

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 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 9:38 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Thank You Lord, for all that I have.

I trust in you for all that I need and Thank you for allowing me another day to live.

Amen

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including Appropriations transfer in the Commissioners Capital Reserve Fund Phase II to move money to prepare for new encumbrances and existing encumbrance increases, Cash transfer from the General Fund to Public Assistance for our July – September 2024 mandated share, Travel requests from the Auditor's Office, Job and Family Services and Veterans Services, Contract Purchase Order for Maintenance to Junction Auto Sales for the purchase of a new 2023 GMC Savanna 3500 Commercial Cuy Away Box Truck, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ravenwood Mental Health Center for third quarter Youth Center operations in the amount of \$104,105.00, a payment from the Commissioners' Office to Ohio State University for the County's second quarter 2024 program support payment in the amount of \$63,035.29, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Kenny Hoar Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Airports Hangar One Improvement Project in the amount of \$134,754.40, and a payment for Maintenance to Integrated Precision System, Incorporated for the Upgrade and Maintenance of the Safety Center Security Camera System in the amount of \$140,686.84.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-134 itemizing the financials for the meeting of July 9, 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 ADOPTING THE 2025 ANNUAL TAX BUDGET

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to execute the resolution adopting the 2025 Annual Tax Budget.

Mr. Gorton noted a few things, correcting that he mis-spoke during the total during the presentation, that the total county budget is indeed \$179 Million. Mr. Gorton expressed that the Sheriff had reached out to him about the amount for fuel in the presentation and felt it was incorrect, upon review it was overstated and was reduced down to \$250,000.00, changing the overall total for the General Fund by about \$172,000.00 and will make the total General Fund Expenses for 2025 to \$4,698,8230.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-135 Adopting the 2025 Annual Tax Budget in Accordance with O.R.C. 5705.28 and 5705.29.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 9, 2024

Resolution: #24-135

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 ANNUAL TAX BUDGET
IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.R.C. SECTIONS 5705.28, and 5705.29**

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio met in regular session on the 9th day of July, 2024 at the office of the Board of County Commissioners with the following members present:

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Commissioner Lennon presented the following resolution and moved the adoption, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Dvorak:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio, hereby submits its annual tax budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2025, for consideration of the County Budget Commission:

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

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

*A complete copy of the tax budget will follow these minutes.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1, FINAL – DECREASE CONTRACT - RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF CLARIDON-TROY ROAD (CH-0003, SECTIONS D-E)

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to execute Change Order #1 and Final, decreasing the contract with Ronyak Paving for the asphalt resurfacing of Claridon Troy Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, decreasing the Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Claridon-Troy Road (CH-0003, Sections D-E) in Burton and Claridon Townships in the amount of \$31,459.40.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JAMES W. DVORAK, TO ELECTRONICALLY EXECUTE AND SUBMIT OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION PROJECT GRANT / LOAN AGREEMENT – RIVERVIEW DRIVE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board execute Resolution authorizing Mr. Dvorak, board member and Chief Executive Officer to execute and submit electronically the Ohio Public Works Commission grant / loan agreement for the Improvement of Riverview Drive Bridge in Bainbridge Township.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-136 Authorizing James W. Dvorak, Board Member of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Chief Executive Officer for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Project #CG23AB to Electronically Execute and Submit the Project Grant / Loan Agreement, Improvement Project for the Riverview Drive Bridge (Structure #BR-0380-00.310) in Bainbridge Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 9, 2024

Resolution: #24-136

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JAMES W. DVORAK, BOARD MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) PROJECT #CG23AB TO ELECTRONICALLY EXECUTE AND SUBMIT THE PROJECT GRANT / LOAN AGREEMENT, IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE RIVERVIEW DRIVE BRIDGE (STRUCTURE# BR-0380-00.310)

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

IN BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Engineer, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter collectively "Sponsors"), submitted to the Ohio Public Works Commission a Grant and Loan Application for the Riverview Drive Bridge (Structure# BR-0380-00.310) Improvement Project for OPWC Project CG23AB; and

WHEREAS, the OPWC extended a grant/loan offer to the Sponsors and the Sponsors desire to accept the grant/loan offer; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners through the appointed project Chief Executive Officer are required to electronically execute and submit the project agreement prior to the award of any proposed work; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have appointed James W. Dvorak, Board Member to act as the Chief Executive Officer for this project and to execute the Project Agreement on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that James W. Dvorak, Board Member and Chief Executive Officer for this project is hereby authorized to accept, electronically execute and submit the project agreement referenced herein to OPWC for processing.

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>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF AUBURN ROAD (CH-0004, SECTIONS K-M) IN MUNSON AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIPS

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving Incorporated for the asphalt resurfacing of Auburn Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH-0004, Sections K-M) in Munson and Newbury Townships in the amount of \$678,574.00 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 – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF CHARDON-WINDSOR ROAD (CH-0013, SECTIONS A-D) IN HAMB DEN AND CLARIDON TOWNSHIPS

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to award the bid to Ronyak Paving Incorporated for the asphalt resurfacing of Chardon Windsor Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Chardon Windsor Road (CH-0013, Sections A-D) in Hamdden and Claridon Townships in the amount of \$925,545.00 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>

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – GRADE LINE, INCORPORATED –
REPLACEMENT OF SPERRY ROAD BRIDGE (STRUCTURE #0012-03.590) CHESTER
TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to award the bid to Grade Line, Incorporated for the replacement of the Sperry Road Bridge.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to award the Bid to Grade Line, Incorporated for the Replacement of the Sperry Road Bridge (Structure #0012-03.590) in Chester Township in the amount of \$304,713.50 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>	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye
	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye

TREASURER'S OFFICE – ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF LETTER – AGGREGATE
AMOUNT OF PUBLIC MONEYS THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DEPOSIT

Chief Deputy Treasurer Caroline Mansfield asked the Board to acknowledge receipt of the estimate from the Treasurer of the aggregate amount of public moneys that might be available for public deposit in the amount of One Hundred Million Dollars, during the next four year period.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to acknowledge receipt of the estimate from the County Treasurer of the aggregate amount of public moneys in the amount of One Hundred Million Dollars that might be available for public deposit as action moneys at any one time during the next four-year period of October 12, 2024 through October 11, 2028, in accordance with O.R.C. 135.33(A).

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

TREASURER'S OFFICE – ADVERTISE TO NOTIFY ALL ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS THAT
MIGHT DESIRE TO BE DESIGNATED AS PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES OF ACTIVE PUBLIC
MONEYS – APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED NO EARLIER THAN AUGUST 12, 2024 AND NO
LATER THEN AUGUST 30, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.

Ms. Mansfield asked the Board to grant permission to notify all eligible institutions that might desire to be public depositories, with applications received no earlier than August 12, 2024 and no later than August 30, 2024. This notice will also be published on July 11, 2024 and on the county website.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise to notify all eligible institutions that might desire to be designated as public depositories of the September 10, 2024 date on which the public depository designation(s) will be made by the Board; the estimated amount of active public moneys available for deposit; and the last date and time of August 30, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. on which eligible institutions may submit applications to the Board. Additionally, applications must be received by the Board no earlier than Monday, August 12, 2024 and no later than the deadline of Friday, August 30, 2024. Notifications of the public depository solicitation may also be sent to all eligible institutions in Geauga County and will include an Application Agreement for Public Depositories and other applicable documents. The Public Notice of Selection of Public Depositories of Active Moneys for the Next Succeeding Four-Year Period for Geauga County, Ohio will be published on July 11, 2024 and on the County website.

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

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – GRANT PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – HOME CARE SERVICES: ASSISTANCE WITH DAILY LIVING FOR RESIDENTS AGE 60 AND OVER

In-Home Services Manager Reba Dykes asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for bids for the Home Care Services – Assistance with Daily Living program. Ms. Dykes explained that this helps the frailest of seniors in the county and provides home care services, as they really want to remain in their homes. This assists with bathing, personal care, and includes a two hour visit up to two times a week.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for Bids for Home Care Services: Assistance with Daily Living for Geauga County Residents Age 60 and over that may qualify, to be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on July 11, 2024, July 18, 2024 and on the County website.

<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 – TERMINATE EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION GRANTED UNDER COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT – PARKMAN PROPERTIES #30 LLC – FAILURE TO FULFILL OBLIGATION UNDER AGREEMENT

Director Gina Hofstetter, as Housing Officer, asked the Board to immediately terminate the exemption from taxation granted under the Community Reinvestment Area Agreement for Parkman Properties #30 LLC for failure to fulfill the obligations under the agreement. Ms. Hofstetter explained that this CRA agreement was created in 2015, created for Water Star, who was to be the tenant occupying the building, however, Water Star was a tenant for a short period of time, they left, a lawsuit involved and a lot of history, however they are not in compliance with the CRA agreement. This did include a ten-year abatement and they have been receiving that abatement in the amount of \$199,000.00 to date, and as a Housing Officer, I must report and ask for the stop and have it be revoked. Commissioner Lennon asked how long they have not been in compliance, to which Ms. Hofstetter explained that she can only guess that it may have lasted a year. Mr. Morgan added that he feels that they have been receiving it for about the last seven years. Mr. Lennon asked who had been receiving the benefit and is there a way to get restitution, to which Ms. Hofstetter stated it was the property owner, Parkman Properties LLC and that based on the Boards decision and action today, she plans to look further into seeing if restitution can be made, and that the Trustees would appreciate it. Mr. Lennon inquired if the Prosecutor's Office has been involved, to which Ms. Hofstetter said absolutely, they have been involved in the process including the letter that will follow today's action by the Board. Ms. Hofstetter is trying to clean it up and get it back on track. Mr. Dvorak added that we should go after the tax dollars that were lost. Ms. Hofstetter noted the Parkman Trustee in attendance in a show of support and solidarity.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to immediately terminate the exemption from taxation granted under the Community Reinvestment Area Agreement to Parkman Properties #30 LLC due to the material failure of Parkman Properties to fulfill its obligation under the Agreement to create 12 new full-time permanent job opportunities, use its best efforts to retain 30 existing full-time equivalent jobs, and generate additional annual payroll and maintain current annual payroll at the Parkman Facility, as required.

<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 – BURNS INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, INCORPORATED

Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to approve and execute the service contract with Burns Industrial Equipment for inspections and maintenance on the vertical mast lift. Mr. Sieracki answered a few questions of Mr. Dvorak regarding having an ongoing service contract on the JLG since it was purchased, and this is just renewing that.

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Burns Industrial Equipment, Incorporated to perform annual inspections and maintenance on the Maintenance Departments JLG Vertical Mast Lift effective July 9, 2024 through December 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00.

<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 – ABOLISH PETTY CASH DRAWER

Fiscal and Budget Specialist Kathleen Miller explained that they are asking to abolish the Petty Cash Drawer that has \$100.00 in it, that it hasn't been used since COVID when they stopped making change. It was discovered where the funds came from initially and would like to return them.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the abolishment of the Petty Cash Drawer, containing \$100.00, as it is no longer necessary to make change for customers, and requests the return of the \$100.00 back to the originating Fund 5002, effective July 9, 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 IMPLEMENT A CHANGE IN BOARD SIZE OF THE ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (ADAMHS) BOARD – REDUCE THE SIZE FROM 14 TO 9 MEMBERS

Mental Health and Recovery Services Director Christine Lakomiak explained that in October 2023, HB 33 allowed Mental Health Boards to change their Board size, currently they can be 18 or 14 members, and as discussion around the state and communities, it is often challenging for some to have 14 or 18. Ms. Lakomiak continued to state that HB 33 allows the Board of County Commissioners to decide the size of the Board, whether that be 18, 9 or 12, the guidance states that someone from the Commissioner's office will attend a Mental Health meeting to get feedback, adding that Mr. Morgan attended the June meeting and discussed the Board size with the members and that most of the Board was in favor of moving to a board of 12. Mr. Spidalieri asked why 12, why not 9, based on how difficult it has been over the years, to which Ms. Lakomiak stated that she didn't have the exact answer, that there are two Board members in attendance today, adding that they thought it would be a good number, that nine might be too small, however, it is up to the Board of Commissioners. If after four years, there is an option to make a change. Mr. Dvorak added that 12 is a good number and not so abrupt. Ms. Lakomiak stated that it won't be to abrupt, as it reduces as members term out, if we went to 12, currently there are two openings, if we went to 9, it would reduce as the terms expire. Mr. Spidalieri added that 12 is even and can cause not having a majority on one side over the other, adding that he feels going to 9 would be best, that if you have 9 good board members you can do just as good of a job as having 12. Mr. Lennon agreed that this Board has done a very good job over the years but feels 9 would be best. Mr. Dvorak asked about the appointments, if the Board is 12, the Commissioners would be 8 and the State would be 4, if the Board reduces to 9, the Commissioners would have 6 and the State would have 3, and the Commissioners will have to assist with ensuring the criteria of the Board make up. Reba Dykes, Board Member added that as a Board when they met, going to 9 members may be difficult to handle all of the committees that they have. Currently there are 10 members as they have 2 vacancies, and if you reduce to 9 the current members will remain until the terms expire. Clerk Christine Blair added that one term will expire in 2025 and five will expire in 2026, 4 of those will be county and one state. Ms. Blair noted that the resolution will need to be revised, as it was originally written to be reduced from 14 to 12, and the new will be from 14 to 9 members.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #24-137 to Implement a Change in the Board Size of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board to Reduce the Size of the Board from 14 to 9 Members.

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 11, 2024

Resolution: #24-137

**RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT A CHANGE IN THE BOARD SIZE OF THE
ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (ADAMHS) BOARD
TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE BOARD FROM 14 TO 9 MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, Section 340.02(A) of the Ohio Revised Code authorizes the Geauga County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") to determine the size of the Geauga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board ("ADAMHS Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have sent a representative to a meeting of the ADAMHS Board to solicit feedback on the change in board size, as required by R.C. 340.02(A); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have duly considered the feedback received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners have decided to proceed with implementing a change in the ADAMHS Board size from a fourteen (14) member Board to a nine (9) member Board, as further authorized by R.C. 340.02(A).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reduction in board members shall be implemented by not filling vacancies as they occur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall continue to appoint one-third of the members of the ADAMHS Board, and the Commissioners shall appoint two-thirds of the members, as required by R.C. 340.02(C).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commissioners shall notify the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services of the board size that has been selected.

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 – APPOINT LINDA BURHENNE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AS A WITNESS PERTAINING TO APPEAL HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF REVISION REGARDING PROPERTY IN CHESTER TOWNSHIP

Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne explained that this has to do with the appeal that was made by the Commissioners regarding the decision by the Auditor to remove the tax exemption on the MRDD property in Chesterland. The appeal will be heard on the 17th and Ms. Burhenne has been working with the outside counsel since the Prosecutor's Office stopped representing the Commissioners on this matter and the outside counsel recommends the Board appoint her as the witness, since Mr. Morgan is unable to attend the hearing.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to appoint Linda Burhenne, Assistant County Administrator, as a witness pertaining to their Appeal Hearing before the Board of Revision on July 17, 2024, regarding their property located on Cedar Road in Chester Township.

<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' Journal
July 9, 2024

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – GROUP RETROSPECTIVE RATING PLAN AGREEMENT

Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler introduced Account Executive with Sedgwick TPA Mara McClain to provide information on Geauga County's Group Retrospective Rating Program, that Geauga County has been apart of since 2010. Ms. McClain explained that her goal today is an overview of the workers comp program, where you are, where you have been and where you are going. Ms. Hostutler provided some information to the Board, Ms. McClain noted that on the top of the page, it showed the County EMR (Experience Modifier History) adding that this is very important number, the current number is 0.85, that is a phenomenal number, adding that you want to have a number that is below 1.00, when you are above that, you are penalty rated that means you are over budget on your claims. Ms. McClain noted that the last two years the county was at 0.85, the years prior at 1.05 and 1.24, so the county numbers are going in the right direction, and for next year will be even lower. The Group Retro program is a rebate program, which is part of the premium that is paid, and is based on performance of the CCAO group. Ms. McClain noted on the sheet provided to the Board, the amount of premiums paid by the county, the payroll experience and the amount of rebates received since being part of the program in 2010, overall Geauga County has received over \$1.4 million in refunds through the end of May 2024. For the 2025 policy year that begins January 1st and invite Geauga County again to be a part of the program, with a projected EMR at 0.67, which will be about \$212,000.00 for the premium. The Group Retro target refund is about \$48,000.00. The risk of the Group Retro Program, if everyone has a lot of claims and the group hasn't paid enough premium, then there would be an assessment fee, which would be \$31,000.00 for Geauga County, but that is all dependent on the group. Ms. McClain added that there is an admin fee for Sedgwick TPA and for 2025 will be \$9,300.00. Ms. McClain noted that Geauga County also utilizes them for unemployment services as well.

Mr. Lennon asked about the 2023 payroll numbers listed, and asked if the upcoming year was based on 2024 or how they figure that out. Ms. McClain explained that the current 2024 policy year refunds will come back in 2026, 2027 and 2028 and do a 2024 true-up in February 2025. It's always a year behind. Ms. Hostutler noted that there are a few years of no refunds and that was referred to as the billion back, and in April 2020, October 2020 and December 2020 the Bureau gave back all Ohio employers a lot of money, there was no refunds, because you got back the full premium amounts of 2018 and 2019. Mr. Lennon noted that payroll from 2023 to now has grown, so how does that affect this, to which Ms. McClain noted that the more payroll you have the more premium you end up paying to the Bureau. Mr. Lennon expressed that there has been some substantial increase in those numbers and would like to see what that will look like. Ms. Hostutler explained that when she started with the county we were very much in penalty ratings and tried to do every program available to help with that, so when Group Retro Program became available, the County jumped on the program in 2010 and was very excited to be a part of that program. Ms. Hostutler noted that because of the three year look back, even if you have a bad claim, the overall group helps with the refunds. An individual county with a bad claim carries that for ten years, and you don't want to do that. Sedgwick does their best to go after handicap reimbursements and settlements to help keep claims low. Ms. Hostutler mentioned all the hard work the Ms. Bidlack and the Directors do to help with safety and claims, along with doing the chargeback program.

Ms. Hostutler asked the Board to approve the Group Retro Plan Agreement for 2025.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 2025 Geauga County / County Commissioners Association of Ohio Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Plan Agreement and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Employer Statement for Group-Retrospective-Rating Program between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the CCAO Service Corporation.

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

DISCUSSION ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Mr. Lennon explained that several weeks have gone by and we still have no answer on the Dollar General for the Department on Aging, and a request to the Prosecutor Office to come in and explain the hang up on why we haven't gotten the agreement signed. Mr. Lennon stated that they had asked for an executive session, and the Prosecutor felt it was not the correct format, an

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

email, a letter, or a discussion in public session to explain why to which Mr. Dvorak noted that he and Ms. LaChapelle are slated to come to session next week to discuss it.

Local resident Diane Jones asked about anything further on the Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center. Ms. Blair noted that she had reached out to the Portage County Clerk twice but have not gotten any response back and was going to have Mr. Morgan reach out the Portage County Administrator as a better option then going through the clerk. Ms. Burhenne stated that they drafted documents and sent to the Prosecutor's Office for review. Mr. Morgan noted that he was still working on Mr. Leeworthy about the reimbursement refund. Mr. Spidalieri noted that it's been weeks now since the meeting that the refund was discussed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending June 26, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, FY2023 Annual Report*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 7/9 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m., 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A334, Chardon

Wed., 7/10 Geauga County Township Association Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Huntsburg Community Center

Tue., 7/16 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Wed., 7/17 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Auditor's Appraisal Conference room

Tue., 7/23 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 7/30 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
July 9, 2024

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK