

Commissioners' Journal
January 7, 2014

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 7, 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, Mary E. Samide 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 Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of December 31, 2013.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EMCUMBRANCES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the encumbrances to be considered by the Board of Commissioners at their first meeting in January 2014 to be effective January 1, 2014.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CASH ADVANCE #1 – PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION FUND

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve Cash Advance #1 to the Presentence Investigation Fund (2082) in the amount of \$2,500 to be repaid to the General Fund when the 2014 Presentence Investigation State Grant Funds are received, or by December 31, 2014.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including an appropriation transfer from the Contingency account to put appropriations in lace for the 2014 FLIP program budget; a cash transfer out of the General Fund for a payroll advance for Pre-Sentence Investigation Reporting Fund in the amount of \$2,500; contracts, blanket purchase orders and travel requests for various departments for the new year.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #14-001 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 7, 2014.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE FINANCIALS FOR THE YEAR 2014 IF SESSION IS CANCELLED OR A LACK OF QUORUM

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to authorize the County Administrator to execute, in the case of a lack of quorum of Commissioners and /or if session is cancelled on a regular financial day, the required approvals for county financials on behalf of the Board during the Year 2014, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT BLAKE A. REAR – OHIO PUBLIC WORKS
COMMISSION DISTRICT 7 COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Rear to appoint Blake A. Rear (David Lair as alternate) as Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) District 7 County Representative to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Tracy Jemison, ending July 20, 2015.

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

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER – MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BLUE
TECHNOLOGIES – COPY MACHINE

Archives and Records Center Director Linda Burhenne explained that the first action was to approve a maintenance agreement for the center's copier, and the second action was to approve a maintenance agreement on the center's microfilm reader/printer.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute a Maintenance Contract Agreement with Blue Technologies, Incorporated for the Record Center's copy machine for a one year period at a cost of \$.0099 per copy.

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

ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER – MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT –
ALLIED INFOTECH – MICROFILM READER/PRINTER

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute a Maintenance Contract Agreement with Allied Infotech for the Record Center's microfilm reader/printer for a one year period in the amount of \$895.00.

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

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – RESCIND HIRING OF BRIAN G. CORMACK –
TEMPORARY FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE WORKER #1904

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to rescind the motion from December 17, 2013 that read: approve hiring Brian G. Cormack for the position of Temporary Full-Time Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective January 6, 2014, at a rate of \$12.91 per hour. He has declined the job offer.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - AGREEMENT – CHARDON TOMORROW – USE OF
PARKING LOTS AND COURTHOUSE LAWN FOR WINTERFEST EVENT

Commissioner Blake Rear questioned the possibility of the Winterfest event including the riding of snowmobiles around the courthouse, and questioned liabilities in case of property damage regarding this and other events occurring on county property. Commissioner Spidalieri added that sometimes you don't see the damage that was done until later. Commissioner Rear said that he wanted to make a comment about the county's cooperation on this agreement, that while the Chardon Tomorrow group is not connected directly to the city of Chardon, this is an example of the county providing something of benefit for them we aren't required to provide, but it is done in the spirit of working together. Commissioner Spidalieri said he shared that sentiment. Commissioner Samide reviewed the certificate of insurance provided to the county by the Chardon Tomorrow group, listing the coverages provided, and noting that the commissioners

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were listed as an additional insured. It was briefly discussed why the county requires insurance certificates, as the county through its CORSA coverage is heavily insured and thus represents an entity with "deep pockets", so there is a requirement that anyone utilizing county property be well insured as the first source of any claim arising from an activity on county property.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute an Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Chardon Tomorrow to allow Chardon Tomorrow to use the county parking lots located at 100 Short Court Street, 208 East Park Street and the lawn surrounding the Courthouse in Chardon for the purpose of parking cars, holding dog sled demonstrations, conducting the "Fire and Ice" event, offering snowmobile rides and holding a snowmen contest during the Winterfest event on Friday, January 17, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 18, 2014 from 8 a.m. through 2 p.m.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – HONORING CASEY O'DONNELL – ACHIEVING RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #14-002 Honoring Casey O'Donnell on achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – HONORING NICK MATARAZA – ACHIEVING RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #14-003 Honoring Nick Mataraza on achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CANCEL SESSION – JANUARY 21, 2014

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to cancel session for Tuesday, January 21, 2014 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE –NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board discussed the current NOACA Board arrangement, and County Administrator David Lair explained that under the NOACA Article IV, Section 4.2(b) of the NOACA Code of Regulations, each of the three Geauga County Commissioners is assigned a place under subparagraphs (i), (ii), and (iii). Representation is assigned to each county based on population, and Mr. Lair noted that Geauga is slightly better represented on a per capita basis than the next smallest NOACA member county, which is Medina, having a population of about 172,000 and only four members on the board, versus Geauga, with under 94,000 residents and three members on the Board, which numbers 44 members overall. The main issue of contention is that Geauga County is the only county which does not currently have a NOACA Board member position occupied by its County Engineer. Commissioner Samide noted that in the case of Medina, its Engineer is on the Board, as is a representative from its largest city, one from a township, and one seat held by one of their three Commissioners making up the balance of its four Directors. Mr. Lair noted that two options for addressing this issue had been requested to be brought

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before the Board for consideration, one from Commissioner Spidalieri and one from Commissioner Rear.

Local resident Skip Claypool stated that he thought it unfair that our County Engineer is not on the Board, adding that he can understand the representation, but we are only 3 people out of 44 board members in total, and that the bylaws should be amended to always include each county engineer, as functionally, they are bringing back the money to each county in the form of road projects. Commissioner Samide noted that NOACA has changed their schedule for the full Board of Directors meetings from monthly meetings to only 4 per year, one this Friday, one April, one in July, and one in October. She added that they have a planning committee where the money is decided, and this is where our engineer should definitely be, as that is a very powerful board. She continued that it is important that all of our people are involved, and the matrix form of management allows for the committees to meet and any decision that changes the composition of representation goes to the board of directors, and then to each of the five counties to ratify.

In response to a comment from Mr. Claypool stating that we cannot be timid in pursuing our interests at NOACA, Ms. Samide responded that over the last ten years we have attained over 40 million dollars in project funding, and what is most important is to have an Engineer on the TAC policy committee. Commissioner Spidalieri commented that not having County Engineer Joe Cattell seated as a Director cripples his ability to secure support for his projects. Commissioner Rear commented that everyone was in agreement, even back to when he was still seated in the audience that the engineer needs to be on there, and his alternate should be a deputy engineer. Mr. Rear continued by saying the dilemma is that we need to put 4 elected officials into 3 positions, or 3 into the two remaining spots if one is permanently assigned to the Engineer, and the issue is how we can do that equitably and fairly. At the end of the day, someone is out and he would like to see a system where personalities are not taken into account, but it is viewed as a position, as persons are subject to change. He concluded by saying we should develop terms or spots and they are rotated. If we agree that the engineer's spot is fixed, we are left with two spots and three people.

Mr. Lair explained how the positions were fixed by term start date. Commissioner Samide, who is filling out the remainder of Commissioner Young's term is in a term that is normally elected in the same year as the Governor, with that term beginning on January 1st. Commissioner Rear is serving in the term formerly held by Commissioner Jemison, this term being elected in the same year as the President, and beginning January 2nd. Commissioner Spidalieri's term is also elected in the same year as the President, and begins January 3rd. Therefore, to designate who serves on the NOACA Board and who serves as an alternate, positions can be identified by term start dates, January 1st, January 2nd, and January 3rd. Mr. Lair went on to briefly describe the two alternatives that have been suggested for amending the current 3-commissioner NOACA Board representation for Geauga County. Commissioner Spidalieri has recommended that he and Commissioner Rear be appointed to the Board, and continue to be able to designate their own Board alternates. Commissioner Rear has recommended a system of rotation so that the commissioner not having a seat serve as the alternate for the other two for a one year term, with this role of alternate rotating so that in year two the commissioner serving as an alternate in year one comes back on the Board, with one of the commissioners having a seat on the Board in year one now serving as alternate; in year three, the commissioner who had a seat on the Board in the two previous years now takes a turn as alternate. Thus, in each three year cycle, each of the commissioners serves two years on the Board and one year as alternate.

Commissioner Spidalieri said he is in an uncomfortable position, but unless the Lord takes him, he is here for the next three years, whereas the others two commissioners are up for election later this year. He explained that he is not comfortable with the third commissioner being the alternate, as he believes he was elected because of certain principles and he should be able to choose who can serve in his position. He continued by stating that Skip Claypool has been his alternate, and they meet for several hours prior to each meeting, with Skip updating him. He said that Skip spends an enormous amount of time on research and can focus 100% of his time on these issues and Commissioner Spidalieri knows his view of things will be represented by Mr. Claypool according to what he wants to see. He doesn't feel he would have that same effect if another commissioner served as his alternate, and it would be a huge responsibility for that commissioner to be accountable to him when they should be accountable. Mr. Spidalieri stated that last year he had made an attempt to reallocate resources at a NOACA meeting, and didn't

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get a second from the others present from Geauga County; therefore, he would like to keep the choice of alternate, along with having Mr. Rear on to gain some experience.

Commissioner Rear said he was trying to come up with a way that rotated the responsibility in a fair manner. The goal in his mind was to have five people closely involved with the NOACA process, namely, the Engineer, his deputy as his alternate, and the three commissioners, two on the Board and the third commissioner as a shared alternate. Commissioner Rear continued by saying with all due respect to Mr. Spidalieri's position, he has a problem with a duly elected commissioner sitting on the sideline and a non-elected, non-employee sitting on the Board when acting as a designated alternate, adding that he can understand that they may not have the same point of view. Mr. Rear continued by saying that the other thing that has been thrown in is there is there are only 4 Board meetings this year, not 12, and barring a physical problem, a Board member should know when the meetings are coming up and should clear their calendar to be at the meeting, and that in his case, he can't imagine not being there, other than for a major health issue, concluding that the need for an alternate is reduced with only 4 meetings per year.

Commissioner Spidalieri replied that this was a discussion that he had with Mr. Claypool regarding being bombarded with subcommittee assignments; he would like to attend all four Board meetings, but some of the committees that Board members have assignments on should have somebody 100% focused on those committees, especially with the reduction of Board meeting frequency from 12 to 4 per year.

Commissioner Samide stated that for the last 10 years she has attended every meeting, garnering 40 million dollars in road project funding for Geauga County, and it is important for elected officials to be there. She said that Skip has been there as alternate, and has done his job. She continued that as for this year, the agenda has been set, and the problem she has is, if the intent in the alternatives being considered today is to remove her from the Board and make her an alternate this year, she has already been slated to be NOACA President for 2014. She continued that the problem is that the change could only be made by April at the earliest and very likely not before October, according to NOACA rules governing the consideration of a change in a county's board membership rules. She added that experience does matter, and whether she wins again as County Commissioner is immaterial, as each year stands on its own. She said that the SAFETLU money to fund road repair and improvement has been drained away and we have gotten less money each year. She concluded that she would support the rolling proposal made by Commissioner Rear, but would like to be on this year and off next year. Commissioner Rear said that he sees the dilemma that we need to come up with a do-able alternative, or we "come up to the past?" Commissioner Samide stated that in the meantime, each Commissioner would still have their alternate, and she will as NOACA President put Engineer Cattell in the policy and TAC committee, because that is where the power is. She stated agreement with Commissioner Spidalieri that it takes time, and you need to have a process to ensure that the money is properly accounted for. She added that in the last ten years, she has worked with the Engineer's office to make sure that the money is there for us, more than our share, in the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). Commissioner Rear stated that if we go back to where we were, Joe sits on the sidelines, and asked how it is set up with subcommittee appointments, asking can you appoint someone? Commissioner Samide responded that if she is taken out of the rotation by being made an alternate and giving up her post as President, that position now goes to the Lorain County representative as being next in line, and they will make those decisions.

Commissioner Rear stated that, the issue is that sometimes you have to "rip off the band-aid", to get where you want to go, and somebody is going to be unhappy, adding that he understands and has empathy for Commissioner Samide, and understands Commissioner Spidalieri's viewpoint, but in the short period of time he has served as commissioner, he is frustrated with the amount of time it takes to get things done. As some point we have to get the car started. He said that if what Commissioner Samide says is true, and by the time a change goes through and is ratified by the other NOACA counties, the year could be largely over, but then this process is in place and doesn't have to be gone through again this fall. Mr. Rear stated that he felt that the time is now to make a change at this level and submit an amendment to the parent group, and then we are on NOACA's timetable. Even under the old 12-meeting schedule this could have been done more quickly. At some time, someone is going to be unhappy, but at some point you have to start. In response to Mr. Claypool's question as to whether the position of NOACA President is the position itself or a person, it was confirmed that deciding factor was the relative position on the Executive Committee, so if the person in the rotation holding a position slated next to be President wasn't there, it would go to the next county.

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Commissioner Spidalieri stated that it wasn't true that he hadn't been at NOACA, and related how he had asked the NOACA Board at a meeting he attended to consider reprioritizing bike trail funds and hold off on spending bike trail monies to see if those funds could be used for other purposes that might fit the rules. At that meeting, Commissioner Spidalieri understood that Engineer Cattell was acting as an alternate so he needed to remain neutral. He therefore looked to Commissioner Samide to at least provide a second to his motion so it could be further discussed; it was a difficult day for him because he was trying to look out for his county by having his ideas considered. He continued, stating that four or five months later, there appeared to be a wave of different support from others on the board. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he prides himself on being consistent, and he looks at that day at NOACA as a "bells and whistles day" in that he wasn't able to get a motion in support to at least put his ideas on the table.

Commissioner Samide responded that any project going through this process can only be sponsored by a County Engineer or a City, adding that the Chardon bike trail project has gone through three years of TIP evaluation and been unanimously voted on. She added that she does not like what is going on with the RID, and one could argue that the commissioner's actions to turn down the bike trail easement should be a lever against the RID. As of now, she is standing with her fellow commissioners because of the RID. In response to comments from audience members Mr. Claypool and Mr. Jones, Commissioner Samide reiterated that in terms of her current stand regarding the Chardon bike trail, because of the City of Chardon's actions regarding the RID, she will stand with her fellow commissioners.

Mr. Spidalieri stated that he felt it was inconsistent for Commissioner Samide to initially be supportive of the Chardon bike path project and now be in opposition to it. He said he had no bones to pick with Chardon then, nor now, but they have put us in a bad position, so we now have to look for other ways to make up for a loss. Commissioner Spidalieri added that we need to get our priorities straight; when our roads are 100%, there is no problem with looking at other projects, but we have constant need for repairs to our roads, and referred to the damage being done to area roads today with sub-zero temperatures. Commissioner Samide responded that the money that goes for any bike trails cannot be used for any other projects. Mr. Claypool interjected that alternative transportation includes horse buggies, and MAP regulations state that it can be used for both on-road and off-road improvements which mean you could have improved roads for buggies.

Mr. Rear stated that it is very clear that the bike path issue is very contentious, but the point of what we are discussing is how we are going to staff the NOACA Board; when we look at any proposal, everyone wants to compromise as long as they get their own way, that's not how it works, we should be setting aside our own agendas to get the guy who should be on the Board, the County Engineer, sitting on the board. Mr. Spidalieri said that he understanding is that Engineer Cattell needs to be on the Executive Committee to be most effective, however it was expressed in response by Ms. Samide that no matter what the commissioners do, the implementation of that change is going to be delayed until NOACA has completed its process. Commissioner Spidalieri questioned why this (effort to get a Director position assigned to the County Engineer) wasn't pushed by Commissioner Samide. She responded that prior commissioners didn't want to give up their seats. Mr. Rear added that he feels that it wasn't tackled before because the process is painful, and said that whatever the board decided on, he would prefer a date certain as to when it would take effect. Ms. Samide responded that if the goal is to make this happen, we can make it happen by adopting Commissioner Rear's option, and make it effective to begin in 2015.

In response to a question from Commissioner Spidalieri to Skip Claypool as to whether this process could be accelerated, Mr. Claypool replied that he thought that was do-able, and he doesn't see the NOACA Board objecting to this, as it really doesn't affect anyone else, so it is not their concern. Commissioner Spidalieri reiterated that he felt it was important for a commissioner to be able to select their own alternate; Mr. Rear stated that he wanted as alternate someone trusted by and answerable to the public for their actions. Following clarification of how the rotation of positions would operate this year and in years to come, the action was called for a vote:

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the following amendments to Article IV, Section 4.2(b) of the NOACA Code of Regulations, as follows:

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Change from: (i) County Commissioner
(ii) County Commissioner
(iii) County Commissioner

Change to: (iii) County Engineer

Geauga County Commissioners to be assigned to NOACA Board of Director positions under (i), (ii), and (ALT) of the above section as follows:

2014: positions (i) and (ii) to be occupied by terms beginning 1-2 and 1-3, ALT to be occupied by term beginning 1-1

2015: positions (i) and (ii) to be occupied by terms beginning 1-1 and 1-2, ALT to be occupied by term beginning 1-3

2016: position (i) and (ii) to be occupied by terms beginning 1-1 and 1-3, ALT to be occupied by term beginning 1-2

For years following 2016, repeat three-year cycle as represented above for years 2014-2016.

In the event that neither of the two commissioners assigned to Board of Director positions for a given year are available to attend, the alternate of the County Engineer shall serve as the secondary alternate for the Commissioners, if available, with other qualified individuals being assigned to attend individual meetings as temporary alternates as necessary.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Rear	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Samide	No

Commissioner Samide explained that she wanted Engineer Cattell to have a seat on the Board, but because this action would result in her being in her role as NOACA President for a good part of the year and then be removed when this action was ratified, she was voting no.

OTHER –CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY-REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT OF CLEAN OHIO GRANT APPLICATION

Garrett Ormiston from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History addressed the Commissioners as a follow-up to a recent meeting in which he had asked for Commissioners' endorsement by resolution of the Museum's application for Clean Ohio grant funding for the acquisition of land and conservation easements on approximately 78 acres in Munson Township. In response to a request from the commissioners at the previous meeting, Mr. Ormiston presented estimates from the Geauga County Auditor's office of reduced property tax revenue should the museum acquire properties being considered for inclusion in the Kelliker Fen Protection Project in Munson Township, and thus be made tax exempt. Present for this discussion were County Auditor Frank Gliha, and present along with Mr. Ormiston was Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Koelliker, owners of some of the parcels sought by the Museum for this project.

Auditor Gliha stated that he estimated the tax loss to various county agencies if the entire 78 acres sought by the museum became exempt from property tax would be about \$1,250 per year, which he characterized as a "pinprick", compared to the potential loss in revenue that will be experienced upon implementation of the planned Chardon Residential Incentive Districts.

Commissioner Rear apologized to Mr. Ormiston and the Koellikers for having to listen to the county's tale of woe, but the Board is reacting to the growing amount of tax exempt property in the county.

Mr. Ormiston said that this is a very high quality property and to protect the fen it has to be protected through active management. He said this is a unique opportunity to own and protect the wetland as a whole. Mr. Rear then questioned that if this unique property is protected, then what happens in terms of others being able to enjoy it? Mr. Koelliker replied that people who live nearby on Raintree have seen it, but you need the assistance of a botanist to know where to step in order to not damage anything. He related how there are insects there that are found nowhere else in this country, and there is alkaline gravel, with numerous artesian springs flowing down to the river. Commissioner Spidalieri responded to Mr. Koelliker that he thinks that preserving this area is great, but as a private citizen he could choose to protect this property or donate on his own. In response, Mr. Koelliker replied that even though he was a retired doctor, he and his wife, after having sent seven children to college, live solely on Social Security, and he would like to be able to receive some money from the Museum in this process that would allow for terminal illnesses and terminal living. Commissioner Spidalieri, in receiving confirmation from Mr. Koelliker that this property was free and clear suggested that they could receive funding from a reverse mortgage that would provide needed resources, and added that he felt this action should not be carried out on the taxpayers' backs. In response to a statement

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from Auditor Gliha that the county was not being asked for money in this case, Commissioner Spidalieri responded that the funding that the Museum was seeking was a Clean Ohio grant to pay for purchasing rights to this area, and the Clean Ohio funding is taxpayer money.

Commissioner Rear stated his understanding that you can't just open up the gates to allow public access to this area; that would be counterproductive, but could there be provisions made that people interested in conservation be able to walk in designated areas? Mr. Ormiston responded that this would be an asset that the community could enjoy, but the lay of the land wouldn't be conducive to trails. He suggested that they could set up and advertise field trips sponsored through the museum, at least one or two times per year; also controlled hunts to manage deer population will allow access to hunters permitted to harvest deer on these properties. At this point, Commissioner Rear stated that he was not in favor of approving the whole 78 acres envisioned in this project, as much of the planned area was out of the primary location of the rare fen habitat.

Commissioner Spidalieri displayed a listing of tax-exempt properties already owned by the Natural History Museum in Geauga County, totaling between 250 and 300 acres. He questioned where this process ends, as fewer and fewer landowners who still pay taxes will have to carry the burden. He asked Mr. Ormiston if there was any way for the museum to keep the county whole, Mr. Ormiston replied that unfortunately there is no way to do that, but they could look at the possibility of purchasing a 19 acre parcel currently owned by the property in that area and already tax exempt due to county ownership.

Resident Skip Claypool commented that these types of conservation programs steal the rights of future generations to have a say in how property will be used in the future, and there is no local accountability when property is acquired by an entity located outside the county. Commissioner Rear raised the possibility of the Museum considering the sale of property they currently own in the county that has no special status in terms of animal or plant habitat, using as an example three large parcels located north of Thwing Road in Chardon Township that they had received as a donation years ago. This would enable the Museum to acquire properties of special significance and in return allow for sale of parcels that would be beneficial for residential, agricultural, or business development as well as return to tax-paying status.

Mr. Rear proposed that the Board move to approve the resolution of support, but only to include parcels 22-012400, and a portion of 22-012390, approximately 16 acres plus or minus. After further discussion this motion was re-stated to include the Pitcock Tract and the Galati Tract as well.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a resolution in support of the application of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for a Clean Ohio grant application for the Koelliker Fen Protection Project in Munson Township, Geauga County, Ohio, this Resolution to be executed at the meeting to be held January 9, 2014.

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Rear</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>No</i>
	<i>Commissioner Samide</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Commissioner Spidalieri stated that his vote was nothing personal to the Koelliker family, we just have to look out for the best interests of the county, and actions like these set up a precedent that it is a responsibility. Auditor Gliha said he felt this action was responsible, and believes that this will benefit the county in the end. Mr. Koelliker stated he was very impressed with the process he had observed today, and proceeded to provide a short history of the property.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending December 25, 2013 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) The Monthly Financial Report from the County Building Department for the month of December, 2013.*

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- c) *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 November 2013, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

MEETINGS

- Thu., 1/9 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*
- Fri., 1/10 Opening Ceremony to Celebrate 50 years of Knowledge Rising at Kent State University's Geauga Campus at 3:00 p.m. in the William T. and Margaret R. Clark Commons, 14111 Claridon Troy Road, Burton*
- 1/10 – 1/12 The Agricultural Fair Board Convention in Columbus, Ohio*
- Mon., 1/13 The Commissioners will hold the **Re-organizational meeting** at 10:00 a.m.*
- Tues., 1/14 **The Regularly scheduled Commissioners' meeting is cancelled.***
- Tues., 1/14 The Planning Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon*
- Thu., 1/16 The Commissioners will hold regular session.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER REAR ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:52 P.M.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Mary E. Samide

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Deborah Ashburn, Temporary Acting Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
January 7, 2014

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