

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 17, 2018 at 9:00 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 9:07 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 4, 2018.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS OFFICE- COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*Mr. Lair reported on the items approved April 12, 2018 and April 16, 2018 for the County Home that included, approving the hire of Sara Knife to the position of Part-time Attendant (#1504-1) to be effective April 12, 2018 at the rate of \$12.24 per hour with a one year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; approving the reclassification of Andrea Moss from Part-time Attendant to Full-time Attendant (#1504) to be effective April 8, 2018 at her current rate of \$11.81 per hour, with no probationary period; and approved the reclassification of William Reinker from Part-time Attendant to Full-time Attendant (#1504) to be effective April 16, 2018 at his current rate of \$11.81 per hour with no probationary period; by the County Administrator, authorized by Resolution #18-003 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 4, 2018 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.*

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Appropriation transfers to increase Maintenance utility accounts for assumption of County Home bill payments; Cash transfers from various funds for the March Windstream Bill and to the Law Library to increase funds available for renewed library services; Encumbrance increases for Job and Family Services for Beechbrook, George Junior and Safely Home residential service facilities; a Contract encumbrance for the Department on Aging with Schraff Thomas Law LLC for senior legal services as a replacement due to a vendor name change; Travel requests for the Auditor's Office, Common Pleas Court, Job and Family Services, Juvenile Court, Public Defender and the Department of Water Resources; a payment to Skoda Minotti for the Commissioners' Office in the amount of \$50,325.60 for investigative accounting services rendered during December 2017 and January 2018; a payment to Ohio State University for the County's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter mandated share of the University extension services in the amount of \$65,673.31; and a payment to Great Lakes Trucking School for Job and Family Services in the amount of \$29,185.00 for CDL training; and a Revenue Certification of the Law Library to recognize additional revenue in their Transfers In account.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #18-058 itemizing the financials for the meeting of April 17, 2018.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye*</i>

*\*Commissioner Spidalieri abstained from the approval of the Skoda Minotti, due to a potential conflict.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – WOODFORD EXCAVATING, LLC – FAIRMOUNT ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT – NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

*Deputy Engineer Nick Gorris stated that Woodford is a first time bidder and requested additional information on them, and is asking the Board to award the Bid to them for the replacement of the Fairmount Road Culvert. Mr. Gorris stated that they had just completed a project in the Village of Burton.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to award the Bid to Woodford Excavating, LLC for the Fairmount Road Culvert Replacement (Structure #16-04.51) in Newbury Township in the amount of \$123,000.00 as they represented the lowest and best bid.*

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

OHIO DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES – DIVISION OF FORESTRY DISCUSSION

*John Kehn, Administrator with the Ohio Division of Forestry, Division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources explained that they had been working with the City of Akron Watershed Coordinator about land management. Mr. Kehn stated that a few years ago he was contacted after the City of Akron had been in contact with the OSU Extension. He met with the City of Akron on his property that is surrounded by theirs, and given the direction to look at the lands they own and decide if management had been being done and if correctly. Mr. Kehn stated that they were going to hire someone from Oregon and talked them into a local forester. They have walked through the process and set up a plan parcel by parcel, which includes a pilot timber sale. This is being done to try and get through the internal system for approval. There is an Memorandum of Understanding being worked on between the Division of Forestry and the City of Akron for assistance with where and when to harvest, best management practice for soil and water issues. They have had their first sale and are now waiting for conditions to be right to harvest.*

*Commissioner Spidalieri brought up the number of parcels owned by the City of Akron and the amount of taxes being paid to the County. Mr. Kehn stated that they own 370 acres and that the parcels are taxed in different manners, based on CAUV and other exemptions like wetlands. It was noted that the City of Akron is the largest land holder in the County. Mr. Kehn stated that the City of Akron purchased the property when the Cuyahoga River was catching fire and there was no EPA. We understand why they purchased it and now they have a large bank to maintain. Mr. Kehn stated that the City of Akron expressed to him that they would like to take the monetary value of the sale to re-invest in the property as they have thinning and there is invasive species control they'd like to do. A lot of the land is in wetland, but a lot of stands that need pre-commercial work that is labor intensive and can be expensive. Mr. Spidalieri stated that there has been a lot of calls about rumors, that include large scale development and clear cutting. Mr. Kehn stated clear and select cutting is misunderstood, adding that up here in the northeast we have the worst harvesting practices in the state, because someone is knocking on the door with someone waving money at them. The general public has not seen well managed sales.*

*Commissioner Lennon stated that there is a lot of misinformation going around and asked what the Division of Forestry and the City of Akron were doing to get out and explain the process and purpose of doing this. Mr. Kehn stated that the first sale was designed as a small sale to see if it's palatable to them before we worry about others. Mr. Kehn stated that there is information on the website that is miss-informing and could be better. It was agreed that they were trying to avoid what happened in Claridon Township. Very few people understand the economics of forestry, what can be done and what the options. They don't understand what they have, what they are growing and how much of an impact a management decision can have on the resources, adding that it is an underutilized resource, that we have a huge forest product industry, a huge domestic furniture production, \$26 billion dollar industry, but the natural resource is not being harvested correctly. Mr. Lennon inquired why there is such a lack of information, funding? to which Mr. Kehn stated that is part of it, but really the Division of Forestry's responsibility to do it but added that the Universities are not teaching it and the division is trying to work with them on it. Mr. Kehn stated that they are obligated by law and policy to prioritize the internal programs and the property tax reduction programs, which keeps them from spending time with the public and in the field. Mr. Kehn wanted to help with the City of Akron program because they are a large land owner. Mr. Lennon expressed concern about the rumors with the LaDue*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

*Reservoir planned cut and being close to the water. Mr. Kehn stated that they are cutting near the shallow end, but are just reducing the stock by removing trees that are not the best, adding that it will be well stocked after and the trees that are left will grow and be even better trees. Harvesting is done every 15-20 years and are only taking 3-10 stems per acre, that there is a method to it. Commissioner Spidalieri thanked him for coming in, and expressed gratitude for helping with the project, that it's encouraging to know they have knowledge in what they are doing. Mr. Kehn stated that it is important for them to set an example as a way to get information out. Mr. Kehn noted that it is not a complicated process or topic to learn, but they just aren't doing the best job and getting the information out, and unfortunately people are being pressured to sell, and those people need to contact us, they can help them to avoid making a bad decision. Mr. Kehn says they are often delayed with the time it takes to assist with the property tax reduction programs.*

*Harvesting will begin when the conditions are favorable to be in the woods, because they often do more damage when the ground is wet.*

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES HEARING SAFE HELMETS – GRANT #2017-JG-LLE-5108**

*Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand explained that they have applied for a grant for Hearing Safe Helmets that have ballistic material, hearing protection but allows radio communication for the SWAT deputies. This grant will allow us to purchase 4 helmets with a 10% match, noting that they cost about \$2,500.00 each.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Hearing Safe Helmets, Grant #2017-JG-LLE-5108 Pre-award Conditions and Standard Assurances forms in the amount of \$9,900.00 (\$8,910.00 from OCJS and \$990.00 Local County match). This grant is for the period February 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018.*

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

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – AGREEMENT – BOARDING OF PRISONERS – VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS**

*Sheriff Hildenbrand asked the Board to execute the renewal agreement with Chagrin Falls for the Boarding of Prisoners.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute the Agreement for Boarding of Prisoners by and between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the Village of Chagrin Falls.*

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

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – FOREST HARVESTING AT LADUE RESERVOIR**

*There was a brief discussion with Director Carmella Shale about Soil and Water Conservation receiving phone calls about the planned cut at LaDue, and that while there is no requirement for a permit, they will work with Mr. Kehn and monitor the process. Forestry is a conservation best practice, that unfortunately aren't done that way it should be being done.*

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – RESOLUTION TO EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN OHIO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM – DONALD E. AND MARY ANN ANNA**

*Director Shale explained that originally there were two applications for the LAEPP program and one has been pulled. The one application we do have is for a 72 acre parcel in Troy Township that belongs to an elderly couple that farms the property for vegetables and contains premium soil. Ms. Shale noted that they want to keep the property intact and not broken down into much smaller parcels. Ms. Shale stated that the state program will allow the property owner to be eligible for \$112,000.00 and Geauga will not use all the funds allotted and*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

*the State will then use the leftover funds in other locations within the State. There was a brief discussion about no requirement of the property being clear of loans, and no matter ownership, the easement will remain in perpetuity.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #18-059 to the Extent Permitted by Law, Authorizing Participation in Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) in support of the application from Donald E. and Mary Ann Anna.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, OH*

*Resolution: #18-059*  
*Date: April 17, 2018*

*A RESOLUTION to the extent permitted by law, Authorizing Participation in Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) in support of the application from Donald E. and Mary Ann Anna.*

*WHEREAS, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018 the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County received a request from Donald E. and Mary Ann Anna for support of their application to the State of Ohio for purchase of an agricultural easement on their property located at 18587 Mumford Road, Garrettsville, OH 44231.*

*WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County have reviewed this request and determined that the nomination of the property for purchase of an agricultural easement is compatible with the county's goals to preserve and promote agriculture as an important part of the area's economy;*

*WHEREAS, be it resolved that all formal actions of the board relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of the board in compliance with all legal requirements of ORC Section 121.22, the Sunshine Law, and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County:*

*SECTION 1: support the participation of the above named landowners in the LAEPP*

*SECTION 2: acknowledge that participation in the LAEPP does not conflict with any existing or proposed land use plans of Geauga County.*

*SECTION 3: hereby agrees to hold, monitor, supervise and enforce the terms of the Ohio Department of Agriculture easement in perpetuity.*

*SECTION 4: hereby authorizes contracting for necessary title and appraisal services, the cost for which will be reimbursed by the landowner from proceeds from the LAEPP.*

*SECTION 5: hereby acknowledges that the landowner, per LAEPP requirements, commits to donate at least 25% local match of the agricultural easement value.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution become part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, OH.*

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

**TRANSIT – APPROVE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION AND REGRADE – SUPERVISOR, DRIVER (#2207) – RE-GRADE JOANNA SANTILLI**

*Director Mike Kasper asked the Board to approve the revisions to the Supervisor, Driver position to better reflect the duties and what is being done. Mr. Kasper added that it also is part of the succession plan.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the revised job description and regrade for the position of Supervisor, Driver (#2207) to better reflect the duties of the job, to be effective April 10, 2018.

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

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the re-grade of JoAnna Santilli, Supervisor, Driver (#2207) to Grade 13, Step 1 at the rate of \$22.76 per hour to be effective April 16, 2018.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – FIORE’S GROUP, LLC – LAWN MAINTENANCE**

*Assistant County Administrator Gerard Morgan asked the Board to approve the lawn maintenance agreements for all the locations in the water department for two years with Fiore’s Group.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Fiore’s Group, LLC to perform lawn maintenance at the Northern Locations and Southern Locations of the Geauga County Department of Water for a period of two years (2018-2019) in an amount not to exceed \$33,700.00 (\$16,850.00 each year).

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

**COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICE – REVISED ACCOUNTING FORMS AUTHORIZATION FORM AND PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION FORM – DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (BUILDING)**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the revised Accounting Forms Authorization Form and Payroll Authorization Form for the Department of Development (Building).

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

**COMMISSIONERS’ OFFICE – 2018 PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT – CORSA AND PROGRAM RENEWAL**

*Director of Administrative Services Linda Burhenne explained that every three years we renew the participation agreement with CORSA for our insurance program. Ms. Burhenne asked the Board to also approve the renewal for next year and authorize the payment which is slightly lower than last year. Ms. Burhenne stated that they could see increases next year due to new appraisal company being hired. Ms. Burhenne also noted that she wasn’t sure what the recent claim from the issue at the Auditor’s Office will affect it, adding that we are hoping to recover some of the taxpayer funds through errors and omissions. There was a brief discussion about the county’s participation with CORSA over the years, and rebates that we can get back for safety programs.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute the 2018 Participation Agreement with the County Risk Sharing Authority, Incorporated (CORSA) for the period May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2021.

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the County Risk Sharing Authority, Incorporated (CORSA) Insurance Program Renewal for the period May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019, and further authorize the payment of \$337,063.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF CHECK – HAWTHORNE OF AURORA – STREAM CREDITS

*Clerk Christine Blair noted that the check from Hawthorne of Aurora had been received for additional Ernest money for stream credits that had been approved on August 18, 2017, in the amount of \$2,782.50.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to acknowledge receipt of Check #1772, from Hawthorn of Aurora Properties, for additional Ernest money for the 371 Linear feet of Stream Credits approved August 18, 2017.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – LETTER TO ROETZEL AND ANDRESS – RETENTION AGREEMENT – LEGAL REPRESENTATION – JUDGE TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL

*Mr. Lair explained that the Probate / Juvenile Court had notified the Board of their application for legal representation to represent them against any potential action against them by the Prosecutor, pending any action filed. Mr. Lair stated that this letter is in response acknowledging the right of representation based on any action that might be taken, and for consideration of a lower rate in light of what other firms charge government entities.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute a letter to Roetzel and Andress regarding the Retention Agreement for Legal Representation for Judge Timothy J. Grendell.

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

AUDITOR'S OFFICE – FUNDING REQUEST – EXECUTIVE SESSION

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment and compensation of public employees in the Auditor's Office.

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

*The Board moved into executive session at 10:00 a.m. with Mr. Lair, Assistant County Administrator Gerard Morgan, Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton, Auditor Chuck Walder, and Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde. The Board returned at 11:16 a.m. and as a result the following action was taken:*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve coverage of 90% pickup of COBRA coverage for a potential new employee in the Do IT department in the amount of \$2,340.00, pursuant to O.R.C. 305.171.

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 28, 2018 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) *Portage County Common Pleas Court, Probate / Juvenile Division 2017 Annual Report*
- c) *A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the prisoner transport for the month ending March 2018 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

- Mon., 4/23 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office*
- Mon., 4/23 ADP Special Meeting, 11:00 a.m. Auditor's Office*
- Tue., 4/24 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.*
- Wed., 4/25 50 Years of NOACA: Reflecting on the Past, 11:30 a.m. City Club of Cleveland*
- 4/26 – 4/29 Maple Festival, Chardon Square*
- Tue., 5/1 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.*
- 5/6 – 5/12 Public Service Recognition Week*
- Tue., 5/8 Planning Commission meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon*
- Tue., 5/8 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Fri., 5/11 NOACA, Finance and Audit 8:30 a.m., Governance 10:00 a.m., and Executive 11:30 a.m., Cleveland, Ohio*

**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

*Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ralph Spidalieri*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Timothy C. Lennon*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Walter M. Claypool*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 17, 2018**

*THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK*