

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**November 19, 2024**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on November 19, 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:*

*Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem*

*Faith takes you through the problem*

*Faith doesn't always take away the pain*

*Faith gives you the ability to handle the pain*

*Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm*

*Faith calms you in the midst of the storm.*

*Amen*

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the special meeting of October 17, 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>

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the special meeting of October 22, 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>

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the special meeting of October 29, 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>

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation from Job and Family Services in the Public Assistance Fund to true up their salary and hospitalization accounts for year end, Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Department of Emergency Services for their 2023 per capita subdivision receipts and the 2024 sales tax operational stipend, Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Computer Equipment Improvements fund to provide the funding that was requested for 2024, Travel request for the Engineer's Office, Formal contract purchase order from the Maintenance Department to CT Consultants Incorporated for design services related to the Safety Center parking lot repaving project, a payment for Department on Aging to Junction Buick GMC for a 2024 GMC Terrain in the amount of \$29,855.00, (this is an added vehicle to the fleet for chore and home safety services), a payment for the Engineer's Office to Frontline Road Safety Operations, LLC (The Aero Mark Company) for the Application of Polyester Pavement Markings to Various Roads in the amount of \$232,355.35 and a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Flock Group Incorporated for license plate recognition camera service for ten poles in the amount of \$30,500.00.*

*Commissioner Lennon inquired about the computer equipment improvement fund and the status of it, to which Mr. Gorton explained that they requested \$825,000.00 from the General Fund to*

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*fund the various projects for this year. Last year we did remove about \$350,000.00 in equipment requests. The Budget Commission last year did increase the appropriations and required us to provide the equipment money to funds outside of the General Fund to be reinstated and transferred and so the \$350,000.00 was provided last year. This is the remaining \$475,000.00 left for the initial request for this year and they don't have enough cash to cover the contracts for payments that are coming due. Mr. Lennon asked for clarification that the Budget Commission required the Commissioners to move money, to which Mr. Gorton explained during the discussions last year for the budget for this year, 2024, typically items get trimmed to balance the budget can be provided before the end of the year or as a supplemental in the coming year, and they certified the funds before the end of last year, and this is just the balance of that request for this year. This funds things like Gatekeeper, Disaster Recovery, Backup, CrowdStrike.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-190 itemizing the financials for the meeting of November 19, 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>

*COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT – OHIO BRIDGE CORPORATION (U.S. BRIDGE DIVISION) – REPLACEMENT OF ROBINSON ROAD BRIDGE*

*Deputy Engineer Jacob Scotese asked the Board to approve Change Order #1 to increase the contract with Ohio Bridge Corporation for the replacement of the Robinson Road Bridge.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Change Order #1, increasing the Contract with Ohio Bridge Corporation (U.S. Bridge Division) for the Replacement of the Robinson Road Bridge (Structure #GEA-0076-0188) in Chardon Township in the amount of \$41,291.83.*

<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 – SNOW AND ICE CONTROL AGREEMENTS – COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP ROADS – 2024-2025 WINTER SEASON – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP, CHESTER TOWNSHIP, CLARIDON TOWNSHIP, MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP, RUSSELL TOWNSHIP AND TROY TOWNSHIP*

*Administrator Katie Taylor asked the Board to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreements with Bainbridge, Chester, Claridon, Montville, Russell and Troy Townships to provide coverage on County and Township Roads during snow events through the 2024-2025 winter season. Ms. Taylor explained that for the Townships the County pays to plow / salt we have to certify the agreements with the Auditor's Office.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 13.42 miles of County Roads (Chagrin Road, Bainbridge Road and Washington Street) for the winter season of 2024-2025 in the amount of \$68,047.86.*

<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 approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Chester Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 15.09 miles of County Roads (Wilson Mills Road, Sperry Road, Mulberry Road and Caves Road) for the winter season of 2024-2025 in the amount of \$76,515.81.*

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

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Claridon Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 9.32 miles of Township Roads (Ensign Road, Forrest Road (two sections), Hall Road, Spencer Road, Stillwell Road and Taylor Wells Road) for the winter season of 2024-2025 in the amount of \$37,570.00.*

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

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Montville Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 10.712 miles of Township Roads (Burrows Road, Dewey Road, Hart Road (two sections), Hautala Road, Joann Road, Kile Road, Murphy Road, Sun Road and Whitney Road (two sections) for the winter season of 2024-2025 in the amount of 41,049.25.*

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

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Russell Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 8.628 miles of County Roads (Fairmount Road, Russell Road and Caves Road) for the winter season of 2024-2025 in the amount of \$43,749.40.*

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

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Troy Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 11.83 miles of Township Roads (Stafford Road, Fox Road, Winagle Road, Patch Road, Nash Road, Tilden Road, Hoover Road, Grove Road and Greystone Road) for the winter season of 2024-2025 in the amount of \$41,049.25.*

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

**DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT – OLDER AMERICANS ACT / SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDS FOR 2025**

*Director Jessica Boalt explained that they had received their grant award from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging and it will fund social services, transportation, health classes and adult day services. This grant is done on a reimbursement, so they bill Western Reserve for the units of service once provided each month and get reimbursed.*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Purchase of Service Agreement with the Department on Aging for the*

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*Older Americans Act / Senior Community Services Funds for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$568,000.00.*

<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>

*BUILDING – ADVERTISE POSITION – MULTI-CERTIFIED INSPECTOR IV (#1112)*  
*Chief Building Official / Director Dan Spada asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for the position of Multi-Certified Inspector IV. Mr. Spada will then get them pre-pandemic levels.*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for the position of Multi-Certified Inspector IV (#1112). This position 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>Aye</i>

*DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE ROGER PETERSON, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AS AGENT FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER DISASTER RELIEF ACT – DISASTER RELIEF FUND – STATE AND FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FEMA)*

*Director Roger Peterson explained that the State of Ohio was going to provide funding to hire a consultant to do the plan, and instead explained that they already have an employee that can write the plan and so they are going to provide those funds to the department instead. This resolution allows him to execute the documents related to the grant.*

*Motion:*            *by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-191 to Designate Roger Peterson, Director of the Department of Emergency Services, as Agent for Federal Financial Assistance under Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress) from the President's Disaster Relief Fund to the State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date:*                *November 19, 2024*  
*Resolution:*        *24-191*

***RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE ROGER PETERSON, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, AS AGENT FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER DISASTER RELIEF ACT (PUBLIC LAW 288, 23<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESS) FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DISASTER RELIEF FUND TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)***

*WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio hereby designate Roger Peterson, Director, of the Department of Emergency Services as Agent for Federal Financial Assistance under Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress) from the President's Disaster Relief Fund; and*

*WHEREAS, Director, Roger Peterson is hereby authorized to execute for and on behalf of Geauga County and its Board of Commissioners', a public entity established under the laws of the State of Ohio, this application and to file it in the appropriate State Office for the purpose of obtaining certain Federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 288, 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress) or otherwise available from the President's Disaster Relief Fund; and*

*WHEREAS, Geauga County, Board of Commissioners, hereby authorizes Director Roger Peterson, Agent, to provide and execute any and all necessary documents to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all matters pertaining to such Federal disaster assistance the assurances and agreements as listed in the Grant Agreement.*

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*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners to Designate Roger Peterson, Director of the Department of Emergency Services, as Agent for Federal Financial Assistance Under Disaster Relief Act from the President's Disaster Relief Fund to the State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and*

*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>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE BIDS – GEAUGA COUNTY ANNEX GENERATOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

*Contract Coordinator Matt Sieracki asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for Bids to replace the Generator at the Annex. Mr. Sieracki explained that it is very old and replacement requires about a 12-month lead time. This generator runs the whole building.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the Geauga County Annex Generator Replacement project to be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on November 22, 2024, November 29, 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>

**MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – E TECHNOLOGIES, INCORPORATED**

*Mr. Sieracki asked the Board to approve a service contract agreement with E-Technologies to replace the UPS unit batteries at Emergency Services, this is done about every five years.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with E Technologies, Incorporated to upgrade the batteries of the UPS units located at the Department of Emergency Services and Safety Center with work to be completed within sixty (60) days of November 19, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$61,478.00.*

<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>

**DISCUSSION – PROBATE / JUVENILE COURT**

*The Probate / Juvenile Court is requesting the Board discuss the Court's request for a Supplemental Appropriation for the payment of outside counsel.*

*Judge Timothy Grendell and Court Administrator Kimberly Laurie came before the Board of Commissioners to discuss their request. Judge Grendell explained that the Court was looking to address its representation under the Ohio Revised Code and under 309.09 he is entitled to representation under any action, and the Prosecutor who is to provide representation has conflict, as he testified against him among other things in this matter. It drops into O.R.C. 305.14 and allows the Commissioners to apply to the Court without the Prosecutor. Judge Grendell stated that they are really asking for two things. Judge Grendell is asking for the Board to retain Roetzel and Andres and the hiring of Mr. Funk to file the objections of the Supreme Court Proceedings, as we are not finished, and due to the complexity of the case, he would like to cap himself out at \$25,000.00. Judge Grendell explained that the second request is due to the unique situation with the Supreme Court and they appoint an Attorney from the contracted Montgomery Johnson firm that was appointed and they cover up to a certain amount of the costs. Judge Grendell expressed that he wants to sit down with them to discuss adjusting the amount of the invoices that were sent and addressed to the Common Pleas Court. Judge Grendell explained that those are the two requests he is making on behalf of the Court this morning.*

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*Mr. Lennon asked if the supplemental request for \$300,000.00 was for work already performed, and what is covered by the Supreme Court, to which Judge Grendell explained that he believed it was up to \$10,000.00 per charge. Mr. Lennon inquired about if the County was then required to pay then after that. Judge Grendell stated that Montgomery Johnson who represents Judges addressed the invoices to the Common Pleas Court. Mr. Lennon explained that we have been seeing the other side of it, in providing outside counsel for those that had to testify, however the Board was not included on any invoicing for the Judge's counsel. Judge Grendell stated they could provide the invoices but they would have to be redacted and then asked to work with Mr. Morgan on a face to face with Montgomery Johnson on the invoices to be knocked down on the costs.*

*Mr. Lennon asked how long this has been going on for, to which Judge Grendell stated that the matters are four and five years old, the filing was November 2022. Mr. Lennon asked about the second part, asking about the opinion from the Supreme Court advisory board on an action but no decision was made. Judge Grendell stated that there are really three steps in the process, hearing process, expressing that he was prohibited from calling witnesses, cross examination of witnesses, then the recommendation, then the disciplinary counsel makes a recommendation, and then the Supreme Court steps in, and you have so many days to file an objection with the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court makes the final decision but are entitled to Mr. Funk's expertise. Mr. Lennon asked for clarification that we are still in the process. Judge Grendell stated that the briefs need to be filed, and then oral arguments will be made in the Spring, noting that there is some distance to come, citing another case (Hoover) that took place that went over 15 months.*

*Mr. Lennon asked about the sections of the code that were referenced, to which Judge Grendell stated that the Prosecutor is supposed to represent us unless there is a conflict, and he is clearly conflicted in this case, so he cannot ethically represent him, so the Board can make application without his approval or sign off for representation. Mr. Lennon inquired about the \$25,000.00 cap, to which Judge Grendell noted that was what he felt was included in a letter Funk had submitted. Judge Grendell explained that this all happened since he has been sitting on the bench, that he was re-elected while this was all happening and highlighted by the media, but that he has been sitting on the bench every day.*

*Mr. Lennon asked about asking for an opinion from our outside counsel on those sections of the code, to which Mr. Morgan responded that even with a conflict the Board still has to make the request from the Prosecutor's office first, and then deny the request. Judge Grendell stated that the briefs are due and by the time the Board takes any action Mr. Funk will have already filed them. Mr. Lennon expressed concern about the portion of the work performed and that the law firm didn't reach out and ask where the money was. Judge Grendell stated that he will take some responsibility as he thought they were sending copies of the bills, and didn't realize until they were getting this all together that they were in the name of the Common Pleas Court.*

*Mr. Dvorak expressed that the Commissioners have been fielding a lot of phone calls and they keep referencing a news article in the Times Courier, referencing "disciplinary counsel wants Grendell suspended" in which Ms. Laurie is quoted "after a certain amount the responder pays for the remainder personally" and this is what is being repeated over and over from the public. Judge Grendell responds with all due respect Commissioner the law is the law and the newspaper has misrepresented things in this matter in the last five years and won't address that and Ms. Laurie is not a lawyer and hopes that this Board is not making decisions about misinformation being published in the newspaper or we are in some serious trouble in this county and feels that Ms. Laurie would like to address this. Ms. Laurie stated that this was very early in the process, and we have never gone through this before. Ms. Laurie continued by stating that the invoices were being sent to his personal email address and didn't even notice that the invoices themselves were even addressed to the Court. Ms. Laurie expressed that since that statement was made, research has been done and that the statement was incorrect. Mr. Spidalieri stated that we need some time to review this and determine what we are required to do and what we are not required to do. Judge Grendell asked that we just follow the law and not the court of public opinion. Mr. Spidalieri asked about the appeal process, to which Judge Grendell stated that the appeal and briefings have been filed, and disciplinary briefings are due to be filed before Christmas with oral arguments happening in the Spring. The finish line is the Supreme Court, and the election will bring two new Judges to the Supreme Court, which could slow it down to allow time for them to review. Mr. Spidalieri explained that this is a multitude of things, to which Judge Grendell stated that they dropped one of the four matters that were*

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brought, and briefly explained what those were, and talked about the effects COVID had on the court as well. Judge Grendell expressed that when people couldn't get him off the bench in the election, then criminal charges were filed and it was obvious that it had political motivation and in the midst of all of this, we have been keeping the court up and running. Mr. Lennon followed up with they would need some time to review and obtain information from their counsel on how to move forward.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BRILLIANT ELECTRIC SIGN COMPANY

Mr. Morgan explained that this is for signage out by the roads at this campus, and includes out by State Route 44 and will hopefully help people find where things are.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve, execute and initial the service Contract Agreement with Brilliant Electric Sign Company to provide labor, equipment, material and project management to erect signage in accordance with the quote, plus \$1,500.00 for the acquisition by contractor of all necessary permits with all work to be completed within six months of November 19, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$60,550.00.

<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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPOINT MEMBER – JAMES W. DVORAK – TRANSITION SUPERVISORY BOARD – AQUILLA VILLAGE DISSOLUTION

Mr. Morgan explained that the voters in the last election voted to revert Aquilla Village back to the Township and no longer a village, and along with that comes a board to assist with that and one of those members needs to be a commissioner, so we need one of you to be appointed to that board.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to appoint a member of the Board of Commissioners, James W. Dvorak to the Transition Supervisory Board for the Aquilla Village dissolution, in accordance with O.R.C. 703.361(A)(1)(b).

<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 – STATEMENT OF REASON FOR EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY CONVEYANCE FEE (DTE100EX) FORMS – AIRPORT PROPERTY CONSOLIDATION OF PARCELS – MIDDLEFIELD TOWNSHIP AND VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD

Mr. Morgan explained that as part of the consolidation of the airport parcels in the village and township we need to submit the DTE100EX form to exempt the real property conveyance fee.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Statement of Reason for Exemption from Real Property Conveyance Fee (DTE100EX forms) for the consolidation of parcels (airport property) in Middlefield Township and the Village of Middlefield.

<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 RECOGNIZING JUDGE TERRI STUPICA FOR HER COMMITMENT AND OUTSTANDING WORK AS A VOLUNTEER WITH THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Clerk Christine Blair explained that the Board received a request from the Legal Aid Society to recognize Judge Terri Stupica and Kimberly Barnett Mills from Bainbridge Township for their work with the society.

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*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak on behalf of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to approve and execute Resolution #24-193 recognizing Judge Terri Stupica for her commitment and outstanding work as a volunteer with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Resolution: #24-193*

*Date: November 19, 2024*

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUDGE TERRI STUPICA FOR HER COMMITMENT AND  
OUTSTANDING WORK AS A VOLUNTEER WITH THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF  
CLEVELAND**

*Whereas, established in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is the oldest legal aid organization in Ohio and the fifth oldest in the United States, and for 119 years, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has focused on securing justice and changing lives; and*

*Whereas, today, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland continues to secure justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change; and*

*Whereas, throughout Legal Aid's history, many volunteers – such as Geauga County resident Judge Terri Stupica – have ensured the mission stays alive through their pro bono efforts; and*

*Whereas, Judge Terri Stupica has used her legal knowledge to promote and launch Brief Clinics in Geauga County; and*

*Whereas, more than 800 volunteers were active with Legal Aid last year, reporting more than 11,907 hours, including recording over 5,700 hours working on cases, and over 2,450 hours providing service at legal advice clinics; and*

*Whereas, Judge Terri Stupica is being recognized by Legal Aid with the 2024 Community Impact Award for her significant pro bono commitment, at Legal Aid's 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on November 25, 2024; and*

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners are extremely pleased to recognize Judge Terri Stupica for her tireless commitment to and outstanding Volunteer work with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*

*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 – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING KIMBERLY BARNETT-MILLS  
FOR HER COMMITMENT AND OUTSTANDING WORK WITH THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY  
OF CLEVELAND**

*Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak on behalf of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to approve and execute Resolution #24-194 recognizing Kimberly Barnett-Mills for her commitment and outstanding work with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Resolution: #24-194*

*Date: November 19, 2024*

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING KIMBERLY BARNETT-MILLS FOR HER COMMITMENT AND  
OUTSTANDING WORK WITH THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND**

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*Whereas, established in 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is the oldest legal aid organization in Ohio and the fifth oldest in the United States, and for 119 years, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has focused on securing justice and changing lives; and*

*Whereas, today, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland continues to secure justice, equity, and access to opportunity for and with people who have low incomes through passionate legal representation and advocacy for systemic change. This mission centers on our vision for Northeast Ohio to be a place in which all people experience dignity and justice, free from poverty and oppression; and*

*Whereas, in 2023, Legal Aid served 24,419 people and groups through 9,079 cases, increased assets and income and reduced debt for our clients by more than \$10.47 million; and*

*Whereas, throughout Legal Aid's history, many Legal Aid staff members – such as Kimberly Barnett-Mills – have ensured the mission stays alive through their efforts; and*

*Whereas, Kimberly Barnett-Mills has been a leader at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, from serving as a Senior Attorney in the Family Law Practice Group to Supervising Attorney in the Intake & Volunteer Lawyers Program to her current position as Managing Attorney for Community Engagement; and*

*Whereas, Kimberly Barnett-Mills is being recognized by Legal Aid with the 2024 Claude E. Clarke Award for outstanding service through professional performance and commitment to Legal Aid and its clients at Legal Aid's 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on November 25, 2024; and*

*Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners are extremely pleased to recognize Kimberly Barnett-Mills for her tireless commitment to and outstanding work with The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*

*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>

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

*Tue., 11/19 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, Board of Directors meeting, 2:00 p.m. Warren, District Office*

*Tue., 11/26 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Thu., 11/28 **County Offices will be closed for general business in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as normal.***

*Fri., 11/29 **County offices under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will be closed for general business. Twenty-four hour operations will continue to operate as usual.***

*Tue., 12/3 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*12/4 – 12/6 CCAO Winter Conference, Columbus, Ohio*

*Tue., 12/10 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room A334, Chardon*

*Tue., 12/10 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Tue. 12/17 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

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**QUESTIONS**

*Gail Rousey from the League of Women Voters asked for clarification on who was appointed to the Board for Aquilla Village and the name of the law firm used for Judge Grendell. It was noted that Mr. Dvorak was going to sit on the Transition Supervisory Board and that Montgomery Johnson was the name of the firm.*

***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*

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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*