

Commissioners' Journal
June 20, 2013

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on June 20, 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, Tracy A. Jemison opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of June 18, 2013.

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ENCUMBRANCE AND EXPENDITURE YEAR 2013 –
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, AND TOURISM**

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve an encumbrance and expenditure to the Geauga County Agricultural Society, pursuant to O.R.C. 1711.15 and 1711.16 for the Year 2013 in the amount of \$20,000.00.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve an encumbrance and expenditure to the Geauga County Historical Society, pursuant to O.R.C. 307.23 for the Year 2013 in the amount of \$20,000.00.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve an encumbrance and expenditure to the Geauga County Tourism Council, pursuant to O.R.C. 307.692 for the Year 2013 in the amount of \$20,000.00.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including Purchase Orders for the Geauga County Tourism Council, Historical Society, and the Agricultural Society for 2013 funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 each; and a payment to United Way for the Department of Job and Family Services in the amount of \$758.40.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution #13-121 itemizing the financials for the meeting of June 20, 2013.

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

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

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COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – FINAL DECREASE – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RESURFACING OF LEGGETT ROAD

County Engineer Joe Cattell explained the final change orders for three projects, all of which are with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for Leggett Road, Ravenwood Drive and Merritt Road and Clay Street. Mr. Cattell stated that the Leggett Road and Ravenwood Drive / Merritt Road projects are just about \$18,000.00 under and with the increase of about \$7,500.00 on Clay street, it is still about \$11,000.00 under the project costs. Mr. Cattell stated that the Clay Street project was a little over, explaining that the projects are designed one year prior and sometimes winter damage can cause additional depth repair that is needed.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, decreasing the Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Leggett Road (CH 33, Sections A & B) in Montville Township in the amount of \$5,429.20.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – FINAL DECREASE – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RESURFACING OF RAVENWOOD DRIVE AND MERRITT ROAD

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, decreasing the Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Ravenwood Drive (CH 604) and Merritt Road (CH 605) in Munson and Claridon Townships in the amount of \$12,736.85.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – FINAL INCREASE – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RESURFACING OF CLAY STREET

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, increasing the Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Clay Street (CH 37, Sections E & F) in Huntsburg and Montville Townships in the amount of \$7,451.30.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – KOKOSING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – WIDEN AND RESURFACE BASS LAKE ROAD

Mr. Cattell asked the Board to award the Bid to Kokosing for the widening and asphalt resurfacing of Bass Lake Road, noting that it is some reconstruction and drainage work from the Teichman farm to Butternut Road and then resurfacing the entire road from Mayfield Road to Butternut Road. All total the project is 2.39 miles and the estimate was \$495,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to award the Bid to Kokosing Construction Company for the Widening and Asphalt Resurfacing of Bass Lake Road (CH 23, Sections D & E) in Newbury and Munson Townships in the amount of \$489,509.25 as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – KOKOSING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – RECONSTRUCTION OF WOODIN ROAD

Mr. Cattell explained that the maintenance crews were doing work on both ends of the road in

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the straight section, but had bid out the center section with the curves. This project will involve reconstructing the super elevations in the curves, along with some drainage work in hopes of eliminating some issues that take place during the winter. Mr. Cattell asked the Board to award the Bid to Kokosing, noting that they were the lowest and best bid. The estimate was \$665,000.00. Mr. Jemison inquired about the section, to which Mr. Cattell stated that this section starts just west of Robinson Road and goes up to Tanager Drive, basically just the section of the curves and the hill, which is .59 miles. The entire surface will be resurfaced next year.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to award the Bid to Kokosing Construction Company for the Reconstruction of Woodin Road (CH 25, Sections A & B) in Chardon and Hambden Townships in the amount of \$597,960.25 as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING – CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY OF THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF SECTION B OF WISNER ROAD – CHARDON TOWNSHIP

Mr. Jemison opened the Public Hearing at 10:15 a.m.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to waive the reading of the legal notice.

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

Mr. Cattell explained that the Chardon Township Board of Trustees asked that we vacate an additional 700 feet from the section that had been previously vacated. The Commissioners had received a letter from the Chardon Township Trustees and the Engineer's Office has prepared a plat for the vacation of the section that they have requested. Mr. Cattell explained that part of the road is slipping away and it has been noted that the road is not serving residents and is not of the public convenience and welfare to continue maintaining that section, and the Engineer's Office is in agreement of that. Mr. Cattell stated that the Commissioners have asked to retain a non-motorized walking trail, in a thirty foot wide easement down the center of what used to be the center right of way. Mr. Cattell stated that a Public Viewing was held last week noting that the comments from those residents in attendance were mainly of concern about the trail being maintained. An Engineer's report has been submitted to the Board reflecting the viewing and the conversations thereof, adding that a preliminary plat for review has been prepared. Any changes as a result of the hearing will be adjusted and then presented again. Mr. Jemison stated that this is an additional extension of the vacation that was completed last year, to which Mr. Cattell stated yes, an additional 700 feet. There was brief discussion about the only concern being expressed was to include the walking trail. Being no further questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:17 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – HIRE BRIAN BENSON – FULL-TIME SUMMER HELP #0101

Director Doug Bowen stated that they would like to hire Mr. Benson, adding that Mr. Benson has his EPA Operators license in training and has 8 months experience but needs an additional 4 months experience to get his license. Mr. Bowen stated that Mr. Benson had applied for the Operators position but we are unable to hire him because he doesn't have his license, however after working here for the summer he will have his time in and can obtain his license and then can apply and be considered for the Operator position.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve hiring Brian Benson to the position of Full-time Summer Help (#0101) at the Merritt Road Garage at a rate of \$8.25 per hour to be effective June 24, 2013 through September 30, 2013 for a maximum of 21 weeks or 840 hours.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE – HATCH MOTT MACDONALD, LLC – OPALOCKA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

Assistant Sanitary Engineer Gerry Morgan explained that this relates to the additional costs that were incurred during construction at Opalocka that were due to the plans from the Project Engineer. Mr. Morgan approached the Engineer about those costs with an amount of \$71,900.00, to which the Project Engineer's Office counter offered with a cash amount of \$50,000.00 and a proposal of additional free work, to which Mr. Morgan responded that the County would not take less than the original \$71,900.00 and Hatch Mott MacDonald responded with a settlement offer of \$71,800.00, which Water Resources felt was a good offer. Mr. Jemison commented that he was happy with the result and not having to have an attorney get involved and not having to go to court.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Hatch Mott MacDonald, LLC for the Opalocka Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades project in regards to the additional costs incurred by the Department in the amount of \$71,800.00.

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

Mr. Morgan noted that the Engineer who worked on those plans, no longer works for the company.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – USDA RIGHT-OF-WAY CERTIFICATE AND MAP – THOMPSON TOWNSHIP SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Bowen stated that these are also required to finalize before the appeal process. This map and certificate states the future purchase of the property, so there is no obligation to purchase if the appeal does not go through. Mr. Jemison noted that Mr. Bowen had spoken with a resident who had some concerns over the location, to which Mr. Bowen noted that they wanted to express their concern and opinion but understands that it is going to happen. There was a brief conversation in regards to the funding, to which Mr. Bowen noted that on June 27th they have the first meeting in regards to the appeal.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the USDA Right-of-Way Certificate and Map as it relates to the USDA funding for the Thompson Township Sewer Project.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADJUST WAGE SCALE AND COMPENSATION – DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Executive Director Tim Taylor explained that the Board was aware that the traditional time for Job and Family Services wages to be adjusted is July 1st due to coinciding with the State budget. Mr. Taylor stated that they wanted to move the staff more completely to a compensation plan prepared by Archer that had been adopted in 2009. There were some difficult times back then and the Commissioners froze salaries for two years and therefore we have not gotten wages to the rates they should be at. The goal is to be competitive with other counties that are similar size to other staff doing the same jobs. Mr. Taylor explained that they have seen a high rate of turnover, with 18%, 15 staff of 82 employees in the last year leaving to go to other agencies. Mr. Taylor stated that they try to be supported as the jobs are difficult, but don't feel we are as competitive in wages that we need to be; in the recommendation that has been presented to the

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Commissioners, all but 12 will be moved to the plan, adjustments in the increases vary, but this gets the employees to the right step. We feel this is a good plan and would like to move to implement the increases recommended; adding that we know it's a little higher than what the Board has been done for other staff. County Administrator David Lair noted that smaller counties pay less than larger counties and this just closes the gap a little bit. Mr. Taylor stated that this is a little higher increase than normal this year, and a projection for next year is to maintain the plan, noting that the 2.4% for next year required to do so will be within the 3%. Mr. Lair stated that when the county has a plan for an increase it stays within inflationary guidelines. Mr. Taylor noted that their wage plan has 13 steps: the first four years is an annual step increase, and after that the next seven steps are a two year process and flattens out increases over time as you climb. Wages always need to be watched, but we need to be a little more competitive as a hope to cut down on the turnover. Local resident Walter "Skip" Claypool asked what the total budget impact was, to which Mr. Lair stated the projection was \$121,176.00 and is based on what was submitted and against current rates in New World. Mr. Taylor noted that there may be a little variation; this includes a \$1,680.00 of one time payments to those employees getting a wage adjustment of less than 1.5%. Local resident Diane Jones asked how many employees are in the department, to which Mr. Taylor stated 82, 48 will be at the correct step and 12 will be behind, and that the recommended increase only involves 70 employees. Mr. Claypool inquired if this that will continue to increase or be a onetime thing. There was some discussion about turn-over and what impacts the turn-over. Commissioner Spidalieri stated that it is a variable of things, the job has become more difficult across Ohio with social factors that are impacting families, adding that we have been getting a bargain for what we have been paying for, adding that it's hard to get good employees and getting them trained, we need to value the people we have and try to keep them, as these jobs take a special kind of person. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he is comfortable with this as the demand has more than doubled and the staff hasn't, and we can't afford to lose more people. Mr. Claypool inquired about the other elements of turnover. Mr. Spidalieri stated that it may not fix the problem, but it helps, people may reconsider leaving if they are making a little more income. Mr. Spidalieri stated that people don't leave because they want to go to another job, they leave for more money, because they like working here. Commissioner Samide added that by doing this it will put us on target for them being in their step and if things go well, they get an increase next year, added that this is sustainable.

Mr. Taylor stated that this increase and projection is if everyone stays, as there is always turnover, and when you bring in a new person, there is a natural downward pressure of the budget because you won't bring a new person in at the higher wage, they will normally come in at a lower step.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to adjust the wage scale and compensation of the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services effective June 23, 2013 (Payroll #14) as requested per the document submitted by the Department of Job and Family Services Executive Director.

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – AUTHORIZE MERIT INCREASE – ASHLEY HOLLESH AND ANITA ROHL

Mr. Taylor that expressed wanting to give merit increases to two employees who have gone above the job description and deserve to have that recognized. Ms. Hollesh and Ms. Rohl have both done an outstanding job in the last year, thinking outside of the box to bring better policies, management of workflow, and support to the jobs they do and Mr. Taylor feels they are both very deserving.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Samide to authorize the Executive Director of Job and Family Services to grant a merit increase to Ashley Hollesh, Eligibility Referral Specialist II to Grade 7, Step 6 at a rate of \$16.72 per hour and Anita Rohl, Human Resource Officer and Clerical Supervisor to Grade 11, Step 11 at a rate of \$25.06 per hour in recognition of their meritorious service during the past year to be effective June 23, 2013 (Payroll #14).

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Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Samide	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 June 12, 2013 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tues., 6/25 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Wed., 6/26 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Thu., 6/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session, during which will hold a Public Hearing at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the Geauga County 2014 Tax Budget

Tue., 7/2 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 7/4 **County offices will be closed for general business due to the Fourth of July holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.**

The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.

Fri., 7/5 **County offices under the Commissioners Hiring Authority will be closed for general business. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.**

Tue., 7/9 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tue., 7/9 Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

Thu., 7/11 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SPIDALIERI ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:49 A.M.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

Mary E. Samide

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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