

Commissioners' Journal
February 13, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on February 13, 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 9:34 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Dear Lord,

Another day has come to us.

Thank you for your mercy and kindness.

Our Father, we are nothing without you.

Thank you for everything.

We lift everything up to you.

As we face another day.

Please guide us with your wisdom and walk with us with your love.

In Jesus name,

Amen

FINANCIALS

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from February 6, 2024 Resolution #24-020 that included Supplemental Appropriations for the Commissioners' Office in the General Fund Miscellaneous Tax Levies & Assessments Account to prepare to pay the property taxes on non-exempt County owned properties, Cash transfers from the General Fund to the Engineer's Office for the Storm Water Management fund per MOU dated 4/30/2013 and 2024 payment for office expenses per funding agreement allowed by ORC 315.11, transfer from the General Fund to Community Development for their 4th quarter 2023 payroll funding reimbursement and first quarter operational commitment for 2024, Formal contract Purchase Order for the Commissioners to Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated to add GMP #2 for the construction of the Courthouse addition, Formal Contract Purchase Order from Maintenance to John K Gallagher Plumbing Company to install a new 50 ton chiller unit in the Courthouse Annex, a payment for the Auditor's Office to ISSG Incorporated for three years of master services for the County's property management software in the amount of \$246,800.00, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Donley's Independence Incorporated for pay request #32 and #33 for the new County Office Building project in the amount of \$271,982.62, from the Commissioners Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #2 and #3 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$112,365.42, for Emergency Services to Newtek Technology Solutions, Incorporated for 30 new replacement laptops for the Emergency Operations Center in the amount \$29,256.44; 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.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on January 31, 2024 for Maintenance, Approved hiring Kevin Borsi to the position of Electrician (#1925) to be effective February 20, 2024 at the rate of \$24.02 per hour (Grade 11, Step 1) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions, on February 5, 2024 for the Commissioners' Office, per action January 30, 2024 by the Board of Commissioners: Approved and executed the Agreement with Weleski Transfer, Incorporated to perform moving services for the Probation Department and Law Library as detailed in the estimate from the Courthouse to other County Buildings for a period of three months in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00, for Maintenance, Approved hiring David Alexander to the position of Custodian I (#1906) to be effective February 12, 2024 at the rate of \$14.46 per hour (Grade 4, Step 2) with a

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one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; and on February 8, 2024 for the Commissioners, per action on November 14, 2023, by the Board of Commissioners: Approved and executed the Engagement Letter with Fishel Downey Albrecht Riepenhoff LLC to review the County Personnel Manual in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00; 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.

Mr. Dvorak inquired about copies of the evaluations that were done for the Directors, and that he would like copies of them within seven days. Mr. Morgan stated that he would have the Human Resources Administrator send copies to each of them.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of December 5, 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 December 12, 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 December 19, 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>

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION – CHANGE MADE UNDER H.B. 101 REGARDING CHANGE IN ORC 1901.34 FOR MUNICIPAL PROSECUTIONS FOR UNINCORPORATED TERRITORIES WITHIN THE COUNTY

Prosecutor Jim Flaiz explained that on January 30, 2024 the Governor signed H.B. 101 and part of that amended revised codes that cover Municipal Prosecutions and this latest amendment that was pushed by the City of Chardon, because historically they have done the prosecutions. The Chardon Municipal Court covers the entire county and all misdemeanor violations, however a percentage comes out of the Townships, and while they have a small portion of them come from the municipalities, they have been covering the Townships, so now the Prosecutor's Office will be covering them effective April 30, 2024. Mr. Flaiz stated that he has decided to hire the people from the Muni Court that has been doing the work, except the advocate office. The Court will handle the victim services portion. Each municipality is required to prosecute their own cases, Village of Middlefield, Burton and South Russell have hired their own Prosecutor, they use Dennis Coin. Chardon will now have to hire their own, however they are allowed to contract with the County Prosecutor. Mr. Flaiz stated that this will mean he will be hiring Full-time and Part-time Prosecutors, an administrative assistant, a part-time clerk. Mr. Flaiz has requested a Supplemental Appropriation for about \$195,000.00 to cover equipment and technology and salary expenses. Mr. Flaiz stated that ADP is on the first floor of the Municipal Court and so it's not expensive to plug into their system. Mr. Flaiz stated that later in the year he anticipates coming back to the Board to make structural changes to add additional office space in his office. There was a brief discussion about the contract costs of the City assisting with the costs, and if there are other ways to fund this aside from the General Fund. This will result in the amount of funding that we sent to the City will not have to be transferred so offsets part of it.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$194,010.96 due to changes made under H.B. 101 by Governor DeWine on January 30, 2024 regarding a change in O.R.C. 1901.34 that will require the Prosecutor to handle Municipal Prosecutions for the unincorporated territories within the County, effective April 30, 2024.

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<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>

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including Supplemental de-appropriation from the Commissioners' office in Archives old payroll accounts, Supplemental from the Commissioners in the Miscellaneous operating transfers out, capital transfers, reimbursement transfers, detention home expenses and levy reimbursement accounts to cover upcoming 2024 transfers and expenses, Supplemental Appropriation request from the Prosecutor's Office in their General Fund payroll and Materials and Supplies accounts in order to cover increases for additional personnel to meet the requirements of H.B. 101 changes to O.R.C. 1901.34 requiring the Prosecutor's Office to conduct municipal prosecutions in the unincorporated areas of the county, Cash transfer from the General Fund to Family First Council for the January - March 2024 Commitment, Encumbrance increase from the Commissioners office to the Geauga County Treasurer in order to prepare for the extra property tax payments as the Auditor is refusing to review our exemption applications until the current taxes are settled Then and Now encumbrance from the Common Pleas Court to John P. Luskin for appointed counsel fees from 2022 that were not previously encumbered, Contract Purchase Order from Maintenance to Preston Ford for the purchase of a new replacement Ford Escape County central use vehicle (replaces a 2010 Ford Edge), Travel request for the Recorder's Office, a payment for the Commissioners Office to Ohio State University for the County 1st quarter 2024 program support program in the amount of \$63,035.29, a payment for Maintenance to Geauga Mechanical Company, Incorporated for a new boiler in the old County Home superintendent building in the amount of \$21,800.00, a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Axon Enterprise Incorporated for new tasers (56), cartridges, batteries and training in the amount of \$251,578.00 and a payment for Water Resources to Generator Systems, Incorporated for a new trailer mounted mobile generator in the amount of \$59,753.11.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-021 itemizing the financials for the meeting of February 13, 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>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF BELL STREET – NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Bell Street in Newbury Township. There was a brief discussion on how the bids have been coming in, so far paving is coming in slightly underestimate, but bridge came in a little higher. This project is from South Russell to Munn Road and Auburn Road to Munn Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Bell Street (CH-0010, Sections D-F) in Newbury Township in the amount of \$973,585.00 as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

<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>

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR MASTER PLANN EXAMINER SERVICES -ALL FIRMS SUBMITTED – GRANT AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Assistant Building Official Dale Steppenbacker ask the Board to accept the statement of qualifications from all firms that submitted and grant authorization to begin contract negotiations. This is for commercial plan examiners as required by the Board of Building Standards.

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Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to accept the Statement of Qualifications submitted for Master Plan Examiner Services from all firms that submitted a response, including Duber Architectural and Consulting Services, LLC, Code Consultation and Plan Review Services, LLC, F & B Engineering, Incorporated, L. Neal Hoffman and Associates and Sixmo and further grant authorization to begin contract negotiations with all five (5) firms.

<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>

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – APPROVE A WAIVER OF POLICY – ALLOW PAYMENT OF LATE FEES – WINDSTREAM PHONE BILL

Director Roger Peterson explained that due the first of the year financials the Windstream bill was tagged with a late fee of ten dollars and due to processing I am asking to pay any late fees up to \$20.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve a waiver of policy and allow payment of late fees for the Windstream Phone bill in an amount not to exceed \$20.00, due to first of the year financial processing.

<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>

MAINTENANCE – AGREEMENT – INTEGRATED PRECISION SYSTEMS – INSTALL CAMERAS AT GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER

Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to execute the Agreement with Integrated Precision Systems to install cameras at the Safety Center.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with Integrated Precision Systems to install cameras at the Geauga County Safety Center for a one-year period, effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00.

<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>

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MCPHILLIPS PLUMBING HTG AND AC CO - AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS AT RUSSELL TOWER SITE

Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service Contract Agreement with McPhillips Plumbing to install two (2) – three-ton air conditioning systems at the Russell Tower Site.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with McPhillips Plumbing HTG and AC CO to install two (2) 3-ton air conditioning systems at the Russell Tower Site for a one-year period, effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

<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>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENTS – BILL CONTI PLUMBING, LLC, CUMMINS INCORPORATED D.B.A. CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE – WATER, CUMMINS INCORPORATED D.B.A. CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE – WASTEWATER, SOUTHWIND DRILLING COMPANY, INCORPORATED, LAKE COUNTY SEWER COUNTY, INCORPORATED, WORKMAN INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INCORPORATED

Fiscal and Personnel Specialist Kathleen Miller asked the Board to execute several Service Contract Agreements for the year with several vendors on both the Water and Wastewater sections of the department.

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Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Bill Conti Plumbing, LLC to perform plumbing services, as needed at various locations within the Department for a one-year period, effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Cummins Incorporated d.b.a. Cummins Sales and Service to perform Planned Maintenance and Repairs for all Water locations with Cummins generators for the Department for a one-year period, effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Cummins Incorporated d.b.a. Cummins Sales and Service to perform Planned Maintenance and Repairs for all Wastewater locations with Cummins generators for the Department for a one-year period, effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Southwind Drilling Company, Incorporated to perform Water Well Drilling and Cleaning Services as needed for the Department for a one-year period in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Lake County Sewer Company, Incorporated to perform General and Emergency Cleaning, Televising, Grouting and Rehabilitation of Sewer Lines and Manholes, as needed at various locations within the department for a three-year period (2024-2026), effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Workman Industrial Services, Incorporated to perform Emergency rehabilitation and improvements, as needed at various Wastewater locations within the department for a one-year period, effective February 13, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Lennon	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT – AGRISLUDGE, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve an increase in the current contract with Agri-Sludge for additional de-watering at the McFarland Wastewater Plant bringing the total up to \$74,000.00 and extending the contract by an additional four months through the end of the year 2024.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1, increasing the service Contract Agreement with Agri-Sludge, Incorporated for additional De-Watering at the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$29,000.00 for a new not to exceed amount of \$74,000.00 and extending the date of the contract agreement by an additional four (4) months through December 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>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – THE BERGREN ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED – INCREASE CONTRACT

Ms. Miller asked the Board to increase the contract with The Bergren Associates for work that needs to be done at Knowles Booster Station and for any additional work that may need to be completed.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1 with The Bergren Associates, Incorporated increasing the service Contract Agreement for upgrades to the Knowles Booster Station and additional work in 2024 in the amount of \$30,000.00 with a new not to exceed amount of \$40,000.00 through the contract end date of January 15, 2025.

<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 – QUIT CLAIM DEED – CITY OF CHARDON TO COMMISSIONERS – PUBLIC SQUARE PARCEL 1 – PARCEL #10-709526

Mr. Morgan explained that part of the agreement of the Courthouse project was the City of Chardon transferring the north end of the square to the County and this is the quit claim deed for that transfer.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Quit Claim Deed from the City of Chardon to the Board of Commissioners, for the Public Square Parcel I, Permanent Parcel No. 10-709526, of 1.379 acres.

<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 – INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT – BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER, COPLAN AND ARONOFF, LLP – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE 2

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve an increase to the engagement agreement with Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan and Aronoff who is the outside counsel for the Courthouse project.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve an increase in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the Engagement Agreement with Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan and Aronoff, LLP for legal counsel in connection with the provision of legal services to support the design, construction and delivery of the proposed Capital Improvement Project, Phase 2, in a new not to exceed amount of \$100,000.00, without prior approval from the Board.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ACCEPT RESIGNATION LETTERS – ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER EMPLOYEES

Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler asked the Board to accept the resignation letters from the employees from the Archives and Records Center as they transition from out of the Commissioner's Office to ADP.

Motion: *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to accept the resignation letters from Archives and Records Center employees, Karen Murphy, Ashley Serraglio, Jeffrey Vaji, Clair Wilson and Eleanor Zavada to be effective December 31, 2023.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE ABOLISHMENT OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER POSITIONS

Ms. Hostutler asked the Board to approve the abolishment of the archives and records center positions.

Motion: *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the abolishment of the Archives and Records Center positions, including Archives and Records Center Administrator, Senior Archives and Records Clerk, Archives and Records Clerk, Archives Supervisor and Micrographics Specialist to be effective December 31, 2023.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CLOSE CURRENT POSTING – SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR (#1328)

Ms. Hostutler asked the Board to close the current posting for the position of Special Projects Coordinator.

Motion: *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to close the current posting for the position of Special Projects Coordinator (#1328) to be effective February 13, 2024.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ABOLISH POSITION – SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR (#1328)

Ms. Hostutler asked the Board to abolish the position of Special Projects Coordinator.

Motion: *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the abolishment of the position of Special Projects Coordinator (#1328) to be effective February 13, 2024.*

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE REVISED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Ms. Hostutler asked the Board to approve the revised organizational chart to include the changes for Records and Archives and the abolishment of the Special Projects Coordinator position.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve revised Organizational Chart that removes the Archives and Records Center and abolished positions to be effective December 31, 2023 and the abolished position of Special Projects Coordinator (#1328) to be effective February 13, 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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE – VOTING AT MEETINGS – COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO (CCAO)

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to approve the resolution designating the official voting representative and alternate for CCAO meetings for 2024, currently it is the same as last year, which designates Mr. Dvorak as primary and Mr. Lennon as alternate.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-022 to Designate the Official Representative and Alternate for the purpose of Voting at Meetings of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio in 2024, noting James W. Dvorak as Representative and Timothy C. Lennon as Alternate.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: February 13, 2024

Resolution: #24-022

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING AT MEETINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION OF OHIO IN 2024

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 6, of the Code of Regulations of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio requires each member county to, for the purpose of voting at any annual or special meeting of the Association, designate an Official Representative and Alternate; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the Official Representative and Alternate for a county organized under the statutory form of county government shall be by resolution of the board of county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in designating the Official Representative and Alternate only a member of the board of county commissioners is eligible to be designated as the Official Representative and Alternate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that James W. Dvorak is designated as the Official Voting Representative of Geauga County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Timothy C. Lennon is designated as the Alternate Voting Representative of Geauga County.

<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>

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ACKNOWLEDGE REQUEST FROM LAUREL SCHOOLS –
REFINANCE TAX-EXEMPT BONDS - AUTHORIZE TO ADVERTISE TO HOLD TEFRA
HEARING

Mr. Morgan explained that this next item is regards to a bond that was done for the Laurel Schools that utilized the Cuyahoga County Port Authority that was done in 2008. They are requesting to refinance the tax-exempt bonds and are asking to hold their required TEFRA hearing. The school is located on Fairmount Road in Russell Township. It was noted that it is a requirement to hold a TEFRA hearing in order to issue the tax-exempt bonds, it will be joint hearing and then we will be coming back to the Board for the final step following the hearing.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to acknowledge a request from Laurel Schools requesting to refinance tax-exempt bonds issued by the Cleveland Cuyahoga County Port Authority in 2008, as a significant portion of the bond-financed assets are located on Laurel's campus located on Fairmount Road in Russell Township and further authorize the advertisement and holding of a Combined Public Hearing called a "TEFRA" Hearing for the Adjustable Rate Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds.

<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>

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – DISCUSS PROPOSED APPLICATION –
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OPPORTUNITY – OHIO SENATE CAPITAL BUDGET

Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne and Director Gina Hofstetter was invited to a meeting regarding Capital Funding. Ms. Burhenne stated that every two years there is a capital budget and various requests are made for this bucket of funding through your State Representatives and this year there will an extra bucket available of about \$350 million that can be applied for. Ms. Hofstetter stated that there was some interest in doing the wall at the Courthouse, however the actual wall does not qualify as a project. Ms. Hofstetter explained that after speaking with Senator O'Brien she was able to do some outreach to areas of the county and make sure they are aware that these funds are available and that may have projects that qualify. Ms. Hofstetter explained that the Jail Roof Project – we'd like to ask for about \$500,000.00 and the Jail Parking Lot. The deadline is due April 8, 2024, however, sooner is better than later. There is a lot to manage, straight forward, but outreach included UH and the water project, the Airport, the Legion Hall in Burton for an elevator project, Kent State Geauga for some projects and Century Village. They can apply and we just have to sponsor them. Ms. Burhenne stated that the fact that we are willing to pay half of the project costs, makes it more presentable. Ms. Hofstetter stated that they were looking at some guidance, it will take some time for approvals. Ms. Burhenne stated that the Jail projects will be very attractive. Ms. Hofstetter is looking at comparable projects to get estimate of costs. Mr. Lennon asked about getting a project started and getting reimbursed. There was discussion about doing the roof at one time and getting reimbursed over the course of the grant period. Ms. Hofstetter stated that she had spoken with someone from NV5 that is an expert in grant writing, and they have the ability to offer services for assistance with grant writing.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SUBMIT
APPEAL TO STATE TAX COMMISSIONER IN REGARD TO PROPERTY – CHESTER
TOWNSHIP

