

Commissioners' Journal
March 29, 2022

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 29, 2022 at 9:30 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, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:41 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent from today's meeting.*

Commissioner Dvorak noted that today is National Vietnam War Veteran's Day, so please thank a Vietnam Veteran

Mr. Dvorak read the following prayer:

Prayer about Truth

Lord, Jesus Christ,

You are the way, the truth and the life

Hear our prayers for truth and integrity, in all segments of society today

May the truth be spoken by us and affirmed in others, that in seeking truth, the world will come to find you, the source of all truth.

Amen

FINANCIALS

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from March 24, 2022, Resolution #22-036 that included a Then and Now for Job and Family Services for Auburn Career Center for youth employment center staffing expenses that were not previously encumbered; as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to Resolution #22-032 approved March 15, 2022 to authorize the County Administrator to execute, in the case of a lack of quorum of Commissioners and / or if session is cancelled on a regular financial day or on a day when financials need to be approved, the required approvals for county financials on behalf of the Board during the Year 2022, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on March 24, 2022 that included for the Airport Authority to approve the Request for Partial Payment #8 for Hummel Construction for the T-Hangar project in the amount of \$37,724.50 and for Water Resources approved hiring Joseph Birli to the position of Network Technician (#2341) at the rate of \$19.49 per hour to be effective April 11, 2022 with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; and approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with S. A. Comunale Co., Inc., to perform annual inspections and possible repairs at the Merritt Road Garage within the department for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 (2022 - \$1,500.00, 2023 - \$1,500.00 and 2024 - \$2,000.00); as authorized by Resolution #22-032 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved March 15, 2022 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of February 24, 2022.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of March 1, 2022.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Travel request for the Commissioners' Office, an Encumbrance from the Commissioners' Office to Donley's Independence for change order #10, #11 and #12 for revisions to the building for new door cores for electronic locks and changes to the ADP and BMV offices; a payment for the Auditor's Office to Woolpert, Incorporated for aerial photography for the real estate tax assessment system in the amount of \$66,640.00, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Donley's Independence LLC for pay request #16 for the new County Office Building project in the amount of \$1,507,635.11 and payments for the Juvenile / Probate Court to various vendors some of which are being paid by the Auditor under protest due to the service dates being prior to the encumbrance date in the amount of \$16,096.57.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #22-037 itemizing the financials for the meeting of March 29, 2022.

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Executive Director Craig Swenson asked the Board to recognize April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month.

Clerk, Christine Blair read the following the resolution:

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #22-038 Recognizing April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #22-038
Date: March 29, 2022

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, we know that our children are our future and that it will someday fall to them to shape our community, our nation, and the world for all future generations; and

WHEREAS, as a community, Geauga County values the importance of providing a safe and supportive environment in which families can nature, love, and parent their children; and

WHEREAS, Children who are loved and nurtured grow to love and nurture others and to provide the love and care bestowed upon them to their children, their family, and their community; and

WHEREAS, while as a community we are blessed to have many wonderful, nurturing families we must recognize that Geauga County is not immune from the reality that some children in our county endure abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, as a caring community we must not only respond to stop abuse and neglect where it exists, we must also be diligent in our efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and ensure that our community is aware of its role in recognizing and preventing child abuse and neglect.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners recognize April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Geauga County.

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

Mr. Swenson explained that in 2021 they had well over 400 investigated cases, and while the numbers have been down due to COVID, the numbers are beginning to increase back to the normal reported numbers. Junction Auto has allowed the pinwheels on the hill again as well as \$50.00 donated for each car sold in April to Job and Family Services.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE RECLASSIFICATION KRISTEN BIBBY – FULL-TIME SOCIAL SERVICES WORKER (#1022)

Director Jessica Boalt explained that current employee Kristen Bibby has expressed interest in moving to the Full-time Social Services Worker position, and asked the Board to approve her to the position.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the reclassification of Kristen Bibby from Full-time Home Delivered Meals & Volunteer Coordinator (#1010) to Full-time Social Services Worker (#1022) to be effective April 4, 2022 at her current rate of \$21.35 per hour (Grade 10, Step 3) with a 180-day probationary period.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION – HOME DELIVERED MEALS AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR (#1010)

Ms. Boalt explained that they would like to make some slight changes to the job description but no change to the rate of pay.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the revised job description for the position of Home Delivered Meals & Volunteer Coordinator (#1010) to be effective March 29, 2022.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – ADVERTISE POSITION – HOME DELIVERED MEALS AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to advertise for the Home Delivered Meals and Volunteer Coordinator position until it is filled.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for the position of Home Delivered Meals & Volunteer Coordinator (#1010). This position will remain posted until filled.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (BUILDING) – AGREEMENTS – CODE CONSULTATION AND PLAN REVIEW SERVICES, LLC, L. NEAL HOFFMAN AND ASSOCIATES, DUBER ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC, F & B ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED AND SIXMO – PROFESSIONAL PLAN REVIEW SERVICES

Director and Chief Building Official Dan Spada asked the Board to approve and execute the contracts for the Commercial Plans Examiners for the next two years, the hourly cost has gone up but is comparable to other counties. Mr. Spada added that he will be coming back to ask the

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Board to approve an increase to fees to help offset the increase in the hourly rate.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with Code Consultation and Plan Review Services, LLC to provide the required professional services of plan review service at the rate of \$120.00 per hour for a two-year period, April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with L. Neal Hoffman and Associates to provide the required professional services of plan review service at the rate of \$120.00 per hour for a two-year period, April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with Duber Architectural and Consulting Services, LLC to provide the required professional services of plan review service at the rate of \$120.00 per hour for a two-year period, April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with F & B Engineering, Incorporated to provide the required professional services of plan review service at the rate of \$120.00 per hour for a two-year period, April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with SIXMO to provide the required professional services of plan review service at the rate of \$120.00 per hour for a two-year period, April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC) – SATISFACATION /
RELEASE OF MORTGAGE – JILCIN, LLC / NELSKI, INCORPORATED**

Clerk, Christine Blair explained that this request has already been released however the form that was previously used was not accepted by the Recorder's Office and so this request is for you to sign off the release on a new form. The loan has been paid in full.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute a Satisfaction / Release of Mortgage for Jilcin, LLC / Nelski, Incorporated as the Local Revolving Loan Fund loan for \$150,000.00 has been satisfied.

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

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DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – AGREEMENT – LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC)

Director Roger Peterson asked the Board to execute the agreement with LEPC for funding to handle for services that the Department of Emergency services handles with hazardous response, planning and training.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Agreement between the Department of Emergency Services and the Geauga County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to provide the following services to LEPC: Administrative Support; Emergency Response Coordinator (if elected by the Geauga LEPC); Secretarial / Treasurer Responsibilities; Information Coordinator (if elected by the Geauga LEPC); Compliance, Plan Development and Exercising; Grant Applications; Training and the maintaining of all required chemical filing forms and records for the Year 2022 in the amount of \$10,000.00.

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

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – GRANT AGREEMENT – ENERGY HARBOR NUCLEAR CORPORATION

Mr. Peterson asked the Board to execute the grant agreement with Energy Harbor Nuclear Corporation for the handling of the planning and response for emergencies at the Perry Nuclear Plant.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve, execute and initial the Grant Agreement between Energy Harbor Nuclear Corporation and the Board of Geauga County Commissioners in connection with emergency planning and preparedness for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP) for a two-year period, January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 in the amount of \$234,798.00 and January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$241,349.00.

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – DEANDRADE LANDSCAPE DESIGN, LTD D.B.A. US LAWNS OF CLEVELAND

Director Glen Vernick explained that this contract was lawnmowing for the Annex, 470 Center Street, Courthouse, the 208 East Park Street and Job and Family Services, this is only a one year contract.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Deandrade Landscape Design Ltd, d.b.a. US Lawns of Cleveland to provide Landscaping Services for Various County Properties for the period March 29, 2022 through December 1, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$42,000.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – UN-APPOINT JAMES D. DAVIS – APIARIST FOR 2022

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to un-appoint James D. Davis as County Apiarist for 2022.

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT PAT MCGUIGAN – APIARIST FOR 2022

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to appoint Pat McGuigan as County Apiarist and further approve and execute the 2022 Ohio Department of Agriculture Appointment for County Apiary Inspector form to be effective March 29, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$13.00 per hour and a mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.585.

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

Ms. Blair explained that we have been looking for an Apiarist for Geauga County and Mr. Davis has been handling it for us on an interim until we could find one. Mr. McGuigan was at a training and requested to handle Geauga County.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #17 – DONLEY'S INDEPENDENCE, LLC – COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING GMP PHASE #1 AND #2

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve Partial Pay Request #17 for Donley's on the new building.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #17 for Donley's Independence, LLC for the Geauga County Office Building, GMP Phase #1 and #2 in the amount of \$1,312,132.08.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AGREEMENT AND GENERAL CONDITIONS – NV5 – OWNERS REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES RELATED TO RENOVATIONS OF EXISTING COUNTY BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COUNTY BUILDINGS (PHASE II)

Mr. Morgan explained that as we move into the Phase II process this agreement is to have NV5 as the Owners Representative. Mr. Morgan stated that this is not a guaranteed amount, this is for multiple projects that are being looked at.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement and General Conditions between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (owner) and NV5 (owner's representative) for Construction Management Services related to Renovations of Existing County Buildings and Construction of New County Buildings (Phase II) to be effective March 29, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$438,787.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2 THROUGH MAY 6, 2022 AS PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve the Resolution recognizing the first week of May as Public Service Recognition Week. Ms. Blair noted that the Wellness Committee is holding the EXPO this year on Thursday in Building #8.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #22-039 Proclaiming May 2 through May 6, 2022 as Public Service Recognition Week.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #22-039

Date: March 29, 2022

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*RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 2 THROUGH MAY 6, 2022
AS PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK FOR 2022*

WHEREAS, in honor of the men and women serve America daily as public servants at the federal, state, county and local levels. The vast array of services provided by government is an integral part of our lives. Every day of our lives we depend upon the work performed by public employees; and

WHEREAS, Public service is a public trust, a high calling and an expression of responsible citizenship. A job in public service will impact the lives of many people, through public policy, education, law enforcement, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, without these dedicated government employees at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week has been celebrated nationally the first week of May since 1985; and

WHEREAS, We, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, do proclaim that annually the first full week of May will be Public Service Recognition Week in Geauga County and call upon all citizens to recognize the contributions made by public employees at all levels who help ensure the quality of our lives in this great country and in this great county in the state of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, O.R.C. 325.25 specifically authorizes employee recognition programs. Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio wish to utilize this authority to recognize the employees of Geauga County government on an annual basis during the first week of May during Public Service Recognition week by means of modest expenditures on tokens of appreciation to those employees not to exceed \$15.00 per employee and that such other expenditures may lawfully include providing of meals and non-alcoholic beverages, as one means of expressing this appreciation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution become part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jim Laudato explained that he was following up on the correspondence that he had sent the office this week to set up a meeting to discuss funding for the treatment plant, noting that he had received read receipts but no response from anyone. Mr. Laudato read the editorial that he had sent to the Board and asked to read it.

March, 2022

Worth it

The Geauga County Commissioners' have passed unanimously Resolution 22-020 on February 24, 2022, which assess a tax on the residents of the Berkshire Heights sub-division in the amount of \$28,000 per household to shoulder the cost of the Wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Chardon Township.

*I understand the sewer plant has value to our home and is safer for everyone. I do not even have a problem with the County sending me a bill for increase services, taxes to help make our community better. However, in this case, I have an issue with the lack of stewardship and the lack of care, on this project, which led to a \$54,000+ burden to my household, **UNSOLICITED** by me.*

Mr. Laudato stopped reading, the Commissioners told him to continue that they were listening to him. The Board was signing papers while listening to him.

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The County Commissioners and County Administrator, Gerry Morgan have secured \$18 million of Federal money recently with NO plans to appropriate it under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Currently they hold \$9,000,000 that was received in August of 2021 and are due another \$9,000,000 in August of 2022. The use of the funds has some restrictions, like capital improvements, sewer systems and broadband.

The residents were notified of the ARPA funds in a public meeting by the County Auditor Charles Walder, on March 9, 2022, and was confirmed by the County Administrator after the meeting.

Mr. Laudato repeatedly asked the Board if they know the breakdown of the funding and the entire cost of the project: Mr. Lennon stated that he was listening to him, that the total cost was over \$5 million and a grant of \$500,000.00 was secured. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Laudato went back and forth about the cost of the project, the sewer bills and how the loan and project is paid back.

Mr. Laudato continued:

The WWTP has been a Nine-year project. Here is a breakdown of the funding:

Total costs \$5,100,000

Grants \$500,000

Loan of \$1,400,000 from Department of Water Resources (DWR) repaid via monthly billing, which they control or \$12,389/ home.

Direct assessment to the 113 households of the Berkshire Heights sub-division \$3,164,000 or \$28,000 per household paid back over 30 years at 1.85%. Interest

TOTAL cost per household: Loan from the DWR \$12,389

paid through bi-monthly billing:

Assessment 28,000

Interest 8,507

SUB-TOTAL 48,896

Tie into system (estimated) 5,000

Application fee (really) 300

Total cost \$54,196

I understand the cost of projects; however, this seems a little high, don't you think? You do not need to be a Certified Public Accountant, like me, to see zero return on this investment. Who would place a \$54,000+ septic system in their one-acre yard? Honestly!

My major shortcoming is that I believed that for 9 years the county and Chardon Township was trying to help find funding.

Does ANYONE, in the county, township or DWR know Congressman Dave Joyce? According to his website and press releases, he seems to have the ability to secure funds for WWTP such as the one in Chagrin Falls for \$3,500,000 AND \$800,000 for Geauga County to make necessary improvements and repairs to the McFarland Waste Water Treatment Plant to meet increased environmental protection regulations <https://joyce.house.gov/posts/joyce-secures-over-18-million-for-local-northeast-ohio-projects-in-government-funding-bill>

It is difficult for me to understand why Gerry Morgan, the County Commissioners, and Chardon Township will not help us and find funding for this project that was UNSOLITED by us.

This is a public health issue! Of the 75 funds you oversee, does public health fall in there.

It completely astonishes me that in a commissioners' meeting on March 22, 2022, the County Administrator was "looking" into whether they can appropriate any of the \$18 million ARPA money to help lift the burden of \$54,196 per household. They requested the funds in April of 2021, they passed Resolution 22-020 in February 2022. I believe, at a minimum, they should have considered this option before they passed the Resolution.

Mr. Morgan stated that as stated previously the ARPA funds require Federal Procurement and this project did not follow the Federal procurement guidelines. Mr. Laudato questioned why it was listed on the website that the Aquilla project was being funded by ARPA, he inquired of Dr. Oluic and it was taken down from the website. Mr. Morgan added while it was

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requested, no ARPA funds have been approved to this point. The need for the project came from the residents failing septic systems not the County's failing septic system.

I would like to remind all of us that we are all taxpayers and sinners and from time-to-time good people, like our elected officials, neighbors and family members do things out of fear to protect our own self-interest. This is one of those times.

We are concerned over either losing our homes or being devalued and they are concerned over setting precedent, losing their positions to some other political power or simply have an axe to grind. It is never the wrong time to do the right thing. We are never going to get ahead trying to get even.

Mr. Lennon stated that there is no axe to grind. Mr. Laudato stated that it is hard to understand that the Commissioners are sitting on \$30 Million dollars of unrestricted funds and in 9 years you couldn't put away a half million dollars to help the residents out. Mr. Laudato stated that he read the 353 pages from the Auditor from 2020, that there is \$30 million of unrestricted tax payer's dollars. Mr. Laudato stated that they need to take the money from the General Fund, why do they have to borrow from the residents to pay for the system and then pay a bill to use the system. Mr. Lennon stated that it is still being reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Laudato stated that he was waiting for a response to setting up a meeting, Mr. Lennon stated that they cannot respond to you on a group email or meet with you as a group, he is available to have a meeting.

