

Commissioners' Journal
December 17, 2013

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 17, 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 10:05 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of December 12, 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 revenue certification for the Engineer's Road Improvement Fund; an appropriation transfer from the Contingency account to return appropriations to the Sheriff's and Clerk of Court's offices for reimbursements deposited into the General Fund; cash transfers out of the General Fund for portions of the 2013 funding for the Department of Emergency Services and Court Technology; a purchase order for Business Smarts for the Department of Emergency Services computer upgrade project in the amount of \$28,500; third quarter 2013 Bed Tax disbursements to the City of Chardon, Burton Village, Russell Township, and the Geauga Tourism Council; and a payment to Gottschalk Building Company for pay request #3 for the ICF Downsizing Remodel Project for the Board of DD in the amount of \$126,512.92.

In response to a question from Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri as to how far along the ICF Downsizing Remodel project currently was, Ms. Delaney said that it was approximately one quarter completed.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #13-215 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 17, 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>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – SNOW PLOWING AGREEMENT – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP - 2013 - 2016

County Engineer Joe Cattell said he was here before the Board earlier this year with the snow plowing agreement with Chester Township. He continued that this agreement is a little different in that Bainbridge had borrowed a salt conveyer from the county that was not needed for current county operations, and used it to fill ditches. They have now inquired into buying the conveyer from the county. Mr. Cattell's offer to Bainbridge was if they didn't charge the county for plowing county roads within Bainbridge for the next two years, and then perform that service at a reduced rate in the third year, that would suffice as payment for the conveyer. He noted that last year the county paid \$23,681 to Bainbridge for plowing county roads. The new three-year snow plowing agreement specifies payments by the county to Bainbridge for the plowing of county roads in Bainbridge as zero dollars the first and second year, and a \$10,000 payment for the third year. Mr. Cattell concluded that this agreement was a way for the township and the county to partner and have it work out for everyone. In response to a question from Mr. Rear, Mr. Cattell confirmed that the conveyer was indeed surplus to his current requirements and if any replacement were ever needed, it would come out of the Engineer's own budget.

Commissioners' Journal
December 17, 2013

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Snow Plowing Agreement between the Geauga County Engineer and the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees for the winter seasons of 2013 through 2016.

<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>

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – APPROVE HIRING BRIAN G. CORMACK – TEMPORARY FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER #1904

Director Glen Vernick said that with Richard Newsome out for several months this year they have needed a little help. He added that Richard is back now, but they are trying to get caught up. Mr. Cormack normally works during the rest of the year as a landscaper and the department is only planning on having him work with them for a couple of months to help get them caught up.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve hiring Brian G. Cormack for the position of Temporary Full-Time Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective January 6, 2014, at a rate of \$12.91 per hour.

<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>

PLANNING COMMISSION – RE-APPOINT MARGE HRABAK, DAVID SHORT, AND CHRISTINE PEACE – GEAUGA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION – THREE YEAR TERM

Planning Director David Dietrich explained they have three very qualified individuals on the Planning Commission whose current terms are up at the end of this year. Marge Hrabak, a degreed, professional engineer has been the zoning secretary in Newbury for a number of years, and runs a property management business. David Short is a professional engineer as well as a professional surveyor who works for ODOT. Mr. Short has been an asset to the planning commission in reviewing subdivisions, as he obviously has a lot of good background and positive influence. Christine Peace is an attorney who has worked for a land title office for a number of years, so has good background on property records. Ms. Peace is a member of the Huntsburg Zoning Commission. She is originally from western New York and works at the Chardon library. From a zoning and property records perspective, Ms. Peace is a great asset as well. Mr. Dietrich concluded that they are fortunate to have three great people interested in re-appointment. In response to a question from Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri as to compensation, Mr. Dietrich replied that there was no pay for these positions, as the Planning Commission has been all volunteer, always has and always will at least while he is part of this department, adding that the members receive no stipend for mileage, and that this group is public service all the way and work well together.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to re-appoint Marge Hrabak, David Short, and Christine Peace to the Geauga County Planning Commission for a three year term, January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016.

<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 – LIQUOR LICENSE – TARGET CORPORATION – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to concur with Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Target Corporation, d.b.a. Target Store T-2161 located at 18855 North Market Place Drive, Bainbridge (C N 8799240-0240).

<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' Journal
December 17, 2013

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – DONATION OF SEMITRAILER TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Mr. Lair confirmed that the old trailer referenced in this action, which the county had received years ago as surplus military equipment was being donated to Habitat for Humanity as-is, and transport from its current location at the Sheriff Department Post 2 is Habitat's responsibility.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the donation of a surplus used trailer, serial# 26840, also known as M129 Semitrailer, year unknown, to Habitat for Humanity.

<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 – RESOLUTION TO HONOR TODD R. RAY

Commissioner Mary Samide provided background information as outlined in the resolution recognizing Todd R. Ray's service, with whom she had served for a number of years while she was a Munson Township Trustee.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 17, 2013
Resolution: 13-216

**RESOLUTION HONORING TODD R. RAY
FOR HIS SERVICE TO MUNSON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray has served the residents of Munson Township since 1998 in his capacity as Township Trustee, and has been a resident of Munson Township for over 40 years. Mr. Ray has been vigilant in holding himself to the highest standard possible, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geography from Ohio University and Master of Education in Special Education for Severe Behavior Disorders from Kent State University, along with obtaining a secondary teacher certification in Biology from the University of Maine, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Ray has worked for the Positive Education Program in Cleveland since 1989 and has been program coordinator (principal) at PEP Phoenix Day Treatment Center, located in Parma Heights, since 1998, providing educational and mental health services for troubled and troubling children and families throughout Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Mr. Ray has diligently served the public in his role as Township Trustee, advocating for needed upgrades to township roads, expansion of the Township Fire Department, and upgrading of township facilities, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners salutes, congratulates, and thanks Todd R. Ray for his years of public service.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve Resolution 13-216, honoring Munson Township Trustee Todd R. Ray.

<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>

OTHER -

State Representative John Patterson was recognized in the audience and said he wanted to stop by and report to the Commissioners that a measure addressing issues in school funding for districts in financial distress has been passed out of legislative committee on a 17-2 vote. He added that the committee has done all that they can and it is up to the House Speaker to put it on the legislative calendar. He noted that the Berkshire and Newbury school districts are in

Commissioners' Journal
December 17, 2013

discussions regarding a possible consolidation. He added that he and Senator John Eklund met with representatives from the Berkshire Cardinal and Newbury school districts to talk about the possibility of consolidation and capital funding needs for future facilities, adding that as we know, things take time in government.

Commissioner Samide also recognized in the audience Mr. Doug Foust, Managing Director of CEBCO, the Ohio County Employee Benefits Consortium, of which Geauga County is a member. Mr. Foust said he was very grateful for the opportunity to meet the commissioners, noting that Geauga County is the 6th largest county currently in the consortium. Membership currently includes 26 counties, but effective the beginning of next year there will be three more counties joining the group, bringing total membership to 29, with 1000 employees and over 2000 additional insured lives being added. He noted that CEBCO was moving prescription drug coverage from CVS Caremark to Express Scripts, which currently has over 600,000 lives under coverage through the Strong Ohio collaborative, which was initially formed when Mr. Foust was heading up benefits for a retired public employee group. He concluded that the new year means new counties onboard as CEBCO members, coverage for employees through Express Scripts, and an additional RFP being released by CEBCO for a wellness program provider, resulting in a more unified approach aimed at healthier employees and improved cost control.

County Administrator David Lair asked Mr. Foust to provide an explanation of CEBCO's Wellness grant program, as the annual acknowledgement of Geauga County's participation in this program is scheduled to be on Thursday's agenda. Mr. Foust explained that for each CEBCO county, a wellness grant of \$4,000 per year, plus an additional amount of \$26 per employee per year is provided to help counties create and maintain wellness programs for their employees. He said that each year we (CEBCO) look for the counties to provide their explanation of how they intend to use the grant program, which has been in place for three years now. In 2015 CEBCO is going to enhance the emphasis on Wellness as being the final frontier in keeping premiums affordable, as managing employee conditions going forward is the best way we have to keep costs down.

Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri asked Representative John Patterson to comment on something that Mr. Spidalieri had seen in Representative Patterson's newsletter about ticks. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he has had a number of seminars at his store regarding deer ticks, noting the increased amount of Lyme disease that is occurring at present. Representative Patterson responded that funding to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for research and testing in this area has been cut and added that we need to get something back in place. He added that Dr. Glen Needham from Ohio State has made a career of studying Lyme Disease, and recently spent a night at Representative Patterson's home in Ashtabula County, and while visiting there went out the next day and did a tick walk. Following this walk they went to a deer processing center and noted that on the first three deer no ticks were found, but on the fourth one three ticks were found, but they don't know if those ticks carried Lyme. Currently it is estimated that 1 out of 27 dogs in Ashtabula County will test positive for Lyme disease, and those are just the ones who are reported; it is estimated that the unreported cases occur at a rate 3 times higher.

Representative Patterson said that he was looking to develop a partnership with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to construct a lab to test for these ticks. He added that if we can get citizens to send in ticks, they will plot out the location of "hot zones" of ticks that are found to carry Lyme. The next step in the process would be for the OSU Medical Association to allow in their curriculum a program for tick awareness and what to look for. When blood is drawn to test for Lyme the tests may show negative, but the person may still have Lyme, as it can be masked behind other disease. Lyme can cause severe neurological problems. Representative Patterson added that we have so many people active in the outdoors, we need to stay ahead, and also added that due to their presence in the outdoors, dogs are the "canaries in the mine", in terms of alerting humans to the presence of ticks and possible Lyme infestation in an area.

Commissioner Spidalieri said that carrying that idea further, given the number of counties with park districts, he felt that there needs to be a piloted program to train park districts to run sheets across fields and test for the presence of ticks, as park districts have plenty of property. He added that it is important to get into schools and have a mandate to provide as a specific part of health or science education, a program to build awareness regarding ticks and Lyme. This is important, as children and parents today have no idea of the seriousness of this problem. He said that you can stop this problem if you know what to look for. Mr. Spidalieri explained that

Commissioners' Journal
December 17, 2013

he is passionate about this issue because he knows it is serious, as our kids are going out and playing and coming back in the house with the possibility of death. It is a real problem, increasing daily, and there should be something in the schools to make people aware. He said he talks to people weekly about this, as many people are totally ignorant of the problem, as they think Lyme is some sort of bug, but it is something serious. He added that currently, veterinarians are ahead of doctors in medications to treat this issue.

Representative Patterson said that Rock Creek had to close their playground because of a defined presence of ticks there, adding that unless we eradicate the deer and Canada goose population, it would be hard to control the tick population. Mr. Spidalieri responded that actually, the largest carriers of ticks are the white foot mouse, which are everywhere, and the scariest thought at present is that kids who have been exposed to ticks should probably be taken to a veterinarian, as they are farther ahead than most physicians in understanding the situation. He said that the longer Lyme stays in the body, the greater the damage, with fever, and nausea being symptoms, along with the characteristic bulls-eye area of redness that forms around the place where the tick made contact with the skin.. Mr. Spidalieri said that he talks to his daughter, telling her to always be looking for ticks on her skin or clothes, because there is a timing issue in removing the tick from the skin. He said there are forceps that are sold to remove the tick completely and evenly, and that the most important thing was to inspect children coming in from outdoors, as the longer ticks are on the skin, the harder it is to see them as they burrow into the skin. He mentioned a severe case of a 21 year old individual who has developed brain lesions from Lyme; he said there are medications that can be effective if you take them as soon as possible, but there can be complications if you go too long exposed to Lyme without treatment.

Commissioner Spidalieri said that a big misconception is that in the winter there is dormancy that reduces tick activity, but the winter is actually worse. Representative Patterson said that we don't want people to be forced indoors, but we need to be smart about tick awareness and prevention of Lyme. Mr. Spidalieri advocated wearing the right kind of clothing and using repellant, such as product called Deet. It was also noted that Permethrin is another repellant liquid which can be used to soak and treat outdoor clothing, and lasts a dozen washes while maintaining its effectiveness as a repellant. It was noted that not all ticks are infected with Lyme, but the percentage is growing. Representative Patterson said that Lyme is the sixth fastest growing illness, partly because of CDC reporting being hampered by funding effects of sequestration. Mr. Patterson added that he is working in a bi-partisan way with Senator Peterson, whose in-laws live in Hamden, for some legislation that would require those individuals drawing blood to read to the patient a statement informing him/her that even though test results for Lyme may be negative, the patient can still be infected with this disease. Mr. Spidalieri said he has been trying to arouse interest in the schools to increase education on this issue, and feels that once they learn the dangers, schools will support this as a preventative measure; otherwise, kids will pay the price. He concluded by saying that he appreciates Representative Patterson's efforts, as they are needed.

In response to a question from Mrs. Jones, regarding the Water Resources' Center Street Garage having recently been torn down, Commissioner Mary Samide said that Water Resources was in the process of selling the property and that the foundation of the building had to be dug up to perform needed environmental testing of the soils underneath.

Resident Robert Lasko commented that today's meeting was a wonderful way to spend the day, and said he was glad that Representative Patterson was here for this discussion. He expressed his thanks to the Commissioners for their service, and wished a belated Happy Birthday to Commissioner Samide.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 12/17 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Board of Directors Meeting, 1:00 p.m. in Warren, Ohio

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

Commissioners' Journal
December 17, 2013

Tue., 12/24 **The County Offices, under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners, will be closed for Christmas Eve. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.**

Wed., 12/25 **The County Offices will be closed for general business due to the Christmas Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.**

Tue., 12/26 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.**

Tue., 12/31 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

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

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Deborah Ashburn, Temporary Acting Commissioners' Clerk