

Commissioners' Journal
October 25, 2011

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on October 25, 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 10:02 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 October 20, 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 Cash Transfers into the General Fund for 2011 Fourth Quarter cost allocations for Community Development and Job and Family Services Building lease payments; a contract for Hazen Contracting for the Scranton Woods Water Plant driveway repaving for the Department of Water Resources; a contract for Transportation Equipment Sales for the purchase of three (3) 2012 Transit Vehicles in the amount of \$217,797.00; and Travel Requests for the Auditor's office and the Department of Water Resources.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute Resolution #11-169 itemizing the financials for the meeting of October 25, 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>

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – OHIO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

Program Coordinator Rhea Benton explained that this was a status report that is sent to the State regarding work completed on the formula projects and the expenditures. Ms. Benton stated that a few of the projects have been completed. The grant period does not end until the end of February. Ms. Benton stated that there are still a few projects being worked on, but they are progressing well.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Community Development Block Grant Program Status Report (Grant #B-F-10-1AZ-1) for the period September 1, 2010 through September 30, 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>

GEAUGA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT – 2011 HAMBDEN MONTVILLE CANCER SURVEY OF INJECTION WELLS

The following report was presented to the Board regarding the results of the survey.

Prepared by: Bob Weisdack, Health Commissioner, Mike Tusick, Environmental Health Supervisor, Dave Sage, Registered Sanitarian, and Jay Becker, Disease Surveillance Specialist, Geauga County Health District

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Background Hambden/Montville

Background: Geauga County was founded in 1805 and continues to be a rural community dotted with agriculture farm land and woodland which is used primarily for residential homes. The county is made up of 16 townships and 4 villages and one city with a total population of roughly 94,000 residents based on the 2010 census. Geauga, like many other counties throughout the state of Ohio has an aging population with a large portion of that population being over the age of 50 years old. Many farms have been abandoned and left unattended which have allowed the development of subdivisions to spring up throughout the county. The areas of Hambden and Montville townships contain a large amount of open undeveloped land and have not been developed as much as other parts of the county. The main industry of the county has been based on agriculture production of crops; however, it appears that there has been a shift to more of a bedroom community of professionals for the Cleveland metropolitan area. The population is primarily caucasian but also has a large Amish settlement which resides in the Southeast section of the county. The industrial sector of the county is very small and is mostly contained in the Southeastern part of the county.

There are two known primary aquifers within this area; the Sharon aquifer and the Berea Aquifer. Each aquifer is separated from each by a layer of soil material which helps prevent contamination from entering each other unless

- A natural event takes place (as in an earthquake or flooding)*
- Or an unnatural event takes place (as in a gas and oil well exploration)*

A large percentage of the residents depend exclusively on groundwater as their main water source. The ground water is the life's blood of this entire area and any negative impact on this natural resource could devastate the entire area and its population. If the community lost the water supply due to contamination or natural catastrophe it would mean that thousands of individuals would have to develop and install a central water system or install some sort of water supply to meet their individual water need or move. It would also severely affect the agriculture ability within that geographic area. Livestock would also be affected by a breach in the current water supply.

In effect the negative impact would be devastating and long lasting and would virtually make the property values plummet and threaten the livelihood of residents.

There are two deep well injection sites located within Hambden and Montville area. There residents have just become aware of these injection wells and have asked the local health district to conduct an investigation to determine if there are any negative health effects on the residents. In addition, the residents have questioned the possibility that some of this injection fluid could have entered into the aquifers which is providing the water supply to the local residents. In consultation with the Ohio Department of Health it was determined to examine the aquifers within a 2 mile radius of each injection well. Since the primary route of exposure would be the residents water well, chemical water testing would need to be completed.

Based on this possibility, the Geauga County General Health District (GCHD) has agreed to conduct a cancer review of the 2 mile radius of each injection well within Hambden and Montville Townships. A cancer review is a precursor to a cancer assessment to see if a possible problem exists. After the Cancer Review is complete and the type of cancers that would be typical of being exposed to drinking carcinogens are not identified and the chemical water testing comes back negative for carcinogens the Cancer Review is closed and the most extensive Cancer Assessment is not completed.

Water Testing

All Hambden and Montville residents within the 2 mile radius of each injection well received a letter from the Geauga County Health District offering to test their well water at no cost to them. After 30 plus days GCHD has received 8 responses out of 28 saying yes they would like there water tested. Sixteen repeat letters were sent to Hambden and Montville residents within the 2 mile radius in early August 2011. A total of 15 water samples out of a possible 44 have been obtained from the target Hambden and Montville residents with completed scans done on these water samples.

The HAPSITE (Hazardous Air Pollutants on SITE) is a portable Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) that scans and identifies pollutants on site. The Gas Chromatograph portion of the equipment is responsible for separating mixtures into the component compounds

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while the Mass Spectrometer is responsible for identifying the individual components in the compound.

*First, it must be stated that the HAPSITE is used for scanning purposes **ONLY** and should not be considered as reliable as a lab test. The HAPSITE scans for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) analyzing air, liquid and solids. To analyze liquids and solids the headspace, this is a heating unit which is used to drive out the VOCs from the liquid or solid and turned into the gas form for analysis. A VOC is a carbon containing compound, which is a gas at room temperature, has a high vapor pressure, a low boiling point and easily evaporates into the atmosphere at room temperatures. The HAPSITE will analyze compounds with a boiling point less than 250 C (482 degrees F) and with a molecular weight between 45 and 300 atomic mass units. Atomic mass units are the sum of the masses of all the atoms in the compound. The HAPSITE also cannot reliably detect compounds that have more than twelve (12) Carbon atoms in them.*

Cancer Review

Cancer statistics were obtained from the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System/Ohio Department of Health for the years 2001-2005 for Montville and Hambden. Therefore, the available data is limited in scope regarding inferences. Cancer data includes information for all cancer types, all races, all ages and gender reported in the state of Ohio. Two reported cancer cases were identified within the designated 2 mile radius of the Montville injection well. One case is a 56 year old male diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2008 and the other is a 43 year old woman diagnosed with Leukemia in 1999. No cancer cases were reported within the 2 mile radius of the Hambden Township injection well between 2001-2005.

Between 2001-2005 the annual average of 58,136 new invasive cancer cases were diagnosed and reported among Ohio residents. An average of 24,917 cancer deaths occurred each year among Ohio residents.

The Ohio average annual incidence rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 465.1 cases per 100,000 which were slightly lower than the US rate of 467.4 per 100,000.

The Ohio average annual mortality rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 203.3 deaths per 100,000, which was higher than the US rate of 189.8 per 100,000.

The Geauga County annual incidence rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 426.1 per 100,000 which is significantly lower than the US and State of Ohio cancer rates.

The Geauga County annual mortality rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 172 deaths per 100,000, which is significantly lower than the US and the State of Ohio mortality rates.

Cancer incidence rates by census tract for Hambden includes lung and bronchus=65, colon and rectum=66, breast=145, and prostate=195, However, there were no cases found within the targeted 2 mile radius.

Cancer incidence rates by census tract for Montville includes lung and bronchus=37, colon and rectum=NA, breast=145, and prostate=137, However, only one prostate case was listed within the targeted 2 mile radius.

Cancer Comparables

Erie County, Ohio (78,000pop.) annual incidence rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 444 per 100,000 compared to Geauga's 426.1

Erie County, Ohio annual mortality rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 202 deaths per 100,000 compared to Geauga's 172

Ashtabula County, Ohio (102,990 pop.) annual incidence rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 455 per 100,000 compared to Geauga's 426.1

Ashtabula County, Ohio annual mortality rate for all cancer sites/types combined was 211 deaths per 100,000 compared to Geauga's 172

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other is a 43 year old woman diagnosed with Leukemia in 1999. No cancer cases were reported within the 2 mile radius of the Hambden Township injection well between 2001-2005.

Summary

Overall water tests completed have shown insignificant amounts of harmful chemicals that would indicate a breach has been made in the soil protecting the aquifers. Small amounts of trace chemicals are also found in other wells throughout the targeted 2 mile radius of each injection well and are not considered harmful in these trace quantities.

Cancer statistics from the Ohio Department of Health are also unremarkable showing that a total two individuals have been diagnosed with cancer within a two mile radius of the Montville injection well and are both living and being treated for their cancers as the writing of this review.

Looking at other comparables such as Ashtabula and Erie Counties the cancer rate and mortality rate for Geauga County is significantly lower. Also other similar areas of Geauga County have been compared and have shown higher rates of cancer than the designated 2 mile radius's targeted for this review.

Although water well test results of the residents who chose to participate have shown inconclusive results it must be stated that not all affected residents participated in this review. Therefore, the sample size and limited number of samples collected severely impacts making a conclusion. Additional chemical water testing over a longer period of time would provide a more accurate and complete data set to analyze. In addition, due to reluctance by some residents to have their wells tested, it doesn't allow for a complete review and analysis. It would have been better to have investigated all 44 wells to obtain more data to confirm or deny a presence of elevated levels of possible contamination. Even though such a small sampling was completed, nothing more than background indicators were found.

Bibliography

Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System, Ohio Department of Health 2001-2005.

Jay Becker stated that the Board asked the Health District to do a survey of the areas surrounding the injection wells in Hambden and Montville. Mr. Becker stated that they consulted with the Ohio Department of Health and chose to do a two (2) mile radius around each well to see if there was any breach in the water supply. Mr. Becker stated that 44 letters were sent out to residences in both areas, Hambden and Montville. After the first letter they only received eight (8) responses and chose to send a second letter and received fifteen (15) responses total and permission to go out and test their wells. Mr. Becker explained that in that same two mile radius they looked at the percentage of cancer reported. Mr. Becker stated that cancer is handled differently from regular diseases in that cancer is reported by the physician directly to the Ohio Department of Health and not to the local Health Districts. Commissioner Samide inquired if they had taken a look at the lifestyles of those reported cancer cases to see if there were other reasons that could have caused it, some examples were if they were a heavy smoker or if the environment they worked in had high levels of chemicals. Mr. Becker stated that when they did this survey they looked at the water and the cancer levels and were looking for a red flag, but didn't find any red flags to proceed with a full cancer assessment; this survey was more of a screening. Mr. Becker stated that out of both of the areas surveyed, there were only two cancers, both of which were in Montville. Mr. Becker stated that they looked at the cancer rate in the United States, then they looked at the cancer rate in the State of Ohio, then they looked at the rate in Geauga County; Geauga County was well below those rates. Mr. Becker stated that they looked at other areas of the county that had the same population size as the areas targeted, Auburn and Huntsburg to see if there was a higher rate of cancer in these areas than others and found the study area to have less. Mr. Becker stated that because they didn't have any red flags, a full assessment was not done. Ms. Samide inquired as to if in twenty years we are going to see it pop up. Mr. Becker stated that the cancer statistics that came from the Ohio Department of Health are only from 2001 – 2005, that they had just started recording the rates in 2001. Commissioner Jemison stated that the areas where the injection wells are located have been there since 1985. Mr. Jemison was surprised that they were only able to obtain fifteen (15) water samples. Mr. Becker stated that they feel they should continue to monitor this and do another survey again in five years. Ms. Samide inquired about the water reaching the aquifers. Mr. Becker stated that there are two aquifers in Geauga County and both go into northeast Ohio, into Ashtabula and into Lake Counties, and that there are no major problems in those areas.

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Mr. Jemison thanked Mr. Becker and the Health Department for doing this survey and that the Board appreciated it and would like to see them do it again in five years. Mr. Jemison feels that the residents in that area got the best results they could hope for. Commissioner Young inquired if there had been any check into the cancer results having been hereditary from the families. Mr. Becker stated that there had been no contact with any of the families, that the survey was based just on the numbers that were reported to the Ohio Department of Health and the results of the fifteen water samples.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – RELEASE MAINTENANCE GUARANTY – SOUTH FRANKLIN CIRCLE DEVELOPMENT – SANITARY SEWER AND WATERLINE

Assistant Sanitary Engineer Gerald Morgan explained that this was to release the maintenance bond for the South Franklin Circle Development in Bainbridge Township. This system has been up and running for over a year, and it just has taken some time to get the paperwork completed. Mr. Morgan stated that they felt comfortable releasing the bond.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to release the maintenance guaranty for the South Franklin Circle Development sanitary sewer and waterline, Chagrin Falls, in the amount of \$135,200.00 and any interest accrued being held by the Board at Middlefield Bank.

<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>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – HESS AND ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED – ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING FOR RUSSELL TOWNSHIP CENTER SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Morgan explained that this was for the Russell Township Center Sewer Project to extend the sewer at the intersection of State Route 87 and State Route 306. Mr. Morgan stated that they had received approval from Russell Township to move forward with the Engineering. Mr. Morgan stated that they sent out request for proposals to six companies and received five proposals back, with Hess and Associates being the best. They are requesting approval to move forward with putting together a contract.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the department to engage Hess & Associates Engineering, Incorporated to perform engineering and surveying for the Russell Township Center Sewer Project, in accordance with the proposal submitted by Hess and Associates.

<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>

Mr. Jemison inquired if this project would be completed in 2012. Mr. Morgan stated that it was a 2012 project and should go to bid late spring or early summer.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events. Mr. Jemison stated that the Board had been invited to attend a meeting with other Commissioners and the Park District at Bass Lake to discuss the dark sky initiatives with Observatory Park.

MEETINGS

Thu., 10/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 10/27 Budget Hearings, 1:00 p.m.

Thu., 10/27 Update on Gas Wells in Geauga County, 470 Center St. Building #8, Chardon, 7:00 p.m.

Tues., 11/1 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

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Tues., 11/1 Some of the Commissioners will be attending the NOPEC meeting

Thu., 11/3 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 11/3 The Commissioners will hold a work session with the Geauga Park District at the West Woods Nature Center, 11:30 a.m.

Thu., 11/3 Grand Opening of the Department on Aging Incredible Edible Art Show, 7:00 p.m. Open to the Public Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Tues., 11/8 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tues., 11/8 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

*Thu., 11/10 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

Thu., 11/10 NOACA meeting, 10:00 a.m.

*Fri., 11/11 **County offices will be closed for general business in honor of Veteran's Day.***

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:27 A.M.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

William S. Young

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk