

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**January 18, 2024**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, in 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 9:33 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

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

*Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:*

*"Heavenly Father"*

*With all this snow and cold weather in Geauga County*

*Holy One, warm our hearts with Acts of Kindness.*

*Inspire us with the Beauty of your creation,*

*And watch over these who work to keep us safe and well!*

*Amen*

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

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on January 10, 2024, for the Commissioners' Office, per action on January 8, 2024 by the Board of Commissioners, approved and executed the Agreement with Todd Hoffmeyer, Top Choice Home Inspections to perform a Commercial Building Inspection of the Chase Building in an amount not to exceed \$2,374.00, on January 11, 2024, for a Liquor License, concurred with the Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Beer Run and Some LLC d.b.a. Beer Run and Some located at 17800 Chillicothe Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio (C NEW 0574746) on, January 12, 2024 for the Department on Aging accepted the Retirement Resignation of Sherri A. Davis, Information and Referral Assistant (#1017) to be effective February 29, 2024, and for the Maintenance Department accepted the Retirement Resignation of Donald Wilk, Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective February 2, 204 and Granted permission to advertise for the position of Maintenance Worker (#1904). This position will remain posted until filled and on January 16, 2024 for the Department of Development (Community & Economic) accepted and approved the Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program Income Report and the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Semi-Annual Report for the period July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 and further authorize the electronic submission of these reports; for Maintenance approved an unpaid medical leave of absence for Joan Staley, Part-time General Communications Clerk /Switchboard Operator (#1912) for the period January 8, 2024 through June 8, 2024, for time not covered by accrued sick and vacation leave, for the Department of Water Resources approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with The Bergren Associates Incorporated to perform Maintenance service and installation of al telemetry and control systems, including meter calibration, at various wastewater facilities within in the department for a period of one year, to be effective January 16, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with The Bergren Associates Incorporated to perform Maintenance service and installation of al telemetry and control systems, including meter calibration, at various water district facilities within in the department for a period of one year, to be effective January 16, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with Go Green Heating Air Conditioning d.b.a. Auburn Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning to perform the HVAC and Plumbing Maintenance Services as needed at various water district facilities within the department for a period of one year, to be effective January 16, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, and approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with Go Green Heating Air Conditioning d.b.a. Auburn Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning to perform the HVAC and Plumbing Maintenance Services as needed at various wastewater facilities within the department for a period of one year, to be effective January 16, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00; as authorized by Resolution #24-011 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 8, 2024 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.*

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FINANCIALS

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from January 11, 2024 Resolution #24-012 that included Supplemental Appropriations from the Commissioners to set up appropriations for Aging and JFS in the Healthy Aging Grant fund, Travel requests for the Commissioners' Office and the County Engineer's Office, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ravenwood Mental Health Center for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Youth Center Operations in the amount of \$104,105.00 and a payment for the Sheriff to Expert IT for the Microsoft Office 365 annual subscription user licenses in the amount of \$36,720.00; as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to Resolution #24-011 approved January 8, 2024 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 2024, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

APPROVE MINUTES

*Motion:* by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 17, 2023.

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

*Motion:* by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 21, 2023.

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

*Motion:* by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 28, 2023.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AGREEMENT – CABLE COMMUNICATIONS INCORPORATED – DIED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND

The following motion was on the agenda, Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the agreement. Mr. Dvorak made a motion, however Commissioner Spidalieri inquired about where we were on the purchase, as he did not feel comfortable spending money on a building that we have signed an agreement for purchase on. Mr. Gorton added that he understands what he is saying, however the equipment can be used in other places in the county if not there. Mr. Spidalieri stated he was not in agreement and would not vote.

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve and execute the Agreement with Cable Communications Incorporated to install interior and exterior cabling as well as cameras, data cabinets and an access control system for a period of six months, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$71,169.55.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Dvorak, Commissioner Spidalieri stated that he was voting No, so for lack of a second.

Clerk Christine Blair noted that the Financials will need to be adjusted to remove the contract since the item was not approved.

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GEAUGA MECHANICAL COMPANY – REPLACE BOILER – NEXT STEP BUILDING

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve and execute an agreement with Geauga Mechanical to replace a Boiler at the Next Step Building, adding that right now they currently don't have heat and are using small space heaters. Mr. Gorton noted that this was rushed through to try and get heat back in the building.

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*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Geauga Mechanical Company to replace Boiler at Geauga County Next Step Building for a period of one-year, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$21,800.00.*

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

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including Appropriations transfer from the Commissioners' Miscellaneous account to the Probate Court and Public Defender to pay unemployment claims that had not been budgeted, appropriations transfers to the Sheriff for miscellaneous refunds, reimbursements and web checks that were deposited into the General Fund, Supplemental appropriation in the General Fund to place appropriations into the ADP expense accounts to absorb the Archives department, appropriations match the budgeted amounts used for Archives prior to the move, Supplemental appropriation in the General Fund for the Sheriff to replace appropriations that were granted in 2023 for vehicles and equipment that are still needed but were not able to be encumbered prior to the end of the year, Supplemental appropriation from the Sheriff's office in their 800 communications permanent improvements fund for encumbrances to replace the 800 mhz radios, Cash transfer from the General Fund to Public Assistance for our January – March 2024 mandated share, Transfer from the General Fund to the 800 communications permanent improvement fund for additional money needed to complete the funding for the radio replacements, Travel requests for Aging, Clerk of Courts, Common Pleas Court and Job and Family Services, Then and Now for the Commissioners Office to Carly Laura Snavely for appointed counsel fees from 2021 that were not previously encumbered, a payment for Aging to Wellsy Synergy Human and Social Services Corp for service and support in regards to their client engagement software in the amount of \$29,326.50 and a payment for the Engineer's Office to Kalida Truck Equipment Incorporated for a Diamond 22' rear cradle boom mower in the amount of \$75,000.00.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #24-011 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 18, 2024, noting that the Cable Communications Incorporated item was removed from the financials.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST AUDITOR TO DISTRIBUTE BALANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUND TO WOMENSAFE FOR 2023**

*Mr. Gorton asked the Board to request the Auditor distribute the balance in the Domestic Violence Fund to Womensafe.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to request the County Auditor to distribute the balance in the Domestic Violence Fund (2070) to Womensafe, the local agency designated by the Commissioners to receive such monies. This allocation is to be paid pursuant to Section 3113.34 of the O.R.C. for the 2023 year, in the amount of \$11,730.94.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PAYMENT PROCESSING AGREEMENT – CSG FORTE PAYMENTS, INCORPORATED**

*Mr. Gorton explained that this is the final agreement of the three that were approved for credit card processing, it has taken a little over a year to get this finalized.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Payment Processing Agreement with CSG Forte Payments, Incorporated to provide Financial Transaction Devices for County expenses owed*

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*to County Officials / Offices in accordance with R.C. 301.28 for a period of five years effective January 18, 2024.*

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

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESCIND MOTION FROM DECEMBER 12, 2023 – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE EMBANKMENTS OF BUNDYSBURG ROAD BRIDGE AND GEM ROAD BRIDGE – DUE TO LACK OF FULL BOARD**

*Deputy Engineer Jacob Scotese asked the Board to rescind the motion approving Resolution #23-205 as it was approved without having a full Board.*

*Motion:*           *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to rescind the motion from December 12, 2023 due to the lack of the full Board, that read: Resolution #23-205 to Improve the Embankment of the Bundysburg Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0038-03.080) in Parkman Township and the Embankment of the Gem Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0264-00.290) in Chester Township.*

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

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – ITEM PULLED DUE TO NOT HAVING A FULL BOARD**

*The following item was on the agenda; however it was pulled as we do not have a full Board for it's approval.*

*The County Engineer's Office is requesting the Board approve and execute Resolution #24-014 to Improve the Embankment of the Bundysburg Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0038-03.080) in Parkman Township and the Embankment of the Gem Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0264-00.290) in Chester Township.*

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (BUILDING) – APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PERMIT USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS FOR 2024**

*Director/ Chief Building Official Dan Spada asked the Board to approve the application for the use of county credit cards for the year 2024. It was noted that this was missed during the rest that were done at the organizational meeting.*

*Motion:*           *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Application for Authorization to Permit Use of County Credit Cards per O.R.C. 301.27 for the Year 2024 for a Staples in an amount to exceed \$250.00 per month for Daniel Spada and Doreen Eppich and for a Geauga Credit Union Visa in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00 per person per month for Daniel Spada and Doreen Eppich.*

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

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC) – RE-APPOINT MEMBERS – FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE**

*Program Coordinator Elaine Malkamaki asked the Board to approve the re-appointment of members to the Fair Housing Committee for a two-year term.*

*Motion:*           *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to re-appoint the following members to the Fair Housing Committee for a two-year term, January 18, 2024 through December 31, 2025 including: Lisa Briggs, Sara Clemson, Dawn Farrell and Nancy Leirer.*

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC) – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT / OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION CONTACTS FORM – OCEAN USERS AND ROLE ASSIGNMENTS

*Ms. Malkamaki asked the Board to authorize the President to execute the OCEAN Users form that allows them access for the CDBG programs.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Development / Office of Community Development Organization Contacts Form for the OCEAN Users and role assignment form, which is used to apply for and maintain ODSA programs and grants.*

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – ADVERTISE FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY BUILDINGS

*Director Craig Swenson along with President and CEO of Ravenwood, Vicki Clark and Ian DeWalt, Youth Center Administrator were there to discuss the plans for the Youth Center and the ideas that have been in play, to renovate the current facility or build a new facility, and with grant funds from the State of now almost a million dollars, we are going to move forward with a new facility. The new building will double the capacity of what we have now and bring new opportunities, including a respite area that will allow for separate control of youth. Mr. Dvorak asked what the square footage of the new facility will be, to which Mr. Swenson stated, 6,621. Mr. Swenson explained that a new design will create the ability for improved supervision, less trauma for kids not being sent out of county which is a win.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Professional Design Services Related to the Design and Construction Administration of County Buildings with Responses due on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Notice of this request for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Professional Design Services will be advertised on January 24, 2024, February 1, 2024 and on the county website.*

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – B AND J TEPPS INCORPORATED D.B.A. SOUTHGATE LOCK AND SECURITY

*Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service contract with B and J Tepps Incorporated d.ba. Southgate Lock and Security for a three -year period.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with B and J Tepps Incorporated d.b.a. Southgate Lock and Security to provide Lock and Key Services per the Director for a period of three years, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00.*

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – WESTERN RESERVE LIGHTNING ROD COMPANY

*Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service contract with Western Reserve Lightning Rod for maintenance and repairs for three-year period.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Western Reserve Lightning Rod*

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*Company to perform Maintenance and Repairs of Lightning Protection Equipment for Geauga County Buildings for a period of three years, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.*

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

**MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – HZW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, LLC**

*Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service contract with HZW Environmental Consultants for health, safety and environmental consulting services for two-year period.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with HZW Environmental Consultants, LLC to provide various Professional Health, Safety and Environmental Consulting Services per the Director for a period of two years, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.*

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

**MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BURTON CARPET SHOPPE**

*Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service contract with Burton Carpet Shoppe for installations and repairs for a two-year period. Mr. Spidalieri asked if they would review what needs to be done and other quotes for proceeding and this amount is not guaranteed.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Burton Carpet Shoppe to perform Installation, Repairs and Replacement of Carpet in County Buildings for a period of two years, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.*

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

**MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – E TECHNOLOGIES**

*Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service contract with E Technologies for inspections and maintenance on the UPS units for a one-year period.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with E Technologies to provide inspections and maintenance on Geauga County UPS Units for the period February 14, 2024 through February 14, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.*

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

*Mr. Dvorak inquired of Mr. Sieracki was Mr. Vernick's assistant, to which Mr. Sieracki stated that he is a Contract Coordinator and is handling all the contracts currently, following the resignation of Ms. Petit. Mr. Dvorak expressed his concern over a protocol for Maintenance when they are going to do a project, and notification of the department it affects. Mr. Dvorak asked for something in writing within 30 days or less.*

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – FIVE STAR PROTECTION SERVICES, INCORPORATED**

*Director / Sanitary Engineer Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve a service contract with Five Star Protection Services to do inspections testing and repairs for a one-year period.*

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*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Five Star Fire Protection Services, Incorporated to perform all inspections, recharging, hydrostatic pressure testing and repairs including emergency and exit lighting for a period of one-year, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.*

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

*DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MACK INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED*

*Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve a service contract with MACK Industries for repair services as needed for a one-year period. There was a brief discussion on where they were located.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Mack Industries, Incorporated to perform Repair Services as needed at various locations within the Department for a period of one-year, effective January 18, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.*

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

*KINETIC / WINDSTREAM*

*Kinetic VP – State Government Affairs, Jeanne Shearer along Dick Morting, Director of Operations in Ohio explained that Windstream is a major communications provider in Geauga County and primarily serve rural communities across 18 states. Ensuring that every home and business have access to highspeed internet service is a key policy objective in all levels of government, its also a top priority at Windstream. The list of benefits for Broadband is substantial, property taxes going up, economic development, working from home, telehealth, education and more. Ms. Shearer stated that they understand the influx of digital use and feel that they have really stepped up, and in rural markets. Ms. Shearer stated that they are here to update the Board with what they have been doing, and shows the commitment and to date they invested. The service footprint is rural, covering about 33,000 locations, with a hundred years of experience, starting with phone service and upgrade internet access. Where you see our footprint, the network is there, we own the poles, if we don't own the pole, we have agreements to use them. Ms. Shearer explained that they have brought construction back in house and have a yard now in Chardon. They have employees here, living in Geauga County raising their families. They are gearing up to serve the big purpose of getting everyone connected. They have fiber already deployed and are growing. The initiative started before the pandemic, but it just proved how important it is, and to close the digital divide.*

*The second map shows proposed fiber projects, GIG serviceable areas and active fiber projects they are currently working on. The active projects are another 4200 locations that they plan to turn up this year, and the footprint continues to grow.*

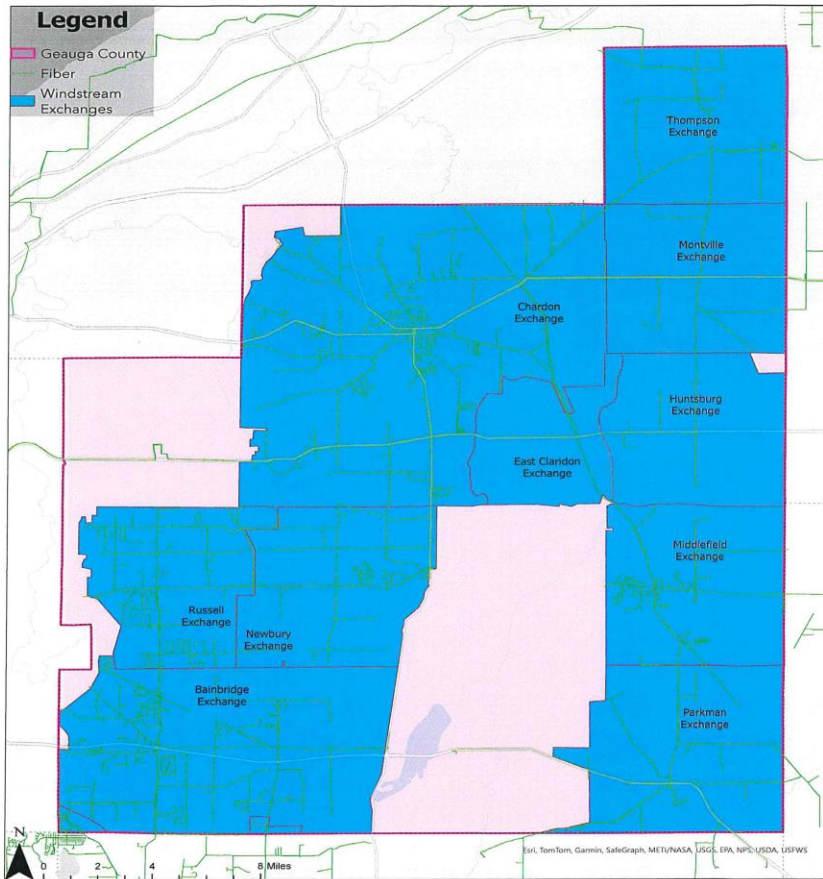
*Ms. Shearer stated that there are partnerships, and they are key, ORBIG is a State program that they participated in Round 1, and it just helps us get fiber out there quicker. It's economical for us to get to the rural areas of the county, which gives the best technology to the residents. This is a snapshot today, and there will be other projects that they want to bring before the Board, it's a very competitive process and they want to get fiber out as soon as possible. Ms. Shearer will be asking for a resolution of support for their application, as it gets more points for having local collaboration.*

*Mr. Dvorak asked about suddenlink and if they were connected to them, to which it was noted they were not. Ms. Shearer stated that if there are areas that have less than 100 mbs they would be a priority to get service to them. Mr. Dvorak inquired about a transmission line along State Route 322 as back up for the service area here, off State Route 44 and Ravenwood, that also services the Hospital.*



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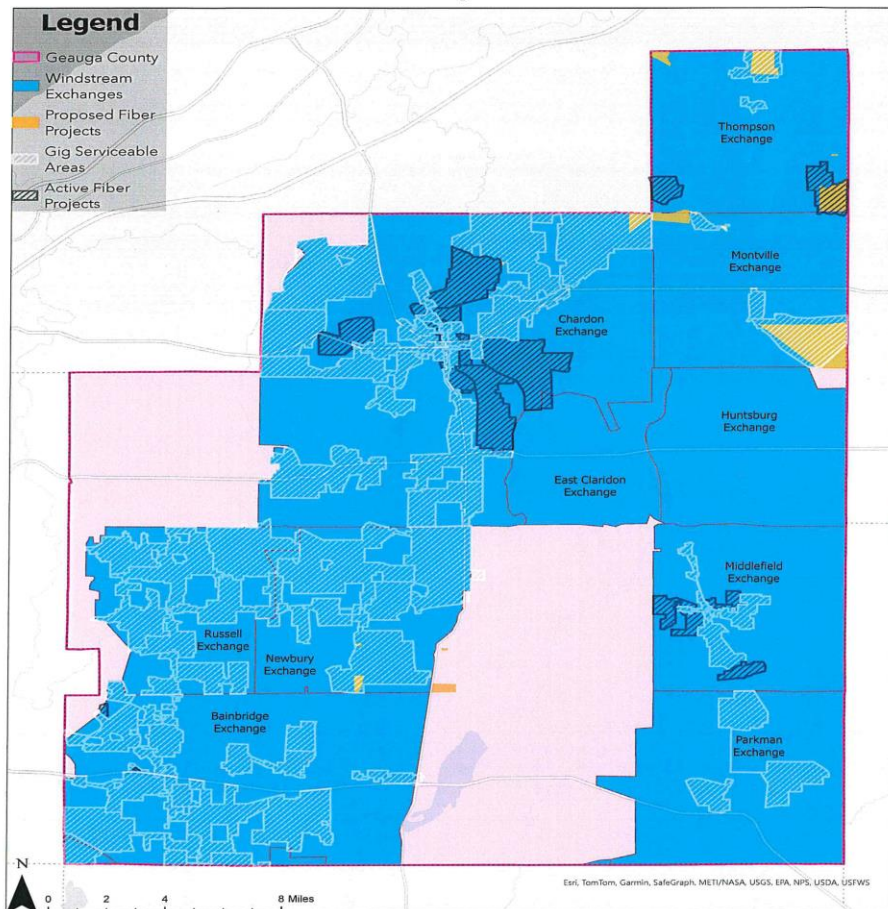
Geauga County Can Count  
on Kinetic by Windstream



For Illustrative Purposes

*Ms. Shearer noted that this map shows the service footprint for Windstream in Geauga County.*

Geauga County Can Count  
on Kinetic by Windstream



For Illustrative Purposes



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STATUTORY GROUP – PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 153.36 COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

***The Board moved into the Statutory Group at 10:14 a.m.***

*The Statutory Group, consisting of the Commissioners, Sheriff, Judge of the Common Pleas Court, Judge of the Probate Court and Clerk of Courts, pursuant to O.R.C. 153.36, met at 10:14 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room B303 at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon, Ohio to review and, if appropriate, approve by a majority of the members of the Statutory Group, the plans, drawings, representations, bills of material, specifications of work and estimates of the cost thereof in detail and in the aggregate, relating to GMP Amendment No. 1 and GMP Amendment No. 2 for the contract with Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated.*

*The following members of the Statutory Group were present, Commissioner Dvorak, Commissioner Spidalieri, Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand, Judge David Ondrey and Clerk of Courts Sheila Bevington.*

*Mr. Morgan presented documents to the members present (specifications are in bound books available for review) and went over the items and discussed the changes necessary in the documents related to costs and asked for any questions. Mr. Morgan noted that in the estimate within in the GMP it has a math error, so the total is \$18,698,437.00. Mr. Morgan noted that at the final meeting in regard to quality assurances and products, noting the floor tile, nothing physical about the space. This will be last meeting we have to hold prior to construction.*

*Ms. Blair noted that invitations were sent to all the members of the Statutory Group and that Commissioner Lennon is absent for today's meeting and that the Probate Court is declining to participate as they are not part of the courthouse project.*

*As required by O.R.C. 153.36 the following members of the Statutory Group met and approved the Plans, Drawings, Representations, Bills of Material, Specifications of work and estimates of the Cost thereof in Detail and in the Aggregate relating to GMP Amendment No. 1 and GMP Amendment No. 2 to the contract with Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated, as required in Sections 153.31 through 153.35 relating to the Proposed Geauga County Courthouse Addition:*

<i>Commissioner James W. Dvorak</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Judge David M. Ondrey</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Clerk of Courts, Sheila Bevington</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*Absent: Commissioner Timothy C. Lennon and Judge Timothy J. Grendell*

*The Statutory Group was asked to execute the document with their vote.*

***The Statutory Group ended at 10:18 a.m. and the Board moved back into their regular meeting.***

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #21 – INCREASE GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE PHASE #1 AND PHASE #2 CONTRACT – DONLEY'S INDEPENDENCE, LLC

*Mr. Morgan stated that this change order deals with the County Administration Building for additional card access readers in Job and Family Services for security purposes.*

***Motion:*** *by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #21, increasing the Guaranteed Maximum Price Phase #1 and Phase #2 Contract with Donley's Independence, LLC for the installation, programming, and testing of seven (7) additional access card readers in Job and Family Services and other miscellaneous work requests not covered in the original contract, in the amount of \$21,409.50.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE REMOVAL OF KAREN FUEGER, FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR FROM UNPAID LEAVE

*Mr. Morgan asked the Board to remove Ms. Fueger from her from unpaid leave.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the removal of Karen Fueger, Food Service Coordinator from unpaid leave effective February 2, 2024.*

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – ADVERTISE POSITION – INFORMATION AND REFERRAL ASSISTANT (#1017)

*Director Jessica Boalt explained that Ms. Davis will be retiring at the end of February and would like to advertise for her position to try and have a replacement for her position.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Information and Referral Assistant (#1017). This position will remain posted until filled.*

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION – FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR (#1009) – ADVERTISE POSITION – FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR (#1009) INTERNALLY FIVE DAYS IN FEBRUARY

*Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve the revised job description for Food Service Coordinator in regard to job duties and then would like to advertise to post for the position of Food Service Coordinator, internally beginning February 5 for five days and if no candidate is found then externally until the position is filled.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised job description for the position of Food Service Coordinator (#1009) to be effective February 2, 2024.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Food Service Coordinator (#1009) internally for a period of five days with applications accepted from February 5, 2024 through 4:30 p.m. on February 9, 2024. If no qualified candidate is found, then advertise externally until the position is filled.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – LETTER OF LEGAL REPRESENTATION: OUTSIDE COUNSEL WITH MEYERS, ROMAN, FRIEDBERG AND LEWIS – YEAR 2024

*Mr. Morgan asked the Board to execute the engagement letter for outside counsel with Meyers, Roman, Friedberg and Lewis when we are unable to use the Prosecutor's Office, adding that this is the same counsel we have used the last two years.*

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*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Letter of Legal Representation: Outside Counsel with Meyers, Roman, Friedberg and Lewis for the Year 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.*

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO REVIEW CONTRACT*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to request the Prosecutor's Office to review a contract with the Weleski Transfer, Incorporated for moving services related to the relocation of the basement offices in connection with the Courthouse Expansion Project.*

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

*COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR*

*Mr. Morgan explained that we had been contacted by the Cuyahoga County Port Authority who handled the bonds for the Laurel Schools for the location in Geauga County. Those bonds were done in 2008 as they would like to refinance those bonds. A TEFRA hearing has to be held and he would attend on behalf of the Board but is just asking if there is any objection to the refinance. Its an out of the County Port Authority so the Board has to approve it. Mr. Spidalieri asked for any negative, to which Mr. Morgan stated that they are tax free bonds and according to discussion with Bond Counsel from Squire, there is no obligation to the County.*

*Mr. Morgan continued and said that he had been contacted about the Hartville Hardware, and that Sherpa Development is looking to get tax free bonds for the construction of the facility in the Village of Middlefield, this would be handled by the Portage County Port Authority. Mr. Morgan wanted to get a feel from the Board on it before discussing it further with them. Mr. Dvorak asked for further information about it and the taxes.*

*Clerk Christine Blair added that the Village of Middlefield had reached out to have a discussion on a possible CRA for the Hartville Hardware project. There was discussion about the Hartville project and the property being annexed into the Village. Ms. Blair briefly explained that it was all agreed upon and was presented to the Board as an expedited annexation and once the Board did their portion, the rest was up to the Village.*

*PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS*

*Local resident Diane Jones asked if the Hartville project was similar to the one asked about in Bainbridge, involving a Port Authority, and the Geauga Lake property, and based on what she read feels it to be scary and that since they still cannot hear everything, they need more information. Mr. Morgan stated that the Board asked for more information to which Ms. Jones expressed that they better not bring it next week only after a week of research.*

*Gail Rousey from the League of Women Voters asked for more information on a request of the Prosecutor's office to which Ms. Blair explained that it was a request for the Prosecutor to review a contract for Weleski Transfer, which is a moving company. Ms. Rousey asked if the Hartville project was similar to the one turned down for Jennings, to which Mr. Spidalieri explained that it's different in that the Board supported the original construction and get them running, however the last request was related to someone purchasing the existing business, the Hartville project relates to construction of a new facility, but they need further information on the request. Ms. Rousey asked about the Youth Center project and funding, to which it was noted that the State will be providing up to a million dollars toward the project and that Job and Family services has funds set aside towards the project.*

*Ms. Jones asked about funds being distributed by the Auditor. Mr. Spidalieri stated that its for funds that are collected from fees and then it gets distributed to Womensafe. Ms. Blair added that it gets done annually in January for the funds collected during the prior year.*

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*Dan DeVokey, local resident expressed that he was here to complain about Hambden and Claridon Townships and that their zoning inspectors have lied to him and to the Planning Commission, noting that Leader's Trailer Park told the State of Ohio that they were working on a 100-acre parcel and that is not true, they have 43 acres and expanded 7 times. Mr. DeVokey purchased the property next to the park and has had problems with the park, including having to go to court, over zoning regulations. Mr. DeVokey continued to explain several of the issues he has had over the years with the Trailer Park, regarding zoning buffer zones, wastewater plant and flood plain plans. Mr. Spidalieri asked Mr. DeVokey what he wanted the Board to do, adding that he should speak with Ms. Crombie at Planning, explaining that the Commission can review and make recommendations, however Townships can do what they want on zoning. The next Planning meeting is on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February and go ask questions and concerns, and they could circle back since the Board is just hearing about this. Mr. DeVokey stated that he wanted some protection for his family and his property. Mr. DeVokey keeps saying it is up to the State, and he is frustrated over chasing kids off his property, trespassing on his property and the issues they have experienced. Mr. DeVokey has a total of 41 acres, which he purchased part off of his uncle's estate, but they have lived there for almost sixty years.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending January 3, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) *A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Inmate meals for the month ending December 2023.*
- c) *The Annual Statement of Unpaid Fees for the calendar year 2022 filed by the Sheriff's Office of an accurate account of all fees, costs, penalties, percentages, allowances and prerequisites that have remained unpaid for more than one year pursuant to ORC 325.31.*
- d) *The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of December 2023 pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

- Mon., 1/22 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. Carlton Room, B168 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon*
- Tue., 1/23 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 1/30 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 2/13 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A333-334, Chardon*
- Tue., 2/13 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Mon., 2/19 **County offices will be closed for general business due to the President's Day holiday. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***
- Thu., 2/22 The Commissioners will hold 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 Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 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*

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