

Commissioners' Journal
December 1, 2011

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 1, 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 Jemison to approve and execute the amended minutes for the meeting of November 22, 2011.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 29, 2011.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials as a Supplemental Appropriation and an Appropriation Transfer to correct appropriations for year-end healthcare; and Contract increases for the Department of Job and Family Services HEAP grants.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #11-185 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 1, 2011.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 - FINAL DECREASE – EASTON LEASING, INCORPORATED – REPLACEMENT OF FOX ROAD BRIDGE

Chief Deputy Engineer Joe Cattell explained that the work has been completed on the Fox Road Bridge; located just south of Shaw Road, just into Auburn Township. Mr. Cattell stated that Easton Leasing has finished up and we have a decrease of \$1,020.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Change Order #1 and final decreasing the contract with Easton Leasing, Incorporated for the Replacement of the Fox Road Bridge (Structure #201-0.21) in Auburn Township, in the amount of \$1,020.00.

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES WORK PARTICIPATION CORRECTIVE COMPLIANCE PLAN

Executive Director George (Tim) Taylor explained that he had brought with him two critical partners in getting this compliance done and they are Ashley Hiscox, Work Activities and Melissa Osborne, Supervisor of Family Service Team and Income Maintenance Division. Mr. Taylor stated that this is part of the cash assistance program, and the welfare reform that started about twelve years ago. Mr. Taylor stated that there is a work requirement and it's pretty

Commissioners' Journal
December 1, 2011

significant for those who receive cash assistance. Ohio and all States and participating agencies are measured on the basis of two participation rates with a goal that States and local agencies hit the required work participation, so that the cash recipients are working. One rate is a two parent rate, which is both parents in the household are in the cash assistance program and the second is the all family rate which is a combination of the two parent rate but also single parent households. Mr. Taylor explained that Geauga County's history prior to welfare reform was that we would have had as many as two hundred (200) cases and for a number of years of subsequent to that as a decline, you would have seen that we might have had five or six family cases in total cash cases but with the recession that we have had in the last three or four years that number has jumped up to around fifteen to thirty cases in total.

Mr. Taylor explained that Ohio as a state has struggled with hitting participation rates, we as a state for three or four years did not hit the work participation rates. The State did initially do so with welfare reform – almost too well because we have gotten a lot of people off the roles in a hurry but in the last three years we have really struggled. The State of Ohio has fallen under sanction of the Federal government and the State has submitted a corrective action plan for this year but the condition with the Federal government is that if the State of Ohio does not meet the participation rates and get into compliance for next year, the concern is what might happen and that is the Federal government will levy a rather serious financial sanction on the State of Ohio involving the loss of maybe as much as \$137 million dollars of TANF funding that comes to the State and the State would have to make up out of the State GRF Funds some of those Federal dollars. The State Department of Job and Family Services for the last year and a half has emphasized the need to hit these work participation rates. Mr. Taylor stated that there are eighty-six counties that have been required to submit a corrective compliance plan to say how they are now going to hit these work participation rates as we move forward. Part of this corrective compliance plan is the certification that the Board has in front of them. Mr. Taylor expressed his frustration at times with the States language and desire to emphasize the importance of hitting this goal, when often times a county agency can be hitting on all the cylinders and still not hit some of the participation requirements. Mr. Taylor expressed that some of the problems may lie with the system they are required to use and the rules that they have to follow. We have to assume responsibility to hit these participation rates but feel that the State Department of Job and Family Service along with the Governor's office should also be required to play a role as well. Mr. Taylor asked that the Board approve the certification but wanted them to be aware of what they were doing along with the challenges they face in hitting these work participation rates. It seems straight forward that a cash recipient will get his benefit and in return is required to work so much, but it's not as straight forward as it might seem. Commissioner Jemison inquired about the barriers and how we can get beyond them.

Ms. Hiscox explained that one item listed in the Ohio Administrative Code may not be presented as much by the State. The State has good cause reasons listed in the code and we have to follow them and allow clients that have barriers to not participate in work activities; however it still counts against us. Ms. Hiscox explained that many have a good cause for not participating but we still take the hit for them, such as domestic clients, disabilities that require them to be at doctor's appointments daily, and other exclusions that are spelled out that in the ORC we have to follow. Ms. Hiscox explained that the State system was made in the 1980's and it is not built for the act that came into place in 1996 which surrounds this cash assistance program. The system is not meant to do work activities, which is the program we have to enter into the state system, and the state system we have to use in the computer works against us. There are ways to tweak names and assignments just down to the smallest thing and if it's not correct, it will show as a failure for us. Often these things can only be learned through trial and error and sometimes the state doesn't even know how the system will react to a certain case. Over time and in the last year the counties have worked together to figure out the state system and what they can do to eliminate some of the good cause options such as child care. Ms. Hiscox questioned if we could force the clients to accept our child care, and answered that they have been able to do so and the state has approved that. Ms. Hiscox explained that they have transitioned the worker who handles the work activities program from having them be an expert in employment more to an expert in public assistance, the programs and the state system, and that this has made a huge difference. Mr. Taylor stated that Ms. Hiscox has done an outstanding job, and her background and knowledge has helped us to understand the system, how to put the data in right to meet the requirements of the system. Ms. Hiscox has required Columbus to come up with answers where they weren't quite sure what the answer was. Mr. Taylor stated that last month Ms. Hiscox presented a training session on what Geauga County is doing that is working and has labeled the county as a best practice. Mr. Taylor expressed that the rules are continually changing and are

Commissioners' Journal
December 1, 2011

making it harder to achieve. Mr. Jemison noted from the spreadsheet presented that for FY 2012 we we're doing very well, and noted that was probably the reason why Ms. Hiscox presented because it shows our numbers have skyrocketed. Mr. Taylor explained that we can't fix the State of Ohio, that it comes down to the major metro areas to do that but we want Geauga County on the winning side.

Discussion took place regarding how the Federal Government will sanction the State and how it would affect the counties within the State. The possibility would be that the State would assume ½ of the sanction and the other half would be passed on to the contribution or causal counties. Mr. Taylor stated that he didn't want Geauga County to be a causal county, but on a case by case basis we wouldn't take a huge hit. Mr. Taylor stated that the case load is around twenty-five to thirty and the area that they struggle with the most is the two-parent rate but having two to three cases and having to hit 90% it will be hard. Ms. Hiscox noted that the all family rate weighs heavier but that the two-parent rate is combined into the all family rate. Mr. Taylor also added that if a case comes in from another county around the 25th of the month and the family has not done their required work participation, that will count against Geauga and not the county from which it came from. Mr. Taylor added that Ohio is the largest state that in terms of population that is not hitting the work participation rates, adding that when you have forty other states that are doing it, what are we doing wrong? Commissioner Samide inquired if New Jersey, New York or California was doing it. Ms. Hiscox noted that Michigan, Ohio and that she believed it was New York that were not hitting the rate, California is doing it; they were hit with doing something else wrong that has been since fixed. Mr. Taylor stated that it was the goal to get Geauga into the win column, with the all family rate we should be ok, but the two-parent rate is not guaranteed no matter what we do.

Ms. Hiscox explained that they have started a work industries job site adding that most of their disabled clients get a note from the doctor that states that they can't work or they have so many doctor's appointments that they have to go to weekly so that it prevents them from going to work; this is listed in the ORC as a good cause. We then ask the doctor what they can do and based upon that we give them an assignment that they can take home with them and supervise them over the phone rather than going to a job site. The client picks up the assignment and takes it home and completes a thirty hour assignment from their house. Mr. Jemison inquired as to what kind of an assignment it would be. Ms. Hiscox explained that they fold packets, assemble brochures, sorting, stapling, put labels on envelopes, or what the doctor says that they can do. Mr. Jemison inquired if they had enough work and where the work was coming from or if a private company could use the service. Ms. Hiscox stated that the Department on Aging, Job and Family Services, and Catholic Charities have given them assignments and the Dog Warden will be giving them some work as well. Mr. Taylor added that they are always looking for work, but that it can't be anything of a confidential nature and that timing could also be a bit of an issue. Mr. Taylor added that they also have a number of clients working regular jobs. Mr. Taylor also included that they would be sending the Board monthly updates on where Geauga stands on the work participation rates, noting that they have some things done and a number of things that they plan to do.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Commissioners' Certification for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Work Participation Corrective Compliance Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2012 affirming commitment to attain acceptable work activity performance levels as required by the TANF Act.

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – RE-APPOINT GEORGE (CHIP) HESS II – AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to re-appoint George (Chip) Hess II to a four year term for the Geauga County Airport Authority Board of Directors, with the term of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015.

Commissioners' Journal
December 1, 2011

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – AMEND MOTION FROM NOVEMBER 29, 2011 – SUSPEND BRIAN CAIN – OPERATOR I

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to amend the motion from November 29, 2011 to read: acknowledge the receipt of a waiver to the right to a disciplinary hearing and to further accept the recommendation of the hearing officer, Ron Geller, to suspend without pay Brian Cain, Operator I in the Department of Water Resources for forty (40) hours for violations of the Geauga County Personnel Policy as well as thirty (30) days suspension from driving for the County and further approve and execute the Order of Removal, Reduction, Suspension, Fine, Involuntary Disability Separation Form, per O.R.C. 124.34, for the forty hours as scheduled by the Director.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Young</i>	<i>Absent</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 November 23, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Fri., 12/2 The Commissioners will attend the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) "Take a Colleague to Lunch", 12:00 p.m. at the Welshfield Inn

Tues., 12/6 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tues., 12/6 Portage / Geauga Joint Detention Center Meeting, 2:30 p.m. Commissioners Chambers

Thu., 12/8 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 12/8 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Luncheon, 12:00 p.m.

Thu., 12/8 Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. Board of Trustees Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Fri., 12/9 NOACA Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

12/11 – 12/13 The Commissioners will attend the CCAO Winter Conference, Columbus, Ohio

*Tues., 12/13 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

Tues., 12/13 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

Thu., 12/15 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:32 A.M.

Commissioners' Journal
December 1, 2011

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

William S. Young

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk