

Commissioners' Journal
July 19, 2012

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 19, 2012 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 – ACCEPT BOND – WALTER M. CLAYPOOL

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and accept Commissioner, Walter M. (Skip) Claypool's Public Official Bond in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of January 9, 2012.

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

**Commissioner Claypool had not yet been sworn in as a Commissioner at this meeting.*

AUDITOR'S OFFICE – MOODY'S RATING

Auditor Frank Gliha explained that for the third year in a row Moodys has awarded Geauga County with the MIG 1 rating, this is for the \$5.5 million dollar note. Mr. Gliha noted that Moodys cited stability in government, modest growth and fiscal responsibility as key items to give this rating. Mr. Gliha stated that Moodys affirmed the Aa1 rating on the remainder of the notes on the Safety Center which is \$1.5 million. Mr. Gliha explained that in the next two weeks this rating will be used to allow Geauga County to solicit for bids for the \$5.5 million dollar note, \$4 million for the community network for the Sheriff Radio system and \$1.5 million for the remainder of the Safety Center note. Mr. Gliha stated that last year the County borrowed \$2 million dollars and paid \$12,000.00 in interest, "nobody gets that". The ratings of MIG 1 and Aa1 mean that everyone in county government is doing their job and are being very conservative in our spending. The Commissioners should be applauded for this, Mr. Young, Mr. Jemison, Ms. Samide and now Mr. Claypool and must remain conservative as much as possible. Mr. Gliha stated that County Administrator David Lair and the Department Directors play a key part in making sure spending is not out of line. Mr. Gliha stated that we should be happy with this announcement, that businesses and residents can take note that even though we've hit bottom with this recession, that the County will lead the way to better days ahead. Mr. Gliha stated that the county is doing great, and as the county grows and continues to move forward and as we maintain our conservativeness we should be doing very well. Commissioner Samide noted a comment from the Moody's statement that noted modest debt burden with limited additional borrowing plans with an 83% projected principal to be retired within ten years. Mr. Gliha noted that in working with John Conners, they plan to go out and figure out how to make the county better and to get low-interest notes, with help from the Elected Officials, and especially the Sheriff, to stay in line and continue to do what we are currently doing. Mr. Gliha noted that he would be back in a few weeks to give an update on the numbers for the note, but that the Board should be congratulated for their hard work. Mr. Gliha stated that the bid packets were going out today and included information from bond counsel Squires Sanders, the OMAC reports and the Moody's ratings. The Board discussed the County rating as compared to other surrounding counties, the State of Ohio and the Federal Government.

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**AIRPORT AUTHORITY – GRANT APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE –
RECONSTRUCT CONCRETE APRON PHASE 2 AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

Airport Manager Patty Fulop explained that the Geauga County Airport Authority has opted to apply for a Federal Grant. The Airport could not exist without the assistance of Federal support. Ms. Fulop explained that they have income from hangers and fuel sales that allows them to maintain but does not allow them to make Capital Improvements on what is county property. The Federal Government has a program that is an entitlement program to all general aviation airports. The entitlement program entitles general aviation airports up to \$150,000.00 per year. This year the program has changed from the required 5% local match to a 10% local match of the \$150,000.00. Ms. Fulop explained that last year the airport did not use its entitlement funds, that they were saved. Ms. Fulop stated that a few years ago the airport was able to have the runway paved, which was very essential, but that they cannot do \$400,000.00 and \$500,000.00 projects without assistance. Ms. Fulop noted that the runway is beautiful.

Ms. Fulop explained that the next phase of that project is to get the apron up to par, noting that just off the runway about fifty yards is a ditch used for drainage. The first part of this grant is to pipe and enclose it. Ms. Fulop explained that this year has not been a problem for drainage but last year was another story. The new pavement had just been put in and ditch was getting close to cause for concern of water damage on the new runway. The ditch would include piping and enclosing it off making it easier to mow and handle the drainage we need. The second part of this grant is that a MedEvac helicopter is based out at the airport and when the helicopter starts up, the rotor-wash sends any loose particles and sediment flying and it becomes a liability issue. Any pavement breaking up and specifically in front of their hanger will be removed and replaced with concrete, making it stronger and chipping will not be an issue.

The third part of the grant includes the rest of tarmac, noting that a couple of areas will also be concreted near the fuel farm because it takes so much wear and tear. Ms. Fulop stated that much of the tarmac and apron is deteriorating, so the plan is to tear up that pavement and replace it. In December the Airport applied to FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) with a pre-application to do all of these projects, that total came up to about \$665,000.00. Recently the airport bid these projects as the drainage and concrete work, with an add on alternate for the pavement of the tarmac. These bids were then submitted to the FAA and they have informed the Airport that they will not have the full amount to do the entire project. Ms. Fulop stated that today the Airport was asking to re-apply to the FAA using last year's \$150,000.00 entitlement funds and this year's \$150,000.00 entitlement funds along with a little from a previous year. The bid came in at \$305,907.00, so that is what is being applied for; the Federal share is about the construction time frame if this would be done this year. Ms. Fulop replied that they would like to have the application to the FAA by July 24th and once they approve the grant, we would be able to get it done this year; the worst case is that it gets pushed to spring. Ms. Samide inquired if pushing it to next year would affect the grant. Ms. Fulop stated that whether we use the funding or not, it would move to next year.

Commissioner Claypool noted that he was an ex air traffic controller and pilot and was familiar with the airport support process. Mr. Claypool asked what the bid process for this was, and how they determined the cost of the project. Ms. Fulop explained that they have a Consulting Engineer, from Toledo, Mr. Don Yager from G A Consultants and Associates who lays down a base price on what the bid should be and then it goes to public bid. Mr. Yager specializes in airport projects and puts together the bid specifications and packets. It is then advertised per the legalities of the bid process. Mr. Fulop stated that they opened bids on the first Monday in July and was surprised that there was no local bids on the project, but noted that if the add on alternate would have been the major part of the project it would have seen more local interest. Ms. Fulop stated that Infinity Paving Company was the lowest and best bid and that the Airport Board had accepted their bid contingent upon the grant approval.

Mr. Jemison briefly mentioned that MedEvac helps the airport out by paying rent and the residents by being close for response instead of coming from Solon where they were previously based. Mr. Claypool explained that he is a big supporter of airports, but that he scrutinizes grants very closely and noted the commitment that comes with an airport grant being a long term commitment due to past grants and penalties for the strings attached, using Meigs Field in Chicago as an example.

Motion: *by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Grant Application for Federal*

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Assistance SF-424 to Reconstruct Concrete Apron Phase 2 and Drainage Improvements (FAA AIP 3-39-0054-1512) in the amount of \$305,907.00 (Federal Share \$275,316.00 and Local Match \$30,591.00).

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| Roll Call Vote: | Commissioner Claypool | Aye |
| | Commissioner Jemison | Aye |
| | Commissioner Samide | Aye |

MAINTENANCE – EMPLOYEE REQUEST TO ACCUMULATE VACATION – DOUGLAS MERRELL

Director Glen Vernick explained that one of his employees, Mr. Merrell is currently out on FMLA, and will go over the 200 hour maximum accrual for vacation time and lose vacation according to the policy. Mr. Vernick stated that by the time Mr. Merrell comes back at the end of the month, he will lose approximately 33 hours. Mr. Lair explained that the State of Ohio only allows employees to carry up to three years of unused vacation. The County has had a stringent vacation policy for a long time, cutting it from two years down to one, and that too caused some issues so it was amended to limit vacation accrual to no more than two hundred hours' worth of vacation, adding that if you go over that, you will lose it. Mr. Lair noted that according to policy, while on sick leave you can accumulate vacation, but you are unable to take it while on sick leave, adding that an employee should not lose their vacation while out on sick leave. Mr. Jemison inquired if this was just until September 29th. Mr. Vernick stated that Mr. Merrell should be back at the end of this month and should be able to use his vacation before the end of September. Ms. Samide inquired how the maintenance department was doing with Mr. Merrell out. Mr. Vernick explained that he has had two employees out, but thanks in part to help from the Sheriff and some trustees, he has been using them to help out with projects. Mr. Vernick stated that as Mr. Merrell's manager he felt he needed to step up and help him out as this is not his fault and he shouldn't be losing his vacation.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve an Employee Request to Accumulate Vacation for Douglas Merrell, currently on FMLA and in accordance with the Vacation Policy, Section 6. Leaves in the policy and procedure manual, the amount of 33.19 hours for the period ending September 29, 2012.

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| Roll Call Vote: | Commissioner Claypool | Aye |
| | Commissioner Jemison | Aye |
| | Commissioner Samide | Aye |

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – WELLNESS INITIATIVES

Benefits Specialist Kathy Hostutler explained that CEBCO, the county consortium allocates wellness dollars to each of the counties. This is the second year in a row that they have done this. Ms. Hostutler explained that Geauga County was allocated \$12,576.00 for programs specifically to wellness, and that it cannot be used for anything else. CEBCO has specific uses about what it can and cannot be used for. Ms. Hostutler stated that this year the allocation cannot be used for certain preventative screenings that are covered under the plan free of charge. In addition, they have allocated \$4,000.00 for training, education and seminars to allow us to keep up on the latest information, and this is separate from the \$12,576.00.

Ms. Hostutler explained that the Wellness Committee meets once a month and is comprised of thirteen (13) hardworking, dedicated people who take on these duties in addition to their regular jobs. They are very much appreciated, a fantastic group, and we appreciate their departments for letting them come and do this. Here is what we have done so far this year:

County employees participated in a walking challenge that had seventy (70) people participate; the County didn't win the extra \$1,000.00 from the challenge, but we had a good showing of employees. We held the Geauga County Employee Health and Wellness Expo that had 405 of 512 full time employees in attendance. Feedback from those who attended has been excellent. Ms. Hostutler stated that University Hospital, Geauga offered free screenings for us, including cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, bone density, balance assessments and hundreds of people took advantage of that. Ms. Hostutler stated that the county really appreciated them donating their time and employees for that. Demonstrations that day included Zumba, Yoga, Jazzercise, and Desk Exercises which promote and encourage a healthy lifestyle and introduce some things to employees who may have never seen it, to peak interest and to get more active. Presentations

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were done by doctors on stress reduction, nutrition, and upper extremity pain. Ms. Hostutler noted that everything was very well received and went from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. so employees could come when they had the opportunity or on their lunch hour.

Ms. Hostutler explained that one of the other things they do is the Employee Fitness Benefit, where employees verify a gym membership and do at least twenty-four visits in a quarter, and are reimbursed up to \$30.00 a month for a single membership.

Ms. Hostutler stated that what they would like to do with the rest of the wellness dollars for this year is to do a program called "Get Fit on Route 66". Last year we did an online walking program called "Walktober" where employees registered and tracked their steps online. This program had 160 employees who participated. The Route 66 program is a little different, the same concept, employees will register online, choose a classic car and then track their activity, which will be converted into steps. This program will map their progress and will help promote activity, and hope to have team challenges between the departments.

Ms. Hostutler added that the Wellness Committee would also like to purchase Blood Pressure Cuffs for the departments. Feedback from departments is that they would like to have them, adding that last year the committee purchased physician quality scales and placed them in eighteen (18) departments. Ms. Hostutler read a note from Job and Family Services that she received regarding the scales, or metal monster as some called them. The note started by thanking the Commissioners, David Lair and the Wellness Committee for purchasing the scales and having them put together and installed. Fifteen employees took the initiative and started a diet club, encouraging each other and adding exercise into their daily routines, adding that they had a lot of fun and lost a total of 96 pounds. Four employees lost fifteen or more pounds, five lost between four and eight or more pounds, and the rest lost various lesser amounts. Ms. Hostutler noted that the IT departments created a secure excel spreadsheet to calculate the percentage of weight loss. Ms. Hostutler stated that these are the kinds of things that they are seeing, promoting walking programs, along with groups of people walking all over Chardon.

Ms. Hostutler explained that the proof was in the pudding, as last year the county saw a minus 1% decrease in our healthcare costs. CEBCO is reinforcing that, as they feel the wellness efforts are directly involved and related to that. Ms. Hostutler explained that those were the committee's plan for the rest of the year and if there is money left, that they would like to launch a pilot program called "Stress Free Now". Some employees had an opportunity to see the initial premiere at the Expo, as a one hour presentation by Ashley Neuman, our EAP representative. Those employees who attended claimed to receive a lot of information, as stress relates to health issues. Ms. Samide stated that stress, weight loss, cholesterol and blood pressure are all things that combined can make a person healthier, and if it lowers our premium rates, its fabulous.

Mr. Jemison explained that a healthy employee is a more productive employee, as you have less time off for sick time. Mr. Jemison inquired that two years ago when the Expo was held that several employees who had their blood pressure checked were sent to the hospital, how did that go this year? Ms. Hostutler explained that individual results of employees are protected, but added that it was the consensus that blood pressure is a problem in Geauga County. This year they did identify several employees that need to have help with their blood pressure. The Board discussed several elements dealing with the wellness programs, from the exclusion of Elected Officials in the Fitness Benefit program, to the return on investment of wellness programs to the county in relation to the cost of premiums. There was a big discussion on wellness being a personal decision, and the use of tax payer dollars coming to the County from CEBCO. Mr. Claypool noted that he was for wellness programs as long as they didn't use taxpayers' dollars, and that if a return on investment could be proved by the use of taxpayers' dollars he would be in support of that because it would be supported by the taxpayers. Mr. Lair mentioned Wayne County's County Administrator, being a CPA is having trouble proving the direct correlation of wellness as a return on investment, but still believes in the benefit. The Board continued discussing several ways of proving that a wellness program has a direct effect on the healthcare premiums. Mr. Claypool expressed his concerns over making sure that if the county states they are going to have a savings on a program, that they do what they say they are going to do, by tracking the savings and showing it to the citizens. Mr. Jemison expressed his feelings on the return on investment as being seen in the minus 1% premium decrease, talking about the national average of an eight to nine percent increase for companies last year.

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Mr. Jemison expressed his feeling regarding the purchase of the blood pressure cuffs including education seminars for employees to understand what it means when they take that blood pressure and steps that they can take to help lower it. Ms. Samide expressed that she wanted to make sure they were a good reliable cuff that was accurate, but one that employees could also purchase to have at home. A local resident, Ms. Hippely who is registered nurse expressed her concern as being a good idea to use the Health District for the blood pressures, as they would be accurate, taken by a nurse and done using money that is already going out. Discussion took place regarding those nurses traveling to other locations in the county to take blood pressures of employees, and that it would be something to look into. Another resident Nancy McArthur added that that there would be a wellness walk on Chardon Square on July 28th that is free.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Mon., 7/23 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m.

Tues., 7/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Wed., 7/25 Ohio Public Works Commission Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m., Highway Garage

Thu., 7/26 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tues., 7/31 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 8/2 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Mon., 8/6 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m.

OTHER

Mr.. Claypool congratulated the Board for their actions in getting the County to the Moody's MIG 1 and Aa1 rating.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER CLAYPOOL ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:48 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Tracy A. Jemison

Walter M. Claypool

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk