

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 10, 2009 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, William S. Young opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT ACTING CLERK – CHRISTINE BLAIR

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to appoint Christine Blair as acting clerk.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Specialist Heidi Delaney explained the financials as including revenue certifications for the Water Resources Sewer Improvement fund and the Job and Family Services General Juvenile Fund; appropriation transfers from Contingency to return appropriations to the Sheriff's office for pay-ins made to the General Fund; cash transfers into the General fund in payment of cost allocations for Job and Family Services; two Then and Now's and one travel request.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution 09-217 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 10, 2009.

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

COUNTY TREASURER & COUNTY AUDITOR – MONTHLY STATEMENT COUNTY FINANCES – NOVEMBER 2009

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Treasurer for the month of November, 2009 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Auditor for the month of November, 2009 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT – SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES

Sheriff Dan McClelland explained that this is a company we've used for many, many years and this typically generates about \$6,000.00 a year for the county from the inmate phone calls. A portion is used to offset the bill. Commissioner Jemison asked if the rate was the same as the new contract. Chief Scott Hildenbrand stated that they replaced the equipment. Commissioner Jemison asked if the collect call rate was going up and Sheriff McClelland responded no. All the recording equipment for this service is provided by Securus Technologies.

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute a two year Master Service Agreement (Site 05774) with Securus Technologies for Inmate Telephone Service.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO REDUCE SPEED – TAYLOR WELLS ROAD

Commissioner Samide asked if the Trustees requested this. Planning Engineer Michael Stone responded that he wasn't aware if they did but that they usually do. This is the county section, all of CH 28 from Claridon-Troy to Mayfield. Commissioner Samide responded that it wasn't going to stop them, that they are going to drive as fast as they can unless you have the Sheriff post someone there.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution 09-218 requesting the Ohio Department of Transportation approve a speed reduction from 55mph to 50 mph on Taylor Wells Road (CH 28, Section A).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 10, 2009

Resolution: 09-218

RESOLUTION NO. 09-218

WHEREAS, a request has been made to this Board that the Statutory vehicular speed limit established by Sec. 4511.21, Revised Code of Ohio is higher than that considered reasonable and safe on Taylor Wells Road (CH 28) from Claridon Troy Road (CH 3) to Mayfield Road (US 322) in Claridon Township, and

WHEREAS, this board has caused to be made an engineering and traffic investigation upon the section described above, and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of this Board that such investigation confirms the allegation that the statutory speed limit of 55 mph is unrealistic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio that:

Section 1. By the virtue of the provisions of Sec. 4511.21, Revised Code of Ohio the Director of Transportation is hereby requested to review the engineering and traffic investigation and to determine and declare a reasonable and safe prima facie speed limit of 50 mph on Taylor Wells Road (CH 28) from Claridon Troy Road (CH 3) to Mayfield Road (US 322) in Claridon Township.

Section 2. That when this Board is advised that the Director of Transportation has determined and declared a reasonable and safe speed limit on the section of road described in section 1 hereof, standard signs, properly posted and giving notice thereof will be erected.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – ACCEPT FOR TOTAL MAINTENANCE - LOOKOUT DRIVE, MORNING VIEW COURT AND FARAWAY TRAIL – CANYON LAKES COLONY

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept Lookout Drive (TR-1026), Morning View Court (TR-1027), and Faraway Trail (TR-1028) in the Canyon Lakes Colony Subdivision Phase 11A and 11B for total maintenance by Bainbridge Township.

**Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009**

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – MORTGAGE RELEASE – CANYON LAKES COLONY

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the Mortgage Release for Parcel #02-070700 for Canyon Lakes Colony 11A and 11B in Bainbridge Township.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RONYAK PAVING INCORPORATED UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – RESURFACE AUBURN ROAD

Mr. Stone explained that this is an ARRA project for next year. Commissioner Jemison asked what the estimate was and Mr. Stone responded that it is \$450,000.00. This is still going off 2008 prices.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute a Unit Price Contract (RS-41J-10) with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH 4, Sections I & J) in Newbury Township, in the amount of \$278,806.79.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RONYAK PAVING INCORPORATED UNIT PRICE CONTRACT - CEMENT STABILIZATION AND REPAVING NAUVOO ROAD

Mr. Stone stated that this project actually received an Ohio Public Works grant. When the ARRA projects came around they put in for Nauvoo Road at which point they decided just to move it into regular federal funds. They are using the state money and the federal money that match each other so it is free for the county. The road was a township road until 2004 and is currently cold mix etcetera, so it's a cement stabilization and total re-do. Commissioner Young stated this road really needs paving. Mr. Stone added that the Middlefield sale is there and a nice shoulder for people to walk on is needed. Commissioner Jemison added that this road has a lot of buggy traffic. Mr. Stone explained that the worst part is the crack from when Middlefield Township put the four (4) foot paved shoulder on the south side years ago. That crack really comes through from all the buggy traffic.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute a Unit Price Contract (RC-41A-10) with Ronyak Paving Incorporated for the Cement Stabilization and Asphalt Repaving of Nauvoo Road, (CH 41) in Middlefield Township, in the amount of \$621,851.00.

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

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – PETERSEN CONSTRUCTION AND CONTRACTING CONTRACT – RECORDER'S CEILING GRID

Director Glen Vernick stated that they were replacing the ceiling grid that was discussed last week. They were hoping to get them started and finished up in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Vernick added that they were also putting a door in.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute a Contract Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Petersen Construction and Contracting for the Recorder's Ceiling Grid (project) for the 2009 Year, in an amount not to exceed \$7,356.00.

**Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009**

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

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – ACCEPT PERFORMANCE BOND – RELEASE BID BOND
– TBS SNOWPLOWING – SNOWPLOWING AND SALTING SITE GROUP #**

Mr. Vernick stated that this was pulled from last week as they did not receive the bid bond until an hour after session.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept the Performance Bond from TBS Snowplowing for the 2009-2011 Snowplowing and Salting of the County-owned Site Group #3: 470 Center Street, and further to release the bid bond.

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

**DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING CONTRACT –
FUNDING FOR HEALTH EDUCATION**

Director Sally Bell explained that normally the Western Reserve contract, other than the HEAP component and the farm market, have been separate. This should have been with transportation but they just didn't have all their paperwork in place. Ms. Bell explained that they are making a slight change to Geauga, being that the last two years they have done an exercise program called Matter of Balance that was to educate seniors how to prevent falls and maintain control of your balance. They taught techniques that had been developed by the University of Boston. The new program that they will be offering next year is the Arthritis Foundation's exercise program. The Arthritis Foundation just paid to train their staff to be able to teach these classes in Geauga County. Department on Aging then presented it to the federal program and also requested that it be substituted for the Matter of Balance program. Next year they will be offering the Arthritis Foundation's new exercise program at all of the senior centers being taught by the Department on Aging's assistant site coordinators, at all the sites. The reason they chose this is the new exercise programs for United Way must have outcome measures and the Arthritis Foundation's program has outcome measures built in, so they are being compliant and partnering with other community groups.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute a Contract with Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for Older Americans Act funding for Health Education for funding for exercise programs at all five (5) Senior Centers for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, in the amount of \$5,780.00.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – MCFARLAND CREEK SEWER SYSTEM
REHABILITATION BID AWARD – LAKE COUNTY SEWER COMPANY INCORPORATED**

Director Doug Bowen explained that this was for phase two, that they had already awarded phase one and phase three. Commissioner Jemison asked if this was the one they couldn't get any bids on. Mr. Bowen responded that Design Engineer Gerald Morgan reissued it, that he clarified questions with the contractors after the first bid opening. Once it was clarified, they got a bid that was actually below the estimate. Mr. Bowen stated that the estimate was \$730,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to award the bid to Lake County Sewer Company, Incorporated for the McFarland Creek Sewer System Rehabilitation Project, Phase 2 in the amount of \$724,480.00, as they represented the lowest and best bid on the project.

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

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR OF WATER RESOURCES TO EXECUTE INSTRUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE BOND

Mr. Bowen explained this is an annual request to pay the State Health Department \$145.00, that includes a license. The license is in case the Park District, Post 2 or anyone needs help with their water system. Terry Zion, Water Section Supervisor has the right to do it like any other hired operator or any other licensed person. The license is for one year, and they can help anyone else in the county.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution 09-220 authorizing the Department of Water Resources Director to execute any and all instruments and indemnify the Department of Water Resources pertaining to the bond posted to the Ohio Department of Health, BEH Private Water Systems for the application for a Private Water Systems Installers License to cover activities of the Department's water treatment and distribution operations.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 10, 2009

Resolution: 09-220

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Be it hereby resolved that Doug Bowen, Director of Department of Water Resources, is hereby authorized to sign any and all instruments and indemnify for Geauga County Department of Water Resources in order to obtain a bond being posted to the Ohio Department of Health, BEH Private Water Systems and that he is also authorized to use funds to pay the bond premium.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, in Geauga County, Ohio, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, has caused this instrument to be executed this 10th day of December, 2009.

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT – BRUCE MARION CONSTRUCTION INCORPORATED

Program Coordinator Rhea Dykes stated that this is more paperwork for the Ravenwood Mental Health Center jobs.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute a Notice of Commencement to Bruce Marion Construction Incorporated in connection with the installation of ADA door hardware at 12557 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon under Grant #B-F-08-026-1.

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT – ROOFTOP INCORPORATED

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute a Notice of Commencement to Rooftop Incorporated in connection with the reconstruction of a reception area window at 12557 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon under Grant #B-F-08-026-1.

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

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

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NOTICE OF AWARD – ROOFTOP INCORPORATED

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Notice of Award for Rooftop, Incorporated for demolition of property located at 11303 Laural Drive, Newbury under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant, as they represented the lowest and best proposal amount.

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

COUNTY HOME – VOLUNTARY DISABILITY SEPARATION RESIGNATION – KAREN BONTRAGER, FULL TIME COOK #1503

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to accept the voluntary disability separation resignation of Karen Bontrager, Full Time Cook (#1503), to be effective December 11, 2009.

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

COUNTY HOME – INTERNAL POSTING – FULL TIME COOK #1503

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to grant permission to post internally for the position of Full-time Cook (#1503) beginning December 14, 2009, for a period of five days.

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

COUNTY HOME – ADVERTISE – TWO SUBSTITUTE ATTENDANTS #1504-2

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to grant permission to advertise for two (2) Substitute Attendants (#1504-2). This posting will remain open until filled.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADOPT REVISION – SECTION 2, PAGE 2.1 EMPLOYMENT – PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL – INCLUDE FEDERAL GENETIC INFORMATION NON – DISCRIMINATION ACT (GINA)

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve adoption of the revision to Section 2., page 2.1 Employment in the Commissioners Personnel Policy Manual for Equal Employment Opportunity to include the Federal Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) effective November 21, 2009.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADOPT REVISION – SECTION 6. LEAVES – PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL – EXTENDED SICK LEAVE

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve adoption of the revision to Section 6. Leaves in the Commissioners Personnel Policy Manual for the extended sick leave policy to match the Water Resources collective bargaining contract, Section 3, page 22. "In the case of a condition

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

exceeding five (5) consecutive calendar days, (was 7) a physician's statement specifying the employee's inability to report to work and the probable date of recovery shall be required."

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADOPT REVISION – SECTION 6. LEAVES – PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL – FMLA TO INCLUDE FEDERAL FINAL RULE

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve adoption of the revisions to Section 6. Leaves in the Commissioners Personnel Policy Manual for the Family and Medical Leave Act to include federal final rule as follows: (1) service member leaves, (2) designation notice requirement to employees, (3) substitution of all paid leave.

In addition, other updates include (1) mandatory savings days, if required, will run concurrently with FMLA, (2) employees are required to "substitute" any accrued paid sick leave, vacation, compensation time, or personal time, as offered by their employer before taking unpaid FMLA leave under the same terms and conditions of the policy that applies to such leave.

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

LIQUOR LICENSE – GEAUGA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY – NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to concur with the Newbury Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Geauga County Democratic Party located at 12428 Kinsman Road, Newbury Township (C NEW 3087106).

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

LIQUOR LICENSE – CORRECT STREET ADDRESS – SOUTH FRANKLIN CIRCLE

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to acknowledge the correct Street Address of the Proposed Permit Premises for South Franklin Circle is 16600 Warren Ct. (not 16575 Franklin Street) which is a change from the original notice sent in February 2009.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION – 2009 FINAL APPROPRIATION MEASURE

Dave Lair gave the 2010 Permanent Appropriation presentation. He stated that a lot of the Powerpoint slides in this presentation are based on presentations that Commissioner Jemison has been making throughout the last year, letting people know what's important and what the economic situation in the county will be for the next couple of years.

Mr. Lair stated that the total appropriations from all funds being presented for consideration today is \$97,188,774.18. Total appropriation from the General fund is \$24,642,899.14, a reduction from the tax budget of \$3,682,105.00. This presentation is intended to explain how this office has arrived at this revised amount. In reviewing the budget process, it was stated that the Budget Commission, comprised of the Prosecutor, the Auditor, and the Treasurer certify revenues that are expected to be received for the year. That amount, along with the carryover balance are the resources available to be appropriated. The Commissioners adopt appropriations that cannot exceed what was certified by the budget commission. It was explained that the rest of the presentation would primarily be about the general fund, as that is the topic of primary concern. A pie chart was presented, showing the current estimated revenues year to date, with Sales Tax comprising forty-three percent (43%) of revenues, followed by Real

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

Estate Tax at twenty-five percent (25%), then there are a number of things that comprise "other revenue" at eighteen percent (18%). Other, smaller slices of the revenue total "pie" include transfer tax, investment income, recorder fees, building and prisoner housing. General fund revenues back in 2005 were at \$25,375,000 and revised for 2009 the county will be below that at \$24,354,000.

Mr. Lair explained that carryover is the amount that is in the checking account at the beginning of the new year that is not tied up in purchase orders (encumbered) for items ordered in the previous year. It was noted that unencumbered balances that have gone back and forth. In 2005 it was only \$2.4 million, in 2006, 2007 and 2008 it was much healthier at or above \$3.5 – \$4 million and then in 2009 it peaked at \$4.7 million. For purposes of the tax budget, we assumed that we would have \$2 million unencumbered, as we thought that was a very conservative estimate at the time. Available resources shows carryover plus current year revenue and again one can see the trend going back down that in 2010 if you assume a 2 million dollar carryover; our available resources are \$26,501,000. As for sales tax, again in 2005 before the county was receiving the full benefit of all the Wal-Mart's being open we were at \$10,500,000. However, there is de-certification occurring right now of an additional \$650,000 for this year, of which \$500,000.00 is sales tax, taking our certificate for 2009 from \$11 million to \$10,500,000. The county is bringing in less money this year than we did in 2005 when all the new shopping centers were not fully open. In the budget for 2010 it is projected that our sales tax receipts are going to be around \$10,500,000. The question is, have we seen the bottom in this decline in consumer spending, if we've seen the bottom then that number is still good. However, if we haven't seen the bottom then it's going to get worse and then we have to think what the implications of that may be.

Regarding property transfer tax, it was stated that we had a lot of activity in 2005, resulting in revenue of almost 2 million dollars, down to where that has been revised in the current year from the original tax budget estimate of \$1.2 million down another half million dollars. Investment income peaked in 2008 at \$2.4 million dollars. The Treasurer forecasted \$1.6 million for 2009, and that target was almost met, now having had \$20,000 of that number de-certified. Prisoner housing went from \$44,000 in 2005 before the new jail was open to nearly half a million dollars in 2006, and up to \$2 million in 2007, starting to tail off in 2008. We estimated \$1.5 million for 2009, and had inmates at the beginning of the year, but that activity dropped down to almost nothing, so the certificate of 2009 revenue for that account had to be reduced to \$650,000, resulting in another loss of \$900,000 of expected revenue.

The county has received just under \$23 million in General Fund revenues year-to-date, as compared to \$26.6 million at the same time last year. The revenue certificate has been reduced almost \$2.1 million for this year as a result. Referring to debt, Mr. Lair stated that the county doesn't have a lot of debt. There is currently \$3 million dollars owed on the Safety Center, reflecting a payment that was made in August of \$1 million dollars. The county has a million dollars already in the Bond repayment fund; while nothing has been firmly decided at this point, the plan would appear to be to preserve the general fund for the financial crunch of 2010 and a likely continuation of that situation into 2011, the county may use half of that amount, or \$500,000 in August of 2010 and leave \$500,000 there to make the same payment amount in 2011. This would leave the general fund free of that burden for two years. Then in remaining years \$500,000 would need to be found in the general fund each year to pay down the remaining debt. Following that schedule, the county would still have the Safety Center paid off in less than 10 years from the date it was opened. The 800 MHZ radio system needs to be upgraded to digital in 2011, with a price that could be up to \$3.2 million. That number is considered a high estimate, but we are being conservative in showing it at that amount. That project would need to be financed, as we just don't have the money in the general fund to pay for that up-front out of ongoing revenues. We have a needed upgrade mandated by the EPA at the Infirmary Creek sewage treatment plant that services the county's 24 hour service center area. The General Fund will be required to service the debt payment for this project. University Hospital Geauga will be asked to participate in financing this project but the general fund will see about a \$1.5 million debt burden for their portion.

It was stated that when you take the Tax Budget numbers and do a permanent appropriation based on revised income estimates for both this year and next year, you see what the county is faced with. Our revenue certificates have already been reduced nearly a million dollars for the coming year. The 2010 Tax Budget was passed in July for the first time with a negative balance of \$838,000. If the county wants to try to show a budget that really contrasts revenue with

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

expense, the estimated 2010 carryover should not be included in that analysis. Eliminating the \$2 million carryover estimate, and including the effects of both the tax budget deficit and the \$900,000 plus reduction in 2010 revenue certifications since the tax budget was adopted clarifies the fact that we are currently budgeted to spend \$3.8 million dollars more than we are going to get in 2010. Eliminating the carryover from the estimated resources for budgeting purposes at this point is also important, given that we've lost \$2,150,000 in revenue that the county had been certified to receive in 2009. Given that we've seen the 2010 certification already reduced in the current year we need to be very conservative in this final appropriation. For the permanent appropriation, steps have been taken to balance the budget. The Commissioners' Budget Office has made some specific departmental reductions of up to thirty-five (35) percent. The Planning Commission and Building Departments are being asked to take an overall departmental reduction along with some others and that results in a savings of \$322,788. We have a general fund twenty percent mandated reduction in travel, which comes out to a \$26,230 reduction. We have a rebate in an account from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation that in total is \$250,000, of which the general fund is entitled to \$76,234, and smaller cuts in miscellaneous general fund departments of \$42,440. Outside contributions have been cut twenty percent, for \$28,000. The county has a general equipment account that is used for general purchases of equipment items of benefit to the county; this has been cut by \$130,000. Maintenance Department utilities accounts cover utility costs for many county buildings, of which the Safety Center is a pretty large number in itself, but having looked back over the numbers and what we spent year to date, we felt we could cut that \$175,000. The general consultants expense account has been cut by \$50,000. The total effect of the cuts outlined above provides a reduction in General Fund expense of \$850,000 toward trying to get close to offsetting that \$3.8 million dollar deficit. Therefore for the permanent appropriation considered for adoption today, all General Fund salary, payroll and tax line items, PERS and Medicare have been reduced by twenty percent, except in the case of those departments that have already been given across-the-board departmental reductions, which equates to \$2.8 million dollars, providing a total reduction of \$3,682,105.

The result of these net changes to the Tax Budget adopted earlier this year leaves the county with a revised permanent appropriation in the General Fund of \$24,642,899.14. The budgeted resources at the time of the tax budget were \$27,486,632. By removing the budgeted carryover of \$2 million, that cannot be counted on at this point, and taking into account the reduction in 2010 revenues already made, our net estimated receipts at this point of \$24,501,554 still shows a small deficit if you don't count any carryover, but there will certainly be enough carryover to cover the small deficit shown.

Mr. Lair stated that the carryover balance will be known the first Monday right after New Year's Day. Then the Budget Commission may take until mid to late January to provide a 2010 Certificate of Estimated Resources based on unencumbered balances and revenue estimates they are confident in at that time. Given what is happening with the general economy they are going to want to be very cautious. If the carryover balance ends up greater than \$3 million, and chances are it could be, although not all our receipts are in, that would allow us to restore that twenty percent back to most of the general fund salary cuts. These cuts will not be restored to all departments, as there may be some individual departments where some cuts can be made permanent for next year. In the 2010 Tax Budget the salaries total was equal to 2009 pay that has been adjusted back to a 26-pay schedule, instead of the 27-pay schedule in effect this year. In terms of pay rate, there is no budgeted increase for 2010. Once needed supplemental appropriations to salary line items have been made, the Commissioners will go back to the tax budget hearing documentation to review other requests that were identified as a priority or need and make additional supplemental appropriations on a priority basis from funds available. If the carryover reaches the \$3 million amount or the Budget Commission comes back in January and says we need to decertify more 2010 revenue, there is going to be more action to further adjust salary budgets permanently through furloughs, layoffs or job eliminations.

Commissioner Samide stated that hopefully we'll have a carryover. Commissioner Jemison explained that starting the year of 2009 the county assumed that we were going to get \$2 million more in revenue, then in August we got our first 2009 decertification of \$1.5 million and now the county is going to be getting shortly from the Budget Commission another \$650,000.00 decertification for this year. While that was bad enough, the real kicker for 2010 was that \$985,000 in revenue that at tax budget time we thought would be coming in is no longer forecast to be received next year. Commissioner Jemison stated that, "Our revenues right now, being honest, are in free fall." The consensus of the board at this point in time is that the

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

Commissioners don't want to make any permanent appropriations that they would have to cut later. The conservative approach is to be able to take the twenty percent out of salaries and those areas identified for reduction, instead of allowing departments to start their year with a complete salary appropriation and then in February having to come to them and saying that some of that appropriation would have to be pulled back.

Commissioner Samide explained that the million dollars we have for the Safety Center debt retirement has already been put into that fund and cannot be taken out without special action, including a court order. The debt retirement money has to stay in that fund because the board took action to place it there, which now allows the board to use half of the one million dollars in the fund to make a payment this year, and use the other half to make another \$500,000 payment in 2011. It was explained that this is why the Commissioners have been careful with their allocations to pay down debt; once that money is there, it has to stay there. Mr. Lair asked Commissioner Jemison if failure to pay down debt would affect the county's bond rating. Commissioner Jemison responded yes, it could affect the bond rating, although he didn't anticipate the county doing that now. He added that the county is leveraging what we did with our debt over the last four or five years, saying that originally our thought process was that we had that million dollars there and that we were going to pay a million dollars down next August. The thing is we have to get to 2011 and get through 2011 too. He explained that what we did this year to increase revenue in the general fund was to take that half million that we had going to debt, and shift back that \$1.5 million for 2010 for General Fund needs in light of reduced revenues,, knowing that we had that million dollars in our surplus debt account, and knowing that it would take care of our debt in 2010. As Commissioner Samide said, we need to use that balance and divide it up between the two years, \$500,000 this year and \$500,000 in 2011 and then in 2012 we need to come up with more general fund contributions. Commissioner Jemison said that he didn't think we could do any less of an annual pay-down then \$500,000 for that debt.

Commissioner Samide explained that we are posturing ourselves well by paying that debt down. She added that she felt that in time things will get better, and that by being proactive the county will not find itself in the middle of the year and not able to make payroll. Mr. Lair commented on how involved the Commissioners' Office is in this process, complementing the efforts of Budget Specialist Heidi Delaney and Commissioner Jemison, as well as the valuable input received from both Commissioner Samide and Commissioner Young. Mr. Lair added that this Board takes this process very seriously. Commissioner Jemison commented that if the question was asked that if things look good and revenues are up in June would we get a new certification from the Budget Commission, he responded that we would absolutely not, as that would be like chasing revenue. He stated if we did it would take the county a lot longer to get out. Whatever we get in January for the year is what the county will use for the entire year. Commissioner Samide commented that living within one's means is a good thing, as we can see examples all around us with other counties re-certifying and all turned around and that's why they are in the mess that they are in. Mr. Lair commented that at the recent Commissioners' Winter Conference a seminar on budgeting for counties advocated the practice of not budgeting more in expenditures than what is expected in revenues, and that government, in these trying times needs to adjust to reality.

Commissioner Young commented on other counties taking substantial cutbacks of twenty percent and being very challenging with nothing appearing to improve before 2011 or 2012. He noted that in regards to sales tax revenue, people are getting what they want to buy but getting it at a much cheaper price so sales tax is down as a result. He said that you hope that the economic improvement will really start perking things up and that will help out with the sales tax, but it doesn't look like property taxes to do much. He noted that compared to other counties, we are much better off. Commissioner Samide commented that there are deep cuts everywhere. Juvenile/Probate Court Administrator David Lubecky asked whether it would be possible to spread the impact of any needed salary cost-saving measures such as furloughs by instituting them early in the year to lessen the impact of these measures by spreading them over as long a period as possible. Commissioner Samide responded that we need them to bear with us and do what they can so we come out well instead of just hoping. Commissioner Samide added that she thought we will overcome these issues but it will take time. She further added that we pride ourselves in paying off our debt, as it's the responsible thing to do. Commissioner Jemison commented that he hoped the carryover would be good. Back in July of this year they asked everyone to stay within ninety percent of the total monies appropriated to them and the numbers reflect that the departments are complying with that request, where they can overall, and that's a

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

good thing. Commissioner Samide mentioned the Geauga Public Library and how their staff asked them to do what they needed to do for them to avoid layoffs; therefore they took away holidays, intra-county mileage reimbursement, accepted a ten to fifteen percent pay cut, and they still had to lay off seven employees. Mr. Lair commented that Geauga County operates like an extended family and we all need to stick together. Commissioner Samide stated that we are only partially in a panic, we don't want to say that the sky is falling but we need to be realistic about it.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution 09-219 approving the 2010 Final Appropriation Measure.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 10, 2009

Resolution: 09-219

GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
(PERMANENT) ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.R.C. SECTIONS 5705.38, and 5705.40

The Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio met in regular session on the 10th day of December, 2009 at the office of the Board of County Commissioners with the following members present:

William S. Young, President
Mary E. Samide
Tracy A. Jemison

Commissioner Jemison presented the following resolution and moved their adoption, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Samide:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio, that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said County, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, the following sums be and the same hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made for and during said fiscal year, as follows, viz:

(Clerk's note: An original copy of the 2010 Final Appropriation Measure has been included in the permanent record by photocopying the document on to the following unnumbered journal pages as the existing program does not allow this document to be printed directly into the journal.)

**Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009**

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of November 2009, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*
- b) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending November 25, 2009 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- c) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending December 2, 2009 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- d) *A monthly financial report filed by the Building Department for the month of November 2009.*

MEETINGS

Fri., 12/11 NOACA

Tue., 12/15 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 12/17 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Mon., 12/21 Family First meeting at Mental Health.

Tue., 12/22 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

*Thu., 12/24 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

*Thu., 12/24 **The County Offices, under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners, will be closed at noon (half day).***

*Fri., 12/25 **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., 12/29 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

*Thu., 12/31 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER YOUNG ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:51 P.M.

Commissioners' Journal
December 10, 2009

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

Mary E. Samide

William S. Young

Christine Blair, Acting Clerk