

Commissioners' Journal
August 8, 2017

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 8, 2017 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 9:11 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE- COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lair reported on the items approved August 3, 2017 by the County Administrator, including for the Commissioners' Office, the approval of hiring Kelly Bidlack to the position of Accounts Payable Assistant (#1309) to be effective August 21, 2017 at the rate of \$15.15 per hour with a one year probationary period, for the Department of Job and Family Services, he acknowledged the hire of Melena Sharif, Social Services Worker II (replacement) that was effective July 7, 2017, and Concurred with Troy Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License requested by Welshfield General Store and Fuel, LLC located at 13980 Main Market Road, Burton (C NEW 9513405), authorized by Resolution #17-006 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 9, 2017 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Lair explained the financials for today as including a Revenue Certification for the Juvenile Court Care and Custody Fund; a Supplemental Appropriation for the Department of Job and Family Services Family First Council; a Supplemental Appropriation for the Juvenile Court Care and Custody Fund; Travel requests for the Building Department and the Commissioners' Office; a payment to Ruple Sealcoating in the amount of \$10,427.00 for the Maintenance Department for work on the county parking lots; and a payment to Geauga Coatings LLC in the amount of \$29,800.00 for the Department of Water Resources for the Valley View Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to approve and execute Resolution #17-093 itemizing the financials for the meeting of August 8, 2017.

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

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE – APPLICATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY FOR APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Prosecutor Jim Flaiz explained to the Board that they had received a summons and order to show cause to hold the Assistant Director and a Child Support Worker in contempt of court. Mr. Flaiz stated that there wasn't a lot of communication and there are not a lot of details but feels compelled to hire outside counsel due to the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney potentially being called as a witness. Executive Director of Job and Family Services, Craig Swenson stated that they are being accused of not following the order from the Court, and hopes that this will show that they did indeed follow the law. Mr. Flaiz stated that this is a very unusual case and he doesn't understand why this citation was issued.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Application of Prosecuting Attorney and Geauga County Board of Commissioners for Appointment of Legal Counsel.

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

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PLANNING COMMISSION – PURCHASE AGREEMENT – STREAM MITIGATION CREDITS – OHIO UPPER CUYAHOGA WATERSHED STREAM MITIGATION BANK “POPE HOME SITE” – TOUR DE CLEVELAND

Director Dave Dietrich stated that last week he had brought two requests, and this is another request for stream credits. Mr. Dietrich noted that it was for a development in Twinsburg. It was noted that there are approximately 800 credits remaining.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to approve and execute the Purchase Agreement for Stream Mitigation Credits, Geauga County, Ohio Upper Cuyahoga Watershed Stream Mitigation Bank, “Pope Home Site” in Troy Township, between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Tour de Cleveland for the purchase of 336 stream preservation credits in the amount of \$25,200.00 (Check #35649 for \$2,520.00 – 10% down payment).

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

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – ADVERTISE TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS – CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE UPDATED “WATER MANAGEMENT AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REGULATIONS, AMENDED 2017”

Director Carmella Shale asked the Board to set the public hearings and give notice for the water management and sediment control regulations that were last updated in 2009.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to grant permission to advertise to hold two (2) Public Hearings for consideration of the adoption of the updated “Water Management and Sediment Control Regulations, Amended 2017” to be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. and on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. Notice of these Public Hearings will be advertised on August 17, 2017, August 24, 2017 and on the county website.

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

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – APPROVE SUBMISSION OF PY2018 HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP) ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATING GRANT

Mr. Swenson stated that one of the grants that they receive from the State for Home Energy Assistance that comes from the Federal government requires them to agree and assure that the guidelines are being followed in how the funds are administered. Mr. Swenson briefly explained what the HEAP program is, noting that someone who falls on a hardship that qualifies can apply for assistance with their energy bills.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to approve the submission of the PY2018 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Administrative Operating Grant and further approve and authorize the President of the Board to initial the Assurances for the HEAP program.

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

TRANSIT – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TRANSIT TECH OHIO (T20) PROJECT GRANT CONTRACT AGREEMENT AND EXHIBIT A, TITLE VI ASSURANCE

Director Mike Kasper explained that this Transit Tech grant, is being provided by ODOT to upgrade all the software and equipment for communication systems for transit organizations. Mr. Kasper stated that it will cost Transit \$1,000.00 with the remaining cost of the upgrade being covered by the Grant for a whole new state of the art system, that will utilize tablets rather than ranger units. This includes training on the equipment. Mr. Kasper stated that they were given 3 choices of systems and the system they chose is being used in Pennsylvania, parts of Michigan and will be throughout Ohio once this project is completed and appears to be a proven system.

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Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Transportation Transit Tech Ohio (T20) Project Grant Contract Agreement and Exhibit A, Title VI Assurance, between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the State of Ohio Department of Transportation (Contract No. 0101-TTGR-160100), for the period ending December 30, 2018 in the amount of \$101,065.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing imminent litigation.

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

The Board moved into executive session at 9:33 a.m. with Mr. Lair and Assistant Prosecutor Laura LaChapelle. The Board returned at 10:31 a.m. and proceeded with the meeting agenda.

GEAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING SUBMISSION OF THE ISSUE OF BONDS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CERTIFYING SAME TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Library Board of Trustees member Ray Rundelli explained that the resolution before the Board is part of a multi-step process under the O.R.C. that authorizes the Library to ask the voters to provide bond funds. Mr. Rundelli stated that with the assistance of bond counsel they have followed the steps in order to go to the Board of Elections by the deadline, that is tomorrow, August 9, 2017. Mr. Rundelli stated that they would like to take it to the voters so they can make their case and hope that they will agree and allow them to spend money and if not then they will have had their say. Mr. Rundelli answered Commissioner Claypool regarding the perception of the County Commissioners' role in the process, which they feel that the ORC and an Attorney General opinion states that the statute reads that the Board must pass it to move it on to the Board of Elections. It's a matter of ensuring that the Library has complied with the procedure, and they feel that they have. Mr. Claypool added that he is very proud to be part of the current Board of Commissioners and had a very heartfelt conversation and that they all want to do the right thing for the citizens of the County. He feels they have a fiduciary responsibility to look at the financial impacts of decisions that are made, and feels that they have options, they can say no and then let the courts sort it out. This position is a tough one to be in. Mr. Claypool stated that he has been doing his homework, has received a lot of phone calls and that he has been reviewing the plan and there are a few things that jump out to him. Mr. Claypool stated that he likes libraries, but the libraries are in good shape, and there is an option 3B in the plan, that if they completed everything on the dream list it would cost \$48 million, \$24 million could be the bond issue and the library could do another \$24 million dollar loan that can be paid for from the operating expense? Mr. Claypool stated that it appears that you are looking for the \$24 million to do some subset of the plan and use the bond levy to pay for those improvements, do you need a bond levy, do you need to tax people again when you feel you can cover a \$24 million loan out of your operating expense. What is the need for a bond and levy when it looks like you have enough funding to pay for everything you want to do now with the bond levy out of your operating expenses? Mr. Worso stated that it is an option, the reason for the dedicated bond would mean that the funds would be guaranteed to cover the cost of the improvements that they want to do. The operating expense funds are not guaranteed, and with funding for libraries continuing to be uncertain, there is certainty to having those funds being paid by the county taxpayers for the county facility. Mr. Claypool expressed that he feels that they had to of run numbers and that they don't need this bond to do what they want to get accomplished. Mr. Claypool explained that the Board is working on a case for replacement county facilities and everything they have seen shows a square foot cost of about \$300.00, while the library proposal has the cost at \$500.00 a square foot. If you are basing that number to make decisions, you will have additional funds to do projects at a lower cost per square foot. Mr. Worso stated that they looked at libraries across the country and got a cost estimate for the proposed building based on a \$14.5 million, 30,000 square foot building.

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Commissioner Lennon added that to do a quick comparison, the Safety Center was built in 2005 and was a \$14 million dollar facility, 75,000 square foot that was paid off in less than ten years on a one year note rolled over. Mr. Lennon asked why they weren't looking at these options on their current budget, adding that incremental improvements could have been started years ago. Mr. Lennon stated that he knows what we are here for today, and that includes asking questions for the public. Mr. Lennon asked who was pushing this agenda, are the residents of this county asking the library to ask for this dollar amount. He wanted to clarify the dollar amount, this is not \$24 million, that this will be \$45 million plus interest, over thirty years, not including the library's continuing levies that are collecting 5 mill each year. Mr. Lennon stated that he was having a hard time with the information that is being put out in the public and the marketing about this and that it needs to be very clear with the public before these matters are brought for a vote.

Mr. Rundelli stated that they have been studying this for a long time and they have a fiduciary responsibility to provide library services and at the level the community expects. There has been talk about the Bainbridge library for several years. The building is past its useful life and size and the question becomes; when does it become less prudent to fix something over building something new? Mr. Rundelli noted that it is similar to the reasons why the Board of Commissioners are doing a study, to which Mr. Lennon agreed but added that the Commissioners were not going for a levy. Mr. Rundelli stated that over a year ago they formed a committee, reviewed the facilities, evaluated and identified the need for those facilities, asked if the facility is meeting the needs of the community, infrastructure needs, and if it was serving at the level that they think they want to be served. Mr. Rundelli stated they hired consultants, ran numbers and looked at many options. The lack of meeting space, private study space and the size of the collection are all items that they get feedback on. Mr. Rundelli stated they have used funds to rehabilitate over the years, using Chardon as an example. An option was to borrow against tax proceeds from the State and the County, however they chose not to go with that option because like all local governments a good chunk of their funding comes from the State, and over the last fifteen to twenty years has been severely restricted. Mr. Lennon stated that the County is dealing with the same cuts, along with the schools and the Townships. Mr. Lennon stated that the Board sees the entire forest and not just the tree in front of them. He wants to have the best library system we can afford to have in the county, but feels that it might be how we are attacking this. Mr. Lennon stated that the overwhelming response he is getting from the county over this is expressing concern, with some people outright against it. Mr. Lennon stated that the people living in the Cardinal School District are still paying for their library that the community was behind, adding that the information being put out needs to include the pros and cons. The current stuff he has seen is very emotional and does not include the dollar amounts of \$24 million or the total cost of \$45 million with interest. Mr. Claypool added that he feels that it looks as if we are deceiving the public. His perception is that we are basing a decision to position a \$24 million dollar levy without creating a concrete building cost, using the \$500.00 per square foot, if the actual square foot cost comes in at \$200.00 and then they will be floating in gravy, you mislead the public and now have all this extra money. In addition, the talk about the cost of \$16.00 per household per \$100,000.00, his tax bill will be much higher than \$16.00 because the average home is about \$200,000.00, noting that less than 5% of Geaugaans own a \$100,000.00 home. Mr. Claypool stated that you really need to be honest, this is a thirty year commitment, the future of libraries is questionable, that school libraries are shutting down. There is a specific audience that attends the library.

Mr. Lennon stated that the reason of the postponement last week was because he had just recently seen the Auditor's statement on the valuation, with the interest included. In April there was no discussion of numbers. Mr. Lennon stated that they owe it to the taxpayers to be clear and factual, that he will not rubber stamp but the law is tying the Board's hands. He is not looking at creating a legal battle with the library board. If he sees something that doesn't pass the smell test, he's not just going to approve because of a threat of a lawsuit or supreme court action. They don't want to waste tax dollars on attorney fees. He wants to be clear that he was not calling to apologize, he wanted clarification on information that they had received. As a taxpayer you have a long way to go to convince him that this is a sound investment for this county. As a Commissioner his duty is to the taxpayers and looking out for their behalf. Today, by Ohio law the Commissioners shall approve this to put in on the ballot, his heart is telling him one thing and his head is telling him another. By saying yes to this he is not endorsing it, and would like to see more public input before it is taken to the ballot.

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Mr. Rundelli stated that they have meetings scheduled to answer any questions the public might have. Mr. Lennon expressed that anyone considering putting an item on the ballot should have discussions and items vetted with a lot of public interest and consideration before it gets there. Mr. Lennon added that people love libraries, that he loves libraries, that they are an important part of the community, but let's work within the budget or what the county is willing to pay. Mr. Claypool stated that he has still not heard a good answer why this levy is necessary, that it appears that they can accomplish everything that they want to with the existing 2 mill levy situation. Mr. Rundelli stated that they didn't want to put the library operations at risk if they pledge against their current revenue if the state funding disappears. Mr. Claypool stated that he is torn on how he wants to vote, that he wants to vote no in his heart, but the rational part of his brain says something different, adding that he is going to be at the meetings to make sure they are being honest and forthright with the public. Expressing that society and technology changes and the long term commitment is thirty years. Mr. Lennon stated that libraries were funded through school districts and levies of each community, noting that West Geauga just finished in 2007 satisfying their \$1.7 million dollar library. How are the people of West Geauga going to Benefit? Cardinal voters are still paying for their library. Will they be relieved from this Obligation? Mr. Rundelli stated that they don't feel that they can use operating funds to retire the obligation, but gave it serious thought. Mr. Rundelli expressed that he is getting emotional over this, and that they have looked at this long and hard, and take it seriously. Mr. Lennon asked if these residents will be tasked to pay for a second library, to which Mr. Rundelli stated that yes, for a period of time they will have an overlap of paying for the existing building and the county wide measure. Mr. Lennon stated that the school districts have told you no, including Bainbridge. Both Bainbridge and Chardon have huge school levies coming as well. Mr. Worso stated that they feel the time is better for them, that interest rates and construction won't be better than now.

Mr. Claypool inquired about Thompson, recalling that their school district couldn't be supported and is now part of Berkshire District and yet they are going to get a new library. Mr. Rundelli stated that they have been underserved and should be served like the rest of the county. It was noted that Chardon or Madison are the closest libraries to the Thompson residents. Mr. Lennon stated that he is not in opposition to the library, he is in opposition to strapping ourselves to long term debt. Like in business you need to work within in your budget. With strong support they should be able to secure donations. Mr. Lennon stated that the issue today is to put this on the ballot, and if the Board doesn't approve this resolution, that the Library Board of Trustees has approved to move forward with legal action, and as it is written today he is not endorsing it, he will vote to put it on the ballot, voting yes with hesitation. He strongly suggests that they do a better job of informing the public than they did this Board.

Commissioner Spidalieri stated that what is sticking in his head, is December 1, 1955, when an arrest was made of a lady named Rosa Parks, who, at that time, was supposed to sit in the back of the bus and she didn't and was arrested for it and that changed the whole landscape of our world today. Mr. Spidalieri continued saying that the library is presenting him a "shall" and that in his heart and what people voted for him to do, he has to represent them, and reflect back on December 1, 1955 and vote no. Mr. Spidalieri doesn't support this. The library has not looked at their options of expansion to utilize the dollars at Bainbridge library to be able to have the same facility and infrastructure to make it more effective. With meeting rooms being a trigger word, and that meeting rooms shouldn't cost \$45 million dollars. Taxpayers of this county, and the Board of Commissioners, has never heard of an expansion or an addition to that library. The Commissioners have to answer to the residents of this county. He respects the other members of this Board. They were put into this situation, but don't ask him a question that you are not willing to hear the answer to. This Board has a responsibility to the taxpayers in this county and right now people are struggling and he doesn't feel this is the right thing. He will take whatever implications come, but it's the right answer and he is voting no. In good faith he cannot say yes.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to approve and execute Resolution #17-092 Confirming Submission of the Issue of Bonds to the Electors of the Geauga County Public Library and Certifying same to the Board of Elections.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

Date: August 8, 2017
Resolution: #17-092

The Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Geauga, Ohio (the "County"), met in regular session on August 8, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the offices of the Board, 470 Center Street, Building #4, Chardon, Ohio 44024, with the following members present:

Ralph Spidalieri Walter M. Claypool Timothy C. Lennon

Commissioner Lennon introduced the following resolution and moved its passage:

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING SUBMISSION OF THE
ISSUE OF BONDS TO THE ELECTORS OF THE
GEAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND
CERTIFYING SAME TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

(Ohio Revised Code Sections 3375.24, 133.01(NN))

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees of the Geauga County Public Library (the "Library"), at the meeting on July 18, 2017, determined that it is necessary to issue bonds in the amount of \$24,000,000 (the "Bonds") for the purpose of constructing, renovating and improving library facilities; furnishing and equipping the same; improving the sites thereof; and acquiring land and interests in land in connection therewith; and that it is necessary that a direct tax be annually levied on all the taxable property in the Library outside of the ten-mill limitation to meet the debt charges on the Bonds and any securities issued in anticipation thereof; and

WHEREAS, this Board serves as agent of the Library under Section 133.01(NN), Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, this Board serves as the taxing and bond-issuing authority of the Library under Section 3375.24, Ohio Revised Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga, Ohio, Geauga County, Ohio, that:

Section 1. It is necessary to submit the issuance of the Bonds in the amount and for the purpose described in the preamble to this Resolution, and to levy, outside of the ten-mill limitation provided by law, an annual tax on all the taxable property in the Library to pay debt charges on the Bonds and any securities issued in anticipation thereof.

Section 2. The Bonds shall be dated approximately December 1, 2017; shall bear interest at the estimated rate of 5.00% per annum; and shall be paid over a number of years not to exceed 30.

Section 3. The question of issuing the Bonds shall be submitted to the electors of the Library at the election to be held at the usual voting places within the Library, on November 7, 2017.

Section 4. The form of the ballot to be used at said election shall be substantially as follows:

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AFFIRMATIVE VOTE IS NECESSARY FOR PASSAGE

Shall bonds be issued by the Geauga County Library, Ohio for the purpose of constructing, renovating and improving library facilities; furnishing and equipping the same; improving the sites thereof; and acquiring land and interests in land in connection therewith; in the principal amount of \$24,000,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of thirty (30) years and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the County Auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue one-half (0.50) mill for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to five (\$0.05) cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, commencing in 2017, first due in calendar year 2018, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds.

_____ **FOR THE BOND ISSUE**
_____ **AGAINST THE BOND ISSUE**

Section 5. *The Clerk of this Board is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution, along with the Resolution of Necessity, Certificate of County Auditor and Resolution to Proceed to the Board of Elections, Geauga County, Ohio on or before August 9, 2017.*

Section 6. *All formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

Commissioner Claypool seconded the motion and, after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye*</i>
	<i>Commissioner Claypool</i>	<i>Aye*</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>No</i>

**With the understanding that the O.R.C. and Ohio Attorney General opinion requires the Boards approval to have the item placed on the ballot.*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – SCHEDULE A WORK SESSION – GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Motion: *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to schedule a work session on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. with members of the Geauga County Agricultural Society Board to be held at the Geauga County Fairgrounds, 14373 North Cheshire Street, Burton, to discuss and tour recent upgrades to the fairgrounds.*

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

DISCUSSION –BLUE FLAME ENERGY

Local resident Jeff Kline expressed that he appreciates that the Board wants to support the taxpayers, but that recently Blue Flame Energy provided a potential savings to the Department of Water Resources. After discussions between the company and the Prosecutor's Office in regards to the process that would be required to follow to obtain the bid according the O.R.C. Mr. Kline stated that the Board chose to use Palmer Energy through CCAO and not Blue Flame, and now Blue Flame has been locked out of the bidding process. Mr. Lennon expressed that he has had multiple meetings with Blue Flame and at the last minute prior to signing the contract Blue Flame made a change to the commission rate. There was discussion about the competitive bidding process and the different processes via state bid versus the bid process for services over the \$50,000.00 threshold. Assistant Prosecutor Laura LaChapelle stated that the Commissioners have a current contract with CCAOSC who has a contract with Palmer Energy under a cooperative purchasing arrangement to obtain the bids. When those are obtained, they contact us with the vendors who then submit the quotes. Then there is a time period for the

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contract and refresh rate to be done then the contract is signed. There was discussion about the Board choosing to move forward with CCAO and postpone any contracts with Blue Flame in regards to the commission rate. Once that happened, the process moved forward with Palmer Energy which includes inclusivity which locks out Blue Flame from obtaining quotes. Mr. Lennon explained that he had spoken several times with Mr. Simler from Blue Flame and that while the rates will be very close to the same, he expressed that the customer service would be better and in Geauga County. Ms. LaChapelle inquired if Mr. Kline's position with Blue Flame is that of a sales consultant who receives commission. He replied that given his appointment by the Commissioners to sit on the Board of Mental Health, he signed off on receiving any commission.

Maintenance Director Glen Vernick stated that when the Board chose to move forward with Palmer Energy, this round of bidding became exclusive to them and that Blue Flame could not obtain rates for the County. Mr. Claypool expressed the idea of taking the parameters for the county don't use the County name and see what the rates are that they might get back to see if it would a viable comparison. Mr. Vernick briefly explained that his plan is to try and get all the county accounts in line with each other moving forward so that in the future all the accounts can be bid together. There has been a lot of time put into trying to work with Blue Flame over a length of time and he hopes that in the future Blue Flame can figure out a way to do business with government.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT WALTER “SKIP” CLAYPOOL AS ALTERNATE – TIM LENNON – NOACA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Claypool to appoint Walter “Skip” Claypool as alternate for Tim Lennon for the NOACA Executive Committee Meeting on Friday, August 11, 2017.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending July 26, 2017 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) The Monthly Financial Report from the County Building Department for the month of July 2017.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Fri., 8/11 NOACA Finance and Audit at 8:30 a.m., Governance at 10:00 a.m. and Executive at 11:30 a.m., Cleveland

Tue., 8/15 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

Fri., 8/18 NOACA Bicycle and Pedestrian, 10:30 a.m. Cleveland

Mon., 8/21 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. at Mental Health Offices

Tue., 8/22 The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

Tue., 8/29 The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

Thu., 8/31 The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 10:00 a.m. at the Great Geauga County Fair, Junior Fair Stage, Burton

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BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: *by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.*

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Walter M. Claypool

Timothy C. Lennon

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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