

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**May 21, 2024**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on May 21, 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 9:39 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:*

*Psalm 23*

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters*

*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; they road and thy staff they comfort me*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

*Amen*

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

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on May 17, 2024 for the Department on Aging that included to Approve hiring Natalie Hering to the position of Part-time Recreation and Education Assistant (#1005-1) to be effective May 28, 2024 at the rate of \$16.84 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions, Accepted the resignation of David Craig, Recreation and Education Coordinator (#1004) to be effective July 5, 2024 and Granted permission to advertise for the position of Full-time Recreation and Education Coordinator (#1004), internally for a period of five days, with applications being accepted May 20, 2024 through 4:30 p.m. on May 24, 2024. If no qualified candidate is found, then advertise externally until the position is 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**

*Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Supplemental Appropriations from the Commissioners in the Sheriff Vehicles account for 2023 carryover encumbrances that were cancelled due to the vendor being unable to fulfill the purchase, Cash transfer from the Board of Developmental Disabilities from the operating fund to the Residential Services fund for Medicaid waiver and locally funded services, Then and Now for the Auditor's Office to Comdoc, Incorporated for copier maintenance contract services from 2022 that were not previously encumbered, Travel request for the Probate Court and a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Motorola Solutions, Incorporated for 800 mhz trunk radio hardware and software maintenance services in the amount of \$53,566.00.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-119 itemizing the financials for the meeting of May 21, 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 – AMEND 2025 TAX BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE**

*Mr. Gorton asked the Board to amend the schedule to adjust for the other departments that were not able to be handled last week due to the Prosecutor's hearing going over.*

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*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve an amendment to the 2025 Tax Budget Hearing Schedule moving the Other Departments hearing from May 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. to May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:15 p.m.*

<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 – CMG CONTRACTING, LLC – EMBANKMENT STABILIZATION OF GEM ROAD BRIDGE IN CHESTER TOWNSHIP AND BUNDYSBURG ROAD BRIDGE IN PARKMAN TOWNSHIP*

*Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to award the Bid to CMG Contracting, LLC for the embankment stabilization of the Gem Road Bridge in Chester Township and the Bundysburg Road Bridge in Parkman Township.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to award the Bid to CMG Contracting, LLC for the Embankment Stabilization of the Gem Road Bridge (Structure #0264-00.290) in Chester Township and the Embankment Stabilization of the Bundysburg Road Bridge (Structure #0038-03.080) in Parkman Township in the amount of \$129,980.00 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>

*COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – COLE BURTON CONTRACTORS, LLC – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF VARIOUS ROADS INCLUDING RAVENWOOD DRIVE AND MERRITT ROAD*

*Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to award the Bid to Cole Burton Contractors, LLC for the resurfacing of various roads that includes Ravenwood Drive and Merritt Road.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to award the Bid to Cole Burton Contractors, LLC for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Various Roads including Ravenwood Drive (CH-0604, Sections A-B) and Merritt Road (CH-0605, Section A) in Claridon and Munson Township in the amount of \$828,828.00 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>

*COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM*

*Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT cooperative purchasing program for machinery, supplies and cabs and chassis.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-120 Authorizing Participation in the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program, pursuant to O.R.C. 5513.01(B) which authorizes Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri to participate in ODOT contracts for the purchase of machinery, materials, supplies and for the purchase of Single and Tandem Axle Cab and Chassis.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Resolution: #24-120*  
*Date: May 21, 2024*

*A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO R.C. 5513.01(B)*

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*The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga, State of Ohio, met in regular session on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024, commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon, Ohio, 44024, with the following members present:*

*Ralph Spidalieri      James W. Dvorak      Timothy C. Lennon*

*The Clerk advised the Board of County Commissioners that the notice requirements of Ohio Revised Code § 121.22 and the implementing rules adopted by the Board thereto were complied with for the meeting.*

*Commissioner Lennon moved for the adoption of the following resolution:*

*WHEREAS, Section 5513.01(B) provides the opportunity for Counties, Townships, Municipal Corporations, Conservancy Districts, Township Park Districts, Park Districts created under Chapter 1545 of the Revised Code, Port Authorities, Regional Transit Authorities, Regional Airport Authorities, Regional Water and Sewer Districts, County Transit Boards, State Universities or Colleges to participate in contracts of the Ohio Department of Transportation ("ODOT") for the purchase of machinery, material, supplies or other articles; and*  
*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Engineer has requested that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners authorize Geauga County to participate in ODOT contracts for the purchase of machinery, materials, supplies, or other articles which ODOT has entered into pursuant to R.C. 5513.01(B).*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners:*

- 1. That the Geauga County Board of Commissioners desires to participate in the ODOT cooperative purchasing program pursuant to R.C. 5513.01(B).*
- 2. That the Geauga County Engineer has requested that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners authorize Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation contracts for the purchase of machinery, materials, supplies or other articles which the Department has entered into pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5513.01-(B) in the name of Geauga County.*
- 3. That the Geauga County Engineer has specifically requested that the Board of County Commissioners authorize Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri to participate in ODOT contract #023-24 in order to purchase Single & Tandem Axle Cab & Chassis and the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the Geauga County to participate in said contract.*
- 4. That Geauga County Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri is authorized, subject to legal review and approval, to agree in the name of Geauga County to be bound by all terms and conditions as prescribed by the Director of Transportation relative to ODOT Contract #023-24.*
- 5. That Geauga County agrees to be responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the cooperative purchasing program under Section 5513.01(B) of the Ohio Revised Code. Geauga County agrees to waive any claims, actions, expenses, or other damages arising out of its participation in the cooperative purchasing program which Geauga County may have or claim to have against ODOT or its employees, unless such liability is the result of negligence on the part of ODOT or its employees.*

*This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Ohio Revised Code § 121.22.*

*Commissioner Dvorak seconded the motion.*

*Upon roll call on the adoption of the resolution, the vote was as follows:*

<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 ON AGING – ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD – HEALTHY AGING GRANT – ADDITIONAL FUNDS – EXECUTE ATTACHMENT D – TO REQUEST FUNDS

Director Jessica Boalt explained that they were contacted about an additional award towards the Healthy Aging Grant in the amount of \$2,956.00. Ms. Boalt asked the Board to accept those funds and then execute the form to request them from the State. Ms. Boalt noted that the additional funds will go towards the chore and home safety program for seniors.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to acknowledge and accept the Notice of Grant Award for the Healthy Aging Grant in the amount of \$2,956.00 and further approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Aging, Attachment D – Request for Funds for the Award Adjustment of \$2,956.00 for the Healthy Aging Grant, for a revised total grant award of \$204,532.00. This grant is for the period October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – RIVERSIDE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT, LLC

Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to approve the service contract agreement with Riverside Landscape to do concrete repair and replacement for a two year period.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Riverside Landscape Management, LLC to perform concrete repair, replacement, and new concrete work at various County locations per the Director for a two-year period, effective May 21, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – VINECOURT LANDSCAPING, INCORPORATED

Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to execute the service contract agreement with Vinecourt Landscaping for weed control at various locations including the tower sites through October of 2025.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Vinecourt Landscaping, Incorporated to provide semiannual and as needed weed control at various County locations and Tower sites, as well as-needed fertilization services for the period ending October 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MARK YOUNG GENERAL CONTRACTING, LLC

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve a service contract agreement with Mark Young for various projects, including at McFarland for the cleaning of the membranes, for a crane to lift them out.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Mark Young General Contracting, LLC to perform a Variety of Construction and / or Maintenance, including providing associated equipment, as needed at various locations within the department for a one-year period, effective May 21, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM JUVENILE COURT JUDGE TIMOTHY GRENDALL DIRECTING TO WITHDRAW FROM THE PORTAGE GEAUGA JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

*Mr. Morgan explained that they received a letter from Judge Grendell requesting to withdraw from the Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center and to terminate any contract any therewith, and we are just asking to acknowledge that letter.*

*Motion:           by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated May 13, 2024 from Juvenile Court Judge Timothy Grendell, directing Geauga County to withdraw from the Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center and to terminate any contract in connection therewith.*

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

PROBATE/ JUVENILE COURT JUDGE TIMOTHY GRENDALL – PORTAGE GEAUGA JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

*Judge Timothy Grendell and Director of Youth Services, Beth Williams came before the Board, and started by commending Commissioner Spidalieri, as he was the inspiration for the process, he is about to describe to them, but earlier this year he suggested to take another look at it. Judge Grendell explained that back in 2018 he started looking at the costs of putting kids in the juvenile detention center, and it was quite expensive, the fixed cost of the center is something we really don't have control over, noting that it doesn't matter if it's one or ten, the personnel has to be the same, and costs anywhere from \$460.00 to \$1,400.00 a night and has been a constant headache. Judge Grendell stated that the cost in 2020 was around \$463,000.00, in 2021 it was \$476,000.00, in 2022 it dropped to \$305,000.00 and in part because it's based on prior years usage, and the COVID year was in there, so in 2023 it was back up to \$465,000.00 and we only have 5.1% of the usage of the detention center and still paid \$465,000.00 for putting 44 youths in there for 267 billable nights. In 2018, he had approached a Judge Lawson from Lake County about using their youth center and she was not interested, so we reached out to Richland County in Mansfield about long term care and Medina County about short term care, but it became frustrating when the Prosecutor's Office said we couldn't do contracts with other Counties until we get out of the agreement with the Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center, that agreement is between the Commissioners of each County, and the Board can't get out of it without the Judge's approval. Judge Grendell said you will have my approval because it's going to save the taxpayers a lot of money. Judge Grendell stated that we lost the Medina deal due to COVID and over a lawsuit they experienced and didn't want any additional exposure. We have in principal an agreement with Lake County, the new Judge was more than happy to have us come there, up to five kids a day at \$225.00 and with Richland County for \$100 a day. Judge Grendell said why would we want to send kids to Mansfield, those would be kids for long term, over ninety days, which means they had been adjudicated and have been given a "sentence" and would be used sparingly. Judge Grendell explained the steps for kids with are detention, CCF and DYS which is like state prison, we don't send anyone to DYS very often, however sex offenders go to CCF in Sandusky, which those that have been sent there have had great results.*

*Judge Grendell expressed that he would like the Board to consider pull away from the Joint Detention Center, but at the same time have a place for the kids to then go, which would be Lake County and Richland County which comparing a trip to Lake County to Portage County is a much shorter travel time. Judge Grendell explained that we have placed 9 youth this year in detention for thirty days, which if in Lake County it would have cost \$7,000.00, in Richland County would have been \$3,000.00 but our share of the Joint Detention Center this year is \$582,471.00 if you average that out to about \$48,000.00 a month, we are already for this year of \$200,000.00 vs the lesser amounts. Judge Grendell explained that he has spoken to the Portage County Judge for usage on a per bed night versus covering the larger portion of the costs of the facility. Judge Grendell stated that Judge Lawson in Lake County through grant funding, that is a great program for their felons and our kids would have that available to them. Ms. Williams stated that it's called Community Corrections Rehabilitation (CCR). Judge Grendell stated that we send ours to CCF or DYS, and we receive DYS funding, but if we send someone to one of*

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*these programs, we lose DYS (reclaim) funds, which if we send them to the Lake County DYS program we would not lose our funding. Judge Grendell expressed that Lake County would be primary and short term, Richland is long term, Portage as a backup short term and the DYS program if needed. Its hard to justify a half a million dollars when we can go another way for a lot less money. It has to happen simultaneously, so we are asking you to look into this and see if we can get this to happen. Mr. Lennon expressed how happy he was to be looking at moving in this direction, while in the past it may have been the right direction, it is now more of a boat anchor to the county then what we need it to be. Judge Grendell expressed that you need to have the agreements ready with the other counties, and then do what you need to do with Portage County to withdraw and it all must happen at the same time. There was a brief discussion about a respite type care here in the county, and once the new Youth Center is finished this will be available. Judge Grendell expressed that there is nothing against the detention center, it's just getting the return on the investment into the facility. Judge Grendell really feels we can get this done this time. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he had spoken with Prosecutor Flaiz about this, and that he has no issue with the agreements, except expressed some concern on the max of five kids per day and that has been addressed that if needed it can be more. Mr. Spidalieri talked about the recent joint board meeting going over the budget and some accounting issues that were discovered over two years and that the county will be getting a reimbursement back of around \$200,000.00.*

*Mr. Spidalieri asked Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand about how he feels about this, to which he stated that he would love to go to Lake County and that the minimal use of Richland is like taking someone to prison, and it will save the county money. Mr. Dvorak stated that since he has been there, they have been discussing this, and if they can get the ducks in a row and hopefully get it done by the end of the year, however we need to research the 22% we have invested in the building. Mr. Dvorak stated that at the last meeting they were talking about all these things that need to be replaced, refrigerator, washing machine, tractor and gathered the votes to get the money back where it needs to be, and Commissioner Tinlin supported Geauga and they were able to get it across the finish line. Mr. Spidalieri added that the Board could take an action to withdraw. Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne mentioned that the language that was supplied by the Prosecutor, the first action was done to acknowledge the letter from Judge Grendell, the next action is to withdraw effective June 30<sup>th</sup> and in essence has said he agrees to the agreements, and what we are going to do, cut losses and walk away, are we going to ask them to give us something, it was suggested to do an appraisal. Judge Grendell added that the Medina County Detention Center Director, who is a former Highway Patrolman did an in-depth valuation on our joint detention center a few years ago and can have some idea of what it is worth and can help you with that part of it. It was discussed to discuss with Portage on the options available, and that Portage County hinted that they knew this was coming, and we have to follow what it is in the agreement, there has to be some kind of compensation for us, but if there is a balance it could potentially be a credit for use. Judge Grendell mentioned an incident several years ago involving a juvenile that was sent to DYS and that it unfortunately cost the county money, however it was a happy ending.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to withdraw from the Joint Board of County Commissioners of Portage and Geauga Counties and the Joint Portage-Gauga Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Center District, effective June 30, 2024, and to initiate the process to withdraw and identify and receive the necessary compensation for any and all of Geauga County's interests therein. All members of the board of trustees of the district who are residents of Geauga County shall be deemed to have resigned their positions upon the completion of the withdrawal procedure.*

<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 secure an appraisal of Geauga County's interests in the Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Center (both old facility and new facility, if necessary) and to also request Portage County obtain an appraisal in accordance with the 1998 agreement between Portage and Geauga Counties.*

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CANCEL SESSION**

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to cancel session on Thursday, May 30, 2024 due to a lack of quorum.*

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending May 8, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

*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    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. – pending cancellation – action above*

*Tue., 6/4      The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

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

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ralph Spidalieri*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*James W. Dvorak*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Timothy C. Lennon*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

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