

Commissioners' Journal
September 20, 2012

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on September 20, 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 MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of September 13, 2012.

<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>

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation for the Sheriff's Fair Rotary fund necessary for payroll processing.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #12-171 itemizing the financials for the meeting of September 20, 2012.

<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>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – 2012-2013 VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AND STATE VICTIM ADVOCACY ACT (SVAA) GRANT AWARD AND ACCEPTANCE FORMS

Chief Deputy Scott Hildenbrand stated that the Victims of Crime grant has been greatly utilized, especially during this year. Chief Deputy Hildenbrand explained that Tracy Jordan holds an important position, helping families deal with the aftermath of crime, suicides, homicides, and fatal traffic accidents. Commissioner Samide asked if the program cost was the same as last year; Chief Hildenbrand replied that it was about the same, and Mr. Lair remarked that the amount already contained within the budget for the required General Fund match was within a dollar of what the grant before the board for consideration.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 2012-2013 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and State Victim Advocacy Act (SVAA) Grant Award and Acceptance Form and Associated Forms for the Sheriff's Office Victims Services Programs for the period October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013 in the amount of \$46,902.00, \$32,123.00 from Federal VOCA funds #2013VAGENE554, \$10,708.00 Local match from the Geauga County General Fund, and \$3,261.00 from the State Victim Advocacy Act SVAA #2013SAGENE554.

<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>

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – CONTRACT AGREEMENTS – BID / PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR THE HOMEMAKER / PERSONAL CARE SERVICES FOR GEAUGA COUNTY RESIDENTS AGE 60 AND OVER

Commissioner Claypool stated that he had a number of questions regarding this program, but rather than take up the time during session he would like to speak with Director Sally Bell one-on-one regarding this program. Mr. Claypool noted that we are currently spending approximately \$500 billion a year in federal entitlements versus \$10 billion a year in 1970, so every monetary decision we make is extremely important. Mr. Claypool stated that the crisis is

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coming. Ms. Samide agreed, saying that the problems started with bank problems, including risky mortgages and student loans.

Ms. Samide asked Ms. Bell regarding the timeframe required to take final action on these homecare programs, and Ms. Bell noted that these programs are already underway, and she had asked the providers to take a leap of faith to begin service for the new contract period prior to finalizing the paperwork so she was asking the board to take action on these contracts today. Mr. Jemison remarked that the board had previously approved this program and accepted the bids, and that the time to ask the questions regarding the program was when the bids were accepted. Mr. Claypool stated he simply wanted to do the right thing by the taxpayers.

Ms. Bell explained that this conversation had been held at the last meeting when some of the other contracts had been approved, and that when the Department on Aging went for the last Senior Levy, they planned out for the services requested and needed, and took the question directly to the voters, and she considers that our word that the programs approved by the voters action on the levy was the ultimate decision maker. Mr. Jemison asked why the rate was raised from \$20.00 to \$21.00. Ms. Bell explained that last year when they brought this program back they asked providers about the going rate. Last year, the \$20.00 rate specified by the agency was the high end, but this year, because they were doing a two year program they locked in at the \$21.00 rate; this rate has to be accepted by the providers for two years. Ms. Bell stated that maybe some could consider \$21.00 a little high this year, but one must bear in mind that the cost of things like gasoline has raised and that is a significant cost of doing business when travelling throughout the county to serve seniors. Ms. Bell stated that she felt that \$21.00 is comparable to others' normal costs. She said that she established the set rate for this bid process in order to be able to create a budget with known costs, and known units.

To Mr. Jemison's question as to whether any one agency could handle all the anticipated need, Ms. Bell responded that one of the responding agencies awarded a contract this year possibly could, but that it is not government's role to pick who an individual gets service from. If a senior is discharged from the hospital and Medicare will cover for some outpatient care the hope is that at the limit of that allowed care the individual who has received care under Medicare doesn't have to automatically change to a different provider to receive additional help through the Department on Aging; thus they allow everyone who wants to bid to do so. Ms. Bell stated that last year we had four agencies participating and this year we have six. They also try to consider who the Veterans' Administration has contracts with, for the same reason. Although it seems complicated, the goal is to have whenever possible a continuum of care. If the VA is authorizing two days a week but because of a special issue a senior really needs a bath or shower a third time during a week the Department on Aging can provide that with two hours of contracted services, and they will utilize the same agency the VA uses for their portion of the needed care, as long as that provider has a contract with the Department on Aging. The Department on Aging has a list of providers for families to choose from; a family may ask for a recommendation, but the agency will not recommend a specific provider, they will suggest the family ask their doctor, as they will be best able to identify specific issues in a home for a particular patient. The Department on Aging suggests that families check references based on their doctor, family, or friends that should help every senior's family to be responsible for their own choices, as opposed to the department saying you have to do this.

