

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**January 8, 2015**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 8, 2015 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, Ralph Spidalieri opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**FINANCIALS**

*County Administrator David Lair reported on financials from January 7, 2015, Resolution #15-002, including a Cash transfer for a payroll advance for the Common Pleas Presentence Investigation Fund for state grant funding not yet received, as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to the motion approved December 30, 2014 to authorize the County Administrator to execute, in the case of a lack of quorum of Commissioners and / or if session is cancelled on a regular financial day or on a day when financials need to be approved, the required approvals for county financials on behalf of the Board during the Year 2015, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.*

**APPROVE MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of December 30, 2014.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Abstain*</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

*\*Commissioner Claypool abstained due to the meeting being held prior to him being seated as a Commissioner.*

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget and Finance Manager Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a Revenue Certification for the Water Resources Thompson Wastewater Treatment Plant project fund; a Supplemental Appropriations for the Common Pleas Court's Smart Ohio Grant fund to appropriate carryover funds; and a Cash transfer out of the General Fund for a portion of 2015 funding for the County Home.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute Resolution #15-003 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 8, 2015.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**AUDITOR'S OFFICE – LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO**

*Mr. Lair explained that this is an agreement with the Auditor of State for the Auditor of State to assist with the preparation of the CAFR, Combined Annual Financial Report and that the Auditor was comfortable with the agreement. Commissioner Claypool expressed concern over the State Auditor hiring a staff who he pays a salary and that the County then pays him a salary to have his staff to do this. A brief discussion took place regarding the CAFR and the Audits that are handled by the State on behalf of the County, and it was noted that while other Counties use an outside agency they still pay someone to assist and handle these same services.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute a Letter of Understanding with the Auditor of the State of Ohio for services to be provided by the Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State (LGS) to Geauga County for basic financial statements and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the years ending*

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*December 31, 2014, December 31, 2015, and December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$33,500.00 per year.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ESTABLISH GAS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

*Mr. Lair expressed that over the years that he has been here that the Commissioners have followed the rate set by the IRS for reimbursement of mileage. Mr. Lair added that the Board can make adjustments at any time. Mr. Rear inquired how often the rate is set, to which it was discussed that it may change throughout the year but that usually it is only set once a year by our office. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that there doesn't seem to be a huge encumbrance on mileage. Mr. Claypool added that it is a fair thing to do, noting that some companies choose to use a lower rate. A brief discussion transpired regarding looking into the mileage reimbursements by departments and depending on the amount, it may be beneficial to purchase a car instead of paying the mileage. The county car use was brought up and who uses it, noting that any office that uses the car is charged for the mileage which is placed in a fund to cover maintenance and eventually to be used to replace the car. It was noted that an employee who uses their car for county business must provide proof of insurance.*

*\*Commissioner Rear left the meeting due to a family emergency.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to establish the gas mileage reimbursement at the current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rate of \$.575, to be effective January 1, 2015 for the departments under the direction of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PROMOTE DEBORAH ASHBURN – BUDGET OFFICER (#1308)

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the promotion of Deborah Ashburn to the position of Budget Officer (#1308) to be effective January 5, 2015 at a rate of \$14.78 per hour. After the successful completion of a 180 day probationary period the rate will increase to \$15.56 per hour.*

*Mr. Lair stated that the position was posted internally and for an extended period at the request of the Board, to which Ms. Ashburn's application was the only one received. Mr. Lair stated that currently Ms. Ashburn is at a grade 6 and this position is a grade 8, noting that typically if there is an internal candidate that meets or exceeds the qualifications then we advertise internally to save the expense of advertising externally. Mr. Claypool stated that he inquired about the procedure and policy was for internal hires, adding that he wanted to make sure there was no appearance of "picking from the family". Mr. Spidalieri added that due to the holiday season that he had asked for the period of the posting to be extended. Both Mr. Spidalieri and Mr. Claypool agreed that Ms. Ashburn is a great person and does a great job in the office.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

LIQUOR LICENSE – MAYFIELD CR LIMITED D.B.A. BAINBRIDGE SHELL – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to concur with Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Mayfield CR Limited d.b.a. Bainbridge Shell located at 8501 E. Washington Street, Bainbridge (C N 5665192-0005).*

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<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**LIQUOR LICENSE – JAY RAMDEVPIR, LLC D.B.A. REDIGO #11 – HAMB DEN TOWNSHIP**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to concur with Hambden Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the liquor license requested by Jay Ramdevpir, LLC d.b.a. Redigo #11 located at 13940 GAR Highway, Unit 8, Hambden (C TRFO 4258685).

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**DISCUSSION**

*Mr. Spidalieri brought up a topic regarding professional services and the idea of looking into having more employees within departments handling services that seem to be done through an outside agency or vendor, using Water Resources as an example for Engineering Services. Mr. Claypool added that he had posed that question previously and that a cost benefit analysis at the time showed it to be more cost effective to use an outside agency and that it may be time to have another analysis done.*

*Discussion took place about working towards collaboration of services since several Townships, Cities and Counties use the same type of services. The idea was brought up about holding work sessions with several Departments and the Townships to talk about the extension of services.*

*Mr. Spidalieri added that he had spoken to a Chester Township Trustee who had watched the Tuesday meeting and agreed that the idea of extending services regarding salt was a good idea.*

*Mr. Lair brought up the subject of the evening meeting being the same night as the Township Association meeting and holding a Commissioners meeting during the meeting to bring up the subject to them. Mr. Spidalieri expressed concern over time constraint. Mr. Lair noted that the Board should consider moving the evening meeting due to the scheduling conflict, and setting up another time to meet with the Township Association.*

*Mr. Claypool explained that he attended the Directors Meeting on Wednesday morning and posed the idea of holding one of those meetings during regular session or after to allow the public to hear about what the departments are working on and the issues they may be facing.*

**MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY**

*Discussion was held regarding the survey put out to the school districts and Mental Health's involvement, noting that the public records request response had been received via email. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that a counselor responded with an email that expressed a number of employees that work at the school did not allow their own children to take the survey. Mr. Claypool added that the Health Department has put out a similar survey. Mental Health Board Member Jeff Kline explained that he had received several calls regarding the survey and that the questions within it are very disturbing and that the relationship with his children is no one's business. Mr. Kline stated that during the last meeting in December he had asked to hold a Public Hearing regarding that survey, it was approved and to date no hearing or date has been scheduled. Mr. Kline expressed that he felt the Mental Health Board members and staff were neglectful in their duties. Mr. Kline asked the Board for support. Both Mr. Spidalieri and Mr. Claypool agreed that Mr. Kline needed to come back and continue the conversation when Mr. Rear was present that it was only fair. Mr. Claypool added that Board appointments and procedure was something he wanted to discuss further. Mr. Kline also noted that a rumor was being circulated that the CEO evaluation of Mr. Adams had been completed by the Board and that the Commissioners agreed to allow a salary increase for Mr. Adams to \$111,000.00. It was expressed that the Board had not approved that and Mr. Lair wanted to clarify that when the salary increases had been identified a year ago that the rollback of Mr. Adams salary for 2014 was to be equivalent to the \$111,000.00 because that is the salary he was at before the increases took place, and that the salary for 2015 was to be kept at the \$111,000.00 rate. Mr. Lair added that the salary of the \$150,000.00 range was rolled back to the mid \$80,000.00 range to equal out the \$111,000.00 for the 2014 calendar year total. Mr. Kline expressed concern that Mr. Adams does things without the approval of the Mental Health Board and if that is the case that*

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*there is no need to have a Board for oversight if that is going to continue to happen. Mr. Kline stated that it was no one's business how members of his family get along and how they interact, adding that his children will never take this survey.*

*Both Mr. Spidalieri and Mr. Claypool agreed again that Mr. Kline needed to come back and continue the conversation when Mr. Rear was present as that it was only fair. Mr. Spidalieri expressed frustration over the actions taken by the Mental Health Board regarding the survey being stopped until after a special meeting was held for more information and to find out that it was then administered to three or four schools, after it was made known that the Board Members and the Board of Education Members from the schools were not aware of the survey or its context. Mr. Claypool added that the survey was much bigger than Mental Health and is a touchy issue to face, asking Mr. Kline to be patient that help was on the way, adding that he would like to obtain a copy of the Board of Mental Health's by-laws so that they can be reviewed and that everyone on that Board understands what they are allowed to do, because that is needed in order to bring proper control to that Board.*

*Discussion continued about an additional survey being put out and done by the Health Department, with Mr. Spidalieri expressing additional concern about the number of surveys being pushed at our children and the number of ideas presented in front of them, as a trigger for them to go and try these things, adding that curiosity killed the cat, and that we don't need to do that to our kids. Mr. Claypool explained that he had showed the survey to several people in the community and to family members, noting that the reactions were all about the same and that they became upset. Mr. Kline added that he was told that the purpose of the survey was a way to obtain grant funding for the county, to which he added that as a tax payer and parent, he wasn't going to allow his children to be used for that. There was some discussion about the cost of the survey and a concern over one of the Mental Health Board members making decisions individually for the Board with no communication with the rest of the members of the Board. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that they need to investigate further what the Commissioners can do to remove the Mental Health Board Members that are not doing their duty and being neglectful, adding that people in this county want answers.*

*Mr. Claypool expressed that the Board needs to take seriously the people that they appoint to Boards so that they do not have problems like this in the future, adding that any department who wishes to have an appointment made that they submit a name and a resume. Mr. Claypool expressed that he was not sure of the path to take a formal action regarding Mental Health but that it needs to be done with all of the Board members present. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the Commissioners need to operate as a unit, including that each Board member has their own opinion. Mr. Claypool posed the idea of inviting those Board members that have been appointed by the Commissioners to a meeting and giving an update on what Mental Health is doing. A brief discussion was held regarding a concern over the legal action and what the Commissioners options might be and whether they could have an executive session to discuss those options with the Prosecutor. It was noted that the next Mental Health Board meeting will be held on January 21, 2015.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RE-SCHEDULE REGULAR MEETING TO JANUARY 29, 2015

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to re-schedule the regular meeting from January 22, 2015 to January 29, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending December 31, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- 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 February, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

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OTHER

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

MEETINGS

*Fri., 1/9 – Sun., 1/11 Some of the Commissioners will attend the Fair Managers Conference in Columbus*

*Mon., 1/12 The Commissioners' will hold the Annual Re-Organizational Meeting*

*Tue., 1/13 The Regularly Scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled*

*Mon., 1/19 **County offices will be closed for general business due to Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Ralph Spidalieri*

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*Blake A. Rear*

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*Walter M. Claypool*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

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