

Commissioners' Journal
December 3, 2013

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 3, 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, Mary E. Samide opened the meeting at 10:02 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT DEBORAH ASHBURN - TEMPORARY ACTING CLERK

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to appoint Deborah Ashburn, Temporary Acting Clerk for the period December 3, 2013 through February 17, 2014.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 26, 2013.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation and an Appropriation transfer for the Pre-Sentence Investigation Report Fund to put appropriations in place to repay a payroll advance to the General Fund; Cash transfers out of the General Fund for additional match for the FAA airport grant and a portion of 2013 funding for the Office of Community and Economic Development; Travel requests for the Dog Warden and the Department of Job and Family Services; and a payment to Petersen Construction for the Pleasant Hill County Home bathroom renovation project in the amount of \$26,900.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #12-210 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 3, 2013.

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

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – ACKNOWLEDGE NEW HIRE APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Director Paul Reiman explained that the following three new hire appointments are replacements for employee vacancies. Mr. Reiman provided education and work background information on all three employees.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to acknowledge the following new hire appointments of the Director of Job and Family Services, as Job and Family Services has complied with the Board of Commissioners recruitment and hiring procedures:

<i>Jennifer Wineberg, Social Services Worker 2 (replacement)</i>	<i>Effective November 12, 2013</i>
<i>Kami Harrison, Social Services Supervisor I (replacement)</i>	<i>Effective December 2, 2013</i>
<i>Pauline Loveland, Child Support Case Manager (replacement)</i>	<i>Effective December 9, 2013</i>

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

TRANSIT – ACCEPT RESIGNATION – HENDERSON HENRY – PART-TIME DRIVER (#2210-01)

County Administrator David Lair explained that Director Kristina Reider could not be in attendance but asked the Board to accept the resignation of Henderson Henry. Mr. Lair added that Ms. Reider would like to advertise for the position of a Part-time Driver.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept the resignation of Henderson Henry, Part-time Driver (#2210-1) to be effective November 22, 2013.

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

TRANSIT – ADVERTISE PART-TIME DRIVER (#2210-01)

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Part-time Driver (#2210-1). This position will remain posted until filled.

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

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

Assistant Sanitary Engineer Gerry Morgan explained that the first action to be considered by the board today was the expansion of a Direct Service Agreement with the City of Cleveland for expansion of water service along County Line Road. Mr. Morgan stated that Russell Township has asked that any expansion of water service be done on a parcel by parcel basis. The expansion of water service request is for the parcel of County Line Road south of Dines Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Cleveland and Geauga County for the fifth expansion of the Water Service Agreement for Direct Service (Cleveland Contract No. 54732), in Russell Township.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CITY OF CLEVELAND – EIGHTH EXPANSION – MASTER METER AGREEMENT

Assistant Sanitary Engineer Gerry Morgan stated that the next action is the expansion of the Master Meter Agreement for the water system within Bainbridge Township. Mr. Morgan explained water is purchased from the City of Cleveland and processed through a master meter located at the county line. This action expands service to the parcel located between Savage Road and Tulip Lane in Bainbridge Township. The subject of a Judgement Agreement between Bainbridge Township and the property owner states Bainbridge Township request the County to allow water service to that property. This action also includes the expansion of water service to the English property located at the south end of English Drive, south of Bainbridge Road in Bainbridge Township. Commissioner Mary E. Samide asked Mr. Morgan if this property was in the area where the gas well problem was. Mr. Morgan responded this property is in the neighborhood where water service was extended several years ago following a gas wellhead explosion nearby which resulted in concerns for residential water wells in the area.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Cleveland and Geauga County for the eighth expansion of the Master Meter Agreement (Cleveland Contract No. 46866), in Bainbridge Township.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #2 INCREASE – C.U.E. EXCAVATING CONTRACTORS, LLC – HYDRANT REPAIRS

Director of Water Resources Doug Bowen stated this request is for an increase to an existing service contract in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the installation of a water hydrant to replace one that was destroyed during the summer when it was struck by an automobile. The cost of this new hydrant is being covered by the insurance company of the driver involved.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Service Contract Maintenance Form #2, increasing the contract with C.U.E Excavating Contractors, LLC for additional hydrant repairs in the amount of \$2,500.00.

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

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REQUEST BY THE CITY OF CHARDON FOR A RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVE DISTRICT (RID)

Commissioner Samide opened the discussion stating there is a lot of information that needs to be disseminated regarding the Residential Incentive District (RID), located in the City of Chardon off of Wilson Mills Road. She asked all persons wishing to speak as a part of this discussion to identify themselves and state where they are from. Ms. Samide stated that County Auditor Frank Gliha will explain how levies work and how the RID will affect those who have levies. Mr. Gliha provided a spreadsheet (Estimated Real Estate Tax Collection using RID Exemptions) created by his office and the Commissioners' office, summarizing the effect the RID will have on Geauga County. The spreadsheet contained calculated, estimated total reductions for each county department over a 55-year timeframe if the RID is enacted as currently envisioned by Chardon City Council. The total estimated shortage to the county would be in the amount of \$12,000,000.00. Mr. Gliha recommended that the City of Chardon consider limiting the RID to a 30 year maximum timeframe for the district as a whole, as was done in Delaware County, in order to avoid the significant accounting burden of tracking each property separately. Mr. Gliha noted that in the proposed City of Chardon RID the schools will be made whole for an estimated total of 1.4 million dollars per year, which would otherwise go to the city based on full build-out. He added that any levy passed during this time will result in an increase in the city's agreement with the school district for disbursement.

Mr. Gliha stated that the RID provision is really designed for blighted areas. In talking with the Treasurer, he noted that current property tax collection for the City of Chardon is at 98%, so he was left unsure as to where the tax dollar benefit is needed at this point in time. He said that in looking at the plans to build 500 homes in the City of Chardon, he would have no idea how fast these homes would be built, but the infrastructure costs are the reason for the RID. Ms. Samide noted that the money sought by the city through enactment of the RID is based on the increased value of new homes. She said that the city is important, but each county department depending on property tax levies will be negatively affected for that duration. Mr. Gliha reiterated his contention that managing each parcel separately under the proposed RID agreement would be a nightmare from a record-keeping standpoint and strongly advocated for a 30 year agreement. Commissioner Blake Rear asked about and received clarification on the school being held harmless. Mr. Gliha said that he estimated that it will take at least another additional person to handle the required record-keeping, as he isn't sure the MVP software used by his Real Estate department can track it accurately, and his office is all about accuracy and making sure settlements are done accurately. He noted that the other "blighted" area he was aware of in Ohio was in the city of Powell, with a project initiated in 2005 and like the Delaware County example he cited earlier, they only did it for 30 years as a total district.

Ms. Samide asked that thought be given to various agencies that will be under pressure to increase levies based on increased service need brought about by the addition of 500 new homes in Chardon over time. Mr. Gliha suggested that they may find that the revenue may be sufficient to cover the costs of the infrastructure project within a shorter period.

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Deborah O'Connor, Director of the Geauga County Library stated that she had spoken to her board about this issue and said that she wanted to bring up three important things for Chardon to consider. First is communication, as this development plan will greatly increase the demand for Library services. She added that it is counter intuitive to encourage extra residential growth. The second issue Ms. O'Connor mentioned was transparency. The library needs to be able to tell their story regarding the impact that such a project will have. The third issue to consider is planning, as this project will have significant impact. The current 17,000 square foot Chardon library is too small; the library wants to stay on Chardon square, but if it gets too much impact from this level of growth this branch may need to be moved from Chardon square. Ms. O'Connor stated that she loves the fact that people can walk to the library. She stated that in her opinion, the proposed plan to take 100% of the property tax revenues for ten years followed by 50% of the property tax for the following twenty years is overreaching on the city's part. She said she felt that this plan on the city's part is a little like a Field of Dreams, with a "build it and they will come" mindset, adding that the Geauga Library system has the highest per capita lending rate in the state, and if new residents move to Chardon, they will like to read, just like the current residents. She concluded that many of us who will have direct impact would like to be at the table if the city intends to make a decision in this regard. The library will need to figure out how they are going to fit, as the largest population of library customers is already in Chardon, and they can't fit on the square if significant growth in that population occurs.

Metzenbaum Superintendent Don Rice said he had lots of questions, stating that his understanding was that in planning new growth, it is the responsibility of the developer to develop needed infrastructure improvements. He asked who owns the lots and who is going to benefit, and is the city enriching somebody by putting in roads?

Skip Claypool questioned how many people know about this plan, to which Mayor Phil King responded by encouraging those present to come to a council meeting and ask questions of seven members rather than just the three who are present here today. He asked that Finance Director Matt Rogonjic and City Manager Randy Sharpe, as well as Virginia Benjamin from Calfee Halter and Griswold provide some background information. Ms. Benjamin then explained that the city is proposing three Incentive Districts which allow the real estate taxes resulting from an increase in the assessed value of these properties to be diverted to a fund to pay for the infrastructure improvements. She noted that one of the criteria making the City eligible to pursue a RID is that the city engineer certified that the existing infrastructure is not sufficient to handle the planned development. She pointed out that any new levy money approved after the effective date of the creation of the Incentive Districts would go to the agencies for which those levies were approved, while still allowing the RID provision to allow for the growth in the area to pay for the cost of the infrastructure improvements.

Ms. Samide said that her experience with the County Planning Commission was that the developer normally pays for the costs of the infrastructure, to which Mr. Sharpe responded that two sewer lines are being built for the City of Chardon; they are not being built for the developer, but the developers will be able to tap into them. Other project improvements to be done are the Wilson Mills Road upgrade, the installation of a light at the intersection of Park Avenue and Wilson Mills Road, and the eventual Meadowlands Drive extension from Water Street to Wilson Mills Road. Mr. Sharpe said he wanted to emphasize that money isn't being lost by the county entities affected by the RID. Ms. Samide responded that there would be expanded need for service from the additional residents. Mr. Sharpe said that this provision is an economic development tool that has been in the ORC for some time. Mr. Claypool stated that the challenge is that the county is being asked to subsidize the decision that Chardon has made; Mayor King responded that he considered subsidize to be an "artful" term. Ms. Benjamin stated that the incremental increase in the property values will be used for capital improvements, to which Geauga County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Laura LaChapelle agreed.

Gauga County Prosecutor Jim Flaiz asked whether this land wouldn't be developed anyway without this money being diverted from the county. Mr. Rear said he wanted to clarify a couple of points. He agreed that the city is indeed in the county, and he asked for confirmation that this expansion does not benefit current city residents. Ms. Benjamin confirmed that existing property tax revenues will not be diverted; it applies to the incremental increase from new development only. Mr. Rear responded by asking, who does it benefit, other than developers? Other than the additional income tax generated by the new property residents that the City of Chardon gains, who benefits? Ms. Benjamin said that infrastructure improvements will benefit. Mr. Rear responded that his understanding was that these improvements would be done anyway. Mr.

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Sharpe said that the improvements have been part of the master plan all along, but the RID is part of the financing for that plan. Mayor King stated that the City is obligated to make the land useable in the best way we can afford, and our responsibility to the landowners and this city is to bring infrastructure improvements to the city, without which we cannot draw new business to the city. He concluded that we have a city capable of growing and we need to find ways to finance the improvement. Ms. Samide questioned that while this may be favorable to the city, do we go out 55 to 60 years in this process, or do we limit it to 30 years as County Auditor, Mr. Gliha stated earlier, had been done in other parts of the state? Mayor King invited everyone to attend the next city council meeting to pose questions and concerns to all seven members of council, to which Ms. Samide responded that the Commissioners answer to 95,000 people and we need to consider the interests of everyone.

Mr. Jim Adams, Executive Director of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for the offer to come speak to city council representatives at this meeting. He stated that people are still going to need services, and adding more people to the load will mean a reduction in services on an individual basis. He also stated that Chardon is going to spread the burden of its development costs to individual agencies and departments providing services. He noted that the population of Chardon City is over-utilizing mental health services currently as compared to other residents in the county because of their close proximity to services, so current Chardon residents will see the effects of the reduction in the amount of levy resources as the number of residents in need for services grows.

Ms. Samide noted that the Geauga County Sheriff's Department will be negatively affected in a similar manner, needing to provide law enforcement services to a larger number of people without any increase in resources. Geauga County Department on Aging Director Sally Bell said she is excited as a Chardon City resident that Council is looking for ways to provide growth, but stated that she hopes that they are also looking at the ability of agencies to provide services, adding that currently 33% of Chardon residents are eligible for her agency's services. The new owners of homes in the proposed RID will qualify for services, but without the incremental tax revenue that would normally be received through the improvement of parcels as new homes are built, they won't be able to see the same level of service per individual that is currently provided. Council should question how Chardon residents are going to attain needed services. She added that when we start looking at shifting dollars, we need to look at how the lives of citizens are considered and affected.

County Engineer Joe Cattell estimated that over the estimated life of the RID, his department would experience about one million dollars in lost revenue that he would otherwise have received in absence of the RID. He said he would find it hard to see how anyone living in Chardon could travel out of the city and not be on a county road for part of their trip. He maintained that the Engineer's Department has operated on the same level of funding for many years despite significant increases in materials used for paving and maintaining roads. He also noted that the 500 homes planned for the proposed RID would result in an average of 6-7 trips per day per home and add to the load on our highway system, not to mention all the trucks involved in the initial construction process in each development.

Assistant Geauga County Jobs and Family Services Director Paul Reiman said that at the current time JFS is experiencing unparalleled growth, with a normal \$30,000 per month budget for child placement services growing to \$80,000 per month. He added we currently have so many children being served, adding another 500 homes really affects the whole county. We could extrapolate 350 new children into the county requiring services at some point; based on current expenditures. This would translate to roughly \$55,000 per year additional burden on our current resources. He also noted in 2013 residents from the City of Chardon comprised approximately 33% of total in-home placements, as well as 27% of total referrals in 2012. This proposed development will translate into an additional burden without any additional money, in effect spreading the costs of these additional expenditures to other people in the rest of the county.

Matt Rogonjic, Chardon Finance Director said he wanted to mention that there would be additional sales tax revenue generated by the increased population resulting from the RID, and while there is no way to predict the amount of this additional revenue, it is part of the RID concept. Ms. Samide responded that the City of Chardon would benefit from the 2% income tax

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on new residents. Mr. Rogonjic responded that the city might only get 1%, if the resident was working in another town with an income tax in place.

Mr. Rear questioned the project costs versus the projected revenue to the City of Chardon, and said that it would be useful to have the city provide the board an estimated cost for the project. He added, even if a RID is necessary, is it going to cover the cost, or is it going to exceed the cost? At what point in time do you exceed in RID revenue what you have actually spent on the project? Ms. Benjamin said that the RID revenue cannot be spent for anything else but project costs. Mr. Rear questioned, what do they do, put more sidewalks in? Either this thing terminates or they have x number of dollars to continue to spend on capital projects. Ms. Benjamin responded that the ordinance provides for improvements made necessary for this development, and when those infrastructure improvements are complete this funding terminates. In response to a question from Mr. Rear as to how this is tracked over time, Ms. Benjamin responded that this money is put into a separate fund and with no ability to spend it for other purposes. This is verified by the state auditors. Mayor King added that the payments will terminate once those projects finish. In response to a question from Ms. Samide, Ms. Benjamin confirmed that the money cannot be diverted and cannot be used for maintenance. Mayor King stated that they were not ready to provide overall costs, but the planned improvement of Wilson Mills is estimated at 3-5 million.

Skip Claypool asked why not a private solution, with developers paying for this? Mayor King said that these improvements are not of a type that can be passed along. Because the Meadowlands extension was mandated for its specific location, the city has a responsibility to provide the infrastructure. Ms. Samide asked for clarification, stating that the county passes the cost for the sewer expansion on to those who will tie in, but it appears that the city is mandated to pay for it in this case. Mayor King said that users will still pay to tie in. Mr. Rear asked if the tap-in fee is charged, is there extra money in there to cover the original project as well? Mr. Rogonjic said that since we are using a RID, they need to make sure that they are not doing that. Ms. Samide said that it appears that we need to attend the council meeting December 12th to express concerns regarding the longevity of the proposed RID and the impact it will have. Mayor King asked that those attending let them know in advance so that the city could plan accordingly.

CITY OF CHARDON – DISCUSSION REGARDING EASEMENT

Commissioner Mary Samide provided a description of the overall Maple Highlands Trail, explaining that monies for this project, provided through NOACA, come from funds that can only be used for this purpose and will be used for this purpose. Chardon was awarded the money through the NOACA process. The monies were awarded for the section approximately from Fifth Avenue to Water Street. If the project doesn't move forward, these monies will go to a different project in another community. Ms. Samide then described the specific right-of-way request from the City of Chardon, and invited the audience to provide comment.

Robert Lasko stated that he had been a resident of Chardon since 1966, and that he felt the proposed bike trail was a total unnecessary waste of money, and that after accepting these funds, the accepting community will be indebted to the federal government.

City Manager Randy Sharpe stated that in response to a request from Ms. Samide regarding the distance of the easement on the county property, that the total length was 450.5 feet. Ms. Samide read portions of a response received last week from the City of Chardon regarding 2010-2012 crash data, noting that no mid-block crashes were recorded on Fifth Avenue or Center Street, but 16 mid-block crashes had been reported on Water Street during this period.

Ms. Samide requested that Commissioner Blake Rear discuss an alternative plan for a bike path that had been considered years ago. Mr. Rear stated that his understanding was that the original plan would circle north of the center of town past the school and what is now the new service center location, cross Route 6 near NEO Electric, then cross Chardon-Windsor Road near Mel Harder Field, taking it out of the most congested parts of the city. At the time, the Chardon School Board saw no problem with that plan and at the time all seemed to agree that this route would be more in keeping with the assumed purpose of promoting physical fitness.

Mr. Sharpe referred to the Center for Bikeable and Walkable Community Initiative done years ago that may have envisioned the route Mr. Rear is referring, noting that since then it has gone

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through additional study and focus group input to redefine the location fixed on the current plan. Mr. Rear said that a question was raised about horses on the trail, which appears to be permitted for the planned development but added that this type of use may not be permitted on the park trails. Senior Planner / Project Manager Michelle Johnson with Environmental Design Group said that the entity responsible for maintenance for a given trail can determine whether or not such a use would be permitted.

In response to a question as to possible remuneration for the requested trail easement, Chardon Planning and Zoning Manager Steve Yaney said that the approximate amount that could be offered based on a fair market appraisal would be about \$60,000. In response to a question as to who would have to make the decision to make a specific payment to the county for the right-of-way, Mr. Sharpe said that they have the authority today to offer the fair market value without specific council action. Ms. Johnson said she believes the actual amount is just above \$62,000. Mr. Rear brought up the issue of the city buying the entire parcel and using it for a parking area, noting that this would facilitate shopping in the surrounding area if bicyclists had their vehicles parked in this location. Mayor King said that the city is not in a position to purchase the property and didn't think council would go along with such an idea. The City already owns property on Park Avenue at the old service garage location for such a purpose.

Nancy McArthur, Vice-Mayor for the City of Chardon noted that all the other landowners along the planned route had agreed to grant the requested easements, and asked that each Commissioner respond individually as to their stance on the matter. Mr. Rear stated that his objection is not the bike path but the chosen location for the bike path. He continued that this piece of county property in conjunction with other adjacent parcels is valuable, and that this right-of-way if granted might spoil a potential deal with a purchaser of the property, similar to one selling the mineral rights to a farm thereby spoiling the chances to sell the property, adding that we may shoot ourselves in the foot. He said that he understood that the easement is in the setback zone which cannot be used for other purposes; Ms. McArthur responded that the bike path may actually increase the value.

Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri stated that he went to NOACA to try to reverse the funding for this project, because NOACA is based on gas tax and majority of the funding was for roads, and if we were talking about improving roads in areas with horse and buggies to relieve congestion then he may have been supportive. He stated that we have numerous issues to deal with and we are not in a bike-friendly climate. He added that he has received a large number of calls regarding where this is all going; people are tired of it and he has not received one call in support of this project, but has received 70-80 calls opposed to it. Ms. McArthur responded that she voted against taking NOACA dollars for this project, but the fight is in Washington. In response to a question regarding his support of federal dollars for airports, Mr. Spidalieri replied that there is funding received for that purpose through airplane tickets and that airports are an economic development tool.

Ms. Samide stated that in the last 9 years, Geauga County has received 42 million dollars from NOACA for roads and bridges, but this particular money has been earmarked for bike paths and streetscapes. She related that on a recent trip to the eastern United States and Canada she had seen many examples of extensive bike use, despite the fact that weather in these areas is as bad as or worse than what we experience here. She saw the bike path as an economic development tool in other places, and sees the proposed bike path to be an economic tool for Chardon.

Mayor King said in response to Mr. Rear, that you can find ways to say no, but the city is making an \$80,000 investment in addition to the grant dollars, and if we don't do it now it will be a question whether we ever do it. You can come up with negatives but you can find far more positives. Mr. Tom Michel with the Chardon Tomorrow Board said that as far as he is concerned this is a county project and this is a great way to generate additional dollars into the community. Mr. Tom Bryant, Vice President of economic development for Chardon Tomorrow said that there needs to be something to raise the quality of life, and that alone makes it a worthwhile project. He added, in response to Commissioner Spidalieri's comment, that a majority of Geauga residents would support this project.

Chardon City Councilman John Mallen said that this project is 80% funded and if we don't take the grant, someone else will. A number of area residents commented in support of the project, stating that use of the current bike paths in the area is extensive, and while commissioners may hear complaints about bike paths, they probably don't hear the compliments. One resident

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referred to bike paths as more properly described as "narrow parks", and asked the board to remember Judge Chip Henry, who died after being struck by a car while riding on a public road.

Mr. Rear stated that he read the proposal from the previous meeting and stated that this is Phase I, from Fifth Avenue to Water Street for \$600,000 including a 20% local match. The second phase would extend from Water Street next to Arby's, eventually reaching South Street, and he said he understands that the second phase would be about the same cost as Phase I. Ms. Johnson said that there is not an estimate, but completion wouldn't happen until 2019. Mr. Rear responded that for the current expenditure people will still have to find their way on public streets for at least another 5 years from the end of the new trail at Water Street to where the Maple Highlands Trail currently resumes at South Street (Route 44). Mr. Sharpe said that the funding limit was \$650,000. Ms. Johnson said that they chose the northern section to tackle first as it was the more complicated piece because of environmental issues. Mr. Rear said he needed to take exception to an implication of our current Geauga environment lacking in quality of life as expressed by Mr. Bryant.

Gary Stevenson from Chardon Township said that libraries, airports and bike paths all add to our quality of life. Mr. Spidalieri said he has no problem with this, but it is a matter of priority when we currently have problems with safety on public roads in the county. It was acknowledged that current funding limitations don't allow for the shifting of money intended for bike paths to address these current problems.

In response to remarks from Chardon residents regarding high utilization of local bike trails, Mr. Claypool challenged the validity of those statistics, stating that he felt that false information and emotion was being used to sell projects, adding Commissioner Spidalieri is right that these dollars are from gas tax revenues and that we have a unique county and aren't looking at the needs of the Amish. He questioned if there have been any local traffic counts and that decisions should be made based on facts. Local resident Steve Turpin responded that he has been involved in traffic counts on local bike paths, and they have counted up to 400 people per day in this area. In response to a resident's remark that she felt the whole point was to have people come in to Chardon just like in Peninsula, where the towpath trail brings people into town, Mr. Sharpe remarked that this plan has been in the works for a decade, and this particular easement is not where he thought there would be a problem. He asked those present to think down the line about how people will use this trail in the years to come.

Ms. Samide said that she felt that this proposed action should be reviewed by our counsel from the Prosecutor's office in light of the disclosure at this meeting of the fair market value that could be paid to the county for the easement. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Laura LaChapelle stated that we need to memorialize the compensation that is being provided and review revised resolutions with Chardon City Council prior to Commissioners' action. Mr. Rear stated that until we have a new document this action will have to be postponed. Based on the schedule of both the Commissioners and Chardon City Council, the earliest the Commissioners could reconsider the resolution would be December 17th. It was noted that the actual fair market value for the easement had been determined to be \$62,810.00, which representatives from Chardon stated would be the upper limit of what could be provided to the county through grant funding. Ms. Samide responded that \$62,810 represented what the grant could provide, but that the City of Chardon could agree to provide additional compensation to the county from local funds.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT NOCCOG REPRESENTATIVE

After some discussion regarding a need to appoint a Member Representative and Alternate to serve as Geauga County's Local Elected Official on the Northeast Ohio Consortium Regional Council of Governments, it was agreed to adopt resolution #13-211, which specified Commissioner Samide as the Member Representative and Commissioner Rear as the Alternate.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute Resolution #13-211 to appoint a New Member Representative from Geauga County to serve on the Northeast Ohio Consortium Regional Council of Governments.

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CANCEL SESSION FOR JANUARY 2, 2014

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to cancel session for Thursday, January 2, 2014.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CANCEL SESSION FOR JANUARY 14, 2014

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to cancel session for Tuesday, January 14, 2014 due to the Re-Organizational Meeting held Monday, January 13, 2014.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending November 20, 2013 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Thu., 12/5 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 12/5 Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center Joint Board meeting, 2:00 p.m. in Portage County

Thu., 12/5 Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Incorporated Board of Trustees meeting, 4:00 p.m. in Willoughby Hills

Fri., 12/6 Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) meeting, 12:00 p.m. at St. Denis Party Center

Sun 12/8 to Tue 12/10 The Commissioners will attend the CCAO Winter Conference, Columbus, Ohio

*Tue., 12/10 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

Tue., 12/10 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

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

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

Thu., 12/19 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

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***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER
REAR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:10 A.M.***

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Debbie Ashburn, Temporary Acting Commissioners' Clerk

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