

Commissioners' Journal
September 27, 2012

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on September 27, 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 10:00 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of September 25, 2012.

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

**Commissioner Jemison was absent from this meeting.*

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a voucher payment to the United Way for the Department of Jobs and Family Services.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution #12-173 itemizing the financials for the meeting of September 27, 2012.

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

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

GEAUGA COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY – REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #1 – FAA GRANT TO IMPROVE AIRPORT DRAINAGE AND RECONSTRUCT CONCRETE APRON PHASE 2

Business Manager Patty Fulop explained that she was asking the Board to approve the first reimbursement request for the Airport Drainage and Concrete Apron Project.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Reimbursement Request #1 for engineering expenses for the FAA Grant #AIP 3-39-0054-1512 to Improve Airport Drainage and Reconstruct Concrete Apron Phase 2 in the amount of \$29,000.00 (Federal Share \$26,100.00 and Local Match \$2,900.00).

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – FY 2011 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GRANT AMENDMENT

Director Anita Stocker explained that this amendment follows the public hearing that was held on Tuesday. Ms. Stocker explained that the city of Chardon Log Cabin demolition project had been delayed beyond the deadlines allowable to enable the \$14,300.00 awarded to that project to be used, the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center parking lot improvement project was able to be reduced by \$10,000.00, and these grant monies that are available are able to be shifted to fund additional generators for Maple Leaf Communities residences. Commissioner Claypool stated that he would be abstaining from this action because he felt more conversation was needed for him to be comfortable with approving these programs.

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Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Office of Community Development FY 2011 Community Development Block Grant Amendment (Grant #B-F-11-1AZ-1) to Eliminate the Chardon Log Cabin Demolition (\$14,300.00), Decrease the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Parking Lot Project (\$10,000.00) and Increase the Maple Leaf Community Residences (\$24,300.00).

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

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE / VICTIM WITNESS – VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AND STATE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE ACT (SVAA) GRANT AWARD AND ACCEPTANCE

Victim Advocate Cindi Haycox Wellman from the Geauga County Prosecutor's office explained that the Department of Justice awards five (5) VOCA grants to Geauga County, separately for the Prosecutor's office, Municipal Court, CASA for Kids, the Sheriff's Department, and WomenSafe. Mr. Claypool stated that he was concerned that we are "overkilling" services for victims of crime, asking how many people do we need to handle this issue? Commissioner Jemison asked Ms. Wellman if she was busy? Ms. Wellman responded that she was, and that her grant runs on a fiscal year from October 1st through September 30th, and last year alone she assisted a total of 710 victims, stating the categories for each as follows: 12 Child Physical Abuse, 38 Child Sexual Abuse, 17 DUI/DWI Crashes, 46 Domestic Violence, 39 Adult Sexual Assault, 21 Elder Abuse, 7 Adults Molested as Children, 14 Survivors of Homicide Victims, 75 Robbery/Theft, 43 Assault, and 398 categorized as "Other" that include burglary, identity theft, telephone harassment, forgery, and a number of other issues.

Ms. Wellman stated that when an individual convicted of a crime is in the prison system, the victim of that crime can register with a service called VINE, to allow for notification if the criminal changes location within the prison system. Ms. Wellman stated that her primary role is to assist victims of felony-level crimes, which currently averages about 200 criminal cases a year. Ms. Wellman noted that one crime may have only one victim, while other crimes may have several victims and that on a recent case, the crime resulted in 14 victims. Ms. Wellman stated that the court magistrates listen to victims and ensure their protection. Mr. Claypool questioned whether this function replaces work that would otherwise be handled directly by a prosecuting attorney or a deputy. Ms. Wellman replied that her position enables her to follow through on the issues, giving her the time to properly advocate for victims; whereas leaving this responsibility to the prosecuting attorney or deputy involved in the case wouldn't allow for the level of involvement with the victims that she can provide.

In response to a question from Mr. Claypool regarding the funding being paid out of fines levied as a result of criminal activity, and expressing his opinion that this system "seems a little paternalistic" in that we have to explain to victims the process. Ms. Wellman responded that he was correct in where the funding is received from and that victims often have no prior interaction with the courts or law enforcement, and don't know the process and the legal terms involved. The goal is to keep victims informed every step of the way during the legal process. Mr. Jemison stated that he doesn't see duplication in the funding as these five different agencies handle separate victim's advocate responsibilities. The Sheriff's advocate hands over cases to the Prosecutor's office, and the Victim's Advocate programs serving WomenSafe, CASA, and the Municipal Court also have separate functions. Mr. Claypool stated that he still had a problem with this system of multiple resources, stating that there may be disconnect at times with the current system. Ms. Wellman explained that there are some localities that have separate departments that handle all Victims' Advocate activities through a single grant and a single Victim's Advocate. Commissioner Samide remarked that the state and local governments provide hundreds of thousands of mandated dollars for the defense of criminals, yet do relatively little for the victims of crime. Ms. Wellman noted that it is her job to help advocate for them.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) Grant Award and Acceptance Form and Associated Forms for the Geauga County Prosecutor's Victim Witness Programs for the period October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 in the amount of \$62,790.00, \$43,747.00 from Federal VOCA funds #2012VAGENE005,

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\$14,582.00 Local match from the Geauga County General Fund, and \$4,461.00 from the State Victims Assistance Act SVAA #2012SAGENE005.

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

Mr. Claypool complimented Ms. Wellman on her presentation and that she had done a good job in answering his questions.

SOIL / WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – ACKNOWLEDGE NOTICE OF VIOLATION – FORWARD TO PROSECUTOR FOR COMPLIANCE – CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

District Director / Engineer Carmella Shale explained that this is a project they have continued to inspect over time, and stated that they have continued to try to work with the church to resolve the problem, but the response has been along the lines of “We’ll get to it.” Ms. Shale presented the Board with several pictures documenting the severity of the erosion affecting the property. Mr. Claypool asked if anyone from the church was present, with no response from the audience; he remarked that in this case a picture is certainly worth a thousand words.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to acknowledge the Notice of Violation issues against Cornerstone Bible Church located at 15029 Enterprise Way (Parcel# 04-150573) in Burton Township for failure to comply with Geauga County Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations as outlined in the “Notice of Violation” (Sections 7.03, 7.04 and 7.15) “Site Inspection Reports” and to forward the “Notice of Violation” and “Inspection Reports” to the Geauga County Prosecutor to enforce compliance with the Geauga County Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations by seeking an injunction or other further relief to secure the required compliance.

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

In response to a question from the board regarding the process for prosecution, Ms. Shale stated that Soil and Water’s legal representative from the Prosecutor’s office will give 14 days to comply before actual legal action is initiated. Ms. Shale stated that in her experience over the years only one case has gone beyond that point, noting that if the landowner is showing good action toward addressing the issue, the district will work with them. Ms. Shale stated that she believes one of the reasons is that the church has been working on their property primarily with volunteer help, as opposed to a contractor who could be contacted and encouraged directly to address the problem.

COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICE – RESOLUTION DISSOLVING THE MIDDLEFIELD DISPATCH CENTER AS A PRIMARY SAFETY ANSWERING POINT FOR MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE

Sheriff Dan McClelland, Lieutenant Gary Gribbons, and Department of Emergency Services Director Dale Wedge were present to explain the proposed action to dissolve the Middlefield Village Police Dispatch Center, and transfer the 9-1-1 call handling responsibilities to the Sheriff’s 9-1-1 Dispatch Center. Sheriff McClelland stated that this was the final step of the process, as Middlefield Village wants to discontinue their dispatch center. Sheriff McClelland explained that part of the process requires planning for the rerouting of the 9-1-1 calls, which requires a meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the development of a specific plan for the shifting of 9-1-1 calls that were previously handled by Middlefield Police Dispatch to the Geauga County Dispatch.

Sheriff McClelland stated that the final step is for the Board to approve and submit this Resolution to the PUCO, with November 5th specified as the effective date for the transfer. Mr. Jemison asked if they will have someone there at Middlefield for overlap on the first day. Sheriff McClelland responded that they would to ensure there aren’t any problems. Ms. Samide stated that this will be saving Middlefield Village quite a bit of money. Sheriff McClelland stated that the approximate savings is around \$250,000.00 per year. Mr. Claypool stated that he had been doing some homework as to what happened when Chester Township Police Department dispatch closed down their operation and transferred it to the Sheriff. Mr. Claypool stated that Chester saved money, but the taxpayers didn’t see a reduction, as the police department simply spent

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those saved dollars elsewhere, asking the question of what historically happens in most instances like this. Sheriff McClelland explained that in the case of Chester, the savings went into more first responder resources to serve residents. Mr. Claypool stated that "It really bugs me that the township of Chester reused the money elsewhere and there was no savings to the taxpayers." Mr. Jemison stated that perhaps in some cases, a police department can let an existing levy expire if they close down a dispatch center, and thus provide a real savings to taxpayers. Sheriff McClelland stated that he doesn't like speaking for other entities as to whether there is a plan to allow an existing levy to lapse. Mr. Claypool stated that when we say savings, he wants to see a reduction directly to the taxpayers; we hear this rhetoric of saving money, but the taxes never go down. Mr. Claypool stated that the Sheriff does a great job and he approves of this action, but would like to see a "real" savings. Sheriff McClelland stated that the first step is to provide an opportunity for savings.

Mr. Jemison asked the Sheriff that with the Dispatch Center taking on more calls would they be able to handle the additional volume. Sheriff McClelland explained that a study of the number of push-to-talks and airtime had been done and feels that they are quite comfortable that they will be able to handle this. Mr. Jemison replied that this is good to know, so that other residents won't think their service will suffer if they need to call 9-1-1. Sheriff McClelland stated that there are advantages in dispatching in a multiple dispatcher environment which allows multiple steps to occur at the same time when a large incident requires continuous contact with first responders while other operators in the dispatch center can bring additional resources. Mr. Claypool stated that there is still a negative to this type of consolidation, in that we have to be cautious of removing the closeness of the local community, using the example of calling 9-1-1 for a speeder in his Chester neighborhood; he was able previously to talk directly to the local police and put an incident into context. With centralized dispatch, the local police are looking more like an extension of the Sheriff's department. Sheriff McClelland responded that with technology, there are more and more calls where the dispatcher is able to relay information to the field which enables the local police responder to contact the caller directly via cell. Sheriff McClelland added that when you get a call on a major incident, centralized dispatch will allow for having a central point of information, giving an opportunity to look at the overall picture on an operational level and be able to coordinate resources effectively.

Mr. Claypool stated that it may be a good idea to have a public forum regarding this issue; Sheriff McClelland explained that he currently gets a large number of requests for him to speak, and to Mr. Claypool as to whether the public had been given an opportunity to provide comment regarding the Middlefield dispatch closure, Sheriff McClelland stated that such an opportunity had been provided. Sheriff McClelland stated that there had not been as much public participation in that discussion as compared to what had occurred when Chester phased out their dispatch several years ago.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #12-174 Dissolving the Middlefield Dispatch Center as a Primary Safety Answering Point for Middlefield Village, upon the recommendation of the Geauga County Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

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

LIQUOR LICENSE – SUNSHINE GROUP, INCORPORATED AND PATIO – PARKMAN TOWNSHIP

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to concur with Parkman Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Sunshine Group, Incorporated and Patio located at 16066 Main Market St. State Route 422 (C TRFO 8699350).

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

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending September 19, 2012 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) *A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the prisoner transport for the month ending August, 2012 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Thu. 9/27 Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Board meeting, 2:00 p.m. Auditor's Office*
- Thu., 9/27 Farm Bureau Dinner, 6:00 p.m. St. Mary's Social Hall, Chardon*
- Tues., 10/2 **The Regular Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***
- Tues., 10/2 Perry Nuclear Power Plant Drill*
- Thu., 10/4 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 10/4 Budget Hearings beginning at 1:00 p.m.*
- Mon., 10/8 **County offices will be closed for general business in honor of Columbus Day. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***
- Tues., 10/9 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***
- Tues., 10/9 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon*
- Thu., 10/11 The Commissioners will hold regular session*
- Thu., 10/11 Budget Hearings beginning at 1:00 p.m.*
- Fri., 10/12 NOACA meeting, 10:00 a.m. Cleveland*
- Mon., 10/15 Family First Council, 2:00 p.m. Mental Health Board*
- Tues., 10/16 The Commissioners will hold regular session*
- Tues., 10/16 Budget Hearings beginning at 1:00 p.m.*

OTHER - BIRTHDAY

Mr. Claypool wished Mr. Jemison a Happy Birthday (which had occurred the day before).

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

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Tracy A. Jemison

Walter M. Claypool

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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