

Commissioners' Journal
June 28, 2011

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on June 28, 2011 at 10:00 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, Tracy A. Jemison opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of June 23, 2011.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</i>	<i>Aye</i>

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials as Revenue Certifications for the newly created funds for the Common Pleas Court, Probation Services and Pre-sentence Investigation; cash transfers out of the General Fund for a portion of 2011 funding for the Youth Center; a contract increase for GPD Associates for change order #1 including construction services in the amount of \$159,855.00 for the Department of Water Resources; a payment to Chardon Postmaster for postage for the re-evaluation mailings for the Auditor's office in the amount of \$17,000.00, and a payment to Trapeze Software Group for software upgrades for the Transit Department in the amount of \$26,137.50.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute Resolution #11-098 itemizing the financials for the meeting of June 28, 2011.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</i>	<i>Aye</i>

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – RESOLUTION HONORING BARBARA RAKES UPON HER RETIREMENT

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute Resolution #11-099 honoring Barbara Rakes upon her retirement.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: June 28, 2011

Resolution: 11-099

A RESOLUTION HONORING BARBARA "BARB" RAKES UPON HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Barb Rakes has been a faithful and dedicated employee of Geauga County since her first day of employment as a Social Worker II with the Geauga County Welfare Department on June 27, 1982, and has had continuous service with the Department as it transitioned to the Department of Human Services in 1984 and as it subsequently became the Department of Job and Family Services in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Barb has served Job and Family Services and the Geauga County community in several capacities during her twenty-nine year tenure, including seventeen years as a supervisor and administrator. Throughout a very challenging and demanding career, Barb has met each day with courage, compassion and hard work and has successfully and competently met the significant expectations placed upon her; and

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WHEREAS, Barb's extensive knowledge of protective services to children and adults is highly valued in and outside of Geauga County and as she has provided leadership and guidance through numerous social service initiatives such as Amish Liaison, Concurrent Planning, Court Liaison, Families For Kids, Geauga Children's Alliance, Kinship Navigator, SACWIS, Senior Living Solutions and University Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, Barb has had a distinguished twenty-nine year career serving the residents of Geauga County and has made a significant difference in the lives of countless Geauga County children by ensuring their safety from abuse and neglect and by providing them the opportunity to live in a nurturing and caring home;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners does hereby express it's sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Barb Rakes for her twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the children, families and senior citizens of Geauga County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County does hereby wish Barb good fortune and great enjoyment in her retirement, and that this Resolution become a part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Commissioner Jemison inquired of Ms. Rakes when she started with the county. Ms. Rakes stated that it was the end of June 1982; that she had been at Lake County for a year and then started in Geauga. Mr. Jemison then inquired on what she was going to do now that she will be retired. Ms. Rakes expressed not much, at least for the first couple of months, until she "figured out what she wanted to be when she grew up". Mr. Jemison stated that most people that retire can never figure out how they had time to work. Mr. Jemison stated that it had been the Board's pleasure to work with her for all these years and wished her the best of luck. Executive Director Tim Taylor explained that Ms. Rakes has done a great job as the Social Services Director for the last seven years, working tirelessly for the agency. Mr. Taylor recalled that over the last couple of years Ms. Rakes' office had been on the other side of the wall and he would hear her moving cabinets around at six o'clock at night. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Rakes has worked very hard, adding that you don't find a lot of people who make a career in child protective services for as many years, Ms. Rakes has done the job well and maintained very high standards. Ms. Rakes has been a blessing to the community and to the children and families. Mr. Taylor stated that they were going to miss her, but also excited for her at the same time. Commissioner Young noted that Ms. Rakes looked good, and that if the Board hired her today, it looked like she could go another thirty years.

The Board presented Ms. Rakes with a Resolution honoring her on her retirement. Mr. Jemison wished her all the very best and thanked her for all she had done for the children of Geauga County.

OTHER

Mr. Taylor presented the Board will information regarding the promotion of Gina Schultz to the position of Director of Children's Services at the Department of Job and Family Services as the replacement for the retiring Barbara Rakes. Mr. Taylor explained to the Board that Ms. Schultz has been with the agency since 1999 when she started in Social Services as a case worker, then went on to become a Supervisor on the ongoing team. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Schultz was the Clinical Supervisor and Administrator for the Help Me Grow program through Family First Council for three years and then came back to Social Services as a Supervisor working on a training program that, along with Ms. Rakes she re-organized, re-energized and developed a really good training program. Mr. Taylor stated that in January of 2010 they asked Ms. Schultz to co-lead social services with Ms. Rakes. Ms. Schultz has had oversight responsibilities over the intake and assessment team and the ongoing family preservation team since that time and has done a very good job. Ms. Schultz has a Bachelors Degree in social work and psychology and a Masters Degree in social services administration from the Mandel School at Case Western Reserve. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Schultz has a lot of respect from the community and the people that she has worked with in social services in Geauga County. Ms. Schultz has excellent

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case philosophy and is on top of best practices when it comes to children, families and with child protective services. Mr. Taylor explained that he felt that you need to have a strong philosophy when it comes to protecting children and preserving families as it can be easy to lose perspective on the difficult cases when the dynamics are sometimes unbelievable. That's why it's so important to have that strong philosophy and to work with your staff to believe that and carry it out. Commissioner Samide stated that it is a very difficult job, dealing with families and children and that she couldn't even begin to imagine. Ms. Schultz stated that just last week they were talking about the change and how it was all just starting to sink in, but this is what she has been doing, this is what she knows and what she loves. Ms. Schultz stated that you always hope to make it better. Ms. Samide stated that when you have successes you build on those. Mr. Taylor stated that was what you have to work for, given the situation you try to find the best outcome. In Child Protective Services there are two principles they work off of, 1st – the safety of the child, and 2nd – preservation and privacy of the family, these are equal except that ultimately the safety of the child is more important. Mr. Taylor stated that this is a lot to keep up on and that he was glad that Ms. Rakes has been there and that Ms. Schultz will be there.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – AMENDMENT TO CARE OF PEOPLE IN EMERGENCIES (COPE) POLICY

Mr. Taylor explained that anytime Job and Family Services is not open for business they are required to provide child protective services and nutrition and emergency shelter twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. When the agency is not open this is handled through the COPE Line. Mr. Taylor stated that they contract with Ravenwood Mental Health to receive any calls for those emergency services, and connected to that is also 211. Mr. Taylor explained that they are recommending a change that is primarily a cost savings. In the past there has been two workers on call that each carry a pager; one is a social worker that handles child abuse and neglect and the second is a resource worker that handles the emergency food, shelter and other resources needed. Due to public utilization of 211 and more familiarity with pantry systems and resources that are available, the number of calls coming in for the resources have diminished. Mr. Taylor stated that they were looking at ways to cut costs, particularly in income maintenance and child support divisions as those are totally dependent on state and federal funding and as those funds have gone down in recent years they have implemented cost saving measures and this seems to be another one that makes a lot of sense. Instead of having two workers and paying for one of them to carry the pager, they are going to ask the social workers to pick that up and increase their rate for carrying the pager by \$5.00 per day. The actual gross savings to income maintenance and child support to do this is just under \$10,000.00 a year. Mr. Taylor stated that the number of calls have diminished to the point that we feel that this is a reasonable way to meet the requirements.

Mr. Taylor stated that they also are looking at compensating two Social Service Supervisors who share responsibility at this point in time for our child sex abuse calls that come in over the COPE Line. Mr. Taylor stated that child sex abuse referrals are extremely complicated and involved. The dynamics of the investigation, the reports of when they come in and the involvement of law enforcement and our own sex abuse investigator make for a lot of things that need to happen when that initial call is made. This is a specialized area within Child Protective Services and we have two Supervisors that have that experience and unofficially have been on call. When there is a referral of sexual abuse and that call comes in after hours, even though there is a social services worker on call that isn't one of these two they still are called; making them unofficially on call almost around the clock. Mr. Taylor stated that because of this they feel it is reasonable to compensate them for this status. They will only be compensated if they are not on call and are called, if they are already on call and take a call they will not receive the compensation. Mr. Taylor explained that often they are at family gatherings or social event and receive a call and have to be able to handle it and he feels that they need to be recognized and compensated for doing that. Ms. Samide inquired if this was covered and in their budget. Mr. Jemison stated that overall the reduced costs for this year would be about \$5,700.00. Ms. Samide stated that it takes a special kind of individual to take that information and shift gears and be able to handle it. Ms. Schultz added that oftentimes they are able to handle things over the phone, but that there are times that they do have to go out. Mr. Jemison stated that overall these calls will be handled in the same manner they have always been, you are just going to see a savings.

Motion: *by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve an amendment to the Care of People in Emergencies (COPE) policy of Job and Family Services providing for the reassignment of emergency resource duties and*

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providing for compensation for supervisory staff for COPE child sex abuse "on call" duties to be effective August 1, 2011.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</i>	<i>Aye</i>

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – AWARD BID – MILLSTONE MANAGEMENT GROUP – BESSIE BENNER METZENBAUM ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM REMODELING 2011

Manager of Business Operations Steve Tucker stated that they were asking to award Millstone Management Group the winning bid of \$70,499.00 for the Metzenbaum Enhancement Remodel. Millstone's bid was about nine and half percent (9.5%) above the estimate. Mr. Tucker explained that two companies were at the mandatory pre-bid meeting and they both did bid. The second bid received was about \$98,000.00. Mr. Tucker stated that the Architect has done work with Millstone, noting that they are done the Law Library project. Ms. Samide inquired about the cost for the architect for handling this project. Mr. Tucker explained that he was unsure if it was a flat fee or a percentage and that he would check into and let them know. Mr. Jemison inquired about the estimate for the project. Mr. Tucker stated that it was around \$64,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to award the bid to Millstone Management Group for the Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Enhancement Program Remodeling 2011 in the amount of \$70,499.00, as they represented the lowest and best bid.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</i>	<i>Aye</i>

AUDITOR'S OFFICE – REPRESENTATION LETTER – 2010 AUDIT

Mr. Jemison noted that this is normally handled at the post audit meeting, but the letter was not ready at that time and Mr. Jemison did not want to execute the letter without permission from the Board.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Representation Letter for the Auditor of State regarding the 2010 Audit.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – GAS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to establish the gas mileage reimbursement at the current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rate of \$.55.5, to be effective July 1, 2011 for the departments under the direction of the Gauga County Board of Commissioners.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Jemison</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 June 22, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

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MEETINGS

Wed., 6/29 Board of Revision

Thu., 6/30 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 6/30 The Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 10:15 a.m. for the 2012 Tax Budget.

Mon., 7/4 County offices will be closed for general business due to the Fourth of July holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.

Tues., 7/5 The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.

Thu., 7/7 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 7/7 Geauga Portage Joint Juvenile Detention Center Meeting and Public Hearing for the 2012 Tax Budget, 1:30 p.m. 470 Center St. Building #4 Chardon

Fri., 7/8 NOACA Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:34 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

William S. Young

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk