

Commissioners' Journal
December 27, 2024

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 27, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, in the large Conference Rooms A333-A334 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 9:35 a.m., asking that anyone who wishes to speak at the end, please sign the list. Mr. Spidalieri then asked everyone to stand and led the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Prayer About Truth

Lord, Jesus Christ, You are the way, the truth and the life

Hear our prayers for truth and integrity. In all segments of society today

May the truth be spoken by us and affirmed in others, that in seeking truth, the world will come to find you, the source of all truth.

Amen

FINANCIALS

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on financials from December 19, 2024, Resolution #24-218 that included an Appropriation transfer from the Auditor's Office in ARPA to move funds to cover General Fund payroll payments and from the Planning Commission, Supplemental appropriations and de-appropriations from Job and Family Services, the Sheriff, and the Law Library to adjust accounts and funds to balance to year end, a payment for the ADP Board to Entco Government Software LLC in payment of an Agreement to Release All Claims approved by the Board to avoid litigation with the company regarding a service agreement in the amount of \$25,000.00. A payment for Job and Family Services to the ESC of the Western Reserve for October Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program costs in the amount of \$13,295.79. A payment for Maintenance to the East Ohio Gas Company for utility bills at various County Buildings in the amount of \$8,503.40 and Revenue Certification and De-Certification from Job and Family Services in their Workforce Investment fund for budgeted revenue that they did not receive in 2024 in order to balance out the fund for yearend; as approved by the County Administrator pursuant to Resolution #24-011 approved January 8, 2024 to authorize the County Administrator to execute, in the case of a lack of quorum of Commissioners and / or if session is cancelled on a regular financial day or on a day when financials need to be approved, the required approvals for county financials on behalf of the Board during the Year 2024, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on what he approved on December 23, 2024 that included for Maintenance to approve hiring Robert Drotlelf to the position of Full-time Custodian (#1906) to be effective January 6, 2025 at the rate of \$17.61 per hour (Grade 6, Step 5) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; for a Liquor License that Concurred with the Auburn Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Auburn Patio LLC d.b.a. The Patio Bar and Grill located at 10584 Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (C TRFO 7043865) and Concurred with the Montville Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Cantinis Country Store Incorporated d.b.a. Cantinis Country Store located at 9706 Madison Road, 1st Floor only, Montville, Ohio (C TRFO 1216859) and on December 26, 2024 for Maintenance, Rescinded the action from December 23, 2024 that read: Approved hiring Robert Drotlelf to the position of Full-time Custodian (#1906) to be effective January 6, 2025 at the rate of \$17.61 per hour (Grade 6, Step 5) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions; 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.

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APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including an Appropriation transfer from the Auditor's Office in ARPA to move funds to cover remaining projects in infrastructure, Appropriation transfer from the Auditor's Office in their ADP Contract Services Fund to move money into Equipment and in the REAF fund to true up salaries accounts for year end, Supplemental De-Appropriations from the Juvenile Court and Engineer to balance out various funds for year end, Cash transfer from the ADP Contract Services fund to move unexpended funds from their operations with other outside government agencies into the General Fund, and Revenue De-Certifications from the Engineer in their Storm Water funds for budgeted revenue that they did not receive in 2024 in order to balance out the funds for year end.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-219 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 27, 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 AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE GEAUGA COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS 2010-CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ADMINISTRATION FUND TO THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve and execute a resolution that transfers funds from the Clerk of Courts Title Fund to the County General Fund which moves the ARPA funds used for payroll back into the General Fund.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-220 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the Geauga County Clerk of Courts 2010-Certificate of Title Administration Fund to the County General Fund.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 27, 2024

Resolution: # 24-220

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE GEAUGA COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS 2010-CERTIFICATE OF TITLE ADMINISTRATION FUND TO THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2002, the Board of Commissioners ("Board") passed Resolution # 22-053 electing the \$ 10 million standard allowance ("Standard Allowance") available under the revenue loss provision of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA); and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2024, the Board passed Resolution # 24-144 approving the use of the Standard Allowance funds for the payment of salaries and benefits of designated employees and elected officials providing government services; and

WHEREAS, at some point after implementation of Resolution # 24-144, the Board discovered that Standard Allowance funds were being used for not only General Fund payroll submissions but also payroll submissions paid out of funds outside the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, because the Board only intended Standard Allowance monies to be used for General Fund payroll submissions, on October 10, 2024, the Board passed Resolution # 24-180 requesting Standard Allowance funds be used for General Fund payroll submissions for the remainder of 2024, and not for payroll submissions paid out of any other funds. The Board also requested the return of any Standard Allowance funds used to pay salaries and benefits from funds outside the General Fund, to correct the unintended consequences of Resolution # 24-144; and

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WHEREAS, the Clerk of Courts 2010-Certificate of Title Administration Fund ("Title Administration Fund" or "Fund") is a special fund outside the General Fund from which a portion of the Clerk of Court's payroll submissions are paid; and

WHEREAS, Standard Allowance funds were used to pay payroll submissions from the Title Administration Fund for payrolls 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 after the passage of Resolution # 24-144 ; and

WHEREAS, R.C. 325.33 permits a Clerk of Court to transfer monies in a Title Administration Fund after monies in the Fund are used to pay the required title processing costs as well as the Clerk's annual pay supplement. Any excess monies in the Title Administration Fund can be transferred to the County General Fund and used for other county purposes if the Clerk of Courts and a Board of Commissioners agree there are excess funds; and

WHEREAS, in the spirit of cooperation, the Clerk of Court has elected to agree to the transfer of excess funds in the Title Administration Fund in the amount of the payroll submissions paid with Standard Allowance funds; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk and the Board agree there are excess funds in the Title Administration Fund and desire to transfer excess funds in the amount of \$ 65,777.71 from the Fund to the General Fund, in accordance with R.C. 325.33.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that excess funds in the amount of \$ 65,777.71 shall be transferred from the Title Administration Fund to the General Fund in order to correct, in part, the unintended consequences of Resolution # 24-144.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESCIND MOTIONS – DECEMBER 17, 2024 – RESOLUTION #24-212 IMPROVE FAIRMOUNT ROAD, #24-213 IMPROVE SPERRY ROAD, #24-214 IMPROVE GINGERICH ROAD, #24-215 IMPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE AND #24-216 IMPROVE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF COUNTY ROADS – APPLYING PAVEMENT MARKINGS YEAR 2025

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar explained that the next items are to rescind motions approved last week, as a commissioner was unable to attend the whole meeting.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to rescind the motion from December 17, 2024 that read: approve and execute Resolution #24-212 to Improve Fairmount Road (CH-0016, Sections C-F) in Russell and Newbury Townships.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to rescind the motion from December 17, 2024 that read: approve and execute Resolution #24-213 to Improve Sperry Road (CH-0012, Sections B-G) in Chester, Newbury and Russell Townships.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to rescind the motion from December 17, 2024 that read: approve and execute Resolution #24-214 to Improve Gingerich Road (CH-0034, Section A) in Burton Township.

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

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Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to rescind the motion from December 17, 2024 that read: approve and execute Resolution #24-215 to Improve the Replacement of the Haskins Road Bridge (Structure BR-0191-03.21) in Bainbridge Township.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to rescind the motion from December 17, 2024 that read: approve and execute Resolution #24-216 to Improve Various Sections of County Roads by Applying Pavement Markings, Year 2025.

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

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the following resolutions as a full board is required for approvals.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE FAIRMOUNT ROAD –
RUSSELL AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIPS

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-221 to Improve Fairmount Road (CH-0016, Sections C-F) in Russell and Newbury Townships.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 27, 2024

Resolution: #24 - 221

**RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE FAIRMOUNT ROAD (CH-0016), SECTIONS C-E
IN RUSSELL AND NEWBURY TOWNSHIPS**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements of Fairmount Road (CH-0016) Sections C-E, from Chillicothe Road (SR 306) to Sperry Road (CH 12) in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the

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Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Russell Township and Newbury Township Boards of Trustees and the Geauga County Engineer.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE SPERRY ROAD – CHESTER, NEWBURY AND RUSSELL TOWNSHIPS

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-222 to Improve Sperry Road (CH-0012, Sections B-G) in Chester, Newbury and Russell Townships.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 27, 2024

Resolution: #24 - 222

**RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
SPERRY ROAD (CH-0012), SECTIONS B-G
IN CHESTER, NEWBURY AND RUSSELL TOWNSHIPS**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined the public convenience, and welfare requires the improvements of Sperry Road (CH-0012) Sections B-G, from Kinsman Road (SR 87) to Mayfield Road (US 322) in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a

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time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

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

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

*COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE GINGERICH ROAD,
BURTON TOWNSHIP*

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-223 to Improve Gingerich Road (CH-0034, Section A) in Burton Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 27, 2024
Resolution: #24 - 223

*RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE
GINGERICH ROAD (CH-0034), SECTION A
IN BURTON TOWNSHIP*

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements of Gingerich Road (CH-0034) Section A, from Tavern Road (SR 168) to Kinsman Road (SR 87) in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvements by constructing and reconstructing culverts, performing drainage improvements, subgrade stabilization, asphalt resurfacing, shoulder, and related improvements, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs, and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs, and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

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

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #24-224 to Improve the Replacement of the Haskins Road Bridge (Structure BR-0191-03.21) in Bainbridge Township.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 27, 2024
Resolution: #24 - 224

*RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE,
STRUCTURE BR-0191-03.21 (SFN 2830736) IN BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP*

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County (Board) has determined the public convenience and welfare requires the reconstruction of the bridge over the McFarland Creek on Haskins Road (TR-0191), at mile marker 03.210, and the grading, paving, widening, and draining of a portion of Haskins Road in the immediate vicinity of the bridge in accordance with Section 5555.022 of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the public convenience and welfare requires the replacement and reconstruction of the bridge, by the removal of the existing bridge structure, installation of a new bridge structure and the grading, paving, widening, and draining of the road in the immediate vicinity of the bridge as required.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Geauga County Engineer is hereby directed to complete necessary surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates of cost and specifications as required for the improvement and to transmit copies of the same to this Board at the time such plans are completed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no special assessments to real estate will be assessed to cover the damages, costs and expenses of constructing this improvement and that the compensation, damages, costs and expenses of constructing said improvement shall be appointed as follows:

The engineering and right of way costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funding sources. The construction costs shall be paid from local roadway improvement funds and any federal and/or state grants and/or loans that may be secured for the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if preliminary designs show that the project cannot be built within the current right of way, pursuant to Section 5555.09 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Geauga County Engineer is granted permission to negotiate with owners to secure the lands, right-of-way, easements, or work agreements required for the improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Clerk is hereby directed, upon the filing of the plans, specifications, estimates, etc., for the improvement by the County Engineer, to schedule a time at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Board to review the copies of the surveys, plans, profiles, cross sections, estimates and specifications for the improvement.

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

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COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – APPROVE RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE AND PAVING GUARANTEES BEING HELD FOR HUNTING VALLEY PRESERVE SUBDIVISION – CHESTER TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve release of the maintenance and paving guarantees for Hunting Valley Preserve.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the release of the Maintenance (\$50,000.00) and Paving (\$45,000.00) Guarantees being held for the Hunting Valley Preserve Subdivision in Chester Township as the owner of record, NCR Ventures, (owner Rick Doody) has performed all pavement and maintenance guarantee work as required. (Hunting Ridge was accepted for snow and ice control by Chester Township on December 19, 2017.)

<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>

PLANNING COMMISSION – FINAL PLAT -ARBORWOOD SUBDIVISION – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Planner II, Allyson Kobus asked the Board to approve and execute the final plat for Arborwood Subdivision which is a replat of Sublot 1 which creates Sublot 1A and 1B in Munson Township and was approved by Munson Township and the Planning Commission.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Final Plat for Arborwood Subdivision, Replat of Sublot 1, creating Sublot 1A and 1B in Munson 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>

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING SFY 2024-2025 MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT (MIPPA) AND MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS, LOW INCOME SUBSIDY AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE, STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SHIP)

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to authorize the President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging grant agreement that reimburses staff for assisting individuals to apply for the Medicare savings programs as well as advocacy in the community.

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 SFY 2024-2025 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 the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025 in the amount of \$6,791.90.

<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 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – OBLIGATION OF SLFRF FUNDS – MCFARLAND CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES

Fiscal and Personnel Specialist Kathleen Miller asked the Board to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for an obligation of SLFRF Funds for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades project in the amount of \$5,000,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Obligation of SLFRF Funds between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the Department of Water Resources for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

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Upgrades as identified in Resolution #24-004 in the not to exceed amount of \$5,000,000.00.

<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 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – OBLIGATION OF SLFRF FUNDS – SERVICES CENTER DRINKING WATER SYSTEM UPGRADES

Ms. Miller asked the Board to execute the Memorandum of Understanding for the obligation of SLFRF Funds for the Services Center Drinking Water System Upgrades in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Obligation of SLFRF Funds between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and the Department of Water Resources for the Services Center Drinking Water System Upgrades as identified in Resolution #24-148 in the not to exceed amount of \$1,000,000.00.

<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 – APPROVE LIST OF DELINQUENT SEWER USER FEES, WATER FEES, TAP-IN INSTALLMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFICATION TO THE AUDITOR

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the list of delinquent sewer user fees, water fees, tap-in installments and certify the list to the County Auditor in accordance with the Water Resources Rules and Regulations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the submission of the list of delinquent sewer user fees, water fees, tap-in installments and subsequent certification to the Geauga County Auditor, in accordance with O.R.C. 6117.02 and the Geauga County Department of Water Resources Rules and Regulations (Section F.501) in the total amount of \$599,447.73 (\$564,645.25 Arrearage and \$34,802.48 Penalty).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – SWIFT FIRST AID

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the following service contract agreements for this year. Swift First Aid fills our first aid kits at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Swift First Aid to perform refilling first aid kits at various locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – HANNON ELECTRIC COMPANY

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Hannon Electric for electrical work and repairs.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Hannon Electric Company to

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perform Electrical work including motor and blower service and repairs at various locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – NATIONAL PUMP AND PROCESS, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with National Pump and Process to perform pump maintenance at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with National Pump and Process, Incorporated to perform pump maintenance at various locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MCDONALD EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with McDonald Equipment to perform generator and equipment service and repairs at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with McDonald Equipment Company, Incorporated to perform generator and equipment services and repairs, as needed at wastewater and water district locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 (\$6,000.00 wastewater and \$4,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GEAUGA DOOR SALES AND SERVICE, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Geauga Door Sales and Service to do door repair services as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Geauga Door Sales and Service, Incorporated to perform Door Repair services as needed at various Wastewater and Water District locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 (\$5,000.00 wastewater and \$5,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – TIM FRANK SEPTIC TANK CLEANING COMPANY

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Tim Frank Septic Tank Cleaning to do emergency sludge hauling and vector services if needed.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Tim Frank Septic Tank Cleaning

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Company to perform emergency sludge hauling and vector services for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – AUBURN FENCE CORPORATION

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Auburn Fence to do repair, replacement and installation as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Auburn Fence Corporation to perform fence repair, replacement, and installation as needed at Wastewater and Water District locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 (\$10,000.00 wastewater and \$5,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – EMERY ELECTRIC, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Emery Electric to do electrical repairs as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Emery Electric, Incorporated to perform electrical repairs as needed at Wastewater and Water District locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 (\$30,000.00 wastewater and \$15,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BUCKEYE POWER SALES

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Buckeye Power Sales to do generator service and repairs as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Buckeye Power Sales to perform Generator services and repairs as needed at various Wastewater and Water District locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 (\$15,000.00 wastewater and \$5,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – WORKMAN INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Workman Industrial Services to perform emergency rehabilitation and improvements as needed at wastewater locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Workman Industrial Services, Incorporated to perform Emergency rehabilitation and improvements as needed

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at various Wastewater locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – CLEVELAND TREE AND STUMP

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Cleveland Tree and Stump for tree removal services as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Cleveland Tree and Stump to perform tree removal services at various Wastewater and Water District locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 (\$30,000.00 wastewater and \$5,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – SUNRISE SPRINGS WATER COMPANY

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Sunrise Springs Water Company for iron filter and water softener installations and required maintenance and filter replacements as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Sunrise Springs Water Company to provide iron filter and water softener installations, and required maintenance and filter replacements, as needed at various locations for the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – MACK INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Mack Industries for repair services as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Mack Industries, Incorporated to perform Repair services, as needed at various Wastewater and Water District locations within the department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 (\$10,000.00 wastewater and \$5,000.00 water).

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GEAUGA COATINGS

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the service contract with Geauga Coatings for concrete leveling and coating services as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Geauga Coatings to perform concrete leveling and coating services as needed at various locations within the

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department for a one-year period, effective January 1, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

<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 – AGREEMENT – GLAUS, PYLE SCHOMER BURNS AND DEHAVEN INCORPORATED D.B.A. GPD GROUP – ENGINEERING SERVICES

Ms. Miller asked the Board to approve the agreement with Glaus, Pyle Schomer Burns and DeHaven d.b.a. GPD Group for Engineering Services as needed at various locations.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Glaus Pyle Schomer Burns and DeHaven Incorporated d.b.a. GPD Group for Engineering Services, as needed at various locations in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.

<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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT – SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve the Letter of Engagement with Squire Patton Boggs to be our Bond Counsel for the year 2025.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Letter of Engagement with Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP for County of Geauga, Ohio Continuing Disclosure and Economic Development Matters, for the Year 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$8,500.00.

<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 – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION: OUTSIDE COUNSEL – MEYERS ROMAN FRIEDBURG AND LEWIS

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to approve the letter of representation with Meyers Roman Friedburg and Lewis for outside counsel during the year when the Prosecutors' Office is unable to provide service.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Letter of Representation: Outside Counsel with Meyers Roman Friedburg and Lewis for the Year 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, unless prior approval by the Board.

<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>

GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY – POULTRY BARN

Fair Board Trustee Jim McCaskey explained that they wanted to thank the Commissioners for their support of the 4-H program. Mr. McCaskey explained that they presented a single barn option, and the Board approved \$750,000.00 of funding towards the project, however they are trying to entertain the idea of two buildings due to soil samples and grading at the site location. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that the Board provided funding towards the project and he appreciates the clarification and transparency, and it makes sense to do two vs. one building. The Board wanted to assist with providing funds to solve the issue over the poultry program outgrowing the space. Commissioner Lennon expressed that the Board is providing funds towards the project and that it is up to the Fair Board to determine what is best. Mr. Morgan expressed that we will need to amend the previous resolutions that were done as they were done for a single building of 14,000 square feet. Clerk Christine Blair expressed that we would need to work with the

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Prosecutor's Office to amend the previous resolutions, having them updated to reflect two buildings.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AUTHORIZE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE THE REQUIRED APPROVALS FOR FINANCIALS ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD DURING THE YEAR 2025

Mr. Morgan asked the Board to authorize the County Administrator to approve financials if needed on a non-session day or as needed for the year 2025.

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the County Administrator the authority to execute, in case of a lack of quorum of Commissioners and / or if session is cancelled on a regular financial day or on a day when financials need to be approved, the required approvals for county financials on behalf of the Board during the Year 2025, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30, and which duties shall be performed under the direction and supervision of the commissioners.

<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 – APPROVE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025

Ms. Blair expressed that she has set up the meeting schedule for 2025 at the current Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. time with changes around holidays that fall on Monday and include the fair meeting.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the Meeting Schedule for 2025.

<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>

DOG WARDEN – PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Spidalieri expressed that before the Board did their work session, he was going to allow for public comment on the Dog Warden. Mr. Spidalieri thanked everyone here this morning for showing their support and he feels that this is a step in the right direction, that we work for you, and while the Board has rules to follow, we look to the residents for good forward motions to serve the county better and that includes our four-legged furry friends. Last week was difficult for him as he didn't know about the issue, and if there is a problem with an employee, that is normally handled in a different manner, with the County Administrator or in an executive session. Mr. Spidalieri noted that Mr. Dvorak asked for it to be placed on the agenda and that was not how to do business. Mr. Spidalieri asked if the other Commissioners wanted to add anything and to limit public comment to about 2 minutes so that everyone has a chance to speak.

Mr. Dvorak started by saying that he handled things incorrectly, and wanted to provide some history, noting that in April they had a private meeting with Mr. Granito, Mr. Morgan, Sheriff Hildenbrand and Chief Deputy Rowan. Sheriff Hildenbrand invited him to this meeting about the Dog Warden about a communication issue between the Dog Warden and the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Dvorak expressed that the meeting was heated, some promises were made and not kept between the two, it got better for a few weeks and then it went back to the way it was. Mr. Dvorak stated that a shelter is required in the ORC, and we will always have one, that a private meeting did not fix it and that's why he brought it out in the open to try and fix the matter.

Mr. Lennon expressed that today is his last meeting, and agrees with Mr. Spidalieri that this is not the way to conduct business with a public employee, agreeing with the Sheriff that he has a job to do and if that is not getting done, that is a problem. However, the Dog Warden and his responsibilities go beyond responding to the Sheriff and Police departments in this county. He thinks you can tell by the turn out today the gigantic volunteer group behind the dog warden and shelter and what they do. Mr. Lennon during budget hearings would ask if the Dog Warden needed funding, they are unique situation as they are taken care of by fees and fines and donations, including from people's wills. Mr. Lennon asked if there is more, they could do with the facility and in hindsight it should have been addressed. As of today, he has more questions, than answers and he will not be part of the decision-making, as a new commissioner with this

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board will have to make that decision. Mr. Lennon expressed that he is a lifelong resident of this county, that his kids are being raised here and he has no plans of going anywhere. He doesn't see the need to throw the baby out with the bathwater in this case, but it does sound like there are issues to be addressed. He thanked everyone for coming in today and those in attendance should be proud of themselves.

Mr. Spidalieri opened the floor up to the residents who signed in on the list that wished to speak on behalf of the dog warden, limiting the time.

Dog Warden, Matt Granito asked to speak, the crowd showed their enthusiasm with cheers and claps. Mr. Granito expressed that he was overwhelmed. Mr. Granito explained that he has been doing this for over thirty years, in Lake, Geauga and Cleveland APL. Mr. Granito stated that he has a high school diploma, starting as a kennel cleaner, went on to become the Animal Cruelty officer in Cuyahoga County, working with Dick Goddard on the Goddard Law, has testified against gas chambers in county run facilities, continues to strive to help as many animals as possible and people as possible. Mr. Granito stated that he respects the Geauga County Sheriff, Chief Rowan and what they do, however they have a difference of opinions on how to run the cases we see. In April we did have a meeting, it was heated, and it was a discussion about what what the officers and we can do in situations, they are trying to help the people, and we are trying to help the dog and the duties collide. Taking a dog out of a house is what he wants to do, but he has to look at the rights of the people and the county to protect humans from overzealous ability to unilaterally decide what dogs he can take and which ones he can't. It's a difficult task, the staff is amazing, whatever happens he wants to mend the relationships that are strained, including Mr. Dvorak, about this meeting in April and expressed to Mr. Dvorak that if he wanted Mr. Granito to take the dogs, understand that the Board is liable for it and don't hang the Dog Warden out to dry if a dog dies. Mr. Dvorak agreed for Mr. Granito to not take the dogs, but to fix the problem, get this solved. Mr. Granito brought an email to the Sheriff and Prosecutor that asked for help, that the law gives him limited options to seize a dog, unless its unlicensed or running at large. It's a battle that he has been fighting that no one is listening to the problem to tell him what to do. Mr. Granito stated that he will pick up every dog if that is what they want to do. If the Board chooses to have the Sheriff's Office take over, the deputies will continue to do a good job, however, his life will be changed forever, it already has, and it is difficult that the politics have gotten involved in a dog shelter. Mr. Granito expressed that he and his family have been called; some people have told him to resign. Mr. Granito noted that there are two other rooms of people watching and listening to the meeting today.

Mr. Granito feels that they can continue to work on mending the issues we have. Mr. Granito explained that he has spoken with new Commissioner Brakey and feels she is an amazing woman, and apologized that she has to go through this. Mr. Granito feels that the decision to transfer to the Sheriff's Office is the wrong decision, that it will hurt the community, the shelter and the dogs. Some things he has heard was that he said the f bomb, and he did, he said it four times, and he was saying it because that is what he was told on the phone, though he was doing his job and doing it in the way he thought was the best way in the situation. His deputy made a mistake, the dog went through the same process we still have to do. The dog was taken care of and the victim was not in harm's way after that incident happened. Mistakes were made, we review it and keep moving forward, the lack of communication and not coming together is being pushed on to me. He has made phone calls and emails and has asked for help, but he needs support from his bosses. Mr. Granito stated that he never heard from anyone since April. He did not know that the Sheriff was going to stand up in the public to say that he wanted Mr. Granito's job, that he wanted him gone, because he wasn't doing his job. Mr. Granito stated that if he stays he will still work for the Board.

Mr. Granito explained that he has four Great Danes in his shelter, that the Sheriff called and said a dog was hit by a car, so they responded with the Deputy. When they arrived the dogs had gone back into the house, but they felt the dog was injured, the smell was horrendous, and they felt that they might have a dead body inside. Mr. Granito and the Deputy entered the home. They found 4 dogs, two adults and two puppies. He removed the dogs and the deputies continued to do what they needed to do, then it became a question of what is next. Mr. Granito stated that it became a humane officer case, and that they needed to contact them. The Dog Warden can get a warrant issued by the Judge and go back to get the dogs, but they didn't have time for that. Mr. Granito called the humane officer to come out and do the investigation. He never got a call back, so he called Andrea at Rescue Village and she stated to Mr. Granito under ORC 955.12 you can do animal cruelty, and he was surprised that she knew his code that well.

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Mr. Granito took the dogs, because the Sheriff's Deputy didn't know what to do. This is a possible liability. Mr. Granito was told to do the investigation. The one dog was taken to Burton Vet and had numerous stiches, and he may lose his leg, but they will do what they need to and help him and keep him alive. Mr. Granito called the owner to try and get custody turned over, and learned that the owner had called the office about two weeks ago and that he needed help, but he was referred to Rescue Village and is yet to hear if he called them. These are the cases that they are dealing with. There was a cat in the house, and he can't do cats, so again the Deputy asked what they do, and again it's up to the humane officer.

Mr. Granito apologized for what he did, that the Sheriff's Deputies are great and do a great job, but feels that the higher political people need to let us do our job. He hopes they can continue and have a great relationship and go out and solve the problem.

The following individuals expressed their strong feelings, presented a copy of a petition being circulated for signatures, including asking about standard operating procedures, communication, questioning information about Rescue Village and the Humane Society, facts and more about the Dog Warden, the Dog Shelter and how they operate, with concern over no radios, including how the dog they adopted saved their life and the importance of the shelter to people, that they donate after death, and statistics of our shelter and how much better they are vs. other shelters and the state.

Amy Beichler, Executive Director from PAWS Ohio, Lisa Lowery (volunteer), Jody Danko (retired police officer from Cuyahoga County and Geauga resident), Nick Dybo (Gauga resident), John Danko (fairly new resident to Geauga – 13 years, but law enforcement background), Anita Silvermae (former volunteer), Marcia Gabriel (Lake County resident – adopted a Tennessee dog), Judy Jacobson (with dog Drake, 1st transfer dog for MOCO – now a service dog), Carol Black (Gauga resident), Kim Kingett and Laurie Herr-Byrnes (volunteers), Jane Rice-Chambers (rescued dog) Kathy Armstrong (Gauga resident), Dr. Thomas McIntyre (rescues older dogs, resident), Ann Goss (Gauga resident), Christine Perkins (shelter needs work). In the middle of the residents speaking, Mr. Lennon expressed he was going to make one last motion today.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROPRIATE FUNDS – RENOVATION OF DOG SHELTER

Motion: by Commissioner Lennon, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve the appropriation of \$250,000.00 to the renovation of the Dog Shelter.

<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>

Thomas Dea (rescued dog from shelter from Ashtabula County), Joyce Hannah, Mary Halasz, Marilyn Kirchase, Lauren Sammen (CLE pups). There was discussion about the shelter operating on fines and fees, and adoptions of dogs, often brought in from other areas, including Tennessee. The dogs adopted are revenue for the shelter and the dogs from outside have to be medically cleared so there is no cost to Geauga, just a revenue from the adoption. The Board noted that they had done the roof and the driveway. Jim Duralia (long time Geauga resident, previous volunteer), Jillian Crestman (Gauga resident and volunteer) and Christine Wrona (Gauga resident).

