

Commissioners' Journal
June 30, 2020

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on June 30, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room located at 470 Center Street, Building #8 in Chardon, Ohio.

It is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of County Commissioners that resulted in such formal action were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The President of the Board, Timothy C. Lennon opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

I thank you, God, for peace of mind

"I come to You, God, because I need peace of mind. When I read the newspapers, listen to the radio, watch television, I sometimes become disturbed and upset, anxious and fearful. I do not want to feel this way, but I am a part of the world. I need peace of mind."

Many of us pray such a prayer, consciously or unconsciously. This is our world. We feel a sense of responsibility. We want to bless our world and the people in it. Worry, as we well know, is not the answer. But prayer will quiet anxiety. Prayer will inspire thoughts and words and actions that will help to bless and change conditions. Whoever we are, wherever we are, our prayers are needed. As we find peace of mind, as we release fear and doubt, we add to the peace of our world.

Our prayer can be, "Thank you, God, that this is Your world, that You are in charge. I am knowing this now, and I have peace of mind."

He is our peace, Amen

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items he approved on June 26, 2020, that Included for Maintenance to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Gable Elevator, Incorporated to perform maintenance and inspections on the Geauga County Annex Elevator for a two-year period with the option to renew for an additional two years in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; approved and executed a service Contract Agreement with Nelski, Incorporated d.b.a. Paul Davis Cleveland Metro to replace Rear Annex Steps for the period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00; for Transit approved hiring David Lair, Jr. to the position of Operation Manager (#2218) to be effective July 13, 2020 at the rate of \$24.46 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; approved hiring Kim Sass to the position of Road Supervisor (#2217) to be effective July 7, 2020 at the rate of \$21.98 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; and accepted the retirement resignation of John Martin, Part-time Driver (#2210-1) to be effective June 29, 2020; and on June 29, 2020 for the Airport Authority acknowledged and approved Reimbursement Request #10 for FAA Grant project (#3-39-0054-020-2-18) to install Runway 11/29 Lighting, Taxiway Connector Lighting, Install Runway 11/29 End Identifier Lights, Install Precision Approach Path Indicator and Install Beacon and Lighted Wind Cone in the amount of \$39,673.15 (\$35,706.00 FAA Portion, \$1,984.00 ODOT portion and \$1,983.15 Local County match); as authorized by Resolution #20-005 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 7, 2020 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Cash transfers from the Courts, Sheriff, Engineer, Aging and Transit for unemployment payments to the State for May; a Cash transfer from the Sheriff's Office Amish DARE grant to the General Fund for payroll expenses that should have come out of the grant but were paid for the General Fund from 2014-2019; Travel requests for the Clerk of Courts and Job and Family Services; a Contract Purchase Order from Water Resources to TRAX Construction Company for the Chardon Township Wastewater Treatment Plant and sewers project; a payment for the

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Common Pleas Court to Courtview Justice solutions for service and support of the Court's case management software in the amount of \$8,169.75; a payment for the Engineer's Office to Southeastern Equipment for one Eager Beaver Model 20XPT trailer in the amount of \$19,418.40 and a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Century Link Communications for Vesta 9-1-1 operations software annual maintenance agreement in the amount of \$51,912.76; and a Revenue Certification for Aging in their Emergency Food revenue account for new donations and federal funds that will be received.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #20-069 itemizing the financials for the meeting of June 30, 2020.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – GEAUGA NUISANCE CONTROL – REMOVAL OF DECEASED DEER WITHIN COUNTY HIGHWAY PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

Frank Antenucci explained that this Memorandum of Understanding is for the removal of dead deer, noting that they have had a very good working relationship and would like to renew for a three-year period.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Memorandum of Understanding among the Geauga County Engineer, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Geauga Nuisance Control regarding the Removal of Deceased Deer within the county highway public right of way on Geauga County roads for the period June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2023. The Board of Commissioners will be responsible for any fees and reimbursements up to \$9,000.00 annually with the County Engineer being responsible for any amount exceeding that cost per year.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – DAVIS DIGGERS, LLC – BELL STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to award the bid to Davis Diggers for the drainage improvements on Bell Street. Mr. Hajjar explained that this is for a storm sewer and drainage system between Munn and Auburn Roads. The sewer failing and doing damage to the roadway. That section of Bell Street will be resurfaced in 2021, we are trying to do the repair ahead of the paving project.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to Davis Diggers, Incorporated for the Bell Street Drainage Improvements in Newbury Township in the amount of \$128,414.50 as they represented the lowest and most responsive bid. The bid bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – TOWER LEASE AGREEMENT – SCIENTEL SOLUTIONS, LLC

Sheriff Scott Hildebrand explained that this lease is for the main tower behind the Department of Emergency Services for five years at \$2,500 a month. Sheriff Hildebrand noted that this allows the County to make some money and keeps from additional towers being put up in the County. Eric Bartholomew explained that we lease to the contract, but that they have to submit drawings and inventory of the equipment that will be placed on the tower, this particular company uses microwave lines for high frequency trading between Chicago and New York.

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Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Tower Lease Agreement with Scientel Solutions, LLC for space on the Prime Tower located at the Department of Emergency Services (DES) upon commencement for a five-year period in the amount of \$2,500.00 per month (\$30,000.00 annually).

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – PERMIT USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS – BP BUSINESS FUEL CARD

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to allow them to utilize a BP Business Fuel Card to be able to purchase fuel when they are on out of county trips. Ms. Boalt stated that they have 9 cards, one for each vehicle with limited number of employees authorized to use them.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Application to Permit the use of County Credit Cards (form O.R.C. 301.27) for BP Business Fuel Cards (9) in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 per month for the following employees: Jessica Kaluga, Rudy Breunig, Reba Dykes, Kathy Hartz, Kathy Petrella, Cherri Roth, Ed Shortridge, Karen M. Stone, Mark Stukbauer and Jeff Thomas.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – ACCEPT AWARDED FUNDS – EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM – PHASE 37 AND PHASE CARES

Ms. Boalt stated that a few weeks ago the Board allowed them to apply for a grant through the United Way for their emergency food and shelter program, they were awarded \$4,500.00 from Phase 37 and \$8,000.00 from Phase CARES.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and accept the Award of Funds from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, Local Recipient Organization of Federal Funds from the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency under Phase 37 in the amount of \$4,500.00 and Phase CARES in the amount of \$8,000.00 to be used for food by December 31, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye

MAINTENANCE – LEASE AGREEMENT – JIM TIMMONS – FARMING/CROPPING ON COUNTY PROPERTY

Director Glen Vernick asked the Board to approve the lease agreement with Jim Timmons to do farming and cropping on the county property, noting that they watch to ensure the fee is enough to cover the taxes.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Lease Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Jim Timmons to perform farming/cropping activities on Sections 3 and 4 of the parcel of land located at 13211 Aquilla Road (Parcel #13-705200 and #13-015313 and four parcels on Ravenwood Drive (Parcels #13-015512, #13-015513, #13-015514, #13-015515) for a period of three years with an option to renew for an additional three year period in the amount of \$55.00 per acre per year for farming a total of thirty-two (32) acres (\$1,760.00 per year).

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye

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MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – ELL-CON GROUP
INCORPORATED D.B.A. ELLIOTT CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEAN

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve the service agreement for carpet cleaning in the county buildings and the safety center.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Ell-Con Group Incorporated d.b.a. Elliott Carpet and Upholstery Clean to perform Carpet Cleaning Services in Geauga County Buildings and Safety Center for a two-year period in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 (County Buildings, \$25,000.00, Safety Center \$5,000.00).

