

**REGULAR SESSION**

**THURSDAY**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2008**

The Board of Huron County Commissioners met this date in Regular Session. Roll being called found the following members present: Mike Adelman, Gary W. Bauer, Ralph A. Fegley, absent.

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 305.14 the Record of the Proceedings of the February 19, 2008 meeting(s) were presented to the Board. Gary W. Bauer made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 19, 2008 meeting(s) and approve as presented. Mike Adelman seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye – Mike Adelman  
Aye – Gary W. Bauer  
Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

08-064

**IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING THE BID FOR THE RIDGE ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS PROJECT NO. CI05K & CI06K**

Gary W. Bauer moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution 08-021, the Board authorized the County Engineer to seek bids for the replacement of the Ridge Road Bridge, a project with funding in cooperation with the Ohio Public Works Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, bids were opened on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. with seven contractors responding on the project estimated to cost \$383,000:

<b>R &amp; I Construction Tiffin, OH</b>	<b>\$343,364.70</b>	
Crawford Construction Galion, OH	\$359,877.82	
U.S. Bridge & Iron LLC Norwalk, OH	\$365,453.00	
Ft. Defiance Construction Defiance, OH	\$367,151.95	
Suburban Maint. & Const. North Royalton, OH	\$378,490.09	
Mosser Construction Freemont, OH	\$391,738.00	
Schirmer Construction Co. North Olmsted, OH	\$445,874.10	and

**WHEREAS**, these bids have been reviewed by the Huron County Engineer for their compliance and completeness, and recommendation has been made that the bid be awarded to Crawford Construction; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners, Huron County, Ohio does hereby award the bid for the Ridge Road Bridge Replacement Project to R & I Construction Company, Inc. of Tiffin, Ohio with such funds as are necessary contributed, in part, by the Ohio Public Works Commission and the County Engineer's 127-00526-125 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.

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

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Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

08-065

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING RESOLUTION 08-049**

Gary W. Bauer moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, resolution 08-049 in the matter of **INCREASING THE SPECIAL FUNDS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL FUND** needs to be amended; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard O’Grady was included in resolution 08-049 for a pay increase but has not completed his probationary period; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. O’Grady will receive a \$.25 increase in pay after successfully completing the 120 day probationary period and receiving a favorable evaluation; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners amends Resolution 08-049 to omit Richard O’Grady from the 2% increase for Special Funds under the supervision of the Huron County Board of Commissioners; 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.

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

Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

08-066

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING REQUESTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF OVER \$500.00 SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FEBRUARY 21, 2008**

Gary W. Bauer moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, requests for expenditures of over \$500.00 have been submitted for approval by the Board of Huron County Commissioners as follows:

**Huron County Buildings & Grounds**

Shipley’s	copy paper	\$1,008.00
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**Huron County Department of Job & Family Services**

CDWG, Inc.	HP #45 Black Inkjet Print Cartridge	\$ 750.00	
CDWG, Inc.	HP Laser jet Toner Cartridges	\$ 3,470.50	now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves of the requests for expenditure of over \$500.00 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.

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

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Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

08-067

**IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN HURON COUNTY COMMISSIONER THROUGH THE HURON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES (hereinafter referred to as the “DEPARTMENT”) AND CLEVELAND HEARING & SPEECH CENTER, 1913 NORTH RIDGE ROAD, EAST, LORAIN, OHIO 44065 (PROVIDER)**

Gary W. Bauer moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Department has agreed to contract for the provisions of services for interpreting sign language of customers; and

**WHEREAS**, Provider desires to provide these services, and Provider agrees to provide qualifications and certifications as required prior to services rendered; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department and Provider have agreed to the training and/or services that Provider will furnish and the compensation the Department will pay Provider for said training and/or services; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners approves of the agreement with Cleveland Hearing and Speech Center as attached hereto and incorporated 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.

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

Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

**IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR LEAVE**

**Jason Roblin/EMA/Compensatory Time/8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. April 14, 2008.**

**Christina Norton/EMA/sick/8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. February 27, 2008/vacation/8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. March 3, 2008.**

**Larry Burdue/Buildings & Grounds/sick/11:00a.m. -4:30 p.m. February 14, 2008.**

**Vickie Ziembra/Commissioners/flex/3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. March 7, 2008/vacation/8:00 a.m. March 24, 2008 – 4:30 p.m. March 28, 2008.**

**SIGNINGS**

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REQUEST FOR DISBURSEMENT

NOTE: FUNDS CANNOT BE DISBURSED EXCEPT FOR PROJECT COSTS (I) ALREADY INCURRED BY THE BORROWER AND CURRENTLY DUE AND PAYABLE OR (II) PAID BY THE BORROWER FOR WHICH THE BORROWER IS SEEKING REIMBURSEMENT.

The undersigned, the duly authorized Executive of the County of Huron, Ohio (the "Borrower"), submits this Request for Disbursement on behalf of the Borrower (1,234,567.89) pursuant to Section 3.02 of that certain Loan Agreement by and between the County of Huron, Ohio (the "Lender") and the Borrower dated as of April 5, 2007, as the same may be supplemented and amended (the "Loan Agreement"). The Trustee shall disburse the amount requested herein to the following parties for the following purpose(s) in connection with the Project (as defined in the Loan Agreement):

Payee	Amount	Purpose
HuronCo	\$1,234,567.89	for the purchase of the equipment

The undersigned, on behalf of the Borrower, hereby certifies that:

- The portion of the Project for which disbursement of money is hereby requested either (i) has been acquired, constructed or installed by the Borrower and payment therefor is due and owing or (ii) has been previously paid by Borrower and the disbursement of the funds herein requested has been approved by the Borrower.
- The representations and warranties of the Borrower set forth in the Loan Agreement are true and correct on the date hereof, and the Borrower is in compliance with all terms, covenants and conditions of the Loan Agreement on the date hereof.

Dated: 2/21/08

COUNTY OF HURON, OHIO  
By: Mike Adelman  
County Commissioner

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**FEBRUARY 21, 2008**

Matthew Barrett  
State Representative  
77 S. High St  
10th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Representative Barrett:

At this time it is necessary for all agricultural equipment regardless of size, including anhydrous ammonia tanks, to go through downtown and residential areas of Norwalk, Ohio as farm equipment is not permitted to travel on the Norwalk by-pass. This by-pass is a four lane extension of U.S. Route 20 that takes the traffic around the center of Norwalk, with a speed limit of 55 mph as it is on the two lane section of the same route that farm equipment is permitted to travel across.

In many cases it is either the bypass or through the city as the only way to get from farm to farm or from supplier to farm.

We, the Board of Huron County Commissioners are in support of the request to permit the farm machinery, including anhydrous ammonia tanks to travel the Norwalk by-pass, as we feel this is a more logical way for the equipment operators, and the residents and business owners of Norwalk, Ohio.

Sincerely,

**HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Mike Adelman, Gary W. Bauer, Ralph A. Fegley, absent

Shltrepbarrett022108

**At 9:30 a.m. Public Comment**

Harry Brady, Business Agent Ohio & Vicinity Regional Council of Carpenters that services this area of Huron County, Erie County and part of Ashland County. Mr. Brady stated that he lives at 190 East Main Street, Norwalk, Ohio and feels this area has been under represented for what he does and stated that he aims to pay closer attention to Huron County. Discussed that he is working with Erie County as they are having a problem one of the jobs there continue to bring illegal aliens, and stated that they are having a significant problem with uses of 1099s and the counties and cities are not getting their tax money and they are seeing this occur more and more on construction sites. They are trying to make it clear that they are not foes to the county but allies. Mr. Brady stated that they want to provide not only quality contractors but also honest ones who have employees who live here and pay taxes.

**Roland Tkach, Auditor**, came before the board in regards to items for the 2008 budget. And read the following letter:

**HURON COUNTY AUDITOR**

**ROLAND TKACH**  
16 East Main Street Suite 300  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857  
419-668-4304  
[roland\\_t@hmcld.net](mailto:roland_t@hmcld.net)

February 21, 2008

Huron County Commissioners:

RE: Revenue & the County Budget

Dear Commissioners:

I wish to bring to your attention that the 2008 carry over at \$1,759,290.69 is the lowest in 10 years. It is 12% less than the carry over in 2007. Total revenue to the General Fund is down 11% from all sources for the month of January, and that includes sales tax. The sales tax alone as a total YTD is down \$40,983 which is a 3 1/2% decrease from February of 2007.

Enclosed is a copy of a report from the BGSU Center for Regional Development, "State of the Region" that suggests that our area of Ohio may be in an economic down turn. It is my hope that our revenue has taken a small dip and might recover to the 2007 level. However, the reality could be that our local economy is in a slow down that will have a negative impact on the county budget. In making the Huron County general fund budget final, I would like to point out that in past years the revenue estimates have always been under the actual revenue collected. It is my hope this will be the case for 2008. It is important that an adequate carry over be maintained from year to year to insure the obligations needs of the general fund are met for the first two months of the year.

Sincerely,  
  
Roland Tkach  
Huron County Auditor

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It is important that an adequate carry over be maintained from year to year and this is important. Stated from the Economic Outlook, 2008 will be a difficult year for Northwest Ohio. The economy is in decline, and a recession is a real possibility. Mr. Tkach stated that these are the kind of realities that he wants to review. Turned to the third page of the packet that he distributed. For the first month of the year we were down 8% in sales tax here to date we are down 3 ½%. We know that there can be fluctuations in the sales tax collection as a whole. Mr. Tkach stated that he would like to point out that in 2005 the increase from 2004 was 7% and typically we see a growth for the most part between 1% and 2% a year and the reason for that bump was the destination sales tax kicked in, which really helped us and leveled things out and held it to a level, but we are kind of going into an unknown term at this point. The next page reviewed was the general fund revenue. Revenue is not going in the right direction. Discussed the ½% sales tax and the fact that it is not covering the expenses of running the jail. Mr. Adelman stated that every time that he has spoken to groups or individuals, he has taken the opportunity to point out that the general fund budget is nearly fifty percent of the funds go to law enforcement, which includes the jail and the court system, and those expenses continue to increase. This illustrates exactly what we have talked about that the ½% does not cover the jail expense. The figures that Mr. Tkach presented shows that it has to be subsidized out of the general fund, and there is no question that is the primary factor why expenditures have crept ahead of the revenue. Mr. Tkach also stated that he outlined what the budget was for 2007 for everything in the criminal justice system, which states 48% general fund budget goes to the criminal justice. Mr. Adelman stated that he spoke about this last week at the CCAO Trustee meeting with a commissioner from Morrow County. One thing that we all know is that the counties have one common thread; we are all facing these budget issues on expenses continuing to rise and revenues either leveling out or dropping down. In Morrow County, their jail is in three units, they are closing two of the three units of that jail, eliminating positions. They are going to take the prisoners to other facilities. Mr. Adelman stated that he was told that this will cost less than if they operate their own jail, and pay employees to be there. So things like this are happening there are counties that do not maintain a Public Defender's Office. We have been able to maintain services in the past when the county had tough times, not too much different than what we are heading into here at this time. Mr. Adelman reviewed the past years and stated that they are very aware of what Mr. Tkach is telling them in regards to the revenue. Mr. Adelman stated that in 2007 the final budget was \$15,532,000 and the revenue estimate for this is \$15,535,000 which is only a difference of \$3,000 and that is the difference between the numbers that we have to work with. There is no question we will do all we can as we did a few years ago, and that is all you can do. We will stretch those dollars as far as we can. Mr. Bauer stated that this is all a concern and we have talked about that and in the last two weeks we have requests for another \$150,000 and everyone wants the next dollar and many of them can be justified but we are going to have to say no. Mr. Tkach stated that we can sit down and make budgets for whatever we want, we can make revenue estimates but this is reality, the pay roll checks are good this week, and out of the general fund every pay is about \$250,000 and before the pay-in this morning from sales tax we had \$380,000 in cash and that when we look at what the carryover is, it is very important that there is some because the cash needs of the county have to be met. Does not want to get into a position where our budget is this, but our cash is where it is at and we are waiting on the state. Mr. Tkach asked for some specific meetings between the Auditor and the Commissioners before the final budget is finished to really assess this whole situation so that we can come to some kind of an agreement and a focal point as to where revenue meets expenses. Mr. Bauer stated that this will have to take place within the next two weeks. Mr. Tkach stated that in the perfect world this would happen before the tenth of March and hopefully the state will be on time as to where they are at with sales tax. At that time we would have the first quarter of the year and the settlement would be done and we would have a pretty good idea, and doesn't want to be too conservative and start looking at across the board cuts and the estimate be too low, but we don't want to be heading into the fourth quarter of the year and the bulk of money already spent by August. Mr. Bauer stated that this is not going to change and doesn't think it looks any better for 2009 either. Mr. Tkach stated that essentially we have spent \$300,000 more this year than we did at this time last year, and stated that he is not sure where those expenses really came from at this point. Mr. Tkach stated that he has not come up with a deficit figure yet and thinks that has to be a discussion with the county commissioners, but sees that as a real concern with the things that he reads and the numbers that he sees, and we need to head it off before it becomes a real problem. Mr. Adelman stated that this is a common thread, with not just the counties but also the state of Ohio. At the CCAO meeting last Friday they had the people from Governor Strickland's talking about the taxes, the revenues, and they are making huge adjustments on their biannual budget right now, and they are projecting a short fall of eight hundred and some million dollars and looking how to make cuts, so this is not isolated in this county. It is just that expenditures are continually on the rise and revenues have flattened out or on the decline.

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Discussion was had in regards to hiring a consultant for the CHIP program from two consultant firms, CT Consultant, Poggemeyer Design Group. The board has reviewed the two consultants, and each did a rating sheet for the two. After reviewing the proposals Mr. Bauer rated CT Consultants at 99 out of a possible 100 points, Mr. Fegley rated CT Consultants 96 out of a possible 100 points, and Mr. Adelman rated CT Consultants 98 out of a possible 100 points. Mr. Bauer rated Poggemeyer Design Group, 87 out of a possible 100 points, Mr. Fegley rated Poggemeyer Design Group, 84 out of a possible 100 points, and Mr. Adelman rated Poggemeyer Design Group 88 out of a possible 100 points. The rating was done in the areas of experience in the administration of CDBG and CHIP programs and other Federal programs; Professional Qualifications of the firm and resumes; Familiarity of the firm with the type of services to be performed, experience working with projects involving the administration and implementation of federal and/or state funds; past record of performance on contracts related to federal or state grants or similar services; past record of performance in relation to architecture and engineering services on federal and state programs; ability or capacity of the firm to perform work within the time limitation as defined by the specific grant, taking into consideration the current and planned work load of the firm; furnish list of CDBG and CHIP projects, and/or other federal, state and local programs that the firm has been involved and also bonus points. After completing the rating the board agreed to hire CT Consultants to apply and implement the CHIP program grant.

08-068

**IN THE MATTER OF HIRING CONSULTANT TO APPLY AND IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT (CHIP)**

Gary W. Bauer moved the adoption of the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the county desires to engage a consultant to provide technical assistance in the application for and implementation of a Comprehensive Housing Improvement Program Grant (CHIP);

now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Huron County Commissioners hereby approves hiring C T Consultants, Inc. to provide technical assistance in the application for and implementation of a Comprehensive Housing Improvement Program Grant; 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.

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

Aye – Mike Adelman  
Aye – Gary W. Bauer  
Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

**Assistant Prosecutor’s Report**

Daivia Kasper stated that she would need to speak to the board in Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G) (3).

**OTHER BUINESS**

Mr. Bauer presented a letter in regards to why Erie County does not have an airport and why they are part of the Ottawa County Regional Airport, and also presented the three annexation agreements between the Bellevue City and the three townships.

Mr. Bauer reported on a meeting that he attended in Willard, Ohio in regards to commercial inspection and a consulting firm.

**At 10:15 a.m.** Gary W. Bauer moved to enter into **Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G) (3)** ) a conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Mike Adelman seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

**At 10:25 a.m.** Gary W. Bauer moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G) (3). Mike Adelman seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Aye – Mike Adelman

Aye – Gary W. Bauer

Absent – Ralph A. Fegley

\*No action taken.

Daivia Kasper, stated that she had talked with Phyllis Dunlap, CT Consultants, in regards to the Jennifer Gore housing rehabilitation and she stated that as far as CT is concerned the work is complete as signed by Jennifer Gore, property owner, which makes the project complete and accepted by the home owner. The board would like to have a letter written for them to sign stating this as well and also give them a last chance to respond to have work changed as requested and offered.

**At 10:45 a.m.** Gary W. Bauer moved to adjourn. Mike Adelman seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

#### **IN THE MATTER OF OPEN SESSION**

The Huron County Commissioners hereby attest that all actions and deliberations of the Board legally required to be public were conducted in an open session on this date and that the foregoing minutes represent the official action of the Board.

#### **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 February 21, 2008.

#### **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 10:45 a. m.

Signatures on File.