

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**June 26, 2008**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on June 26, 2008 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, Craig S. Albert opened the meeting at 10:07 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

APPROVE MINUTES – COUNTY HOME

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the minutes for the Annual County Home meeting of June 19, 2008.*

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

APPROVE MINUTES

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of June 24, 2008.*

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – ALCATEL USA MARKETING INCORPORATED CONTRACT – 800 SYSTEM MICROWAVE UPGRADE PROJECT

*Sheriff McClelland explained this system will connect all the towers together by communicating through the microwave system. The previous system was fifteen years old and is no longer in production for upgrades or replacements. Commissioner Samide added that technology upgrades is an ongoing process that is needed. Sheriff McClelland reported that the first new installs will be at the two new sites in Huntsburg and Russell. This is for all government entity users of the 800 system such as fire and rescue, Department of Water Resources, the Park District and some schools. 800 Systems Coordinator Eric Bartholomew added that T-1 equivalence is being provided to the Park District. Good progress is being made on the Huntsburg and Russell sites, and once the microwave system is installed (within the next 60 days) both sites should be online. The next sites are South Russell and Bainbridge.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute a contract with Alcatel-Lucent (Alcatel USA Marketing Incorporated) for the Geauga County Sheriff's Office 800 System Microwave Upgrade Project, in the amount of \$1,127,814.00.*

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

GEAUGA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT – RESOLUTION DECLARING NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX

*Commissioners' Clerk Claudine Kozenko reported this is the second step to place the levy on the ballot. Commissioner Albert stated this is a replacement levy but it's only for about \$160,000.00 more and felt they should have gone for more money. Commissioner Young responded that the Health District reduced staff so save money but it is still a strain.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute resolution 08-096 declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten*

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*mill limitation to provide for the necessary requirements of Geauga County Board of Health at the request of the Geauga County Board of Health as authorized by O.R.C. 3709.29.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: June 26, 2008*

*Resolution: 08-096*

**RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO LEVY A TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION TO PROVIDE FOR THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT THE REQUEST OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH O.R.C. §§3709.29**

*WHEREAS, the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of the Geauga County Board of Health, Geauga County, Ohio, established pursuant to Chapter 3709 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga, State of Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring that:*

*Section 1. That the Geauga County Board of Health is collecting monies from an existing levy of two-tenths (.20) mill for each one dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to six dollars-thirteen cents for each one hundred dollars (\$100,000.00) of valuation for the purpose of providing the Geauga County Board of Health with sufficient funds for the operation of Vital Statistics, Environmental Health Division, Personal Health Services Division, administrative staff and operational costs, which is due to expire at the end of the tax year 2008.*

*Section 2. It is necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation for the benefit of the Geauga County Board of health, for the purpose of providing the Geauga County Board of Health, with sufficient funds for the operation of Vital Statistics, Environmental Health Division, Personal Health Services Division, administrative staff and operational costs, at a rate not exceeding two-tenths (.20) mill for each one dollar (\$1.00) of valuation, which amounts to six dollars-thirteen cents for each one hundred dollars (\$100,000.00) of valuation, for a continuing period and which levy is a replacement levy of an existing two-tenths (.20) mill levy for said purposes.*

*Section 3. Said levy shall be placed upon the tax list of the tax year 2009 if a majority of the electors voting thereon vote in favor thereof.*

*Section 4. The Geauga County Board of Elections is hereby directed to submit the question of levying the tax pursuant to this resolution and O.R.C. Section 3709.29 as one ballot proposition of a two-tenths (.20) mill replacement levy to the electors of Geauga County at the primary election to be held on November 4, 2008.*

*Section 5. The Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County is directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Board of Elections not less than seventy-five (75) days before the general election to be held on November 4, 2008 and notify said Board of Elections to cause notice of election on the question of levying said tax to be given as required by law.*

*Section 6. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with the law, including O.R.C. 121.22.*

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

**DEPARTMENT ON AGING – FARM MARKET AGREEMENTS**

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute the Agreement with Stephen Grover (d.b.a. Ridgeview Farm) for the 2008 Senior Farm Market for the period June 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – FMLA LEAVE OF ABSENCE – CONNIE SEACRIST

*Special Projects Coordinator Linda Burhenne explained that Mrs. Seacrist's mother insisted that Mrs. Seacrist take the planned family vacation. Mrs. Seacrist has to go off of FMLA and will go back on FMLA upon return from her vacation to care for her mother. This is a fresh FMLA leave.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve a Family Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA), unpaid medical related leave of absence, for Connie Seacrist, a Part Time General Communications Clerk, for the time not covered by accrued sick leave for the period July 7, 2008 through the expected return of August 29, 2008, not to exceed 188.62 hours, pursuant to section 6 of the Geauga County Personnel Policy.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CHARDON COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM – PARKING LOT USE AGREEMENT

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve and execute a contract with the Chardon Community Action Team (CCAT) to allow CCAT to use the County parking lot located at 100 Short Court for the Classic Car Show / Family Fun Day on August 10, 2008.*

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

OTHER

*The Board reviewed calendars and schedules. Commissioner Samide and County Administrator Dave Lair reported on Commissioner Samide's participation in the CCAO Dedication of the Ladies' Gallery Event at the Ohio Statehouse Atrium on June 17, 2008. The event celebrated the legacy of Ohio's first six female legislators who served in the Ohio General Assembly beginning in 1923.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING – 2009 TAX BUDGET

*Commissioner Albert opened the Public Hearing to discuss Geauga County's 2009 Tax Budget by stating the hearing was properly advertised. Mr. Lair began by stating that the ORC requires the passing of a tax budget that is funded by property taxes that must be submitted to the County Auditor and then must be adopted by July 15. The tax budget contains the revenue and expenditure estimates. JFS Director and previous Geauga County Administrator Tim Taylor stated that in the 1940's the tax budget was determined by the Commissioners for all the needs of county departments that then went to county budget commission that then levied (determined) the tax rate based upon the needs. There was a change in law that set a 10 mill limit with voted levies beyond that. Mr. Taylor added that the tax budget was created for what was needed to levy the taxes on property; it is now determined by the Budget Commission. Mr. Lair reported the Commissioners use the tax budget as a planning tool. The departments provided input for their needs. The additional sales tax, enacted in 2003, was explained as a five year .25% for public safety projected to raise \$13.5 million through 2009 and a permanent .25% for technology and capital improvements projected to raise \$15.3 million through 2009 with collection starting in February 2004. The .25% five year sales tax is not considered in this budget for next year, beyond the last receipt month of April, as it due to expire at the end of January 2009. If this Board decides to let it expire the money will stop coming in at the end of April which will impact the funds available in the tax budget. A change in law states that when a Board of Commissioners takes action to increase or maintain an existing tax the collection has to wait for the beginning of the next quarter. In order not to lose any revenue the Board must*

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take action in October to renew the five year .25% sales tax to be effective January 1, 2009. The Board must then take further action to terminate the original five year sales tax one month early. Fiscal Specialists Heidi Delaney and Diane Arp explained the total 2009 tax budget for all funds is \$103.9 million, the General Fund Budget portion is \$27million with \$29.5 million in General Fund requests. The revenue resources available to use for budgeting is down \$4 million due somewhat to an estimated carryforward beginning balance of \$2 million below this year's balance beginning balance, lower interest rates on investment income and the possible loss of the .25% sales tax revenue scheduled to expire. The differences and factors for expenses for next year are the wage increase being capped at 3%, hospitalization estimate increase at 10% and an additional payroll expense due to an extra pay period next year. This pay schedule happens every nine year, in the private sector as well if you are paid bi-weekly. Hourly employees will get an extra pay this year. Commissioner Young stated this is an actual 3.8% equivalent pay raise and the 3% pay increase, which comes out to 6.8% - a bonus of almost 4% for this year. Sheriff McClelland added that it may look like a bonus but the employee is being paid for hours worked. Mr. Taylor explained that the employee worked for the pay, it is not a bonus, it is just an extra pay period in 2009 calendar year, they worked the hours. Overall there is a 4.92% increase in the 2009 Tax Budget over the 2008 budget. If the additional payroll would be factored out the increase over 2008 would be 2.94%. The General Fund operating expenses by percentages are 43% for public safety (Coroner, Sheriff, and Building Department), 34% legislative and executive (Commissioners, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder and Maintenance), 13% judicial (Courts and Clerk of Courts ), 4% miscellaneous (CORSAs, loss prevention, bonds, professional services and other expenses), 2% conservation / recreation (Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension), 2% human services (Veterans), 1% health (includes TB and the Crippled Children funds) and 1% public works (Engineer's tax map room). This is the general fund that the Commissioners have some discretion as to how to divide the funds. Mr. Lair added that the overall goal is to fund general increases at or below inflationary levels where possible and to analyze new initiatives with an emphasis on both return on investment and added value to Geauga taxpayers.

Being no further comments from the public, Commissioner Albert closed the public hearing at 11:04 a.m.

**DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing compensation of public employees with Director Tim Taylor and Assistant Director Mr. Paul Reiman.

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

The Board reconvened at 11:41a.m. The following action was taken as a result of this executive session:

*Motion:* by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to adopt the Classification and Compensation Plan for Management Employees to be effective July 1, 2008 providing for an average increase in the annual compensation of management employees of 2.9 percent, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director of Job and Family Services.

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

*Motion:* by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Young to adopt the Classification and Compensation Plan for Staff Employees to be effective July 1, 2008 including an increase of 4.0 percent in the hourly wages of staff employees to be effective in the pay period including July 1, 2008, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director of Job and Family Services.

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

*Mr. Taylor added that he knows the staff will appreciate the Board's consideration of the approved requests.*

**MONTHLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK SESSION**

*Commissioner Samide was absent from session at this point. Commissioner Albert reconvened session at 12:17 p.m. The speaker for the monthly economic development work session was Carol Maver of Reward Wall Structures (concrete homes). Those in attendance included Commissioner Albert, Commissioner Young, Community and Economic Development Director Anita Stocker; Judith Beaumier, Burton Village; Building Department Director Michael Mihalisin; Linda Burhenne, Special Projects Coordinator; County Administrator Dave Lair and Commissioners' Clerk Claudine Kozenko.*

*Carol Maver reviewed the process of constructing a home or building with ICFs (insulating concrete forms. They are solid, safe, comfortable and "green" and efficient. Ms. Maver has a franchise with Reward Wall Systems. Ms. Maver reported on her home and the low electric bills she has had since she has been in her new home built with Reward Wall systems. A concrete building keeps out carpenter ants and many other insects. A concrete home goes up quicker which means a smaller crew, a shorter construction time and therefore money saved. Carol Maver added that cement homes have better air quality, energy efficiency, strength and safety. The buildings are steel-reinforced, super-insulated concrete walls that are airtight and lock out mold, moisture, allergens and noise. The improved air quality and temperature-control mean reduced energy usage and costs – about 50-80 percent lower. The Reward ICF walls can withstand winds up to 200 mph and have the best fire safety ratings in the industry. Reward ICFs are manufactured in multiple plants nationwide so therefore less fossil fuel is used to ship them to the construction site. Reward ICFs are friendly to the environment with no ozone damaging CFCs or HCFs and no formaldehyde is present in the forms. It costs more to build cement walls up front than a standard wood home, about 5% more. Carol Maver added that with all the positives anyone building in Geauga County should consider building with cement walls. Ms. Maver added that some Habitat for Humanity homes have cement wall construction and Kentucky is mandating that all schools be built with cement walls.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a. The Annual Report filed by the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas Probate and Juvenile Division for calendar year 2007 showing the number and kinds of cases that have come before it, the disposition ordered by the court, and other data pertinent to the Court's operation, pursuant to O.R.C. 2151.18.*
- b. A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending June 18, 2008 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- c. The Plan Review Notice of Compliance Electrolock – 2008 Addition, Submittal #2, in Troy filed by Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District.*
- d. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction 2008 Annual Jail Inspection Report.*

**MEETINGS**

*Thu., 6/26 The monthly economic development work session will be held at noon, the speaker will be Carol Maver of Reward Wall Structures (concrete homes).*

*Tue., 7/1 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

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- Tue., 7/3      **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***
- Fri., 7/4      The County Offices will be closed in honor of July 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Holiday.*
- Tue., 7/8      The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Wed., 7/9      Township Association Quarterly Dinner Meeting at Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen at 6:30 p.m.*
- Thu., 7/10     The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Tue., 7/15     The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Thu., 7/17     The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER ALBERT ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 1:07 P.M.***

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Mary E. Samide*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*William S. Young*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Craig S. Albert*

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*Claudine Kozenko, Commissioners' Clerk*