

Commissioners' Journal
May 14, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on May 14, 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:

Let's bow our heads.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as "Police Week"

That day is specifically set aside to honor and remember the officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

There has been many in the line of duty deaths across the country this year.

We would like to honor those that have fallen.

"Blessed are the peacemakers" for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Amen

Mr. Dvorak noted that Senator Sandra O'Brien was present this morning at the meeting.

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on May 10, 2024 that included for the Department on Aging to Approve and extension of unpaid medical leave of absence for Holly Petrinec, Full-time Recreation and Education Assistant, following the use of all accrued sick leave, during the period of April 28, 2024 (Payroll #10) through May 24, 2024 (Payroll #11). This will extend her probationary period by the additional number of days used, Approved the promotion of Michelle (Warren) Hering to the position of Full-time Social Services Coordinator (#1029) to be effective May 13, 2024 at the rate of \$28.34 per hour with a 180-day probationary period and for the Department of Water Resources, Approved hiring Casandra Stolz to the position of Maintenance Worker (#2330) to be effective May 20, 2024 at the rate of \$21.51 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; as authorized by Resolution #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 MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 9, 2024.

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

**Commissioner Lennon was absent from this meeting.*

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Board of Developmental Disabilities for gas well proceeds from January – March 2024, Travel request for the Recorder's office, a payment for ADP and the Auditor's Office to DEX Imaging, LLC for five copiers (1 Real Estate, 1 Appraisal, 1 GIS and 2 Archives) in the amount of \$58,274.00, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #7 on the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$528,298.78 and a payment for Water Resources to the Craun Leibing Company for a pump replacement at the Sherman Hills pump station in the amount of \$37,570.00.

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Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-117 itemizing the financials for the meeting of May 14, 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>

LAKE GEAUGA RECOVERY CENTERS, INCORPORATED

Lake Geauga Recovery Centers CEO, Melanie Blasko and CFO Charles Tong came before the Board to provide an update on services they provide and went over some of the numbers since last year. Ms. Blasko expressed that the Jail Treatment Program has been going very well, noting that they like to compare or benchmark their numbers against the Lake County Jail Treatment Program and the National statistics (SAMHSA). Ms. Blasko pointed out that during the six month follow up after jail treatment, all that were contacted reported zero re-arrests. Ms. Blasko expressed that often that are involved in after care programs. Very often those leaving jail treatment, do a stepdown residential treatment and included that information, and by benchmarking against the National stats, things continue to trend in the right direction. A loss of freedom does weigh heavy over people and helps them want to get and stay sober. Ms. Blasko respectfully asked the Board to continue to support that program. Ms. Blasko expressed that last fall they came and asked the Board about expanding services and they now have an opportunity to expand where they are and have a different request now. Mr. Lennon asked where we left that off, to which Mr. Tong responded that it was a different location, that included the need to hire a front desk person and Ms. Blasko added that the Board was going to look into the opioid settlement funds. Ms. Blasko noted that they looked for additional space and this option allows them to not have to hire anyone for the front desk. Mr. Tong added that they were also asked to look for a new larger space which was not possible with the current lease they have.

Mr. Spidalieri asked about the square footage, to which Ms. Blasko responded the current space is about 2500 square feet and the new space is about 1750-1780 square feet. The new space would \$45,912.00 over two years, \$22,856.00 annually and would be a onetime request for the two years as a startup, after which they would have billing for services to cover the costs. Ms. Blasko stated that it would be about \$13.25 a square foot. Mr. Tong noted that the current space is about \$2,600.00 a month and was negotiated a long time ago and have a long term lease. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that last fall when this was discussed was to have a more centrally located location, and asked where the majority of the clients are coming from. Ms. Blasko responded with you asked me that the last time and right now if you look at the zip code, many of them are from Chardon, but have to ask if that's because of where they are located, and why they wanted to look at another location to expand access to others in the county and it didn't seem feasible, adding that the new space is part of the United Way space in the plaza that they are no longer using. Mr. Dvorak added that the need is there and if they can add space without an employee for \$22,000 a year seems like the right thing to do. Mr. Tong stated that the amount would be \$22,856.00 for the rent for the year and they would keep their request the same as last year for the jail treatment program of \$46,358.00. Mr. Tong stated that they were asking for the coverage of the rent for two years. The jail treatment program saw a small increase about two years ago. Mr. Spidalieri asked if they were still open to looking at a more centrally located location, to which Ms. Blasko again stated that would require them to hire a front desk person. Mr. Spidalieri asked why it was different, but if the space was big enough for the current front desk person and fulfill the whole office. Ms. Blasko stated that they have a current lease, and it was originally for ten years and increased for five and they may be in the start of the second five years. Mr. Lennon asked how much settlement funds were available to which Mr. Morgan stated that all of it is in a separate account. Clerk Christine Blair added that she wasn't sure if they could use those funds, that a request had been sent to the Prosecutor's office and haven't been able to get a list of options that it could be used for. Mr. Spidalieri added that was pretty much open to whatever they wanted, so they should be able to use those funds. Mr. Morgan brought up the option of using opioid funds for the jail treatment program and the funds from the general fund that are typically used go towards the rent coverage. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that they do a great job and that he understands they are trying to take it to the next level, but that he struggles with it, adding that he sees a different side of it with the increase of drug use and the number of overdoses, but it's not slowing down on the streets, asking if we are spending money in the right direction. We are just a small drop in a big lake, but our country is in the worse shape we have ever been. We don't know what the answer is to are we spending it in the right place. Ms. Blasko expressed that there is a difference in where they both sit, and when you look

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at statistics, the media tends to do the negative ones, but they see the positive side of it, in people turning their lives around in a good way, adding that it's the stigma that is attached to it and because of that people don't seek treatment, but people are reaching out and asking for help and that effects family and the community.

Mr. Lennon added that he was ok in getting this off the ground and using the settlement funds and then after two years it shifts back to just the jail treatment program. Ms. Blair asked the Board how they wanted to do the approval of the motion, the two years together on rent and the jail treatment program. Ms. Blair noted that the amount for rent was \$45,712.00 and Mr. Tong corrected it to \$45,912.00, for a combined total of \$92,270.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the support payment for the Jail Treatment Program for Lake Geauga Recovery Centers in the amount of \$46,358.00 and to cover the cost of rent for two years for the expansion of services at the Chardon offices in the amount of \$45,912.00 for a total amount of \$92,270.00.

<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 – S.A. COMUNALE COMPANY, INCORPORATED
Director Glen Vernick asked the Board to approve the contract with S.A. Comunale Company for inspections and maintenance on the fire suppression systems at the safety center.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with S. A. Comunale Company, Incorporated to perform annual, biannual and three-year inspections and maintenance on the fire suppression systems at the Geauga County Safety Center for a three-year period, effective May 14, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

<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 – OHIO CAT

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve the contract with Ohio CAT for the generator on the county building for maintenance.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Ohio CAT to provide annual and semi-annual maintenance on the generator at the Geauga County Administrative Building for a three-year period, effective May 14, 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>

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT – HERSHBERGER ROOFING AND SIDING, LLC

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve the contract with Hershberger Roofing to do roof installation, repair and maintenance at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Hershberger Roofing and Siding, LLC to perform roof installation, repair and maintenance services at various county locations per the Maintenance Director for a one-year period, effective May 14, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

<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>

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – AGREEMENT – HDR ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED

Fiscal and Personnel Specialist Kathleen Miller asked the Board to approve the agreement with HDR Engineering on an as needed basis in case they need them, but not for a specific project.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and HDR Engineering, Incorporated for Engineering Services to Geauga County, as needed for a variety of projects, to be effective May 14, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

<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>

DESTINATION GEAUGA

Director Kathy Schimer provided the Board with a map of the Spring Drive it Yourself Tour, that runs from 10:00 a.m. through about 3:00 p.m. and will end this year at Adam Hall. Ms. Schimer provided some information to the Board about tourism involving Geauga County, noting that in 2021, 1.5 million people came to Geauga County. The results on 2023 numbers are coming and are put together from Ohio Heart of it All. They put out a complete report that has a breakdown of the number of people, places they came from, where they visited, how much they spent and on what products, restaurants, etc.

Ms. Schimer brought up that there is a new group that pop upped in January called Explore Geauga County and was started by a disgruntled, ex-employee that handled all the social media platforms for Destination Geauga. Ms. Schimer explained that they took over our Instagram and Facebook pages, and they had to hire an attorney to assist them to get full authority over Destination Geauga platforms again. Ms. Schimer asked the Board if they would consider designating that Destination Geauga is the exclusive agency for tourism in Geauga County, as way to try and eliminate any confusion for followers. Mr. Dvorak expressed that he was interested in doing a resolution of that distinction. Mr. Lennon added that he wasn't sure we needed to make a decision without looking to see if there are other groups or organizations. Mr. Lennon noted that the Bed Tax goes to Destination Geauga solely.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE -RESOLUTION HONORING JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP #71326 – ACHIEVING BRONZE AWARD

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to approve a resolution honoring Junior Girl Scout Troop #71326 from Burton for earning their Bronze Award. Ms. Blair noted that they earned through the Job and Family Services, sponsor a Family program where they chose Senior Citizens and collected items with the help of Lighthouse Church and put together 40 large gift bags for seniors in the County.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-118 Honoring Junior Girl Scout Troop #71326 for achieving the Bronze Award, the highest honor for a Junior Girl Scout.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #24-118

Date: May 14, 2024

RESOLUTION HONORING JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP #71326 FOR ACHIEVING THE BRONZE AWARD, THE HIGHEST HONOR FOR A JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT

WHEREAS, the Girl Scouts are a nationally acclaimed organization known for training young women to build character, citizenship and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Bronze Award is earned by Junior Girl Scouts, who are in fourth, fifth or sixth grade (Ages 8-12). In order to achieve the Bronze Award, the girls must complete a Junior Journey along with their Bronze Award project, which is done in a local

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community, as set forth from the National Girl Scouts of the United States of America organization to inspire leadership and contribution to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Girl Scout Bronze Award was earned by Junior Girl Scout Troop #71326 in Burton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Junior Girl Scout Troop #71326 earned their Bronze Award by participating in the Geauga County Job and Family Services Sponsor a Family Program, they chose Senior Citizens in our County that struggle to purchase common items. With help from Lighthouse United Methodist Church, they collected items that included food, blankets, hats and gloves, slipper socks, stationary, calendars and stamps. Troop #71326 members gathered at the church and sorted and filled forty large gifts bags and included notes, cards and handmade ornaments. These bags were delivered to identified seniors in Geauga County. Junior Girl Scout Troop #71326 Award recipients are Sophia Habash, Ella Hoar, Jordyn Blair, Lillian Patonai, Isabella Lane, Parker Schwartz, Chloe Corrigan, Lillian Byrne, Genevieve Ervine, Charlotte Tiber, Adele Springer, Frankie Hoar, Torrey Grossman, Jillian Miller, Olivia Sayre and Cecily Sherman and is led by Cathy McGranahan, along with Amy Grossman and Melanie Springer; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners honor and salute Junior Girl Scout Troop #71326 for service to their community and to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment and compensation of public employees.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:22 a.m. with Mr. Morgan and Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne. The Board returned at 11:12 a.m. with no action was taken.

Mr. Lennon did not return with the rest of the Board from executive session.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending May 1, 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 April 2024.*
- c) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Prisoner Transport for the month ending April 2024 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 5/14 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A333-334, Chardon

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- Tue., 5/14 Budget Hearings, 12:00 – 4:30 p.m., 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon*
- Thu., 5/16 Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center Board of Directors meeting, 11:15 a.m. Portage County Commissioners Chambers*
- Mon., 5/20 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon*
- Tues., 5/21 Budget Hearing, 8:45 – 9:15, 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon*
- Tue., 5/21 Investment Advisory Committee, 9:15 a.m., 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon*
- Tue., 5/21 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 5/21 Budget Hearings, 12:00 – 4:30 p.m., 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon*
- Wed., 5/22 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*
- Mon., 5/27 **The County Offices will be closed in honor of Memorial Day. Twenty-four Hour Operations will continue to operate as usual.***
- Thu., 5/30 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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