

Commissioners' Journal
March 22, 2016

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 22, 2016 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, Walter M. Claypool opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of March 15, 2015.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Heidi Delaney explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation for the Juvenile Court Special Projects fund for salaries and benefits; a Contract for Johnson Controls for phase 2 of the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant membrane replacement and controls upgrade project for the Department of Water Resources in the amount of \$1,181,526.00; Travel request for the Department of Water Resources and the Probate Court; a payment to Integrity Appraisal for the 2017 revaluation project for the Auditor's Office in the amount of \$34,178.00; Payments to Vista SG for implementation and annual maintenance and software support for the CSI's redaction software for the Common Pleas Court totaling \$22,840.37; and Payments to EnviroCom Construction for pay request #12 and #12A for Contract B for the Department of Water Resources Thompson Township Sewer project totaling \$173,067.67.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #16-033 itemizing the financials for the meeting of March 22, 2016.

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

WESTERN RESERVE LAND CONSERVANCY – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2016 OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM – HILLTOPPERS FARM – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Chris Szell from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy introduced members of the McDonald family who were going to speak in regards to the request of support to make application for the Hilltoppers Farm for an Agriculture Easement through the State program.

Gordon McDonald introduced the family in attendance and gave a brief history on the family farm, explaining that his great grandfather was born right after the civil war and lived till after Gordon had graduated from high school, which allowed for generations of stories about the area. The original farm homestead was established in the 1920's and was a hundred acres total, and was then passed on through the generations of children. Mr. McDonald expressed that while his own family doesn't live in the area, he loves the property and would like to keep it the family and have it continue to be farmed. The State easement program is seen as a way to handle the succession plan for the property to take place now, rather than having the kids having to handle it after his passing.

Gary McDonald, Gordon's brother who currently farms the property, explained that the intention is to keep farming into the future, in which they crop hay, beef cattle and maple syrup. Mr. McDonald stated that the farm is suitable for any agriculture production, and that they have also grown corn that is sold locally to the area residents.

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Nate McDonald, Gary's son, expressed that his oldest daughter Meadow, (age nine) loves to go with her grandfather to deliver hay and stack it with them. Mr. McDonald stated that they are devoted to the farm, and see the program through the State as a way to keep the property in private ownership, keeping it on the tax rolls and in CAUV status. Mr. McDonald shared that they presented the resolution to Munson Township Trustees who approved it with enthusiastic support. Mr. McDonald asked the Board for support, approving the family's application to the state program, thanking the Board for the time to present this information.

Commissioner Claypool stated that he had a few questions, inquiring if he worked for the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, to which it was noted that he didn't, his brother Pete does. Mr. Claypool stated that he had had a lengthy conversation with Gary and Gordon McDonald since the family owns the property and inquired about the need for the easement. Nate McDonald explained that the State program allows for his father and uncle to pass the property and keep the property together and in farming status. The program provides funding to allow that to happen and keep the sixty acres remaining on the homestead together. Mr. Claypool expressed that he has concern over conservancy easements and has been doing research on them, concluding that once an agreement is put into place, it allows a third party to have control over the property, adding that they are giving up rights to the property that they own. Nate McDonald stated that the program they are looking to utilize allows for flexibility within the easement, which allows for reserving a homestead site to build on, expressing that he and family wants to continue to farm on the property. Mr. McDonald stated that in terms of succession, the State program is a way to do that, in a way to keep agriculture supported. There are different kinds of easements; this program is for an agriculture easement that is designed to promote agriculture, which is one of Geauga County's biggest industries, citing maple syrup production as an example.

Commissioner Rear asked for clarification that this program was approved in 2000 and again in 2008 by the voters of the State of Ohio, and that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's role is only to aid with the application process. Mr. Szell agreed that the Conservancy acts as the local sponsor, noting that they are the sponsor for seventeen counties in the State, and therefore submit the application, noting that the agriculture easement is the State's easement and is different from other easements that they also handle through their office. Mr. Rear inquired if this property was contiguous to other property that was also in an easement, to which Gary McDonald replied that he and his wife also own property that is in a conservation program.

Mr. Claypool inquired what the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's remuneration for handling this application was, to which Mr. Szell stated that they do not receive a specified payment, other than the possibility of receiving a donation, which at this point has not been discussed. Mr. Claypool expressed his personal feelings in regards to the restrictions that are placed on the farms when an easement is entered into.

Mr. Rear and Mr. Claypool shared a difference of opinion between them, in regards to the easement.

Munson Township Trustee Irene McMullen expressed an appeal for local control, explaining that the Trustees held a meeting and obtained input in regards to the property and the easement. The Trustees feel that this piece of property contributes to the character of the community, and feel this is an asset that needs to be placed into this program.

Gary McDonald expressed that he understands that the property will have restrictions placed on it that includes it remaining farm land, and he understands and wants that to happen. Mr. McDonald stated that there are finances involved that will allow him to buy Gordon's portion of the property. The State requires a farm plan to be in place as a requirement of the State program, adding that he has spoken with the NRCS, (Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), which provides oversight for proper agriculture, which is common sense agriculture.

Local resident Ed Buckles, of Troy Township expressed that Mr. Claypool has logical inconsistencies in his argument, that owners have property rights and they can't limit those rights on their property. Mr. Claypool stated that a property owner has the right to do what they want with their property, clarifying that he loves farmland, and agrees in not wanting to see it turned into development, however the Commissioners were asked to be part of the process and are weighing the long term effects to the county.

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Ms. McMullen expressed concern in regards to the Munson tax base, noting that if the property becomes a residential subdivision, it would cost the Township more in resources and increased requirements of local government services, and they would like to keep the taxes lower, and keeping that property in farmland use would do that.

Discussion continued with the family in regards to keeping the property as farmland, and about what the program can allow them do. It was noted that the resolution before the Board today is just to strictly allow the family to move forward with submitting an application. The application then has to be approved by the State and then the easement and agreement have to be reviewed and agreed upon through many steps before it is finalized. There was discussion in regards to the local sponsors, and that if it wasn't Western Reserve Land Conservancy they would be happy to work with someone else, as it was noted that the program is a State Agriculture Program through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Spidalieri inquired about how many generations the property had been in the family, to which the McDonalds responded that the grandfather purchased the property, which has since been passed down through the family. Mr. Spidalieri asked what was more important, the farming or the money, adding if the farming is the priority, a deed restriction can be placed on the property and Gary could purchase the half of the property from Gordon. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he watches the ducks on the pond every day when he drives by, but that he does not agree with what the Western Reserve Land Conservancy does. Nate McDonald stated that Gordon needs an economic benefit and this program allows him to be able to get that, and that if they wanted the money they would sell the property, but they want to continue to farm.

Nate McDonald stated that his father Gary is not in a position to be able to just buy out Gordon, and this State program will assist them to be able to that, and if the Commissioners don't support them to apply for this program, then that says that they are not supporting family farming in the County, or the way other farms are being supported throughout the rest of the State. Gordon McDonald expressed that he has wrestled with a decision, and would like to sell his portion of the farm to Gary and his family, which allows him to provide his children and family their share of the inheritance, so that it will done in an easier way than having it fought over after someone passes on or having to sell it in order to divide it up.

Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he doesn't feel comfortable moving forward without seeing a completed agreement, that after the agenda had gone out yesterday, he had received several phone calls of concern. It was noted that if the Board of Commissioners don't support the Resolution, the family is unable to submit their application to the State and there will be no easement agreement. Mr. Szell stated that there is a sample template easement that they start with while they work out the terms of the agreement. Mr. Rear stated that his understanding is that there is a maximum cap per acre at \$2,000.00 and this is about sixty acres, which brings the amount to around \$114,000.00. Mr. Rear stated that this easement will keep the property generating the tax values now and into the future, not any less or any more than if it stays the same as it is now. Mr. McDonald stated that there is an April 15, 2016 deadline to submit the application. Mr. Szell stated that the Western Reserve Land Conservancy is the local sponsor, the easement identifies the grantor, the landowner, a State grantee, ODA and the local grantee, the local sponsor. Discussion continued in regards to the terms of the easement.

After the discussion, the Board chose to table the proposed resolution until they could have some additional time to review the sample agreement that would be executed by the family if their application was approved.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – FINAL – INCREASING CONTRACT – MILLER BUILDERS, LLC – SALT STORAGE STRUCTURE

Deputy Engineer Nick Gorris stated that this is the final change order for the salt storage structure, noting that there was an error on the request, that the change order is correct, but the actual amount is \$4,906.70 that was for additional stone that was put in to fix a wet area.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1, Final, increasing the Contract with Miller Builders, LLC for the Construction of a Salt Storage Structure located at 12665 Merritt Road, Chardon in the amount of \$4,906.70.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – EASEMENT FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES – RICHARD C. KRISTOFF – IN CONNECTION WITH VACATION OF UN-NAMED, NON-NUMBERED ROAD IN PARKMAN TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Andy Haupt stated that this is the easement in connection with the Parkman Alley vacation, and takes place prior to relocation of the alley per the terms of the turnaround that had been discussed.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute an Easement for Highway Purposes between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Richard C. Kristoff, in connection with the Vacation of the Un-Named, Non-Numbered Road in Parkman Township including Parcels #25-190709 (Vacated Norton), (0.004 Acres), #25-190066 (0.011 Acres), #25-05600 (0.016 Acres) Reversionary parcels to be granted upon vacation of Alley (0.007 Acres South Side, 0.007 Acres North Side) for a Total Easement Area 0.045 Acres in the amount of \$1.00.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – REPLAT OF GATES LANDING SUBDIVISION – SUBLOTS #16 AND #17 – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Director Dave Dietrich explained the situation regarding Gates Landing in Bainbridge, noting that EDDM, LLC (owner) is actually Payne and Payne, which is located on the north side of Flintlock Ridge which is approximately 1,000 feet east from Chagrin River Road. Flintlock is the main east/west right of way that goes through Canyon Lakes Subdivision. The final plat for the Gates Landing was approved August 12, 2014 at the Planning Commission meeting, but they had been approached to consolidate the two lots into one, with only two ways to do that, they decided to re-plat versus vacating and creating a new survey. Mr. Dietrich stated that the lots are buildable, but the buyer wants to build a larger home and the foot print for the home wouldn't fit on one lot. Mr. Dietrich stated that subplot 16 is 0.23130 acre and subplot 17 is 0.30428 acre and the new subplot 16A will be 0.53558, about ½ acre. Mr. Dietrich stated that part of what is also being done is relocating the storm sewer easement.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Replat of Gates Landing Subdivision, Sublots No. 16 and 17 in Bainbridge Township.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – REPLAT OF MILL CREEK SUBDIVISION – SUBLOTS #16 AND BLOCK A – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Mr. Dietrich stated that the Mill Creek subdivision is in Munson Township, the affected area is owned by Bill and Betty Conti, subplot 16 and block A which is located on the west side of Wellesley Lane, just north of the cul de sac. Wellesley is on the south side of Wilson Mills just west of Fowlers Mills. The Planning Commission originally approved the final plat February 14, 1995. Mr. Dietrich stated that Mr. Conti approached the Planning Commission in January regarding block A, and that the original road that was supposed to be put in is not going to happen, and after discussions, permission has been given for the Conti's to take title from the Home Owners Association and consolidate block A with subplot 16 and further vacate the existing utility easement, removing block A from existence. Mr. Dietrich stated that subplot 16 is 3.5167 acre and block A was 0.7097 acre for a new total of subplot 16A being 4.2264 acres, changing the frontage to 323.50 feet on Wellesley Lane.

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Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Replat of Mill Creek Subdivision, Sublots No. 16 and Block A in Munson Township.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION – USE OF CREDIT CARDS

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Application for Authorization to Permit the Use of County Credit Cards form (form- O.R.C. 301.27) for a Visa in the maximum amount of \$1,000.00 per month for Daniel C. McClelland , Scott A. Hildenbrand, Gary M. Gribbons, Brandon M. Reed, Kathy A. Rose, John Hiscox, Jr., Christine Kennedy, Nancy Farrow, Mitchell Kelly, James Falb, James Bartlett and Ted Sloan.

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

TRANSIT – APPROVE NEW POSITION AND JOB DESCRIPTION – REVISED

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AND PROMOTION OF KATE WEYBRECHT - BUDGET OFFICER II (#2204)

Director Mike Kasper asked the Board to approve the new position and job description for Budget Officer II with number 2204. Mr. Lair explained that because our office has an existing Budget Officer, Grade 8, position and Ms. Weybrecht handles different duties we felt it was best to create the new position reflecting additional responsibilities.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the new position and job description for Budget Officer II (#2204) to a Grade 9 to be effective March 22, 2016.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised Organizational Chart to include the position of Budget Officer II (#2204) to be effective March 22, 2016.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the promotion of Kate Weybrecht to the position of Budget Officer II (#2204) to be effective March 28, 2016 at the rate of \$19.53 per hour (Grade 9, Step 4) with a 180 day probationary period.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT TO ISSUE SELF-SUPPORTING REVENUE BONDS – REFINANCE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS – SOUTH FRANKLIN CIRCLE

Pam Hanover, Esq., Squire Patton Boggs which serves as bond counsel and Cynthia Dunn, President of Judson and South Franklin Circle explained that the resolution before the Board indicates interest in issuing refinancing bonds. In 2007 the County issued \$155,000,000.00 in bonds and there was a refinance in 2012 which brought the portion financed through the County conduit debt down to \$41,000,000.00, with other investors that purchased the outstanding bonds. Of the refunded bonds from 2012, \$10,000,000.00 has been paid off and South Franklin Circle is

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now in a better position to sell bonds in the marketplace and wants to refinance debt currently held by banks to get the advantage of that being marketable debt. They expect that to be up to \$7,000,000.00, so the total conduit debt will now be the \$31,000,000.00 remaining on the 2012 issue plus the requested \$7,000,000.00 that is payable by South Franklin Circle. Ms. Hanover explained that the process includes the resolution which is the first step, then the agreement, then a public hearing will need to be held before a final resolution approving the final form of the debt and related security documents. Mr. Claypool stated that they didn't have any questions, and thanked them for coming out. Ms. Dunn stated that they are happy with where they are now and briefly talked about where they are in occupancy and how many employees that they have there.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #16-035 Authorizing an Agreement to Issue Self-Supporting Revenue Bonds to Refinance Outstanding Indebtedness Relating to Facilities of South Franklin Circle and Conducting a Public Hearing.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: March 22, 2016

Resolution: #16-035

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga met on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, commencing at 9:00 o'clock, a.m., in regular session in the Commissioners' Chambers at 470 Center Street, Building No. 4, Chardon, Ohio, with the following members present:

Walter M. Claypool

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

The Clerk advised the Board that the notice requirements of Section 121.22 of the Revised Code and the implementing rules adopted by the Board pursuant thereto were complied with for the meeting.

Commissioner Rear presented the following preambles and resolution and moved their adoption, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri:

RESOLUTION NO. 16-035

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE SELF-SUPPORTING
REVENUE BONDS TO REFINANCE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS RELATING TO
FACILITIES OF SOUTH FRANKLIN CIRCLE AND CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING**

WHEREAS, South Franklin Circle, an Ohio nonprofit corporation and an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Corporation"), owns and operates "hospital facilities" (as that term is defined in Section 140.01, Ohio Revised Code (the "Act")), located on an 87-acre site in Bainbridge, comprised of 199 independent living units, a residential care facility able to accommodate 44 people, and a health and wellness center (the "Facility") used by residents of the Facility and people who live in the surrounding communities, which Facility provides services and facilities without discrimination by reason of race, creed, color, national origin or religion;

WHEREAS, the Corporation has requested that the County issue approximately \$7,000,000 of self-supporting, tax-exempt revenue bonds (the "2016 Bonds") to refinance existing indebtedness of the Corporation related to the acquisition, construction, installation, equipping and furnishing of the Facility;

WHEREAS, the 2016 Bonds will be payable solely from funds provided by the Corporation and will not be general obligations or bonded indebtedness of the County or a pledge of the faith and credit of the County; the owners of the 2016 Bonds will not have the right to cause the County to levy excises or taxes for the payment of the 2016 Bonds; and the owners of the 2016 Bonds will not have the right to seek any payment from funds of the County; and

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WHEREAS, to facilitate its efforts to refinance its existing indebtedness, the Corporation has requested an expression of this Board's willingness to authorize the issuance of the 2016 Bonds at a future date after the documentation relating to the financing has been prepared and completed;

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

Section 1. This Board finds and determines that the County is a "public hospital agency" and the Corporation is a "nonprofit hospital agency" as defined in Divisions (B) and (C), respectively, of Section 140.01 of the Act. Further, this Board finds and determines that the issuance of the 2016 Bonds pursuant to the Act for the purpose of providing funds to refinance existing indebtedness related to the acquisition, construction, installation, equipping and furnishing of the Facility will further the public purposes of the Act by better providing for the health and welfare of the residents of the County and the State by enhancing the availability, efficiency and economy of facilities such as the Facility.

Section 2. In furtherance of such public purpose, this Board further determines that, if and when requested to do so by the Corporation, it will authorize and the County will issue the 2016 Bonds pursuant to the Act in one or more series on one or more dates and in the now estimated aggregate principal amount of \$7,000,000, subject to satisfaction of the conditions and pursuant to the provisions contained in the form of Agreement by and between the County and the Corporation now on file with the Clerk of this Board, which is approved. The Agreement shall be signed on behalf of the County by any two members of this Board in substantially such form with any changes as may be approved by the members of this Board signing the Agreement as not being substantially adverse to the County, such approval of any changes and their character as not being substantially adverse to the County to be evidenced conclusively by the signing of the Agreement by any two members of this Board and approval of the form of the Agreement by the County Prosecuting Attorney.

Section 3. This Board determines to conduct a public hearing in respect of the 2016 Bonds at such time as the Corporation may reasonable request, in accordance with certain U.S. Treasury regulations applicable to such self-supporting revenue bonds.

Section 4. The Clerk of this Board is directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Corporation.

Section 5. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with the law.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its adoption.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTY OF GEUAGA, OHIO AND SOUTH FRANKLIN CIRCLE – ISSUANCE OF SELF-SUPPORTING REVENUE BONDS TO REFINANCE OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute an Agreement between the County of Geauga, Ohio and South Franklin Circle in regards to the Issuance of Self-Supporting Revenue Bonds to Refinance Outstanding Indebtedness Relating to Facilities of South Franklin Circle.

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

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FOLLOW UP – RESIDENT

Local resident Ed Buckles from Troy Township asked the Board for follow up information in regards to a previous discussion about the USGS Survey. Mr. Buckles then presented the Board with information that relates to that topic.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AMEND MOTION TO HIRE – ANTHONY MCMILLION – DEPUTY DIRECTOR – PLANNING (#1711)

It was noted that the amendment includes the correction to the rate of pay based on the new policy in regards to probationary rates and the recent adjustment to the wage and compensation scale, with the addition of up to 80 hours of unpaid leave during the first year to allow for previously scheduled events.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to amend the motion from March 15, 2016 that read: approve hiring Anthony McMillion as the Deputy Director - Planning (#1711) to be effective April 26, 2016 at the rate of \$21.66 per hour with a one year probationary period, and further approve and authorize up to eighty (80) hours of unpaid personal leave of absence during the first year, which will extend the probationary period by the equivalent of the number of hours taken as part of the unpaid leave.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - CANCEL SESSION – MARCH 24, 2016 AND APRIL 5, 2016

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to cancel session on Thursday, March 24, 2016.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to cancel session on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – MERIT INCREASES

Mr. Lair stated that these merit increases relate to five employees that he had previously spoken to the Board about individually, noting that this is a one-step increase.

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri approve a merit increase for Senior Attendant, Sheryl Spencer to Grade 5, Step 9 (\$15.81 per hour) on the Geauga County Non-Executive, Non-Bargaining Pay Table, effective with payroll number seven (7).

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri approve a merit increase for Assistant Program Administrator, Kelly Conrad to Grade 10, Step 3 (\$19.53 per hour) on the Geauga County Non-Executive, Non-Bargaining Pay Table, effective with payroll number seven (7).

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri approve a merit increase for Human Resources Specialist, Kathy Hostutler to Grade 11, Step 5 (\$22.20 per hour) on the Geauga County Non-Executive, Non-Bargaining Pay Table, effective with payroll number seven (7).

Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri approve a merit increase for Operations Manager, Richard Newsome to Grade 14, Step 3 (\$24.51 per hour) on the Geauga County Non-Executive, Non-Bargaining Pay Table, effective with payroll number seven (7).

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Motion: by Commissioner Rear, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri approve a merit increase for Director, Glen Vernick to Grade 15, Step 7 (\$32.68 per hour) on the Geauga County Executive Pay Table, effective with payroll number seven (7).

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Spidalieri brought up a letter recently received from the Veterans Service Commission asking for the appointment of legal counsel to contest the Commissioners' 2016 budget appropriation to their department and inquired about clarification for the Board on what they can and cannot do in regards to the O.R.C. and said that he didn't want to see another department bring legal action against us for funding. Mr. Claypool stated that he is a Veteran, has read the law, that he is not an attorney, but does not interpret the law as the Veterans Commission having free reign that we are given oversight for a reason, and as a Veteran doesn't want to see them get out of control, that they need to be responsible and accountable. Mr. Claypool expressed that they Board has been trying to work with them, but they need to meet us half way, and while we have never denied them what they have asked for, and have tried to work with them on getting them a new facility. Mr. Claypool stated that they need to be rational, reasonable people. Mr. Lair stated that the current appropriation for 2016 is \$497,000.00 and the most they have spent since 2009 was \$379,000.00 and what is at issue is approval of an appropriation request which would represent a 220% increase over what they spent last year. The legal issue in regards to the State stipulation that Commissioners can spend up to .5 mill for Veterans relief activities. Mr. Lair stated that some counties appropriate the full .5 mill, and in our case would be \$1.5 million and once funds are appropriated it cannot be used for other purposes if other emergencies come up. Mr. Lair expressed concern over a lot of funds being tied up unnecessarily with the track record being of them never spending \$397,000.00, while at the same time. We want to meet any reasonable request they have and provide them with what they actually need. Mr. Claypool stated that he wants Veterans being taken care; not going into a building, adding that recently a Veteran was not taken care of and was sent to Job and Family Services, when the Veterans Service could have taken care of him.

NEWSLETTER

Mr. Spidalieri brought up the idea of creating a newsletter than would be sent to the residents of the County, adding that during the campaign process he learned that a lot of people are not informed of what is going on, having a lack of internet access or not receiving the local newspaper. Mr. Spidalieri stated that there are a lot of slanted views and opinions that they don't appreciate. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he wanted to look into a media official that would be reporting on all the departments, with the idea of local businesses advertising in the paper that could be used to offset the cost.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 9, 2016 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 3/22 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Board of Directors, 1:30 p.m. Warren

Tue., 3/22 ADP meeting, 2:00 p.m. Auditor's Office

Thu., 3/24 The Commissioners regular session has been cancelled

Mon., 3/28 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Tue., 3/29 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:00 a.m.

Tue., 3/29 The Commissioners will hold a work session at 11:00 a.m.

Fri., 4/1 JFS Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off Reception, 2:00 p.m.

Tue., 4/5 The Commissioners regular session has been cancelled

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Thu., 4/7 Thompson Community Center Open House Celebration, 6-7:30 p.m.

Fri., 4/8 NOACA, External Affairs 8:30 a.m., Policy 10:00 a.m., Planning and Programming 11:30 a.m., Cleveland

Tue., 4/12 Regular Session, 9:00 a.m.

Tue., 4/12 Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Walter M. Claypool

Ralph Spidalieri

Blake A. Rear

~~*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*~~
Deborah Ashburn, Acting Commissioners' Clerk

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