

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 24, 2008**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 24, 2008 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, Craig S. Albert opened the meeting at 10:09 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 July 22, 2008.*

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

**PROBATE / JUVENILE COURT – VOCA / SVAA GRANT APPLICATION**

*VOCA is Federal money that is funneled through the State. CASA Director Christine Steigerwald reported that there is political fighting going at the Federal level regarding the use of VOCA funds. The law requires that the funds be funneled back to the victims of crime but part of the fighting includes using some of those funds to fund some homeland security activities. The funding was not voted on until June as to how funds will be appropriated. The vote came back to the state with a 10% cut in funds. Ms. Steigerwald added that there is talk that the funds may be delayed in being sent out and received. Ms. Steigerwald explained that the match is still 25% of the VOCA grant amount, but it is still 10% less than last year. Commissioner Albert representation is handled and paid for through the CASA program.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Geauga County's Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and State Victim Advocacy Act (SVAA) 2008-2009 grant application for the CASA for Kids of Geauga County Program in the amount of \$32,266.00. This grant will receive \$30,015.00 from the Office of the Attorney General and \$7,504.00 local match from the County General Fund and includes \$2,251.00 in SVAA funds. This grant (#2008VADSCE480) is for the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.*

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

**PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - VOCA / SVAA GRANT APPLICATION**

*Victim Witness Interim Director Cindi Haycox reported that as a result of the grant fund cuts the part-time person will take a pay cut as well as being cut back in hours.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Geauga County's Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) and State Victim Advocacy Act (SVAA) 2008-2009 grant application for the Geauga County Prosecutor Victim/ Witness Program in the amount of \$60,946.00. As part of this grant, \$42,497.00 is being requested from federal VOCA funds (#2008VAGENE005) with a local match from the County General Fund of \$14,200.00 and \$4,249.00 from SVAA (#2008SAGENE005) with no local match. This grant is for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 24, 2008**

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

**FIRE CHIEF'S INCORPORATED – REGIONAL COLLABORATION GRANT PROGRAM**

Hambden Fire Prevention Officer Chief Scott Hildenbrand and Munson Fire Chief Bernie Harchar were present for the discussion. The grant is to do a study, which will include all Fire Chiefs in the county, with the intent to study how to do fire fighting better in the county and to share services. The study will provide recommendations for improvement and consolidation. This grant study will not be creating a new district, it will be a blending of services. An example of "blending of services" is that it is typical for each department to have a reserve fire truck but there is no reason for every department to have a reserve truck. There can be just a few trucks within the county and put a metallic township sign on the shared truck. If more than eight political subdivisions sign onto this grant up to \$80,000.00 can be received for the study with no local match required. So far, ten of the twelve departments have signed on. Fire Chief Harchar added that this

"blending of services" makes sense as Fire Departments can share the costs of services and therefore save money. State Representative Larry Flowers was a sponsor of this grant and an advocate for regionalization. Commissioner Albert added that this study was a great idea and the program should be extended to the police departments. Chief Hildenbrand thanked Deputy Sheriff Chuck Negron for working with this grant and Commissioners' Clerk Claudine Kozenko for her help in getting grant through.

**Motion:** by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve the Geauga County Board of Commissioners to serve as the lead government agency applicant and recipient of the Ohio 2008-2009 Local Government Services and Regional Collaboration Grant Program and to partner with Geauga County Fire Chiefs Incorporated in approving and authorizing the application for said grant. The grant will be funded by Ohio's Department of Development for the cost of the project, in an amount not to exceed \$80,000.00.

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

**MENTAL RETARDATION AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (MR/DD) – BID OPENING ADVERTISEMENT**

**Motion:** by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to grant permission to advertise for bids for The Workshop Toilet Remodeling Project with a bid opening to be held on August 27, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this bid opening will be published on July 31, 2008 and the county web site.

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

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CHANGE ORDER #1- SENIOR CENTER PAVILION ADA BATHROOMS**

Program Administrator Joni Stusek reported, among other things, electrical code upgrades were needed.

**Motion:** by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #1 increasing the contract with Petersen Construction and Contracting for the Public Rehabilitation of Geauga County Senior Center Pavilion two (2) ADA Bathrooms, in the amount of \$1,175.00, under Grant #B-F-07-026-1.

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 24, 2008**

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT – BUILDING USE LETTER OF AGREEMENT – CHESTER AND BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**

*Mike Mihalisin, Chief Building Official explained that these letters help cut time and gas mileage down by using these remote sites.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to acknowledge the letter of agreement between the Director of the Building Department and the Chester Township Trustees to provide temporary remote office space located at Chester Fire Department, 8552 Parkside Drive, Chesterland to Building Department employees for the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to acknowledge the letter of agreement between the Director of the Building Department and the Bainbridge Township Trustees to provide temporary remote office space located at Bainbridge City Hall, 17826 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls to Building Department employees for the hours of 8:00 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PARKMAN SEWER TIE-IN FEES AND MONTHLY FEE**

*The Commissioners' conducted a discussion regarding the Parkman Sewer tie-in fees pertaining to the Parkman Historical Society and the Masonic Lodge. Those present for the discussion included Jeanne Ebersbach (Parkman Historical Society), Mark Dolezal (Masonic Lodge) and Water Resources Director Gus Saikaly. The reason for the discussion is those involved are requesting an exemption from paying for the tap-in fee and the monthly sewer charge. Ms. Ebersbach reported that the society is a non-profit organization and the only way they get funds is through membership and fund raisers. The home in question was built in 1825, was deeded to the society and is being restored to its original condition. The new sewer project in the township will be putting a strain on this home restoration project and they cannot afford to pay the tap in fees and the monthly sewer charges. The home will used only once every other month for a meeting and open for special occasions for display purposes. Ms. Ebersbach reported that the connection to make the sewer tie-in is being donated. Mr. Dolezal explained that the lodge has 42 members (37 paying members) and holds approximately 20 meetings a year at their building site. The lodge is a non-profit agency as well. The lodge is on the third floor with their own deed. The other two floors are owned by someone else, who is paying his tap-in fees for his two floors. The building shares one sewer connection. Mr. Saikaly explained that they are charged separately because they are like a condo as they are separate entities with one connection. Mr. Dolezal reported that with the minimum amount of dues collected, insurance and electric paid out, donating \$700.00 to local charities and now the tap-in fee and monthly sewer charge the lodge will not be able to continue their community service nor survive. They hold a few fund raisers to pay for the current bills and they are just making it. The result of the discussion was that the amount of usage of both buildings was very minimal and they are requesting an exemption from paying the tap-in fees and the monthly sewer fees as the buildings are not used much. Mr. Dolezal added that the sewers are welcomed in Parkman but these agencies cannot pay for them. Mr. Saikaly reported that the department is a self supporting department, by law, which is why they charge what they do. The Ohio EPA required the sewers and all those that profit from its use are responsible for paying for it. The tap-in fee can be paid off in four years, which is the length of time allowed by the rules of the loan for the funding of the project. Mr. Saikaly added that there is no room for expansion of the current septic system. They would not be able to operate the building without the new sewers or paying for a very expensive (\$40-\$50,000.00) new septic system. The monthly fees are now \$66.00 per month which included debt retirement. There are no assessments on this project as a condition of one of the grants received for this project. David Everett added that the bottom two floors have a source for money*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 24, 2008**

*whereas the lodge is very limited in funds received. The lodge takes care of the roof and the bottom two floors have, in the past, taken care of the septic issues. If the sewer system is forced upon them he believes they will abandon the building or look to sell it as they will not be able to pay for the sewers. Mr. Saikaly commented that once the owner of the other two floors ties in, the building will be in compliance but the problem is that there is no fee paid by the lodge for using the system, regardless of their minimal use. Mr. Saikaly added that he has been trying to help find funding for these two cases. Mr. Dolezal stated he researched getting CDBG funds but was told they did not qualify. The department does not have the means to exempt entities from paying for the tap-in fees and the monthly sewer charges. After further discussion Commissioner Young suggested that Commissioner Samide and County Administrator Dave Lair work with Gus Saikaly to come up with a reasonable approach to perhaps set policy regarding issues such as these two cases rather than just waiving the fees for one or two groups. Commissioner Samide added that there are three specific places in the Ohio Revised Code allowing the Board of Commissioners to give money. Mr. Saikaly agreed to temporarily hold off any decisions on these two cases.*

**OTHER**

*Commissioners reviewed calendars.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a. The A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending July 16, 2008 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

**MEETINGS**

- Fri., 7/25 The Commissioners will attend Iron Mountain National Underground Storage.*
- Tue., 7/29 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Tue. 7/29 Saint-Gobain Crystals Grand Opening at 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*
- Thu., 7/31 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 7/31 The Commissioners will hold a public hearing on July 31, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. with respect to the proposed issuance by the Colorado Educational and Cultural Facilities Authority of revenue bonds for the Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland (Camp Wise).*
- Thu., 7/31 The monthly economic development work session will be held at noon.*
- Tue., 8/5 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 8/7 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 8/7 The Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the County Subdivision Regulations on August 7, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.*
- Fri., 8/8 NOACA meeting at Kent Geauga Branch at 10:00 a.m.*
- Sun., 8/10 Some of the Commissioners will attend the Taborville Harvest Festival / Parade*
- Tue., 8/12 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Tue., 8/12 Planning Commission meeting at 7:30 p.m.*
- Thu., 8/14 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 24, 2008**

*Thu., 8/14 The Commissioners will hold a public hearing on August 14, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. for the proposed transit fare increase.*

*Fri., 8/15 TAC meeting*

*Mon., 8/18 Family First meeting at 2:00 p.m.*

*Tue., 8/19 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled as the Board will be attending County Commissioners' Days in Ross County.***

***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER ALBERT ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:30 A.M.***

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Mary E. Samide*

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*William S. Young*

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*Craig S. Albert*

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*Claudine Kozenko, Commissioners' Clerk*