

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**June 7, 2012**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on June 7, 2012 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 10:02 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a voucher payment to the United Way for the Department on Aging.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution #12-103 itemizing the financials for the meeting of June 7, 2012.*

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

*\*Commissioner Jemison abstains due to his role with United Way.*

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT – AMEND ADVERTISEMENT – FULL-TIME MULTI-CERTIFIED INSPECTOR (#1103)**

*Director Michael Mihalisin explained that they had received two applications and neither applicant was qualified. County Administrator David Lair stated that within our policy if no qualified applicants apply that we can increase the rate in hopes of getting a better response. Commissioner Jemison inquired if this position was being advertised throughout the state. Mr. Lair noted that it was listed within the CCAO bulletin. Commissioner Samide noted that it was being asked to increase the rate from \$21.90 to the market rate of \$23.07. Commissioner Young noted that other counties pay more than we do in Geauga. Mr. Mihalisin added that a lot of inspectors have retired and walked away from their certifications. Discussion then occurred with audience members and the Board regarding the certification requirements for the position and the length of time it takes to obtain them. Mr. Mihalisin noted that it takes about six years to obtain all three of the certifications for Electrical Safety Inspector, Class III and Residential. Part of that discussion included a certified electrician not being able to do the inspection unless he holds the Electrical Safety Inspector certification that is required by the O.R.C. and those interested have to submit paperwork to the State that is then reviewed by a board and decided upon whether they can take the test or not. Mr. Mihalisin added that throughout the state they are having problems with applicants for this position.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Young to grant permission to amend the advertisement for the position of Full-time Multi-Certified Inspector (#1103) to increase the rate of pay from \$21.90 per hour (Step 7, Grade 11) to the market rate of \$23.07 per hour (Step 9, Grade 11).*

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

**COUNTY HOME – HIRE CAROLYN KRAUS – FULL-TIME ATTENDANT (#1504)**

*Director Karen DeCola explained that Ms. Kraus is an LPN that previously worked in a doctor's office and decided that she missed the direct care part of her certification. Ms. Kraus would be on second shift as a Full-time Attendant.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve hiring Carolyn Kraus to the position of Full-time Attendant (#1504) to be effective June 12, 2012 at a rate of \$8.94 per hour. After the successful completion of a 180 day probationary period the rate will increase to \$9.41 per hour.*

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

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – 2012-2013 GRANT APPLICATION – VICTIM OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AND STATE VICTIM ADVOCACY ACT (SVAA)**

*Sheriff Dan McClelland explained that this application is for Tracy Jordan, and the Victim's Advocate Grant that is for \$46,091.00 that covers the period of time from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30, 2013. This is very important position, unfortunately, in Geauga County. Ms. Jordan works with the victims and helps navigate them through a host of issues. Ms. Jordan is still meeting regularly with the victims' families from the Chardon School incident. Ms. Jordan also assists with fatal car accidents and with notifications, along with helping families by explaining the legal process, the stages of what happens next, with insurance issues and all of this can be overwhelming. Sheriff McClelland stated that Ms. Jordan frees this task from deputies who then can go in and do the investigative work. Ms. Jordan has received special training and has been recognized for her work with many awards from the State.*

*Discussion took place with members of the audience and the Board concerning the possibilities of other agencies or if other programs were available to do the work that Ms. Jordan does. Sheriff McClelland explained that there are no agencies that come to Geauga County that do this work and that in the past this work was done under different programs, and that this just didn't get done the way it is handled today. Sheriff McClelland explained that Ms. Jordan is a civilian employee of the Sheriff's office and that she is not a commissioned law enforcement officer. The training and career path is a separate direction that only adds to the resources that can be offered to Geauga County. It was explained that Ms. Jordan is part of the first responders, who are in the field at the scene of the incident; she takes the family, the victims and works with them, shows them compassion, hugs them, while allowing the deputies and detectives to compose themselves in a manner to do what needs to be done for the investigation and still be able to face their families that evening.*

*Sheriff McClelland and Mr. Jemison discussed the grant, and the strings attached that are often referred to, this grant's requirements are comfortable, that Geauga has to be an equal opportunity employer and be held accountable for the money.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 2012-2013 Grant Application for Geauga County's Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) and State Victim Advocacy Act (SVAA) in the amount of \$46,091.00. As part of this grant, \$32,123.00 is being requested from Federal VOCA funds, \$3,261.00 from the SVAA fund, and a local match of \$10,707.00 from the County General fund. This grant is for the period October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARING – 2013 TAX BUDGET**

*Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Young to grant permission to advertise to hold a Public Hearing to discuss the Geauga County 2013 Tax Budget on Tuesday, July 3, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. Notice of this public hearing will be advertised on June 14, 2012 and on the county website.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING #2 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GRANT APPLICATIONS**

*Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Young to waive the reading of the legal notice.*

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

*Commissioner Samide opened the public hearing at 10:28 a.m. and explained that this money comes from the Federal government and that this year they were given \$176,000.00. Ms. Samide noted that this amount has decreased over the years and figures that this program will eventually be no longer available. Ms. Samide said that people can apply and that a committee evaluates the applications and gives their recommendations. The Commissioners take them into consideration but don't always accept them. Program Administrator Rhea Benton explained that the Office of Community and Economic Development administers the program, and explained that each applicant will be given a chance to give a short presentation about their project.*

*Project #1 – Maple Leaf Community Residences*

*Asking to purchase and install seven (7) permanent generators at seven (7) homes countywide. This project would allow the Developmental Disabilities (DD) residents to remain in their home during a power outage.*

*CDBG Request:       \$41,300.00   Total Project Cost:   \$41,300.00*

*Keith Werbeach explained that a few weeks prior that the Board had taken action to amend last year's grant to include generators for some of the houses within the Community. This application is to cover the remaining homes of the seventeen total houses. Mr. Werbeach stated that Maple Leaf houses people with developmental disabilities and who are referred by the Board of Developmental Disabilities. These generators are an attempt to make the houses more sustainable during power outages and to keep the residents from being moved to a hotel or a rental unit which can be difficult. Often times, medical equipment must travel with the resident in order to meet their needs. Mr. Werbeach explained that the appliances within the homes are electric as opposed to gas, so the generators being looked at would be adequate to maintain the functions of a well pump, to cook, to operate as normal. Mr. Young inquired if they had ever had to move the residents. Mr. Werbeach replied that they had, during the summer and had lost food from some freezers. These expenses goes to the resident, and they are all living on a very limited income.*

*Discussion took place between the audience members and the Board regarding the cost of taking this money and its effect on the country. There was a strong reference from some of the audience members about the need for the people to take care of their own and not accept money from the government and that people need to be responsible for their own. It was also noted that while philanthropy covering everything would great, people can't afford that in today's current state. Mr. Werbeach added that Maple Leaf Community is a non-profit organization that costs one third of a nursing home, which is paid for by Medicare / Medicaid which means that it's like saving two thirds of our money.*

*Project #2 – City of Chardon*

*Purchase ADA lift and stairs for Public Swimming Pool. This project would make the municipal pool ADA accessible, satisfying the Department of Justice's revised regulations.*

*CDBG Request:       \$11,463.00   Total Project Cost:   \$11,463.00*

*Randy Sharpe and Rebecca Repasky explained that it's being required that all municipal pools be ADA accessible into the water. They are requesting funding to install a pool lift and stairs. The stairs would give better access into the pool for swimming lessons and adult therapy programs, along with being easier for handicapped and normal individuals to enter and exit the pool. Ms. Repasky noted that it was rumored that Mr. Walczak could possibly be prescribed water therapy. It was discussed that the YMCA facility has ADA accessibility and is open year round, whereas the Chardon pool is shut down during much of the year. The lift being requested is portable and can be stored for the winter.*

*Project #3 – DDC Clinic – Middlefield*

*"A" Funding the special needs child assistance program, assisting ninety (90) families with funding opportunities.*

*"B" Expand and improve parking lot and fix drainage deficiencies*

*CDBG Request:       "A" \$29,900.00 "B" \$20,474.00   Total Project Cost:   \$50,374.00*

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*Executive Director Blake Andres explained that this is a phase two project, to improve access for patients. The work they do is to improve quality of life for families with rare genetic disorders and often have multiple disabilities, adding that they currently have six hundred patient families. Mr. Andres stated that they opened the building three years ago and was paid for through philanthropy, however some things were not completed as there wasn't enough funds to complete the exterior projects. Those projects include landscaping, however more critical is the parking lot, which is currently limestone and is too small. There are bio-swales for drainage, and sod but nothing else. The other project is for the special needs children assistance fund. Patients come in for a two and half hour visit that includes genetic testing and to match them up with as many services as needed. Patients with metabolic disorders need supplements, formulas, feeding tubes and things of that nature that are expensive. We work with pharmacies and other suppliers to get anything we can to help with cost. Discussion took place about what the greater need was. Mr. Andres stated that they would prioritize the addition of families and make do with the parking lot. Mr. Andres added that they work with approximately 100 different disorders that they see and help out with that they have expertise in.*

*Project #4 – Berkshire School District Administration – Burton Village*

*Public rehabilitation to this polling location to make ADA improvements to entryway, parking spaces, and two (2) bathrooms.*

*CDBG Request:       \$44,500.00     Total Project Cost:     \$44,500.00*

*Treasurer Beth McCaffrey explained that they were requesting \$44,500.00 to add a permanent ramp to the front door of the building for ADA accessibility and upgrades to two bathrooms for better access. This building is used twice a year as a polling location for about fourteen hundred (1400) people. Currently for a wheel chair to enter they have to enter through the bus garage. Jane Zimmerman from the Board of Elections added that polling locations have to be ADA accessible and they are spot checked to see if they are in compliance as there are requirements that need to be followed. This building is compliant right now, however if they cannot enter then ballots have to be taken to them. This entrance having a ramp would help with wheelchairs and the elderly. It was noted that the school would provide labor and demolition and help with the bathrooms.*

*Project #5 – Habitat for Humanity – Chagrin Falls Park*

*Construction of new single-family home for a LMI family. Building on two (2) lots that Habitat owns in Chagrin Falls Park.*

*CDBG Request:       \$20,000.00     Total Project Cost:     \$89,200.00*

*Director Christine Bucknell explained that they have property in Chagrin Falls park that they have owned for twenty years and have built over forty houses in that community which is underserved. This would be to build a twelve hundred square foot home, three bedroom, one and a half bathrooms with an attached garage. Ms. Bucknell added that she didn't believe this house would include a basement.*

*Ms. Bucknell wanted to explain how Habitat works. This is charitable organization, not a charity. Clients do not get a free house; it is not a hand out, it's a hand up. Homeowners pay a mortgage, no interest, no money down but have to put in five hundred hours of sweat equity into the house. Most of the people qualifying are on public assistance and receive tax dollars, once they get into the house they begin paying tax dollars, by way of their property taxes. This is for low to moderate income families that don't have enough for a conventional loan, or make too much for public assistance. They have to live or work in Geauga County. The families are required to work, background checks are done, income checks are done and in home visits are made. Discussion took place between the audience members and the Board regarding how the mortgages are tracked, the rates of foreclosures, the cost of building a Habitat home versus a regular home and the options for funding from a bank instead of grant funds. It was noted that if the resident moves or sells the house they have to pay back the loan, however it is based on the number of years lived there, that there is a decrease of the amount they have to pay back.*

*Project #6 – Burton Volunteer Fire Department*

*Purchase of equipment to convert existing ambulance to a bariatric ambulance, to allow for transporting morbidly obese patients. Will be only one of its kind in Geauga County. Will share resource with all Geauga Fire Departments.*

*CDBG Request:       \$20,000.00     Total Project Cost:     \$20,000.00*

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*Lieutenant Michael Croucher explained that they would like to purchase equipment to upgrade an existing ambulance to become a bariatric unit. They recently purchased a new ambulance and currently have three at their station. Mr. Croucher noted that the majority of patients of this size come from nursing homes like Burton Healthcare and that they would be expanding their current bariatric center. The equipment needed is for ramps, a winch and a specialized stretcher; this is not a huge undertaking by being able to put it into an existing unit. This ambulance would then be available as a mutual aid unit to all the fire departments in the county, which means this unit could go anywhere in the county, or the state depending on the need. Currently there is one out of Ashtabula County, one in Conneaut, Mentor and Mayfield Heights, but Mayfield does not let their unit leave their community. Discussion took place regarding other options for funding and increasing revenue to cover the cost, and how the unit would be used with the surrounding departments and coverage when it's out of the community. Mr. Croucher presented the Board with some information on another state that upgraded and retrofitted a squad for this same purpose. Mr. Croucher added that handling bariatric patients is back breaking work and that you need a minimum of four, but that it is better to have six to eight people for lifting and moving.*

*Project #7 – Pleasant Hill County Home – Claridon*

*ADA renovation of three (3) bathrooms and installation of walk-in tub in fourth bathroom. This project can be phased over several years.*

*CDBG Request:       \$111,500.00   Total Project Cost:   \$111,500.00*

*Director Karen DeCola explained that her request could be broken down into smaller projects over time. Ms. DeCola stated that she was looking to rehabilitate three bathrooms and a fourth with a walk-in bathtub. Due to space restrictions she cannot be truly ADA compliant but this would help. Currently there is only one bathtub and the remaining bathrooms have showers. The residents cannot get in or out of the tub so it's more for decoration. Residents with physical impairments or balance issues have a lot of trouble. Ms. DeCola stated that the County Home fits in all categories of the grant as residents include geriatric, physical disabilities and mental health and mental retardation. This rehabilitation would also include upgrading the toilets to clog proof, which would save man hours with maintenance. This amount requested is to do all of the projects, but it can be broken down into smaller amounts and down a project at a time. Mr. Werbeach added from the audience that a walk-in tub reduces the risk for workers compensation claims.*

*Project #8 – Burton Village*

*ADA upgrades to Log Cabin parking lot, add cross walk, install sidewalks on perimeter, and ADA upgrade bathrooms.*

*CDBG Request:       \$90,125.00   Total Project Cost:   \$90,125.00*

*Fiscal Officer Chris Paquett and Street Commissioner Charles Hauser explained that they were asking to rehabilitate the only public bathroom in Burton Village Park; it is currently not ADA accessible due to the parking spots being by the road and because the driveway to get to the bathrooms is gravel. It is hard to maneuver a wheelchair or walker through the current parking lot. This rehab would include paving the parking lot, adding two parking spaces near the building and upgrading the bathrooms. Mr. Paquett added that the park sees a lot of people traffic throughout the year with the Fair, Applebutter Festival, Pancakes, the cruise in car shows, the fall driving tour and the steam shows. Mr. Paquett added that there was no way to separate the projects out as he can't upgrade the bathrooms if they still can't get to them. They briefly discussed other possible options for funding.*

*Project #9 – Huntsburg Township*

*Public Rehabilitation to install ADA entry ramp and ADA bathroom upgrades to Gym / Community Center.*

*CDBG Request:       \$85,600.00   Total Project Cost:   \$85,600.00*

*Nancy Saunders and Michelle Saunders explained that when Cardinal School chose to put the school up for sale the Township had to either put in their own wastewater treatment plant or purchase the school and gym. The Township purchased both and have been trying to update the facilities. They need to make the gym ADA accessible as it is used by many groups and organizations for basketball and church youth programs. The Montessori Farm School rents it for their physical education programs, the Educational Service Center uses it for an autistic program and Headstart is using the school building. The gym is also used by the Grange and*

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*the park for concerts. The buildings are rented at reasonable rates that help them maintain but not enough to do the upgrades. Ms. Saunders added that they could add about \$9 to \$10,000.00 along with labor for demolition. Discussion took place regarding the upgrades they were able to do with a grant from NOPEC last year and how the building came back to the Township.*

*Project #10 – Geauga County CED – Withdrawn*

*Project #11 – Vron Place, Burton*

*This is a public rehabilitation of a non-profit licensed live-in home for five (5) residents. It consists of three combined projects: Waterproofing the basement, Installing new windows, and Building a front porch with a roof.*

*CDBG Request:       \$51,125.00    Total Project Cost:   \$51,125.00*

*Joy Black explained that this concept was started by two residents from Joy's Place in 2007 that stabilized and wanted independence but supervision. These residents have a mental health diagnosis that follows up with medical care but they can still navigate through the community. They formed a 501C3 and a resident contributed funds to purchase a building. This facility has been open for four years, opened under the Ohio Department of Health and was transferred by the State via a budget decision to the Ohio Department of Mental Health. They have a 24 hour caregiver on site and are provided transportation for medical appointments and social activities. They are requesting to fix drainage issues with the gutters and underground, along with replacing a porch and updating windows.*

*Ms. Samide stated that there is only \$176,000.00 total that can be awarded for four projects and that they have a tough decision to make.*

*Being no comments from the public Commissioner Samide closed the public hearing at 12:17 p.m.*

*Ms. Samide added that the Board appreciated everyone for coming and presenting their projects, that they are all good and that a decision would be made by the 12<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> as the application has to be in by the 19<sup>th</sup> and to the State by the 29<sup>th</sup>.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending May 30, 2012 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) The Monthly Financial Report from the County Building Department for the month of May, 2012.*

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

*Fri., 6/8    Some of the Commissioners will attend the NOACA Summit, Cleveland State University's Wolstein Center, 8:30 a.m.*

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

*Tues., 6/12   The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon*

*Wed., 6/13   The Commissioners will attend the Geauga Growth Partnership Annual Meeting, 7:30 a.m. at Fowlers Mill Golf Club*

*Thu., 6/14   The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

*Sat., 6/16    Some of the Commissioners will attend the Grand Opening Celebration of Observatory Park, 6:30 p.m.*

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*Mon., 6/18 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m.*

*Mon., 6/18 Family First Council, 2:00 p.m. Mental Health Board*

*Tues., 6/19 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

*Thu., 6/21 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

*Thu., 6/21 Portage Geauga Joint Detention Center Board Public Hearing for the 2013 Tax Budget, 1:00 p.m. Commissioners Chambers, Geauga County.*

*Fri., 6/22 Department on Aging's First 5K Shake, Rattle and Run, 8:30 a.m. Orchard Hills Park, Chesterland*

***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER JEMISON ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:22 P.M.***

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Mary E. Samide*

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*William S. Young*

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*Tracy A. Jemison*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*