

Commissioners' Journal
June 12, 2014

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on June 12, 2014 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 10:04 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

President R. L. Phillips started by thanking the Board for a lot, including the property that the fair is held on and the ability to hold the fair. Mr. Phillips stated that this year would be the 192nd year and that they are already talking about the 200th year and welcomes any suggestions or ideas.

Mr. Phillips explained that the fair family had a tough year with losing three members, Director Gerry Blair, and Honorary Directors, Pete Mansfield and Bob McKenna. Mr. Phillips noted that there has been a changeover in Directors with 19 of the 21 positions filled and of those most have less than ten years on the board.

Mr. Phillips expressed that if the Board ever wanted to hold an evening meeting at the Fairgrounds that they are more than welcome, along with the offer of holding the meeting on the opening day of the fair. Mr. Phillips expressed that Geauga Learns program will also be held again on Thursday with the addition of Chardon, noting that there will be six groups of over a hundred kids, adding that they are sixth graders. Mr. Phillips stated that it was started with Kenston and West Geauga, and they have since added St. Anslems and St. Mary's. Mr. Phillips explained that each kid is given a pass for free admittance for them to return with a parent and that last year they had 240 come back. Discussion continued about the program and how the kids move through different stations throughout the morning. Commissioner Spidalieri inquired as to how many people come to the fair, to which Secretary Paul Harris stated that last year 203,000 attended.

Mr. Phillips expressed that they are always looking for ways to bring people to the fair and one way that they do that is through entertainment and he stated that this year they will be doing 2 free shows on Friday night, Shotgun Red at 6:00 p.m. and one at 8:00 p.m. and a noon show on Friday during the Senior Day.

Mr. Phillips expressed gratitude for funding from the Community Development Block Grant for sidewalk improvements that will include paved ADA parking behind the small grandstand, adding that they would be doing some work to update the bathrooms to be ADA compliant.

Mr. Phillips presented the Board and Mr. Lair with passes to all the fairs in the State, including the State fair and a parking pass for the County fair with the addition of box seats for the demolition derbies and the truck pulls.

Mr. Phillips explained that the small grandstand is being sided with metal siding and roof, noting that the seats were painted last year. Mr. Harris added that \$10,000.00 in upgrades have been done this year to electrical equipment. Mr. Harris added while they still have the loans to pay off for the sheep barn and sewer lines they will still be able to get done \$125,000.00 in capital projects, in addition to the paving project. Mr. Phillips added that they were able to negotiate a six year agreement for the electrical rates. There was some discussion about the power usage and the outages that have previously happened. Mr. Harris noted that First Energy doesn't have enough power going into the fairgrounds and they have hard wired the fairgrounds in so that if they lose power a lot of other people in the area will be without power. Mr. Phillips talked about the changes that are needed to make adjustments to bring the power provided to buildings and space up to current electrical usage and equipment standards.

Vice President Sam Plants mentioned the year round events that take place, including the flea markets, fireworks, Rotary Ride, Truck pulls, horse shows and goat shows. Discussion took place about the increase in numbers of vendors and scheduling to avoid competition for the flea

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markets to have better turn-out. Mr. Phillips thanked the Board again for everything they do and their support.

**WESTERN RESERVE RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
(RC & D)**

President Adrian Achtermann, Vice President Patricia Carey, Secretary Richard Kinnelly, Treasurer Darrell Webster, Coordinator John Niedzialek and several other members came before the Board to introduce themselves and explain what the organization was about. Mr. Achtermann explained that the Western Reserve RC & D has been in operation since 1991/1992 and is a nine counties organization that is conservation oriented and the full council consists of memberships from Commissioners and Soil and Water Conservation Districts and elected at-large members appointed by them. Mr. Achtermann talked about working on updating the bylaws to enable them to change their meeting date to be able to have Commissioners attend the meetings. Mr. Achtermann noted that the full council meets quarterly but added that Commissioner Tony Gall signed an agreement that Geauga County will be a part of the organization. Mr. Achtermann expressed that the hope is that the Commissioners will be able to attend their meetings, along with their District members and members at large.

Mr. Achtermann presented a history of major private and public grants and donations that have been received since 1993. Ms. Carey added that they are good at helping local people with good ideas to obtain grants and funding for projects and the work that they have done with that has helped launch a lot of good things. Commissioner Samide noted the counties involved as being Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit and Trumbull. Mr. Achtermann stated that the council would like to have better relationships with the Counties and are visiting with each one and explain to each Board what the RC & D can do. Mr. Achtermann explained that the Commissioners have the ability to submit projects by application to the council who can then search out grants. Two programs that are active in Geauga County are the Food, Land and People and the Envirothon Teams through the schools.

Mr. Spidalieri expressed concern that with a lot of grants come strings that aren't always favorable for the County, and second that there are a lot of organizations in the State and in the County that are for the preservation of land and while there is value to it, there is often a loss of tax revenue that can then affect the services that can be provided to residents. Mr. Spidalieri stated with not knowing what tomorrow is going to bring, reasonable planning is the key to making it work now and in the future, noting that often when you gain something you lose something else. Ms. Carey agreed that while we need to be thoughtful about things and with the unique property which is in Geauga County, that those preserved areas increase value to properties that are around them. Mr. Spidalieri explained that he had done some research and unfortunately that the property values increase, which means that the property taxes increase and thereby puts a strain on the homeowners.

Ms. Samide added that most of the properties in Geauga County have water wells and it is important to have well recharge areas. Ms. Samide also noted that a lot of areas that have been protected are wetland areas and cannot be built on, and are then used as well recharge areas. While it is important not to lose tax base, it's also important to protect land because they don't make land anymore. Ms. Samide stated that zoning has been put into place to protect land with large lot requirements. Mr. Achtermann stated that a lot of what they do goes towards education programs for children and adults as a way to make life better for them. Most programs bring value to the standard of living and quality of life. Ms. Samide noted that Chuck Lausin has stated that all the food that has been produced in the last two hundred years will need to be produced in the next ten, which will begin to cause serious problems if farmland is not protected, because we feed the world.

Commissioner Rear explained that it must be favorable to live in Geauga County or so many of us wouldn't live here, and he looks at what they do as another tool in the tool box. Mr. Achtermann expressed that a lot of the projects that have been completed are in other counties, and the Board would support what they do. There was a discussion about the Fen that had been handled in December. Mr. Achtermann stated that if a project had been presented to them the Board would know about it because they would have to be involved in the process.

Mr. Rear briefly discussed the Chardon Envirothon Teams being taken to the property involving the Fen and that Ms. Rohr, the Chardon Advisor will continue to take them there for educational and training. Mr. Rear explained that they are very aware of the precautions that are taken to

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preserve that area. Mr. Rear stated that every project needs to be looked at individually as to what the impacts of that project will be. Mr. Achtermann and Ms. Carey expressed that they welcome the Boards involvement and having a presence at meetings.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION APPLICANTS

Program Coordinator Kelly Belconis stated that applicants for the 2014 CDBG Allocation are here to present their projects for consideration. This year's projects include Maple Leaf Community Residences, Middlefield Village Senior Center, Burton American Legion Hall, Thompson Township Community Center, and the Pleasant Hill County Home.

Keith Werbeach from Maple Leaf Community Residences explained that they were asking for funding to install new hood and suppression systems over the stoves in their twenty-two homes. Mr. Werbeach stated that they have central fire alarms systems and fire extinguishers that are checked annually. This is just another level of protection. Mr. Werbeach noted that the project can be scaled, all or part of the project can fund and if only a portion, the most at risk would be done first. Mr. Rear inquired about the homes, to which Mr. Werbeach stated that they have 20 single family homes, 1 condominium, and the old Chardon Assisted Living on Chardon Road that was donated to them. Mr. Spidalieri inquired if the work would be done by Geauga County companies to which Mr. Werbeach noted that the work would be completed internally, as Northcoast Homes is their counterpart in Cuyahoga County which has 200 homes and all of their homes have hood systems.

Mike Dutton from Middlefield Village Senior Center explained that they are looking to do some renovations to the senior center and community center. Mr. Dutton stated that they are asking for funding for seven new windows and a door. Mr. Dutton explained that two other doors have already been replaced.

Frank McBride, Mike Karlinski, and Skip Boehnlein from the Burton American Legion are asking for funding to bring the bathrooms and entryway up to ADA compliance. Mr. Karlinski explained that in addition to their pancake breakfasts they hold 30 opportunities throughout the year to raise funds of which a portion are used to award scholarships and this year presented six to college bound students. Mr. Karlinski stated that the number of attendees ranges from 25 to 400 guests, with pancakes being the biggest with an average of about 300 people a weekend. Mr. Karlinski noted that in looking back three or four years ago at a sewer assessment, they had been assessed for 3,000 flushes and asked how many were mature / senior citizens, disabled and what can we do to support them. Mr. Karlinski noted that the facility needs a lot of upgrading to help accommodate these guests and a lot of the guests that attend their events come from outside the county.

There was a brief discussion about the facility being available if needed for an emergency.

Karen DeCola, Director at the Pleasant Hill County Home is requesting to replace the kitchen floor and renovate and paint the back hallway from water damage. Ms. DeCola expressed gratitude for all the funds that have been given to upgrade the facility. Ms. DeCola explained that the lower level back hallway is a pass through between the two units. There was a brief discussion on whether the facility had been checked for mold. Ms. DeCola explained that what had been put in last was not the best choice and with the water damage it is all in need of being replaced. Ms. DeCola stated that the project would be to repair the walls, the floor and eliminate the safety and health concerns.

Thompson Township Trustees Frank Sirna and Erwin Leffel started by thanking the Board for all the help with the sewer project. Mr. Leffel stated that the township has a budget of less than 1 million for everything, including fire, and they run a very lean and tight budget, so \$25,000.00 that they are putting towards the sewer is a lot of money to them. Mr. Leffel explained that the Town Hall was built in 1867 and hasn't been used for twenty years because it has no heat, no bathrooms and has very limited use. Mr. Leffel explained that a committee was started and approached the trustees asking for help, which they helped with siding and painting on the exterior, repairs to the roof, along with the removal of trees. Mr. Leffel explained that a gentleman brought and donated water, pump, and a holding tank. Mr. Leffel stated that since the opportunity came about that CDBG funds could be available, the committee has grown to now over seventeen members and they would like to have bathrooms installed, purchase a

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furnace and have it installed, and put in an ADA ramp. Mr. Leffel noted that over thirty people have come forward to help volunteer to work on projects.

Program Administrator Joni Stusek explained that this year for the first time they are able to also request Neighborhood Revitalization funds for \$300,000.00 and those funds can be used for parking, total renovation of the community center, sidewalks and playground equipment. Ms. Stusek stated that it would be a two year grant period and everything else would have to be completed by 2016. There was discussion about the roof being slate and that the ridge is straight and it is in good shape. County Administrator David Lair inquired if there were any strings attached to which Ms. Stusek stated that the only 'strings' are that they require citizen participation and they are so excited about this project. Ms. Stusek stated that they have received some individual and corporate donations. Discussion took place regarding the development of a historical society as a way to capture the history of the area.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WORKSITE AGREEMENT – CATHOLIC CHARITIES CORPORATION – 2014 GEAUGA YOUTH LEAD EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Director Jessica Boalt, explained that they had been contacted by the local Catholic Charities branch to see if the department would be a worksite for the Youth Lead program, adding that the youths need a job coach to assist with task segmentation and social skills. Ms. Boalt stated that it not only is a work program but an education program. Ms. Boalt stated that the youths would be paired with the chore and home safety portion to help the seniors requests that fall outside of the chore and home safety program for things like yard work and gutters cleaned.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Worksite Agreement with Catholic Charities Corporation dba Catholic Charities Diocese of Cleveland for participation in the 2014 Geauga Youth Lead Employment and Training program for the period June 16, 2014 through August 1, 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>Aye</i>

OTHER

Ms. Boalt mentioned to the Board that she was working on expanding programs to focus on education, wellness and excursions to capture those residents who may have just turned sixty and are still working, adding that Mr. Claypool has offered how to teach technology classes.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – PUBLIC NOTICE – REVIEW AND REVISION TO THE LOCAL MITIGATION PLAN – GEAUGA COUNTY

Tara Vargovich, explained that the final review of the plan will take place on the 16th and they will then need to hold a public review plan and are asking to hold that on the 26th in the evening. Ms. Vargovich asked for permission to advertise for the public meeting. There was discussion about trying to get as much public outreach about the plan as possible and that copies will be available at the libraries. Ms. Vargovich noted that it will be posted in the newspaper to which Mr. Rear inquired if it could also be published in an additional paper, to give business to another paper in the County.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to grant permission to advertise to give public notice for the Review and Revision to the Local Mitigation Plan for Geauga County to be held Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Notice of this public meeting will be advertised on June 19, 2014 and on the county website.

<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>

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC OFFICIALS BOND - KAREN DECOLA

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve a Public Official's Bond Continuation Certificate for Karen DeCola, Geauga County Pleasant Hill Home Superintendent in the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

<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 – CONFIRMATION LETTER, APPOINTMENT OF ESCROW AGENT AND CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF ESCROW, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SETTLEMENT STATEMENT, AND WARRANTY DEED – PARCEL #10-700800 AND #10-709658

Mr. Lair noted that this is documentation to complete the transfer of property.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the confirmation letter to Lawyers Title that Item 6.4 Deed Restrictions will be handled outside of the closing.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve, execute and initial the Appointment of Escrow Agent and Conditions of Acceptance of Escrow with Lawyers Title Agency LLC.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Settlement Statement.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the Warranty Deed with the City of Chardon for Parcel #10-700800 and #10-709568.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending June 4, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of May, 2014, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

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MEETINGS

Fri., 6/13 NOACA Finance and Audit 8:30 a.m., Governance 9:30 a.m. and Executive 10:30 a.m.

Mon., 6/16 Family First Council, 2:00 p.m. at Mental Health

Tue., 6/17 Geauga Growth Partnership Annual meeting, 7:30 a.m. Fowlers Mill Golf Club

Tue., 6/17 The Commissioners will hold regular session and will include Public Hearing #2 at 10:30 a.m. for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation and Neighborhood Revitalization Application.

Tue., 6/17 Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center Public Hearing for the 2015 Tax Budget and meeting, 3:00 p.m. in Portage County

Mon., 6/23 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Tue., 6/24 Investment Advisory Board, 9:45 a.m. Commissioners Chambers

Tue., 6/24 The Commissioners' will hold regular session and will include a Public Hearing at 10:30 a.m. for the Geauga County 2015 Tax Budget.

Wed., 6/25 Perry Nuclear Power Plant Training Exercise, 9:00 a.m. at Quail Hollow

Thu., 6/26 The Commissioners' will hold regular session beginning at 6:30 p.m. and will include the Review of the Revisions to the Mitigation Plan for Geauga County.

Commissioners' Clerk Christine Blair inquired about scheduling the Post Audit meeting with the State Auditor and what day works better, to which it was determined that Tuesday June 24th was best.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:58 A.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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