

Commissioners' Journal
January 10, 2013

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 10, 2013 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 Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of January 8, 2013.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</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 increases to carryover contracts for the Office of Community and Economic Development which were reduced at year end for compliance; a Travel request for the Engineer's Office; and Voucher payments against 2012 carryover encumbrances that include a payment to Gottschalk Building Company for the Board of DD Metzbaum remodeling project in the amount of \$92,936.00; a payment to DB Spectra in the amount of \$31,430.96 and Alcatel Lucent in the amount of \$208,597.97 for 800 MHz Radio Antennas; and a payment to Utility Truck Equipment for the purchase of a Ford F550 Cab & Chassis for the Department of Water Resources in the amount of \$91,495.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #13-007 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 10, 2013.

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

AUDITOR'S OFFICE – LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a Letter of Understanding with the Auditor of the State of Ohio for services to be provided by the Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State (LGS) to Geauga County for basic financial statements and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the years ending December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2013, in an amount not to exceed \$33,500.00.

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

Local resident Skip Claypool questioned why the county needs to pay the Auditor of State a separate fee for auditing services. The Board explained that the Auditor of State is organized to accommodate cost-recovery as an enterprise fund, and that the State Auditor's office is established in that manner as a self-sustaining operation. County Administrator David Lair stated that if the audit process were not structured to include a payment by the entity for receiving the audit, there would be no incentive for local governments to maintain their accounting records in a proper, easily auditable condition, as opposed to entities whose records may be considered "unauditable" due to sloppy record-keeping, requiring many extra hours of labor on the part of the state auditor's staff to restore those records to an auditable condition. Commissioner Jemison added that local entities now have the option to contract with a private auditing firm if they prefer, but often the costs for that option might be even more. It was noted

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that auditors don't look at everything during each audit, but only test certain records to ensure a likelihood of compliance and correctness overall.

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – CHANGE ORDER #1 INCREASING CONTRACT – GOTTSCHALK BUILDING COMPANY – BESSIE BENNER METZENBAUM REMODELING 2012 PROJECT

Metzenbaum Superintendent Don Rice and Business Manager Steve Tucker explained that they were requesting approval for a change order on the internal remodeling project in their school and administration building, for a net change of \$706.50. Mr. Jemison noted that this project was well managed for the net change to be such a small number. Mr. Rice stated that they will be back next week to discuss upcoming projects including the Intermediate Care facility renovation, which has a preliminary cost estimate of \$1.3-\$1.5 million. Mr. Rice explained that when this facility was built the normal resident was highly mobile, but the ICF has now become more of a nursing type home, with the more mobile residents being transitioned out into community housing. The plan with this renovation is to make the facility more accommodating for physically-handicapped residents, with a consequent downsizing of overall capacity from 40 residents down to about 25. Mr. Rice stated that Maple Leaf Community Residences currently owns 19 homes and is looking to soon add a couple of more. Mr. Rice noted that federal guidelines are encouraging this transition to a community housing environment for developmentally disabled individuals whenever possible, as opposed to housing them centrally in what is considered an institution. Mr. Rice stated that the original furnaces in the ICF facility dating back to 1975 were originally fuel oil and were converted over to natural gas; the goal with this renovation is to make changes to the ICF buildings that will last another 25-30 years, adding that other than roof replacements on two of the major buildings in 2014, that this should be the last major upgrade for several years on the Metzenbaum property. Mr. Rice invited the Board to come out for a work session at the facilities to experience what they do as well as see the upgrades that have been being done.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Change Order #1 increasing the Contract with Gottschalk Building Company for the Bessie Benner Metzenbaum Remodeling 2012 Project due to design changes requests by the Board of Developmental Disabilities in the amount of \$706.50.

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

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL MUTUAL FUNDING AGREEMENT

Family First Council Coordinator Nancy Seelbach explained that she was asking the Board to renew the Family First Funding Agreement, adding that the commissioners have participated since 1995 and have not been asked for any additional funding. Ms. Seelbach explained that by collaborating amongst county agencies the process is not duplicated and children with multiple issues are not passed from agency to agency. Over the years approximately 8,600 children have been assisted, with services ranging from prevention to intensive care. Ms. Seelbach noted that at any given time there are usually about 8 kids who are receiving intensive care for serious issues, but the council's primary focus is on the Help Me Grow program, to help prevent larger needs later on. Ms. Seelbach stated that the overall goal is to intervene sooner to prevent dysfunctional families.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Geauga County Family First Council Mutual Funding Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, the Geauga County Job and Family Services, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services and the Geauga County Juvenile Court for funding of the Geauga County Family First Council for the period January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013. This Agreement commits the Board of County Commissioners to providing a support payment of \$20,434.00 from the General Fund.

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Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Spidalieri* *Aye*
 Commissioner Jemison *Aye*
 Commissioner Samide *Aye*

*DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENTS –
MCDONALD EQUIPMENT COMPANY, VALLO TREE SERVICE, LAKE COUNTY SEWER
COMPANY, INCORPORATED, AND OHIO PUMP*

Director Doug Bowen explained the service contracts before the board are put into place more for emergencies in the water and sewer sections of the department. Mr. Bowen stated that they review what is used from year to year in order to estimate the possible need, adding that it's usually about fifty to fifty-five percent of the overall contract amounts. Mr. Jemison added that these contracts allow for repair work to proceed without needing to wait for Board approval of the expenditure in the case of an emergency, and this provides for 24/7 response.

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with McDonald Equipment Company to perform generator services and repairs as needed at various County water treatments plants for the Year 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Spidalieri* *Aye*
 Commissioner Jemison *Aye*
 Commissioner Samide *Aye*

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with McDonald Equipment Company to perform generator services and repairs as needed at various County wastewater treatment plants for the Year 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Spidalieri* *Aye*
 Commissioner Jemison *Aye*
 Commissioner Samide *Aye*

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Vallo Tree Service to perform tree removal services at various locations, including after storm damage for the Year 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Spidalieri* *Aye*
 Commissioner Jemison *Aye*
 Commissioner Samide *Aye*

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Lake County Sewer Company, Incorporated to perform general and emergency cleaning, televising, grouting and rehabilitation of sewer lines and manholes in Geauga County for the Year 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Spidalieri* *Aye*
 Commissioner Jemison *Aye*
 Commissioner Samide *Aye*

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Ohio Pump to perform pump repair services at various wastewater treatment plants and lift stations owned and operated by the department for the Year 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.*

Roll Call Vote: *Commissioner Spidalieri* *Aye*
 Commissioner Jemison *Aye*
 Commissioner Samide *Aye*

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – ACCEPT RESIGNATION – BRIAN CAIN – WASTEWATER OPERATOR I (#2326)

Mr. Bowen explained that Mr. Cain, who has been with the department for five years, had been offered a position with Portage County. Mr. Bowen stated that per the union contract, the department has to post the resulting vacancy internally for ten days before advertising externally. Mr. Bowen explained that the department will need to decide whether to post for a Maintenance Worker or possibly an Operator 1 if any current employees pass their Operator License test.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to accept the resignation of Brian Cain, Wastewater Operator I (#2326) to be effective February 1, 2013.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – ADVERTISE – WASTEWATER OPERATOR I (#2326) INTERNALLY TEN DAYS – THEN EXTERNALLY UNTIL FILLED

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to grant permission to advertise for the position of Wastewater Operator I (#2326) internally for a ten day period, in accordance with the union contract and in the event no qualified candidate is found, that it be advertised externally until the position is filled.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – 2013 BUDGET REQUEST UPDATE

Sheriff Dan McClelland and Chief Deputy Scott Hildenbrand presented an update to their 2013 budget request. Sheriff McClelland noted that the Tax Budget submission sent to the commissioners in the spring is a good planning tool, but as the year goes on, things change. Sheriff McClelland noted that the budget hearing for the Sheriff's department was held in September, and was relatively early in the budget hearing process. Sheriff McClelland added that they only had ¾ of a year's worth of data, and now is in a position to update their request based on an entire year. Sheriff McClelland stated that a number of factors have allowed them to reduce their previous request made at their budget hearing by over \$402,000.00. Sheriff McClelland noted that the Chevrolet Impala is being kept in production for another year, which has allowed them to be able to adjust their previous vehicle request amount, knowing that the purchase price won't change much, and that they will be able to reuse internal equipment from older Impalas that are being retired. Sheriff McClelland added that other major factors included an agreement with the employee union on the 2013 package keeping completely within the guidelines established by the commissioners, and updated cost estimates on the jail operation. Mr. Jemison noted that the final actual expenditure for the Sheriff's Department for 2012 was \$9,082,000.00, Commissioner Samide added that this means that the Sheriff's revised request for 2013 is only \$208,000.00, or approximately 2.2% more than actual expense for 2012. Sheriff McClelland noted that they now have a clearer picture on possible changes needed in court security and also have a year's experience with the new Municipal Court judge who has a different sentencing structure that they have adjusted operations to match. Sheriff McClelland stated that there are still some unknown costs that will affect actual 2013 expenditures such as the price of fuel, and the continued housing of prisoners from the federal ICE program should continue to add to revenue. Sheriff McClelland stated that they have estimated that 2012 prisoner housing costs exceeded the initial budget by \$232,000.00 as numbers of outside prisoners increased; however, the additional revenue provided by housing these prisoners was approximately \$1,343,000.00 resulting in a "profit" in excess of \$1.1 million. Mr. Jemison stated that this goes back to a decision in planning for the new jail to turn a liability into an asset, and estimating that the county has realized at least \$5 million in net revenue from that decision. In response to a question from Mr. Claypool about what would happen if the prisoner revenue goes away, Mr. Jemison replied that in 2009, the county had certified \$1.5 million in prisoner housing revenue, but a decision by Cuyahoga County early in the year to stop housing prisoners in Geauga County resulted in a million dollar shortfall below the certified amount. Going forward after that experience, the county is going to be very conservative in estimating

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revenues from prisoner housing; for 2012 we only certified \$150,000.00 because that was all we could be sure of, even though we ultimately received more than \$1.3 million in 2012. Mr. Jemison stated that only \$500,000.00 was certified as estimated to be received in 2013, adding that the county learned from the 2009 experience to be very cautious.

Referring to vehicle purchases, Mr. Claypool asked if Geauga County is part of a state or federal buying program. Sheriff McClelland replied that they look at both state and federal price lists, and local dealers have the opportunity to try to beat the price as well, but they generally can't. Sheriff McClelland stated that the Sheriff's Department always goes with the best deal, as part of a large consortium; either state or federal, adding that he didn't know for sure how long the Impala would continue to be built. Mr. Jemison stated that the cost of this vehicle has gone from \$18,000.00 in 2008 to \$21,000.00 for the current year.

Mr. Claypool asked the Sheriff if the county has the opportunity to dictate the rates charged to outside entities for prisoner housing, to which Chief Deputy Hildenbrand replied that there is some competition; however he gave an example of Geauga being higher than Seneca County, but that Geauga is chosen for the transfer often between Youngstown and Cleveland. In response to a question from Mr. Claypool to Ms. Delaney as to what department had their resources reduced by the Sheriff's request, Ms. Delaney replied that there was sufficient resources in the budget to handle most departmental requests within budgetary guidelines. In response to a question from Mr. Lair regarding any outside prisoners that turn out to be problematic, Sheriff McClelland stated that they do still have the ability to be selective on whom they select. Mr. Jemison noted that ICE prisoners are more work for the Sheriff because of the federal requirements regulating their custody. Chief Deputy Hildenbrand stated that they have seen an increase of approximately 86% in utilization of medical resources at the jail due to the utilization of those resources by ICE prisoners. Sheriff McClelland stated that the jail had just completed its third inspection, and is 100% in compliance with requirements in the operation of our jail. Mr. Jemison concluded that this revised budgetary request from the Sheriff represents a 2.2% increase from the 2012 expense total; Sheriff McClelland responded that they feel it is their obligation to adjust their request based on current information, and better information on vehicle and labor costs allowed them to do this.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending January 2, 2013 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.
- b) The Monthly Financial Report from the County Building Department for the month of December, 2012.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Fri., 1/11 NOACA Meeting, 10:00 a.m. in Cleveland

Mon., 1/14 **The Commissioners will hold the Re-organizational meeting at 10:00 a.m.**

Mon., 1/14 Board of Revision, Auditor's Office at 3:30 p.m.

Tues., 1/15 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.**

Thu., 1/17 The Commissioners will hold regular session

Mon., 1/21 **County offices will be closed for general business due to Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.**

Tues., 1/22 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.**

Thu., 1/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

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Thu., 1/24 The Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing beginning at 10:20 a.m. to Review Plans and Specifications for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH 4 Sections Q & R) in Chardon Township

Mon., 1/28 Family First Council meeting, 2:00 p.m. at Mental Health and Recovery Services

Tues., 1/29 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 1/31 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 1/31 The Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. at the Russell Township Hall to hear public objections or endorsements for the Proposed Russell Township Center Sewer Project.

In response to a question from an audience member regarding the reorganizational meeting, Ms. Samide explained that it is a requirement of the Ohio Revised Code that all Boards of County Commissioners in the state meet on the second Monday of January to conduct a reorganization meeting, which establishes the positions of Board President and Vice President, as well as formalizing the appointments of unclassified positions reporting to the Commissioners and assignments of Commissioners and others to various boards and committees.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SPIDALIERI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:50 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Tracy A. Jemison

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk