

Commissioners' Journal
January 8, 2013

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 8, 2013 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, Mary E. Samide opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of January 3, 2013.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER GEAUGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR DAVID P. JOYCE FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF GEAUGA COUNTY

Commissioner Samide expressed her happiness that Mr. Joyce was still representing us and read the resolution.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #13-006 Honoring Former Geauga County Prosecutor David P. Joyce for his Service and Dedication to the Residents of Geauga County.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 13-006
Date: January 8, 2013

**A RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER GEAUGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR
DAVID P. JOYCE FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE RESIDENTS
OF GEAUGA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, David Joyce was appointed to the position of Public Defender for Geauga County in 1984 and served the residents of Geauga County in that position until 1987; and

WHEREAS, David Joyce was thereafter appointed to the position of Prosecuting Attorney for Geauga County in January, 1988. As the Geauga County Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Joyce prosecuted felony matters committed by adults and all matters involving juveniles. Mr. Joyce also served as legal counsel for all county officials, county agencies, townships, and school boards; and

WHEREAS, David Joyce served as the Geauga County Prosecutor with dedication and distinction for twenty-four (24) years up to and including 2012; and

WHEREAS, David Joyce will be forever remembered for his hard work, commitment and ability to partner with officials in the County to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Geauga County for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, David Joyce will be greatly missed by those in Geauga County, but we will continue to follow and support him in his ongoing efforts to represent the people of Ohio's 14th District in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby salute, congratulate and honor David P. Joyce for his impressive twenty-eight (28) years of service and dedication to the residents of Geauga County.

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

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Jemison	Aye
	Commissioner Samide	Aye

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Laura LaChapelle accepted the resolution on behalf of Mr. Joyce, stating that she had worked with him for thirteen years and that he was a tremendous person and hoped that we still get to see him around.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment of public employees.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Jemison	Aye
	Commissioner Samide	Aye

The Board returned at 10:55 a.m.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – HIRE BERNADETTE GLIHA – PART-TIME HOME HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST – FISCAL (#1021)

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve hiring Bernadette Gliha to the position of Part-time Home Health Care Specialist – Fiscal (#1021) to be effective January 22, 2013 at a rate of \$16.12 per hour. After the successful completion of a 180 day probationary period the rate will increase to \$16.97 per hour.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	No
	Commissioner Jemison	Aye
	Commissioner Samide	Aye

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – HIRE ELIZABETH SLATTERY – PART-TIME ANCILLARY PROGRAM COORDINATOR (#1028)

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve hiring Elizabeth Slattery to the position of Part-time Ancillary Program Coordinator (#1028) to be effective January 22, 2013 at a rate of \$14.07 per hour. After the successful completion of a 180 day probationary period the rate will increase to \$14.81 per hour.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	No
	Commissioner Jemison	Aye
	Commissioner Samide	Aye

Walter “Skip” Claypool stated that he wanted to ask a question that may have changed the vote. Ms. Samide stated that the Board had talked extensively and that they all have different opinions. Ms. Samide expressed her feelings about the process being in the middle of someone coming back, adding that the policy does need to be looked at and we need to change what we don't like, but that it shouldn't be done in the middle of the process. Ms. Samide stated that either we do it or do not do it. Commissioner Jemison explained that his thought process was to look at it as a business decision, that since this has been being done there has been a savings of \$500,000.00, and in 2008 when we were going down twenty percent (20%) this process allowed us to maintain the quality of services that we have. Mr. Jemison added that there were some layoffs and loss of employees through attrition, but that they were able to leverage what is considered an investment in our employees that we pay fourteen percent or more of their retirement, with law enforcement being higher. Mr. Jemison added that they retire, we rehire them back at least a ten percent savings, which in this situation is a fifty percent savings and in the end save the taxpayers money and have quality people coming back, restating that to him it's a business decision. Mr. Claypool questioned the math, adding that he had huge questions and disagreed with the calculations, adding that the savings he saw were nominal. Mr. Jemison added that he felt \$500,000.00 in savings wasn't nominal and directed Mr. Claypool to look at the tax budget

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and the salary line items depicting the decrease, thus the savings. Commissioner Spidalieri expressed his position as there is no savings that the employees were coming back at the same rate at just half the time. Mr. Spidalieri stated that there could have been a better job done of interviewing all the candidates that had applied. Mr. Spidalieri stated that were looking at a selection process that may have had other candidates and that his biggest contention is that this is not looking at the future, but rather a temporary fix, bringing somebody that could potentially could come into the position that could go to Full-time or the learn more, that there is no exit strategy, just a temporary band aid. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the Board understands that there is a policy that needs to be restructured, that the perception is bad and that other people need to be given an opportunity. Ms. Samide added that the process in which the individuals were interviewed was the same process that has been used by that organization in the past, they look at experience in the field being applied for, and if an individual who is an electrician is applying for social work position, the experience and knowledge could be there just not in the field for which the position is for. Ms. Samide stated that the organization has assured the Board that this is what has been done, adding that the policy needs to be reviewed, but not change it in the middle of the process of bringing someone back. Local resident Walter Leagan raised the question about the future of the position being part-time and why it had been full-time in the past. Acting Director Kathy Petrella explained that one of the things that was looked at was the need of a full-time social worker in the department, so they looked at areas that could be adjusted and it was determined that these two areas would be able to be changed and allow the need to be accomplished. Mr. Leagan expressed concern over being told that there would be part-time and full-time and the expense would be increased. Ms. Samide and Mr. Jemison responded that the positions could have been kept full-time and remained with the same expenses and added a full-time social worker, however the cost was too much and couldn't be done, so it was determined to take the two full-time positions and make them part-time and then take the savings from those positions and use it to fill the need of the full-time social worker, so there is still a savings. Mr. Claypool expressed his concern about the thinking taking place in regards to the "saving" being seen from the reduction of hours of the positions and whether this "thinking" would affect other decisions made. Ms. Petrella added that some duties of both positions would be being absorbed by the social worker. Local resident Ms. Hippely expressed concern over what is happening in Cleveland and the Federal Government and why people are so disgusted with things today adding that because something is legal, doesn't make it right. Ms. Hippely added that double dipping is not right and that tax money is being used to do this and that it would not happen in the private sector. Mr. Jemison noted that recently an individual in the private sector had testified that it indeed was happening in the private sector. Discussion occurred about the differences between being a retiree and being hired versus someone who is retired and rehired back to the same position in the same company. It was expressed by some that this is a destruction of trust and games are being played. Mr. Jemison posed a question about someone being 59.5 years of age and taking their 401K investments and was still working full-time. The audience responded that it was their private decision. Mr. Jemison added that a persons retirement is their retirement and that it is part of a salary that was paid to them during the twenty or thirty years they earned while serving the residents of Geauga County, that it was not up to us to say to them you can't take the retirement, that it's a bad thing. Mr. Jemison stated that it shouldn't be about the employee and that he was afraid it was, that this should be a business decision about saving money and the best interest for the county. Discussion took place about the PERS system being damaged, that it was changing and the reasoning why people were choosing to take their retirement against social security that is in a deficit and the differences in the amounts that employees and employers pay into both. Some confusion had occurred in the discussion about the part-time positions and the full-time social worker and it was clarified that both Ms. Gliha and Ms. Slattery were hired back at the same position that they had retired from which previously had been full-time positions, and that the positions were both now part-time at twenty hours a week, to which the remaining 40 hours was being used to hire a full-time social worker for which interviews were currently being done. Another local resident expressed concern about the time period of two months that had transpired between when Ms. Gliha and Ms. Slattery had retired and whom was doing the jobs of both while they were gone. It was discussed that other people in the department had been cross-trained and covering as best they could while interviews were being done to replace the vacancy. Audience members expressed their concern over process of the rehiring, that it doesn't pass the smell test and that it was a manipulation of the system, being a "good ol' boys" network. Ms. Samide expressed that in the private sector business can get rid of an employee more easily than classified employees. Ms. Samide noted that while the policy needed to be looked at and changes could be made, that the decision on that policy by the Commissioners does not change the other agencies, departments and elected officials and how they handle their retire rehiring process. Local resident Tom

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Jones disagreed with Ms. Samide in that Townships and other boards tend to echo the policies of the Commissioners. Ms. Samide added while that may be the case, the decision of the Board does not change the decisions of others. Mr. Claypool noted that he had received an email that the Sheriff had just rehired four retirees. Ms. Samide and Mr. Jemison added that it was true and that a Judge had also recently taken a similar action with one of his employees, adding that the major difference was that the Commissioners hold Public Hearing regarding their proposed rehiring and give the public a chance to give information. The audience thanked the board for giving them the opportunity to speak and have a conversation, that other elected officials aren't always as willing. Local resident Jim Leagan posed the question regarding the motion being made by Mr. Spidalieri whom voted no. It was clarified that a motion could be made in agreement to hold a vote, and that it was more of a procedural process than specifically how a Board member voted.

Mr. Claypool then presented the members of the Board with the definition of "Return on Investment".

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AGREEMENT – CHARDON TOMORROW – USE OF PARKING LOTS AND COURTHOUSE LAWN FOR WINTERFEST EVENT

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute an Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Chardon Tomorrow to allow Chardon Tomorrow to use the county parking lots located at 100 Short Court Street, 208 East Park Street and the lawn surrounding the Courthouse in Chardon for the purpose of parking cars, holding dog sled demonstrations and holding a snowmen decoration contest during the Winterfest event on January 19, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m.

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

LIQUOR LICENSE – SYCAMORE LAKE INCORPORATED D.B.A. ALPINE VALLEY LODGE 1ST AND 2ND FLOORS AND PATIOS – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Mr. Spidalieri asked if Alpine already had a liquor license in place. Mr. Jemison noted that he believed this to be a transfer as the business had been sold.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to concur with Munson Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Sycamore Lake Incorporated d.b.a. Alpine Valley Lodge 1st and 2nd floors and patios located at 10620 Mayfield Road, Chesterland (C STCK 8748401).

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

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tues., 1/8 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

Wed., 1/9 The Commissioners' will attend the Geauga County Township Association Meeting Dinner, 6:30 p.m. at Hambden Township Hall

Thu., 1/10 The Commissioners' will hold regular session

Fri., 1/11 NOACA Meeting, 10:00 a.m. in Cleveland

*Mon., 1/14 The Commissioners will hold the **Re-organizational meeting** at 10:00 a.m.*

Mon., 1/14 Board of Revision, Auditor's Office at 3:30 p.m.

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*Tues., 1/15 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

Thu., 1/17 The Commissioners will hold regular session

*Mon., 1/21 **County offices will be closed for general business due to Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

*Tues., 1/22 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

Thu., 1/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 1/24 The Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing beginning at 10:20 a.m. to Review Plans and Specifications for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH 4 Sections Q & R) in Chardon Township

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SPIDALIERI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:24 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Tracy A. Jemison

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk