

Commissioners' Journal
October 20, 2011

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on October 20, 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 Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of October 18, 2011.

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

**Commissioner Samide was absent from this portion of the meeting.*

COUNTY HOME – ACCEPT RESIGNATION – PART-TIME ATTENDANT – DEBBI DUDEK

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to accept the resignation of Debbi Dudek, Part-time Attendant to be effective October 17, 2011.

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

COUNTY HOME – INCREASE POSTING – PART-TIME ATTENDANT (#1504-1) FIRST SHIFT AND SECOND SHIFT

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to increase the current posting for the position of Part-time Attendant (#1504-1) to Two (2) positions, one First Shift and one Second Shift. These positions will remain open until filled.

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

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – ROADWAY USE, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE
MUTUAL AGREEMENT – CHESAPEAKE EXPLORATION, LLC**

County Engineer R.L. Phillips explained that Chesapeake Exploration has a lease to drill a well on the Mast property on Newcomb Road in Parkman Township. The county engineer's office handles Parkman Township's permits, both driveway and overloads utility, and would be the engineer. Mr. Phillips stated that Newcomb Road is gravel and originally Chesapeake Exploration's Engineering Consultant proposed to do work on Newcomb before they started and then decided not to do it. Mr. Phillips asked Chesapeake if they were going to do a Bond; Chesapeake said no, so Mr. Phillips asked for cash and they agreed. A quarter of a million dollars (\$250,000.00) will be in an escrow account and Chesapeake is able to draw from it to do work but if it gets down to \$100,000.00 they have to replenish it back to \$250,000.00 and Mr. Phillips' signature is required. Commissioner Jemison stated if something happens to the road and Chesapeake doesn't react, the engineer's office can react and use the money to fix the road immediately. Mr. Phillips stated that yes, they could and with the winter season it can't be left rutted up, that repairs must happen the same day due to the freeze and thaw. Mr. Phillips stated that the biggest thing is to require them to have equipment on site that can fix the road. Mr. Phillips stated that this is the farthest north that they are working, that they have strong agreements in Central Ohio; Jefferson, Harrison, Stark, Tuscarawas and Coshocton Counties. Mr. Jemison inquired on what the duration would be. According to Appendix A of the agreement the proposed schedule is five weeks for construction of the pad, a week for moving in the rig, forty-five days for drilling the well, a week for moving the rig out and thirty days for fracking and then maintenance, but these will vary. Mr. Phillips stated that they are behind the schedule

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they would like to be on but seem to be putting their best foot forward. Mr. Phillips noted that a copy of the escrow account must be provided along with several other things before they can start.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Roadway Use, Repair, and Maintenance Mutual Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Chesapeake Exploration, LLC to transport heavy, overweight, and / or oversized vehicles or excessive loads, or a combination to the Mast oil and gas well located on Newcomb Road in Parkman Township, pursuant to O.R. C. 4513.34(D).

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

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSIT FARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT CONTRACT

Director Kristina Reider explained that this was the yearly grant contract for the “END” Fund to offer half price fare for Elderly and Disabled clients that are transported. Commissioner Young noted that Seniors and Disabled clients pay \$3.00 and all others pay \$6.00, noting the difference in the two fares.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Elderly and Disabled Transit Fare Assistance Program Grant Contract between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the State of Ohio Department of Transportation (Contract No. EHTA-0028-012-121) for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 in the amount of \$47,322.00.

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

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT – OHIO MOTOR FUEL TAX REFUND CLAIM – TRANSIT BUSES

Ms. Reider stated that this was the third quarter motor fuel tax refund.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Motor Fuel Tax Refund Claim for Transit Buses for the period July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 in the amount of \$2,636.41.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – PROMOTE DENNIE POWERS – WATER / WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATOR II (#2313)

Director Doug Bowen stated that this promotion was for a position that had been advertised internally per their union contract. Mr. Bowen stated that Mr. Powers had recently obtained his Operator II license and can hold this position.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve the promotion of Dennis Powers to the position of Water / Wastewater Plant Operator II (#2313) at the McFarland WWTP to be effective October 24, 2011 at a rate of \$17.24 per hour. After the successful completion of a 120 day probationary period the rate will not increase.

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

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**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REGARDING WORKER'S
COMPENSATION – GROUP RETROSPECTIVE**

Benefits Specialist Kathy Hostutler introduced Bobbijo Werren, Account Executive from Comp Management. Ms. Hostutler stated that they were asking for the Board to approve the Group Retro rate for next year, noting that this was the third year we had been in this program. Ms. Werren reviewed the presented Executive Summary Report 2010 Policy Year for Geauga County. Ms. Werren highlighted areas of the report starting with Frequency because worker's compensation is based on the number of injuries you have and the costs that are associated therewith. Ms. Werren explained that the total claims have dropped substantially comparing from 2007 to 2010 that the number of lost time claims (having eight or more calendar days of disability) have dropped 22%. The number of total claims from 2007 to 2010 has dropped from 82 to 46; which represents a huge decrease in the number of claims. Ms. Werren noted that it was the hard work that Colleen Lockhart, Human Resources Administrator and Kathy Hostutler, Benefits Specialist have done with a focus on education, on wellness, and working hard to get premium allocation so there is a chargeback. This is really accountability, when you see all those efforts taking force as it's manifested in the numbers.

**At this point, Commissioner Samide arrived at the meeting.*

Ms. Werren talked about Total Modified Losses vs. Total Limited Losses and "in English" this is the actual claims cost vs. expected claims cost as set by the Bureau. Ms. Werren explained that the Total Modified Losses which is the actual claims cost for a four year period has decreased just from 2009 to 2010 38%. Mr. Jemison stated that from 2007 to 2010 it was cut in half, that's a 50% reduction. Ms. Werren stated that what is important is that the Total Limited Losses, which are expected losses that are set by the Bureau have also dropped. The Bureau is doing a great job of saying that they are dropping rates; they are, but when they drop this rate it's not good, as it's like lowering your credit card limit. This is lowering the allowable losses that you are expected to incur. Ms. Werren stated the fact that the actual costs have surpassed the drop in the expected loss bears out in the experience rating. The Experience Modifier is how the base rates are modified based on the individual standing. The County's Experience Modifier has dropped 27.5% from 2007 to 2010 – that's great! In this economic climate in the public sector the decline in the experience modifier is really great news.

Ms. Werren explained that Payroll and Premium is what you are paying to the state in workers' compensation premium. The County's premium is directly correlated to your payroll, so generally speaking, as your payroll goes up your premium goes up; but because of the drop in losses and claims, the county's premium has gone down 36% despite the fact the payroll has increased. Ms. Werren stated that CompManagement has been able to save over \$29,000.00 by doing extra work for the county through handicap reimbursements. Ms. Werren explained that in order to explain why the county should continue with group retrospective she told them how well they have been doing. Group Retrospective is a new program in the public sector in Ohio that began in 2010. Geauga County has been part of the program since it began and currently after the June 30th data, participation in the 2010 year, Geauga County is on track to receive a 27.4% refund, equal to \$167,000.00. Of that the state is only allowing 80% to come back and checks should be issued sometime in February or March of next year. Ms. Werren noted that for 2011 she could only give a premature amount based on six months' worth of data, but if the first half is how the second half is going to be the county could be on track to receive a \$190,000.00 refund. Commissioner Samide inquired on what happened to the 20% that the state is holding back. Ms. Werren stated that it is in the county's account, they are just being conservative and eventually the county will receive it back.

Ms. Werren stated that the 2012 year application has to be filed with the Bureau by October 31, 2011. For the 2010 and 2011 years CCAO only took on a 5% risk in each year, but in 2012 they are bumping that risk up to 10% but with that comes a greater return. Ms. Werren stated that they were projecting a greater return than was initially projected in 2010 and 2011 and are hopeful that she can come back next year with equal or greater numbers as far as participation in the 2012 year.

Ms. Hostutler stated that the Counties in Group Retro are held to standards and are accountable to having safety measures in place and good claims management. This is similar to CEBCO in that if you have a bad claim or bad year other counties have a better year and help you out. Ms. Werren stated that it is a great way to spread the risk among the other counties. Ms. Hostutler stated that we have built a wonderful relationship with CompManagement being very attentive to

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our needs, and are always looking for ways to bring people back to work. Mr. Young noted that Department Directors and Elected Officials are also working to reduce the cost and are working with their employees. Ms. Werren stated that premium allocation is a great way to get the attention of those departments. Ms. Hostutler noted that many departments have come on board with transitional work getting their employees back instead of letting them stay home. Mr. Jemison noted that safety programs and direct allocation of what those expenses are help. Ms. Samide stated that you make them take ownership of the cost that makes a big difference. Mr. Young inquired on the number of counties in the CCAO program. Ms. Werren stated that there were seventeen (17) in the Group Retro program, and that Comp Management through a number of different programs represents 76 of the total number of counties in the state. Ms. Werren noted that there are more programs available in workers' compensation than ever before, but Group Retro is the right program for Geauga County with a limited amount of risk. Ms. Hostutler noted that Group Retro came along at the perfect time for the county as a previous program we belonged to was ending.

Ms. Samide inquired what Handicap Reimbursement meant. Ms. Werren stated that Handicap Reimbursement is cost relief provision provided to all employers in the state that was enacted in 1977 by legislation to encourage employers to hire employees with known or unknown conditions. There are 26 recognized conditions. This is a cost relief measure that affords a cost reduction for the employer if the injured worker has one of the 26 conditions and that condition prolonged or delayed their recovery in the worker's compensation claim against an employer. This is no way impacts the injured worker; this is solely an employer benefit.

Ms. Hostutler noted that wellness seems to be a real contributor in worker's compensation. Everything that the county goes for wellness is impacting the CompManagement premium. Mr. Jemison inquired on the timing of refunds. Ms. Werren stated that the 2010 policy year gets reviewed in December 2011 and the refund check should be issued in February or March of 2012, the two subsequent reviews would be in December 2012 for 2011, and December 2013 for 2012 those refunds should come in February or March the following year.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – 2012 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO (CCAO) WORKER'S COMPENSATION GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PLAN AGREEMENT – BWC EMPLOYER STATEMENT

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the 2012 County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Worker's Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Plan Agreement and BWC Employer Statement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the CCAO Service Corporation.

<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 – CEBCO 2012 RENEWAL RATE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the CEBCO 2012 Renewal Rate Acceptance Form for Geauga County.

<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 October 12, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

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MEETINGS

Thu., 10/20 Budget Hearings, 1:00 p.m.

Tues., 10/25 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tues., 10/25 The Geauga County Health Department will give a presentation on the findings of the Hambden Montville Cancer Injection Well Survey.

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.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:39 A.M.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

William S. Young

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk