

Commissioners' Journal
December 8, 2016

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met and held a work session on December 8, 2016 at 10:46 a.m. in the Commissioners' Chambers located at 470 Center Street in Chardon, Ohio.

In attendance at the Work Session included, Walter M. Claypool, Ralph Spidalieri, Commissioner Elect Tim Lennon, County Administrator David Lair, Director of Administrative Services Linda Burhenne and Commissioners' Clerk Christine Blair.

The President of the Board, Walter M. Claypool opened the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

**Commissioner Rear was absent from today's work session.*

**Commissioner Elect Tim Lennon was in attendance for today's work session.*

Commissioners' Clerk Christine Blair and County Administrator David Lair expressed to the Board that they would not be making any decisions today, that they would have to be made during the Re-Organizational meeting on January 9, 2017, that today was being held to give the Board the chance to talk about the items that they would need to make decisions on, giving them each a chance to discuss those items.

Ms. Blair opened the discussion today with reviewing the Board and Committees Information Booklet that contains appointments that are made by the Board.

Ms. Blair noted that Mr. Rowland would be up for re-appointment on the Airport Authority Board as his term ends on December 31st. Commissioner Spidalieri brought up the situation with the Airport and began the discussion by explaining that he had lunched with Chip Hess and Tim Randles, both members on the Airport Authority Board and that they had discussed the agreement that will be coming due for renewal in February and questioned whether abolishing the Authority was in the best interest of the county. Mr. Spidalieri suggested that they extend the agreement for another year and work together with the Board on a plan for the future of the Airport.

The idea of a Memorandum of Understanding was brought up as an option between the Airport Authority, the Commissioners and Middlefield Village, so that all parties have the same interest. It was expressed that while Ms. Fulop, the Airport Business Manager is good at being a book keeper, the idea of having someone there who is actually a Director would help bring money into the airport and help move it forward. Currently the Airport Authority has a contract in place with Don Yager, an Airport Consultant and the termination clause in the contract would determine how long you would have to continue to retain the service from them. Commissioner Claypool noted that Mr. Spidalieri needed to err on the side of caution on representing the opinion of the Board, but that he did agree with what he was saying and that the idea of working with them for the next year was a good idea.

Mr. Claypool noted that while at the CCAO Winter Conference there was discussion about Airports and that Geauga County is in a good position as we still have an active runway, and that a lot of Counties are having a lot of trouble with their airports.

Mr. Spidalieri brought up that the MediVac helicopter is owned by a company that is contracted with UH Hospitals, and the contract is up this year, adding that UH wants to have their own helicopters. Discussion took place regarding the chance that they would leave the airport, and perhaps place the helicopter at the hospital. Ms. Blair stated that the current lease is with Air Methods Corporation, Incorporated and expires in April of 2017 in the amount of \$3,100 per month, so the contract for the five years is just over \$37,000.00 per year.

Brief discussion took place in regards to a property that sits on the east side of the airport property along with several other properties that would have allowed for improvements had they been purchased. Mr. Spidalieri brought up the idea of purchasing a twenty acre parcel that is currently for sale in the area as a possible expansion for the runway. The idea was discussed about holding a work session with Middlefield Village and the Airport Authority at the Middlefield Town Hall. Mr. Lair brought up that they need to have FAA consultants who are interested in working with the airport meet with the Board to discuss options for the ideas that they have, to see if they are possible and get a check on the reality of what can and cannot be done with the Airport.

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Ms. Blair moved forward through the Booklet pointing out the Boards that would need to have appointments made, including Board of Developmental Disabilities, DES Terrorism, Mitigation, and Planning which is usually done at the Re-Org meeting and the request is sent by DES, Family Services Planning which is also usually done at the Re-Org meeting and the request is sent by Job and Family Services, Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority that has one appointment that will be expiring in April of 2017, and the Ohio Public Works Commission, Integrating Committee that will be taken care of before July when the next meeting will be held. Mental Health and Recovery Services had two open vacancies, of which the Board completed the one appointment this morning, and that leaves one still open until June 2017, and the Planning Commission which has three openings that will need to be filled before the end of the year.

