

Commissioners' Journal
December 18, 2018

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 18, 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 9:04 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 December 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>

APPROVE FINANCIALS

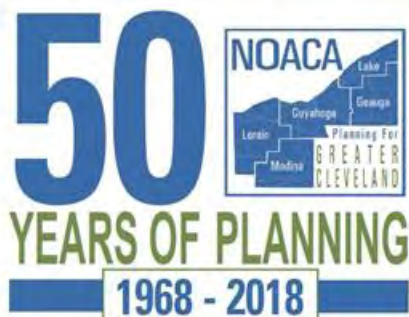
Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including an Appropriation transfer into the Miscellaneous Fund for yearend Capital Projects; a Cash transfer out of the General Fund to the Common Pleas Court Pre-sentence Investigation fund for payroll advance due to grant funding not yet received from the State in the amount of \$3,500 to be paid back once grant funds become available or by December 2019; a Cash transfer to Court Technology for the remainder of 2018 funding; a Purchase Order for the Maintenance Department with Neopost USA for a new postage machine; a payment to Logos Communication for ADP for the Black Box video conferencing project in the amount of \$22,194.89; a payment to the City of Chardon for the County Engineer's Office for Municipal Road Funds for the Claridon Road Improvement Project in the amount of \$250,000.00; a payment to Liberty Ford for the Sheriff's Office for a new law enforcement vehicle in the amount of \$30,208.18; and Revenue Certifications for 2019 for the Juvenile Probate Court Care and Custody, CASA, Special Projects and Computerization funds.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #18-169 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 18, 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>

NOACA – BUILD GRANT

Executive Director of NOACA, Grace Gallucci announced that under the BUILD grant, Geauga County would be receiving \$9.6 million for improvements to the roadway system.



NOACA will **STRENGTHEN** regional cohesion, **PRESERVE** existing infrastructure, and **BUILD** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **SUPPORT** economic development and **ENHANCE** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

BUILD stands for Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development, which is a Federal program and thanked Senator Portman, Senator Brown and Congressman Joyce for all their support and letters in order to ensure we were a recipient of this grant. This program was formerly known as the TIGER grant but was changed under the TRUMP administration.



ABOUT BUILD GRANTS

Ultra-competitive US DOT Program:

- 851 applications requesting more than **\$10.9 BILLION**
- 91 projects or **\$1.5 BILLION** awarded
- **RURAL** Emphasis
 - 62 of 91 projects rural
 - **\$992 Million (66%) rural**

BUILD Grants
Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development Transportation Community Grants Program

NOACA
Northwest Ohio Area Council of Governments

Ms. Gallucci explained that as NOACA was applying they really wanted to think about the RURAL program, thanking the Advisory Council, Geauga County’s presence and input to help NOACA better understand the Rural portion of Geauga County.



SAFETY & MOBILITY NEEDS



- The Amish population – which is already the fourth largest in the U.S. – is growing rapidly.
- If trends continue, Geauga County's Amish population will double by 2037, creating even more conflicts.



Ms. Gallucci stated that they are trying to accommodate two types of transportation on one roadway, which continues to cause conflict.

SAFETY & MOBILITY NEEDS

- Between 2010 and 2014, 83 crashes were recorded involving Amish buggies in Geauga County.
- Crashes tend to be severe, resulting in injuries and fatalities 34 percent of the time.



Ms. Gallucci noted that last year they started a safety and operations unit that focuses on high crash areas and with many involving Amish buggy's and were in need of support. Ms. Gallucci stated that during the last six years she has had the pleasure of working with many people from Geauga County, but remembers Commissioner Spidalieri's first meeting and him bringing up concern over the Amish population and safety on roadways. Commissioner Claypool has often brought up the topic of Amish buggy's as well as Commissioner Lennon expressing concern over their safety.

PLANNING EFFORTS

Amish Safety Strategic Plan (2016)

- Partners and stakeholders included:
 - Geauga Amish Safety Committee
 - Geauga County officials
 - NOACA
 - Ohio DOT (District 12)
 - Ohio State Highway Patrol
 - Village & Township officials
- Extensive safety analyses
- Survey and engagement
- Priority project recommendations

NOACA TLCI Implementation (2017)

- Newcomb Road improvements
- \$200,000 funded



Ms. Gallucci noted that the Geauga County Engineer brought to the attention of NOACA a TLCI project that needed additional funding, around the same time an Amish Safety Strategic Plan

was implemented as a partnership with ODOT and local officials. This group deserves a lot of recognition for their part in the application that was presented.

WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

Creates safer roadways and improved mobility for all users by helping to eliminate conflicts between cars, trucks, pedestrians, and Amish buggies.



Ms. Gallucci noted that there had been many plans presented about Amish buggies throughout the years but were never able to be funded, the key for this TLCI program is that it involves all users to be safe and secure on the roadways.

WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

1. Widen shoulders for buggy and pedestrian use
 - 8' for buggy use at 2 locations
 - 4' for pedestrian use at 3 locations
2. Add buggy warning systems
 - 6+ locations
3. Improve school zones and highly traveled pedestrian areas with signage and/or flashing lights
 - at numerous locations (not mapped)



WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

- **Widen shoulders to 8' for buggy use at 2 locations**
 1. SR 87 – Hayes Rd to Trumbull County Line (0.96 miles)
 2. SR 608 – Nauvoo Rd to 2500' North of Burton-Windsor Rd (1.41 miles)
- **Widen shoulders to 4' for pedestrian use at 3 locations**
 1. SR 168 - Patch Rd to Shedd Rd; includes bridge along SR 168 (1.2 miles)
 2. Newcomb Rd – Nash Rd to Shedd Rd (Currently a gravel road, includes full road surface plus shoulder) (2.75 miles)
 3. Mumford Rd – Patch Rd to SR 168 (1.1 miles)



WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

- Add buggy warning/conflict warning systems at 6+ locations
 1. Old State Road near Trumbull County Line (3 locations)
 2. SR 88 – East of Bundysburg Road (1 location)
 3. SR 168 – South of Nash Road (1 location)
 4. Burton Windsor – West of SR 608 (1 location)
 5. SR 87 at Hayes Road (1 location)
 6. SR 608 at Burton Windsor Road (1 location)



Director of Programming Randy Lane explained that the warning system could be one of numerous options, that could include a warning system to a driver that a slow moving buggy is ahead.

WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

Improve school zones and highly traveled pedestrian areas with signage and/or flashing lights at numerous locations

- Newcomb Rd – Nash to Patch
- Newcomb Rd – Shedd to Georgia
- Newcomb Rd – Patch to SR 168
- Retrofit 22 Existing School Zone Assemblies with Pedestals and Transformer Bases
- SR 168 – Memorial Drive to SR 528
- SR 608 – SR 528 to CR 40/Georgia Rd
- SR 608 – Tare Creek/Button St to Burton Windsor
- SR 87 – SR 528 to Bundysburg Rd/Trumbull Cty Line
- CR 6 / Old State Rd – Trumbull Cty Line
- SR 168 at Shedd Road
- SR 168 at Patch Road
- SR 608 at Burton Windsor Road
- SR Newcomb Road at Shedd



Ms. Gallucci noted that the safety and operations unit includes an expert on safe routes to school.

PROJECT COST & FUNDING

Total project cost is \$14.3 million

- \$9.6 million federal BUILD grant
- Remainder funded by NOACA & ODOT



Ms. Gallucci explained that Federal grants require local matches, so NOACA and ODOT are matching the remaining almost \$5 million for the project. Ms. Gallucci hopes people will see the value that NOACA can bring to Geauga County. Ms. Gallucci stated that Mr. Lane and his group is responsible for the grant application. Mr. Lennon added that this is a big win for all transportation in Geauga County. Ms. Gallucci recognized former NOACA employee Pat Holtz who lives in Geauga County helped keep Geauga in the forefront on projects. Mr. Lane noted that the projects need to be approved by 2020 with funds being expended by 2025. The real work will be in developing the project to begin construction.

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COMMISSIONERS OFFICE – CORSA 2019-2020 RENEWAL APPLICATION SUMMARY

Insurance Agent Gary Wirtz with Pease-Kerr Insurance Partners explained that we are working on the 2019 renewal, and have been working on gathering information including employee counts, vehicles and property locations. Mr. Wirtz stated that in April he will be back to present the renewal information. Mr. Wirtz noted that CORSA presented a complete property evaluation for the County. There was a brief discussion about accidents affecting the rating, and not knowing what significant impact they will have for this year.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the CORSA 2019-2020 Renewal Application Summary.

<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 – PUBLIC HEARING – PETITION FOR REGULAR ANNEXATION FROM FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MIDDLEFIELD OF FIFTEEN ACRES INTO THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD

Commissioner Spidalieri opened the Public Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Assistant Prosecutor Laura LaChapelle swore in those in attendance that may speak during the Hearing.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to waive the reading of the legal notice.

<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>

Attorney Matt Rolf representing the Agent Jon Hunter. Mr. Rolf stated that they had initially submitted the application in late September, then amending the title of the petition and to correct the map and legal description. Mr. Rolf noted that it had been amended again in December for a corrected map and legal description. Mr. Rolf noted that they had met with the Engineer's Office and Map Room who assisted them with what needed to be updated to be an accurate map and description. Ms. LaChapelle asked the representative for the County Engineer's Office, Andy Haupt to confirm accuracy, which after being sworn in stated that they had reviewed the corrected map and description and it is now accurate. Mr. Rolf noted that there are statutory requirements for the petition, adding that they provide notice to the Township and Village of the petition and also on record the ordinance adopted by the Village of services to the parcel. Mr. Rolf stated that this is a 15 acre parcel just north of the Village of Middlefield on Route 608. Mr. Hunter noted that a pavilion had been constructed so far on the parcel. Mr. Rolf asked Mr. Hunter to explain the intent of the church, to which Mr. Hunter stated that they wish to build a church, down the road in four to five years when funds are available. Mr. Hunter added that they had done a lot of work to the property removing a house, an old barn and over 1,000 tires from the property. Mr. Hunter added that they want to include a thrift store and food cupboard as a way to help the community. Mr. Lennon asked what the reason they wanted to annex, to which Mr. Hunter noted that it was for the water and sewer service when the church is built.

Mr. Claypool expressed a brief point, that annexation is not necessary to gain access to the services, while it may be required by the City, that a service agreement could have been obtained. Mr. Hunter stated that the Annexation would allow them to become part of the Village. Mr. Rolf inquired about the number of members in the church, to which the Pastor of the Church stated in the upper 200's for membership and little under 100 for worship. Mr. Claypool inquired if there had been any objection to this annexation, to which Mr. Rolf stated that nothing had come to them at this point, but was unaware if anyone was in attendance today.

Mr. Lennon asked Ms. LaChapelle if she had reviewed the information, to which she noted that everything appears to be in order. Ms. LaChapelle stated that in order to prepare the resolution to grant or deny the annexation, she needed some additional information on the factors to which Mr. Rolf would be submitting. Mr. Rolf noted that if this annexation be approved, there is a single parcel on the opposite side of the road which is in the Township that on one side will have a parcel in the city (Village) and if this is approved the other side will also be in the city (Village). The statute asked the Board to review if there will be any problems with the

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maintenance of the road, that road in question is Route 608 and is maintained by the State in general and at this time don't feel there will be any issue. Mr. Rolf added that they do not have an agreement between the city (Village) and the Township, should the Board request it, they can get it obtained. Mr. Rolf referenced a parcel outside of Chardon that road services were applied with no issue. Ms. LaChapelle inquired if a street or highway would be divided or segmented as a result of the annexation, to which Mr. Rolf responded no. Ms. LaChapelle asked Mr. Haupt who stated that his understanding is that the State maintains the state road in the Village. Mr. Rolf added that they had also provided notice to the surrounding property owners, to the Township and Village, the Village approved an ordinance for extension of services to the parcel and the Township approved overall approval of the annexation. Mr. Rolf added that they provided notice to the Board of the notification and that it was published on December 6, 2018. Mr. Lennon asked if the Village had any conversation or comments. Mr. Hunter noted that they had spoken with the Village and Leslie Gambosi was present from the Village and added that Council sees no reason to reject the annexation and reviewed it. Mr. Spidalieri asked if anyone else present had any objection or make a statement during the Hearing, to which there was no response.

Ms. LaChapelle addressed the Board, noting that the Board is sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity and has 30 days to render a decision, if the Board wants to deliberate on a different date and a resolution will need to be prepare, so they do not need to make a decision today. Mr. Spidalieri added that he has reviewed the information and feels comfortable. Ms. LaChapelle noted that she needed information from the hearing today to complete the resolution, will get it prepared and have it for the next meeting. Mr. Rolf asked if there was anything else to be added to the record. Being no further comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:44 a.m.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 FINAL – INCREASE THE CONTRACT – ECLIPSE COMPANY, LLC – REPLACEMENT OF HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE
Deputy Engineer Nick Gorris asked the Board to approve the final change order for the replacement of the Haskins Road bridge that includes an increase for incidental materials.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Change Order #1 Final, increasing the Contract with Eclipse Company, LLC for the replacement of the Haskins Road Bridge (Structure #191-00.48) in Bainbridge Township in the amount of \$1,220.00.

<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>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AUTHORIZE LENNON TO EXECUTE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION, APPENDIX E – DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #2 – BUNDYSBURG ROAD

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve Mr. Lennon to execute the OPWC disbursement for the Resurfacing of Bundysburg Road, adding that this was request #2 and final.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize Timothy C. Lennon, Member and Chief Executive Officer to execute the Ohio Public Works Commission, Appendix E – Disbursement Request Form and Certification #2 in order to release funds from the state portion of our OPWC grant for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Bundysburg Road (Sections A-D) in Parkman Township in the amount of \$111,256.80.

<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>

Mr. Claypool expressed gratitude for the County Engineer's Office for the work they did with NOACA on the Amish safety project.

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE – SALES AGREEMENT – RUSS BASSETT CORPORATION – WORK STATIONS RELATED TO 9-1-1 NEXGEN UPGRADES

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand noted that this project had been discussed several times as part of the 9-1-1 NexGen System upgrades. This agreement is for the work stations. Mr. Lennon noted that they looked at several options, but based on space and customized furniture, it left them with limited options. There was a brief discussion about facial recognition and on license plate readers. Mr. Lennon added that he was happy to be able to get another vehicle before the change to the hybrid engines.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute the Sales Agreement with Russ Bassett Corporation for the purchase and installation of work stations related to the 9-1-1 NexGen System upgrades in the amount of \$97,946.80.

<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 DEVELOPMENT (COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC) – OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY HOUSING REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT – ADMINISTER CDBG PROGRAM INCOME

Executive Director Dave Favorite and Program Administrator Jessica Gillenwater asked the Board to execute the administration agreement that allows the department to administer the revolving loan fund and CDBG allocation program.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the State of Ohio, Development Services Agency, Housing Revolving Loan Fund Administration Agreement for the administration of "HOME" and "CDBG" Program Income for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 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' OFFICE – 2019 CEBCO WELLNESS GRANT AGREEMENT

Human Resources Specialist Kelly Bidlack presented some information to the Board on the Geauga County statistics from the Wellness program. Ms. Bidlack noted that 40% of the employees learned of a newly identified health condition.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 2019 CEBCO Wellness Grant Agreement to promote employee health and wellness lifestyles in the amount of \$14,520.00 and \$4,000.00 in Administrative funds.

<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 OF INTENT FOR LEASEHOLD – GEAUGA TRUMBULL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT – CONSTRUCT COLLECTION FACILITY

Assistant County Administrator Gerard Morgan asked the Board to consider the letter of intent for leasehold with Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste for the construction of a collection facility on property on Merritt Road. It was noted that Mr. Claypool played a huge role in bringing this facility to the County.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve, execute and initial the Letter of Intent for Leasehold with the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District in regards to property located in Claridon Township and on and adjacent to Merritt Road (Parcel # 13-705-019) to construct a collection facility for use by residents of the District to dispose of household hazardous materials.

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Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Claypool	Aye
	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing imminent litigation with legal counsel for the Board, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(G)(3) and to discuss the acquisition of property, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(G)(2).

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Claypool	Aye
	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:56 a.m. with Mr. Lair, Mr. Morgan, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney's Kristine Rine and Laura LaChapelle, County Engineer Joe Cattell, County Engineer's Business Administrator Frank Antenucci and Deputy Engineer Andy Haupt. The Board returned at 10:18 a.m. and as a result took the following action:

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #18-170 to Appropriate Property for County Road and Bridge purposes within Geauga County.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Claypool	Aye
	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

CITY OF CHARDON – EXPLORE 4TH OPTION FOR COUNTY OFFICE RELOCATION PROJECT

City of Chardon Mayor Jeff Smock expressed to the Board that at the last council meeting they discussed in depth the proposed relocation of the County facilities. The City council is pleased that the Commissioners acknowledged that all offices required by law will remain in the City of Chardon (County Seat). Council does not object to vacating the 470 center street, the annex and opera house based on cost of renovations and ongoing maintenance expense. The City looks forward to working with the County to find the right developer to renovate and repurpose those properties, that will generate jobs and enhance the local economy. Because of the historic significance to the City and all of Geauga County, they want to work with the Board to ensure that the County Courthouse will continue to serve as the center of the County Judicial system. After reviewing the three options prepared by Bowen and Associates, the City would like a 4th option be considered and ask the Board to authorize Bowen to investigate the possibility of constructing new office facilities on the square. As part of this request the City will pay for half the cost of Bowen to fully investigate this option with similar detail as provided in Options 1, 2, and 3. The City feels that because Bowen has prepared all the study information to this point, they feel having them put this together is the best way for the Board to get apples to apples comparison. As part of this 4th option the City is offering the services of their architect to offer advice if needed as he is familiar with the requirements for construction. Mr. Smock continued that with out of the box thinking if necessary will show that constructing new county office facilities on the square is feasible and consider permitting exterior renovations and expansion to the Courthouse to make the facility conducive to conducting court in the 21st century. Mr. Smock speaks for the Council in that they are proud that Chardon is the County Seat and the Center for County government and want to work with the Board to make this a win, win for everyone and feel this is feasible and if they work together they can make it happen.

Mr. Lennon stated that he had spoken previously this week with Mr. Smock and that he had no preconceived notion of what the end result will be that he has his own thoughts, adding that there are some differences of opinions of options to look at. Mr. Lennon continued that thinking back that there was restriction on where they could build and that there was no option of adding on to the Courthouse, as it was learned of the restrictions on land and with the building itself.

There was discussion on finding out what is feasible, reality of what is tangible, the options that might be available and if they keep the offices on the square they could sell the 35 acres to pay for the renovations on the square. Mr. Smock noted that they want to do their due diligence with the study that they cannot do this, as there will always be people making shots. Mr. Claypool

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added that as they went through this study there was a lot input and many opinions on the Courthouse. Mr. Claypool stated that they could study and study until they are blue in the face, noting that from the beginning they had concern for Chardon, but at the end of the day there has to be a decision made to move on. Mr. Claypool added that he has gotten feedback from people asking about moving services to make them more convenient. Whatever decision is made, no one should underestimate the time that has been looked into on this, adding that they have always said they want to do right by the City of Chardon. These buildings were not designed for where we are today, but we need to look to the future 30, 50, 100 years from now.

Mr. Smock added that this is a long process that has been going on for decades, but before it ends we are a few years away, and adding a couple of months to the process for Bowen to put something together is a reasonable request. Mr. Lennon stated that anything is possible if you have money, but is it feasible, is it realistic, cost effective, those are the questions that need asked, referencing the old D.B. Hart study from years ago stated that the best option was green field site for the future with flexibility.

Mr. Claypool stated that he respected them coming before the Board to have this discussion, but it may be worth asking the question of Bowen to see what they think but his opinion is that we've looked at it long enough already and move forward and make the best decision. Let's work together and work on the transition. Mr. Lennon agreed with Mr. Claypool that at some point the review and study of it has to end, is there flexibility on the Courthouse, to which Mr. Smock added that Council is saying everything is on the table, and that an addition might make the facility work and function better, making it look like the courthouse as it is, adding that it needs to be investigated and if it's feasible or not. Randy Sharpe noted that this last week was the first time the Council had to discuss the press release. Mr. Smock noted that six weeks ago when the options were presented they discussed that they feel option #4 needs to be explored. Mr. Lennon expressed that Bowen was dealing with reality, what the clay ball was that we need to mold, this is what you have, here's the conditions, and there is the need. Mr. Sharpe agreed and that they also included additional needs. Mr. Claypool added that the age of building is prohibitive from providing the security of what is needed. Mr. Lennon added that it's not just security, these facilities won't accept modern utilities, stating that this is a 100 year decision that needs to be made. Mr. Claypool inquired why they were fighting so hard to keep the Courthouse, the legal center will remain in the County seat, you have the ability to envision the downtown area with new life, plus the offices remain here on the 35 acres. Mr. Smock stated that it's all about the Courthouse, it has limited use, look and design, and feel that keeping a court is the best use.

Mr. Smock stated that we don't know what the total costs are on the whole package of keeping the offices on the square. Mr. Morgan asked for clarification on just the Court or the Court and all the offices. Mr. Smock stated that they want everything that is required to be in the City to remain on the square and the remaining could be put elsewhere and sell the 35 acres. Mr. Lennon stated that given the current conditions, the recommendation is to move to the 35 acres or the southern area by Merritt Road. Mr. Lennon asked to be clear that Chardon was asking to keep all of what is on the square to remain on the square in a new building somewhere, adding that it's more cost effective for them to move to the 35 acres. The City is asking for them to have the 4th option looked at to see if it is a feasible option. Mr. Morgan stated that they would contact Bowen and ask them about what Chardon was requesting.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 12/18 ADP Board meeting, 2:00 p.m. Auditor's Office

*Mon., 12/24 **County offices under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will be closed for general business. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

*Tue., 12/25 **The County Offices will be closed for general business due to the Christmas Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.***

Thu., 12/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

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- Mon., 12/31 **County offices under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will be closed for general business. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.**
- Tue., 1/1 **The County Offices will be closed for general business due to the New Year's Day Holiday. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.**
- Thu., 1/3 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.
- Tue., 1/8 Planning Commission meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon
- Tue., 1/8 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m., this will include their Annual Organization meeting.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Timothy C. Lennon

Walter M. Claypool

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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