

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on February 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting room located at 470 Center Street, Building #8 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 6:30 p.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Commissioner Spidalieri asked for a moment of silence in commemoration of the two year anniversary of the Chardon School shooting.

Mr. Spidalieri thanked those in attendance for coming to the first evening meeting, noting a lot of familiar faces and some that will be the first time that they have met. Mr. Spidalieri appreciated them for braving the northeast Ohio weather.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of February 25, 2014.

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

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent from this meeting.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PROACT, INCORPORATED – DISCOUNT PROGRAM SERVICES AGREEMENT

Benefits Specialist Kathy Hostutler stated that the County currently offers a prescription discount card for residents through NACo. Ms. Hostutler explained that the program was started in 2009 at a cost to the county of \$1868.00 for NACo membership where by residents could pick up cards in various locations or by printing one from the website and were primarily used for uninsured or underinsured residents, and for medications not covered by insurance plans or for pet medications. Ms. Hostutler explained that with so many free cards being offered by other providers now that it was decided to further investigate other options. Ms. Hostutler stated that PRO ACT is a company out of New York state that will be offering a discount card to the residents of Geauga at no cost to the resident or to the County. Ms. Hostutler stated that PRO ACT will be sending cards out to 40,000 residents and can be used for medications not covered by their insurance, those residents that are uninsured or underinsured and for pet medications and can be used at many different pharmacies. Commissioner Rear explained that due to the weather it was recommended by the Commissioners' Office that the representative for PRO ACT stay in New York today. Mr. Rear noted that the information is confidential and the only information that the county would see is the report of the savings from use. Mr. Spidalieri asked if those in the audience wanted more information where they would obtain it, to which Ms. Hostutler gave the phone number and website but noting that until the contract is approved they might not be able to get any information. It was discussed that once approved the card would be designed for Geauga County and sent to the residents, but that the information would also be placed on the County website. Ms. Hostutler added that in addition the card can also be used for discounts on vision items, noting eye exams, frames, lenses, LASIK surgery and also on hearing products.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the PROACT, Incorporated Service Agreement with Geauga County, Ohio for Discount Program Services for a three year period.

A local resident inquired why it was free and what the catch was, to which Ms. Hostutler explained that a "catch" could not be found. County Administrator David Lair explained that

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

pharmaceutical companies enter into agreements with discount providers as a mechanism to steer business towards the pharmaceutical companies who then provides the discount and includes enough of a profit margin for the card companies to make money. Mr. Rear mentioned that one of his family members was without insurance for a period of time and used a card that was available at the pharmacy and was able to save several hundreds of dollars on the prescriptions that he needed filled. Ms. Hostutler spoke about the current NACo cards being available in many locations and available to print on our website, but PRO ACT will be incurring the cost of mailing 40,000 cards to the residents' homes in the County. There was a brief discussion clarifying who would be able to use it and for what. Walter "Skip" Claypool stated that nothing if free, and asked if there was any federal dollars connected to this card. Mr. Rear stated that there is a large drug company, "Kinney Drugs" in the northeast that is affiliated with this organization. Mr. Rear stated that if you try something that is free and it works and you can save some money, why not give it a try. Middlefield councilman Ron Wiech stated that a company had come to Middlefield and offered it to the residents and they discovered that the representative would get paid per prescription that it was used for, and questioned if the company would be making a profit off the residents and would be taking advantage of them. Mr. Rear and Mr. Lair responded that if they aren't making money how could they be in business or make a living off of a vendor? There was additional discussion about the State offering a card as well, it was explained again that this is just something being offered to the residents as a way to save money. If they choose to use the program the information is kept confidential and the County will never know who is using it or for what, that the only report the County would see is the amount of people using the cards and the savings that were generated by that use.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING EUGENE "GENE THE BARBER" WILLIAMS FOR FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. Spidalieri asked how many of those in attendance know Gene the barber in Newbury, noting that Gene had been his personal barber for about the last eighteen years. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that Gene had been open and serving the residents for the last fifty years in the same location, adding that he has been the longest serving private business in the county and that he has decided to call it quits and will close his doors in March. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that his magnetism and always being positive came through to his clients when they came in to get a haircut. As a man of few applauses, humble and big hearted, Mr. Spidalieri asked to honor him with a resolution.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute Resolution #14-038 Honoring Eugene "Gene the Barber" Williams for fifty (50) years of service.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 14-038
Date: February 27, 2014

**RESOLUTION HONORING EUGENE "GENE THE BARBER" WILLIAMS
FOR FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE**

WHEREAS, Eugene (Gene) Williams was born March 22, 1942 to Ida and Sherman Williams, in 1948 they brought their family to Kiwanis Lake in Newbury where he grew up and graduated in 1960 from Newbury High School; and

WHEREAS, Gene Williams embarked on a career as a barber, having graduated at the age of nineteen (19) from the Cleveland Barber College he then went on to work for several years at barbershops in South Euclid and Chesterland; and

WHEREAS, In January 1964, Gene Williams opened his own barbershop at the corner of Portlew Drive and State Route 87 in Newbury where for many years he has served many generations of Geauga County residents with great haircuts, tanning facilities and a portion of the building for Karate Instruction; and

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

WHEREAS, Gene Williams has owned and operated his barbershop for the last fifty years, making him the longest-serving sole proprietor business in Geauga County. Gene Williams has provided not only great haircuts, he has dispensed sage advice, but has helped to make great memories of that "special first hair cut" for families bringing their children to him; and

WHEREAS, Gene Williams and his wife Frances have raised three children, Becky, Sherman, and Brett, who has followed in his father's footsteps by obtaining his own barber's license; and

WHEREAS, Gene Williams enjoys spending time riding on his Harley Davidson motorcycle and as an avid outdoorsman, hunting on his property in West Virginia; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners wish to recognize the dedicated service of Gene Williams, as he will close his barbershop for the last time in March on his seventy-second (72) birthday and begin a new chapter of his life while enjoying a very well earned retirement.

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

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

DISCUSSION ON WEST GEAUGA SENIOR CENTER

Mr. Spidalieri stated that this has been a heavily discussed topic that had started about a month ago when Department on Aging Director Jessica Boalt brought a contract before the Board for the West Geauga Senior Center with Orchard Hills that included a 10% increase and concern over the utility bills that are paid. Mr. Spidalieri explained that there are two bills paid on the utility, one for the outlet use and one for the HVAC heating and air conditioning. After reviewing those bills it was discovered that the County was paying 73% of the total cost and not the overall 100% cost because on the weekends the building is used for rentals. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the center needs to remain open for those using the center, but also noted that many emails had come in from residents regarding the location of the center, the proximity to Lake County and the distance people would drive if its moved, and so it needed to be looked at. The contract was therefore renewed for one year giving time to look at what options are available, the costs involved to remain in the same location or to have something that might be county owned. Mr. Spidalieri stated that until he became a Commissioner he did not realize the importance and direction that programs for Seniors in Geauga County are evolving over three years, six years, ten years, fifteen years and the demands are going to be on the Department and when they started looking for a new director and looked at the statistics on where the services are going to be needed and the demand in a short period of time for a growing population that will require services. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the board needed help in making the right decision as to where we go as a County, but that it cannot be looked at for just now, but for the same people five and ten years from now and where we will be as a county and where can we put ourselves to better serve this county. The Board's goal is not to interrupt service or take away services but to improve quality. Mr. Spidalieri stated that right now we know what we have is working, but we also know and realize that in a short amount of time it won't fit the bill of goods that will suffice to give the quality we want and meet the demand for our seniors in the county. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the discussions that have been had have not been about price, but that the choice needs to be right for the right point.

MaryAnn Mizelski from Chesterland stated that she used the senior center frequently and expressed concern over the article in the Chester news, stating that seniors don't want to drive long distances, and the numbers that were reported were not correct, noting that the Commissioners have been invited several times and that they should come and see for themselves the amount of seniors that are using the facility and the services that are offered. Ms. Mizelski stated that instead of saving money the Board should be spending money because the population is aging and that there are more seniors, it's not that we need fewer facilities, that we need more facilities. Ms. Mizelski expressed that the Board needs to read what is being reported about the Commissioners and what they are doing. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that a lot of statements that were made that day came from those in the audience and statements that were sent to the Board

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

that wanted to be expressed, adding that none of the Commissioners that day had made any derogatory statements. The discussion was held regarding the finance portion of the centers, the people who had contacted that Board had expressed and since that time there has been an enormous amount of people that have contacted the Board. Commissioner Samide stated that ten years ago there was discussion about property that had been being looked at to purchase; the former senior center property that had a lot of problems with it and at the time the new jail had been built and the county was in a position of paying down a mass of debt. Ms. Samide explained that prior to becoming a Commissioner she visited seniors at home with the social workers to understand what was happening in the county and how important it is to have senior centers in places that could be utilized. Ms. Samide expressed a need for another location, noting the current locations already in place and the time it takes to travel to them. Ms. Samide also noted the current levy and how much from the levy is paid into it by Chester and what is being spent on the senior center with those funds. Ms. Samide noted many calls, emails and those that talk to her when she swims at the YMCA about the different concerns. Mr. Rear stated that he had read other papers, but not the Chester news and while being new being a Commissioner, and due to the sunshine laws and the open meeting act, he doesn't know what both Ms. Samide and Mr. Spidalieri are feeling, and often times your only opportunity to discuss issues is in session and asked the residents to bear with them at times, expressing that in his opinion to be a Commissioner is to look out for the 93,000 plus residents in this county whether they are newborn or seniors. While the seniors are the fastest growing population in the county and because of that demographics change and in the future other townships will also be having seniors so the need to look at and for senior centers is because there will be a larger portion that will be needing the services. Mr. Rear wanted to clarify that the Board was not taking issue with Ms. Boalt, that while she is also new the need in five years in different areas may be greater and that the county is still serving those needs.

Ms. Boalt stated that she wanted to clear up some information that had been put out that was incorrect and inadequate. Ms. Boalt started off by stating that the West Geauga Senior Center is open five days a week roughly from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.; the monthly base rent is \$2,415.00 a month, noting that last year it was \$2,300.00, plus the electric cost, and the HVAC and the electric for the clubhouse area that is used for office area. Ms. Boalt stated that the yearly average electric cost from 2013 spread out by month would be \$3,698.51 in total with the base rent, which is about \$7.50 a square foot for roughly 6,000 square foot, which is about \$44,382.12 a year. Ms. Boalt explained that the services include programming, legal appointments, and congregate and home delivered meals and that during the day there is an average daily attendance of 45 occupants in the building, which is about 1,047 people a year, noting that they are they are not counted twice. Ms. Boalt stated that she is new and is doing her best to meet with the seniors and her staff to get information and knowledge so that she can make good decisions. Ms. Boalt stated that when she discovered that the lease was up she had two options, to go to bid for a two year lease or to do a one year lease, and having not passed a levy, she chose a one year lease in order to talk to the seniors, see the facilities and gather information in order to make good decisions, as it impacts a lot, not just money but the seniors' lives, noting that her goal is to look beyond and see what is needed and get a better understanding for the department.

Don Trask is a Chester resident and a member on the Aging Advisory Board and asked that Ms. Boalt be given a full year as requested to do the analysis of the facilities and services, and that the Commissioners should go and spend some time at the facility and presumes a request next year for another facility in the South as there will be more seniors that will need services.

Pat Mula is a Chester resident that started by thanking the Board for addressing this issue, but stated that after watching the video of the meeting that Mr. Spidalieri stated that he wanted to combine or move the center in Chester to Bainbridge or South Russell and if that was stated before doing research or having the information prior to stating that then you need to apologize because that is why everyone is here. While she doesn't personally use the center herself the center in Chester is a wonderful source for seniors that use it and that it draws seniors from other townships other than Chester. There is a concern that it will be removed and relocated to another community, adding that Chester pays the county levy but also into the General Fund.

Norm Traffis is a Chester resident who is a member of the Department on Aging Advisory Board and is an attendee at the West Geauga Senior Center and while he appreciates the comment of looking at a plan several years out is important, after watching the January 30th meeting he was shocked by the comments that were made including one about only four people showing up to

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

play cards and that's it and that numbers are only looked at when there are special events. Mr. Traffis stated that the Board should come and check it out for themselves.

Mr. Spidalieri stated that the geographic location of the center was looked at because the Commissioners' office receives many emails from people telling us what we should say, that goes back to when Ms. Bell was still serving as Director, when the search for a new Director began and that they wanted to know what the direction of the department was going. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the most common complaint received was that we were not serving the density population of Chesterland and South Russell, that the center is closer to Lake County than it is to Mayfield Road, and that was the concern, and while that was what he had said, he doesn't say things without facts behind him and that those facts were based on the number of the calls taken asking for an easier location for a center based on the population. The comment was not made in a derogatory manner or that he needs to apologize because what he stated was based on fact of stating that a location could be looked for to serve more, not to reduce services.

Mr. Traffis stated while Mr. Spidalieri stated all those things, but certainly a study would show what the Board is looking for. Mr. Spidalieri stated that comments can only be policed to a point and that emotions sometimes are put into play and that the Board can only control what they can to a point that they are there to serve the residents, asking the residents to tell them what they wish the Board to do and that was the purpose of the evening meetings. Mr. Traffis presented the Board with pictures, the first was a picture from Tuesday of four people playing cards, in one room and while another room, there were another four people playing cards, in addition there were twenty-five people exercising that day, later that afternoon sixteen to twenty people played bridge along with other activities; on Wednesday there was exercise which seventeen people participated in, noting that the quote of '4 people playing cards' was incorrect. Mr. Traffis stated that typically the contract is done for two years, which the Patterson's were going to do and only a one year renewal was done, but essentially it was a 5% increase not 10%, so it's only about a 2.5% increase for the one year. If another location is decided upon to be moved to, maintenance is a concern as it is provided at no additional cost; Mr. Traffis showing the Board pictures of the sidewalk and parking lot after several inches of snow that had fallen.

Claudia Steinforth expressed a consideration of a new party center being built by Guido's that is going up just south of 322 on 306. Mr. Rear noted back at a comment about looking for or looking at, they are looking at what the other options are not that they are actively looking for another location. Mr. Rear stated that there needs to be something on the burner as a "what if" in case something was to happen.

The question was raised as to whether or not a survey of the seniors was ever considered.

Edna Wilcox brought up the topic of the combination of senior centers and that if it is a long distance to get to the center she would not go especially in snow and ice and that the attendance would drop, adding that if they feel the seniors should use Transit than the Board would have to purchase additional vehicles and hire drivers in order to accommodate the number of seniors that would have to be transported.

The question was raised on where the money would come from, to which it was noted the levy would be one place and that another option might be through renewable notes.

Jeff Klein expressed that the Board should do something financially sound that would benefit all the residents in the county, giving the example of a building that could serve as the center but also as a party center that could be rented out and generate income instead of using levy monies. Mr. Klein noted that Transit is underused, and added a comment about the Patterson's using public monies to pad their pockets which in turn stemmed a discussion about the parking lot at Orchard Hills Park and the Patterson Fruit Farm.

Mr. Spidalieri stated that the Board is not looking for arguments, but that there would be enough demand to have a facility in a denser populated area for a more centralized location that can be equally driven from all directions. A brief discussion was held regarding the price per square foot being paid for in Chester.

Lynn Boyd is a Chester resident who stated that she wanted to talk money, asking for the Boards projections for budgeting for the future for the senior center and how far ahead they plan, to which Mr. Lair stated that it is a five year levy and once it is passed the revenue is flat for the life

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

of the levy, so in the beginning you spend less so that when you get to the end you have a cushion when you have to go out for renewal. Ms. Boyd than inquired about maintenance, electricity, etcetera, which Mr. Lair added that while there is attractiveness to owning a building but renting a facility is a more conservative approach. Ms. Boyd added that she had visited several other centers and that they would not be able to hold the numbers of people that attend the West Geauga center, noting that the Chardon facility is just not ideal.

Mr. Trask asked the audience to stop the realtors from calling Ms. Boalt and give her the year she asked for in order to do what she needs to do and give the direction that is needed. Ms. Boalt is very capable to do the job and asked for the opportunity to allow her to do what she needs to do. Mr. Rear stated that no one has ever said anything negative about Ms. Boalt, she's new and is stepping into a job where the problems can come quickly to her and she is doing a good job.

Ms. Boalt expressed thanks for the concern and that she welcomes phone calls, adding that she had called several places inquiring about the square footage, the handicapped accessibility and the kitchen as options if needed. Ms. Boalt stated that she wants to do a survey of the seniors, talk to them and investigate further so that she is able to make the best decision.

Gene Burchammer is a Munson resident who stated that he has known Ms. Samide for many years, adding that he feels everyone is dancing around the political implications about this decision and why everyone is here. Ms. Samide stated that the Commissioners care about the seniors, that they know you built this county long before they were here and that they are not dismissing that, but we will be prepared for the ever increasing senior load that will be had.

Mr. Rear stated that Ms. Boalt replaced a long time previous director that had seen and experienced a lot, but Ms. Boalt is talking about fact finding, so that she is able to learn firsthand and doesn't take someone else opinion. The Board has no axe to grind with her or the timeline that has been requested, adding that we need to know the long range plans, what are the trends, where the population centers are moving to, so we are looking for more information to make sounds decisions.

Diane Jones stated that she had attended that meeting in question, but what is being stated by the Commissioners and Ms. Boalt is what was stated and that a year was asked for in order to get the facts straight. Ms. Jones did express the concern that was raised about the contract that was brought before the Board to be signed a day before it was to expire even if there is an option in it for termination. It was never stated that the contract was going to be rejected, but contracts cannot wait until the day before to be addressed by the Board, putting undue pressure on them. Ms. Jones stated that no one should jump the gun and make assumptions that didn't occur.

Ms. Boalt apologized for the time frame on the lease, expressing that she acted in the fastest time frame that she could have once it was discovered that it was up.

Ed Corsi from Chardon asked how many seniors are in Geauga County, to which Mr. Trask stated 20,900, to which Mr. Corsi questioned that the amount in the room was all that showed up. Mr. Corsi stated that he was a senior who exercised at home and does a lot of things with his grandchildren, but expressed a concern over tax money going to facilities for people to play cards and exercise. Mr. Corsi stated that when his parents were seniors that there were no facilities to do these activities and resents his tax dollars going to a small portion of the seniors to play cards in this county. Mr. Corsi expressed that Mr. Patterson should donate this facility to the county and that he resents the way tax dollars are being wasted.

Bob Poucher stated he has been a resident of Geauga County for forty years and those in attendance are some that can make it, while there are many who are home ridden and receive home delivered meals, noting that Mr. Corsi's information was incorrect.

Mr. Wiech from Middlefield stated that senior centers increase socialization for seniors and give quality of life to those that built this county and this country and they deserve something for it. Mr. Wiech asked the Board to send opposition to the state about the Homestead Exemption, expressing that it needed to be reinstated. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the Auditor would need to respond but while the exemption is not going to be eliminated it will be done by the way of means testing.

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

Eloise Cavalier stated that she had lived in Geauga County for over fifty years and while her family and grandchildren have all been raised here, she has unfortunately experienced some terrible events in her life and her daughter signed her up to attend the senior center to which she didn't want to go but agreed. Ms. Cavalier expressed that the first day she met her now best friend and expressed the love for the group of friends that they have there to play cards, go out for breakfast, dinners, and travel to the West Side Market.

Gerry Piroula stated that he was present this evening to represent Bike Cleveland and the Cleveland Touring Club and would like to present a petition to the Commissioners with about 650 signatures regarding the Maple Highlands Trail connection and it being an asset. Mr. Piroula expressed that they would like the trail connection to not be a dispute. Mr. Piroula stated that Bike Cleveland holds a ride in Burton in June and has been working with Tourism and encourages people to buy local. Mr. Piroula asked what the status of the trail discussion was with the City of Chardon. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he had been out sick and was unable to be part of a discussion that took place at the beginning of the week. Ms. Samide stated that the Board was not able to discuss this at this time due to advisement of their legal counsel.

Mike Petruzielo stated that as a former Park District commissioner stated that it was his understanding that the trail would be completed and he had never heard from this group regarding the trail. Mr. Rear stated that he had spoken with Mr. Oros and that there is some confusion on what it being referred from the existing trail on State Route 44 to this multi-purpose trail that Chardon was putting into place.

Mr. Spidalieri stated that he was glad that concerns were able to be expressed by this group and the Board with an understanding that in the future something has to happen and that the Board is not here to hurt the seniors but to be able to provide more for the seniors and better quality. It is a concern as the population continues to grow; there has been good discussion and great points that have been made. This is the part about being able to communicate and reach a happy medium so that everyone can come out a winner. Mr. Spidalieri thanked those for coming out tonight in the inclement weather tonight to express their concerns.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending February 12, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) *Gauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Minutes from October 16, 2013, November 30, 2013, and January 15, 2014.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Mon., 3/3 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office*
- Tue., 3/4 The Commissioners will hold regular session*
- Thu., 3/6 Youth Leadership Government Day*
- Tue., 3/11 The Commissioners will hold regular session*
- Tue., 3/11 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon*
- Thu., 3/13 The Commissioners will hold regular session that will include a Public Hearing at 10:10 a.m. regarding application to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) 2014 Specialized Transportation Program Grant*
- Mon., 3/17 Family First Council, 2:00 p.m. at Job and Family Services*
- Tue., 3/18 The Commissioners will hold regular session*

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:24 P.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2014

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