Ms. Blair asked the Board if there were any additional items they would like to add to the Resolution allowing Mr. Lair as County Administrator to approve on behalf of the Board outside of session, or if there was something they wanted to remove. Mr. Spidalieri asked to restructure the order of the items placed on the agenda, moving the Elected Officials first and then placing the departments after them.

There was a brief discussion about the Boards and Committees book and how many years that this project has been in progress and that we had finally come to this smaller version, that as appointments are made is a constant work in process.

Ms. Blair explained that she had figured out the meeting schedule for the full year of 2017 based upon the current meeting schedule of every Tuesday at 9 am with the exception of adding a Thursday morning during weeks that a holiday falls, adding that it had worked very well last year, including mention that it had allowed the Auditor's office to plan ahead for financials knowing when the meetings would be held. Adjustments are always made when a conflict arises, we have no quorum, or vacations happen and still be able to meet the required 50 meetings a year.

Ms. Blair began moving through the layout for the annual Re-Organization meeting that includes appointing a President and Vice President of the Board. There was a brief discussion on having Mr. Spidalieri as President and Mr. Claypool as Vice President, which would allow for Mr. Lennon to sit as a new member and get familiar to the position.

The meeting schedule for 2017 includes any and all outside Board meetings that the Board would be attending, giving notice that they may be in attendance. The Commissioners and Commissioner Elect continued to move through the Board appointments that they sit on and attend, including the ADP Board, Board of Revision, Community Corrections, Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), Courthouse Security, Family First, Financial Review and Report Committee, Agricultural Society, Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Policy and Board of Directors, Health District Advisory Board, Investment Advisory Committee, MicroFilming Board, NOACA, NOC COG, Planning Commission, Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center, Records Commission, and the Revolving and Local Revolving Loan Fund Boards.

Ms. Blair noted that the next section included staff appointments, of Mr. Lair, Ms. Burhenne and herself, followed by the Department Directors, placing these staff members in the unclassified service. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about Mr. Kasper, to which it was noted that he wanted to move forward with reducing his hours next year, as part of succession planning. There was a brief discussion about Mr. Wedge retiring in April and then having Mr. Peterson move into that role as DES Director.

Ms. Blair noted that she was waiting for the adjusted amount that will be based on the upcoming increase in compensation for the County Engineer which will change the bi-weekly rate for the position of Drainage Engineer, which he also holds.

Ms. Blair stated that Mr. Manley would like to remain as the Apiarist for 2017 and inquired if they wanted to make any adjustments to his hourly rate and that she hadn't yet seen the mileage rate for next year. After a brief discussion the consensus was to move him to \$12.00 an hour, which is approximately a 3% increase.

Ms. Blair asked the Board if they wanted to keep Mr. Morgan and Mr. Gorris as the Prevailing Wage Coordinators for the County for next year and received an affirmative response.

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Ms. Blair noted that following that motion will be the resolution for the delegated powers given to the County Administrator; there was a brief discussion about him having the power to hire an employee, and that it would have to be checked with the Prosecutor to see if it would be allowable.

There was a brief discussion regarding a right of way / easement issue in Montville Township.

Ms. Blair brought up the question of copy charges for 2017, to which Ms. Burhenne responded that the amount was changed in the policy manual, in which it was lowered to 10 cents per color copy.

It was noted that credit card authorizations will be updated once the departments send their requests, and those will be approved during the re-org meeting.

One additional item that was brought up for further discussion at another time was the direction of the County Home and plans for the future. It was suggested that they needed to schedule a County Home meeting. Ms. Burhenne commented that whatever decision they were looking at they need to have an end game for the facility.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Walter M. Claypool

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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