

Commissioners' Journal
August 28, 2012

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 28, 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 10:00 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Samide to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of August 23, 2012.

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

**Commissioner Jemison was absent from this meeting.*

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including Appropriation transfers for the Sheriff's Office to return appropriations for reimbursements deposited into the General Fund and for the Common Pleas Court to put appropriations in place for capital trial expenditures; a Cash transfer into the General Fund for the Job and Family Services building lease payment for August 2012; a purchase order for Tessco Technologies for equipment purchases for the antenna replacement portion of the 800 MHZ digital upgrade project; a contract for Gottschalk Building Company for the Bessie Benner Metzenbaum remodeling project for the Board of Developmental Disabilities in the amount of \$281,000.00; Travel requests for the Auditor's Office, Engineer's Office, the Department of Job and Family Services, and the Juvenile Court; and a voucher for 2nd quarter Bed Tax disbursements to the City of Chardon, Burton Village, Russell Township, and the Geauga Tourism Council.

Commissioner Claypool asked a question regarding a blanket for a Pictometry Conference encumbrance included in today's financials. Commissioner Jemison explained that the Pictometry system is software used by the Auditor's Real Estate section employing ortho aerial photography of all properties in the county, and it is used to help on property appraisals. Ms. Delaney explained that the item in question was for the travel encumbrance for two individuals to attend a Pictometry users' conference, and payment vouchers for the actual expenditures relating to this travel encumbrance will be on a future financial, after the expenses are submitted from the conference. Ms. Delaney stated that typically in a travel encumbrance, the maximum amount expected to be needed for travel expenses is put into the blanket travel encumbrance because multiple vendors may be paid. Ms. Delaney noted that this particular encumbrance could be lined out of today's financials if the board wished to question this item. Mr. Jemison remarked that the Pictometry system was implemented during his time as County Auditor, and that the system has saved time previously used to send an appraiser out to a property being reviewed. Mr. Claypool responded that his question wasn't regarding the software itself, but rather it was the appropriateness of sending individuals to attend the users' conference, as in his own experience going to users' conferences he felt that he didn't learn much in terms of unique or new information. Mr. Jemison stated that in his experience the attendees from the county get a lot of information out of these conferences, and Ms. Samide added that in her experience with technology she always got a lot out of attending conferences like COMDEX. It was noted that the proposed attendees would be Steve Decatur and Chris Greenawalt of the Auditor's Department, and the conference was being held in Rochester NY. The travel encumbrance covers mileage, conference fees, food, and lodging. It was also noted that Mr. Greenawalt is a new employee, having replaced Scott Yamamoto in the Auditor's Appraisal office and it is important for him to learn more about the Pictometry software.

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Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #12-151 itemizing the financials for the meeting of August 28, 2012.

<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>

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – TIME WARNER BUSINESS CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE ORDER – CABLE INTERNET SERVICE – MIDDLEFIELD, CHAGRIN FALLS AND WEST GEAUGA SENIOR CENTER LOCATIONS

County Administrator David Lair explained that this action was to renew contracts for Internet connectivity service at each of the three full-time satellite senior centers, this service provides each of these centers with public access, telephone service, and staff access to the county network via a secure VPN.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Time Warner Business Class Customer Service Order for cable internet service to the Middlefield Senior Center located at 15820 Ridgewood Drive, Middlefield, the Chagrin Falls Park Senior Center located at 7060 Woodland Avenue, Chagrin Falls, and the West Geauga Senior Center located at 11414 Caves Road, Chesterland for the period September 1, 2012 through July 31, 2015 in the amount of \$71.95 / month for the West Geauga and Chagrin Falls Senior Centers and \$71.96 / month for the Middlefield Senior Center.

<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>

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – OHIO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND HOME SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS PAYMENT REQUEST FORM #3 – 8883 FAIRMOUNT ROAD, NOVELTY

Program Administrator Joni Stusek explained that is for another septic system under the EPA grant. Ms. Stusek stated that under this program, when the homeowner qualifies for a 100% grant the program can pay for the required soils report, sample well test, and Health District inspection. In response to a question from Mr. Claypool as to what the qualification guidelines were, Ms. Stusek replied that to qualify for the 100% grant, a household of one to four individuals would qualify if the total income in that household did not exceed \$22,050.00 per year; households with annual income not exceeding \$44,100.00 qualify for 85% funding under this program.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Home Sewage Treatment System Improvements Principal Forgiveness Payment Request Form #3 for a soils report, sample well, and Health District inspection at 8883 Fairmount Road, Novelty in the amount of \$1,145.00.

<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>

TRANSIT DEPARTMENT – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A PROPOSAL WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANTS THROUGH THE U.S. DOT FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Director Kristina Reider and Operations Manager Jack Jackson explained that this resolution enables them to submit their 2013 grant proposal. Assistant Prosecutor Laura LaChapelle has approved the attached certification program. Ms. Reider noted that the grant included over \$600,000.00 from federal sources and over \$120,000.00 from the state of Ohio, with the state portion having remained constant for several years. Ms. Reider stated that there is an anticipated contribution from the county General Fund of \$53,000.00 which is just slightly more than the General Fund receives back from Transit in cost allocation charges each year. A

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portion of this grant is specified as specific to equipment and equipment maintenance, covering wages and benefits for the transit mechanic and a portion of Mr. Jackson's salary and benefits, tire replacement, and funding for the replacement of 3 vehicles annually, replacing others that are being retired and subsequently sold on Gov Deals. She noted that ODOT provides monthly disbursements to Transit under this grant, with quarterly reconciliations and adjustments to keep the funding based on actual expenditures. At year end, the payments for the final calendar quarter are held until final reconciliation after year end. Because of changes in program rules, public hearings are not required anymore if funding of the local program and guidelines haven't changed. Mr. Claypool stated that he had calculated that the taxpayers provide through grants a subsidy of approximately \$848,000.00 in subsidy per year, and questioned how many people are being transported by this service. Mr. Claypool added that Ms. Reider and Mr. Jackson do a fantastic job, but that it might be a good idea to review the program and consider whether the current program is the best way to operate, in terms of cost-effectiveness. Ms. Reider stated that she is hoping to see some reconciliation in the future between the county's New World financial system and the requirements of reporting as specified by ODOT, as Kate Weybrecht has to enter all transactions into Quickbooks, thereby performing double entry because New World doesn't have enough sub-accounts to get ODOT what they need in terms of reporting detail. Ms. Samide agreed with Mr. Claypool that there is no doubt that the grant to Transit is a large subsidy. It was noted that the portion of the subsidy from the state which originates from Gas Tax revenue is minimal, and the Federal portion comes from overall highway funding previously provided under SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Claypool stated that in considering these grants he was watching out for his grandkids' future, and he said that the country is going bankrupt and we need to do what is right and logical; he suggested as an alternative that maybe operating a fleet of purchased vehicles would be more cost-effective. Ms. Reider noted that many riders are unable to drive themselves for various reasons, so could not utilize a vehicle on their own. Mr. Claypool added that he has been doing an informal survey and has found that some people don't use Transit because of the time a trip with multiple stops takes, and in some instances, a lack of comfort with riding with others. Ms. Samide stated that Ms. Reider works within the money she has and always stays within her budget, in contrast to other public systems in the area that have financial problems. Mr. Claypool acknowledged that Ms. Reider does a great job of managing the system, but it is the elected officials' responsibility to bring the question of the logic of the program to the residents. Ms. Samide noted that clients who suffer from disabilities use Transit to go to the YMCA to be able to be mobile in the pool. Ms. Reider described the year-end process when funds have to be very carefully managed from a cash flow standpoint during the time that payments from ODOT end, pending year-end reconciliation. Mr. Claypool remarked that a lot of good people are doing a good job based on the rules, but we have to challenge the rules and address the "nonsense", including that of local support and funding of Transit and turning down the federal money and strings is another option to consider, and that we need to put pressure on elected officials at the federal level to bring some logic to the process.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve and execute Resolution #12-152 Authorizing the filing of a Proposal with the Ohio Department of Transportation for Grants through the U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as authorized under Federal Transit Laws, as Codified, 49 USC Section 5311, Financial Assistance for other than urbanized areas and funds available from the Ohio Public Transportation Grant Program and executing a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation upon Grant Proposal Approval.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – COUNTY OF GEAUGA HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT – CLEVELAND ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING (CEI) COMPANY

Director Doug Bowen explained that this document has been agreed upon by APA Laura LaChapelle to enable First Energy to utilize the Water Resources garage in the event of an emergency.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to approve the County of Geauga Hold Harmless Agreement between Geauga County and the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI) to allow CEI the use of the Department of Water Resources Garage Facility located at 12550 Merritt Road,

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Chardon as a staging area for the distribution of water and ice in the event of a sustained power outage, or for any other permitted reason.

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – RESCIND MOTION – AUGUST 23, 2012 – REVISED GRANT APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO RECONSTRUCT CONCRETE APRON PHASE 2

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to rescind the motion from August 23, 2012 that read: approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Revised Grant Application for Federal Assistance SF-424 to Reconstruct Concrete Apron Phase 2 (FAA AIP 3-39-0054-1512) in the amount of \$246,107.00 (Federal Share \$221,496.00 and Local Match \$24,611.00), as this revised application is no longer required.

Mr. Lair explained that because the Corps of Engineers had provided the documentation required, the revised motion voted on last week by the board which omitted the drainage ditch improvement portion of the airport project would not be necessary, as the documentation required to proceed with the entire project as originally approved by the board in July was now in order.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Jemison to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the proposed hiring of a public employee.

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

The Board returned from executive session at 11:21 a.m. No action was taken as a result of this session.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the inmate meals for the month ending July, 2012.*
- b) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the prisoner transport for the month ending July 2012 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tues., 8/28 The Commissioners will attend the 60th Birthday Party held by the Department on Aging, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., West Geauga Senior Center, Orchard Hills Park

*Thu., 8/30 **The Commissioners will hold regular session at 10:00 a.m. at the Geauga County Fairgrounds, Junior Fair stage. NOTE DIFFERENT LOCATION.***

Mon., 9/3 County offices will be closed for general business due to the Labor Day holiday.

*Tues., 9/4 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***

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Tues., 9/4 The Commissioners will attend a Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors Meeting, 1:30 p.m. District office in Warren, Ohio

Thu., 9/6 The Commissioners will hold regular session.

OTHER - DISCUSSION

The commissioners briefly discussed the “no-wake zone” issue brought up at the August 23rd meeting; Mr. Jemison stated that he felt that there should be a public hearing as a means to determine public interest and concern regarding this issue. Mr. Claypool felt that this issue was being “created” and stated that he would like to see the Park Board bring some actual complaints before the board. Mr. Jemison replied that he would talk to Mr. McClintock. On the issue of NEOSCC, Mr. Jemison stated that Geauga County had not become a paid member of this group and had no intention of joining, and this non-participation in of itself should be sufficient evidence that Geauga County does not support the stated goals of NEOSCC.

The Commissioners then recorded a brief video presentation to be used during the upcoming Great Geauga County Fair.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER CLAYPOOL ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:35 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Tracy A. Jemison

Walter M. Claypool

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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