

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**October 31, 2023**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on October 31, 2023 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, Ralph Spidalieri opened the meeting at 9:31 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:*

*The Lord speaks to us!*

*Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people,*

*A heart that forgives the worse, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God.*

*Amen*

**FINANCIALS**

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from October 26, 2023 Resolution #23-179 that included a Purchase Order from the Commissioners' Office to Weekleys Mailing Service to distribute a publication regarding property tax revaluations; as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to Resolution #23-003 approved January 5, 2023 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 2023, 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 October 25, 2023 for the Department of Development (Community & Economic) approved and executed a Satisfaction / Release of Mortgage for Steven Douglas Corporation Holdings, LLC as the Mortgage in connection with Local Revolving Loan Fund loan in the amount of \$200,000.00 has been satisfied, a Liquor License to concur with the Chester Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Elements Fitness Studios Incorporated located at 8505 Mulberry Road, Unit A, Chesterland, Ohio (C N 2485050) and on October 30, 2023 for the Department of Development (Community & Economic) approved and executed the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Development Job Certification Summary for Shepp Electric Company, Incorporated as they have fulfilled the job creation portion of their Revolving Loan Fund loan; as authorized by Resolution #23-003 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 5, 2023 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 September 26, 2023.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of October 3, 2023.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of October 12, 2023.*



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AIRPORT AUTHORITY - QUIT-CLAIM DEED WITH EXHIBIT A – PERMANENT PARCEL #19-072805 – AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUSLY RECORDED PROPERTY DEED TO INCLUDE FAA AGREEMENT

Mr. Blamer asked the Board to approve the quit-claim deed with exhibit A for parcel #19-072805 as an amendment to previously recorded deed to include the FAA grant agreement, noting that this was the Hodgins property.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Quit-Claim Deed with Exhibit A for Permanent Parcel #19-072805 as an Amendment to the previously recorded property deed to include the FAA Grant Agreement for #3-39-0054-026-2022 (Hodgins Property).

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD MEMBER, JAMES W. DVORAK AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE – PROPOSED ASPHALT RESURFACING AUBURN ROAD – MUNSON AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIPS – EXECUTE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution designating Mr. Dvorak as the Chief Executive Officer and Representative for the proposed resurfacing project of Auburn Road, and further authorizing the execution of the Ohio Public Works Commission for financial assistance.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #23-181 appointing Board Member, James W. Dvorak, as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for the proposed Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH-0004, Sections K-M) in Munson and Newbury Townships and further approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the State of Ohio Public Works Commission application for financial assistance.

Board of Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

*Date:* October 31, 2023

*Resolution:* #23-181

**AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING James W Dvorak, MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.**

*Whereas, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and*

*Whereas, Geauga County is planning to make improvements to Resurface Auburn Road CH 0004, Sections K-M, in Munson and Newbury Townships; and*

*Whereas, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs;*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners:

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*Section 1: That James W. Dvorak, Board Member, is hereby appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and is authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above*

*Section 2: That James W. Dvorak, Board Member, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.*

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

*COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD MEMBER, JAMES W. DVORAK AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE – PROPOSED ASPHALT RESURFACING CHARDON WINDSOR ROAD – CLARIDON AND HAMB DEN TOWNSHIPS – EXECUTE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE*

*Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution designating Mr. Dvorak as the Chief Executive Officer and Representative for the proposed resurfacing project of Chardon Windsor Road, and further authorizing the execution of the Ohio Public Works Commission for financial assistance.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #23-182 appointing Board Member, James W. Dvorak, as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for the proposed Asphalt Resurfacing of Chardon Windsor Road (CH-0013, Sections A-D) in Claridon and Hambden Townships and further approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the State of Ohio Public Works Commission application for financial assistance.*

*Board of Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: October 31, 2023*

*Resolution: #23-182*

**AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION**

***RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING James W Dvorak, MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.***

*Whereas, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and*

*Whereas, Geauga County is planning to make improvements to Resurface Chardon-Windsor Road CH 0013, Sections A-D, in Claridon and Hambden Townships; and*

*Whereas, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs;*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners:***

*Section 1: That James W. Dvorak, Board Member, is hereby appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and is authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above*

*Section 2: That James W. Dvorak, Board Member, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.*



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COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE - RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD MEMBER, JAMES W. DVORAK AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE – PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF SPERRY ROAD BRIDGE – NEWBURY TOWNSHIP – EXECUTE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution designating Mr. Dvorak as the Chief Executive Officer and Representative for the proposed replacement project of the Sperry Road Bridge, and further authorizing the execution of the Ohio Public Works Commission for financial assistance.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #23-184 appointing Board Member, James W. Dvorak, as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for the proposed Replacement of Sperry Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0012-0359) in Newbury Township and further approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the State of Ohio Public Works Commission application for financial assistance.

Board of Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: October 31, 2023  
Resolution: #23-184

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING James W Dvorak, MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Whereas, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and

Whereas, Geauga County is planning to make improvements to Replace Sperry Road Bridge, Structure BR-0012-0359 in Newbury Township; and

Whereas, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1: That James W. Dvorak, Board Member, is hereby appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and is authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above

Section 2: That James W. Dvorak, Board Member, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ATTACHMENTS A – D WITH HERITAGE HEALTH SOLUTIONS, INCORPORATED - FOR OFF-SITE ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand and Chief Deputy Tom Rowan asked the Board to approve the agreement for professional services with Heritage Health Solutions for the handling of medical claims processing. Chief Rowan explained that Heritage Health will handle all the medical billing and claims processing for the inmates and feels it will be a cost savings for them. Chief Rowan stated that they will have access to the daily inmate population of names, so they can

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verify the date of service and admittance for proper billing and claim rates. Chief Rowan stated that if it doesn't work they can always stop using them, but they want to give it a try, it's a cost of \$50.00 per claim versus the staff trying to figure out codes and keeping track of the claim.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Professional Services Agreement with Attachments A – Services, B – Price Offering, C – Medical Claims Processing Standard Procedure and D – Business Associate Agreement between Heritage Health Solutions, Incorporated (a Texas Corporation) and Geauga County Ohio Commissioners to provide off-site administrative healthcare services, that include managing medical claims administration, provider network contracting and provider payment for all outpatient, emergency room and hospital inpatient claims when residents leave the County detention facility for medical services that are the financial responsibility of the County for an initial term period of three years effective November 1, 2023 with automatic renewal for an additional two (2) one-year terms in the amount of \$50.00 per claim.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING CONTRACT – DEPARTMENT ON AGING FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

Director Jessica Boalt explained that the Western Reserve Area Aging on Aging awarded additional funding, however, the APA requested some edits and while the contract is due back to them today, they still have not send the revised document back to us. Ms. Boalt explained that in hopes of receiving the document, she is asking the Board to authorize the County Administrator to execute the agreement once it is received to try and meet the deadline.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the County Administrator, Gerard Morgan to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Contract with the Geauga County Department on Aging for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the period October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$153,901.00 (Adult Day Service ARPA-E \$70,500.00, Matter of Balance ARPA-D \$15,000.00, Capital Assets – Transportation ARPA-B \$67,901.00).

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PERMIT TO USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS FORM – HOME DEPOT COMMERCIAL ACCOUNT – REMAINDER OF 2023

Fiscal and Personnel Specialist Kathleen Miller asked the Board to approve the use of a Credit Card for a Home Depot Commercial account for the supervisors to use with a maximum amount per person per month.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Application for Authorization to Permit the Use of County Credit Cards form, pursuant to O.R.C. 301.27 for the remainder of the Year 2023 for the Home Depot Commercial Account card with a not to exceed amount of \$1,000.00 per month per person for Nicholas J. Gorris, P.E, David Osborn II, Brian Loza, Karen Peterson and Ray Farinacci.

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT GRANT AGREEMENT AND ATTACHMENTS – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGING HEALTHY AGING GRANTS

Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne asked the Board to approve and execute the resolution authorizing the President of the Board to execute and submit the grant agreement and attachments.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #23-185 Authorizing the President of the Board to execute and submit the Grant Agreement and Attachments between the Ohio Department of Aging and Geauga County Board of Commissioners Healthy Aging Grants.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

*Date:* October 31, 2023

*Resolution:* #23-185

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ATTACHMENTS BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - HEALTHY AGING GRANTS**

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners desire to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute and submit the Ohio Department of Aging, Healthy Aging Grant Agreement and Attachments; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the President of the Board to execute and submit the Grant Agreement and Attachments electronically for the Health Aging Grant programs.

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 Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGING GRANT AGREEMENT - HEALTHY AGING GRANT AND ATTACHMENTS

Ms. Burhenne asked the Board to then authorize the President to execute the grant agreement so that it can be submitted.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Aging, Grant Agreement between the Ohio Department of Aging and Geauga County Board of Commissioners Healthy Aging Grants, including Attachments A, B, C, D and E for the period ending October 31, 2024.

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – ARPA FUNDING REQUEST

Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Michael Barb thanked the Board for their time and explained that he was requesting American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds of \$250,000.00 that would help create additional housing in Geauga County and to assist Seniors and Veterans with critical home repairs.

Mr. Barb explained that Habitat Affiliates have been requesting and receiving ARPA funds from their local jurisdictions throughout the U.S. and wanted to throw “their hat in the ring” and make you aware of the purpose of what we would be using those funds for. Mr. Barb explained that they want to assist homeowners in Geauga County live closer to where they work adding that they have a robust repair program that assist seniors and veterans with critical home



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repairs, which include wheelchair ramps and roof replacement, depending on the need. Mr. Barb stated that they felt their request meets the requirements of the ARPA guidelines, noting that in the 2022 final rule it states that it can be used to respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, by supporting the health of communities, and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts. Mr. Barb expressed that their request fits within the guidelines of the scope of what they are to be used for. Mr. Dvorak inquired about how many homes have been built in Geauga County to which Mr. Barb explained that Geauga Habitat merged with Lake County back in 2015, before he came on board, but to his knowledge it would be about half of the homes built were in Geauga and are currently completing their 97 home and will break ground on number 98 in the spring in Chardon. Mr. Dvorak added that his Rotary club helped with two houses, one was in Middlefield, it's a good program that lifts people up. Mr. Barb wanted to dispel a myth, Habitat does not give homes away, homeowners get a thirty year note however the magic sauce is that it is a zero-interest mortgage, thus making the low to moderate income families be able to afford a home. Mr. Lennon inquired again about the 2022 final rule, asking if there needs to be a correlation between the negative economic impact and the pandemic. Mr. Barb stated that the overall fundraising was impacted by the economic realities of covid, and that habitats across the country have been receiving them, so there has to be some impact there, it's a generally known that non-profits fundraising everts were impacted.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BUDGET COMMISSION  
SUSPEND COLLECTION OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES .5 MILL LEVY FOR THE TAX  
YEAR 2023 AND PARTIALLY SUSPEND COLLECTION OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES .7  
MILL LEVY FOR TAX YEAR 2023

Mr. Morgan explained that this resolution is to request the Budget Commission to withhold the Job and Family Services .5 mill levy and partially suspend the .7 mill levy down to .52 mills.

Executive Director Craig Swenson explained that following last week he had spoken with the Auditor and the Prosecutor about the process and have a much better understanding and feel comfortable with knowing that the Commissioners will assist with making us whole. Mr. Swenson feels good in being able to provide the relief to the taxpayers. Mr. Swenson wants it be clarified that there is no reflection of Job and Family Service's needs. Last year they suspended the .5 mill willingly due to funding resources through covid and didn't want to collect funds they did not need, however that going forward their expenses and revenue needs are based on what is happening and crisis that arise. Mr. Swenson said they are in support and glad to be a part of it.

Mr. Spidalieri expressed that they sent a letter out to all the residents to encourage them to reach out as well to their legislators, trustees and school boards. This is what can be done the Commissioners, but they can request the other entities to do their portion. The Board wants to be transparent in that they don't agree with the unvoted tax increase on our residents. Mr. Spidalieri stated that they want to be an example in the state. Mr. Spidalieri thanked everyone for the support and working together. Mr. Lennon stated that this is a temporary band aid on a much bigger program and hopefully it gets fixed but if need be, will revisit it again.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #23-186 Requesting the Geauga County Budget Commission Suspend Collection of the Job and Family Services .50 Mill Levy for the Tax Year 2023 and Partially Suspend Collection of the Job and Family Services .70 Mill Levy down to .52 Mills for the Tax Year 2023.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

*Date:* October 31, 2023

*Resolution:* #23-186

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GEAUGA COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION SUSPEND  
COLLECTION OF THE JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES .50 MILL LEVY FOR THE TAX YEAR  
2023 AND PARTIALLY SUSPEND COLLECTION OF THE JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES .70  
MILL LEVY FOR THE TAX YEAR 2023**

WHEREAS, The Ohio Constitution provides for real property to be taxed without a vote of the people up to 10 mills which is commonly referred to as inside millage and effects every property owner in Geauga County; and

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*WHEREAS, Geauga County's mandated 2023 re-valuation, as approved by the Ohio Tax Commissioner, has resulted in an unprecedented average increase in Residential real estate valuation in Geauga County of 29.5% and 26.1% for Agricultural property which will cause the inside millage tax to increase proportionately; and*

*WHEREAS, this will create an unvoted windfall of tax revenue to the political subdivisions that collect inside millage tax; and*

*WHEREAS, Schools receive 45% of inside millage, townships/municipalities receive 30% and Geauga County receives 25% of inside millage taxes; and*

*WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to mitigate this significant unvoted tax increase and provide property tax relief to Geauga County property owners; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Budget Commission has recommended that the best course to offset the County's 25% share of the increase and provide tax relief is to suppress collection of existing countywide levies for departments under the hiring authority of the Commissioners; and*

*WHEREAS, the Commissioners can suspend collection of countywide levies and use the inside millage increase to supplement funding for the affected department out of the general fund; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services collects two children's services levies to support their operations; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Budget Commission has recommended full suspension for of the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services .50 mill levy, voted in 2015, for tax year 2023; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Budget Commission has recommended partial suspension for of the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services .70 mill levy, voted in 2011, reduced to .52 mills for tax year 2023; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services' .50 mill tax levy, voted in 2015, is a non-qualified levy, suspension of which would most directly benefit local taxpayers; and*

*WHEREAS, a one-year suspension of collection of the .50 Mill tax levy, passed in 2015, and a partial suspension of the .70 mill levy, passed in 2011, to .52 mills will provide Geauga County property owners with over \$2 million of property tax relief and serve to approximately offset the County's 25% share of the inside millage tax increase; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners intends to replace the lost levy revenue though supplemental funding of Job and Family Services from the county general fund; and*

*WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 5705.24 of the Ohio Revised Code the Board of County Commissioners has the authority to levy a tax at the rate approved by the electors or at any less rate.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga Board of County Commissioners hereby request that the Geauga County Budget Commission fully suspend collection of the .50 mill Job and Family Services Levy, passed in 2015, for tax year 2023, collection year 2024 and partially suspend collection of the .70 mill Job and Family Services Levy, passed in 2011, to .52 mills for tax year 2023, collection year 2024.*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Commissioners' Clerk to certify copies of this Resolution to the Geauga County Auditor's Office to ensure the accuracy of relevant tax rates and values for the 2024 tax collection period.*

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*Roll Call Vote:*            *Commissioner Lennon*            *Aye*  
   *Commissioner Dvorak*            *Aye*  
   *Commissioner Spidalieri*            *Aye*

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE AND EXECUTE LETTERS TO THE CITY, TOWNSHIPS, VILLAGES AND GEAUGA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS – REQUESTING TO FOLLOW LEAD ON REDUCING COLLECTION OF VOTED LEVIES*

*Mr. Morgan asked the Board to execute the letters to go out to the city, townships, villages and school districts requesting the follow the county lead and reduce collection on their levies.*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute letters to the City, Townships, Villages, and Geauga County School Districts requesting them to follow the Commissioners Lead on reducing collection of Voted Levies.*

*Roll Call Vote:*            *Commissioner Lennon*            *Aye*  
   *Commissioner Dvorak*            *Aye*  
   *Commissioner Spidalieri*            *Aye*

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to move into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for public purposes and the sale of property at competitive bidding, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(2).*

*Roll Call Vote:*            *Commissioner Lennon*            *Aye*  
   *Commissioner Dvorak*            *Aye*  
   *Commissioner Spidalieri*            *Aye*

*The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. with Mr. Morgan and Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne. The Board returned at 11:06 a.m. and no action was taken.*

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

- a) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Minutes for September 20, 2023*
- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending October 18, 2023 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

*OTHER*

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

*MEETINGS*

*Fri., 11/3 NOACA Finance 8:30 a.m., Governance 10:00 a.m., Executive 11:30 a.m., Cleveland*

*Tue., 11/7 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Wed., 11/8 County Township Association Dinner meeting, 6:30 p.m. Montville Community Center*

***Fri., 11/10 County Offices are Closed in observance of Veteran's Day, Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.***

*Tue., 11/14 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B333-334*

*Tue., 11/14 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Tue., 11/14 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District meeting, 2:00 p.m. Warren, District Office*

*Tue., 11/21 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

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*Thu., 11/23 County Offices will be closed for general business in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.*

*Fri., 11/24 County offices under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will be closed for general business. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.*

*Tue., 11/28 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Gail Roussey from the League of Women Voters stated that the Budget Commission is holding a special meeting tomorrow night for Townships, Municipalities and School Board to attend to gather information about the action the Board has taken. It's here in the new building in the large conference room. Ms. Roussey inquired about ARPA funds and how much funds are left? Mr. Dvorak added that Habitat provided a nice presentation on a request. Mr. Morgan added that funds that have not been accounted for or used leaves about \$7.5 million remaining. Any action regarding awarding ARPA funds would be done in their meeting. Mr. Spidalieri asked where the Budget Commission meeting was noted. There was discussion about it being posted on Facebook, that the Auditor's office is putting it on, it was noted that the meeting was to start at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Spidalieri explained that he was questioned about Facebook and advertisements running on county Facebook pages. The Facebook page is free, however if you run ads, those are paid for. Mr. Spidalieri gave an example of the ad, and asked how that is paid for and who approves that on social media, and he just wants to make sure we don't get a surprise down the road. There was a discussion about line items for advertising and how that gets paid.*

*Clerk Christine Blair found the notice on the Auditor's Facebook page and read the notice.*

**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Ralph Spidalieri*

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*James W. Dvorak*

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*Timothy C. Lennon*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**October 31, 2023**

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