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to allow him to submit an appeal to the State Tax Commissioner about the property taxes due on the Metzenbaum property due to the Auditor withdraw the tax exemption. We are asking to go with an appeal since we can't get the Auditor to submit the application to the state. that would be due on Friday. Mr. Lennon asked about when the Board was made aware of this, to which Ms. Burhenne stated we received on December 18 2023 and responded by December 29, 2023 and a second letter was received in January 19, 2024 informing us that our application for exemption was not going to be considered by the County Auditor. The State Tax Commission gives you thirty days. The County Auditor determined that the taxes had to be paid before he would submit it. The Auditor has known about it since the Chester Township Trustees filed a complaint in September 2023.

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Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the County Administrator to execute and submit an appeal to the State Tax Commissioner in regard to the Board of Developmental Disabilities tax exemption on the property located in Chesterland.

<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>

PUBLIC COMMENT

Local resident Skip Claypool explained that for a variety of reasons he has been looking at the Health District and expressed that they have offices across the hall that they are not paying for and it doesn't appear to be more than two people in there, in a big expansive area, adding that he believed by law that the Health District is a creature of the Townships and Villages and the county is not required to house them. As a taxpayer and a citizen, he is concerned about that, along with the contract with Lake County. Mr. Claypool asked for a response. Mr. Lennon explained that the original plan when this was built there was to be a full staff in there, but with the recent contract with Lake, the number of employees has appeared to have changed. Health District Administrator Adam Litke stated that there is between 20-22 employees every day, no one works from Lake, they are all staged here, we use all but two offices and will be used for the use of the Operation and Maintenance Mandate. We could provide a walk through if necessary, except in areas that are HIPPA protected, briefly going over the number of employees are there, noting that Sanitarians are out in the field every day, but are in and out to do paperwork. Mr. Litke stated that you cannot see through the partitions but right now there are four employees in the front office area. Resident Nancy McArthur inquired that since the Health District merged with Lake County has there been any cost savings, to which Mr. Litke stated that it was not a merger with Lake County and when the budget was complete there was a cost savings of \$500,000.00 and currently, we are under that budget by around \$13,000.00. Ms. McArthur inquired about the similar situation with Transit and what the cost savings are, to which Mr. Dvorak stated that they are a different situation, that it's a collaboration with LakeTran to be able to obtain additional grant funding which gives them the ability to do more the residents in the county. If this collaboration didn't happen there was a risk for Transit to close or provide funding to them from the General Fund. They are still in the same building but have been able to offer more. Mr. Dvorak added that the payroll and healthcare comes out of Lake County and all maintenance on the building is on them, not the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT MATT JOHNSON – PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Spidalieri explained that he was able to speak with Mr. Johnson and he is very involved with agriculture and applied for Mr. Oros position on Planning Commission. Mr. Spidalieri asked the Board to appoint Mr. Johnson.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to appoint Matt Johnson to the Planning Commission for a three-year term, effective February 13, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

<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>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending January 24, 2024, and January 31, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events. Mr. Litke added that the Health District Advisory Committee is accepting applications for a Board position and will hold a meeting on March 13, 2024. There was a brief discussion about the Operation and Maintenance Program up and running and they have started with the NPDES permit systems. If its not working, first is to try and repair, if it can't be repaired, then it will need to be replaced, but we need to protect the waterways. They are holding meetings for the public to attend to get the information out to everyone in the county. Mr. Litke went over the approximate costs related to the new program and how its going to work, so whoever your provider is to handle your system, they are then

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required to provide the information to the Health Department. The Health Department is also looking for grant funding to assist with other costs. The Health Department is required to do sampling on certain systems, and they are spreading the systems out and over the course of the next five years they plan to get all the systems on the program.

MEETINGS

- Tue., 2/13 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A333-334, Chardon*
- 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.*
- Mon., 2/26 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building*
- Tue., 2/27 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 2/27 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District Meeting, 2:00 p.m. Warren, District Office*
- Tue., 3/5 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, 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

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