

Commissioners' Journal
April 8, 2010

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in BUILDING #8 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, Mary E. Samide opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 1, 2010.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 6, 2010.

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

COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY AUDITOR – MONTHLY STATEMENT COUNTY FINANCES

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Treasurer for the month of March, 2010 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Auditor for the month of March, 2010 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE – DARE PROGRAM GRANT MATCH

Sheriff Dan McClelland stated that this request is for an ongoing grant with a match of \$5000.00 which is \$500 less than last years request. This will give them \$35,000 from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and about \$40,000 from the Attorney General's Office and another \$5,000 from the Board of Mental Health.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize an expenditure from the General Fund for funding assistance for the DARE program for a grant match for the 2009-2010 school year, in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – RUSSELL TOWNSHIP WATER SERVICE MOU

Commissioner Samide briefly reported on the MOU that she took to the Russell Township Trustees for their signatures pertaining to support restrictions of water service. Commissioner Samide reported that the trustees did not sign the MOU that was created by their legal counsel.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – LAKE COUNTY SEWER COMPANY
INCORPORATED CHANGE ORDER #1 - MCFARLAND CREEK REHABILITATION
PROJECT**

Director Doug Bowen explained this is for the stimulus money for the McFarland project as the last 1,200 feet or so of sewer pipe was found to have caked on sewage on the inside of the pipes. These pipes have not been reviewed since they were put in 35 years ago. This is for extra heavy cleaning of those pipes. The net for this change order will eventually be a decrease because they do not have to do a lot of the repair they thought they would have to do.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Change Order #1 increasing the contract with Lake County Sewer Company, Incorporated for the McFarland Creek Sewer System Rehabilitation Project, Phase 2 for heavy cleaning of sewer lines, in the amount of \$9,792.00.

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

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – RECOVERY ZONE BOND
PROGRAM CONFIRMATION OF WAIVER**

Director Anita Stocker explained that about a year and a half ago each county received an allocation of bonds thinking it would stimulate the economy. Ms. Stocker stated that there were not a lot of takers for these bonds and they have no projects for them. Officially the allocation expired at the end of March. Commissioner Jemison added that these were not very attractive and bond counsel recommended they stay clear of these bonds. These bonds also went against the county's debt.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Recovery Zone Bond Program Confirmation of Waiver of Geauga County's allocation of Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds and Recovery Zone Facility Bonds, with an expiration date for project submittal being March 31, 2010.

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

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – LETTER OF
COMMITMENT – NATIONAL POLYMER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**

Ms. Stocker explained that this will allow National Polymer to purchase needed equipment.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Letter of Commitment to National Polymer Development Company to purchase machinery and equipment for the leased facility located at Gottschalk Industrial Park, Auburn Township by lending \$55,000.00 in Revolving Loan funds for a period of five years (60 months) at a fixed interest rate of three percent (3%), upon the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

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

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – LETTER OF
COMMITMENT – NEECE, MALEC, SIEFERT & VITAZ INCORPORATED**

Ms. Stocker stated that this company is doing great business and is growing. They are starting to acquire other businesses; this one is a bigger company than they themselves are. This is an accounting firm in Mentor that they are consolidating with their Chardon office. This should bring them up to about \$5 million in sales and possibly eight new jobs.

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Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Letter of Commitment to Neece, Malec, Siefert and Vitaz Incorporated to purchase the S R Snodgrass Accounting firm, billings and N + M Financial Services, LLC to be re-located to 121 South Street, Chardon by lending \$68,000.00 in Revolving Loan funds for a period of ten years (120 months) at a fixed interest rate of four and one half percent (4.5%), upon the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CDBG AND HOME PROGRAMS INCOME REPORT

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the CDBG and HOME Programs Sources and Uses of Non-Economic Development Program Income Report for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 and Protected Sources and Uses of Program Income Report for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – FARMER'S MARKET PROMOTION PROGRAM

Ms. Stocker and Planning Commissioner Director Dave Dietrich were present for this discussion. Ms. Stocker explained that Mr. Dietrich was very instrumental, along with Carmella Shale, Cathleen Webb, Bill Patterson, Sally Bell, and Bob Sage, in getting this grant. This group was able to get a lot things in motion based on their combination of knowledge. This is a very competitive federal grant for agencies and non-profits from around the country applying for it. The basis of the grant is to promote farm markets without creating another layer of bureaucracy. Ms. Stocker stated that the Farm Bureau will be able take it forward. With the Commissioners support the county offices can help get it up and running. Commissioner Samide stated that this is something really tangible for small business in the agriculture area. Mr. Dietrich added that there is no local match required but they will be looking for other support as they go forward with this program. Mr. Dietrich added that in the 2007 ag census it was reported \$2 million in direct sales came from farmers to consumers. Mr. Dietrich explained they are looking to advance this program by leading up to a food and farm expo to perhaps be held at the county fairgrounds in connection with this grant opportunity to happen perhaps in 2011. All these ideas are extremely preliminary and they will not know about the grant until late September. Ms. Stocker informed the Board of some the support letters received from Geauga Tourism, Kent State (provide business training and marketing), Das Deutsch, University of Akron (who is willing to do any amount of training on food safety or consumer education and farm to consumer safety training), CIC with other trainings, Sally Bell with the "Blue Zone" with more letters coming. They have also talked to a public relations firm who believes this project has sustainability and are very excited about the prospect of this project. Commissioner Jemison stated that even if they are not successful in getting the grant they still have this group together and perhaps they could still continue to move this project forward and added that he commends them all for doing this. Commissioner Young added that he attended the Blue Zone meeting last night and a lot of it was talking about using home grown foods which does fit into this program.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Application for Federal Assistance Standard Form 424 of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant in the amount of \$85,000.00.

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

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**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – BEAN COUNTER LTD
SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT**

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Subordination Agreement Real Estate Mortgage between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Lake National Bank for a Revolving Loan Fund loan for Bean Counter LTD which will become a third position lien behind and original loan from Lake National Bank in the amount of \$323,000.00 as the first position, and an additional loan in the amount of \$85,000.00 from Lake National Bank as a second position, at the recommendation of the Geauga County Revolving Loan Fund.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADVERTISE SUMMER EMPLOYEES #0101

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to grant permission to advertise to hire summer employees (#0101) for the approximate period of May 1, 2010 (or the end of the school year) through September 30, 2010 (or at the start of the school-whichever comes first) for a maximum of 21 weeks (840 hours) to be worked. This posting will remain posted until all positions are filled, with compensation to be set at \$8.25 first year, \$8.50 returning second year and \$8.75 returning third and subsequent years for the following departments: Community and Economic Development, Commissioners Office, Dog Warden, County Home, and two (2) for Water Resources.

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

LIQUOR LICENSE – SIRNAS FARM INCORPORATED (D.B.A. SIRNAS FARM AND MARKET) – AUBURN TOWNSHIP

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to concur with the Auburn Township Trustees in requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Sirnas Farm Incorporated (d.b.a. Sirnas Farm and Market) located 19029 Ravenna Road, Auburn Township (C NEW 8195883).

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

AUDITOR'S OFFICE – ECONOMIC STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

County Auditor Frank Gliha presented the Economic State of the County. Mr. Gliha stated that Geauga's housing market was in a "protective bubble" but now things are beginning to pick at that bubble. We are cautious of how we are handling housing in 2010. In 2000 there were 562 new home starts but in 2009 there were only 183, with the average of 423 since 1995. Mr. Gliha added that he believes new housing started to dwindle in 2004-2005 the septic system issue arguments began, and people were afraid to build. \$152,789,400 was added in 2007 to the tax duplicate for new construction but in 2009 only \$83,469,700 was added. In 2009 the Board of Revisions had 387 requests and of those 79% received some relief to residents on their property taxes. In 2010 there are 383 requests for relief. The new evaluations will be released to residents in July and residents are encouraged to speak to the Auditor and appraisal staff if they have concerns on the values of their property. There will be some changes in the appraisal market where some neighborhoods will go up in value and some will go down in value. Mr. Gliha discussed the amount a vacant land in Geauga County by industrial/commercial, agricultural and residential. When Geauga County was created there were 270,000 acres and now there are 69,000 vacant acres left in the county (that does not include park land or exempt land). The trend for property transfers is going down. In 2008 the total conveyance, transfer and permissive fees was \$1,182,575.40 and in 2009 it was significantly lower with \$831,139.50. The Geauga County unemployment rate is at 10% in February which is the highest in 27 years. The lowest was in 1973 with 1.78%. Comparing figures to the state and national levels we are still lower than them. Mr. Gliha explained that he compared 1981 with 2009 which both averaged about 7.5% unemployment. The reason that is important is that 1982 and 2010 are charting

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unemployment about the same and after 1981 it took five years for unemployment to get low again. When the county has employee layoffs the compensation responsibility of the county is 26 weeks of benefits, then the federal government provides 33 weeks. The state then extended it for another 20 weeks with no stimulus funds so the county has to pay that extra 20 weeks and any other extensions after that. That cost the county \$60,000 in 2009 which could be a full-time employee. Mr. Gliha explained the distribution of property taxes with the county General Fund receiving 16.56% to run the county, Mental Retardation gets 21.85%, Roads and Bridges gets 16.5%, Senior Citizens gets 6.62%, Children's Services gets 4.64%, Mental Health gets 7.95% and the Park District gets 24.50%. Mr. Gliha added that the county is doing an excellent job with 16.56% of the budget and making ends meet. Of that budget 42% is appropriated for public safety, 13% for judicial, 34% for legislative and executive. The General Fund starts down at 22% for 2010. The carryover balance (where agencies try to curb spending to save money for the next year) which Mr. Gliha attributed to the elected officials was \$4.7 million in 2009 and in 2010 it was \$3.6 million. In 2009 the investment revenue is down 37.49%. The sales tax revenue was really high in 2007-2008 which is when all the Wal-Marts, Targets and Home Depots went in and citizens were spending money. They stopped spending in 2009 and are spending even less in 2010; therefore about \$1 million in revenue was lost. Inmate Housing revenue is down from \$2 million to \$570 thousand in 2009. With that revenue, however, the county total revenue year to date (March numbers) in 2008 was \$8.5 and in 2010 it is \$8.2; with a decrease in 2009 of 8.07% and an increase of 5.37% in 2010. Most of the elected officials are watching what they are spending. The percentage of year to date total expenses has decreased in 2010 by 16.61% compared to 2009 with 5.31%. Mr. Gliha stated that our budgets are strong because of the conservatism of the elected officials who watch their spending. Local businesses are strong and when they need help the county listens and helps. New development is strong, it just needs time to develop. The Sheriff has implemented the mobile data terminals allowing deputies to spend less time in the office and more time protecting the residents. The new pictometry fly over will be done in 2010 and a three year re-evaluation will be completed in 2010. The Auditor's Office will implement a new financial system this year. Mr. Gliha stated he would like to schedule a trip with Commissioner Jemison and Dave Lair to visit the New World System providers. More townships are asking for a review to join the county network. Mr. Gliha ended his presentation by stating that we need to continue being conservative and cautious with spending and how our expenses are being handled in 2010. If we aren't careful then the carryover will be reduced which means the budgets will have to be reduced even more which may increase unemployment, and we don't want that to happen. Mr. Gliha added that 2010 will be slightly worse than 2009. Mr. Gliha ended his presentation by stating that Geauga County is a great place to raise a family. Commissioner Samide stated that concern of the Board is to keep everyone working and believes we all gain if we can keep everyone working. Commissioner Young stated that many people are working harder than they have before and we have many strong employees in the county. Mr. Gliha added that he sees such dedication from county staffs and that they are genuinely concerned about the county. Commissioner Jemison added that that does show. Commissioner Samide thanked Mr. Gliha for the good job on the state of the county.

OTHER

The Board reviewed calendars and events. Commissioner Samide mentioned the Soil and Water Conservation Water Barrel event. Commissioners' Clerk Claudine Kozenko reviewed some new events for the Board to attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 31, 2010 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 March 2010, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).

MEETINGS

Fri., 4/9 NOACA meeting at NOACA Offices

Tue., 4/13 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

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Wed., 4/14 Township Association Dinner Meeting at 6:30 p.m. E.O.U.V. Club in Russell Township

Wed., 4/14 OPWC District Seven Executive Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the Highway Garage.

Thu., 4/15 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:11 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

William S. Young

Tracy A. Jemison

Mary E. Samide

Claudine Kozenko, Commissioners' Clerk