

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**February 17, 2011**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on February 17, 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 10:02 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*\* Commissioner Samide was absent from this session.*

**APPROVE MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of February 15, 2011.*

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

**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – NOTICE OF AWARD – HESS AND ASSOCIATES ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED**

*Program Coordinator Rhea Benton explained that this was under the Formula Grant and is the first action being taken on the Formula this year. Ms. Benton stated that they were excited to get started. Hess Engineering was the lowest and best for the professional services. Commissioner Young asked what the timeline was for them to get started. Ms. Benton stated that the bid specifications were due by March 31<sup>st</sup> and that as soon as they are under contract they can get started. Ms. Benton stated that by next week they should be bringing a contract.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute a Notice of Award to Hess and Associates Engineering, Incorporated for professional services for the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Parking Improvements Project under Grant #B-F-10-1AZ-1, as they represented the lowest and best proposal amount.*

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

*A local resident in the audience asked what the proposal amount was. Ms. Benton stated that it was \$8,500.00 and it included creating the specifications, survey and all that is included with the engineering part of the project. Commissioner Jemison stated that they would be extending the parking lot and the funds are coming from the Community Block Grant and eventually from HUD.*

*Ms. Benton presented the Board with the binder given at the Community Development Block Grant workshops that were presented to the Township, Zoning Officials and Non-profit Organizations regarding the program, eligibility and how to complete the applications. Both workshops were well attended and they hope they will utilize the information in the binders. County Administrator David Lair stated that he had heard good things from Newbury about how informative it was, with lots of good information.*

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES STANDARD ASSURANCES FORM**

*Chief Deputy Scott Hildenbrand stated that this was for the grant that was applied for last year and again this year for the upgrades on the blade servers from 32 bit to 64 bit. Deputy Hildenbrand stated that we have two, but that we need four. One was received this year, and it is hoped to receive the last one next year. Typically the assurance can be signed by the Sheriff, but is currently required to be signed by the grantee. This is to assure compliance with ADA and civil rights. The paperwork for this grant was received on Monday and needs to be back in by*

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Friday. A local resident asked what the grant amount was for and what the county portion was. Deputy Hildenbrand stated that the grant amount was for \$8,277.00 and the county contribution is ten percent (10%) at 827.00 for the server upgrade.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Office of Criminal Justice Services Standard Assurances form to complete Pre-Award conditions for Grant #2010-JG-LLE-5108.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CITY OF CLEVELAND – FOURTH EXPANSION OF DIRECT SERVICE AGREEMENT

Assistant Sanitary Engineer Gerry Morgan stated that this was an addendum to the Direct Service Agreement that they have with the Cleveland Water, specifically the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) addendum for a parcel that fronts on County Line Road in Russell Township. Mr. Morgan explained that the first was for Chester Township properties that fronted on County Line Road to the Cleveland Waterline that runs down County Line; the second was for an expansion to add Arrowhead Farms Subdivision for the Dines Road portion of that waterline; the third was for an expansion to include the Laurel School and Parkside Church combination. This agreement is for properties that are directly served by waterlines to the City of Cleveland instead of Geauga County providing service. Mr. Jemison asked if this was okayed by Russell Township. Mr. Morgan stated that it was and a letter was included from Russell. Mr. Morgan explained that there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioners and the Township that all expansions are approved by the Russell Trustees prior to implementation. The property owner hired the attorney that handled the memorandum of understanding for the Trustees, which facilitated the process since he was aware of what needed to be done. Mr. Morgan answered a question posed by Mr. Young regarding Arrowhead Farms expanding further. Mr. Morgan stated that the Arrowhead Farms subdivision was in the Village of Hunting Valley. The waterline that originally serviced that subdivision ran down Dines Road to their own well field. They connected that waterline to the County Line Road waterline so that it was all direct serviced to Cleveland, but the County needed to have the direct service for the portion of Dines Road. Even though Arrowhead Farms subdivision is in Hunting Valley, if they would have not needed that portion that ran down Dines Road the county would never have been involved, they would have just tied in and it would have all gone through Hunting Valley. Mr. Morgan explained that the way the Memorandum of Understanding is written the county would have to go back to the Township with the request for tie-in.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the City of Cleveland for the Fourth Expansion of the Direct Service Agreement to include parcel #26-143600 located at 14761 County Line Road in Russell Township.

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

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – LEASE AGREEMENT – OBERLAND FARMS (LES OBER) – COUNTY HOME PROPERTY

County Administrator David Lair explained that Mr. Ober would be using the property for farming on land that would otherwise just sit there. Mr. Jemison explained that this helps with the CAUV tax and that Mr. Ober has farmed the property in the past. A local resident asked if we were paying him to use the property and if \$30.00 was the going rate. Mr. Jemison explained that Mr. Ober would be paying us to use the property and it was for the \$30.00 per acre. Mr. Jemison stated that people often will let farmers use their property to help with the CAUV tax savings and it's most often a situation where the family just can't do it anymore.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute a Lease Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Oberland Farms (Les Ober as Lessee) to perform farming / cropping

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*activities on portions of County Home property (Parcel #13-705200, #13-015313, #13-015511, #13-015512, #13-015513, #13-015514, and #13-015515) located on Ravenwood Drive, Chardon for a three year period, March 1, 2011 through February 28, 2013 in the amount of \$30.00 per acre for a total of thirty-two (32) acres per year.*

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

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending February 9, 2011 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the inmate meals for the month ending January 2011.*

**MEETINGS**

*Fri., 2/18 Leadership Geauga Government Day*

*Mon., 2/21 **County offices will be closed for general business due to the President's Day holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

*Tues., 2/22 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

*Thu., 2/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

*Mon., 2/28 Family First Council meeting at 2:00 p.m.*

*Tues., 3/1 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

*Tues., 3/1 A Public Hearing to acknowledge Receipt of Plans for the Replacement of the Taylor Wells Road Bridge (Structure #113-2.03) in Claridon Township at 10:10 a.m.*

*Tues., 3/1 A Public Hearing to acknowledge Receipt of Plans for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Chardon Windsor Road (CH 13, Sections A-D) in Hambden and Claridon Townships at 10:15 a.m.*

*Tues., 3/1 A Public Hearing to acknowledge Receipt of Plans for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Fairmount Road (CH 16, Sections F & G) in Newbury Township at 10:20 a.m.*

*Thu., 3/3 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

**OTHER**

*A discussion was held with a local resident in the audience about what they county was doing to create jobs. Mr. Jemison stated that in the last few years they have been putting tools in place. He referred to the Office of Community and Economic Development and the county's "Economic Toolbox" for low interest loans to companies moving into the area, grants through the Ohio Department of Development, Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), and the Geauga Growth Partnership. Mr. Jemison said that honestly, the county has probably lost more than has been brought in. Mr. Jemison stated that we need to maintain and strengthen the companies we have in this economic time. An example of business retention was Great Lakes Cheese locating to Troy instead of Streetsboro through tax abatement. Now that is not feasible since the personal property tax has been phased out. In most cases the personal property taxes used to be higher than the real estate taxes for companies. Mr. Jemison stated that in these economic times we need to have an employee pool. Through Job and Family Services and Geauga Ashtabula Portage Partnership (GAPP) we are doing this by using workforce development and improving*

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*the quality of employees by training them. Mr. Jemison stated that we do a lot of work with Kent State Trumbull in doing workforce education. He referenced a meeting of the "toolbox" a couple of months ago getting all the people involved in some way in economic development together to make sure everyone was on the same page and that they understand all the tools, making sure that everyone is working together. The local resident asked them to grade the county in its current state, and Mr. Jemison said he would give it a "C+". Our unemployment continues to be one of the lowest in the state but that has anomalies because most often the Amish don't register. These people are still out of work. Northeast Ohio still has a lot to do. Mr. Lair stated that politicians don't create jobs. Most often people move out here because they don't want a lot of economic activity. Mr. Lair stated that you have to look at we don't have here: no interstate, no railways, no ports or an airport that can handle large size planes. We need to focus on the businesses that have logical reasons to be here, government can only do so much. Mr. Lair stated things that we do have going for us here as being an excellent workforce with good work ethic, and a government that supports business and does not over regulate and get in peoples way. We are close to amenities nationally and have a lot of high technology here. Mr. Jemison stated that we understand that we need to have good adequate broadband, as that is now the highway, that it's how we are transporting information. People often think that because we are way out in Geauga County that they can't do things, but with video conferencing and advances in technology, with a good adequate broadband infrastructure, we can do business with anyone in the world. Mr. Jemison stated that we are making overtures to make sure those areas that do not have adequate broadband receive it, especially where businesses are now and we are working to improve that. Twenty years ago it was water, sewer and broadband, today I suggest it should be broadband, water and sewer. Mr. Young explained that it really is a difficult situation in some parts of the county, the western side has a large number of people that work in Cuyahoga County and now that Cuyahoga County has downgraded substantially, and that has an impact on the property values in this county. Most people that came out here that worked in Cuyahoga came out here to get away from the congested suburbs on the east side of Cleveland. What we do need is to continue to do what Mr. Jemison had talked about. Mr. Young stated that what we do have here is a high level of safety and security with the Sheriff's department and the local townships and villages and they do a great job at that. People move out here having piece of mind that they will be safe. The local resident stated that it sounded like we have made a good start with all the local success stories of companies that have moved into the county and have continued to expand. Mr. Jemison stated that we do have some issues in trying to help some companies to expand by not being able to find square footage for those companies that want to stay here.*

**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER YOUNG ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10: 35 A.M.**

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Tracy A. Jemison*

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*William S. Young*

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**ABSENT**  
*Mary E. Samide*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*