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
FUND PAYMENT REQUEST #3 – CONTRACTORS ESTIMATE – AUBURN CORNERS TROY
OAKS PROJECT

Director Steven Oluic asked the Board to approve the OWDA Fund payment request #3 for the Auburn Corners Troy Oaks project.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Water Development Authority Fund Payment Request #3 and Contractors Estimate for the Auburn Corners Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Troy Oaks Pump Station project in the amount of \$426,720.84.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS ORDINANCE
#2020-21 EXHIBIT “1” SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT – REGARDING FUTURE
IMPROVEMENTS TO SANITARY SEWER TREATMENT PLANT

Dr. Oluic asked the Board to execute the supplemental agreement of phase 1 for the engineering design and construction of the Meadowbrook plant that we will pay a portion of the improvements of 22% for a twenty-year loan in the Village of Chagrin Falls.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Village of Chagrin Falls Ordinance #2020-21 Exhibit “1” Supplemental Agreement regarding the Engineering Design and Construction of Phase 1 of Future Plant Improvements to the Sanitary Sewer Treatment Plant located in the Village of Chagrin Falls.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC DEPOSITORY

Clerk Christine Blair explained that these motions are to acknowledge the request from the Treasurer for Public Depository and that aggregate amount is increased from \$75 Million to \$100 Million and request to advertise for applications from eligible banking institutions for the next four-year period. During the Investment Advisory Meeting held prior to the Commissioners regular session, Treasurer Chris Hitchcock had spoken to the Board about the process. Ms. Blair asked the Board to advertise to accept the applications for Public Depository.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to acknowledge receipt of the request for Public Depository from the Geauga County Treasurer in accordance with O.R.C. 135.33 of the aggregate amount of active and non-active monies to be deposited in the amount of \$100,000,000.00.

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Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Dvorak* *Aye*
 Commissioner Spidalieri *Aye*
 Commissioner Lennon *Aye*

Motion: *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Public Depository applications no earlier than August 2, 2020 and no later than 2:00 p.m. on August 19, 2020. Notifications of the upcoming term agreement for Public Depository will be sent to all eligible institutions in Geauga County and will include an application form. On Tuesday, September 1, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners will designate the public depository (ies) for the next succeeding four-year period. A Notice of this Application for Public Depository will be published on July 2, 2020 and on the County website.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Dvorak* *Aye*
 Commissioner Spidalieri *Aye*
 Commissioner Lennon *Aye*

MOVED TO RECESS

Motion: *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to recess until the Tax Budget Hearing at 9:30 a.m.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Dvorak* *Aye*
 Commissioner Spidalieri *Aye*
 Commissioner Lennon *Aye*

RECONVENED

The Board reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING – 2021 TAX BUDGET

Motion: *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to waive the reading of the legal notice.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Dvorak* *Aye*
 Commissioner Spidalieri *Aye*
 Commissioner Lennon *Aye*

Commissioner Lennon opened the Public Hearing at 9:30 a.m. and Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton started to present the following information:



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget

Public Hearing
June 30, 2020

Gerry Morgan, County Administrator
Deborah Ashburn, Fiscal Specialist
Adrian Gorton, Budget & Finance Manager



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget Overview

Total 2021 Tax Budget - \$125M

General Fund Budget - \$33.9M

General Fund Requests - \$35M

Mr. Gorton explained that the Total 2021 Tax Budget is \$125 Million, approximately \$4 Million or 3.3% more than the 2020 Adopted Budget due in large part to the County Budgeting for professional contract services in our Capital Reserve Fund. This is not for the actual construction but just to encumber carryover contracts for the architect, owner's representative and construction manager at risk. In addition to this there were some increases in Mental Health (\$600,000.00), Metzenbaum (\$345,000.00), the new Drug Court in Common Pleas (\$172,000.00) and Water Resources (\$359,000.00). All of which are outside of the General Fund.

The General Fund portion is \$33.9 Million. The General Fund actually decreased by a little over \$400,000.00 in the 2021 Tax Budget versus what was adopted as the Permanent Appropriations for 2020 back in December.

*The \$1.1 Million of requests that remain to get funding are as follows:
\$300,000.00 in Equipment/Vehicles/Contract Services (\$235,000.00 for new Sheriff vehicles)
\$350,000.00 associated with personnel related expenses (\$294,000.00 in the Sheriff's Department)
\$500,000.00 to fully fund the Emergency Fund*



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget Revenue Overview

2021 General Fund Revenue: \$31.5M
Increase from 2020: \$1M
(2020 CY Budget vs 2021 Tax Budget)

Revenue sources changed from 2020 Budget amounts:

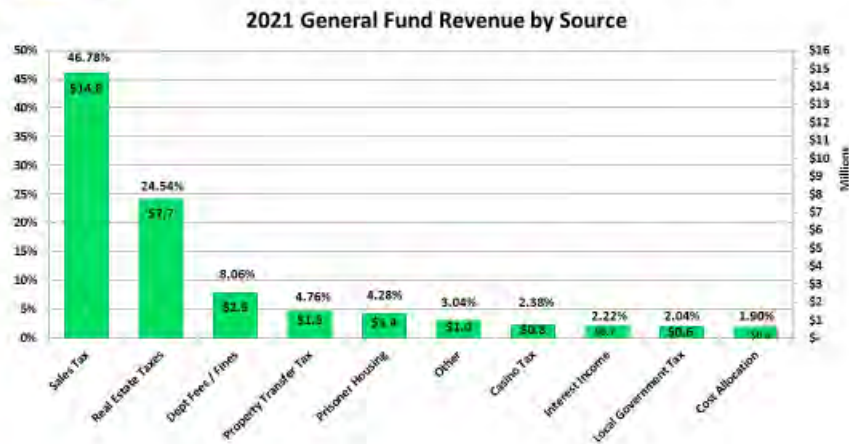
- Increases - Sales Tax \$750K, Prisoner Housing \$150K, Property Transfer Tax \$500K, Defense of Indigents \$125K, Refunds and Reimbursements \$100k and Cost Allocation \$50K over 2020 levels.
- Decreases - Property Taxes \$244K, Casino Tax \$250K, Other Revenue \$40K, Rent and Sale of Real Estate \$25K, and Fees \$23.5K.

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Revenue continued to trend up last year. Sales Tax and Prisoner Housing have each continued to go over their budgeted numbers and have both received conservative bumps for next year. It is important to note that these increases in revenue are not an indication that the County has created any new taxes or fees. We had already been receiving this revenue it just became part of our carryover instead of being absorbed into the budget. We made what we felt were conservative adjustments to these revenue line items which were necessary for next year in light of the decreases and future projects.



Gauga County 2021 Tax Budget General Fund Revenue

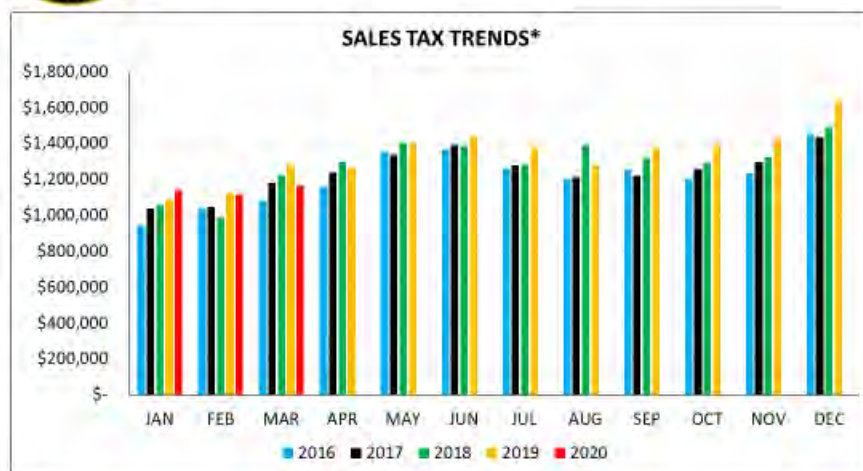


Fiscal Specialist Deborah Ashburn noted that Mr. Gorton stated that \$31.5 Million is the estimated revenue coming into the General Fund for next year. Ms. Ashburn explained that about half of the County General Fund Revenue comes from Sales Tax, about \$14.8 Million. The Sales Tax rate in Geauga County is 6.75% and of that only 1% comes to the county, the remaining 5.75% goes to the State. The second largest source of revenue is property tax, of which about \$7.7 million comes from there. Together these two taxes make up \$22.5 Million of the total \$31.5 Million of Revenue, or 71%.

Other Revenues Sources come from a variety of sources, including Department Fees/Fines, Property transfer tax, Prisoner housing, Casino tax, Interest income and Local government tax, cost allocations. There are only 3 counties in Ohio with a sales tax rate less than 6.75%.



Gauga County 2021 Tax Budget Sales Tax Revenue History



*]Illustrates the actual month that sales tax dollars were generated.

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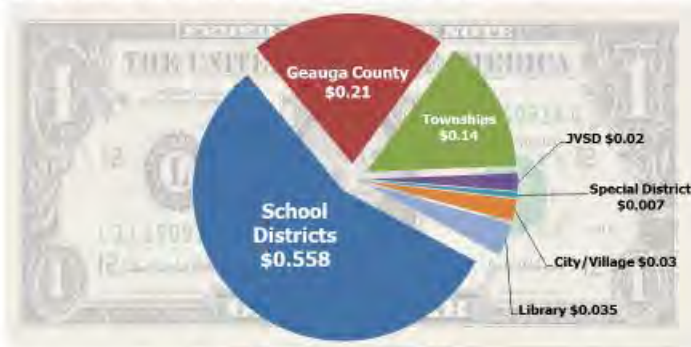
Ms. Ashburn noted that there has been a lot of discussion about how the Sales Tax is going to impact the budget. Due to the Sales Tax making up about 47% of the revenue, this chart shows the overall gradual increase in sales tax revenue since 2016.

Ms. Ashburn noted that for 2020 she cannot show past March, because there is a 3 month delay in receiving sales tax revenue from the State. You can see that over the last four years that there has been a gradual increase in the sales tax. Ms. Ashburn noted that in 2019 the sales tax was \$16 million and that they are projecting conservatively for 2021 at \$14.8 million, which is higher than the \$14 million in the 2020 budget. Mr. Morgan added that the sales tax is not just from Geauga County residents, that includes those that work here from other counties and visitors.



Gauga County 2021 Tax Budget Property Tax Overview

For every \$1.00 of property tax paid by a homeowner in Geauga County, on the average **\$0.21 is used to fund County programs**. The remaining \$0.79 cents funds the local school districts, including JVSD, the Townships, Municipalities and the public library.



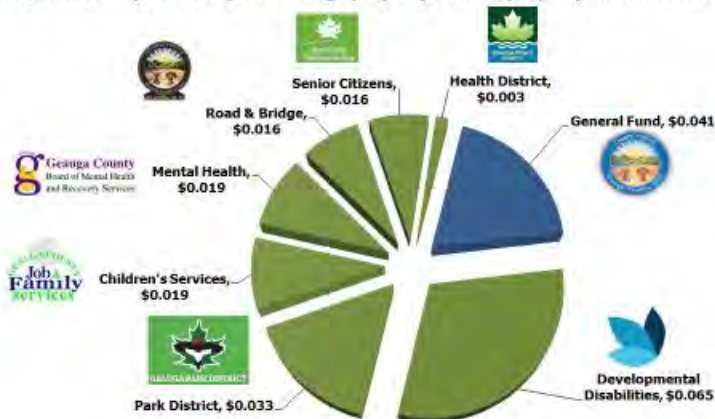
Source – Geauga County Auditor's Office

Ms. Ashburn explained the breakdown of the Property tax revenue, noting that 21 cents from each dollar paid is used to fund county programs, the remaining 79 cents goes to school districts, including joint vocational schools, cities, townships and villages as well as the public library.



Gauga County 2021 Tax Budget Property Tax Allocation

The \$0.21 County Portion of the average property owner's property tax is allocated as follows:



Green slices denote funding derived from local levies.

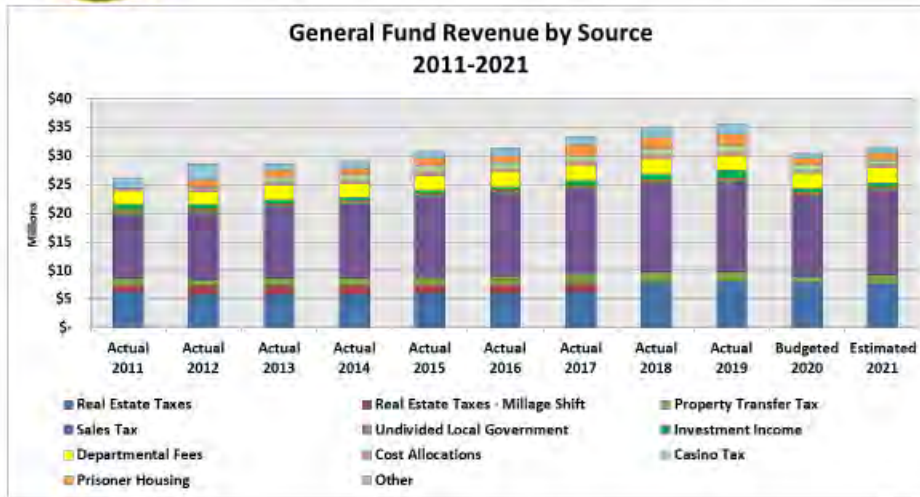
Ms. Ashburn noted that the chart is a breakdown of the \$0.21 cents that goes into the General fund. Of the \$0.21 cents, only 4.1 cents goes for the operations of the County. The remainder of the 21 cents provides funding for all local levies that the residents of the County voted into effect, including Metzenbaum, the Park District, children's services levy for Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Roads and Bridges, Senior Citizen and the Health District.

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There was a brief discussion about a breakdown of the sales tax by retail, auto, ecetera. Mr. Morgan noted that online is still being included with the retail amounts.



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget General Fund Revenue History



As you can see here we like to budget our revenues conservatively. This helps to control expenses and protects the County from surprises. Mr. Gorton noted the two sections of sales tax and property tax. We can never spend over what our available resources are.



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget Available Resources History

Changes to Available Resources 2017-2021

	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budgeted	2021 Estimated
Unencumbered Carryover Balance	\$7.6	\$10.2	\$13.1	\$9.5	\$8.0
Calendar Year Revenue	\$33.3	\$35.0	\$35.6	\$30.4	\$31.5
Total Resources	\$40.9	\$45.2	\$48.7	\$39.9	\$39.5
Increase to Calendar Year Revenue					\$1.1

Like prior years, conservative carryover estimates are being utilized. For budgeting purposes, an \$8 Million carryover is being utilized. The average over the past several years is \$10 million, leaving a comfortable cushion. This \$2 Million cushion will begin being used for annual debt service payments of approximately \$1.5 to \$1.7 Million once financing is secured for the new County building.



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget Expense Overview

2021 General Fund Operating Expenses:	\$33.9M
Decrease Net of Transfers:	(\$2.0M)
(2020 CY Budget vs 2021 Tax Budget)	

Key Assumptions in 2021 General Fund Tax Budget

- 0% wage increase
- No increase budgeted for County portion of hospitalization
 - 2018 – 4.5% Overall Increase (1.5% General Fund, 1.5% Increased Employee contributions and 1.5% in plan changes)
 - 2019 – 1.2% Decrease
 - 2020 – 1.6% Decrease
 - 2021 – No budgeted change in premiums
- The initialized budget reduced certain expenditures by 10% of their amended 2020 amounts.

Mr. Gorton noted that we have a budget of \$33.9 Million in operating expenses. Again, this year, we have the \$1.2 Million in Election equipment that was not purchased in 2019 that was budgeted this year again and the lower Emergency Fund which takes up almost all of the difference. The actual decrease is more in the neighborhood of \$400,000.00.

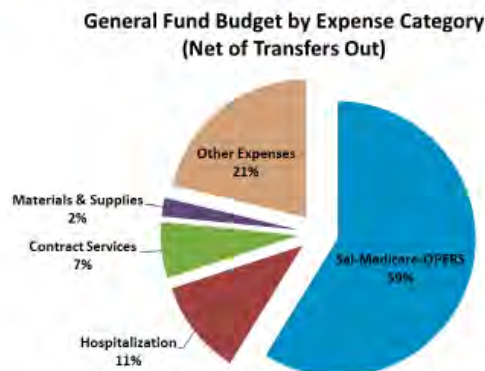
Again, there is no budgeted increase in employee wages for 2021, unless mandated by a labor agreement.

This year the County has budgeted for no increase in the County portion of hospitalization. The last two years we have actually had decreases in our premiums of 1.2% in 2019 and 1.6% this year. Employee insurance deductions have remained the same. The increase that will be used for the permanent appropriations will be determined once the renewal for next year has been revealed. This number and how it is divided up is still subject to change.

This year we also endeavored to try and reduce the amount of unused appropriations in the expense budget. Typically, in the General and the County as a whole only 85% of appropriations are actually used. This can make budgeting difficult when about \$5.0 Million for the General Fund and almost \$19 Million for the County overall are not being utilized. There are a number of legitimate reasons for this but we were just trying to get the departments to look at their usage and make informed decisions as to what they really need in their expense accounts. Specifically, we reduced all Contract Services, Materials and Supplies, and Miscellaneous “other” expense accounts. Most reductions were not maintained but some were and even a few were reduced more than the 10%.

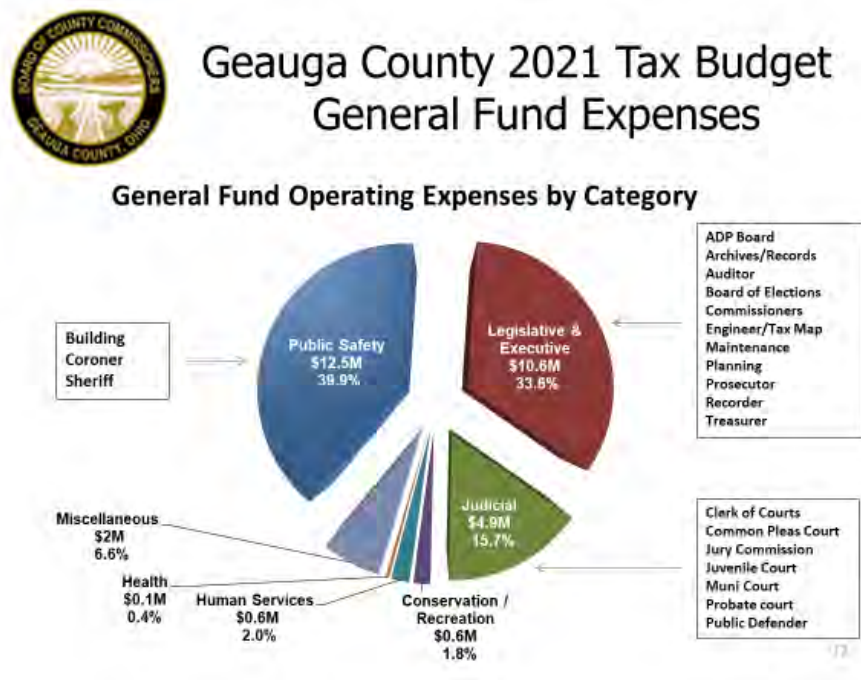


Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget General Fund Expenses



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The General Fund expenses are predominately Personnel related, about 70% of the expenses are related to Salaries, Benefits and Hospitalization. This is up from last year primarily due to the fact that Equipment and Miscellaneous expenses have been reduced making the more fixed personnel costs a larger part of the overall budget. In fact, salaries, Medicare, and OPERS actually decreased in the General Fund by a little over \$300,000.00 in the 2021 Tax Budget versus what was approved in the permanent appropriations for this year. Contract services include items like building and grounds maintenance, cleaning and security. Other expenses include to name a few, legal fees, workers compensation, utilities, fuel, travel and training and advertising. Mr. Gorton noted that other expenses dropped by about 4% from this year or about \$1.25 Million from this year. Almost half of this is the Contingency Account which is short about \$500,000.00 from this year which we would like to increase once the actual carryover is determined. The Equipment line at almost 0% between other and materials and supplies is almost non-existent.



The chart shows the split of the General Fund Spending (less Operating Transfers out).

Nearly 40% of the budget goes to Public Safety, almost 34% of the budget goes to Legislative and Executive, and Judicial makes up almost 16% of the budget. The remaining categories are small, conservation and recreation which includes the OSU Extension and Soil and Water Conservation, is less than 2% of the budget, Human Services is the Veterans Service Commission at 2% and Health is the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps requirement of the County fund of .1 mill to treat handicapped children. Miscellaneous includes the Youth Center Funding of \$416,000.00, Portage Geauga Joint Juvenile Detention Center \$450,000.00, Legal Fees including Appointed Counsel \$162,000.00, Annual Insurance Liability \$350,000.00, Postage \$200,000.00 and Court of Appeals \$70,000.00.

**Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget
General Fund Expenses**

General Fund Operating Expenses (Net of Transfers Out)		
<i>\$'s in Millions</i>		
Category	2020	2021
Public Safety	\$13.0	\$12.5
Legislative & Executive	\$12.3	\$10.6
Judicial	\$4.9	\$4.9
Conservation / Recreation	\$0.6	\$0.6
Human Services	\$0.6	\$0.6
Health	\$0.1	\$0.1
Miscellaneous	\$2.0	\$2.1
Total	\$33.5	\$31.4

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Mr. Gorton briefly went over the expenses in the 2021 tax budget, briefly noting the decreases.



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget Future Planning

- Balanced, realistic approach to budgeting revenue and expenses
- Taking care of what we have to preserve and consolidating for what we need in the future
- Analyzing the marketplace so we can customize our approach for attracting and retaining a quality workforce and businesses in Geauga County



Geauga County 2021 Tax Budget Questions

Thank you for your attention

Questions ?

Local resident Jessie, inquired what the ADP Board was, to which Mr. Gorton explained that it was Automatic Data Processing Board that consists of elected officials in the county and handles overseeing the purchase of technology.

Mr. Gorton noted that today was just the presentation, that the actual tax budget will be signed next week. Mr. Lennon stated that while the COVID pandemic is going to affect the sales tax but not as big as anticipated, but there is still some uncertainty. Mr. Morgan noted that departments are taking this seriously and have reduced spending.

Following no questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:57 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending January 1, 2020 and January 8, 2020 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 6/30 Investment Advisory Board, 8:45 a.m. Building #8 meeting room

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- Fri., 7/3 **Geauga County Offices will be Closed in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue as normal**
- Sat., 7/4 **Independence Day**
- Tue., 7/7 *The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.*
- Thu., 7/9 *Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center Board of Directors meeting and Public Hearing, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom*
- Fri., 7/10 *NOACA External Affairs 9:30 a.m., Policy 10:00 a.m., Planning & Programming 11:30 a.m.*
- Mon., 7/13 *Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Office*
- Tue., 7/14 *Planning Commission meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the meeting room, Bldg. #8, 470 Center Street, Chardon*
- Tue., 7/14 *The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

Local resident Jessie inquired about an increase for the Prosecutor and a decrease for the Public Defender. Mr. Dvorak and Mr. Morgan noted that the Public Defender is seeing a difference from a change at the State level regarding indigent defense funding. Mr. Morgan also noted that there was a change in elected official salaries that could also affect the budget. Mr. Gorton noted that several elected officials' salaries are also increasing next year based on the Election terms. Mr. Lennon asked for clarification on her name, to which she stated Jessica Kirschman. Diane Jones from Auburn Township inquired about the salary of the Prosecutor to which it was noted that it is mandated by the ORC and there are different salary levels if they have a private practice or not, along with other income resources from the Furtherance of Justice Fund. Mr. Lennon suggested that the Budget Hearings are good to attend and ask questions.

Ms. Kirschman inquired about the Sheriff budget, to which Mr. Gorton noted that they had just negotiated a new union labor agreement, that they have seen some staff increases as more responsibility is placed on them for the safety of the county.

Ms. Kirschman pointed a question at Commissioner Spidalieri about the peaceful protestors being referred to as punks, as she was one them. Mr. Spidalieri stated that this issue has already been addressed and will not be discussed again.

Local resident Jim McNeal briefly made a statement about recent events and expressed his opinion with that statement.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Timothy C. Lennon

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
June 30, 2020

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