I am asking the county, Gerry Morgan, and Chardon Township to make an investment, in us. Take a shot, find a way. You have the funds. Work for us, we are worth it. We raise our families here, we have memories here, we live here and contribute. See us at the human level. If the County does not use the federal ARPA funds, then, by law they will need to send it back. That would be a shame and a breach of duty.

The Department of Water Resources, under the direction of Gerry Morgan, has implemented many wastewater treatment plants throughout the county, however NONE of the residents in those communities starred at a \$54,000+ cost imposed by its own government. We simply want to be treated fairly.

Mr. Morgan explained that residents in Auburn Township had much higher assessments as it is based on the acreage of the property.

Our request is this:

- 1. The Commissioners rescind Resolution 22-020 and replace with a new Resolution appropriating enough funds (ARPA or otherwise) to cover the FULL costs or \$28,000/ per household to the citizens affected by the Wastewater Treatment Plant.*
- 2. A waiver from the Department of Water Resources of the application fee to tie into the system estimated at \$250-\$300.*
- 3. A recalculation of the expected \$133.00/bi-monthly sewer bill, which in part, was going to be used to fund the project and buried in the amount.*
- 4. Repair or replace the road to the standard of other roads in the county.*

Mr. Laudato and Mr. Morgan went back and forth on the reasons for the system being put in, and had not the Township contacted the EPA, we may not be in this situation, but you could have had to come up with the money at once to replace your system. Mr. Morgan expressed that the cost of the Engineering for this project is not in the assessment. Mr. Laudato asked if it was possible to change the policy going forward. Mr. Morgan stated that those that are required to have a sewer system not pay for it? Mr. Laudato then started in on the conditions of the roads, to which Mr. Lennon stated that they are Township roads.

Local resident talked about the pond back that is there and that has fish, turtles, herons and they are eating out of that. Mr. Laudato asked about the process for a legal opinion. Mr. Laudato asked the Board to find the money and help out the residents.

I would like to send a special THANK YOU to Chuck Walder, the Geauga County Auditor for his presentation at the March 9, 2022, public meeting, which enlightened us to the UNAPPROPRIATED ARPA funds of \$9,000,000.

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In closing, I find it ironic that this project was imposed to solve a public health issue and that in turn has caused a public health issue.

*Very Truly Yours,
James Laudato*

Mr. Laudato asked Mr. Morgan to send an update letter to the residents.

League of Women Voters Representative Gale Russe asked the Board if they have looked into grants for senior citizens to cover the cost of the connection (tie-in).

Mike Valko on Howard Drive asked if there had been any other requests for ARPA funds besides the Hospital. Mr. Morgan stated that there were no new ones since last week. Mr. Valko asked about the opinion from the Prosecutor on the use of funds, and a date of March 1, 2021. Mr. Morgan explained that the date in the ARPA funds of March 2021 is that no funds could be used (expended) on projects or funds encumbered prior to the date.

Health Department Administrator Adam Litke explained that the Health Board had appointed a new Board member and are working on getting her up to speed, and thanked the Board for their support.

Resident Allen Segedy stated that he is a resident that can't pay his taxes and briefly explained how he claims the county destroyed his house, and why he can't use services at the Department on Aging for being a whistleblower, adding that he was one of the last 1000 people drafted in the Vietnam War and he got lucky and got the vacation in Europe. Mr. Segedy expressed his feelings about the Judges and his property, continuing about how he can't get information from people. Mr. Segedy briefly talked about the McFarland sewer by his house. He apologized for not paying his taxes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 16, 2022 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 4/5 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Mon., 4/11 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Tue., 4/12 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 470 Center St., Bldg. 8 meeting room

Tue., 4/12 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Wed., 4/13 Geauga County Township Association Dinner, 6:30 p.m. EOUV Club

Mon., 4/18 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. Mental Health Offices

Tue., 4/19 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.

Fri., 4/22 NOACA External Affairs 8:30 a.m., Policy 10:00 a.m., Planning & Programming 11:30 a.m.

Mon., 4/25 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office

Tue., 4/26 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.

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BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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