

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 23, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303 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 9:36 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

*Dear Lord,
Thank you for fresh grace and a week full of promise
Lead me in your ways and fill my heart with your love and joy
Help me see others as you see them
Guide every decision, response effort and conversation
I have for your Glory
Amen*

MEETING MINUTES

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

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

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent from this meeting.*

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on August 22, 2022 for the Department on Aging to approve an unpaid personal leave of absence for Virginia Lester, Recreation and Education Assistant for one day, on August 22, 2022 for eight hours. This will extend her probationary period by an additional day (8 hours) and for Transit to accept the resignation of Nancy McSweeney, Part-time Driver (#2210-1) to be effective October 1, 2022 and to approve an increase to the current posting for the position of Part-time Driver (#2210-1) from three to four positions. These positions will remain posted until filled; 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.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation from the Board of Elections in their Election Revenue Fund for additional payroll expenses related to the recent special election; a Travel request for Job and Family Services, an Encumbrance for Water Resources to Junction Auto Sales for a model year 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4 crew cab pickup truck, a payment for the Commissioners to Bainbridge, Chardon, Russell and Thompson Townships, the City of Chardon as well as Destination Geauga for the 2nd Quarter 2022 distribution of the bed tax in the amount of \$16,074.48, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Hambden Township for drainage improvements to Holi-Dale Drive and Chardon Windsor Road in the amount of \$43,090.29 and a payment for the Maintenance Department to McPhillips Plumbing and Heating for DVAC work at the Metzenbaum Senior Center in the amount of \$47,370.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #22-154 itemizing the financials for the meeting of August 23, 2022.

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

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

AUDITOR'S OFFICE – TREASURER'S OFFICE – MONTHLY STATEMENT OF COUNTY FINANCES – MARCH – JUNE 2022

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Auditor for the months of March, April, May and June 2022, pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Treasurer for the months of March, April, May and June 2022, pursuant to O.R.C. 319.15.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION FOR STEPPING UP TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES AND CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS IN JAILS

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #22-155 for Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses and Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders in Jails.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: August 23, 2022

Resolution: #22-155

Resolution for Stepping Up to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses and Co-occurring Substance Use Disorders in Jails

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year;

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co- occurring substance use disorders;

WHEREAS, county jails spend significantly more on adults who require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs;

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families;

WHEREAS, Geauga County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways;

WHEREAS, Geauga County has a treatment program at our Geauga County Safety Center with the Lake Geauga Recovery Services Center and assisted the Common Pleas Court in implementing the Geauga County New Leaf Drug Court Program;

WHEREAS, through Stepping Up, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.

WHEREAS, through Stepping Up efforts in Ohio, technical assistance and resource opportunities may be available to communities that wish to establish or expand local

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

collaboration and capacity as it relates to individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders who are justice involved; and

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in Stepping Up. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through Stepping Up to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to examine options for improvement;*
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with behavioral health conditions and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels;*
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community;*
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers;*
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan; and*
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes*

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESCIND MOTION FROM JUNE 28, 2022 – RESOLUTION APPROVING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 EXPENDITURE

Mr. Morgan explained that the Auditor's office asked to amend the resolution and that the funds be paid directly from the ARPA funds account instead of moving it to Water Resources, so this motion is to rescind the original resolution.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to rescind the motion from June 28, 2022 that read: Approve and execute Resolution #22-121 Approving American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Expenditure.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION APPROVING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 EXPENDITURE

Mr. Morgan stated that this resolution is updated and includes that the funds are coming from the ARPA funds to the contractor directly instead of through Water Resources funds.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #22-156 Approving American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Expenditure.

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: August 23, 2022

Resolution: #22-156

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AMERICAN
RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 EXPENDITURE**

WHEREAS, The President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, ARPA provides money to States, Counties and Municipalities to address the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a distribution of monies from the ARPA; and

WHEREAS, Title VI section 603(c)(1)(D) of the Federal Register provides for ARPA funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners through the Department of Water Resources has constructed a public sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment plant in Chardon Township; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have the property owners connect to the sewer system in a timely manner to eliminate the public health emergency of failing septic systems within the Berkshire Heights subdivision;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the use of ARPA funds to provide grants to the property owners within the Berkshire Heights subdivision up to \$8,000.00 per service connection (maximum \$904,000.00 for 113 houses).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners approves the use of ARPA funds to reimburse the Department of Water Resources \$350.00 per service connection to allow the Department to waive the permit application and inspection fee normally charged by the department for service connections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners orders the Department of Water Resources to establish a program for providing the grants to the property owners with a termination date on which connections after that date will not be covered and a method for tracking installations and payment from the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon submittal of contractor invoices by Water Resources, the Board of County Commissioners instructs the County Auditor to pay the contractors hired by the property owners the cost of connection installation and associated costs up to \$8,000.00 in accordance with the established procedure by Water Resources from the ARPA fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners instructs the County Auditor to transfer \$39,550.00 to the Water Resources Federal Grants Account (#5002-030-00-412) as reimbursement for 113 service connection permit and inspection fees.

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – GRANT WAIVER OF \$25,000.00 LIMIT ON BLANKET ENCUMBRANCES FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND (#2098) AND PERMIT AUDITOR'S OFFICE TO OPEN BLANKETS UP TO MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00 – BERKSHIRE HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION SERVICE CONNECTIONS

Mr. Morgan explained that blankets need to be opened in order to pay the contractors and we are waiving the \$25,000.00 limit and increasing it to \$150,000.00.

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to grant a waiver of the \$25,000.00 limit on Blanket Encumbrances for the American Rescue Plan Fund (#2098) and permit the Auditor's office to open Blankets up to a maximum amount of \$150,000.00 in connection to the Berkshire Heights Subdivision service connections in order to help facilitate the payments to contractors for the installation and associated costs.

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (BUILDING) – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment and compensation of a public employee.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:45 a.m. with Mr. Morgan and Director / Chief Building Official Dan Spada. The Board returned at 10:22 a.m. and as a result the following actions were taken:

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve a Re-Grade to the position of Assistant Chief Building Official (#1102) from an E15 to and E16 to be effective August 23, 2022.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve hiring Dale Steppenbacker to the position of Assistant Building Official (#1102) to be effective September 12, 2022 at the rate of \$43.72 per hour (Grade E16, Step 9) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending or imminent litigation.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:24 a.m. with Mr. Morgan and outside counsel Stephen Funk. The Board returned at 12:04 p.m. and no action was taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending August 3, 2022 and August 10, 2022 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

MEETINGS

Wed., 8/24 *Perry Nuclear Power Plant Drill (Dry Run)*

Tue., 8/30 *The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

Wed., 8/31 *Great Geauga County Fair 200th Anniversary Celebration Ribbon Cutting / Opening 12:00 p.m.*

Wed 8/31 – Mon 9/5 – *Great Geauga County Fair, Burton, Ohio*

Mon., 9/5 ***County Offices will be closed in honor of the Labor Day holiday, Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal***

Wed., 9/7 *Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office*

Thu., 9/8 *The Commissioners' will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

Fri., 9/9 *Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Office*

Fri., 9/9 *NOACA Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m. Cleveland*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE STEP INCREASE – DIRECTOR STEVEN OLUIC
Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve a step increase for Director Steven Oluic.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve a Step Increase for Director of Water Resources, Steven Oluic from a Grade WR15, Step 1, to Grade WR15, Step 2 (\$47.27 per hour) to be effective with Payroll #18.

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

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
August 23, 2022

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK