

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 15, 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, Ralph Spidalieri opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget and Finance Administrator Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a Revenue Certification for the County Engineer Building fund for anticipated transfer of funds from the General Fund for the Engineer's Office addition; an Appropriation transfer for the Juvenile Court to move funds from the FLIP program budget to the contract services line item to replace funds paid to attorneys for drug related cases; a Cash transfer from the General Fund for a portion of 2014 funding for the Office of Community and Economic Development; Travel requests for the Commissioners' Office, the Engineer's Office and the Office of Community and Economic Development; the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payment for 2014 to the OSU Extension Office in the amount of \$68,566.25; a payment to Gottschalk Building for improvements to the Board of Developmental Disabilities memorial pavilion in the amount of \$10,747.00. These improvements will be paid for via a transfer from the Board of Developmental Disabilities donation fund; and a payment to the Chardon Square Association as a donation for the flower baskets on Chardon Square in the amount of \$500.00\*.*

*\*Commissioner Spidalieri expressed that he would execute the financials but wanted it noted that he did not support the cost of the \$500.00 to the Chardon Square Association for the flower baskets. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about the invoice for VitaMix, to which Ms. Delaney stated that it would be paid off a blanket encumbrance but that they had not yet received it, so it was not in the financials.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute Resolution #14-122 itemizing the financials for the meeting of July 15, 2014.*

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

**NOC COG – BUSINESS REPRESENTATION UPDATE**

*Area 19 NOCCOG BRN Manager Brenda Vogley explained that the program was started in 2008 in Mahoning Valley as a layoff aversion model, and in 2012 the BRN received funds from the Department of Labor to expand the BRN to a sixteen county area. Ms. Vogley stated that the Workforce Investment Grant is for a three year period for \$6 million and our area received \$750,000.00 to implement the program in Geauga, Ashtabula and Portage Counties. Ms. Vogley stated that from January to June 2014 the three counties have completed over 155 interviews and delivered 69 proposals back to business which are well over the goal of 40 set by the Department of Labor.*

*MBA SPHR, Ohio Means Jobs Geauga BRN Denise Tomazic presented a handout to the Board and explained that this is to point out the partnership, part of what she does, by working in conjunction with Ohio Means Jobs Geauga County, which is the Workplace in part at Job and Family Services and with the Business Resource Network. Ms. Tomazic stated that they are both highly devoted to work with businesses to understand the needs and assisting those needs, so it really is a great compliment to each other. The partners make the resource pull together, which allows them to reach out to business and let them know what is out there and available.*

*Geauga County Business Resource Network Update: July 2014*

*Background: Unique approach to help businesses survive and grow. Work closely with organizations to identify and access a host of business services. Currently operates in sixteen*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

*(16) counties in Ohio and funded by a Federal Workforce Innovation Grant. Collaboration of chambers of commerce, workforce and economic development organizations, universities, career and technical centers, and state and local government agencies. BRN targets businesses with growth potential as well as those facing challenges.*

*Process: Based upon developing/strengthening the relationship with business by understanding the issues and providing relevant resources. There is no charge for the interview and proposal with many services available at no cost. The BRN Acct. Executive is the key facilitator / single point of contact for the process and business.*

*Outreach to Business: Acct Executive*  
*Schedule interview* *e-mail preliminary paperwork*

*The Interview: Interactive Conversation*  
*Facilitate interview with business* *identify challenges / opportunities*

*Partners / Proposals*  
*Partners respond with resources* *proposal delivered to business*

*Area 19 Business Resource Network Partners*

*Akron CNC Training Center*  
*Ashtabula County 503 Corporation*  
*Ashtabula County Commissioners*  
*Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus (ATECH)*  
*Auburn Career Center*  
*Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC)*  
*Fortis College – Ravenna Campus*  
*Geauga County Commissioners*  
*Geauga County Community & Economic Development*  
*Geauga County Community Improvement Corporation*  
*Geauga Growth Partnership*  
*Goodwill Industries – Ashtabula*  
*Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County*  
*Kent State University at Ashtabula*  
*Kent State University at Geauga and the Regional Academic Center*  
*Kent State University Center for Corporate and Professional Development*  
*Lakeland Community College Center for Business and Industry*  
*Mahoning Valley Economic Development Corporation*  
*Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET)*  
*Manufacturing Extension Partnership*  
*Maplewood Career Center Adult Workforce Development*  
*Office of Governor John Kasich*  
*Ohio Department of Job and Family Services*  
*Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Jobs and Commerce*  
*OhioMeansJobs Ashtabula County*  
*OhioMeansJobs Geauga County*  
*OhioMeansJobs Portage County*  
*Portage County Commissioners*  
*Portage Development Board and the Portage County Port Authority*  
*Procurement Technical Assistance Center*  
*TeamNEO/JobsOhio*

*Ms. Tomazic stated after the proposal is submitted it is up to the business on whether they want to move forward. Commissioner Spidalieri inquired about the fees for the services, to which Ms. Tomazic stated that there is no cost for the services, but that if training is required at Auburn then there would be a fee that the business would have to cover that cost. Commissioner Samide inquired about the \$750,000.00 that is received and how it's split across the counties. Director Craig Sirnik explained that a portion of the funds goes to cover administration costs and \$153,500.00 was given to each county to cover the cost of the Account Executive to give each county a fair, full-time representative. Mr. Spidalieri asked for a breakdown of the costs, to which Ms. Vogley stated that the \$153,500.00 goes to cover the work Ms. Tomazic does along with her supervisor. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about how CGI bills and the average cost per project, which Ms. Vogley stated that it would vary by the project. Ms. Samide wanted to know*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

*what happens with the remaining \$96,500.00 to which it was explained that it covers administrative costs, Ms. Vogley's salary, which covers central costs of the BRN. Mr. Sirnik explained that they are including re-examining the grant and the possibility of expanding the grant past June 2015. It was noted that the funds are to also cover the three year period. Ms. Vogley noted that Area 6 has an office that evaluates the work being done on the grant that is also working to find other areas of income to continue to fund the program. Mr. Sirnik stated that they are also looking for additional Federal funds, then from the State and then they might have to look at the WIA funds. Commissioner Rear inquired about they measure the success of the program, to which Ms. Vogley stated that the Department of Labor wants to know the numbers of outreach, business, partners with resources and values on resources that are developed. Ms. Vogley stated that they want to tell a story on how they helped companies, how they connected them to financing for expansions, and how they connected them to training for employees. Ms. Vogley stated that it's really about connecting businesses to resources to help them solve the problems and challenges they may be facing. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about a success story in Geauga, to which Ms. Tomazic stated that there is confidentiality in the program for the companies, but in general the greatest things they have seen happen is with economic development, that includes having companies connect with Ms. Stocker at Community Development.*

*Ms. Tomazic explained that her background includes business management and human resources which helps her work with the companies, including assisting them with job descriptions. Ms. Tomazic continued to go over the following information that was presented.*

*Business Climate: Overall positive atmosphere with business growth and momentum evident in Geauga County. Acquisitions, expansions, strengthening of regional and international market share, pursuing training more aggressively, become more creative in attracting and retaining talent, and balancing the revolving healthcare agenda to support both employees and the bottom line. Controlled and focused growth strategies to retain competitive advantage.*

*Business Focus: Diversity of business within Geauga County which does not make the local economy dependent upon one particular sector for employment and services. Larger sectors: Manufacturing 20%, Retail 13%, Healthcare 12%, and Government 11%. Visits focused on Manufacturing/Healthcare sector balanced with small business technical/service. Met with 30 businesses in a six month period, Jan-June 2014.*

*Business Feedback: Speaking in general terms and respecting the confidentiality agreement of the BRN. This is what Geauga Businesses are saying:*

*Healthcare cost/compliance: Businesses moving ahead despite the uncertainty. Struggle to balance taking care of the employees with maintaining the bottom line. 80% of businesses reported new Healthcare laws as challenging legislation.*

*Workforce: Shortage of skilled labor but more importantly developing the talent pipeline. Growing emphasis on white collar professionals and how to attract and retain them in the County. 70% of the businesses rated general availability of workforce only 4/7, while quality and stability of workforce ranked 6/7, the higher end of the scale. About 18% of the businesses cited "lack of skilled labor" as a future consideration for possibly relocating outside of Geauga County.*

*Training: Remains challenging to find that individual who is the "perfect fit" in both skills and attitude. Companies refocusing their recruitment strategy on developing their current workforce and increasing proficiency, making room for more entry level. Business looking for training grants for existing workforce and more diversity in training options by local educational partners. Most companies provide some form of training and 94% of the companies said they plan on increasing spending for training within the next few years.*

*Infrastructure: Internet challenges, electrical "brown outs" / disruption of service, and lack of public transportation which affects recruitment in sectors of the county. Limited large space availability for business expansion to accommodate growth.*

*Small Business Support: Relevant small/med. Business resources beyond start-ups, to assist in developing a plan to move forward to the next level. Looking for expertise in marketing, new product development, and niche industries.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

*Business / Leveraged Resources: Value of resources provided to business. Currently 40% of businesses have made connections to suggested resources/partners or utilized their services. Follow up continues and additional proposals are in process to be submitted to business.*

*Overall, partners have helped the BRN “travel at the speed of business”.*

*Mr. Spidalieri inquired about how the services are advertised, which Ms. Tomazic noted that there is a brochure, but most are referrals and word of mouth. Mr. Sirnik explained that no matter how much they advertised business wasn't finding them, so this grant has allowed CGI to meet with the partners and they identify business to contact and then reach out to them to see how they can be helped. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about training, to which Ms. Vogley noted that they contact the partners to find out what they offer and that information is taken back to them. Mr. Spidalieri inquired if the high schools are contacted where the kids are making decisions about the careers they want to get into, to which Ms. Vogley stated that Auburn Career Center has business service staff that help them develop programs like internships to get them involved and interested. Ms. Vogley stated that the Geauga Growth Partnership is another way that they are bringing kids into meet with businesses. Discussion took place regarding programs that manufacturing companies are utilizing, and some of the fields of interest that are changing based on upcoming needs and the ways that manufacturing companies are working with the schools to try and get the high school students interested.*

**ARCHIVES / RECORDS CENTER – MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – SCAN IT PLUS**

*Director Linda Burhenne explained that this contract is for the new machine that the Board helped her department purchase. This new scanner is increasing their production by almost 80%, adding that this contract is for maintenance on that scanner with a new company.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the maintenance Contract Agreement with Scan It Plus for the Fujitsu fi 6770 Production Scanner for a one year period in the amount of \$872.00.*

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

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RESURFACE OF WOODIN ROAD**

*Deputy Engineer Nick Gorris explained that this is the contract with Ronyak Paving for the Woodin Road project.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Widening and Asphalt Resurfacing of Woodin Road (CH 25) in Chardon and Hambden Townships in the amount of \$747,571.70.*

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

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BURTON CARPET SHOPPE, INCORPORATED**

*Director Glen Vernick explained that the carpet in the lobby and hallways at Job and Family Services are in very bad shape, that the carpet is laid on a concrete slab and often bubbles, so this will replace about 8,000 square feet with two foot carpet squares so that if there becomes are area that get stained or damaged then that section can be easily repaired. The carpet has been in place since 1998.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Burton Carpet Shoppe, Incorporated to perform Carpet Replacement for Hallway/Lobbies of the Job and Family Services Building for the Year 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$32,363.07.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

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

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GEAUGA MECHANICAL

Mr. Vernick stated that the two boilers currently in place were installed in the 1980's and are on borrowed time, adding that last year some repair work had to be done. Mr. Vernick stated that the new boilers will be more energy efficient.

Motion:           by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and execute a service Contract Agreement with Geauga Mechanical to perform the Removal and Installation of two Annex Boilers in the Data Room for the Year 2014 in an amount not to exceed \$48,110.00.

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

TRANSIT – OHIO MOTOR FUEL TAX REFUND CLAIM FOR TRANSIT BUSES

Interim Director Mike Kasper stated that this is the refund from the State for the tax from the fuel used during the second quarter.

Motion:           by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Motor Fuel Tax Refund Claim for Transit Buses for the period April 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014 in the amount of \$2,693.25.

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

TRANSIT – ACCEPT RESIGNATION – CORNELIUS HALSMER

Mr. Kasper explained that Mr. Halsmer was retiring effective August 1, 2014.

Motion:           by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to accept the resignation of Cornelius Halsmer, Full-time Driver to be effective August 1, 2014.

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

OTHER – POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBER – MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Mr. Spidalieri introduced Che Scott as a recommendation to serve on the Mental Health Board, noting that Mr. Scott is a Geauga County resident, but formerly of Cleveland Heights. Mr. Scott has a background in law enforcement, having graduated from the Ohio Peace Officer training, along with working at Marymount Hospital as a Supervisor of Security with the Mental Health division. Mr. Scott stated that he grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland Heights and moved to the County in 1998 with his parents. Mr. Scott briefly explained that while serving as a law enforcement officer the types of people that he worked with often dealt with Mental Health and expressed that he wants to give back and help those that need it in the County. Mr. Rear noted that Mr. Scott falls under the Mental Health aspect and Addiction Services requirement as a board member. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that Mr. Scott brings something different to the board with what he faced growing up and will understand the challenges the youth are facing today. Mr. Scott added that it's a different generation today than before, noting that everyone has a different situation that they come from. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that after attending the Opiate Symposium and the issues facing this County today, we need to have someone that may bring a different approach. Mr. Spidalieri stated that having fancy degrees is important but having a degree of street smart and street sense is critical. The Board briefly discussed the area where Mr. Scott grew up and the reasons his family moved here along with reasons why people work in certain places and the reasons why they live in the neighborhoods they do. Mr. Rear stated that he was impressed with what he heard and that a good cross section of people is important to have on the board.

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCIPLINE OF EMPLOYEE - TRANSIT

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the discipline of an employee in the Transit Department.*

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

*It was noted that County Administrator David Lair, Colleen Lockhart and Mike Kasper would be joining the Board in executive session. The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:22 a.m. and as a result the following action was taken:*

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to acknowledge receipt of a waiver to the right to a disciplinary hearing to Karen DeCola, Hearing Officer, and to further accept the recommendation of the Transit Department Interim Director to suspend Andrew Walsh, Driver in the Department of Transit without pay for forty (40) hours for violation of the Transit Best Practices and Geauga County Personnel Policy and Procedures. The time off is to be scheduled by the Director. And to further approve and execute the Order of Removal, Reduction, Suspension, Involuntary Disciplinary Separation form per O.R.C. 124.34 for the forty (40) hours.*

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES – JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

*Motion: by Commissioner Samide, seconded by Commissioner Rear to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the compensation of public employees at the Department of Job and Family Services.*

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

*It was noted the Executive Director Tim Taylor, Gina Schultz, Paul Reiman and Mr. Lair would be joining the Board in executive session. The Board returned from Executive Session at 12:04 p.m. and as a result no action was taken.*

OTHER – WIB BOARD MEMBER

*County Administrator David Lair noted that he had watched the video from the Tuesday, July 8, 2014 meeting and that there was question about the appointment of Ms. Gayhart. Mr. Lair stated that Casey Gayhart had been at the meeting in the beginning to hear about the discussion with the NOC COG Area 19 to learn more, but that she was interested in holding the board position.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending July 2, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending July 9, 2014 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

MEETINGS

Mon., 7/21 *Family First Council, 2:00 p.m. at Job and Family Services*

Tue., 7/22 *The Commissioners' will hold regular session.*

Thu., 7/24 *The Commissioners' will hold regular session beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Building #8 and will include a discussion regarding Gas Tax with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA).*

Tue., 7/29 *The Commissioners' will hold regular session.*

Tue., 8/5 *The Commissioners' will hold regular session which will include a Public Hearing at 10:20 a.m. regarding the Proposed Amendment to the Standard Specifications and Procedures for the Design and Construction of Subdivision Roads in Geauga County.*

**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, COMMISSIONER SAMIDE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 12:06 P.M.**

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Blake A. Rear*

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*Mary E. Samide*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 15, 2014**

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