

Commissioners' Journal
August 29, 2019

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Junior Fair Stage at the Great Geauga County Fair located at 14373 North Cheshire Street in Burton, 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, Timothy C. Lennon opened the meeting at 10:03 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent from this meeting.*

WELCOME – GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR

Commissioner Lennon welcomed everyone to the Great Geauga County Fair, introducing Dave Parker, President of the Agricultural Society, Fair Board. Mr. Parker on behalf of the Fair Board Directors thanked the Board for holding the meeting this morning and for the continued support of the Fair. Mr. Lennon acknowledged some of the Elected Officials in attendance, that included: Prosecutor Jim Flaiz, Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand with several of his deputies, Recorder Sharon Gingerich and her Chief Deputy Celesta Mullins, County Engineer Joe Cattell. State Representatives included Representative from the 76th District, Diane Grendell, Sean McCarthy, Assistant Director, Ohio Department of Veterans Services and Deputy Director of Children's Initiatives, Cathy Corbitt from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Ms. Grendell explained a Veterans Bill that she has introduced to protect and keep our Veterans' safe, and to ensure they aren't going hungry. Mr. McCarthy expressed that being in the Army was a great opportunity and try to make sure that Veterans are taken care of across the State. Ms. Corbitt expressed that Geauga has a fantastic fair, noting that her position is new, since April from Governor DeWine, expressing the need to educate children and adults about the gap on where our food comes from.

Representative from the Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber's office presented the Board with a letter of proclamation from their office and from Robert Sprague, Ohio Treasurer, for the 2019 Fair.

County Department Directors including Dog Warden Matt Granito, Interim Director Transit JoAnna Santilli and Director Water Resources Steven Ohuic.

DOG WARDEN – ACCEPT RESIGNATION – DANIELLE ALLISON – PART-TIME KENNEL ATTENDANT – ADVERTISE FOR TWO (2) PART-TIME KENNEL ATTENDANT (#1607-1)

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to accept the resignation of Danielle Allison, Part-time Kennel Attendant (#1607-1) to be effective Tuesday, August 20, 2019.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to grant permission to advertise for two (2) positions of Part-time Kennel Attendant (#1607-1). These positions will remain posted until filled.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**Position is actually named Part-time Shelter Attendant and was advertised correctly.*

Dog Warden, Matt Granito explained that over the last weekend they painted the dog shelter in Orange and Brown, as a Dog Pound for the Browns.

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DOG WARDEN – RESOLUTION HONORING TOTALLY DOGS 4-H CLUB

Dog Warden Matt Granito asked the members of the Totally Dogs 4-H Club to come up on stage. Commissioner Lennon explained that they support the Dog Shelter and the Sheriff K-9 units, along with the help of Recorder, Sharon Gingerich. Mr. Granito explained that the event was brought up 14 years ago and they have raised over \$50,000.00 to date and hope that they continue to support the shelter and the K-9 units. Mr. Granito asked the club to introduce themselves and what kind of dog of they have. Sheriff Hildenbrand thanked the club for all they do in raising money for the K-9 units.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #19-104 Honoring the Totally Dogs 4-H Club for their Continued Support and Dedication of the Geauga County Dog Shelter and Sheriff K-9 Units.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 19-104

Date: August 29, 2019

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE TOTALLY DOGS 4-H CLUB FOR THEIR CONTINUED
SUPPORT AND DEDICATION OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY DOG SHELTER AND
SHERIFF K-9 UNITS**

WHEREAS, the Totally Dogs 4-H Club in conjunction with Geauga County Recorder, Sharon C. Gingerich and Sarah LaTourette hosted the tenth annual “Tail Waggin’ Good Time” dinner and fundraiser; and

WHEREAS, the Totally Dogs 4-H Club raised over \$5,200.00 during their “Tail Waggin’ Good Time” event held June 7, 2019 at St. Helens Church in Newbury; \$1,000.00 was given to the Sheriff’s K-9 Units which uses the funds for training and medical expenses, and \$4,495.00 was given to the Dog Shelter which uses the funds to cover medical expenses of stray dogs; and

WHEREAS, over the last ten years of holding their “Tail Waggin’ Good Time” event, the Totally Dogs 4-H Club has raised over \$54,000.00 and contributed to the group Wags for Warriors, the Dog Shelter and the Sheriff K-9’s; and

WHEREAS, the Totally Dogs 4-H Club consists of Jacob Brown, Kayden Brown, Dana Chapin, Haley Cox, Alyssa Duncan, Julie Duncan, Audrey Kilmer, Elise Kilmer, Laney McBean, Adelaide Miniard, Caleb Pitsenbarger, Noah Pitsenbarger, Samuel Pitsenbarger, Julia Schwab, Katherine Smith, Kaitlyn Turpin, Alora Verch, Amber Zeiler, and Jacob Zeiler, and are under the direction of Advisors Dalene Becka and Sandy Cox; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and applaud the Totally Dogs 4-H Club for their continued hard work, support and dedication to all Geauga County dogs; and

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

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**TRANSIT – CLOSE CURRENT POSTING – BUDGET OFFICER (#2203) - ADVERTISE
BUDGET OFFICER II (#2204)**

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to close the current posting for the position of Budget Officer (#2203).

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

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Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to grant permission to advertise for the position of Budget Officer II (#2204). This position will remain posted until filled.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT EMERY ELECTRIC, INCORPORATED

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1, increasing the Contract with Emery Electric, Incorporated for electrical work needed on the Generators at the Burton Lakes and Hawkmoor Lift Stations in the amount of \$21,503.00 (original contract \$10,000.00/ 2 years).

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Executive Director Carmella Shale explained that Soil and Water Conservation District has been around for 75 years, originally started in 1944 as agricultural based, it has merged into all land protection, with land use, soil and storm water runoff. Ms. Shale expressed that they also do a lot of educational and teaching programs with kids and offer programs for adults. Ms. Shale stated that they also offer land reviews.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #19-103 Celebrating 75 Years of the Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 19-103
Date: August 29, 2019

*RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT*

WHEREAS, the United States Government first recognized soil erosion in 1929 and Congress enacted the Buchanan Amendment, in 1933 the Soil Erosion Service (SES) was established within the Department of Interior. After the catastrophic dust storm in May of 1934, named the Great Plains “Dust Bowl” it resulted in congressional action for soil and water conservation, that caused the SES to become the Soil Conservation Service within the USDA, under the enactment of 1935; and

WHEREAS, the 94th General Assembly passed the Ohio Soil Conservation District Enabling Act on May 16, 1941, this Act created committee and established procedures to form local Soil Conservation Districts for the protection and management of the State’s soil and water resources. The Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1944 and became the 29th district to be established in Ohio, covering both rural and urban conservation problems; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District is administered by a five member elected Board of Supervisors that make decisions, set policy regarding conservation and preserving the valuable natural resources within Geauga County; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District was the first in the State of Ohio to have the Geauga County Board of Commissioners in 1979, adopt the Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations to protect our water resources by ensuring proper storm water, erosion and sediment control are in place during construction project; and

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WHEREAS, the Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District continues today to provide technical assistance to residents, agencies, townships and county government on urban drainage issues, assisting with the regulation of local development ordinances and the administration of the six minimum control measures outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Storm Water Program; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District provides educational programming and workshops throughout the year, annually holds tree and fish sales, and offers plan reviews, aerial photographs, floodplain maps and general property site information; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners wishes to recognize, honor and celebrate the Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District on achieving seventy-five years; and

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

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING VERN HOLDER FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN HELPING SOLVE AND BRING CLOSURE TO GEAUGA'S CHILD

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand expressed that it was a good day to start the fair, but back in 1993 a tragic event happened and if it weren't for the help of some people from outside our agency, they would not have been able to solve this horrible case. Detective Seamen explained that in 2018 investigators with the help from the Prosecutor's office, they embarked on a new technique to solve this case, they were able to submit the DNA of Geauga's Child to online resources in an effort to identify the child and the circumstances around it's death. Detective Seamen stated that the initial results were a match to a 3rd or 4th cousin in Warren, Ohio and that DNA kit was submitted by a family member in Nebraska. We reached out to the family member in Nebraska and discovered his vast knowledge with genealogy and ancestry site and how the process works. This family member, Vern Holden was instrumental to the success of the investigation, with his knowledge and resources along with his work on the family tree that helped us in bringing the case to a resolution. Sheriff Hildenbrand presented a plaque to the Mr. Holden on behalf of the Sheriff Department but also the entire County of Geauga. Thank you so much for all you did to bring closure to a case that affected so many in this county. Prosecutor Jim Flaiz also recognized and thanked Mr. Holden for his unbelievable efforts. Sheriff Hildenbrand explained that the child was named Geauga's child when the residents of the county took ownership of him and to this day, he will remain in Thompson Township as Geauga's child.

Mr. Holden expressed that he was humbled, that it was the work of the Sheriff's department, and that Geauga County should be proud of the job they have done for the community and is happy to have been able to bring closure in this sad story. Mr. Holden recognized his wife, Lauren and his father in law, Dave Gilger, who is the first DNA match that really brought them all together to solve the case. Commissioner Dvorak presented a resolution to Mr. Holden from the Commissioners in appreciation of bringing closure on Geauga's child.

After posing for a few pictures, the Commissioners moved on the following motion:

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #19-106 Recognizing Vern Holden for his assistance in helping solve and bring closure to Geauga's Child.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: August 29, 2019
Resolution: 19-106

**RESOLUTION HONORING VERN HOLDEN FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN HELPING
SOLVE AND BRING CLOSURE TO GEAUGA'S CHILD**

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WHEREAS, on March 25, 1993 two newspaper delivery drivers discovered the body of a newborn laying in the middle of Sidley Road in Thompson, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Geauga County Sheriff Detectives worked hard to try and find out the identity of the infant and the parents that had left him in the cold. The community rallied together and held a funeral to lay this infant that had become known as Geauga's Child to rest; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last twenty-six years, the Detectives continued to work on solving the mystery surrounding Geauga's Child. A new investigative technique brought hope and together with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office and Parabon Industries they submitted the DNA of Geauga's Child to a Genealogy Site, those results returned a match to 3rd and 4th generation family members. Detectives continued and found the closest match to a family member lived in the Warren, Ohio area; and

WHEREAS, Detectives worked to find the close match, a family member living in Warren, Ohio. They quickly learned that the DNA had been submitted to the DNA site by Vern Holden, from Nebraska. Vern Holden has spent considerable time researching his ancestors over the years and has a family tree of approximately seven thousand family members. Upon learning of the investigation, he worked with the Detectives on the ancestry sites and was able to provide information that ultimately helped identify the parents of Geauga's Child and brought the case to prosecution; and

WHEREAS, Vern Holden's knowledge and assistance helped define Geauga's Child, helping bring closure to the many residents and Detectives that found this little boy that worked so hard to solve the mystery behind his death, who will forever be known as Geauga's Child; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Vern Holden for his assistance in helping solve and bring closure to the twenty-six year old mystery of Geauga's Child; and

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

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

*Mon., 9/2 **County Offices will be closed in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

Thu., 9/5 The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

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

Tue., 9/10 Planning Commission meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

Tue., 9/10 The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Wed., 9/11 Patriot Day – Remember September 11, 2001, and give appreciation to all Geauga County First Responders

Fri., 9/13 NOACA, Board of Directors, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Cleveland with the 2019 Annual Meeting at the Global Center for Health Innovation from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mon., 9/16 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. at Job and Family Services

Tue., 9/17 The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

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BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m.*

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Timothy C. Lennon

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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