

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 22, 2011 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, Tracy A. Jemison opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of December 20, 2011.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

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

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute Resolution #11-196 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 22, 2011.

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

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – AWARD BID – UNIVERISTY HOSPITALS GEAUGA MEDICAL CENTER – SENIOR ASSESSMENTS FOR GEAUGA COUNTY RESIDENTS AGE 60 AND OVER

Director Sally Bell explained that the senior assessments are a one day look, a snapshot into the health of a senior citizen, looking at their physical situation, mental health, forgetfulness or signs of dementia, a survey of their home to prevent falls, a review by a physical therapist to look at their physical capabilities, and an in-home visit with the occupational therapist to see how their home is situated for them to be able to live out their life there if that is what they choose to do. This program is only for Geauga County residents over the age of sixty (60) and offsets the cost of the consolidation of the reports and the time spent face to face with families. This is based on a full production rate meaning that every time slot that is available must be filled in order for the hospital to be able to collect. Ms. Bell stated that we will not be paying for any down time, only actual production time. Commissioner Samide inquired if this rate was higher or lower than before. Ms. Bell explained that based on the best projections of what they believed their capacity is, and that in 2008 when they looked at this program and cost of doing this program in Geauga County and if and when they passed the next levy, the 2008 figures of estimated need were higher than what we are contracting for. Ms. Samide noted that this is a result of a levy passed by residents in Geauga County. Ms. Bell stated that is was for the ability to assist, that it was all us, that it was one of the things that the Department on Aging said they would do when they were doing the levy was that they would bring back the senior assessments. County Administrator David Lair explained that the whole idea is by properly assessing people they can stay in their homes longer which costs society a lot less money than by them going into a nursing home possibly earlier. Ms. Bell stated that the bottom line is it's a cost savings, but also a family savings, giving the example of stopping in to see the person you love. That person may have forgotten where they placed their keys, and then you, the family member begins to worry about that loved one, and if this forgetfulness happens all the time, and if you, the family member is going to need to stop in more, and in the meantime, that loved one was surprised when you stopped in and they had multiple things on their mind and just forgot where they put those keys. This health check allows for both sides, the family and the senior to look honestly at

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

what is going on and have a conversation. Ms. Bell stated that there is no need for us to worry our kids when it's not necessary and the flip side is that it's much easier for the senior to accept their family's concern when they have a medical reason why; this assessment allows the conversation to happen. Ms. Samide stated that you want to keep them in their homes as long as possible. Noting that going into a home will cost between \$3,000.00 and \$7,000.00 a month and in their home, most cases the seniors homes are paid for. Ms. Samide added that her mother lived in a small home, and her utilities were minimal so they chose to have a care giver come into the home which was much less expensive than putting her into a nursing home. Commissioner Jemison inquired how long they had been doing the senior assessments and what the results had been. Ms. Bell noted that they had brought the program back a few years ago and that categorically she had never had a family or a senior come back and say that it was a waste of time and money. Instead the results had been what they thought, validating their concerns and that seniors have said that they told their kids that they were fine. Ms. Bell stated that a big component of this assessment is that they can go in and look at the house. Ms. Bell gave the example of being able to go up three steps from your garage into your house and that it's not a big deal for you when you are fifty or sixty, but when you are eighty that those steps can be more of a problem, that a railing or grab bar might make it easier for you to get up those steps. These simple tricks that the occupational therapist shows them when they go through the house is the real value. Ms. Bell added that recent results from a doctor's visit are looked at and used and not required to be done again, saving the senior money. If something is found they will recommend the necessary tests to look into it further. Mr. Jemison inquired that over this period of time that we've been doing this, if the results showed that more people have been able to stay in their homes. Ms. Bell stated that in all fairness she has only been able to track the last year when they were able to hire the in-home services staff and that previously people were sent to their physician for continued monitoring, they are still sent back to their physician for their medical but now having the staff, if the family requests us to become involved, we can follow up with those families too. This year we are carrying an active case load of about fifty (50) people who have gone through the assessment. That active case load is either that we are helping the family identify in-home care or it could be that everything is in place and that we are just calling every three months and doing a wellness check. Ms. Bell added that there are all levels in between. Commissioner Young added that doing this for people as they get older really helps. Mr. Young inquired if there is a 9-1-1 call if it helps in this case. Ms. Bell added that they do not get any information like that, that they only get information that the seniors and their families share with them.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to award the bid to University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center for the Senior Assessments for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over for 312 units of service for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$143,520.00, as they represented the lowest and best bid.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – HIRE RUDOLPH BRUENIG – PART-TIME TRANSPORTATION DRIVER (#1020-1)

Ms. Bell explained that Mr. Bruenig was a Geauga County resident that had applied for the Part-time driver position. This position is a direct response to need. Ms. Bell explained that they are running people to only out of county medical appointments and that she had previously shared with the board that when a dialysis machine went down at the Heather Hill campus that they were either taking people to or from their dialysis appointments in Euclid, Mentor or Jefferson. Ms. Bell stated that because of that more people became aware of this possibility and they encourage seniors to access the program. This is a donation program, as are all of their programs and that as of the end of September the department was running about between five percent (5%) and seven percent (7%) of the actual cost of production is being given back to them in donations.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve the hiring of Rudolph Bruenig for the position of Part-time Transportation Driver (#1020-1) to be effective February 1, 2012, at a rate of \$11.69 per hour. After the successful completion of a 180 day probationary period the rate will increase to \$12.31 per hour.

**Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011**

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – TERMINATE SUB-LEASE AGREEMENT – ORCHARD HILLS CENTER, LLC – WEST GEAUGA SENIOR CENTER

Ms. Bell explained that they were asking to give a thirty day notice to terminate the lease at the West Geauga Senior Center and the reason was not because they don't absolutely love the facility and their relationship with the community there, it is because they need more space. Ms. Bell explained that she has shared with the board that the West Geauga Senior Center is seeing about 100 people less year to date then the Multi-purpose Senior Center and that is a huge number of people to run through. Ms. Bell stated that they want to break the current lease, noting that Metzenbaum had moved out of the senior center, explaining that Metzenbaum used to have what used to be the men's locker room clubhouse for their senior program and that due to changes in the developmentally delayed community have moved back to the Cedar Road site, leaving the bottom space available. Ms. Bell added that they also wanted to see what was available, that it had been a couple of years since they went out to bid and wanted to see what the fair market was reflecting in Chesterland. The idea was that they might be able to pick up additional space. Ms. Bell explained that just using the current senior center as a possibility they could have a dedicated crafts and arts area, using the downstairs by adding a kiln for ceramics. The ceramics program is a very good program for those with arthritis, that are creative or just to have a good time to do something with friends. If they are able to get additional space they would be able to enhance the arts program out there. Ms. Bell stated that she had recently spoken with the site coordinator at the West Geauga Senior Center about their exercise classes having between thirty-five and sixty people in each one and that they have been using the party center space at Patterson's and they were at capacity. Mr. Jemison inquired if we had the cart before the horse and questioned terminating the lease before they advertise to see what was available. Ms. Bell stated that this was the process suggested to them by the Prosecutor's office, noting that they were looking to advertise for additional space and that the current lease was set to expire at the end of April. Mr. Jemison asked so why break it by January 31st? Ms. Bell explained that they should have a new contract in place by then, adding that if the board approved them breaking the lease and approved them to advertise for more space that she felt they gave themselves enough time to be able to put the whole process in place and that the worst case scenario is that Patterson's rebid for the space they currently have. Ms. Samide inquired about a few churches in the area as a possibility for more space. Ms. Bell stated that we have a belief among county officials and the Department on Aging that they don't want to own a bunch of property, that they would lease and work with community groups. Ms. Bell noted that the Village of Middlefield owns the property, used for the senior center there, and that they go in and provide programming to the citizens, that in Thompson there has been a relationship with the church since before she started as Director and that they go in once a week and run a senior program there. Ms. Bell explained that there are various times they have had relationships with churches but that the needs of the congregation come before them and they often had to vacate for bible schools and other church functions. A commercial kitchen is another thing that is required for them to have to be able to do the home delivered meals and congregate meals program. Ms. Bell stated that they have been in conversation with the Patterson's and that this was not a surprise to them.

Ms. Samide added that as time goes by that we are going to have seniors living longer and that this is something that is going to expand to something beyond what we can even anticipate right now and that we need to start looking.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to terminate the Sub-Lease Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Orchard Hills Center, LLC for space for the West Geauga Senior Center as noted in the Sub-Lease Agreement Item No. 25 Termination – Lessor or Lessee may terminate this Lease, for any reason or no reason upon thirty (30) days written notice to Lessor or Lessee. The notice for termination will be mailed Thursday, December 31, 2011 to be effective January 31, 2012.

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

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – ADVERTISE BIDS FOR PROGRAM SPACE – WEST GEAUGA SENIOR CENTER

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to grant permission to advertise for bids for space for the West Geauga Senior Center, to be located within the area forming the West Geauga School district for program space for senior citizens, to be held on January 18, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Notice of this bid opening will be advertised on January 5, 2012 and on the county website.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – SECOND MODIFICATION – 2011 COOPERATIVE CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUNDS

Ms. Bell explained that there is no change in the dollar amount of this contract that they had calculated the benefits, the insurance and social security for full-time employees and that they had some part-time employees who worked on this project. Ms. Bell stated rather than losing the money they went back to the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (WRAAA) and asked to change some line items and move the money around to supplies in order to capture all the funds available and not lose any. Ms. Samide added that this was Federal and State money that was available.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Second Modification of the 2011 Cooperative Contract Agreement for Older Americans Act Funds between the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and the Geauga County Department on Aging in the total amount of \$137,300.00.

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

Local resident Skip Claypool added that when we talk about Federal dollars, what is the source of those Federal dollars and where does one see the contract associated with those dollars and what are the strings attached? Ms. Bell explained that the contracts go out to bid, and this particular money is for the Aging and Disability Resource Network through the Older Americans Act directed by Congress. Mr. Claypool asked from whom, which organization, in the Federal government, a department has to give that money, but who? Ms. Bell stated that she believed it was the Department on Aging, the National Office on Aging which funds that money through the State Department on Aging and it is allocated out per county. This amount was the available funds for Geauga County. Although this service area is a new category for our community, actually for northeast Ohio they took part of the Older Americans Act and made that funding available for people with physical disabilities. The rationale Ms. Bell believes is that although not seen or written down, is that for most people who have a physical disability, that is often something that senior citizens experience themselves. It could be a hearing loss, a problem with vision or an orthopedic problem, and what they asked us to do as part of this disability network is to be able to answer peoples' questions when they called and said, look, I need to find someone to help me, I think I'm losing my hearing. Ms. Bell suggested to Mr. Claypool that hearing loss is something that they already have information for seniors, so why not provide it to another segment of our population, the physically disabled or hearing impaired in this case? For Ms. Bell personally, although they are asking them to serve additional people, it's not something that was outside their current call of information in any event. Ms. Bell stated that they did not roll all disabilities into this program, that those with mental health issues or those that are developmentally delayed were not included in this original bill, only those with physical disabilities. Mr. Jemison stated that this is really a contract for service, to answer questions. Ms. Bell stated that if a person who is visually impaired in Geauga County needs to go to the sight center to see an ophthalmologist and they are over the age of sixty that we can transport them in our program, but if they are under the age of sixty they will have to make other arrangements through a friend or someone through their church. Ms. Bell added that they do know, for example, who has hearing aid batteries available in the community. Mr. Claypool asked if this comes through the health and human services organization, through social security, or Medicare, asking what was the source of this funding? Ms. Bell apologized to Mr. Claypool that she should be able to tell him specifically but because it comes through the Ohio

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

Department on Aging and the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, which is the five county agency that serves us, she couldn't provide the exact original source of funding. Ms. Bell added that she knows it's funded by the Older Americans fund but that she couldn't tell him which one. Mr. Claypool asked if this was a block grant? If there was a future commitment for matching \ funds? And what the conditions are surrounding this grant? Mr. Jemison stated that this was not a grant, that they are contracting with us to provide this service, this outreach for other Americans besides seniors, age 18 and over. Mr. Jemison stated that they could have contracted with anyone, but what they liked about the Department on Aging is that because of existing services to those residents that are sixty and over they already had this type of information available; it just made more sense for those younger to look for the Department on Aging for this information only. Mr. Claypool asked what the nature of the contract was, short term, long term, five years, ten years, what the commitment was, and if there is a requirement for the county to create some infrastructure that requires long term support vs. short term. If you are contracting, if you may have to add employees, space, what is the commitment? Ms. Bell stated that it was an annual contract and that Mr. Claypool asked good questions, but added that because they are already providing these services and already have the staff in place to be able to implement the program they enabled the Department to offset some of the expenses to deliver these services for seniors sixty and over with additional funding, it really wasn't additional work because we already need the information, it was just to provide the information to a higher number of people. Ms. Bell offered to send Mr. Claypool the report showing the numbers of those age 18-60 and 60 and over. Ms. Samide stated that it doesn't have matching funds. Ms. Bell stated that this is brand new and that it started in January, adding that the match is in-kind, that the match is already in place and that they do not have to find new resources.

Mr. Claypool replied that if you expand the services that means you are answering more questions which means you need more resources, either they are busy full time or they are wasting tax dollars. Ms. Bell stated that they do not waste tax dollars. Mr. Claypool added that if you currently have busy people, you are required to hire a new resource. Ms. Bell stated that they expanded the responsibilities of other staff members; the back up to the person on the phone also does the paperwork and calls for the chore and in-home maintenance program. Every staff member has been trained to answer the questions, or to find the resource to answer the questions. Mr. Jemison stated that they were answering those same questions to those ages 60 and over and now they are answering them from age 18 to 60 for those that call. Mr. Jemison stated that this is not anymore unusual than any other department we have, that they are asking employees to do more now. Ms. Samide added that in the Commissioner's office alone from when she started has been cut by fifty percent (50%), that's quite a bit. A local resident in the audience stated that the department was getting \$137,300.00 to do this, to answer questions that they are already answering. This resident asked what is this money for? Ms. Bell stated that it was for supplies, for employment, that it helps offset the cost of those employees that they currently have at the Department on Aging. This is money they can use instead of levy money to pay employees to assist the citizens of Geauga County. That contract was allocated by county, somebody was going to bid on it, we bid on it because we already know the answers to those questions, because we provide that information to those age 60 and over. This resident asked if she was saying it saved taxpayers money. Ms. Bell explained that she hoped that everyone in attendance knows that the Department on Aging does not have to spend all the levy money that becomes available every year. What they can save will extend the life of the levy. Ms. Bell stated that when they are able to they try to identify resources for additional funding to come into the county to assist our citizens to save our levy money to extend the life of the levy, that they will try and do it. The Federal funds were going to go to someone to answer these questions, the Department on Aging already answers these questions so why shouldn't it be us that they pay? Ms. Bell stated that we captured available funding to be used to serve the people of Geauga County that are physically disabled ages 18 to 60 and those 60 and over. Ms. Samide added that our funding is twenty percent (20%) lower now than in 2000 in the General Fund. We are doing more with a lot less, people are doubling up on their job descriptions and their duties. Mr. Claypool then asked if that meant employees were working longer hours and if they were paying overtime. Ms. Samide stated that the employees were working more intensely. Commissioner Young stated that they don't pay overtime, that the employees have become more efficient, that they have gotten stronger in their jobs. Mr. Claypool stated that they were giving up something during the day or are working longer hours or the people doing the job now weren't as busy before. Mr. Jemison stated that work efforts have become more efficient, which allows them to do more with less. Ms. Samide stated that as a business owner for twenty years when things got tight, she did the work, we became more efficient, the people she hired had to hit the ground running, that she didn't have time to train them, they worked harder but they had to work

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

smarter. Ms. Samide referenced when the safety center was put in, that lines were run for redundancy of the computers for backups, and that the same computers were had are still being used today.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CERTIFICATION OF FINDING OF CONTINUED RELEVANCE – CHAGRIN FALLS PARK PAVING PROJECT

Director Anita Stocker explained that these were housekeeping items that these projects had already been through grant applications and agreement form. These are the environmental review releases, explaining that a continued relevance means that the state has already released these projects before, that a minor change has been made. Ms. Stocker stated that you are telling the state you approved the project before for what it was, it's the same thing, here is the change. Ms. Stocker stated that the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Parking lot had been taken out of the last grant because when the bids were received they were all very high.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Chagrin Falls Park Paving Project, Formula Grant #B-F-11-1AZ-1.

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CERTIFICATION OF FINDING OF CONTINUED RELEVANCE – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Ms. Stocker stated that this Habitat project is in the same area as the others, so it has been released once before so it can also be designated as a continued relevance.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Certification of Finding of Continued Relevance for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Habitat for Humanity New Construction Project in Middlefield Village, Formula Grant #B-F-11-1AZ-1.

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CERTIFICATION OF DETERMINATION OF SUBSEQUENT EXEMPTION FOR A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION – REPLACE STOVE AND GENERATOR AT COUNTY HOME

Ms. Stocker stated that this project can be called an exempt because what we are replacing is already there, the generator is there, it is just being replaced, just like the stove. Ms. Stocker stated that you are saying to the State that there is little to no impact or you already know from the past.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Certification of Determination of Subsequent Exemption for a Categorical Exclusion Project for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Replacement of Stove and Generator at the County Home, Formula Grant #B-F-11-1AZ-1.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT – U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY – UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Planning Director Dave Dietrich explained that the program consists of a system of water wells throughout the county and different aquifers that the U.S. Geological Survey monitors for us to determine any impacts on those aquifers through development or other factors. The program has been in place for many years. Since the 1990's we have had 23 wells or so in the program.

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

USGS periodically measures the depth of the static level in the wells and they create a report for us annually, which is posted on the Planning Website along with the USGS webpage. Mr. Jemison stated that what the Board is looking at today is an increase in that contract. Mr. Dietrich added that it was a small increase of about \$5,000.00 that in long range view will be a savings. Mr. Jemison added that if we increase this contract by \$5,000.00 this year, then next year the contract will go down to less than what we are paying currently prior to this, looking at the ROI of a year and a half because it will be using different monitoring equipment. Ms. Samide added that it is a new piece of equipment that does a more efficient job. Mr. Jemison noted that it is less labor intensive. Mr. Claypool asked what has been the value of monitoring, asking for an explanation of what the board has seen on a yearly basis that says this is worth \$30,000.00 a year to spend this money on. Mr. Jemison stated that it won't be \$30,000.00 a year, just this year, then it will go down to about \$18,000.00. Mr. Claypool asked for the positive outlook on this monitoring process or if it was just "pretty charts that show the water levels". Mr. Jemison stated that what was alarming in the last study the board received was that an aquifer in the north Middlefield area that is usually productive to about 600 to 800 gallons a minute that feeds that section of Geauga County all of a sudden started experiencing a decrease this last time, which is alarming and we need to find out why. Mr. Jemison stated that this was what you try to look for, over the last twenty-five years or so we have seen that our aquifers have maintained levels up until this year. As you know, that with this new shale drilling that is going to be occurring in the county that now probably more than ever that we need to continue to monitor the water levels in Geauga County. You do that on an annual basis and we want to be proactive, as you don't want to turn on the tap one day and find out there is no water.

Mr. Claypool asked that now that we find out a decrease in an aquifer, have we done anything about it? He said the reason for the question is, if we are spending x amount of money a year to monitor something and you can't do anything about it anyway, why spend the money to do it? Mr. Jemison stated we are going to find out why. Maybe there is a good reason, good rationale, maybe Middlefield Village is using more water or whoever else is in that aquifer is doing so. Those are conversations that Mr. Dietrich is going to have with Middlefield Village. Ms. Samide stated that we are looking at what is going on so we have a baseline. If you stop doing it, it could be an issue if you do along the way have a problem and your constituents come back to you and say why haven't you been monitoring the water, why haven't you been doing it, you can't decide that you're going to start doing it now. Ms. Samide referenced a baseline breathing test for your health, you have one done to use as a baseline so that if you ever have to have another test done you can look at the first one and see whether you've lost capacity or not and if you have, you look at things you can do to correct it. As far as the water wells, what are you going to do? Maybe the Village is using too much, maybe they need to dig a new well, maybe they need to stop the operation. Ms. Samide stated that we are a ground water community and inquired if everyone in attendance had a well.

Mr. Claypool stated that since the 1990's we've been monitoring this and asked, since then have we ever done anything in reaction to anything we've discovered? Ms. Samide stated that we haven't discovered any problems. Mr. Claypool asked why we are spending this money if we've done nothing with the information and we've seen nothing, is there another way to approach this, should we do a sampling instead of continuously, we do it periodically, can we change the process and should Geauga County be doing it or should the Federal Government, or the State be doing it? If we are spending money, these are my tax dollars along with everyone sitting in here, are we effectively using our tax dollars to do this sort of thing? Is there an alternative thing to do? Mr. Dietrich stated that based on every survey ever conducted through the Planning Commission as well as the Townships this is a paramount concern because if you don't have a good water supply this will affect a lot of things including your property values. Mr. Claypool stated that there was no question if it was a good thing to know, but again since the 1990's we've been watching and spending this money and have done nothing. Mr. Dietrich stated that this was a trend analysis, this is something you look at long term, not day to day or month to month, you look at things over time. Ground water moves very slowly, it moves only a few feet per year, depending on the aquifer you are in. It's important that we look at things long range. This Board and prior Boards have understood the rationale for that. Mr. Dietrich stated that in terms of possibly having County personnel do this, we've looked at that but it's important that we maintain independent posture here among other things. This is a long range scientific study and they are the independent monitoring group for this. Mr. Jemison inquired if we even have the expertise in house to do this. Mr. Dietrich added the other thing is we have been questioned if we could do this through the Health Department or what have you, then you look at the manpower and expertise over time; lastly we are moving with this proposal more towards the

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

equipment side of things that will be monitored remotely which will mean fewer trips by USGS personnel to the County to do the monitoring.

Ms. Samide inquired if the wells we are checking are being checked for carcinogens and things, noting that is her concern. Mr. Dietrich stated that is the water quality side and we've done that about every five years and those results should be coming out shortly. This is the quantity side of the equation that is set up through the networks. Mr. Dietrich stated that he wished Mr. Claypool had been present for the presentation with USGS a few weeks back as to how they approached the analysis, it was very thorough. Mr. Dietrich stated that we felt the Planning Commission, again this Board and prior Boards felt that this is very valuable and probably 95% of people are ground water dependent in this County. It doesn't matter where you are located in the county, the city of Chardon, or Thompson Township you are dependent on ground water.

Mr. Claypool stated that we all won't disagree on that, that he has a well and wants his well to be good and so on and so forth, but added that if we continue to spend money, spend money, spend money and do nothing, and do nothing, and do nothing, when the questions gets to be is this really the best thing we should be doing or as an alternative he had a \$1,000.00 water well test done on his property, noting that there is a lab down in Novelty that does water tests on wells, and that he can guarantee that every time someone buys a home that they are getting a water test done to test the quality. They test for bio, testing for bacteria, mineral content and so on and so forth, why not plug into the lab and you'll have 1000 samplings a year spread out across the County that you can check the water quality on, and they are also checking water flow, the height of the water in the well and so on and so forth, maybe there is a new and creative approach that doesn't involve spending \$30,000.00 a year to do, just a question? Mr. Jemison asked Mr. Claypool that he was not suggesting that the county actually test 1000 wells and spend \$1,000.00 on each well testing it. Mr. Claypool stated it's being done, it's already being done, go to the lab in Novelty, and collect their data, it's already there, now it's just a matter of sifting through the data that has already been collected. Mr. Dietrich stated that is private data. Ms. Samide noted that you would pay someone \$30,000.00 to do that. Mr. Dietrich stated that is this is a private matter, that the Planning Commission cannot access private records. This is public, we are a public agency, that we can't go to a private lab and say we want your records. Mr. Claypool stated that was a good discussion for Mr. Dietrich and himself to have off record because yes you can. That there is concepts like eminent domain and so on and so forth that allows access to information on a generic basis. Mr. Claypool stated that they could talk about that, that there was a legal precedent for that. Mr. Dietrich stated that he was not an attorney, but that he questioned the direction that Mr. Claypool was headed in. Mr. Jemison stated that the Board was not going to use eminent domain to look at the private records of the residents of Geauga County.

Mr. Young added that about ten years ago in South Russell that they felt it was important to look at the water levels and through a separate program that was not paid on a county level they looked at and measured about six or seven wells in that area. Mr. Young expressed that the concern was that if they would have to connect a system to have water brought in from Chagrin or Cleveland that it would have been in the millions to be on a system rather than on a well. Mr. Young added that by keeping the wells, it keeps the property values and the development there. Ms. Samide added that South Russell does have a few problems with a well that was low; she remembered that being discussed during the presentation. Ms. Samide referenced many water lines coming into the county and the house explosion in Bainbridge that caused many residents to be on a water tank in their garage for over a year and half. Mr. Claypool stated that the point was being missed, that is we are spending money to monitor something that has never resulted in an outcome. County Administrator David Lair responded that it's like your doctor saying to you that you need to get a cancer test, it's clear and at some point you say to quit wasting money it to have it done, even though the doctor says you may develop it at some point, but since it's never happened or developed, why do it? Mr. Lair stated that it's good to question it, but if the experts say you can't give up monitoring because things can change over time, you have to listen to the experts.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement (#12EMOH022) for Ohio Water Science Center between the U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior and the Geauga County Commissioners for the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 in the amount of \$29,750.00.

**Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011**

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – PLAT OF WATERLINE EASEMENT – MANCHESTER FARMS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED

Mr. Dietrich explained that this was an older subdivision in Chester Township named Manchester Farms, located just a little bit east of the county line on the south side of Mayfield Road. Mr. Dietrich noted on the map that Manchester drive comes in off Mayfield and T's off with Devon Lane and Avon Lane to the south of it. Mr. Dietrich stated that this subdivision has a central well field on subplot #5 with frontage on Mayfield. The treatment structures and pumps are also located on that subplot as well. Pursuant to a grant that the homeowners applied for, not the county, the homeowners association within the subdivision upgraded the system. During this process they discovered that they did not have a recorded easement for the water mains in the subdivision, so the purpose of this plat is to delineate the lots included in the easement area, the 6" water mains in the roadways, and the service lines to each dwelling. Mr. Dietrich stated that all the subplot owners joined in on this plat and granted this easement to the home owners association. Notice of this easement exists so that any repairs can be handled through the homeowners association. Sublot 1, 2 and 3 have been vacated from this plat and there are some lots that have their own wells.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the Plat of Waterline Easement for Manchester Farms Community Association, Incorporated in Chester Township.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT – WEEDON PROPERTY

Mr. Dietrich explained that the intent is to close on this easement before the end of the year. The easement instrument has been under review by Laura LaChapelle from the Prosecutor's Office and has provided some comments to be taken into consideration by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Ms. Weedon's attorney has also had a few comments about the easement document that are also being addressed. Mr. Dietrich stated that the area affected is 284 acres of an existing dairy farm in Parkman Township, with frontage on State Route 528. Once recorded this is to ensure that this area is protected in perpetuity and will remain agriculture and will not be developed regardless of who owns it in the future. This is an Amish run active dairy, it's a beautiful farm. Funding for this is generated through the Ohio Department of Agriculture, program called AEPP, and the county's role is to provide a small match and work with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy to put this easement document together. The intent is to authorize the President of the Board to execute the document subject to Ms. LaChapelle's final review. The rationale is the time crunch we face to get this done before the end of the year. When the signed document comes in we can have the President sign it and move on to the Recorder's Office.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to move to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Agricultural Easement for the Weedon property located at 18017 Madison Road, Middlefield, subject to resolution of the current proposed changes to the satisfaction of the County Prosecutor's Office.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending December 7, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

Commissioners' Journal
December 22, 2011

- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending December 14, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Mon., 12/26 **The County Offices, under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners, will be closed for the Christmas Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.**

Tue., 12/27 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.**

Thu., 12/29 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

Mon., 1/2 **County offices will be closed for general business due to the New Year's holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.**

Tues., 1/3 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.**

Thu., 1/5 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

Mon., 1/9 *The Commissioners will hold the Re-organizational meeting at 10:00 a.m.*

Tues., 1/10 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.**

Thu., 1/12 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

Mon., 1/16 *County offices will be closed for general business due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.*

Tues., 1/17 *The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.*

Thu., 1/18 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:15 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

William S. Young

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk