

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 9, 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 Lennon was absent from today's meeting.*

*Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:*

*A Morning Prayer*

*Psalm 32:8*

*Your word, O Lord,*

*Is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*

*Dear Jesus, keep me safely in your loving arms.*

*Bless me with your peace that passes all understanding.*

*In Jesus name, I pray.*

*Amen*

**CLERK OF COURTS – AGREEMENT – COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS, INCORPORATED D.B.A. EQUIVANT – PROJECT MANAGEMENT, SOFTWARE AND CONFIGURATION**

*Clerk of Courts, Sheila Bevington asked the Board to execute the agreement with CourtView Justice Solutions d.b.a. Equivant to provide professional services for project management and software for online payment UAT services. Ms. Bevington explained that Equivant is the case management system and currently they use PayPal to accept credit card payments and am asking to move to Bridge Payment which is cheaper for users and has been integrated with CourtView for quite some time and a lot of other counties use them.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement with CourtView Justice Solutions, Incorporated d.b.a. Equivant to provide professional services as to project management, software configuration and user acceptance testing with regards to Online Payment UAT Services to be effective April 9, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$2,902.50.*

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

**CLERK OF COURTS – AGREEMENT – BRIDGE PAYMENT LLC – PAYMENT PROCESSING SERVICES**

*Ms. Bevington asked the Board to approve the agreement with Bridge Payment.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement with Bridge Payment LLC to provide payment processing services in accordance with the merchant application and agreement for a three-year period, effective April 9, 2024 through January 1, 2027, and further approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Merchant Application and Agreement.*

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

**COMMON PLEAS COURT – APPLY FOR DISCRETIONARY FEDERAL GRANT - SAMHSA**  
*Drug Court Probation Officer Greg Potts asked the Board to grant permission to apply for a discretionary federal grant through SAMHSA to expand substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity. This grant is up to \$400,000.00 per year up to five years, noting that this is a*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

*competitive grant so it can be what is awarded. This grant has been applied for before and has no local match. Mr. Potts noted that if awarded we will find out sometime in July.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to apply for a discretionary federal grant through SAMHSA, to expand substance Use Disorder Treatment Capacity in Adult and Family Treatment Drug Courts. This grant is up to \$400,000.00 per year up to five years.*

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

**COMMON PLEAS COURT – APPLY FOR DISCRETIONARY FEDERAL GRANT – BJA – BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE**

*Mr. Potts asked the Board to grant permission to apply for a discretionary federal grant through the BJA – Bureau of Justice Assistance to expand operations in Adult Treatment Drug Courts. This grant does have a 25% match request. Mr. Spidalieri asked what the funds would be used for, to which Mr. Potts stated they can go towards salary, treatment and residential treatment of individuals. These are competitive grants and not guaranteed to receive them. Mr. Potts stated that if we obtained the grant, we would look for the best place to use the funds and as efficient, as it affects how grants are awarded. Mr. Potts stated that they have applied for the grants, however, we were not awarded the grant. The amounts are max amount of the grant, it is competitive so the amounts are split across agencies.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to apply for a discretionary federal grant through BJA (Bureau of Justice Assistance) to expand and enhance operations in Adult Treatment Drug Courts. This grant is up to a maximum of \$2,500,000.00 over a period of forty-eight (48) months.*

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

**COMMON PLEAS COURT – APPLY FOR 2024 REGIONAL GRANT THROUGH ONEOHIO RECOVERY FOUNDATION**

*Mr. Potts asked the Board to grant permission to apply for 2024 Regional Grant OneOhio Recovery Foundation, noting that this through Region 13 that covers four counties. This amount is the amount awarded to the region and will be divided across the counties. Mr. Dvorak explained that some of the programs are 1, 2 or 3 years and it will depend on the programs that apply on what gets awarded.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to apply for the 2024 Regional Grant through One Ohio Recovery Foundation. The grant is to support prevention, treatment and recovery services for those areas affected by the opioid epidemic. The Region 13 includes Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake and Portage Counties and is approved for \$2,478,169.15 per year for 12, 24 or 36 months.*

<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 – HIGHWAY EASEMENT – THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME OF THE UNITED STATES – ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS TO BUTTERNUT ROAD**

*Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to accept the Highway Easement for roadway improvements on Butternut Road with The Sisters of Notre Dame in the amount of \$5,430.00.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept and execute the Highway Easement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and The Sisters of Notre Dame of the United States (Parcel #21-702300) for roadway improvements to Butternut Road (CH-21) in Munson Township in the amount of \$5,430.00.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE EMBANKMENT STABILIZATION OF GEM ROAD BRIDGE (STRUCTURE #0264-00.290) AND THE EMBANKMENT STABILIZATION OF BUNDYSBURG ROAD BRIDGE (STRUCTURE #0038-03.080) EXECUTE COVER SHEET AND SET BID OPENING

*Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to order the embankment stabilization of Gem Road Bridge and Bundysburg Road Bridge, to execute the cover sheet and set a bid opening.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #24-055 to Order 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.*

*This resolution also requests the Board approve and execute the Cover Sheet of the Plans for the same.*

*Further, this resolution sets a Bid Opening on Friday, April 26, 2024 at 10:05 a.m. at the Engineer's Office using Bid Express. This Bid Opening will be advertised on April 11, 2024 and on the county website.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: April 9, 2024*  
*Resolution: #24-055*

**RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE EMBANKMENT STABILIZATION OF THE GEM ROAD BRIDGE, STRUCTURE #0264-00.290 IN CHESTER TOWNSHIP & THE EMBANKMENT STABILIZATION OF THE BUNDYSBYRG ROAD BRIDGE, STRUCTURE #0038-03.080 IN PARKMAN TOWNSHIP**

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (Board) has determined by Resolution 24 - 014 that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements to the embankment of the bridge over the East Branch of the Chagrin River on Gem Road (TR-0264), at mile marker 0.29 and the bridge over Swine Creek on Bundysburg Road (CH-0038), at mile marker 3.08 and the improvement of the embankment in the immediate vicinity of the bridges as necessary in accordance with Section 5555.06 of the Ohio Revised Code (R.C.); and*

*WHEREAS, lands will not be taken relative to the improvements; and*

*WHEREAS, the cost of such improvement will not be excessive in view of the public utility thereof and no special assessments shall be collected to fund this improvement; and*

*WHEREAS, the Board, after reviewing the plans with the County Engineer in public session, is satisfied that the public convenience and welfare require that said improvement be made.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board in accordance with Section 5555.13 of the R.C. hereby orders that such improvement proceed.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the R.C. hereby approves the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates, and specifications for such improvement, the costs of which shall be paid from local and/or state funding sources in accordance with Section 5555.43 of the R.C.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby ordered to let this project for bids in accordance with Section 5555.61 of the R.C. The bids shall be let upon a unit price basis. Bids shall be received until 10:00 AM on April 26, 2024 and read publicly thereafter.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

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

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

*COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE APPLICATION OF PAVEMENT MARKINGS TO VARIOUS ROADS, GEAUGA COUNTY, YEAR 2024*

*Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to order the application of pavement markings on various roads in Geauga County for the year 2024, to execute the cover and set a bid opening.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #24-056 to Order the Application of Pavement Markings to Various Roads, Geauga County, Year 2024.*

*This resolution also requests the Board approve and execute the Bid Specification Cover Page for the same.*

*Further, this resolution sets a Bid Opening on Friday, April 26, 2024 at 10:05 a.m. at the Engineer's Office using Bid Express. This Bid Opening will be advertised on April 11, 2024 and on the county website.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: April 9, 2024*  
*Resolution: #24-056*

**RESOLUTION TO ORDER**  
**THE APPLICATION OF PAVEMENT MARKINGS TO VARIOUS ROADS**  
**GEAUGA COUNTY, YEAR 2024**

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners has determined by Resolution 24-025 that the public convenience and welfare require the application of polyester pavement markings on various roadways in accordance with Section 5555.06 of the Ohio Revised Code; and*

*WHEREAS, lands will not be taken relative to the improvements; and*

*WHEREAS, the cost of such improvement will not be excessive in view of the public utility thereof and no special assessments shall be collected to fund this improvement; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, after reviewing the plans with the County Engineer in public session, is satisfied that the public convenience and welfare require that said improvement be made.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Section 5555.13 of the Ohio Revised Code hereby orders that such improvement proceed.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code hereby approves the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates, and specifications for such improvement, the costs of which shall be paid from local and/or state funding sources in accordance with Section 5555.43 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby ordered to let this project for bids in accordance with Section 5555.61 of the Revised Code. The bids shall be let upon a unit price basis. Bids shall be received until 10:00 AM and opened and read aloud at 10:05 AM on Friday, April 26, 2024.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of Geauga County Board of Commissioners 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>Absent</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

*There was a brief discussion on using Bid Express and adjusting to procedures. Mr. Dvorak asked if the pavement markings would be open up to the Townships to utilize the contract price.*

*DEPARTMENT ON AGING – MODIFICATION OF SFY 20232024 MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT (MIPPA) MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS, LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE AGING NETWORK, STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) AND AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS GRANT AGREEMENT*

*Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to approve a modification to the Medicare Savings program agreement which allows the staff to assist clients with applying for programs to reduce prescription drugs costs and Medicare premiums. This is an increase of an additional \$54.54.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Modification of SFY 2023-2024 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Medicare Savings Programs, Low-income Subsidy and Prescription Drug Assistance through the Aging Network, State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers Grant Agreement for Geauga Seniors Age 60 and over, for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024, increasing the total grant award \$54.54 for a new total award of \$5,771.77.*

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

*MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BRAKEFIRE INCORPORATED D.B.A. SILCO FIRE AND SECURITY, INCORPORATED*

*Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to execute a service contract agreement with Silco Fire and Security. Mr. Sieracki explained that the gate operator at the Department of Emergency Services is not working and they could possibly get it replaced in less than a month. Mr. Sieracki stated that he obtained three quotes, and they were on average about the same. Mr. Spidalieri asked what was being covered for the \$12,000.00, to which Mr. Sieracki explained that the motor spins and winds the chain to open the gate, so that is being replaced and the sensors and gate control, essentially the whole system is being replaced.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Brakefire Incorporated d.b.a. Silco Fire and Security, Incorporated to install a new Gate Operator at the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services for a period of ninety (90) days, effective April 9, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00.*

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – 2025 TAX BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE*

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan asked the Board to approve the tax budget hearing schedule.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the 2025 Tax Budget Hearing Schedule, with hearings scheduled on May 7, 2024, May 14, 2024 and on May 21, 2024.*

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

*Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve the resolution proclaiming Public Service Recognition Week, which is the first full week of May, and it does include the \$15.00 per employee for departments to use towards a lunch.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #24-057 Proclaiming May 5, 2024 through May 11, 2024 as Public Service Recognition Week for 2024.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Resolution: 24-057*

*Date: April 9, 2024*

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 5, 2024 THROUGH MAY 11, 2024  
AS PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK FOR 2024**

*WHEREAS, In honor of the men and women serve America daily as public servants at the federal, state, county and local levels. The vast array of services provided by government is an integral part of our lives. Every day of our lives we depend upon the work performed by public employees; and*

*WHEREAS, Public service is a public trust, a high calling and an expression of responsible citizenship. A job in public service will impact the lives of many people, through public policy, education, law enforcement, and the environment; and*

*WHEREAS, Without these dedicated government employees at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials; and*

*WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week has been celebrated nationally the first week of May since 1985; and*

*WHEREAS, We, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, do proclaim that annually the first full week of May will be Public Service Recognition Week in Geauga County and call upon all citizens to recognize the contributions made by public employees at all levels who help ensure the quality of our lives in this great country and in this great county in the state of Ohio; and*

*WHEREAS, O.R.C. 325.25 specifically authorizes employee recognition programs. Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio wish to utilize this authority to recognize the employees of Geauga County government on an annual basis during the first week of May during Public Service Recognition week by means of modest expenditures on tokens of appreciation to those employees not to exceed \$15.00 per employee and that such other expenditures may lawfully include providing of meals and non-alcoholic beverages, as one means of expressing this appreciation.*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution become part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Absent</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 week ending March 27, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

MEETINGS

Wed., 4/10 *Geauga County Township Association Quarterly Dinner Meeting, 6:15 p.m. Claridon*

Thu., 4/11 *ADP Special Meeting, 2:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*

Mon., 4/15 *Family First Council Meeting, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building*

Tue., 4/16 *The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

Tue., 4/23 *The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

Wed., 4/24 *Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Room*

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

Tue., 4/30 *Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors, 2:00 p.m. Warren, District Office*

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST THE AUDITOR, ADP AND PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO WORK WITH COMMISSIONERS STAFF TO CREATE COUNTY ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE POLICY

*Mr. Morgan explained that we have been looking electronic signature for a while for use on contracts and would like to request ADP, the Auditor and Prosecutor's office to work through the policy and software that's needed.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to request the Auditor, ADP and Prosecutor's Office to work with Commissioners' Office staff to create a County electronic signatures policy including all necessary IT procedures and software and Auditor procedures to establish audit trails and ensure electronic signatures can be verified and that the county policy meets all legal standards.*

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

*Mr. Spidalieri asked where we stand on the contract for the Airport Authority. Mr. Morgan explained that the Attorneys are finalizing the language, and the bonds need to be updated. There was discussion on who can sign the contract, however the contract once signed has to be certified and go through the financials before they can get started.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*Ralph Spidalieri*

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*James W. Dvorak*

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*Timothy C. Lennon*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 9, 2024**

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