

Commissioners' Journal
November 15, 2011

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on November 15, 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 November 8, 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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CORSA RENEWAL

Human Resources Administrator Colleen Lockhart explained that this was the renewal application for policy renewal. Ms. Lockhart stated that this was the 25th year of being in the program. Pease-Kerr-Canfield Insurance Agent Gary Wirtz stated that the appraisals have been completed and all the buildings and county property had been gone through and looked at including the new structures. Mr. Wirtz stated that overall the values are up about six percent (6%) from last year after the re-appraisal. Mr. Wirtz noted that this is replacement cost, not real estate value. Mr. Wirtz noted that when the appraisal was done they included the personal contents of Metzenbaum and that they would be removed from the total, but that since the appraisal was done on the contents that Metzenbaum could use the information to update their own insurance. Mr. Wirtz stated that only the buildings at Metzenbaum and Sheltered Industries are included on the policy. Added this year were the two new 800 MHZ towers and the new sheep barn at the fairgrounds; the towers were \$370,000.00 each and the sheep barn was \$95,000.00. Commissioner Jemison inquired about a fiber optic cable being included on Merritt Road. Mr. Wirtz and Ms. Lockhart both were not aware that it had been included. Local resident Jack McCaskey inquired what the dollar amount was for the policy. Mr. Wirtz stated that he didn't have the exact amount with him, but that the premium is around \$325,000.00 to \$330,000.00 for the year, and includes all the buildings and structures, exposures, police, public officials and cars. Mr. Jemison stated that this has been a lot less expensive since going through CORSA; a consortium or pool of counties in Ohio, and has proved to be a savings on our insurance cost.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the County CORSA Insurance program renewal application for the period of May 1, 2012 through April 30, 2013 upon the recommendation of the Human Resources Administrator and Pease-Kerr-Canfield Insurance Agent.

<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>

FINANCIALS

County Administrator David Lair reported on the financials from November 10, 2011, Resolution #11-177, as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to the motion (lack of quorum or if session is cancelled) approved by the Board on January 6, 2011, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

Mr. Lair explained the financials as a Contract for a Revolving Loan disbursement for Spidalieri Enterprises, LLC / Great Lakes Outdoor Supply, Incorporated in the amount of \$316,223.00.

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OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – REVOLVING LOAN FUND
- LEGAL BINDING DOCUMENTS – GREAT LAKES OUTDOOR SUPPLY, INCORPORATED /
SPIDALIERI ENTERPRISES, LLC

Director Anita Stocker explained that this was the final step in the process for Great Lakes Outdoor Supply and that was to sign the legal documents. Ms. Stocker stated that they had done the environmental portion, a letter of commitment and had been approved by the state to move forward. Commissioner Samide noted that this was for fifteen years with a three percent interest rate. Ms. Stocker stated that a mortgage and promissory note, along with personal and corporate guaranties are done. Mr. Jemison stated that Great Lakes was moving into the old Sparkle grocery store in Middlefield which has been empty, and that this really was a good thing for them.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the following legal binding documents between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Great Lakes Outdoor Supply, Incorporated / Spidalieri Enterprises, LLC for the Revolving Loan Fund loan for the purchase of land and building at 14885 North State Road, Middlefield, in the amount of \$316,223.00 for fifteen years (180 months) at three percent (3%) interest: Loan Servicing Agreement, Participation Agreement, Mortgage, Promissory Note, Guaranty for Ralph Spidalieri, and Guaranty for Great Lakes Outdoor Supply, Incorporated.

<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>

COUNTY HOME – APPROVE HIRING – MARGARET MACK – PART-TIME ATTENDANT
(#1504-1)

Director Karen DeCola explained that Ms. Margaret (Peggy) Mack was coming to them with a lot of experience and that she felt she would be a good addition.

Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve hiring Margaret Mack to the position of Part-time Attendant (#1504-1) to be effective November 17, 2011 at a rate of \$8.60 per hour. After the successful completion of a 1,000 hour probationary period the rate will increase to \$9.06 per hour.

<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>

COUNTY HOME – CLOSE POSTING – PART-TIME ATTENDANT (#1504-1)

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to close the posting for the position of Part-time Attendant (#1504-1) as all open positions have been filled.

<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>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – ADVERTISE BID OPENING – TWO (2) CURRENT
MODEL TRUCKS AND CHASSIS

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to grant permission to advertise for bids for Two (2) Current Model Single Axle Diesel Powered Trucks and Chassis to be held on December 7, 2011 at 2:15 p.m. Notice of this bid opening will be advertised on November 17, 2011 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>

PLANNING COMMISSION – USGS GROUND WATER STUDY – GEAUGA COUNTY

Planning Director Dave Dietrich and United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologist Martha Jagucki presented the Board with the Long-term groundwater-level network: 2011 findings and budget for FY2012. Mr. Dietrich asked Ms. Jagucki to come and give an overview

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of the program that the county has been involved with for so many years, which is really the only program like it for a county in the state of Ohio. Mr. Dietrich stated that we are heavily ground water dependent here and feels that the Board sees the value in the program. Ms. Jagucki went over the report she presented to the Board noting that the findings are from 2011 and that the water level network was established in 1996 to better discern the difference between trends since water levels fluctuate up and down and the need to know if it is due to precipitation or due to development. Ms. Jagucki stated that wells were checked in the 1980's and again in the 1990's and it was hard to determine the differences. As time has gone on and we have more data it is easier to interpret the data and it is more valuable. According to the report six wells are instrumented to record water levels hourly and twenty-five (25) are manually measured every other month. Initially, water levels were evaluated using statistical trend analysis and in 2007 the USGS launched a website that data is loaded into and it generates statistics for us. For most of the wells now, 75% of them we have ten (10) water levels that have historic measures on any given month and will generate plots. These plots show comparison of current water levels to historic measurements in that month and are color coded for each well on a county map. Based on the map shown in the report, it shows that most of the wells plot in the normal, above normal and much above normal ranges, which makes sense, given that we are eighteen (18) inches above normal in northeast Ohio for precipitation.

The report showed the conditions in September 2011:

**Precipitation for the past 12 months was 18.11 inches above normal for northeast Ohio
(Normal = average precipitation from 1951 – 2000)*

**Groundwater levels in most network wells were at or above normal*

**Three wells near the Village of Middlefield have had below normal water levels since 2010*

**Water-level declines are compared to annual precipitation trends, and location of wells relative to public-supply wells (EPA database) and local development (as shown on orthophotos) is evaluated.*

Ms. Jagucki noted that the exception shown on the map was around Middlefield where it shows that water levels have been below to much below normal for at least a year. When water levels decline as is the case around the Middlefield area the wells are plotted to look at relative changes of annual precipitation you look at the locations of public supply wells and look at ortho-photos on the maps from the County Auditor's website to look for changes in development. Ms. Jagucki noted that the wells in Middlefield are all located in different aquifers and that it is likely that the wells are being affected by the Village's public water supply system. Ms. Jagucki explained that the graph plot in the report showed that in 2008 we saw these spikes, usually showing a pump going on and off, and in 2010 it declined and has been hitting record lows. The other graph plot in the report was from the well at the airport and it has been declining since the USGS had started recording, noting that the airport currently has more on-site usage of the well. County Administrator David Lair inquired on the depth of the well. Ms. Jagucki stated that off the top of her head she believed it was about fifty (50) feet. Ms. Samide inquired if the reports will show a difference in levels near Parkman when a gas well starts to be drilled and fracking begins. Ms. Jagucki noted that it may show right away or deeper wells could take almost a year to show a difference. Ms. Jagucki noted that the two wells in Middlefield in the Pottsville sandstone are hydraulically connected so if you pull from one well it will affect the other. Ms. Jagucki noted that there is something that is not related to precipitation but rather human activity that is affecting the wells.

Mr. Jemison noted that he understands that sometimes wells need to be cleaned, and inquired if Ms. Jagucki thought that these three would just need to be cleaned. Ms. Jagucki responded that sometimes it is true that they need cleaned, but the airport well has had maintenance work done on it in the last ten years and doesn't feel that all of them would need to be cleaned. Ms. Jagucki noted that in the report she showed two other wells that she is keeping an eye on, and they are in Aquilla Village and one in South Russell Village. Ms. Jagucki stated that the one in Aquilla Village has a new house located next door and that though these wells have not been following the precipitation trends and are back up to the normal range she still is keeping an eye on them. Ms. Jagucki stated some equipment needs to be replaced due to malfunction; one is under warranty and can be repaired but one transducer will have to be replaced. Ms. Jagucki also noted that often times well ownership changes hands due to sales, and a new permission form is needed to allow us to continue measurement of the well.

Mr. Dietrich stated that the picture here is positive, and that we are really not seeing a lot of decline in the county, except for the areas in Middlefield. Ms. Samide stated that this is

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important to our life here in Geauga County, as we get our water from the ground. Mr. Jemison inquired if Mr. Dietrich would be sharing this information with Middlefield Village and stated that maybe they know something about the change. Ms. Jagucki noted that she has informed the well field operators that they are monitoring a well in the area. Local resident Esther Lacceko inquired about the fact that quantity had been being measured, asking if water quality was also being monitored. Ms. Jagucki responded that about every ten years they have done water quality sampling and that it was not exactly on the same network of wells. Ms. Jagucki stated that in 1978, 1980, 1986, 1999 and in 2009 sampling had been done and a report should be out soon that compares what has happened over the time period.

Planning Commission member Christine Peace asked Mr. Dietrich about the status of the contract with USGS. Ms. Jagucki stated that the current funding agreement expired at the end of September and they are now proposing two budget options for FY2012. The first option is to continue business as usual, manually measuring the wells every other month with the six instrumented wells keeping the cost the same as last year. Ms. Jagucki noted that in the past there had been discussion about cutting back on the measurements a year and noted that in the past that was not feasible with battery life affected by the temperatures in the area. Ms. Jagucki stated that now with monthly comparison they could go to four measurements a year, but that would require the purchase of four new transducers. Ms. Jagucki noted that it would cost an additional \$10,000.00 to buy the new instruments, with savings after that. Ms. Jagucki stated that she felt it would not diminish the study, but a downside is if there is an equipment failure it would take longer to know since it would longer in between measurements. Mr. Jemison asked Mr. Dietrich if the Planning Commission's recommendation was to move to four times a year for measurements and do the \$29,000.00 "Option 2" expenditure this year and see the savings over the next three years. Planning Commission Chairman Margaret Muehling stated that it was what they recommend because in the long run it doesn't involve changing the data and take fewer measurements and get the money back in short order and go with the second option in this year's budget. Ms. Samide stated that it would cost the county an additional \$6,250.00 more for 2012, with a savings of \$4,260.00 a year starting in 2013. Mr. Dietrich stated that currently we don't have a program since it has expired, and inquired if the Board would like to make a decision of an option to go with and have a new agreement drawn up, gone through legal and brought back for approval. Ms. Jagucki stated that right now the cost is split 60/40, being 60% paid by the county and 40% paid by the USGS. Ms. Jagucki stated that she could not guarantee the cost, as it would be based on the recommendations and actions on the Federal Budget. Mr. Jemison stated that this is a good program and we need to continue it. Mr. Jemison told Mr. Dietrich to move forward with preparing the agreement. Mr. Dietrich stated that this is critical to the residents and the businesses as well. Mr. McCaskey asked if the Planning Commission had ever reacted to information. Mr. Dietrich stated that right now we will be with the information on Middlefield. Mr. Dietrich explained that they are in close contact with township zoning and over the years have used the data to assist them and also with a court case in Bainbridge. Mr. Dietrich stated that this case was a seminal case in Geauga but also in the state of Ohio that led us to believe the program is so critical to us. We want to insure the best of our ability and look deeper to see what is going on. Ms. Samide expressed the question, how do you make accountability if you aren't checking it? Ms. Jagucki stated that the network has been standing for fifteen years. Ms. Samide stated that development has increased so much, giving more chances for water issues than years ago. Mr. Jemison stated that it was like getting a physical for your health every year, it's just a physical for the ground. If there is an issue, you'd like to know now, rather than when you go to turn the faucet on. Ms. Muehling stated that it is the baseline to make decisions for the future. Mr. Dietrich noted that the USGS is an independent agency and that the county has no control on how they conduct these studies, but it is scientific data. Mr. McCaskey inquired about where Ms. Jagucki was located and about the 60 / 40 cost split. Ms. Jagucki stated that she was located in Columbus, that each state capital has a USGS office, and that the county pays 60 % and the 40% is from the Federal Government.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending November 2, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

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MEETINGS

Thu., 11/17 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

Mon., 11/21 *Family First Council, 2:00 p.m.*

Tues., 11/22 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

Tues., 11/22 *Investment Advisory Board meeting, following session.*

Thu., 11/24 **County offices will be closed for general business for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.**

Fri., 11/25 **County offices under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will be closed for general business.**

Tues., 11/29 *The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials as Cash transfers out of the General Fund for the 2nd Quarter SFY 2012 mandated share for the Department of Job and Family Services; a Cash transfer into the General Fund for repayment of the payroll advance that was transferred to the newly created Pre-sentence Investigation Reporting Fund that was necessary due to timing of state grant receipts; a Contract for Shepp Electric for the replacement generator for the Bainbridge tower site in the amount of \$18,970.00 for the 800 Communications Permanent Improvement Fund; a payment to the Portage-Geauga Juvenile Detention Center for the 4th Quarter 2011 in the amount of \$80,528.00; and a payment to Spidalieri Enterprises, LLC for a revolving loan disbursement in the amount of \$316,223.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute Resolution #11-178 itemizing the financials for the meeting of November 15, 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>

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

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

William S. Young

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk