

Commissioners' Journal
February 27, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on February 27, 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 9:36 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

It's been 12 years since the Chardon School Shooting...

Heavenly Father,

I thank you that your word promises divine protection for my children, and I declare that no evil will come near my children or their schools in the name of Jesus. I curse any evil plots at the root right now in Jesus' name. I declare that no weapon formed against our schools will prosper. Every evil plan that is in the dark will be brought into the light and halted. I bind Satan and his demons in the name of Jesus and command them to flee from our schools. In Jesus Name.

Amen

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on February 26, 2024 for the Department of Emergency Services accepted the retirement resignation of Thomas Vencl, Deputy Director (#1711) to be effective April 30, 2024 and for Maintenance accepted the resignation of Keith Kelly, Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective February 21, 2024 and approved the increase to the current posting for the position of Maintenance Worker (#1904) from one to two positions. These positions will remain posted until filled; 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.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including Supplemental De-Appropriations from the Common Pleas Court in their old pretrial supervision, probation and investigation funds; Cash transfers from the General Fund to the unemployment compensation rotary fund to pay unemployment invoices from the State, Encumbrance increase from the Commissioners' Office to the Portage / Geauga Joint Juvenile Detention Center to true up the PO to the amount we will be billed this year, Travel requests for Common Pleas Court, Department of Emergency Services and the County Engineer's Office, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Morton Salt Incorporated for road salt in the amount of \$93,229.33, a payment for the Engineer's Office to the Village of South Russell for the County's share of the Asphalt Resurfacing of Washington Street in the amount of \$121,000.00, a payment for Water Resources to Junction Auto Sales, Incorporated for a 2024 Model Year GMC Sierra 2500HD 4WD Double Cab Truck for the Water District; and a Revenue De-Certification from the Common Pleas Court in their old pretrial supervision, probation and investigation funds.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-038 itemizing the financials for the meeting of February 27, 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>

There was a brief discussion about the Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center and if there was still movement on moving out of the detention center and contracting with other facilities. It was noted that the decision was up to the Probate Juvenile Court Judge and there has been no further discussion with him.

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AIRPORT AUTHORITY – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TOWARDS HANGAR 1 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Airport Manager Ric Blamer explained that they were finally moving forward with the Hangar 1 Improvements, and the amount is higher than the original appropriation amount. Mr. Blamer explained that the Bids had come in higher than what was originally expected. This project is to house the medical helicopter that serves the county and surrounding area.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve an additional appropriation of funds towards the Hangar 1 Improvement Project in the amount of \$52,991.00, as including all three (3) alternates plus the base bid in the award exceeds the previously allocated funds of \$325,000.00.

<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>

There was a brief discussion about whether or not they were going to award the project today but are choosing to wait until next week.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF COUNTY ROADS BY APPLYING PAVEMENT MARKINGS, YEAR 2024

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve and execute the resolution to improve various sections of county roads by applying pavement markings.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-025 to Improve Various Sections of County Roads by Applying Pavement Markings, Year 2024.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: February 27, 2024

Resolution: #24-025

**RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
VARIOUS SECTIONS OF COUNTY ROADS
BY APPLYING PAVEMENT MARKINGS, YEAR 2024**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined that the public convenience and welfare require safety improvements on various county roads in accordance with Section 5555.22 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, this Board acknowledges that pavement markings must be maintained on county highways in Geauga County for safety reasons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare require an improvement to various highways by applying pavement markings to county highways within the County as determined necessary by the Geauga County Engineer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as are required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that special assessments to real estate will not be assessed to cover the damages, costs and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of ways of the county highways, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Geauga County Engineer.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE CHARDON WINDSOR ROAD, SECTIONS A-D, CLARIDON AND HAMB DEN TOWNSHIPS

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve and execute the Resolution to improve Chardon Windsor Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-026 to Improve Chardon Windsor Road (CH-0013, Sections A-D) in Claridon and Hamdden Townships.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: February 27, 2024
Resolution: #24-026

*RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
CHARDON WINDSOR ROAD (CH 0013), SECTIONS A-D
IN CLARIDON AND HAMB DEN TOWNSHIPS*

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements of Chardon Windsor Road (CH 0013), Sections A-D, from the Chardon Corp Line to Old State Road (SR 608) in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands,

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right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Claridon and Hambden Township Board of Trustees and the Geauga County Engineer.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE FAIRMOUNT ROAD, SECTIONS F-G, NEWBURY TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve and execute the resolution to improve Fairmount Road. Mr. Hajjar noted that the three projects will be completed in 2024.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-027 to Improve Fairmount Road (CH-0016, Sections F-G) in Newbury Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: February 27, 2024
Resolution: #24-027

*RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
FAIRMOUNT ROAD (CH 0016), SECTIONS F-G
IN NEWBURY TOWNSHIP*

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements of Fairmount Road (CH 0016), Sections F-G, from Sperry Road (CH 0012) to Auburn Road (CH 0004) in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Newbury Township Board of Trustees and the Geauga County Engineer.

<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>

PROBATE/ JUVENILE COURT – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES SUBSIDY GRANT AMENDMENT - TABLED

The following item was on the agenda, Clerk Christine Blair tried to explain the amendment which included some re-alignment of funds due to changes in staffing, however the Board wanted someone from the Court to be present to explain it.

The Probate / Juvenile Court is requesting the Board approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Youth Services Subsidy Grant Amendment #1 for FY2024 for a Realignment of Funds due to changes in staff and additional programs.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to table the item until someone could be present from the Court to the explain the changes within the amendment.

<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>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES VAWA GRANTS

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand explained that this is for the VAWA grant, however they are splitting the grant and using funds left from a previous year.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) VAWA Grant (STOP Violence Against Women Act) Pre-award Conditions and Standard Assurances forms for an application modification to Grant #2023-WF-VA2-8214, this change is reflected as an award to Grant #2023-WF-VA2-8214 in the amount of \$52,728.23 (\$39,546.18 OCJS and \$13,182.05 Local County Match) for the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and Grant #2020-WF-VA2-8214A in the amount of \$3,671.81 (\$2,753.86 OCJS and \$917.95 Local County Match) for the period January 1, 2024 through August 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>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE - ANNUAL FEDERAL EQUITABLE SHARING AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Sheriff Hildenbrand explained that this is an annual certification that is filed to show where the funds went.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification of FY ending December 31, 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>

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VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION – REVOCABLE LICENSE FOR USE OF PROPERTY GRANTED TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS – READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICE, CLEVELAND VET CENTER

Director Veterans Services Michele Pemberton explained that since 2015 they have partnered with the Veterans Outreach and Vet Center under the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer counseling and are able to provide space for Veterans to come in and receive counseling.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Revocable License for Use of Property Granted to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs by Readjustment Counseling Service, Cleveland Vet Center between the Geauga County Veteran Service Commission, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for use of a portion of space located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Suite 205, Chardon, Ohio for the period February 2, 2024 through February 1, 2029 with no cost or fees.

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

BUILDING – ADVERTISE POSITION – MULTI-CERTIFIED INSPECTOR IV (#1112)

Assistant Building Official Dale Steppenbacker asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for a Multi-Certified Inspector IV (#1112).

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for the position of Multi-Certified Inspector IV (#1112). This position will remain posted until filled.

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

MAINTENANCE – AGREEMENT – GABLE ELEVATOR, INCORPORATED

Director Glen Vernick explained that this agreement is to upgrade the controls and electrical for the Opera House elevator. There was a brief discussion about the original plans to consolidate offices and that eventually the hope is to move the offices off the square, but for now the offices are still being used and need to be able to accommodate the employees and residents.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement with Gable Elevator, Incorporated to replace existing controller and signal fixtures in the Opera House Elevator to be effective February 27, 2024 for a period of 270 days in an amount not to exceed \$72,400.00.

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

DISCUSSION

Mr. Vernick asked if the Board had any interest in the Maple Festival parade. Mr. Dvorak inquired about the doors at the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about double ordering the doors, due to special size they are and obviously the salt is going to be an ongoing issue. Mr. Vernick explained that they tried electric mats this year instead of the salt. Mr. Spidalieri said if we have to order 2 sets, we have to store 1 set, however, we need to identify all the doors that would need to be replaced and consider 2 sets. Mr. Lennon stated that we need to consider the cost of the door and waiting for ordering them, we should consider the heated sidewalks.

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS

No questions or comments from the public were made.

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OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 2/27 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District Meeting, 2:00 p.m. Warren, District Office

Wed., 2/28 Board of Revision, 1:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room

Tue., 3/5 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue. 3/12 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A333-334, Chardon

Tue., 3/12 Investment Advisory Committee, 9:15 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303

Tue., 3/12 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 3/12 Regular ADP Meeting, 2:00 p.m. Auditor's Conference Room

Wed., 3/13 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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