

Commissioners' Journal
August 11, 2009

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 11, 2009 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, William S. Young 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 Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of July 30, 2009.

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

** Commissioner Young was absent from this session.*

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of August 6, 2009.

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

**Commissioner Jemison was absent from this session.*

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Fiscal Specialist Diane Arp explained the financials as including an appropriation transfer for Veterans into their Salary, PERS and Medicare line items; cash transfers include the monthly interest, and the monthly appropriations to the County Home and Mental Health; and three travel requests.

The Board asked if the Veterans' appropriation has to be approved to which County Administrator Dave Lair replied that the legal opinion is the Board has a funding mandate up to a certain millage and this is within that millage and he added that we probably do have to approve it. Commissioner Jemison asked that he get a legal opinion on this still. Commissioner Jemison commented that he has no problem funding for the Veterans but he would like the legal opinion if this has to be approved for staff salaries. Mr. Lair commented that he met with the Veterans' Commission and showed them that their compensation is very, very adequate compared to other county employees but apparently that is not sufficient for them. Commissioner Samide commented that there should be a more of a clarification that the people who work there should be paid within the county guidelines. Commissioner Jemison added that there should be some fiduciary responsibility.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution 09-143 itemizing the financials for the meeting of August 11, 2009.

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

COUNTY TREASURER & COUNTY AUDITOR - MONTHLY STATEMENT OF COUNTY FINANCES

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Treasurer for the month of July, 2009 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

Motion: *by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Auditor for the month of July, 2009 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.*

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

TREASURER'S OFFICE – FIFTH THIRD BANK – ADDITIONAL PUBLIC DEPOSITORY

Motion: *by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute resolution 09-144 designating Fifth Third Bank as an additional public depository for the remainder of the four (4) year designation period through October 11, 2012.*

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – NEW HIRE APPOINTMENT – AMY CLAUSS

Motion: *by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve the following new hire appointment of the Director of Job and Family Services, as Job and Family Services has complied with the Board of Commissioners hiring process:*

Amy Clauss - Eligibility / Referral Specialist 1, 8-3-09 (replacement)

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT – LOST POND CONSTRUCTION

Director Anita Stocker stated that we are still in a good position on this mortgage.

Motion: *by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute a Subordination Agreement Real Estate Mortgage between The Geauga County Board of Commissioners and First National Bank of Pennsylvania in favor of First National Bank in the amount of \$150,000.00 in regards to the Revolving Loan Fund loan to Lost Pond Construction.*

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

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER – MT BUSINESS TECHNOLOGIES – MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Director Linda Burhenne stated that Mr. Lair allowed them to do this although they were asked to reduce expenditures as it will help them to do really good meaningful work with the people they have next year. This will allow them, for example, to scan marriage records and send them electronically from now on. They are planning to scan things and then taking them all the way to microfilm.

Motion: *by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute a maintenance Contract Agreement with MT Business Technologies Incorporated to provide V.I.P. maintenance protection for a IS760 scanner for one year, in the amount of \$295.00 per year.*

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – RE-EXECUTE GRANT SIGNATURE PAGE AGREEMENT – PARKMAN WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board re-execute the signature page of the United States Department of Agriculture Water or Waste System Grant Agreement Rural Utilities Service (RUS Bulletin 1780-12) pertaining to the May 23, 2002 Agreement, for the grant amount of \$960,000.00 for the construction financing of the Parkman Waste Water Treatment Plant.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – RE-EXECUTE USDA LOAN RESOLUTION - PARKMAN WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board re-execute the United States Department of Agriculture Loan Resolution (RUS Bulletin 1780-27) in the loan amount of \$1,960,000.00 for the construction financing of the Parkman Waste Water Treatment Plant.

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

COUNTY HOME – PROBATIONARY FAIL – CASSANDRA MOORE

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve the probationary fail of Cassandra Moore, a Substitute Attendant, to be effective July 30, 2009.

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

COUNTY HOME – HIRE FULLTIME ATTENDANT – WENDY HALLSTROM

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve hiring Wendy Hallstrom for the position of Fulltime Attendant (#1504), to be effective August 23, 2009.

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

GEAUGA COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY – FINAL APPLICATION – RUNWAY REHAB PROJECT #AIP-3-39-0054-1309

Patty Fulop, Secretary/Treasurer/Manager stated that the pre-application was done earlier with a slightly higher amount and the bid came in lower than the engineer's estimate by about \$8,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the final application for FAA Project Application for AIP-3-39-0054-1309 Runway Rehab Design; Runway Rehab Phase 1 Construction; Apron Rehab Design and Apron Rehab Phase 1 Construction Project, in the amount of \$140,071.00 (Federal share \$133,067.00 and the local match from the Geauga County General Fund of \$7,004.00). This grant is for the period October 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010.

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

DOG WARDEN – INCREASE DOG REGISTRATION AND KENNEL FEES DISCUSSION

Dog Warden Matt Granito was present to discuss an increase in fees for dog registration fees to \$13.00 (from \$10.00) and kennel registration fees to \$65.00 (from \$50.00). Mr. Granito said that the last license increase was done in 2000 that went from \$8.00 to \$10.00. When Mr. Granito was hired in 2002 they had to borrow \$38,000.00 from the General Fund which actually ended up being a gift of \$38,000.00. At that time they could have raised the fees again but chose to lay off an employee. In 2003 there were six available positions for the Dog Wardens office. They went down to three employees and have maintained this staff for the last seven years, and they are a 24/7 department. In 2000 the employees' salary line was \$114,085.84 and this year they are requesting \$114,500.00. They have increased expenses with gas and cost for the animals while doing more with the animals. They have the highest adoption and return to owner rates in the State of Ohio in the past seven years. The donations line for 2000 was \$4,100.00 for donations and reimbursements of cell phones. Last year they took in donations of \$44,187.00, although the donations are decreasing this year, which is the only economy related issue they have. They cannot rely on donations to run the kennels. The majority of the income comes from dog licenses. In the 2010 budget they are estimating a \$4,000.00 deficit. What is misleading in expenses is they are appropriating \$229,000.00 but the Auditor's portion (by law) is \$16,000.00 which means they will be in a deficit. Mr. Granito is predicting he will not get the donations he estimated last year. Mr. Granito added that statewide the average dog license is \$12.54 and compared with the surrounding counties that we are tied with for the lowest amount of \$10.00 for license fees. They have decreased dog license sales, some of this is due to not being able to go out and aggressively search for unlicensed dogs and also the lack of staff. They have sent out letters to those from the past who have not gotten licenses for this year. Mr. Granito stated that the Ohio law clearly states that the only time the rates can be increased by the Commissioners is if they foresee a deficit coming for the following year. This cannot be approved until they start showing a deficit. If this increase is not approved they may have to come before the Board to borrow from the general fund to get through the remainder of 2010 as there are no more cuts he can do. Commissioner Jemison commended Mr. Granito by stating he has done a great job and has managed the budget extraordinarily. Commissioner Jemison reviewed the Dog Warden's Office past budget history and balance. Commissioner Jemison added that he does not believe this is the time for an increase for anything to the residents. He believes Mr. Granito will end up with enough money with his current spending levels to get through to 2010. It appears, from past history, that whenever they have raised the fees they lose people (license fees). Commissioner Jemison added that it appears we are penalizing those that do get a license by raising the rates because there are those that do not get a license which ends up showing as a deficit in the budget. Mr. Granito replied that licenses are to protect your dog and to get your dog back to you. Mr. Granito replied that Geauga County percentage of dog owners (14.7%) is above the State of Ohio average (12.3%) but there still is a decline in license fees. Mr. Granito explained the difficulties in going after those that do not get their licenses and the cost to go after them. Commissioner Jemison stated that he believes they will have difficulty in meeting the law requirements for raising fees for this year, although they may be able to meet the need in 2010. Commissioner Jemison commented that just like they have asked everyone to hold the line on spending, we should hold the line on as well by not increasing fees to our residents. Commissioner Jemison added that he believes with Mr. Granito's direction he could get the budget to work and still do the exceptional work that he does. Mr. Granito stated that he is here to make the Board aware that when they meet for budget hearings he will estimate less revenue than what he certified in 2009. If he can't make budget next year he will have to consider layoffs and removing the 24 hour on call which means the Sheriff's Office will have to cover. Commissioner Jemison replied that he did not believe there will be a deficit for next year. Commissioner Young suggested asking for donations along with the mailing of the notification for dog licenses. Mr. Granito stated that the donations have been good and believes it is due to the fact that they show the people how they take care of the animals. Mr. Granito added that this year they will aggressively campaign for the dog licenses and perhaps sell them in front of Wal-Mart on Saturdays, for example, to increase the dog licenses. Commissioner Samide added that if the fee is kept low that people would not object as much. Commissioner Jemison also commended Mr. Granito on the fact that they had 722 dogs and they were able to adopt 700 of them, and added that that figure is astonishing.

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OTHER

The Board reviewed calendars and upcoming events.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of July 2009, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*
- b) *The monthly financial report from the County Building Department for the month of July 2009.*

MEETINGS

- Thu., 8/13 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Fri., 8/14 NOACA*
- Fri., 8/14 Community and Economic Development and CIC's Lunch and Learn – How to Perform a Patent Search at Building #8 at noon.*
- Mon., 8/17 Board of Revision meeting at the Auditor's Conference Room at 9:30 a.m.*
- Mon., 8/17 Family First at 2:00 p.m.*
- Tue., 8/18 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 8/21 CCAO/CEAO-OSU Extension meeting at the Galaxy Banquet Center in Wadsworth*
- Thu., 8/20 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***
- Tue., 8/25 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 8/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Tue., 9/1 Public Hearing for the CY 2010 ODOT Operating Grant Proposal and the CY 2010 ODOT Capital Grant Proposal to be held on September 1, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER YOUNG ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:10 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

Mary E. Samide

William S. Young

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Claudine Kozenko, Commissioners' Clerk