

Commissioners' Journal
March 13, 2014

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 13, 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 10:02 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of March 11, 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>

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – LEASE - CHAGRIN FALLS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Director Jessica Boalt explained that the building itself is a little over 9,000 square feet, noting that 6,700 square feet is used about 75% of the time so all total 7,657 square feet is used by the senior center. Ms. Boalt stated that in 2013 the rent was \$2,000.00 a month / \$24,000.00 a year which works out to be \$3.13 a square foot and the 2014 rent proposed is the same amount adding that there is no additional cost for utilities. Ms. Boalt stated that the average daily census is 32 people, with a yearly census of 640 individuals, noting that about 5% of the participants are unregistered or out of county. Ms. Boalt explained that they use the building Monday through Friday from about 6:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the Lease with the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center for the period April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 in the amount of \$2,000.00 a month, for an amount not to exceed \$24,000.00.

<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>

DOG WARDEN – HIRE PATRICIA EVANS – PART-TIME SHELTER ATTENDANT (#1607)

County Administrator David Lair explained that this is to help maintain services and that the payroll is available in his budget to hire Ms. Evans as a part-time shelter attendant.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve hiring Patricia Evans to the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607) to be effective March 31, 2014 at a rate of \$10.17 per hour. After the successful completion of a 1,000 hour probationary period the rate will increase to \$10.70 per hour.

<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>

TRANSIT – ACCEPT RETIREMENT RESIGNATION – JOHN A. GERBER – PART-TIME DRIVER (#2210-1)

Mr. Lair explained that Mr. Gerber retired from a regular position before coming to be a driver for Transit and after being here for some time has decided to retire.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to accept the retirement resignation of John A. Gerber, Part-time Driver (#2210-1) to be effective February 26, 2014.

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Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Samide	Aye
	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – CUMMINS BRIDGEWAY, LLC

Director Doug Bowen explained that this service contract is one that will be used for the Generators at McFarland and two at Parkman for maintenance to ensure they are working properly.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve, execute and initial the service Contract Agreement with Cummins Bridgeway, LLC to perform planned maintenance for the generators located at the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Bainbridge Township, Parkman Pump Station and the Parkman Wastewater Treatment Plant in Parkman Township for the Year 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$6,938.22.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Samide	Aye
	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – ADVERTISE INTERNALLY – MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST (#2329)

Mr. Bowen explained that included in the union contract is a provision that if an employee working as a Maintenance Worker has ten years' experience in total and holds an operator's license then it would be posted to internally for a change in title for Maintenance Specialist and Mr. Farinacci meets those requirements.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to grant permission to advertise internally for the position of Maintenance Specialist (#2329) for a period of ten days in accordance with the union contract.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Samide	Aye
	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – ADVERTISE BIDS – THOMPSON SEWER PROJECT, CONTRACT B

Mr. Bowen explained that last week bids were received for the Thompson Sewer Project noting that 6 bids were received for the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Bowen stated that the estimate was for \$1.9 million, and the lowest bid will be for the alternative site and it was \$1.6 million and they hope that USDA will accept it. Mr. Bowen explained that no bids were received for the sewer line project and after speaking to them it was expressed there was concern over the boring cost and since they can only be within 10% of the estimate they didn't want to bid. Mr. Bowen allowed the \$300,000.00 between the lowest bid and the estimate on the plant that could be put towards the estimate for the sewer project bringing it to \$1.3 million and re-bid that portion to see if anyone will bid on the sewer line portion of the project.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to grant permission to advertise for bids for the Thompson Sewer Project, Contract B to be held Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this bid opening will be advertised on March 14, 2014, March 21, 2014 and on the county website.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Samide	Aye
	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING – DEPARTMENT ON AGING'S APPLICATION TO ODOT FOR FY2014 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION GRANT

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to waive the reading of the legal notice.

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Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Samide	Aye
	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

Mr. Spidalieri opened the Public Hearing at 10:10 a.m. Ms. Boalt explained that they had received notice from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has a 2014 specialized transportation program grant available for those who provide transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. The funding is from the Federal Transit administration and provides funding for equipment for these types of services, adding that this grant will provide 80% of the cost of the capital item with 20% being provided by local funding. Ms. Boalt explained that it was determined they could use another handicapped vehicle, explaining that they currently have a van that is top heavy and does not drive well during the winter months. Ms. Boalt explained that they would like to submit the application for an MVI, which is a low profile vehicle that looks like an SUV. Transportation Coordinator Joanna Brace presented a picture of what the vehicle will look like, and explained that the vehicle will can two small wheel chairs or one small wheel chair and three people on the third row bench seat. There was a brief discussion about this new vehicle being better on fuel mileage, easier to get into and out of places including parking lots and garages, along with making it more economical to use rather than taking the large van for one person. Ms. Boalt noted that if the ramp would ever stop working the low profile allows for the vehicle to be pulled up to a curb and still be able to have the passenger exit the vehicle. Being no further comments or questions the hearing was closed at 10:16 a.m.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPLICATION – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FY 2014 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) FY 2014 Ohio's Specialized Transportation Program Application.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Samide	Aye
	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) IMPLEMENT PRACTICES REGARDING THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT POLICY (RTIP) AND STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (SIB)

County Engineer Joe Cattell explained that this resolution is to address NOACA's desire to obtain two \$30 million dollar loans, two year successive for a total of \$60 million dollars to bring up infrastructure that is falling apart within the region with opposition to those funds being because they will never come to Geauga County as our ratings of pavement conditions will not meet the new rating conditions because our roads are kept in good condition. Mr. Cattell stated that NOACA will be taking loans that have to be paid back over ten years out of a pot of funding that would be available to Geauga County to keep our roads in the condition they are in. Mr. Cattell stated that in order for roads to get on the NOACA funding list they would be placed by the local government from the County but now NOACA would be generating the list of roads that would be done. Mr. Cattell stated that NOACA wants to obtain the funding for a list of roads that does not exist. Commissioner Samide stated that the last draft policy that had been received would only be for \$30 million and would only include projects that are currently on the TIP. Commissioner Rear stated that in simple terms NOACA wants to borrow funds that Geauga County would have an obligation to pay back and not receive benefit from, to which Mr. Cattell stated that Geauga is not obligated to pay back but those funds could go to Geauga projects for the future that would otherwise be used to cover the loan funds. Chief Deputy Engineer Michael Stone briefly explained the allocation process for the funding that had been used in the past for defined projects. Ms. Samide expressed that these are draft policies and read a section of the policy draft that they had received regarding the time of the payback of the SIB loan. Mr. Cattell added that in addition the projects will be chosen by pavement condition rating and nothing above 75% will be considered, so when that gets looked at you question how the projects will be placed on that list. It is much better to have your numbers higher so you're not waiting for the pavement to crumble before it gets repaired. Mr. Stone stated that the number is really 65%, and with the TIP financially constrained already, if people knock on the door and ask for funding for projects that they are not already planned that there is concern

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about the projects that will be brought up. Mr. Cattell added that in addition to the pavement condition ratings, it will also be based on traffic data, in which our traffic volumes are nowhere near what the city of Cleveland has and our conditions are better so Geauga will never see that funding. Mr. Stone explained that all the Engineers have their projects laid out, that in order to properly plan the projects have to be turned in about five years out. Local resident Walter "Skip" Claypool stated that during the policy meeting two things stood out to him which have been talked about, the rating and the loans for maintenance on the roads and the long term implications of that, to which he voiced concern about the resolution and the measurement of metrics missing. Mr. Stone stated that the resolution addresses a conversation held at a meeting with Mr. Lane regarding the SIB loans and the ratings system. Mr. Cattell stated that the metric measurements are eliminated when you let the local governments set the projects. Mr. Cattell stated that all the Engineers voiced the same concerns over what NOACA is drafting. Ms. Samide expressed again that the policy documents presented are all drafts and feels that they need to go with the Engineers and what the professionals are saying. There was brief discussion about the policy being presented to the Executive Committee and the Policy Committee and what the feeling might be on this resolution. Mr. Stone expressed that there is concern over letting NOACA decide what projects are to be completed and receive funding. Mr. Claypool expressed that he feels a different mood at NOACA and that it is steering towards Cuyahoga County to which Mr. Stone stated that he feels what is happening is due to a new administration that has different planning ideas than what was previously in place.

Mr. Spidalieri read the following resolution:

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: March 13, 2014

Resolution: #14-043

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners understands the importance of federal aid transportation funding to help fund the Highway and Transit departments for the County; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the controlling Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for federal aid funding available to Geauga County; and

WHEREAS, Geauga County is a member of NOACA and has representatives to help make regional transportation funding decisions within the framework of NOACA; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners has concerns regarding recent changes to NOACA committees and proposals before those committees; and

WHEREAS, NOACA has specifically proposed to borrow State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) funds to stimulate the quantity of local transportation-related projects within the NOACA region over the next two (2) years for the benefit of projects that are not currently on the NOACA TIP or Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that NOACA implement the following practices:

- A) NOACA should follow the intent of the existing Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP) until such time as a new policy is enacted.*
- B) NOACA should perform a study to review all NOACA funded projects within the last 7 years with regard to the project sponsor maintaining the federal aid investment originally expended on each project and utilize the results of this study as part of the new RTIP funding criteria.*
- C) NOACA should continue to emphasize the importance of system maintenance as an important component of our regional needs for transportation related projects.*

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- D) NOACA should consider SIB loans only on existing projects which have already completed the Project Planning Review process.
- E) NOACA should continue to focus on preparing studies as needed for transportation-related planning and should not be involved in creating specific projects from Pavement Condition Rating reports.
- F) NOACA should permit eligible political governments and agencies to initiate federal aid funding requests and not NOACA staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of Geauga County Board of Commissioners is shall hereafter transmit a certified copy of this resolution to NOACA.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute Resolution #14-043 Requesting the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to implement practices regarding the Regional Transportation Investment Policy (RTIP) and State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loans.

<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 IN OPPOSITION TO INCORPORATION OF NEOSCC ENDORSEMENT AND 'VIBRANT NEO 2040' OBJECTIVES INTO NOACA PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENTS

Ms. Samide expressed that NEOSCC is an organization that seems to be trying to put social ideas into policy and plans that we here in Geauga County and we don't want them to tell us what business should be here and how to operate. Ms. Samide asked NOACA to remove NEOSCC references from their policy plan and that they should not have any effect on funding for Geauga County. Mr. Claypool expressed that he feels this is insidious, that they have a plan, starting at the Federal level to change and transform the nature and fabric of this country, adding that the NEOSCC Board consists of unelected, unaccountable individuals that approved their own study. Mr. Claypool stated that NOACA has made a move to institutionalize NEOSCC into the fabric of NOACA decisions and Geauga County will not be able to stop what is coming unless we take a hardline stance to stop it. Mr. Claypool complimented whoever compiled the resolution and stated that it appears to cover the bases except that what will happen if they don't accept this. Ms. Samide stated that we should not be bound by any funding that takes any of those values. There was discussion about taking funding and the strings that would come along with it unless this is stricken from the policy and the need to make it clear that Geauga County does not want NEOSCC in the policy. Mr. Rear expressed that for now we have to voice our displeasure and if an additional resolution is needed we need to start with this first step.

Mr. Spidalieri read the following resolution:

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 14-044
Date: March 13, 2014

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE INCORPORATION OF NEOSCC ENDORSEMENT AND "VIBRANT NEO 2040" OBJECTIVES INTO NOACA PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Commissioners represent over 93,000 residents who have chosen to raise their families and operate businesses in a rural environment governed in a minimally-intrusive way by elected officials who believe in personal responsibility, economic freedom, fiscal prudence, proper maintenance of public assets including infrastructure, and preservation of our unique balance of farmlands, large-lot residential zoning, and centers of private sector entrepreneurial and industrial activity; and

WHEREAS, while the concept of governmental collaboration to achieve economies of scale can be beneficial in many cases to reduce costs, the regional revenue sharing advocated by the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) within the VIBRANT NEO 2040 plan would invariably promote the transfer of resources from those communities that have

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been prudent in their fiscal planning, handling of expenditures, and maintenance of existing infrastructure to those communities that have not consistently adhered to those principles; and

WHEREAS, NEOSCC through the VIBRANT NEO 2040 initiative promotes the limiting of new residential and commercial development to sites within “established communities”, as well as the incorporation of agricultural land preservation into long range planning, with a stated goal to re-focus development into “existing downtowns” while discouraging economic development and encouraging the prohibition of any future business or population growth in rural areas such as Geauga County, through prioritization of infrastructure investments through a process which would, along with other methodology, “evaluate the social equity impact” of those investments; and

WHEREAS, taken as a whole, the goals promoted by NEOSCC under its “Vibrant NEO 2040” planning document stand largely at odds with the principles of individual economic freedom and local government autonomy which have stood this nation in good stead over the two hundred and thirty eight years since our nation’s founding; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners does hereby take strong exception and voice its opposition to the statements made in a NOACA draft policy document which advocates as part of the agency’s broad strategy that NOACA’s priorities and projects be closely aligned to other federal, state, and regional initiatives, including Vibrant NEO 2040, and further requests that any NEOSCC reference be removed from NOACA policy documents.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute Resolution #14-044 in opposition to the Incorporation of NEOSCC endorsement and “Vibrant NEO 2040” objectives into NOACA planning policy documents.

<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 – DISCUSSION REGARDING FOWLERS MILL ROAD BRIDGE

Local resident Bob Voss came before the Board to express his concern over the replacement of the Fowlers Mill Road bridge. Mr. Voss stated that his grievance was over the Engineer’s Office seeking the Board approval that morning knowing that there was a Trustee’s meeting that same evening. Mr. Voss explained that as a property owner that is directly affected by the project that he was not given proper awareness and notification. Mr. Voss continued by stating that he opposed the revised plan, citing that the end result will be a wider bridge with a larger berm and no guardrail, adding that safety is a concern over the traffic along with his own safety while in his garden. Mr. Voss stated that he doesn’t understand why the Engineer’s office wants to change the entire makeup of the bridge, removing the guardrail and not replacing it. Mr. Voss expressed that he felt the Engineer’s Office did not follow the right system for notifying not only the property owners but also the Township Trustees. Mr. Cattell stated that he had spoken with Munson Township Trustee Andy Bushman about a year ago and that Mr. Bushman had also spoken with Mr. Voss and that he was aware of the upcoming project. Mr. Cattell and Mr. Voss continued to discuss the project, changes that were requested and made to the plans of the project with the exception of the removal of the guardrail. Mr. Cattell explained that he had spoken to the Trustees individually about the bridge being the responsibility of the County and that when the project is complete if the Township would like to re-install the guardrail that he would not remove it, noting that the guardrail would not be warranted to be placed. Mr. Cattell expressed that it had been expressed to him was that things had been resolved in regards to the bridge. Ms. Samide stated that the Fowlers Mill area is a sensitive area historically and having been a trustee while she understands the area, she also feels that Mr. Cattell is doing what is necessary. There was discussion about the initial resolution being approved by the Board and that there was not a Public Hearing held, but that the first resolution for convenience and necessary being required before they could move forward with the design and specifications process. Mr. Voss expressed that he just wanted to bring to the Board’s attention about something they approved without knowing that there were no guardrails intended in the design, the input from the property owners has not yet been fully received, and that he was unaware that

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the Board was going to approve them going to bid for the project. Mr. Voss asked Mr. Cattell to replace the bridge with something that looks much like what is there today, without a larger expanded bridge, and with the guardrail left in place. Mr. Cattell expressed that while most people can't see what the project will look like when it's complete, as an Engineer he can see that end result looking at a flat piece of paper and he understands fears and apprehensions but hopes that in the end you will feel differently. Mr. Voss asked for a town hall meeting where residents can voice their opinions and concerns. Mr. Rear stated that the Commissioners rely on the professional opinion of the Engineer on what is required for a bridge but also understand the residents' concerns, adding that maybe after the project is complete that the issue of the guardrail be revisited. There was discussion about moving forward with the project and a meeting being held by the Munson Township Trustees where the Board can attend to gather information but that they cannot have discussion or sit together. It was noted that the meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. in Munson.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the compensation of public employees.

<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>

It was noted that Mr. Lair, Heidi Delaney and Colleen Lockhart would be joining them in Executive Session. The Board returned from Executive Session at 12:18 p.m. and as a result, no action was taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 5, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Thu., 3/13 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, Board of Directors meeting, 1:30 p.m. in Warren

Fri., 3/14 NOACA Executive Committee and Policy Meetings, Cleveland

Mon., 3/17 Family First Council, 2:00 p.m. at Job and Family Services

Tue., 3/18 Investment Advisory Committee meeting, 9:45 a.m. Chambers

Tue., 3/18 The Commissioners will hold regular session

Mon., 3/24 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Tue., 3/25 The Commissioners will hold regular session

Thu., 3/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER
SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:18 P.M.***

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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