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

The following were also in attendance: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk; Randal Strickler, Assistant Prosecutor; Mia Phillips, Executive Assistant; Patricia Didion, Resident; Jeff Harwood, Coroner; Megan Bursley, Treasurer; Jim Conway, Judge, Common Pleas Court; Bill Thorman, Huron County Law Library; Shylee Greszler, Norwalk Ohio News.

Budget Meetings:

At 9:01 a.m. Dr. Jeffrey Harwood, Coroner

Dr. Harwood reported overdose cases have gone considerable down this past year. He said Huron County peaked in 2020, primarily because of the drug epidemic, they had 78 cases and 43 autopsies, which cost \$81,000. However, in 2024 there were approximately 41 cases and 17 autopsies. There were only 5 overdoses in 2024. Last year he only spent approximately \$35,000, with the major expense being the autopsies.

Dr. Harwood explained Lucas County Commissioners do a lot of work for the surrounding counties. The question the Commissioners have is if they are bringing in enough money to cover this cost or are the Lucas County tax payers subsidizing the other counties. He pointed out periodically there have been rate increases, such as \$1,750 for autopsies now. Late last year their coroner announced they would like to start a retainer-type program. They are going to look at the volume from each county the past two years (2023-2024). Compare Huron County's percentage with the other counties' percentages and discount this cost by two-thirds the first year and one-third the second year. This is in addition to the \$1,750 cost per autopsies. If the trend continues to go down this additional cost would be adjusted. However, this proposed contract was not completed by the end of the year. They did send an extended contract for the end of February. Dr. Harwood does not know at this time when this may be implemented.

Dr. Harwood stated in the fall of 2022 he did speak to the commissioners about adding more money in the budget for an investigator. Huron County traditionally has had some physicians, who were helping out for approximately \$1,500 per year. Dr. Trippee has also helped out in the past, and charged approximately \$1,000 per year. He pointed out Dr. Trippee, who is his main contact in Norwalk, is getting close to retirement.

Dr. Harwood noted in looking at the surrounding comparable counties, he is the only coroner left still doing the job. Now, the majority of health care physicians are employed by someone that offer benefits. Traditionally coroners had their own private practice, which gave them benefits. Some county coroners are covering more than one county. For this purpose, he did request an additional \$25,000, however he has not found anyone yet and with the cases down in 2024 it was not an issue.

Mr. Dunlap asked if legislatively, in the future, could nurse practitioners be coroners. Dr. Harwood replied they could certainly be investigators. He explained in the United States there are typically two political Administrations, the Medical Examiners, who are a MD or DO, appointed by the county. Ohio has a blended system, while they are elected, they must be MD and DO. Dr. Harwood felt nurse practitioner could be, but there could be some opposition to this idea.

Mr. Brady thanked Dr. Harwood for answering the question about the investigator. He still feels there is a need and stated some of the committees he has been on are talking about maybe not making it an elected official and the commissioners would hire the person and maybe regionalizing multiple counties. He feels it would benefit the county to have an investigator. Mr. Brady thinks it would be important and a benefit to have an investigator in our county.

Mr. Dunlap asked what qualifications are required for an investigator. Dr. Harwood said physicians learn much of it in medical school and counties, such as, Cuyahoga County has 2 to 3-day training courses for certification by taking a test and they do not have to be a doctor.

Dr. Harwood stated there is debate over how to pay investigators. He felt \$75 to \$150 per day would be easiest to manage. He asked the Commissioners if they could budget \$35,000 this year. Mr. Mesenburg asked if he was good with his current budget. Dr. Harwood replied yes.

At 9:22 a.m. Harry Brady opened the Investment Board Meeting with Megan Bursley, Treasurer in attendance. Commissioner Tom Dunlap in attendance.

Harry Brady made the motion to appoint Tom Dunlap to be the chairman of the Investment Board. Tom Dunlap seconded that motion. All voting in favor.

Tom Dunlap made the motion to appoint Harry Brady to be the Vice Chairman of the Investment Board. Harry Brady seconded that motion. All voting in favor.

Harry Brady moved to approve the November 19th, 2024 minutes as presented. Tom Dunlap seconded the motion. All voting in favor.

Ms. Bursley stated the Civista Bank General Fund Account ended at \$8, 270,175.76. Their Premier Bank Money Market ended at \$3,800,900.97. She noted she did close the PNC Market Account and moved these funds into Premier, because Premier has a much better interest rate. STAR Ohio is at \$13,303,594.92 for the end of the year. She also reported moving some funds out of STAR into Meeder Investments for more of a long-term range. At the end of the year it was at \$35,551,508.12. This compares to where they were at the end of 2023.

Mr. Brady explained this \$60 million dollars that is here is not general fund money. This money is not all disposable. This is money is from everything in the county, such as, special funds and many other things. Megan said if the commissioners do any big spending, she will pull from these sources. Mr. Brady said it is not all under the commissioners. Mr. Mesenburg pointed out there is a \$6,000,000 difference, between last year and 2023, because AARP money is leaving. He stated this number will go down again this year. Ms. Bursley said she pulled quite a bit of money from STAR into the county checking account to cover because the AARP funds are leaving. Mr. Mesenburg noted they will be in the \$50 million range easily next year.

Ms. Bursley reported on page four, the checking account interest made by the Landfill, PNC and Premier at the end of the year, which was \$188, 286.26. She noted there will now be two accounts because she closed PNC. On page six is the Landfill report, which they ended in December with a balance of \$44,130.09 Lastly, Ms. Bursley reviewed the Meeder Investment report. She reported the new purchases noted on page seventeen.

Tom Dunlap made the motion to adjourn the Investment Board meeting. Harry Brady seconded that motion. At 9:30 a.m. the Investment Board meeting stood adjourned. All voting in favor.

Tuesday, November 19th, 2024

The Huron County Investment Board held its guarterly meeting on November 19th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the office of the County Commissioners at 180 Milan A

In attendance were Commissioners Terry Boose and Skip Wilde. Absent was Harry Brady. Also present: Vickie Ziemba, Administrator/Clerk to the Board, Randy Strickier, Assistant Prosecutor, members of the press from the Norwalk Reflector and Norwalk Ohio News, Brad Mesenburg, and Tom Dunlap upcoming Commissioners.

nissioner Boose, the 2024 Investment Board Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order

Roll call was taken. Members present: Commissioner Boose, Treasurer Bursley. Absent Co

Treasurer Bursley made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the August 27th, 2024, Investment Board Quarterly meeting and approve them as written. Treasurer Bursley made the motion, seconded Commissioners Boose All voted yes, motion carried.

The Board reviewed third quarter reports from 2024.

STAR Ohio current rate as of 10/31/2024 is 5.04%, STAR Ohio rate was 5.29% in September, 5.43% on July 31st, 2024. vas 5.45% in April 2024, and was 5.54% in January 2024.

Meeder's projected investment income for 2025 is \$2.2 million. Our investmen \$186,113.79 bringing the total for investment interest for 2024 to \$493,559.26. nent interest for the third quarter is

Treasurer Bursley informed the board that she moved \$5 million from STAR Ohio to Meeder in October and will be moving another \$5 million from STAR Ohio to Meeder in November. This will help put our investment portfolio to u with more sustainable investments. Treasurer Bursley also noted she moved \$5.6 million from STAR Ohio into our depository account to keep our account balance at a healthy sustainable level.

After going through quarterly reports, Treasurer Bursley handed the floor over to Eileen Stanic from Meeder to go over Summary of Huron County Account Balances as of December 31st, 2023 the County Investment Strategy Update.

A list of the top 50 delinquents in the County was provided. Treasurer Bursley noted that there were some who were already on payment contracts and that not all on the list were certified delinquent.

Commissioner Boose wondered when the county could expect to see any revenue for a pilot program that was offered for a wind farm, Emerson Creek. Construction was slated to being late spring 2025. Treasurer Bursley wasn't aware of this pilot program due to it's initial start being before she was Treasurer. Treasurer Bursley said she would keep an eye out for any information pertaining to any wind farm payment information.

The next meeting will be in January 2025, at 180 Milan Av

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Megan Bursley

Huron County Treasurer

Summary of Huron County Account Balances 2024 as of December 31st, 2024

Civista Bank General Fund Account: \$ 8.270.175.76

Premier Bank Money Market: \$ 3,800,900.97

PNC Money Market: \$ 0.00

STAR Ohio: \$ 13,303,594.92

Meeder Investments: \$ 35.551,508.12

Total: \$ 60.926.179.77

Civista Bank General Fund Account: \$ 9,170,950.28

Premier Bank Money Market: \$ 2,721,500.81

PNC Money Market: \$ 852,986.26

STAR Ohio: \$ 29,209,959.01

Meeder Investments: \$ 24,912,483.32

Total: \$ 66.867.879.68

At 9:31 a.m. Megan Bursley, Treasurer

Ms. Bursley stated the biggest change she would like to request is that her employees are split by hours 70/10. She said with the delinquency going down they are seeing less funding in that account. She would like to move them 100% to the general fund. Her salary went up a bit, so there is money in this line. She requested raises for her employees, if possible. She asked for an extra \$5,000 due to advertising costs increasing. Mr. Brady mentioned they were trying to allow posting the advertising online. Mr. Strickler commented the problem is there is a statute still says it must be advertised at least once in a newspaper with general circulation.

Ms. Bursley stated they are on the radar to go on the county website. At this time, she does not have a website. Mr. Mesenburg asked if she was looking to have online payment options? Ms. Bursley confirmed she will be looking at vendors for online payments and phone payments. She said right now, those payments go through the Auditor's website, which works however, it has its limitations. Ms. Bursley would like a new video surveillance system. The system they have now is very outdated and hard to view. She is working with IT.

At 9:38 a.m. Tom Dunlap 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 <u>pending or imminent</u> court action. Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

At 9:47 a.m. Tom Dunlap moved to end Executive Session ORC 121.22 (G)(3). Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

*no action taken

At 9:55 a.m. Jim Sitterly and Randy Strickler, Prosecutor's Office

Mr. Sitterly stated he believes the most significant request is the reallocation of salaries that are currently devoted to the Victims Assistance line item into the office salary line, this being #001.006.00100 and 125.

In addition to this reallocation up to this point, since 2006, one attorney in the office is partially subsidized by Delinquent Tax and Assessment Collection Fund (DTAC), which is subsidized by a percentage of delinquent taxes collected in Huron County. There is a fund for both the prosecutor's office, as well as the treasurer's office. The money had incrementally come into both offices, however by 2008 there was a windfall of delinquent taxes because of the recession. Mr. Sitterly said they did not have an attorney in the office, until a few years ago, who aggressively capitalized on the delinquent taxes potential. This attorney became so efficient, that they are now having difficulty finding any delinquent tax source to draw from. As a result, they can no longer subsidize this attorney out of DTAC. Mr. Strickler requested an additional \$751.50 for FOJ.

Mr. Sitterly explained that there are slight bumps in unemployment, OPERS and Medicare. Also, with the reallocation from the Victim Assistant salaries into the employee salaries, they are requesting the county to incorporate the employee's insurance policies into the general fund.

Mr. Brady asked if they still have two part-time employees. Mr. Strickler said no they are full-time now. Mr. Sitterly confirmed there is one assistant and they have a volunteer who will not be there much longer. He stated when Mr. Dunlap was commissioner there were three, one was part-time. Mr. Brady pointed out they have three courts which potentially they could need someone in all three courts.

Mr. Sitterly commented the numbers have doubled, in terms of cases. The number of assistants they needed to shore-up the difference. They have been able to wing it so far with Victim Assistance employees. The assistants are spread thin.

Mr. Dunlap said it's important to note that Victim Assistance is a constitutional requirement. Mr. Mesenburg asked if the prosecutors had any insight of how surrounding counties are funding their victim assistance budgets. Mr. Sitterly states Sandusky County does not receive a grant, their commissioners just

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pay out-of-pocket. Mr. Strickler said Richland County does about the same thing. Mr. Sitterly said if you are measuring Ms. Border's value, she is above the curve, because she is still bringing grants into the county. Mr. Mesenburg commented there are some decisions to be made because this is a large ask to be taken from the general fund.

Mr. Mesenburg asked if for their computer equipment, they were on a cycle. Mr. Strickler confirmed yes, they replace three every year.

Mr. Brady asked, are they going to continue to pursue grants? If so, Ms. Border will not come out of the general fund. He also asked the prosecutors if they are asking for a full-time and a part-time person. Mr. Strickler confirmed they are requesting a full-time person (Ms. Mutchler) and a part-timer person, which they will need to hire. He stated right now they have an intern, however at some point, the intern will be leaving. Mr. Strickler confirmed Ms. Border is completely paid for by the grant.

Mr. Brady pointed out the commissioners are already funding all of the pay for Ms. Mutchler's pay. Mr. Strickler confirmed they are asking for both Ms. Mutchler and Ms. Border be put in the general fund health insurance. Mr. Sitterly explained Ms. Mutchler was part-time, then someone full-time left last year, so she is back to the full-time position. The part-time position will need to be filled. Mr. Strickler said really the commissioners are only adding one person's health insurance, which is Ms. Border, to the general fund.

At 10:06 a.m. the Board recessed. At 10:14 a.m. the Board resumed regular session.

SIGNINGS

Tom Dunlap moved to approve the letter sent to the Village of Monroeville regarding the 9-1-1 Levy Funding Allocation. Harry Brady seconded the motion.

*<u>Discussion</u>: Mr. Brady asked if this is the case for them, would it behoove the commissioners to send this letter to the other entities. Ms. Ziemba commented if they haven't asked she would assume what was sent last year was sufficient.

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

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

Village of Monroeville 21 North Main Street PO Box 156 Monroeville, OH 44847

Dear Ms. Beck,

Subject: 911 Levy Funding Allocation

We are writing in response to your recent inquiry to the Huron County Sheriff regarding the coverage of dispatch fees through the 911 levy. After careful consideration and review, the Huron County Commissioners have determined that the 911 levy funds will not be used to cover dispatch fees. This a continuation of the policy of the previous board.

As you may be aware, the 911 levy was specifically established to support the infrastructure and operational needs of our countywide emergency communications system. The primary purpose of these funds is to cover expenses related to communication equipment in the dispatch office and the maintenance and enhancement of the county's tower infrastructure. This ensures that all emergency services, including those in the Village of Monroeville, have access to reliable and effective communications systems for public safety.

Contrary to misleading statements, the funding generated from the 911 levy is not designated for general dispatch operational costs or staffing fees. The Board of Commissioners feel that the Sheriff's Office does a fantastic job in keeping dispatch costs low for our municipalities and local fire departments.

We hope this clarification helps, and we remain committed to supporting the overall functionality of our 911 services to ensure the safety and well-being of all Huron County residents.

H v	ou have a	ny further	auestions.	please	do not	hesitate to	contact	our office.
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Sincerely,	
HURON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	
Harry Brady	
Tom Dunlap	
Bradley R. Mesenburg	

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Mesenburg Report:

Senior Center Lease:

Mr. Mesenburg reported he had a meeting with Mr. Beal concerning the utilities. He noted during the last Board it was said the Senior Enrichment Center would be responsible for all utility bills moving forward. Mr. Beal asked him to bring it to the Board, for consideration, if they would be willing to pay for utilities. Mr. Mesenburg stance is no. Mr. Strickler mentioned he was also at the meeting, and Mr. Beal stated the utilities are \$25,000 per year. Mr. Dunlap confirmed he heard multiple times in last year's board meetings he attended, the Senior Enrichment Center would be responsible for the utility bills once the building opened. Mr. Strickler said Mr. Beal requested the meeting to pitch this idea to the commissioners, before they change the name on the utility bills.

Mr. Mesenburg asked if everyone was good with the lease as presented by Mr. Strickler. Ms. Ziemba pointed out typically the commissioners need to give their stamp of approval, then Mr. Strickler will forward the lease to the lessee to review and ultimately the commissioners approve it at the end. Mr. Mesenburg confirmed he does approve of the lease and feels they should accompany a letter with it stating the commissioners will not pay the utilities. Ms. Ziemba asked if there could be a time limit for the Senior Enrichment Center to sign and return the lease. Mr. Mesenburg asked if they could retro back the rent and the utilities. Ms. Ziemba confirmed the utilities will be retro back to January 1st, 2025, she also noted that Ms. Stebel has billed them for January. Mr. Stickler asked if the commissioners were OK with making the lease for 40 years, because this is what the prior Board requested. He said there is a statute that says when dealing with Senior Services, they can negotiate whatever terms the commissioners decide. Mr. Brady likes a 10-year, with a possible 2, 5-year renewals. Mr. Stickler confirmed he will make this change.

Norwalk Arts Center Lease:

Mr. Mesenburg stated this lease is up at the end of March this year. Mr. Mesenburg feels they have no more money to give on the rent side. They are making progress towards their theatre. They are saying their goal is to be done and moved into the Theatre by July 2027. He feels they should extend their lease until July 2027. Mr. Dunlap said though the rent is low, they are doing something for the community by restoring the theatre. Mr. Brady commented this is a small town and the fact that there is still a historic theatre, which is being restored, enhances the county as a whole. He thinks they should approach the fundraiser in a different way, and wishes they would go after grants. Mr. Dunlap thinks they are. Mr. Brady wants people to know that the Art Center Lease is one of those extenuating circumstances. This Board inherited this situation. He does not want this to be seen as a precedence. Mr. Dunlap said it's working for both the community and the commissioners. Mr. Brady suggested an entire new contract. Mr. Strickler agreed, for it has been amended too many times. They will change the dates and make it go through July 31st, 2027. Ms. Ziemba asked Mr. Mesenburg if there will be an option to renew. Mr. Mesenburg confirmed there will be no option to renew. Mr. Stickler confirmed the lease will be the same except he will take the option to renew out and change the dates. Ms. Ziemba asked Mr. Strickler to send the updated lease to everyone to review. Mr. Mesenburg asked Ms. Ziemba to send Ms. Lukasko a heads-up email. Ms. Ziemba asked Mr. Strickler if he could get the new lease completed and sent to everyone to review as soon as possible. Mr. Brady pointed out last year the commissioners ended up changing out the back door because they said it did not work. The commissioners paid to do this for them. He noted even by the end of the year their \$500 per month rent did not pay for this door. He does not want this to happen again and thinks they should be

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told if they need repairs, they will pay for them. Mr. Mesenburg suggested the commissioners look at repairs on a case by case basis. Mr. Brady also asked Mr. Strickler if there was a subletting clause in the lease. The commissioners all agree there will be no subletting. Mr. Strickler will check and update this clause.

IN THE MATTER OF TRAVEL

Tom Dunlap moved to approve the following travel request this day. Harry Brady seconded the motion. The roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

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

Amber Stanley, JFS, to Toledo, Ohio for UX (county operations) Info Session on April 9, 2025. Harry Brady to Columbus, Ohio for Legislative Reception on April 8, 2025.

Commissioner Brady Report:

Mr. Brady reported he attended the NCAT meeting yesterday and presented the proclamations. He said there is a system that ODOT pays for called Go Bus. It is like Grey Hound. They go from Cincinnati, Athens, Columbus and other routes they will be running. What they do not have is something in northwest Ohio. He stated they are interested in putting a stop in Norwalk. He announced this afternoon at 2:00 pm there is a transit meeting, which is run by GLCAP Mobility Management, at JFS. The gentleman that is overseeing this will be on a phone conference call explaining more about this. Mr. Brady asked if someone from Norwalk Ohio News could attend this meeting. He stopped at Norwalk City Hall and spoke with Mayor Light. He suggested Mayor Light attend as well. Mr. Dunlap asked what the purpose is of the transit to the different cities? Mr. Brady explained it is to help people get to these different cities if they do not have transportation and in a less expensive manner. He will attend the CEBCO meeting next Friday.

Budget Meetings continued:

At 10:39 a.m. Bill Thorman, Judge Conway, Common Pleas Court

Mr. Thorman stated he submitted the amount for a 1% increase in salaries. They will have a new hire, starting March 3rd, 2025, Probation Officer, she will not get the 1% increase. Mr. Dunlap asked for clarification, what is the funding mechanism for the new probation officer, are the commissioners just be picking up the insurance? Mr. Thorman replied yes health insurance only, because the salary will come from TCAP funding. Ms. Ziemba asked if this salary was in their 008 account. Mr. Thorman replied it is not in the 008 account and will not be.

Mr. Brady asked if this was a new position? Judge Conway confirmed it is a new position. He stated they have had a 100% increase in mental health cases. These folks the court tries to get on the intensive supervised probation program. Ms. Cooke, the Chief Probation Officer, approached Judge Conway asking for another intensive supervised probation officer, because a greater amount of time needs to be spent with them. Ms. Boonie has absorbed half of the case load. The new person will handle Ms. Boonie's case load. Ms. Howard has been hired to be the new probation officer, she is from the Sheriff's office and is bilingual. The funding mechanism for this is TCAP, which funded two things to the court they no longer use. They expect the grant for TCAP to be ongoing source of funds.

Mr. Brady asked if they foresee a need for any additional help due to the case load. Judge Conway stated when he leaves there may be a need to start a second judgeship, however he is not sure. He feels if the county asked for it, it would probably be approved and granted.

Mr. Brady asked how important is it to fix the restroom on the 3rd floor, which has been in discussion for a long time. Judge Conway stated in the time that he has been there, they have had two juries going at the same time, maybe three times. During these times the jurors used the 2nd floor restroom, but then you have jurors wondering around, which is not an ideal situation. He does feel however, it should be a functional restroom and it should be fixed. He would rather see the 5th floor for probation improvement first, however it should be on your list of things to do.

Mr. Dunlap asked if Judge Conway saw any pitfalls in moving the Law Library. Judge Conway answered there is a requirement that the Law Library have space in the courthouse. He pointed out technology has changed in the way research is done in the legal field. He feels all the stacks of books are not necessary, because they are all digitized and can be on one computer. The Law Library could be a much smaller presence. Mr. Dunlap asked if Judge Conway could help the commissioners convince the BAR association to move it.

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Mr. Strickler pointed out Judge Conway doesn't have the authority to override the 6th District Court of Appeals, who ruled the entire 3rd floor must be the Law Library. Judge Conway said they could approach the 6th District of Appeals on this. He feels as far as future planning, does it make sense in 2025, for all the space to be used for old books that no one ever looks at? He confirmed a law librarian was hired January 14th, 2025. Mr. Mesenburg said it may take a discussion and submitting a request to the 6th District. Judge Conway agreed and said it would be good to come to an agreement with the Law Library Board and the BAR Association that makes sense and protects the Law Library, but also makes good use of space, that otherwise really is just going to waste right now.

Mr. Thorman stated he is getting quotes on cameras for the security outside. Ms. Ziemba suggested working with Mr. Riedy, IT Director for this.

At 11:00 a.m. Tom Dunlap moved to adjourn. Harry Brady seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

IN THE MATTER OF CERTIFICATION

The Clerk to the Board does hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct record of all actions taken by the Board of Huron County Commissioners on February 20, 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Signatures on File