

Commissioners' Journal
March 12, 2009

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 12, 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 10:04 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of March 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>Abstain*</i>

** Commissioner Young was absent from this session.*

AUDITORS' OFFICE – MONTHLY STATEMENT COUNTY FINANCES – FEBRUARY 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 February, 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 February, 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>

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – REVISIONS TO POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Assistant Director Mr. Paul Reiman reported that there was one other clarification to the smoking policy. To the second last paragraph “outside the building” was added concerning the ability to designate smoking areas dependent on employees’ work area in the building. Most of the changes made were minor and were to clarify and make the policy consistent with the commissioners’ policy and none were major overhauls. Commissioner Young inquired as to the verbiage of “agency owned vehicles” to which Mr. Reiman responded that the staff believes the vehicles are agency owned not owned by the Board of Commissioners and smoking is not allowed in these vehicles. Commissioner Jemison commented that he appreciated the adjustment, for clarification, made to the second to last paragraph. There was a brief discussion on breaks and lunch hours taken by smokers and non-smokers.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve revisions to the following sections of the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual: Code of Ethics, Outside Employment, Confidentiality, Smoking Policy, Hours of Work, Awards Program, Health Care Coverage, Job Postings/Transfers and Promotions, COPE and Probationary Period, to be effective March 1, 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>

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DOG WARDENS' OFFICE – TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT - SAMANTHA BEARD – KENNEL ATTENDANT

Dog Warden Matt Granito reported that the Kennel Attendant has been vacant since 2001 and has not been filled when he was hired in 2002 as there was no money in the budget. They were forced to increase dog license fees (which were increased in 2000) or cut back staff. Mr. Granito chose to cut back staff. In 2003 he laid off a Deputy Warden and never replaced that position and has been able to maintain revenue expense since 2003. With a “skeleton crew” they were lax in going after non-renewal dog licenses. Volunteers have made phone calls but no one has physically gone out and gone after these people. For the past six years the department has been able to be within budget. There was a discussion on non-renewal of dog licenses and court costs and fines for owners failing to get a license for their dog. Mr. Granito stated that there is a decline in dog licenses and added that last year the volunteer phone calls were not done. Making this position temporary will be helpful to keep them within their budget and with the economy being what it is Mr. Granito prefers not to have to lay people off. Ms. Beard has volunteered for Mr. Granito for six years volunteering and as Summer Help. Ms. Beard also recently wrote a grant to spay/neuter animals with Pet Smart Charities for \$10,000.00. Mr. Granito added that the dog license non-renewal letters will be going out soon. Commissioner Young asked, due to the economy changing, if more dogs are being dropped off at the kennels. Mr. Granito replied that there is a 200 dog increase and some pet owners are dropping off their dogs as they cannot afford to have them any longer. The dog license fee doubles in cost after the January 31 deadline filing.

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve the temporary appointment of Samantha Beard as Kennel Attendant (#1604) to be effective March 2, 2009, for up to a maximum of 120 days at the rate of \$7.35 (the probationary rate for the position).

<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 – YOUTH VOLUNTEERS IN PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS RESOLUTION

Motion: by Commissioner Jemison, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute Resolution 09-034 Honoring Benjamin McMullen for being named one of Ohio's Top Two Youth Volunteers in the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 09-034
Date: March 12, 2009

**A RESOLUTION HONORING BENJAMIN MCMULLEN
AS ONE OF OHIO'S TOP TWO YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR 2009
BY PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS**

WHEREAS, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 in by Prudential Financial in partnership with National Association of Secondary School Principals, designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage all young Americans to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin McMullen, 14, of Chesterland was nominated by West Geauga High School; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin McMullen raised money and recruited volunteers in an effort to preserve wetlands in Ohio and protect their animal inhabitants. After researching wetlands, Benjamin applied for grants, solicited donations and (with help from friends) created “outdoor classrooms” at three schools and purchased science supplies to educate students about wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin McMullen and his “Wetland Education Team” (WET) give presentations and built four nesting platforms for threatened osprey in Geauga County, planted native trees distributed birdhouses to students and organized a postcard-writing

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campaign urging legislators to designate the spotted salamander as Ohio's state amphibian; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin McMullen was bestowed the Prudential Spirit of Community Award honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners salutes Benjamin McMullen for this extraordinary honor and representing the best of America's youth and for being a positive role model to his peers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution become part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

<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>

OTHER

Mr. Bill English of the Geauga County Retired Teachers Association (GCRTA) was in the audience to invite a Commissioner to speak to GRTA on how the county is doing financially and what the group could do to help. Commissioner Young volunteered to speak to the group as he spoke to this group previously when he was Mayor of South Russell. The meeting will be at Thompson Lutheran Church on June 2, 2009 at around noon for the lunch and the program at 1:00 p.m.

The Board reviewed calendars.

Ms. Mia Moore, First Energy Area Manager informed the Board of several upcoming events including the Forestry Conference at Lakeland Community College tomorrow. An arborist will talk on issues in planting the right tree in the right area. Munson Township Fire Chief Bernie Harcher is planning a safety commission presentation and is offering it to county employees and service directors so they can be informed of the issues of electric safety, such as a downed wire. This will be a two to three hour presentation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 4, 2009 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) A report filed by the County Engineer of Geauga County's 2008 Annual Report for the county's Storm Water Management Program, Phase II.*
- c) 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 February 2009, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

MEETINGS

Fri., 3/13 NOACA meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Tue., 3/17 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 3/19 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Fri., 3/20 NOACA Transportation Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m.

Tue., 3/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tue., 3/24 Public Hearing on the petition for Ditch Improvement under Kenston Lake Drive at 6:30 p.m. at the Bainbridge Township Hall.

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Thu., 3/26 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Thu., 3/26 Board of Revision meeting at

Tue., 3/31 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

Tue., 3/31 Connect Ohio meeting at 2:00 p.m.

***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER
YOUNG ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 10:50 A.M.***

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Tracy A. Jemison

Mary E. Samide

William S. Young

Claudine Kozenko, Commissioners' Clerk