

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; Brad Mesenburg, Commissioner Elect; Patricia Didion, Resident; Luke Baucher, Garmann Miller; Chris Monnin, Garmann Miller; Sunil Desai, SONA; Harish Patel, SONA; Ramam Patel, SONA; Paul Lenhard, SONA; Matt Roche, Norwalk Ohio News.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the October 17, 2024 and October 22, 2024 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Bruce Wilde made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the October 17, 2024 and October 22, 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 9:05 a.m. Public comment - None

24-347

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ARPA FUNDS FOR THE HURON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING COOLING TOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AWARDDING THE PROJECT TO AIR FORCE ONE

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA program appropriates funds to provide support to State, local, Tribal and Territory governments in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Huron County has applied for and received ARPA funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury under the under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds established by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, all funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 shall be expended only to cover costs of the County consistent with the requirements of section 603(c)(1) of ARPA as described in H.R. 1319, and any applicable regulations and guidance only to cover expenses that:

- (1) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- (2) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- (3) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such county due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the county prior to the emergency; or
- (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners has engaged McDonald Hopkins LLC for assistance in determining the eligibility of projects for the use of ARPA funding pursuant to the regulations promulgated for ARPA; and

WHEREAS, McDonald Hopkins LLC has reviewed the Commissioners' request to utilize ARPA funds to replace the cooling tower at the Huron County Administration Building and has determined that the use of ARPA funds received by the County may be used under the Revenue Loss Category, a copy of McDonald Hopkins LLC's opinion is attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, Air Force One is a part of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Ohio Buys Program, State Contract Number CTR006257; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby authorize the use of ARPA funds to replace the cooling tower at the Huron County Administration Building; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby approve the Proposal submitted by Air Force One in the amount of \$57,261.00, 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

**On file*

24-348

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE USE OF ARPA FUNDS FOR THE HURON COUNTY COURTHOUSE TUCK POINTING PROJECT AND AWARDDING THE PROJECT TO WASINIAC CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Bruce Wilde moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the ARPA program appropriates funds to provide support to State, local, Tribal and Territory governments in responding to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Huron County has applied for and received ARPA funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury under the under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds established by American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, all funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 shall be expended only to cover costs of the County consistent with the requirements of section 603(c)(1) of ARPA as described in H.R. 1319, and any applicable regulations and guidance only to cover expenses that:

- (1) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- (2) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- (3) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such county due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the county prior to the emergency; or
- (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. and

WHEREAS, the Board of Huron County Commissioners has engaged McDonald Hopkins LLC for assistance in determining the eligibility of projects for the use of ARPA funding pursuant to the regulations promulgated for ARPA; and

WHEREAS, McDonald Hopkins LLC has reviewed the Commissioners’ request to utilize ARPA funds for tuck pointing at the Huron County Courthouse and has determined that the use of ARPA funds received by the County may be used under the Revenue Loss Category, a copy of McDonald Hopkins LLC’s opinion is attached hereto and expressly incorporated by reference herein; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby authorize the use of ARPA funds for tuck pointing at the Huron County Courthouse; and further

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners does hereby award the project to Wasiniac Construction, Inc in the amount of \$70,000.00, 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

**On file*

24-349

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE HURON COUNTY IRS 125 CAFETERIA PLAN (125 PLAN)

Bruce Wilde moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a review of the Huron County IRS 125 cafeteria plan (125 plan) as presented by WageWorks, the county’s 125 plan administrator, has been performed; and

WHEREAS, the review resulted in the production of an only slightly revised 125 plan in accordance with IRS standards; and

WHEREAS, the plan has been reviewed by the Human Resource office, the office of the County Auditor and the office of the County Prosecutor, and from their collective understanding is in line with the general practices surrounding 125 plans; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to maintain a 125 plan, and maintain compliance of same; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves the adoption of the proposed Huron County IRS 125 Cafeteria Plan for 2024, as attached hereto and incorporated herein, and appoint and authorize the HR Director as the administrator of said plan to execute any documents related to the plan; 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

Harry Brady, Commissioner, to Columbus, OH on November 8, 2024 for the CORSA Board Meeting.

Amber Stanley, HCDJFS, to Columbus, OH on November 22, 2024 for the OCATS Meeting.

SIGNINGS - None

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Boose reported a conversation he had with Steve Beal and his requests. Mr. Boose informed him the signage change order was approved for the new senior center. Mr. Beal is requesting the county

provide a dumpster to the Senior Center for cleanup before and during their move to the new location. They are moving a lot to the Willard Senior Center for use or storage.

Bruce Wilde moved to approve supplying a dumpster to Senior Enrichment for their office/building cleanup in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00. The payment will be from the general fund. Harry Brady seconded the motion.

****Discussion:*** Mr. Boose stated their request for the dumpster is sooner, rather than later. Mr. Boose also informed Mr. Beal that the county would like all their stuff removed out of the building ASAP, after the move. He does not want it to linger. Mr. Brady stated this cleanup would be on the County if the Senior Enrichment didn't clean it so he is in agreement to supply and pay for the dumpster.

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

Aye – Terry Boose

Aye – Harry Brady

Aye – Bruce Wilde

Mr. Boose stated Mr. Beal also discussed the issue with the oven that was ordered. The oven they ordered is no longer being manufactured. The company has supplied a quote for the next comparable model. Mr. Beal compared that to what is available and whether he could get the oven elsewhere. Mr. Beal is not able to get it anywhere else or any cheaper. He is requesting the Commissioners approve the quote for the comparable oven that Breckenridge Kitchen Equipment & Supply presented in the amount of \$10,706.00. Mr. Boose advised Mr. Beal to let the architect know so that the proper paperwork could be completed. Mr. Boose asked if the Board would be in favor of the purchase? If so, the official vote will be on a change order that will be submitted by the architect. The Board is in favor of the purchase. Ms. Ziemba stated this all must go through Ms. Holtzapple because it is not a straight purchase from the Board. She will check in with Ms. Holtzapple to make sure she is working on it.

Administrator/Clerk report

Ms. Ziemba stated she has been working on the County Farmland bid packet. Mr. Strickler has reviewed and made his revisions. Ms. Ziemba stated there are some outstanding questions, but this process needs to be started. Ms. Ziemba has been waiting to see if the Norwalk City Schools was going to sign the new agreement to have the County bid out their portion of the field. She received a call from Brad Cooley last week about adding additional language to the contract, but has not received anything. Mr. Boose recommends sending an email to NCS letting them know the county is bidding their portion next Tuesday. If the NCS wants the county to bid their property they need to have the contract to the Commissioners' Office before then. Ms. Ziemba stated she would need it by noon tomorrow. The Board agrees. Ms. Ziemba stated the airport board wants to include additional land to be farmed, but did not submit all the information, just a map. Mr. Boose stated that farmers may not want land that hasn't been farmed for years. Mr. Strickler stated as of today, the airport does not own the land they are asking to be farmed out. Mr. Brady stated it may be different land. Mr. Boose reiterated that the location of the land does not change the fact that there could be more to farming the property, if it hasn't been farmed for a few years. Mr. Boose recommends bidding out the same property as in the past for the airport. Mr. Boose asked Ms. Ziemba if anything needs changed with the Transfer Station property. Ms. Ziemba stated Mr. Welch did not need any changes. The Board would like a resolution to let the bid ready for their Tuesday meeting.

Assistant Prosecutor report

Mr. Strickler gave an update on the environmental covenant out on Shady Lane. He will have the deed later today. He will scan it and send it to BJAAM so they can complete the environmental covenant for the property.

Commissioner Wilde report

Mr. Wilde commented he would like to attend the pre-construction meeting for the downtown roofs today. Mr. Boose asked how the meeting in Willard was yesterday. Mr. Wilde said there was discussion of Willard providing water for Attica. He said the Chamber of Commerce is moving into the Willard Senior Center. CLI and Huron County Transportation needs drivers. Mr. Boose stated there was regional information at the meeting and lack of drivers is a regional situation, which is limiting public transportation because there just is not enough drivers. Mr. Brady said the nice thing about NCAT being regional is that they have brought drivers over from Seneca County at times to augment their drivers. Mr. Boose said it now takes a month to get a background check, so by the time they receive it, the applicant has already found another job. Mr. Brady said the program ODOT is rolling out in 2026, "on-demand" will be within 20 minutes of the call. Mr. Boose explained the fact that "on-demand" in the rural areas there are not enough people, for lyfts or ubers, because it is not profitable for them. Around the country, the "on-demands" are being subsidized and are more government type programs.

At 9:45 a.m. Seneca County Joint Ditch phone call for a ditch amendment. All Commissioners present.

IN THE MATTER OF: RESOLUTION – AMENDING RESOLUTION 24-155 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 7th day of November 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

William Frankart 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 amended and collected to fund maintenance work needed in 2025:

SC #11-067	Martin Jt. Co.	was 41.22%	now 39.70%
SC #11-110	Bordner Shank	was 0.00%	now 0.00%
SC #11-198	Landoll Nye	was 35.68%	now 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.

Terry Boose seconded the above motion and the vote upon its adoption resulted as follows:

SENECA COUNTY

Anthony Paradiso
Tyler Shuff
William Frankart

HURON COUNTY

Terry Boose
Bruce “Skip” Wilde
Harry Brady

Commissioner Wilde’s report continued

Mr. Wilde moved to cancel the December 5, 2024 meeting due the Board attending the CCAO Winter Conference. 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

Commissioner Brady report

Mr. Brady attended the FCFC (Family Children First Council) meeting yesterday. The main topic was, why children do not go to school.

Mr. Brady attended the Community Corrections meeting.

At 10:04 a.m. the Board recessed.

At 10:08 a.m. the Board resumed regular session with **Chris Monnin, Luke Baucher , Garmann Miller & Sunil Desai, Harish Patel, Ramam Patel, Paul Lenhard, SONA Construction for the Elevator Project discussion.** Mr. Monnin said he was asked to attend this meeting to discuss the elevator project and the liquidated damages that they were assessing to SONA Construction. A letter was sent in late June stating that the expectations were to have the construction completed by July 2nd, 2024. As they are aware, the substantial completion was late August. However, due to some inspections with the state of Ohio and timing to get them out, it was finally in October the elevator was turned over to the Commissioners; the day after early elections began. Mr. Desai, Project Manager for SONA Construction, said a reason was because there was extra work per the inspector. He contacted everyone on July 26th, 2024, and three weeks later everyone met here to discuss the items. The inspection was September 3rd, 2024. The second inspection was October 8th, 2024. Mr. Desai thinks SONA should be given extra time to complete these items and request the Commissioners reduce the liquidated damages. Mr. Boose noted it took a second inspection to get it done. Mr. Boose asked what needed to be done between the first and second inspection. Mr. Desai said a few items for the contractor, TKE. Mr. Boose noted the Commissioners did not hire TKE. Mr. Wilde said TKE is SONA's problem and they need to go see them. Mr. Wilde said if SONA's contractor, TKE was not performing, SONA needs to speak to them. He stated the Commissioner's contract was with SONA, not TKE. Mr. Boose pointed out the Commissioners had a computer that was needed for handicap accessibility in the building. They did not have it. He commented the penalty should have started earlier and much higher than it was. He stated the building had no handicap accessibility. It was in the contract when the elevator was supposed to be done. He said, yes things came up, however none of them were the Commissioners' fault. Mr. Boose feels the Commissioners were generous giving SONA till July 2nd, 2024 to complete the elevator. Mr. Boose explained when the Commissioners started this project, they expected it to be done long before July 2nd. He explained to SONA they were the General Contractor that did not meet the deadline. Mr. Brady concurred with Mr. Boose and pointed out Mr. Wilde had meetings with Garmann Miller and SONA reviewing timelines. Mr. Wilde asked if the elevator could be done by June 30th, 2024 and everyone in the meeting committed to June 30th, 2024. He commented for multiple weeks the Commissioners did not see anyone working on anything. This occurred all through the project. Mr. Wilde said when there was no one working at the building for whatever reason, there was also someone from the company sitting in the parking lot. Mr. Wilde said the person might have been the only person there for a week, two weeks and nothing was happening. Mr. Boose asked if SONA would like to say anything else. Mr. Patel said he came end of March to see how they could bring the equipment inside. They came twice to look. They spent almost \$18,000 to cut an opening in the exterior wall. They did not know and did not include this in their bills. But that was their problem so they took care of it. Mr. Patel said SONA also did not know about the extra items. He thinks it should have been done by end of July, maybe thirty days late. They are asking for extra time to perform all the extra items. Mr. Boose said he thinks from day one the project was very clear when it went out to bid what the Commissioners wanted done. It was up to SONA to figure out how to get it done on time, if they bid on it. He noted a couple weeks before the elevator car was going to be delivered, the Commissioners found out SONA had no idea how they were going to get it into the building. Mr. Boose is not happy they had to go into the exterior wall and tear it out. This should have all been done long before the material came. Mr. Wilde said at both meetings the Commissioners were promised June 30th, 2024. Mr. Boose and Mr. Wilde said at the meetings SONA was informed that any date after June 30th, 2024 there would be \$200 per day charged by the Commissioners for liquidated damages, at that time this was not contested. Mr. Brady felt \$200 per day was low anyhow and Mr. Wilde was promised June 30th, 2024 at both meetings. Mr. Patel asked, because if not for the additional work they could have been done by end of July, the Commissioners consider the assessment for liquidated damages be for 30 days. He said they depended on TKE and were calling every day asking why they were not on site. They were not responding and were from Detroit. They did not cooperate. Mr. Boose said it sounds like SONA has a complaint with TKE. The Commissioners did not hire TKE and SONA is totally responsible for the contract.

At 10:23 a.m. the Board recessed.

At 10:27 a.m. the Board resumed regular session.

Commissioner Brady's report continued

Mr. Brady contacted Ms. Habig to discuss the NCAT lease. He said Ms. Habig is satisfied with the lease. He spoke with Mr. Strickler to confirm and it will be signed in December, since there is no meeting in November due to their conference.

Mr. Brady called Mr. Sparks in reference to getting three quotes for the ditch project. Mr. Sparks said he has two and a third declined quoting because he could not do the project for under \$75,000. He is working on getting the third quote. Mr. Sparks did ask Mr. Brady if he could use money in the Legal fees account for roof and gutters. Mr. Brady explained no, because money cannot be pulled from one account and put it

for something that would be out of a different account. The Airport cannot use a legal fund to fix a building. Mr. Brady stated he did see the Sheriff yesterday. He reminded everyone the Sheriff wants to meet about county-wide communications, which the Sheriff called, dispatch. Mr. Brady told him again, it is not county-wide dispatch, but he will work with Ms. Ziemba to get an email set up for this meeting.

Commissioner Boose report

Mr. Boose commented that the transportation meeting was a really good meeting. He wanted to add one thing about this meeting, there is a lot of frustration with ODOT and with the state, about changing rules and not following rules. He mentioned as the past Chairman of Transportation in the House of Representatives, ODOT falls under the Governor's office. They have their own separate pot of money. They seem to have a lot of power with the House and the Senate. When he was the Representative if he wanted to make any changes with ODOT, it was extremely difficult. He would like to see public transportation broken out from ODOT. He feels some of their money should be put into public transit. It is one of the three main issues for workforce development; housing, child care and public transportation. He said ten years ago Ohio ranked 47th out of 50, he is not sure what it is today, however he thinks this is unacceptable. He feels Ohio does not spend the proper amount of money on public transportation. He does not know what that dollar amount is, but it should be more.

At 10:36 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 November 7, 2024.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Signatures on File