

Commissioners' Journal
July 30, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 30, 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 Vice President of the Board, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:38 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Commissioner Spidalieri was absent from today's meeting.*

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

A prayer about the 2024 Olympics

What connection does prayer have with the Olympics?

The Olympics are historically a time for the world to come together.

While it has had its problems and controversies, victories and tragedies, it's primarily a time for nations of the world to put their differences aside and compete in the spirit of fellowship, and prayer has had an impact.

Amen

COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on what he approved on July 29, 2024 that included a Liquor License that concurred with the Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor license being requested by Stakort Incorporated d.b.a. Sports Page and Patio located at 17800 Chillicothe Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (C STCK 8484242); as authorized by Resolution #24-011 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 8, 2024 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Mr. Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Cash transfer out of the General Fund to Family First Council for the July -September 2024 Commitment, Cash transfers to the Sheriff's 911 and 800 Communications funds from the General Fund for the 1st half of 2024, Travel requests for Job and Family Services and the Probate Court, a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay requests #10 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$453,727.06, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Ronyak Paving Incorporated in the amount of \$783,822.75, for the asphalt resurfacing of Munn Road (Sections E-F) \$227,388.50 and Wilson Mills Road (Sections D-F) \$556,434.25 and a payment for Maintenance to Junction Auto Sales, Incorporated for the purchase of a 2023 GMC Savanna Cutaway Box Truck in the amount of \$58,544.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-143 itemizing the financials for the meeting of July 30, 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>Absent*</i>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AUTHORIZE JAMES W. DVORAK, MEMBER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION, APPENDIX E – DISBURSEMENT AND CERTIFICATION #1 – CLARIDON TROY ROAD

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve Mr. Dvorak as member and Chief Executive Officer to execute the Ohio Public Works Commission disbursement and certification form for the Claridon Troy Road resurfacing project.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize James W. Dvorak, member and Chief Executive Officer to execute the Ohio Public Works Commission, Appendix E – Disbursement Request Form and Certification #1 in order to release funds from the state portion of our OPWC

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grant for the Claridon-Troy Road Resurfacing (Sections D-E) in Burton and Claridon Townships in the amount of \$250,000.00.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE HIRING STEPHANIE HUMBERT AND JACKIE KLEVE – FULL-TIME RECREATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANT (#1005)

Director Jessica Boalt introduced Mr. Rudy Bruenig, Transportation Coordinator. Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve hiring Stephanie Humbert and Jackie Kleve as Full-time Recreation and Education Assistants, to fill vacancies at the Bainbridge and West Geauga Senior Centers.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve hiring Stephanie Humbert to the position of Full-time Recreation and Education Assistant (#1005) to be effective August 19, 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.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve hiring Jackie Kleve to the position of Full-time Recreation and Education Assistant (#1005) to be effective August 19, 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.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING – MODIFICATION OF 2024 PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT / SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES – INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION IIIB FUNDS

Ms. Boalt explained that they receive funding through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for out of county medical transportation program and in talking about the needs for Seniors in our communities, there are often requests for in county medical appointments and while those are referred to Transit, we often hear they are not able to meet that need. Ms. Boalt stated that it doesn't hurt to be another provider and offer another choice in the county to help our seniors. Ms. Boalt reached out to Western Reserve and to meet this need they would need additional funding. Ms. Boalt stated that last year they took 172 seniors on 1,762 trips out of county and based upon that, they provided additional funding to allow them to hire two Full-time Drivers. Mr. Bruenig noted that they cover parts of five counties, lots of clinic facilities, downtown, the VA's, all of Lake County, parts of Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties. Commissioner Lennon expressed that it was amazing, however an issue they have had with transportation is a focused approach. Mr. Bruenig explained that if he knows that someone will be at an appointment for a period of time, they will drop them off, go and handle other appointments, and they call when they are done and then based on who is in the area near the client, they will send a driver to pick them up, or go back and get them. Mr. Lennon inquired about age compared to Geauga Transit, to which Ms. Boalt explained that a federal definition of a senior is age 60 and over, Transit serves the entire community, and while we don't want to take their clientele, but we offer another option for seniors. Mr. Lennon inquired about handicap accessible vehicles, to which Ms. Boalt noted that they had just gotten one through the CDBG grant that is beautiful and thankfully from the grants she applied for through Western Reserve they have funds to be able to work towards purchasing another. They currently have the bus and the new vehicle that is all wheel drive. Mr. Lennon mentioned NOACA offering handicap vehicle grants, to which Ms. Boalt noted that they have looked at them, however they have specific vehicles they offer, and it wasn't what they were looking for at the time. Ms. Boalt explained that the funding they are being given gives them enough funds to hire an additional two drivers for the rest of the year. Ms. Boalt asked the Board to execute the agreement, to

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increase her current number of drivers by two and then advertise to fill those positions.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the Vice President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Modification of 2024 Purchase of Service Agreement for Older Americans Act / Senior Community Services for an increase in Transportation IIB funds of \$37,400.00 (385 units) for a revised total contract award of \$605,400.00.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS (#1020) FROM THREE TO FIVE DRIVERS – UPDATE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve an increase in the number of Full-time Transportation Drivers (#1020) from three (3) to five (5) Drivers, and further update the organizational chart to reflect this change, to be effective July 30, 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>Absent</i>

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – ADVERTISE TWO (2) FULL-TIME TRANSPORTATION DRIVERS (#1020)

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for two (2) Full-time Transportation Drivers (#1020). These positions will remain posted until filled.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PURCHASE SAMSUNG GALAXY TABLET S9 FE – FOR EMPLOYEE TRAINING OF GEAUGA COUNTY EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Human Resources Specialist Kelly Bidlack explained that with the new wellness program being an online app, it often makes it difficult to show employees on a small phone, and would like to use some of the wellness grant funds to purchase a tablet that can be used much easier and larger to see.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the purchase of a Samsung Galaxy Tablet S9 FE to be utilized in employee training of the Geauga County Employee Wellness Program in the amount of \$404.16. This will be paid for using CEBCO Wellness Program Grant Funds.

<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 APPROVING USE OF ARPA STANDARD ALLOWANCE FUNDS – AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NECESSARY PAYROLL ACCOUNTS WITHIN THE ARPA FUND

Mr. Morgan explained that this resolution is in regard to the ARPA funds and establishing payroll accounts to utilize the standard allowance funds to pay payroll and then use payroll budgeting funds to cover the cost of the Courthouse.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-144 Approving the use of ARPA Standard Allowance Funds and Authorizing the Establishment of the Necessary Payroll Accounts within the ARPA Fund.

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Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 30, 2024

Resolution: #24-144

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF ARPA STANDARD ALLOWANCE FUNDS
AND AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NECESSARY PAYROLL ACCOUNTS
WITHIN THE ARPA FUND**

WHEREAS, The President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) on March 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, ARPA provides money to States, Counties and Municipalities to address the continuing impact of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Section 603 created the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund which, among other things, appropriated money to cities, non-entitlement units of local government, and counties to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Section 603(c)(1)(c) generally provides for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county prior to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a distribution of monies from the ARPA; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury has adopted various rules attached to the use of these funds having issued a Final Rule on January 6, 2022. The Department of Treasury Final Rule, published by the Federal Register on January 27, 2022, at Vol. 87, No. 18, 4438 – 4454, and effective April 1, 2022 (the "Final Rule"), provides in part that:

Treasury is including an option for recipients to use a standard allowance for revenue loss. Specifically, in the final rule, recipients will be permitted to elect a fixed amount of loss that can then be used to fund government services. This fixed amount, referred to as the "standard allowance," is set at up to \$10 million total for the entire period of performance not to exceed the recipient's SLFRF award amount.

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2022 through Resolution #22-053 the Board of Commissioners opted to elect the "standard allowance" of \$10 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the use of the \$10 million (standard allowance) from the ARPA fund to pay for the salaries and benefits of employees and elected officials providing government services within the offices of the Auditor, Clerk of Courts, Commissioners, Coroner, Engineer, Prosecutor, Recorder, Sheriff, Treasurer, ADP, Building Department, Board of Elections, Public Defender and the Veterans Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Auditor should hereby establish the necessary payroll accounts and appropriate such funds to these accounts within the ARPA Fund to accommodate these expenditures. The Auditor's Office will monitor such accounts and transfer appropriations within the standard allowance to ensure the use of the \$10 million standard allowance is expended for these payroll purposes. The Auditor's Office shall then advise departments how to submit payroll the remainder of the year with their remaining 2024 appropriations in the General Fund.

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT MARK DINISHAK – COUNTY APIARIST FOR 2024
Mr. Morgan asked the Board to appoint Mark Dinishak as the County Apiarist for the remainder of 2024.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to appoint Mark Dinishak as County Apiarist for the remainder of 2024 and further approve and execute the 2024 Ohio Department of Agriculture Appointment for County Apiary Inspector Form to be effective July 30, 2024 at an hourly rate of \$13.00 per hour and a mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.67 cents per mile.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTE MEMO REGARDING BICENTENNIAL BELL BUILDING DURING COUNTY FAIR - 2024

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve a memo to the Elected Officials and Department Directors regarding the Fair, regarding items they want to have in the building, and that those items need to be delivered to our office by a certain date, and then those items are set up in the building for the weekend.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute a memo to Elected Officials and Department Directors regarding the Bicentennial Bell Building during the Great Geauga County Fair, August 29, 2024 through September 2, 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>Absent</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXTEND DATE TO WITHDRAW – JOINT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PORTAGE AND GEAUGA COUNTIES – JOINT DETENTION AND REHABILITATION CENTER DISTRICT

Mr. Morgan explained that we received a letter from an Attorney representing the Portage County Commissioners about our withdrawal from the Detention Center, our Prosecutor's Office has requested that there be no direct contact with them and that all contact go through their office at this point going forward. The current date of withdrawal was the 31st and we should probably extend that, maybe at least for two weeks, and then we may have to extend it again.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to extend the effective date on which the Geauga County Board of Commissioners will withdraw from the Joint Board of County Commissioners of Portage and Geauga Counties and the Joint Portage-Gauga Juvenile Detention and Rehabilitation Center District from July 31, 2024 to August 15, 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>Absent</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE WORK SESSION WITH FAIR BOARD – AT FAIRGROUNDS

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to schedule a work session at the fairgrounds with the Fair Board, so they can take you through the grounds to show what they have been working on and discuss some things with the Board.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve scheduling a work session with the Fair Board during the regular meeting on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. and will be held at the Geauga County Fairgrounds.

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

There was a brief discussion about having regular session at the fair if the Board wanted to continue to do that. President of the Fair Board Paul Logan expressed that the Board is always welcome to have their meeting there and open the fair. Ms. Blair noted that the Board would need to consider whether they wanted to hold a regular meeting on Tuesday or just the meeting at the fair on Thursday. She noted that the dry run for the Perry Drill would be on Wednesday, August 28th and that an adjustment would need to be made in September for the actual evaluated drill that will be on a Tuesday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Local resident Diane Jones asked for clarification on the Detention Center, that Mr. Flaiz and Ms. LaChapelle is handling communication with the Portage County Commissioners Attorney and that they extended the withdrawal to the 15th, which Mr. Morgan did confirm. Ms. Jones asked for the numbers on the Courthouse Expansion and when she would expect those, to which Mr. Morgan noted that there were few numbers he was waiting on confirmation on but should be able to share with the Board and get them to her next week.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2024.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Wed., 7/31 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. – Auditor's Appraisal Conference room

Mon., 8/5 OneOhio Region 13 Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m.

Tue., 8/6 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 8/13 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m., 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A334, Chardon

Tue., 8/13 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. that will include a Public Viewing at 2:00 p.m. for the Proposed Vacation of Public Right of Way upon a portion of Tulip Lane (TR-0307) in Bainbridge Township

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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