partnership and received a response that they did not feel this is something they could complete. They feel this would take many local agencies to complete and many responsible parties. The Commissioners are not willing to put the County Commissioners as the Responsible Party for all these sections. If the sections need to be completed, they need more time. If something general like communities and partners is sufficient, that would be okay. The commissioners discussed sending it back as is.

Bruce Wilde moved to approve the Analysis of Impediments response as presented on Tuesday and authorizes GLCAP to submit to the State. 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*

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Administrator/Clerk report - None

Assistant Prosecutor report

Mr. Strickler is reviewing the airport donation request.

Mr. Boose has been reviewing a chapter in the County Commissioner handbook on property taxes. It has a pretty good explanation of property taxes. He does not say he is 100% truly knowledgeable about property tax but he is getting there. Bottom line, there is a way to either rollback outside millage or they also call it rollback inside millage or inside millage can be reduced should one not need to collect all the property taxes available. It is becoming a popular topic among counties. He said some counties that have received large increases in evaluation are already doing this. Mr. Boose would like to get ahead of the property evaluation. People are going to be upset about the large increase in property taxes. He said sometime before September the commissioners are going to need information from their county Auditor. He would like them to explain where all the inside millage is going, not for schools, but for local governments, how it is distributed and how much a mill brings in. The commissioners also would like to know the process if they reduce or change it. Mr. Boose noted it is complicated. He said the one thing they do not want to do is reduce money that is going to townships, cities, villages, and schools. If the Board needs to do something, they need to do something to the part that goes to their general fund. He said they must make sure that no one else is affected by what they do. Mr. Boose said there are other options however, rolling back inside millage looks like it is the best option as opposed to changing sales tax. These two taxes collect money differently based on what the two different taxes are. If property tax is going up then they need to adjust property tax in, his opinion, to come back down as opposed to changing the sales tax. Sales tax can be voted on and part of it can be done by the commissioners. Mr. Brady agreed with this idea because it would help seniors with fixed incomes. He would like to help people stay in their homes. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba to explain to the Auditor the commissioners are looking at inside millage and/or rollback on county levies.

Commissioner Wilde report

Mr. Wilde received an email from Erie County Health Department requesting a letter of support. Discussion as to why Huron County Health Department is not applying for these grants. Mr. Boose questioned how many more grants the commissioners are going to be included in, with Erie County. He also questioned how much grant funding would go towards Huron County. Mr. Wilde will contact Mr. Hollinger to find out if they are applying or why they are not. Mr. Wilde will contact Erie County to ask what percentage of the funding will be for Huron County.

He attended the Huron County Growth Partnership meeting yesterday. He requested the meeting date be changed so that their meeting does not conflict with the commissioners' meetings.

Ms. Ross will be in next Tuesday to discuss the request to work with the Erie County Port Authority. Mr. Boose said he spoke to one person who said they are trying to do a project. In reading the two documents the word "project" was plural. Mr. Boose said that makes a huge difference. Mr. Wilde noted the commissioners would have choices on every single one. Mr. Boose said in Economic Development there is a lot of confidentiality that goes on. The commissioners do not even know what this is about. He asked Mr. Strickler how does this fit into Executive Session. Ms. Ziemba stated Mr. Strickler should have been copied this email. She will forward it to him. Mr. Wilde said it is strictly confidential matters, G5. Mr. Strickler confirmed this is correct. Mr. Wilde said the City of Norwalk did an Executive Session for the same thing on Tuesday night. Ms. Ziemba confirmed with the commissioners next Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. is a good time to schedule Ms. Ross. Mr. Brady said she could explain what the Port Authority in Erie County does and why it would be beneficial for the commissioners to work with them, in public session however, specifics would be during Executive Session. He wants people in the county to understand what the Port Authority is and does. Mr. Boose and Mr. Wilde said in this case it is hard to separate. They decided to go into Executive Session first.

Mr. Wilde will be attending a meeting tomorrow with maintenance staff, the architect and contractor about the elevator project. He has specific questions and will ask for dates of completion. Mr. Wilde will make sure everyone leaves understanding the plan and dates.

Will be attending the OneOhio Region 19 meeting next week.

Commissioner Brady report

Mr. Brady will be attending the CCAO General Government meeting today.

He attended the Firelands Association of Realtors RPAC Island Cruise yesterday. He spoke with Mr. Swearingen, Representative, also spoke with all three Erie County Commissioners and Mr. Jeffrey, Auditor.

At 10:00 a.m. Seneca County Joint Ditch Assessments. Seneca County Commissioners on the phone, Anthony Paradiso, Tyler Shuff, William Frankart and County Administrator Barb Patterson

**IN THE MATTER OF: RESOLUTION – MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS FOR
COLLECTION IN 2025 FOR THE SENECA AND HURON JOINT COUNTY DITCHES
MAINTAINED BY THE SENECA COUNTY DITCH MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

The Joint Board of County Commissioners, Seneca County, Ohio, met in regular session on the 15th day of August at the offices of the Board with the following members present:

SENECA COUNTY

Anthony Paradiso
Tyler Shuff
William Frankart

HURON COUNTY

Terry Boose
Bruce “Skip” Wilde
Harry Brady

Anthony Paradiso presented and moved the adoption of the following RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District administers the Seneca County Ditch Maintenance Program by agreement with the Board of Seneca County Commissioners and the Seneca County Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Ditch Maintenance Inspection Report indicates certain work needed to maintain the ditches on the maintenance program, and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District has recommended to the Joint Boards of Seneca and Huron County Commissioners that the following assessments be collected to fund maintenance work needed in 2025:

SC #11-067	Martin Jt. Co.	41.22%
SC #11-110	Bordner Shank	0.00%
SC #11-198	Landoll Nye	35.68%

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Joint Board of Seneca and Huron County Commissioners are in agreement with these provisions as detailed herein, and be it further

RESOLVED, that it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Harry Brady seconded the above motion and the vote upon its adoption resulted as follows:

SENECA COUNTY

Aye - Anthony Paradiso
Aye - Tyler Shuff
Aye - William Frankart

HURON COUNTY

Aye - Terry Boose
Aye - Bruce “Skip” Wilde
Aye - Harry Brady

Commissioner Wilde added to report

He met with SAFEbuilt yesterday and met the new staff member. He is thrilled with their service.

Commissioner Boose report

Mr. Boose stated per Norwalk Ohio News, the Norwalk School Board meeting approved an MOU with the Sheriff’s office regarding the School Resource Officer(SRO). He said several times over the past year the Board has raised a concern with the commissioners providing a School Resource Officer for Norwalk City Schools. He is guessing there will be much future discussion obviously with this, because he does not have all the details. Until then, he is very disappointed and asked Mr. Wilde how many meetings he has had with the city of Norwalk. Mr. Wilde said his last one was last week and according to what he was told, Superintendent Cooley wanted Officer Conney to be their SRO. Mr. Boose said then Norwalk City Schools can hire Officer Conney and need to work with him. However, they will have more discussion when they receive more details. Mr. Brady mentioned in the article it said that it had signature lines on it for the three commissioners. Mr. Boose stated the commissioners have never seen it, nor have they been part of any discussion. Mr. Brady said he thought the school board passed it last night without signatures. If signatures are expected, there should have been a lot more cooperation with the commissioners then existed. Mr. Wilde read from Norwalk Ohio News, “*The Superintendent’s report that through the board approved Memorandum of Understanding with Huron County Sheriff’s office, regarding School Resource Officer, Mike Conney.*” Mr. Wilde said he has no problem with Mr. Conney. He thinks he does a good job there. But in the MOU under section C, salaries and benefits. “*Norwalk City School Districts will be invoiced every month for total wage, benefits and other miscellaneous costs for one deputy sheriff,*” and it goes on

and on. Mr. Wilde has no idea what the benefits include or what the other costs are. He questioned if Norwalk City School knows, do they have something Mr. Wilde has not seen. He hopes it includes everything.

Mr. Brady said he saw the Sheriff at the Fair and he said he received the request for the public records. He did not understand why the MOU was put in the paper before it came to the commissioners, which is interesting. He explained to the Sheriff last night that under the code, all expenses must be collected. He said the Prosecutor's office has assured him the commissioners are not being held responsible if the Sheriff does not collect them. The Sheriff will be responsible. Mr. Strickler noted for the record, he did not review this MOU for the SRO for the 2024/2025 school year. His point is, it was not signed. Mr. Boose point is the first time the commissioners see the MOU is in a public news article. The Sheriff said he has no problem getting them to the commissioners; so why don't the commissioners already have them. Why is someone else approving them before the commissioners have it. He said it does not show to him much interest in the commissioner's input. Mr. Boose needs to know how rates and charges are being determined. School starts next week and he is assuming the SRO will also start next week. Mr. Brady asked Mr. Strickler in these contracts, such as the SRO, can the Sheriff enter into these contracts without being reviewed by the Prosecutors. Mr. Strickler said if he does, he does it at his own apparel. He said the Prosecutors do not approve the subject matter of the contract, they are approving that the contract meets the legal requirements of the state of Ohio for a contract, that is why it says, "*approved only as the form.*" Mr. Wilde confirmed this is what it said. Mr. Strickler said there must be an offer, there must be an acceptance and consideration for said offer for either buying something or receiving some kind of a service. This is the purpose of the Prosecutors reviewing the contracts. Mr. Strickler said when he reviews a contract he also looks at contractual provisions that may not be in the best interest of Huron County. In a policing contract such as this, he would make sure all the costs are as per the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Boose asked for the record, when the commissioners talk to CORSA, the commissioners pay insurance on every deputy, the individual and the vehicle. Mr. Strickler replied, yes. Mr. Boose said the commissioners need to know what expenses the Sheriff included in this contract. Mr. Boose said these are examples of their expenses he is going to need to know if the Sheriff included this in the contract. Mr. Strickler said he can not answer this question. Mr. Boose explained the reason this is important is because Willard City Schools and New London Schools pay their police department to do their SRO officers. He said anyone who pays taxes in these two communities, they are paying 100% for the SRO officers. Norwalk School District is in the city of Norwalk, but they are not providing the SRO, the Sheriff's department is. If 100% of the cost were covered, that is one thing. But if not, New London and Willard are subsidizing the SRO, that in his opinion, the city of Norwalk should be providing. He stated these are the reasons, the county commissioners must look out for the whole county.

At 10:15 a.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 August 15, 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 10:15 a.m.

Signatures on File