

Commissioners' Journal
March 27, 2014

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.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 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 for Pete Mansfield, and Jim Ronyak, who had passed away this week. County Administrator David Lair added Bill Skomrock Sr. who had passed away about a week and a half prior. All three were Geauga residents who were involved in many organizations.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of March 18, 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>

COUNTY TREASURER AND COUNTY AUDITOR – MONTHLY STATEMENT COUNTY FINANCES – JANUARY 2014

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Treasurer for the month of January, 2014 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Auditor for the month of January, 2014 pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

<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' Clerk Christine Blair explained that the items for the Department on Aging and the County Engineer's office were requests based on a memo that had been sent out regarding the close out of projects. Ms. Blair noted that this was something she has done every year as a way to clear up the project drawer as a way to make room for the incoming projects that will be handled this year. Deputy Engineer Nick Gorris added that all the projects had been completed and that the bonds could be released.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – RELEASE BID/PERFORMANCE BOND – UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS, GEAUGA MEDICAL CENTER – SENIOR ASSESSMENTS

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve releasing the Bid/Performance Bond for University Hospitals, Geauga Medical Center for Senior Assessments for Geauga County residents Age 60 and over as all specifications have been met.

<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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COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RELEASE BID / PERFORMANCE BONDS

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Cleveland Barricading Systems, Incorporated for the Upgrade Roadway Signage along various sections of County and Township Roads, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Cleveland Freightliner for the Two Current Model Single Axle Diesel Trucks and Chasis, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Improvement of Ravenwood Drive (CH 604) and Merritt Road (CH 605) in Claridon and Munson Townships, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Improvement of Leggett Road (CH 33, Sections A & B) in Montville Township, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Improvement of Clay Street (CH 37, Sections E & F) in Huntsburg and Montville Townships, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for C.I.R., Incorporated for the Reconstruction of Heath Road Bridges (Structure #105-3.15 and #105-3.42) in Chester and Munson Townships, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Aero-Mark, Incorporated for the Improvement of Various County Roads by applying Pavement Markings, Year 2013, as all specifications have been met.

<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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Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for C.I.R., Incorporated for the Replacement of the Auburn Road Bridge (Structure #4-3.01) in Auburn Township, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Easton Leasing, Incorporated for the Replacement of the Music Street Bridge (Structure #146-3.17) in Russell Township, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for C.I.R., Incorporated for the Reconstruction of the Bundysburg Road Bridge (Structure #311-6.60) in Huntsburg Township as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Lake Erie Construction Company for the Installation and /or Replacement of Guardrail along various County and Township Roads, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Kokosing Construction Company for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH 4, Sections Q & R) in Chardon Township, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid/Performance Bond for Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Improvement of Messenger Road (CH 31, Sections B & C) in Auburn Township, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for C.I.R., Incorporated for the Rehabilitation of the Newcomb Road Bridge and Reconstruction of Newcomb Road, Section E in Middlefield Township, as all specifications have been met.

<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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Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Kokosing Construction Company for the Improvement of Bass Lake Road (CH 23, Sections D & E) in Newbury and Munson Townships, as all specifications have been met.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Kokosing Construction Company for the Improvement of Woodin Road (CH 25) in Chardon and Hambden Townships, as all specifications have been met.

<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 – HIRE DEBORAH ASHBURN – ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY (#1305)

Mr. Lair explained that Ms. Ashburn has been working as a temporary employee for almost six months and is asking the Board to bring her on at the rate of pay which normally goes into effect at the end of the probationary period. The Board all noted that Ms. Ashburn had done an excellent job and while she will still have to go through the probationary period, the following motion was read.

Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve hiring Deborah Ashburn to the position of Administrative Secretary (#1305) to be effective March 30, 2014 at a rate of \$12.16 per hour with a 180 day probationary period.

<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>

RICHARDS MAPLE PRODUCTS – MAPLE SYRUP

Representative David Rennie of Richards Maple Products located in Chardon gave a short presentation on the company, noting that it had gotten started in 1910 with a sugarhouse on Robinson Road by making maple candy. Mr. Rennie explained that the candy was made in 2 pound blocks noting that back then white sugar was not around so they would break off a piece of the block and use it as a sweetener and baking, and the syrup would separate and also be used. Mr. Rennie stated that in 1933 they traveled to Chicago to the World's Fair and sold maple candy and began selling syrup to the Quaker Oats company. In 1936 they sold maple candy out of a store front at the Cleveland Exposition. In 1938 the storefront was built on Water Street as a pancake house and then as a wholesale/retail store outlet as it stands today.

Mr. Rennie stated that he married into the family and been working in the business since 1974, but that his wife had taken over the business in the 1990's and currently is working with his niece with hopes that she will take over the business. Mr. Rennie talked about the cost of maple syrup being driven by the cost of equipment and that in part a lot of farms have quit producing. Mr. Rennie briefly discussed the difference in equipment from many years ago versus the equipment today and that they can produce more today with technology improvements than what was used in the past, noting that a small home unit that came with everything you needed sold for \$600.00 in 1974 with what you needed, versus \$5,700.00 today, and that you would need to purchase additional items. Mr. Rennie stated that in the past they would purchase hundreds of gallons of syrup and store it in tanks but today they are lucky to fill one tank, so they purchase the syrup as needed throughout the year. Mr. Rennie stated that every year is different, last year's sap run lasted almost eight weeks, this year has started off slow and not with a top grade of syrup.

Mr. Rennie spoke about how the sap is extracted from the trees and the grades of syrup that are produced based on the weather conditions and the length of time the sap runs. The grades of syrup has changed from being graded as Fancy 1 and Fancy 2, to Grade A Light, Medium and

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Dark to what is being graded as Grade A Golden with delicate taste, Medium Amber with a rich taste and Dark / Robust with a strong taste, which is considered a Grade B syrup and used mainly in cooking. Mr. Rennie talked about Canada producing 75% and the United States producing 25%.

Mr. Rennie talked about research and studies being done on what is in syrup and the nutritional values and that it has more calcium than milk, which is something to be said since Grandpa Richards lived to be 92, and Mr. and Mrs. Richards are in their 90's and Paul Richards is still around.

Mr. Rennie was asked if there was a difference in taste here in Ohio, compared to syrup produced in Vermont, to which he stated that he hoped no, and that Ohio's was better. A resident who lives on Robinson Road asked where the sugar bush was located at the park, to which Mr. Rennie stated that he didn't know exactly where, but that it was located near the farmhouse. Commissioner Rear inquired about the sap and if people were just collecting and selling the sap to which Mr. Rennie replied that there was some producers who did that. There was additional discussion about if Amish farms had different regulations on equipment for syrup as they do with cheese, to which Mr. Rennie explained that all equipment needed to be upgraded, and that the industry has had strict standards put into place and that those fall under the Department of Agriculture. The price of syrup is set and controlled by Canada when they started flooding the industry with a cheaper syrup. Mr. Rennie explained that you don't like to see that, but local prices will probably remain high based on demand. That is mostly in part to the equipment and seasonal production of sap, which needs to be processed fairly quickly unless it can be refrigerated, otherwise it spoils. The type of fuel used for production was also a factor in the price, to which Mr. Rennie noted that the time spent in the woods to gather wood for fuel was usually not factored into the cost. Mr. Rennie passed around samples of maple candy.

PORTAGE GEAUGA JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

The Board had a brief discussion and agreed to hold a joint board meeting in Geauga on April 15th at 2:00 p.m.

OTHER - DISCUSSION

There was a discussion held in regards to a question raised by an audience member about NEOSCC "Vibrant NEO 2040" and NOACA. This discussion included concern over whether NEOSCC would be being removed from the NOACA policy, why Geauga County is a member of NOACA, and whether a presentation could be made at NOACA by Mr. Spidalieri's alternate Walter "Skip" Claypool. It was noted that Geauga County belongs to NOACA as it is a requirement for a county to belong to an MPO in order to receive funding for improvements to roads and bridges. At a previous meeting it was discussed that Mr. Claypool wanted to give a presentation and that he had sent a power point to Mr. Spidalieri whom noted that it needed to be trimmed down in length. Mr. Claypool had been directed to contact Ms. Galucci at NOACA to be placed on the agenda. The discussion was then directed to a response from a question regarding Section 8 Housing after an audience member stated that in the papers the previous week that applications were being accepted. It was noted that the Commissioners have no involvement in the Section 8 program and that they would need to contact the Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority for further information.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 4/1 The Commissioners will hold regular session

Tue., 4/1 Job and Family Services kickoff reception for Child Abuse Prevention Month, 11:30 a.m.

Wed., 4/2 NEO Consortium COG meeting, 1:30 p.m. Building #8

Tue., 4/8 The Commissioners will hold regular session with a presentation by Geauga County Tourism

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Tue., 4/8 Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

Wed., 4/9 Geauga County Township Association Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Russell Township Fire-Rescue Center

Thu., 4/10 The Commissioners' will hold regular session

Fri., 4/11 NOACA Board of Directors, 10:00 a.m. Cleveland

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:11 P.M.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Mary E. Samide

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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