

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 19, 2023**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 19, 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 9:43 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*\*Commissioner Dvorak was absent from today's meeting.*

**COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on December 12, 2023 that included for the Department on Aging that per action taken by the Board on December 5, 2023 to approve and execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Contract with Geauga County Department on Aging for the Older Americans Act / Senior Community Services for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$68,000.00 (Supportive Services IIIB \$130,000.00, Transportation IIIB \$170,000.00, Adult Day Service IIIE \$160,000.00, Matter of Balance IIID \$26,000.00 and Diabetes and Self-Management IIID \$12,000.00 and on December 15, 2023 for Maintenance approve hiring Keith Kelly to the position of Full-time Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective January 2, 2024 at the rate of \$16.35 per hour (Grade 6, Step 1) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; 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.*

**FINANCIALS**

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from December 14, 2023 Resolution #23-206 that included various appropriations and supplemental appropriations and de-appropriations to adjust various accounts and funds to balance for year end, Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Department of Emergency Services for their 2022 per capita subdivision receipts and the 2023 sales tax operational stipend, Contract purchase order for the Commissioners to MVC Limited d.b.a. Multivista for construction photography of the Courthouse Expansion project, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to CCAO/CEAO for Commissioners' Office membership dues in the amount of \$11,541.00 and Revenue Certifications for 2024 for the Common Pleas Court in their Community Corrections Fund and from Community Development in their Demolition and Site Revitalization fund for money they will be getting next year that had not been budgeted and a De-Certification for the Engineer's Office in their Huntington Ridge Stormwater Fund for revenue that they ended up not receiving this year; 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.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 7, 2023.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 14, 2023.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 19, 2023**

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

**DEPARTMENT ON AGING – AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROVIDER AGREEMENT – ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE**

*Director Jessica Boalt explained that they were given the opportunity for another grant and once that is available to be executed they are asking for the Administrator to be able to execute it so they are able to get it back to Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and the grant period goes back to July of 2023 however they cannot be reimbursed for any services prior to execution of the contract.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the County Administrator to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Provider Agreement with the Geauga County Department on Aging for Alzheimer's Respite for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$14,977.00.*

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

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – APPROVE SUBMISSION OF LIST OF DELINQUENT SEWER USER FEES, WATER FEES, TAP-IN INSTALLMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFICATION TO THE AUDITOR**

*Fiscal and Personnel Specialist Kathleen Miller asked the Board to approve the list of delinquent sewer user fees, water fees, tap-in installments and certify it to the Auditor's office. Mr. Morgan noted that there are customers that don't pay for bills and that list is sent to the Auditor and placed on the tax bill.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the submission of the list of delinquent sewer user fees, water fees, tap-in installments and subsequent certification to the Geauga County Auditor, in accordance with O.R.C. 6117.02 and the Geauga County Department of Water Resources Rules and Regulations (Section F.501) in the total amount of \$453,394.10 (\$429,043.46 Arrearage and \$25,663.93 Penalty).*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND TO VICTIM /WITNESS ASSISTANCE FUND FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF PROGRAM**

*Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton asked the Board to approve additional funding for the Victim Witness Assistant program for the grant period through September 2024.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a transfer of funds from the General Fund into the Victim /Witness Assistance Fund for additional funding for the Victim Witness Program for the grant period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$39,995.00.*

<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 – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #1 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT**

*Mr. Morgan explained that this was the first pay request for Infinity on the Courthouse Expansion project.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 19, 2023**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #1 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$61,390.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND DIRECTING THE DONATION OF PROPERTY TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

*Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve the resolution declaring a 2016 Ford Escape as surplus and direct the donation of the vehicle to the Airport Authority.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #23-207 Declaring County Property as Surplus and Directing the Donation of the Property to the Geauga County Airport Authority, as authorized by O.R.C. 307.12 (D), namely a 2016 Ford Escape.

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Resolution:* 23-207  
*Date:* December 19, 2023

**RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY PROPERTY AS SURPLUS AND DIRECTING THE DONATION OF THE PROPERTY TO THE GEAUGA COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY, AS AUTHORIZED BY O.R.C. 307.12(D).**

*WHEREAS, The Geauga County Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners” or “County”) has a motor vehicle that has served its intended use and is hereby declared “not needed for public use, is obsolete or is unfit for the use for which it was acquired” by the County; and*

*WHEREAS, The Geauga County Airport Authority (“Airport Authority”), a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, has a current need for a motor vehicle to conduct airport business; and*

*WHEREAS, O.R.C. 307.12 (D) permits a board of county commissioners to donate a motor vehicle to a political subdivision regardless of the property’s value; and*

*WHEREAS, The Office of the Board of Geauga County Commissioners has identified a specific vehicle suitable for donation to the Geauga County Airport Authority, namely a 2016 Ford Escape, VIN No. 1FMCU9GX6GUA36895; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, hereby donates the above-referenced motor vehicle to the Geauga County Airport Authority at no cost.*

*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>	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RE-APPOINT CAROL TUTTLE – LAW LIBRARY RESOURCES BOARD – FIVE YEAR TERM

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to re-appoint Carol Tuttle to the Law Library Resources Board for a five-year term, January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.

**Commissioners' Journal  
December 19, 2023**

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RE-APPOINT DENNIS BERGANSKY – PLANNING  
COMMISSION – THREE YEAR TERM*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to re-appoint Dennis Bergansky to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.*

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RE-APPOINT GEORGE (CHIP) HESS – AIRPORT  
AUTHORITY BOARD – FOUR YEAR TERM*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to re-appoint George (Chip) Hess II to the Airport Authority Board for a four-year term, January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.*

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING TODD KESERICH, ASSISTANT  
VICE PRESIDENT CLIENT SERVICES, SEDGWICK CORPORATION, THIRD PARTY  
ADMINISTRATOR ON HIS RETIREMENT*

*Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler introduced Todd Keserich that has assisted Geauga County with our claims with the Bureau of Workers Compensation, and that he will be retiring. Mr. Keserich introduced Maura McClain that will be taking his place with Sedgwick. Mr. Lennon thanked him for his service over the years and for always looking out for Geauga County.*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #23-208 Honoring Todd Keserich, Assistant Vice President Client Services, Sedgwick Corporation, Third Party Administrator for Geauga County's Bureau of Workers Compensation Program on his Retirement.*

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

*Ms. Hostutler read the following resolution and presented it to Mr. Keserich with the Board of Commissioners.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date:*                *December 19, 2023*  
*Resolution:*        *#23-208*

*RESOLUTION HONORING TODD KESERICH, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT CLIENT SERVICES, SEDGWICK CORPORATION, THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR GEAUGA COUNTY'S BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ON HIS RETIREMENT*

*WHEREAS, Todd Keserich was one of the first ten employees hired at CompManagement, Incorporated (CMI) (purchased by Sedgwick in 2006) 34 years ago; and*

*WHEREAS, Todd Keserich held many positions and responsibilities from Hearing Representative, State Fund Claims Manager to Manager of Client Services for the past 15 years, where he oversees the Account Executive staff and interacts with clients; and*

*WHEREAS, Todd Keserich has acted as Geauga County's Bureau of Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator for over 25 years with the oldest note to the county dated back to*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 19, 2023**

*February, 1994. Todd Keserich has conducted countless trainings for Geauga County employees in the areas of BWC 101, 102 103, the Chargeback Program, Understanding Rating Analysis and Experience Modifiers; and*

*WHEREAS, Todd Keserich has guided the county into entering many beneficial programs and grants that have saved countless dollars to the County and it's taxpaying citizens, including the Group Retrospective Program that has rewarded the county with hundreds of thousands of dollars in BWC rebates. Todd Keserich has attended countless Commissioners' sessions updating the Commissioners and public on the County's BWC status; and*

*WHEREAS, Todd Keserich is married with three grown children and upon retirement, will have more time to travel and visit them along with continuing to pursue his multitude of hobbies, such as running, including the 100K which he completed with the aid of a lot of water and many tubes of mashed potatoes; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners honor Todd Keserich on the occasion of his retirement December 31, 2023 for his service and dedication to Geauga County Commissioners, Staff and ultimately the tax paying citizens of Geauga County.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION BY CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS (SPECTRUM) TO ROUND 2 OF THE OHIO RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM - BROADBAND**

*Clerk Christine Blair explained that the office received a request for a letter of support for Charter Communications (Spectrum) for the second round of funding for the underserved areas of Geauga County and your letter of support provides additional points on their application. Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne explained that they recognized about 1600 residents that they are hoping to get service to within the county, and they have already put funding into the project.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #23-209 to Support the application by Charter Communications (Spectrum) to Round 2 of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program to deploy broadband infrastructure to unserved and or underserved locations in Geauga County resulting in greater high-speed internet connectivity.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: December 19, 2023*

*Resolution: #23-209*

*Resolution to support the application by Charter Communications (Spectrum) to Round 2 of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program to deploy broadband infrastructure to unserved and or underserved locations in Geauga County resulting in greater high-speed internet connectivity.*

*WHEREAS, Investments in high-speed broadband infrastructure are vital to connect rural Ohio's unserved and underserved residential locations, help close the digital divide, create economic opportunity and enhance long-term growth; and,*

*WHEREAS, High-speed internet enhances opportunity in the modern economy for unserved households across Ohio and in Geauga County by enabling greater access to education, employment, healthcare, and civic engagement; and*

*WHEREAS, Charter Communications today is investing \$1.25 billion in Ohio through its companywide network evolution project and broadband expansion commitments to continue increasing the speeds they offer and adding new locations that can subscribe to their services; and*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 19, 2023**

*WHEREAS, Charter Communications employs 7,935 employees in Ohio and serves 2.8 million customers in 1,928 communities; and*

*WHEREAS, Charter Communications plans to submit an application for a project to serve previously unserved locations in Geauga County by investing Charter Communication's own capital and requesting a grant from the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG) program to invest directly in Geauga County by deploying fiber to the premise broadband infrastructure capable of multiple-gigabit internet speeds in both the upstream and downstream directions; and*

*WHEREAS, The scoring criteria for Round 2 of the ORBEG Program awards 25 points if the application includes a resolution of support from the board of county commissioners in the county where the eligible project is located; and*

*WHEREAS, The Geauga County Board of Commissioners are supportive of expanding broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved locations in our County and desire that Charter Communication's application score well and receive favorable consideration; and*

*BE IT RESOLVED BY THE that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the application by Charter Communications (Spectrum) to Round 2 of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</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 the employment and compensation of public employees.*

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

*The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:01 a.m. with Mr. Morgan and Ms. Burhenne. The Board returned at 10:42 a.m. and an action would be taken, but motion language was being worked out.*

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO REVIEW PAPERWORK IN REGARD TO SALE OF 470 CENTER STREEET PROPERTY**

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to request the Prosecutor's Office to assist with the creation and review of resolutions, documents and any necessary paperwork regarding the sale of the 470 Center Street property and the review of the Statement of Qualifications for Professional Design Services relating to the Chardon Senior Center.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION**

*The result of the executive session – action was taken as follows:*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept and carryover twelve hours of accrued vacation time for Duane Bidlack, Fiscal and Budget Officer (#1035) to be effective November 27, 2023.*

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

Commissioners' Journal  
December 19, 2023

OTHER

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

MEETINGS

*Mon., 12/25 County Offices will be closed in honor of Christmas. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal.*

*Thu., 12/28 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Mon., 1/1 County Offices will be closed in honor of New Year's Day. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal.*

*Thu., 1/4 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Mon., 1/8 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. and it will include the Annual Organizational Meeting*

*Mon., 1/8 ADP Organizational meeting, 1:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

---

*Ralph Spidalieri*

---

*James W. Dvorak*

---

*Timothy C. Lennon*

---

*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 19, 2023**

*THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK*