

Commissioners' Journal
August 17, 2021

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers located at 470 Center Street 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, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:36 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

A morning prayer

All powerful and eternal God, splendor of true light and never-ending day:

At this return of the morning hour, chase away the night of sin and fill our minds with the glory of your coming.

Through Christ, our Lord

Amen

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on August 9, 2021 for the Commissioners' Office approved and executed the Agreement with Chardon Area Chamber of Commerce for the use of the parking lot during the Annual Classic Car and Bike Show on September 19, 2021 (September 26, 2021 Rain Date), for Maintenance accepted the Retirement Resignation of Doris Mausling, Full-time Custodian I to be effective August 31, 2021 and then Granted permission to advertise for the position of Full-time Custodian I (#1906). This position will remain posted until filled; and on August 16, 2021 for Maintenance accepted the resignation of Teresa McKinstry, Part-time General Communications Clerk /Switchboard Operator to be effective August 31, 2021; and for Water Resources accepted the resignation of Kurt Weber, Network Technician (#2341) to be effective August 20, 2021 and then Granted permission to advertise for the position of Network Technician (#2341). This position will remain posted until filled; as authorized by Resolution #21-003 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 5, 2021 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

FINANCIALS

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from August 11, 2021, Resolution #21-103 that included a Cash transfer from the General Fund to Community Development as an advance on their 4th Quarter 2021 funding in order to finish payroll; as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to Resolution #21-003 approved January 5, 2021 to authorize the County Administrator to execute, in the case of a lack of quorum of Commissioners and / or if session is cancelled on a regular financial day or on a day when financials need to be approved, the required approvals for county financials on behalf of the Board during the Year 2021, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation from Community Development in their Block Grant for additional appropriations needed to certify the Maple Leaf Residences project; a Cash transfer from the Juvenile Court to Job and Family Services for BCI Webcheck fees paid for by Job and Family Services; an Encumbrance for the Commissioners Office to Environments 4 Business LLC for the furniture, furnishings and equipment in the new County Office Building; a Then and Now from the Common Pleas Court to Hinton Law Incorporated for appointed counsel fees from May and June 2020 that were not previously encumbered; Travel Request for Job and Family Services; a payment for the Auditor for Attorney License Renewals for two employees within the Auditor and ADP Offices in the amount of \$750.00 and a payment for the Commissioners Office to Destination Geauga for 2nd Quarter 2021 Bed Tax Distribution in the amount of \$17,092.60.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #21-104 itemizing the financials for the meeting of August 17, 2021.

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

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE – LAKE GEAUGA RECOVERY CENTERS – ASSISTANT FOR JAIL TREATMENT PROGRAM

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve an encumbrance and expenditure to the Lake Geauga Recovery Centers to fund an Assistant for the Jail Treatment Program at the Geauga County Safety Center for the Year 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$44,150.00.

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT OFFER

Clerk Christine Blair explained that this grant offer was applied for by the FAA for administrative funds under the Airport Rescue Grant funds and allows the President of the Board to execute and submit the grant agreement.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #21-105 Authorizing the President of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners to execute and submit the Federal Aviation Administration Grant Offer for the Airport Coronavirus Relief Grant Program (Grant # 3-39-0054-025-2021).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: August 17, 2021

Resolution: #21-105

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT OFFER FOR THE AIRPORT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM (GRANT NO. 3-39-0054-025-2021)

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Airport Authority (“Airport Authority”), on its own behalf and on behalf of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (“Board of Commissioners”) (hereinafter collectively “Sponsors”), submitted to the Federal Airport Administration (“FAA”), an Airport Rescue Grant Application dated July 6, 2021, for a grant of Federal funds provided in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, and combating the spread of pathogens at the Geauga County Airport, and debt service payments directly related to the Geauga County Airport; and

WHEREAS, the FAA extended a grant offer to the Sponsors and the Sponsors desire to accept the FAA’s grant offer; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsors are required to each electronically execute and submit the acceptance of the grant offer to the FAA no later than August 20, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners desire to have the President of the Board of Commissioners execute the grant offer on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to accept and electronically execute and submit the grant offer referenced herein to the FAA for processing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution becomes part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 AND FINAL – DECREASE CONTRACT – GRADE LINE, INCORPORATED – REPLACEMENT OF THOMPSON ROAD BRIDGE

Deputy Engineer Nick Gorris asked the Board to approve the final change order with Grade Line for a decrease in the contract amount for the Thompson Road Bridge replacement.

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Change Order No. 1 and Final, decreasing the Contract with Grade Line, Incorporated for the Replacement of Thompson Road Bridge (Structure #0007-01.100) in Thompson Township in the amount of \$270.00.*

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING MODIFICATION OF 2021 PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT #3

Director Jessica Boalt explained that the original grant amount included funding for transportation and with the centers closed they couldn't use the funds so they were moved to Social Services, and now with the centers back open we are asking to move funds into transportation so they can obtain vouchers.

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Modification of 2021 Purchase of Service Agreement #3 for Older Americans Act/ Senior Community Services for the period April 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 The Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) funding is specifically appropriated for the COVID-19 response, and the Older Americans Act / Senior Community Services 2021 Contract shall be modified to include some or a combination of funding sources. The total award is remaining at \$487,533.89. This modification will decrease Supportive Services units from 2,675 to 1,500, increase Transportation (B funds) units from 500 to 2,481 and decrease Adult Day Service units from 650 to 333 and increase Transportation (E funds) from 1000 units to 2,176.*

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

MAINTENANCE – UPDATED ACCOUNTING FORMS AUTHORIZATION FORM AND PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Director Glen Vernick explained that he was asking to update the forms to include the new employees in his office.

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Updated Accounting Forms Authorization Form and Payroll Authorization Forms.*

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

TRANSIT – APPROVE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Director JoAnna Santilli explained that she reviewed and updated the job descriptions in her department so they better reflect what the position actually does.

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Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the revised job descriptions for the positions of Operations Manager (#2206), Road Supervisor (#2217), Senior Dispatcher (#2216), Dispatcher, Full-time (#2212), Dispatcher, Part-time (#2212-1), Driver, Full-time (#2210), Driver, Part-time (#2210-1), Vehicle Technician (#2208) and Service Worker (#2215) to be effective August 17, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CHANGE ORDER #2 – INCREASE AGREEMENT – ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH GPD GROUP – CHARDON TOWNSHIP / BERKSHIRE HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Director Steven Oluic asked the Board to approve change order #2 with GPD Group for an increase to cover inspections at the Chardon Township Sewer project.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Change Order #2 increasing the Agreement for Engineering Services with GPD Group for the Chardon Township / Berkshire Heights Subdivision Waste Water Treatment Plant and Sewers project to cover additional Construction Inspector Services in the amount of \$34,924.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – APPROVE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION – SANITARY ENGINEER (#2302) – ADVERTISE POSITION UNTIL FILLED

Dr. Oluic asked the Board to approve the revised job description for Sanitary Engineer and then advertise for the position until filled.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the revised job description for the position of Sanitary Engineer (#2302) to be effective August 17, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to grant permission to advertise for the position of Sanitary Engineer (#2302). This position will remain posted until filled.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY LGA PAYMENT FORM – MCFARLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT RENOVATION AND UPGRADE PROJECT

Dr. Oluic asked the Board to execute the OWDA payment instruction form for loan agreement for the McFarland renovation and upgrade project.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Water Development Authority LGA Payment Instruction Form relating the Technical Services for the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation and Upgrade project.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

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STATE SENATOR JERRY CIRINO – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Senator Jerry Cirino explained that he has been in this new position for about six months now and while on Summer Break he was traveling around to meet with Commissioners and provide a briefing about what has been happening in Columbus. Mr. Cirino talked about the \$75 Billion-dollar Operating Budget that they had been working on and that they will start on the Capital Budget in the fall. Mr. Cirino added that the Governor didn't line item veto much. One of the things in the budget was to reform funding for K-12 schools that allows for growth and support for charter schools, adding that he was not against public schools. Mr. Cirino explained that this is the State support of the student and on average is around \$6,000.00 / year. Mr. Cirino co-sponsored a bill that was put into the Budget to become law that will require Judges to have political affiliation on ballots. The election law that was amended was over 100 years old.

Mr. Cirino briefly discussed the higher education bill that included improved guidance counseling, a second chance program that will allow kids that drop out of college after two years as a way to get students back to school and some free speech issues. This second chance program is a pilot program that is a one-time opportunity.

In the Budget included the largest state income tax reduction, reducing brackets and tax liability. There was a lot of things to support and keep Medicaid healthy but to also not be taken advantage of. Expressing his frustration on the unemployment fraud, with almost a billion dollars in false payouts. People that needed money didn't get it, and it was a waste of tax dollars. Mr. Cirino stated that they are also looking at critical race theory, and what he sees as indoctrination and rewriting of American history, he gets upset by that. The training materials he has seen are just appalling, and he doesn't want his grandchildren to feel guilty for something that happened in history.

There was a brief discussion about vaccinations and forcing an employee to obtain one in order to work is very problematic. Mr. Cirino expressed that he is enjoying being a Senator.

Commissioner Spidalieri expressed that the local government funds continue to shrink and that counties operate on Sales Tax and of the 6.76% that is collected only 1% comes to the County and the rest go to the state. When does the state finally give additional funding to the County to operate programs that are being funded by the state. Mr. Cirino stated that he has a different perspective having been a Commissioner and he understands what Counties are going through, but realistically Local Government funding will never get back to where it was, but there is room in between that can be approved upon. Mr. Spidalieri added that Geauga County is often given the short straw in funding, which then doesn't let us handle the programs we could. Mr. Cirino talked about inside millage and the taxing authority for counties.

There will be instructions going out to get proposals together for the Capital budget, adding that he wants to help counties as much as they can.

Local residents commented on the Bill Mr. Cirino was talking about with having the Judge political affiliation on the ballot and how happy they are to see that. Mr. Cirino expressed how thankful he was that they were able to get it through.

Director Jessica Boalt expressed concern in their agency about healthcare workers and how they are going to keep seniors taken care of.

Chester Township Trustee Skip Claypool expressed that he felt there could be State action taken to make sure race-based criteria is not being used to base decisions on at NOACA.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – LETTER TO HEALTH BOARD REGARDING THOMAS QUADE

Commissioner Spidalieri asked the Board to submit a letter to the Board of Health regarding Health Commissioner Tom Quade and that he has to support the residents on the things he has been posting on his private page and what his beliefs are being expressed are that he feels is what everyone should be doing. Mr. Spidalieri added that the mask issue is blowing up again without scientific background and he doesn't want his own personal beliefs but that our position and displeasure needs to be expressed and that he needs to be reined in or removed.

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Mr. Lennon added that his phone started blowing up over the weekend with people reaching out to him about the things that were being shared by Mr. Quade and the concerns. Mr. Lennon briefly mentioned a voicemail he had received from a Doctor from the County and the interaction she had with Mr. Quade. Over the last year there have been some comments made by him and those comments undermine the Board of Health, while the Commissioners have no authority, they do have a voice. Mr. Claypool added that he too has received several calls and the concern is that his personal opinion is being translated into the advice he is giving and that is destroying trust.

Mr. Cirino added that the Health Commissioners have to report to the Health Director from the State, who has to be approved by the Senate and while he is not aware of all the nuances but if they compile a list and get it to him, he will forward to the State Health Director of the concerns.

Mr. Dvorak stated that he wanted to clarify that the Health Department is not under our hiring authority, that the political subdivisions say who has a say on the Board, not just the Townships, but the Villages and the City of Chardon. Mr. Dvorak agreed that they need to submit a letter, because all this disrupts the good work being done.

Mr. Spidalieri stated that if you want to protect what you have, you need to get involved. At the end of the day it's about family and our community, and we need to step up.

Local resident Judy Zamlen Spottz expressed that while she hasn't seen what Mr. Quade posted however, she has been contacted by many Veterans who are concerned. Ms. Boalt added that let's add that it was hard before to get an appointment at the VA and with the current concerns over vaccinations, healthcare workers are walking off the job.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to compile and submit a letter to the Geauga County Board of Health regarding Health Commissioner Thomas Quade and the way he is representing his opinion and the displeasure of what he is doing, and further request them to discipline him or have him removed from his position.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending August 4, 2021 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of July, 2021 pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

*Tue., 8/17 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors meeting, 1:00 p.m. Warren (District Office) - **cancelled***

Mon., 8/23 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Tue., 8/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 8/31 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 am.

Thu., 9/2 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 10:00 a.m. at the Great Geauga County Fair, Junior Fair Stage

*Mon., 9/6 **County Offices will be closed in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

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Thu., 9/9 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 am.

Fri., 9/10 NOACA Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 a.m. Cleveland

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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