In response to a question from Ms. Samide asking for confirmation from Ms. Bell that they had received overwhelming support from the voters on their last levy, Ms. Bell responded in the affirmative. In response to a question regarding percentage of donations that support this program, Ms. Bell stated that to be clear, the Department on Aging doesn't bill, but they do inform the client as to what service has been provided, in the form of a follow-up letter that states in effect, thank you for choosing to use us, it was our pleasure to serve you for a total of X number of days in the month of October; The Department on Aging's going rate to provide this service was X dollars, and a donation envelope is provided along with the letter. Some families are so financially capable and grateful that in response they will do what they can immediately, while some families will respond years later when they are in a better place financially to do so. The department does track every donation received and ensures that each donation is credited back into the specific service for which the donation was received.

Mr. Claypool remarked that as a county we are extremely lucky, and he stated that the report he received at Wednesday's annual meeting of the Department on Aging was one of the best financial reports he has ever seen. Mr. Claypool stated that the voters have provided a levy but

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it is up to us as a county to be responsible that each program conforms to certain criteria of financial responsibility, making sure these programs are structured to safeguard the public interest. Mr. Claypool continued, stating that there is no intent to put Ms. Bell on the spot in a meeting and he would prefer to have a separate discussion with her to discuss specifics, as he is getting educated as a new Commissioner and learning as he goes. Mr. Claypool stated there could be a perception of price fixing by structuring the bids for service at a fixed rate of \$21.00 per hour, rather than letting the market decide the most appropriate rate, as the providers already know there is a fixed rate, and while some may be able to do it for less, we've set the price. Ms. Bell responded that you need to understand how many providers serve this area, with 32 providers currently available in this county, and through this process the business owners were given the opportunity to see whether they should participate, based on their current staffing and scope of business. One long-term provider in the area has said they can't afford to provide service at a \$21.00/per hour rate. Ms. Bell stated that we do not want to be the reason that any business succeeds or fails. Mr. Claypool reiterated his opinion that to him this looks like price fixing. If bidders were asked to respond with a bid including their offered unit price, some will come back at a higher rate, and some at a lower rate. Mr. Claypool stated that by providing consumers with a choice and allowing competition to work you get a better value. Ms. Bell responded that when we go out to bid, a company may consider that they can afford to provide a service at a lower price than normal, whereas another company may just be starting out, and trying to make a viable business but the travel patterns of the available work may not fit their business model and current clientele. Mr. Claypool stated that this isn't a bid in the traditional sense as the price has been set; Ms. Bell responded that this process allows each business owner to bid on the amount of business that works for them within their own business model. The fact that agencies bid under this model demonstrates it works.

Ms. Samide remarked that in twenty-five (25) years in business that she had done a lot of bids, and when you are thinking what you want to bid, you have to consider all the costs of business including benefits; at \$21.00 per hour, the owner is clearing perhaps \$5.00 per hour. Ms. Bell stated that these are home healthcare aides generally making \$8-\$10.50 per hour, not nurses, although a nurse visits clients periodically to evaluate the care being provided. Ms. Bell said they don't ask bidders to divulge their business model. Mr. Claypool responded that he doesn't disagree with any of that, but it's the process he has a little problem getting his head around.

Mr. Claypool asked if the total amount awarded to all successful bidders of \$546,000.00 was going to be completely spent. Ms. Bell responded that it is a pool of money, and that in the first year pilot of this program they didn't spend all the money, but over time, word of mouth referrals will result in growth in usage. Because the agency lost one large provider who participated in the first year of the program we had to replace that particular block of service, but the \$546,000.00 total is the maximum amount of service allowed in the budget for this program. Last year the budget total wasn't all spent as it was the first year of the program, but the percentage of the budget expended will probably increase during the two years of this contract. She also stated that client donations offset some of this expense. Ms. Samide stated that she did understand Mr. Claypool's argument about bidding to a dollar amount. Ms. Bell stated that none of the successful bidders this year were awarded all of the units they bid for. Based on the experience of each provider, they were ultimately each awarded a portion of what they bid on. Bidders were provided the opportunity to withdraw their bid if what they were offered didn't provide the volume needed to obtain a level of staffing required to make it work for them.

In terms of quality control of the services provided, it was noted that the Ohio Department of Health has the authority to review and oversee the services delivered to Department on Aging homemaker and personal care services. Each month the department receives a signed statement from each client attesting that the service that has been billed for by each service provider was received. Each provider must provide a timesheet documenting service activities and this is correlated against billing statements. Mr. Claypool asked if any live audit checks are performed, or is a post-service audit performed, stating that in his experience with domestic help, he found that "cheap" housecleaners had issues, so he and his wife changed their criteria to weigh more on quality. Mr. Claypool stated that a well-known business motto was that you "get what you inspect, not what you expect," meaning that if management is paying attention to how the work is being done, the quality improves. Mr. Claypool stated that a lot of people are reluctant to criticize, so this is why he raised the question, as he felt the clients receiving the services may not criticize services being provided to them at no charge. Ms. Bell responded that the state Department of Health is responsible for overseeing the business practices of these home healthcare providers.

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Audience input included comments relating experiences with providers performing well when they knew they were being observed, but being lax when no one was around. Ms. Bell related a story regarding how a client with dementia had wandered outside in severe weather and the provider who shortly thereafter came to the home to provide care and found the home empty could have assumed the client had been taken elsewhere by another caregiver and simply left, but instead went outside, looked around for, and found the client and cared for the client. Ms. Bell reiterated that there are professionally established criteria for services that they provide. Mr. Jemison stated that the board had already accepted these bids being considered for contract approval today, and had already accepted contracts for three of the bids in this program at a prior meeting, and that the board cannot attempt to change the bid specifications at this point. Ms. Bell stated that she has taken personally the responsibility of managing these types of programs for 21 years and has undoubtedly made some mistakes along the way, but feels she can look the citizens in the eye and say she has worked throughout that time to get the very best bang for the buck for the taxpayers. Ms. Samide stated that she had spent some time shadowing caregivers and was amazed at what they have to do and what they do. Mr. Claypool stated that he simply wanted to make sure that his questioning wasn't viewed as a criticism but that the job of a Commissioner was to ask questions. As the new commissioner he felt it was his responsibility to ask questions.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Contract Agreement with QualCare, LLC d.b.a. Home Instead Senior Care Services Incorporated for the Homemaker/Personal Care Services for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over for the period August 15, 2012 through August 14, 2014 in the amount of 9,360 units of service at \$21.00 per unit in an amount not to exceed \$393,120.00.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to accept the Rider for the Bid Bond that was submitted to serve as the Performance Bond for the Homemaker/Personal Care Services for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Contract Agreement with Embassy Homecare, LLC for the Homemaker/Personal Care Services for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over for the period August 15, 2012 through August 14, 2014 in the amount of 2,080 units of service at \$21.00 per unit in an amount not to exceed \$87,360.00.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to accept the Performance Bond from Embassy Homecare, LLC for the Homemaker/Personal Care Services for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over and further release the bid bond.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Contract Agreement with University Hospital Homecare Services, Incorporated for the Homemaker/Personal Care Services for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over for the period August 15, 2012 through August 14,

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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 12, 2012 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) *The 2011-2012 Criminal Report filed by County Prosecutor David P. Joyce as required by O.R.C. 309.16.*
- c) *The annual report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office regarding all fines and costs in criminal prosecutions collected and paid as required by O.R.C. 311.16.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Thu., 9/20 Revolving Loan Fund meeting, 8:00 a.m., Community Development*
- Thu., 9/20 Budget Hearings beginning at 1:00 p.m.*
- Mon., 9/24 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office*
- Tues., 9/25 The Commissioners will hold regular session*
- Tues., 9/25 The Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at 10:15 a.m. for the proposed second amendment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Formula Grant #B-F-11-1AZ-1*
- Thu., 9/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session*
- 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*
- Fri., 10/12 NOACA meeting, 10:00 a.m. Cleveland*

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***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER
CLAYPOOL ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:58 A.M.***

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Tracy A. Jemison

Walter M. Claypool

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk