

Commissioners' Journal
June 24, 2022

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in special session on June 24, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the new Geauga County Office Building located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive 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.

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent for today's Ribbon Cutting.*

The President of the Board, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 2:11 p.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Gerard Morgan opened by thanking everyone for being there today, this project has been a long time coming and a lot of people to thank, starting with the Past Commissioners that had the foresight for purchasing all the property down here, the Prosecutor's Office and staff along with Jean Korman from Benesh and Friedlander for assisting with the process and contracts and allowing this project to move forward. Susdina and Associates that helped us obtain our bonds with great rates and the Contractors that got products ordered before the price increases, Catie Romancheck from Squire Patton and Boggs, our Bond Counsel, ThenDesign (TDA) our architect for designing the building, NV5 our owners Representative who kept Mr. Morgan in check, Donley's Independence and all the sub-contractors who worked to create the building, and had the foresight to get products ordered early which created limited supply issues throughout the project. Mr. Morgan continued by thanking the Clerk of Court, Sheila Bevington and former Denise Kaminski on working together to bring the BMV and the Title Offices together for easier access for the residents, ADP Administrator Frank Antenucci, Auditor Walder and his staff for their assistance and the Lake County Commissioners for knowledge on the process.

Commissioner Dvorak:

Stated that at the Ground Breaking he opened with a prayer to over see the project for safety of the workers, and aside from some minor non-reportable incidents, the project was very safe. Mr. Dvorak asked everyone to bow their heads,

Dear Lord, thank you for protecting this job site during construction and for this beautiful building, Amen.

Mr. Dvorak stated that a job like this typically it takes one year to plan and two years to build and the team that was put together, was a Dream Team, with TDA, NV5 and Donley's, the day our steel was erected on this building was the day that it was announced that steel went up 30% and we made it under the wire on a lot of issues with this project. Mr. Dvorak tipped his hardhat to the workers and contractors on the jobsite, noting that at times there were 140 workers here at once and to have very minor cuts as incidents with the number of trades that were here at once was harmony to produce this beautiful building. Mr. Dvorak explained that he followed his dad into the trades and was a brick layer, and then became an instructor and the requirements over the years have changed and we had top notch contractors and trades on this project. It's a great glorious day for Geauga County, and this building has 9 colors of brick and will bring a fresh and new look that will last for a long time.

Commissioner Lennon:

Welcome to the new Geauga County Office Building. It is a humble and exciting moment to be here today. Many of us here today stood out here on a windy October day in 2020 for the ground breaking and remember thinking what a monumental task that they were committed to. Mr. Lennon stated that to accomplish a project of this magnitude takes collaboration, foresight, input and dedication from many stakeholders, and thanked those partners that helped guide us, including NV5, ThenDesign and Donley's Independence Construction, and have to stress how fortunate Geauga County is for such a dynamic team for a job well done and feel that they deserve a round of applause.

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Mr. Lennon stated that today is the day to acknowledge and celebrate the future, the potential for where we stand is giant, this building along with the qualified and dedicated employees of Geauga County will be able to better serve our residents and the home of services will be a more efficient, economical, fluid way to provide those important services. This new facility is purpose built, designed to consolidate and eliminate duplication and most importantly centralize services making them available and accessible for years to come. Mr. Lennon stated that he envisions the area to be much more than a hospital and county buildings, that it will be a destination for world class healthcare and county services. This service and healthcare campus have the potential to be so much more, including future development with restaurants and housing for families that require extended hospital stays. Mr. Lennon expressed that the Commissioners look forward to their continued partnership with University Hospital. The residents and employees have a building that they should be proud of, not only will it centralize and improve services it was constructed within the current budget, entrusted by the taxpayers, which means no new taxes or levies put into place to build it, that the long thought out process to use the current budget and not ask more of the taxpayers. Due to fiscally conservative leadership of fellow Commissioners past and present and other Elected Officials and Department Directors this building will serve the residents of Geauga County proudly for many years to come. Without your collaboration this would not be possible. Mr. Lennon thanked Prosecutor Flaiz and his staff for helping navigate the hurdles on a project of this size, Auditor Chuck Walder and his Staff, Treasurer Chris Hitchcock and his staff, fellow Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri who could not be here today and Commissioner Dvorak all deserve a round of applause for working tirelessly to help ensure the county finances remain in a strong position for the future. Mr. Lennon thanked Gerard Morgan, County Administrator, Adrian Gorton, Budget and Finance Manager and all the Commissioners staff here today for the work you have put in behind the scenes. Mr. Lennon expressed how much he appreciates everything that was done and that he is humbled to be a part of everything here today. Mr. Lennon asked everyone to welcome the new Geauga County Office Building to the neighborhood.

Commissioners' James Dvorak and Timothy Lennon cut the ribbon and officially opened the new Geauga County Office Building and welcomed those in attendance to view the new building.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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