

Commissioners' Journal
November 9, 2018

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in special session on November 9, 2018 at 2:00 p.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 Vice President of the Board, Timothy C. Lennon opened the meeting at 2:04 p.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent from this special meeting.*

**COMMISSIONERS OFFICE – RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2018
“NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH” AND CELEBRATE “ADOPTION DAY” NOVEMBER 13TH
IN GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO**

Commissioner Lennon thanked everyone for getting things put together so quickly. Case Management Director Ann Walden explained that November is National Adoption Month and the Probate/Juvenile Court is holding an event on Tuesday, November 13th to celebrate some of the adoptions the Court has finalized over the last year, and to bring awareness to this topic. There are far too many children in foster care and many still in need of a forever loving home. Ms. Walden stated that twelve children are currently in permanent custody, six are in process of having a legal adoption and six are still currently looking for a permanent home. Mr. Lennon inquired about the process of adoption. Ms. Walden stated that there are both public and private agencies that help handle an adoption process, with case workers that will help the family meet criteria and manage them through the adoption process. Judge Timothy J. Grendell added that the child must be with the adoptive family for six months prior to the hearing, letters of reference submitted to the Court that support the family, criminal backgrounds checks, financial accounting and a hearing. A family can go through Job and Family Services, a few have come through a private agency in Cleveland with foreign adoptions that can be complicated, but there are also a few attorney's local that have handled an adoption. Judge Grendell stated that most of the adoptions that they handle are through Job and Family Services at the end of permanent custody. A child is taken from a home from abuse, neglect or dependency, they spend two years trying to fix and reunite, they end up in permanent custody and then they begin the process of looking for an adoptive family. Ms. Walden added that the national average is three years for a child to be in foster care before the adoption process. Judge Grendell thanked the Board for their support in getting awareness here in Geauga County.

Clerk, Christine Blair read the following resolution:

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 18-151

Date: November 9, 2018

**A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2018 “NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH” AND
CELEBRATE “ADOPTION DAY” NOVEMBER 13TH IN GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO**

WHEREAS, In recognition of NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners join the Geauga County Probate Court, the Geauga County Juvenile Court's CASA Program and Geauga County Children Services, in commemorating the Court's “Wanted, Chosen, Loved, Adopted!” celebration. The objective of NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH is to find loving, permanent families for all children. Every child in America and every child in Geauga County deserves the security of a permanent home and a loving, caring family; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners, Probate Court, Juvenile Court, and Children Services together encourage the community, businesses, groups, schools, faith-based organizations, and families to help secure permanent, loving homes for each and every child in Geauga County, regardless of race, age, gender, health, emotional or behavioral challenge, or past distress; and

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WHEREAS, every year more than 250,000 children are placed into the foster care system in the United States, and today, there are approximately 500,000 children in the foster care system waiting for permanent, loving homes. The average child waits for an adoptive family for more than three years, and more than 23,000 children each year turn 18 and leave the system while waiting for a family. In Geauga County in 2018, there have been twenty-two filings for the adoption of foster children, and forty-five children remain in foster care, waiting for loving, permanent families; and

WHEREAS, Judge Timothy J. Grendell and Magistrate Abbey L. King have displayed compassion for children by working extensively on their behalf in the area of adoption as Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge and Magistrate, and have promoted adoption as a means of bringing families together in Geauga County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim November 2018 as "National Adoption Month" and Celebrate "Adoption Day" November 13th in Geauga County, Ohio

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution becomes part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #18-151 Proclaiming November 2018 "National Adoption Month" and Celebrate "Adoption Day" November 13th in Geauga County, Ohio.

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

The Board presented the Resolution to staff of the Probate / Juvenile Court that included Judge Grendell, Court Administrator Kimberly Laurie, Ms. Walden, Deputy Case Management Director Scott Wayt, and Senior Deputy Probate Clerk Shawna Myers. The Board posed for a few pictures and would provide the information to the local papers.

Following the pictures the Board held a brief discussion with Judge Grendell on the Youth Center.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Sun., 11/11 Veterans Day

*Mon., 11/12 **County offices will be closed for general business in observance of Veteran's Day. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

Tue., 11/13 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Warren, District Office

Wed., 11/14 Geauga County Township Association Dinner Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Mary Yoder's, Middlefield

Thu., 11/15 Planning Commission meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Planning Commission meeting room, Bldg. #1C, 470 Center Street, Chardon

*Thu., 11/15 The Commissioners will hold regular session at **9:30 a.m.***

Mon., 11/19 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. at Job and Family Services

Tue., 11/20 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

*Thu., 11/22 **County Offices will be closed for general business in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.***

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Fri., 11/23 **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., 11/27 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

Thu., 11/29 Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center Meeting, 1:00 pm. Portage County Commissioners' Office

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Claypool, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

Timothy C. Lennon

Walter M. Claypool

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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