There were many others that signed the sheet, but others had expressed the same feelings as them and chose not to speak.

Mr. Dvorak expressed that they would be doing some additional research and make a statement in the next few weeks. Mr. Lennon added that unless you want career suicide, you don't dismiss Mr. Granito as the dog warden.

Mr. Lennon asked Commissioner Elect Carolyn Brakey to come up and introduce herself.

Ms. Brakey moved to the table with the Board.

Mr. Spidalieri thanked everyone for being there, sharing their words and their passion that opened a lot of dialogue to move forward. Mr. Spidalieri thanked Mr. Lennon for his service for the last 8 years and he will be truly missed. Mr. Lennon expressed that Ms. Brakey will do a

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good job and that they will be in good hands. Mr. Lennon thanked everyone, including the staff for everything they do, and that he learned something new almost every day. Mr. Dvorak added that he worked with Mr. Lennon for the last six years and while they may not always agree they respect each other.

A question was asked about when the decision about employees gets made. Mr. Spidalieri stated on January 7th, it is part of the work session they will be doing. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that Mr. Granito worked so hard to not burden the taxpayers with using funds, and this has really opened all of our eyes to move forward and look at it in a different perspective. If they didn't care they wouldn't be here and if we didn't care we wouldn't be here.

The Board gave the crowd a few minutes to leave the room before moving on.

The Commissioners moved into the Work Session at 12:26 p.m.

Mr. Spidalieri went through the following list of items slated for the organizational meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – WORK SESSION – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 2025
2025-Organization Meeting – January 7, 2025

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board appoint _____ as President of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners for 2025.

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board appoint _____ as Vice President of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners for 2025.

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board adopt the Geauga County Commissioners' meeting schedule for 2025:

GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SCHEDULE INFORMATION FOR 2025:

- 1. Sessions / Meetings will be held at the Geauga County Commissioners' offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon, (whether regular, special or emergency) or any alternate location as necessary, with legally-required notice of changed location provided, or if permitted by law to be held virtual, with access information provided:*
- 2. Regular Sessions / Meetings held every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.*
- 3. Adjustments made to add a Thursday regular session / meeting at 9:30 a.m. due to Holidays, or to schedule any additional regular meetings as needed to meet the required number of meetings for the year*
- 4. Requests for reasonable advance notification of all Commissioners meetings at which any specific type of public business is to be discussed may be requested of the Commissioners' Clerk, provisions for advance notification may include, but are not limited to, emailing the agenda of meetings to all subscribers on a distribution list or by self-addressed stamped envelope provided by the person requesting the information.*
- 5. The Board may have additional meetings, as required, at the time and place designated.*
- 6. Any meeting called by Geauga County officeholders, department heads, County Administrator or the county's legal counsel.*
- 7. Any meetings of the Geauga County Township Association*
- 8. Any meetings of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio (CCAO).*
- 9. Any regular or special meetings of the following Boards or Councils at which a quorum of the Board of Commissioners is or may be present:*
 - a. Any township Board of Trustees meeting & City and Village Council*
 - b. Geauga County Board of Health*
 - c. Geauga County Health Advisory Council*
 - d. Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District*
 - e. Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District meetings*
 - f. Planning Commission*
 - g. Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA)*
 - h. Northeast Ohio Consortium Council of Governments (NOC COG)*
 - i. Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) meetings*
 - j. Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center (will be removed – currently not done)*

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Mr. Spidalieri briefly explained how the detention center was working, the amount of funding we paid out, that we have pulled out and they are working on the walk away amount on it, we might be able to come to a decision. Geauga County should get back 22% since they put the funding into it initially.

- k. Investment Advisory Committee
- l. Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) District 7 Integrating Committee (Issue I)
- m. Geauga County Agricultural Society (Fair Board meetings)
- n. Meetings to honor any invitations received by the Geauga County Commissioners to attend ground breakings, openings, celebrations, memorial services and/or parades
- o. Meetings with any organization or other political entities to discuss items of mutual concern

The time, place and purpose of all special meetings in addition to regularly scheduled meetings, will be given at least twenty-four hours in advance of such meeting to the news media that have requested notification except in the event of an emergency requiring immediate official action. In the event of an emergency, the Board member or Board members calling the meeting shall notify the news media that have requested notification immediately of the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve the appointments of members of the Board of County Commissioners to boards and committees for 2025 as follows:

There was a brief discussion about the rotation they have been doing regarding the President and Vice President seats. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he was willing to do whatever they would like to do. Mr. Dvorak would move into the President seat, and then whomever for the Vice President position.

Board President – _____
Board Vice President – _____

The Board went through the following list of Boards, a little about them and who would like to sit on which board.

* Board President required being the Primary

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
1. ADP Board		
2. Board of Revision		
3. Community Corrections		
4. Courthouse Security Advisory Committee*	President	
5. Family First		
6. Financial Review and Report Committee(FRRC)*	President	
7. Geauga County Agricultural Society	All three Commissioners	
8. Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste - Policy *	President	
8. Geauga-Trumbull SW- Board of Directors	All three Commissioners	
9. Health District Advisory Board*		
10. Investment Advisory Committee (2 commissioners)		
11. Microfilming Board		
12. NOACA (Three Commissioner And / or County Engineer	Spidalieri Brakey Dvorak	Joe Cattell Shane Hajjar Nick Gorris
13. NOC COG (Formerly GAPP)		
14. Planning Commission Board	All three Commissioners	
15. Records Commission*		
16. Revolving Loan and Local Revolving Loan** (*Two-year Appointments) – expires 12/31/2025	Dvorak	Lennon

We will have to appoint someone to fill Mr. Lennon's seat through the end of 2025. It's through Community and Economic Development. Mr. Spidalieri briefly explained what the loans include.

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The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve the appointments to the Board of Revision, with _____ as Primary and Alternates of _____, _____ and Gerard Morgan to be in effect for the year 2025.

Ms. Blair noted that there would be an additional action like this for the ADP Board.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS -

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board appoint Gerard Morgan, County Administrator.

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board appoint Linda Burhenne, Assistant County Administrator.

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board appoint Christine Blair as the Clerk to Commissioners' (#1306).

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve the following staff appointments:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
<i>Director, Department on Aging</i>	<i>Jessica Boalt</i>
<i>Director, Community and Economic Development</i>	<i>Gina Hofstetter</i>
<i>Chief Building Enforcement Official</i>	<i>Dan Spada</i>
<i>Director, Department of Emergency Services</i>	<i>Roger Peterson</i>
<i>Director, Job and Family Services (124.11 (A) 22)</i>	<i>Craig Swenson</i>
<i>Director, Maintenance</i>	<i>Glen Vernick</i>
<i>Director, Water Resources</i>	<i>Nicholas Gorris</i>
<i>Sanitary Engineer, Water Resources</i>	<i>Nicholas Gorris</i>
<i>Dog Warden</i>	<i>Matt Granito</i>

and acknowledge those staff appointments as placed in the unclassified service pursuant to O.R.C. 124.11 (A) (3) (b) and who are provided an Unclassified Service Explanation and Acknowledgement Form.

Mr. Spidalieri asked about Drainage Engineer. Ms. Blair explained that there will have to be a new MOU with the new Engineer and the Drainage Engineer's compensation is set by the Engineer's salary. There will be two steps this year.

Ms. Brakey brought up a quarterly meeting with the hospital to keep open lines of communication and then that person can report back to the rest of the board. Mr. Spidalieri talked about a Board member being a liaison between the Boards, noting the Fair Board, the Airport, etc. These are important, so that we are not breaking rules but keep the information lines open. Mr. Spidalieri expressed to Ms. Brakey that he was pleased that she had been coming to the meetings, so she isn't coming in not having knowledge. Mr. Spidalieri brought up the idea of having outside counsel present during our meetings, expressing that the Prosecutor sent a letter stating that we need to do a motion to request their office do everything. Ms. Brakey asked about the process now, using a personnel issue as an example. Mr. Morgan explained that right now, Ms. Hostutler, our HR person, handles it and then reaches out to the Prosecutor's Office for advice. We have been able to do some things, but we were being forced to do motions to request contracts be reviewed. Mr. Spidalieri added that we were in the middle of considering a purchase of property and that was not what we should have had to do. Ms. Brakey expressed that she felt there may be a trust issue, Ms. Burhenne added that as of late it seems to be better. She emails Ms. LaChapelle, and we are getting response. Ms. Blair added that if she has Questions, she can call her, and she will answer.

Ms. Blair added that there will be additional items that include prevailing wage, and powers for the County Administrator.

The Board moved back out of the Work Session at 1:01 p.m.

Commissioner Elect Carolyn Brakey asked the Board about the idea of recording and streaming the Commissioners' meetings. Ms. Brakey noted that the media was only able to see the meeting from last week due to the Jones posting their video on their site. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he felt that it may be a good idea, and that he may have had a different opinion in the past, however

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more recently people are looking at the spending that is happening by departments. Mr. Spidalieri noted that departments are sending three or more people to sit in on our meetings that are making six figures a year, and those people are not contributing to the content of the meeting. Ms. Brakey expressed that if the meetings are streamed, people can be listening while they are working on things and listen in on something that piques their interest. Mr. Spidalieri also brought up other platforms of media, like Facebook. Mr. Lennon added that then it becomes who is in charge of it, and the retention of it. Ms. Brakey talked about options that they could look into on how they can get the meetings streamed and asked if she could discuss that with ADP. Ms. Brakey expressed that sometimes people perform since they know they are being recorded and sometimes technology doesn't work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) Board of Developmental Disabilities November 20, 2024 Board meeting minutes
- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending December 11, 2024 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.
- c) The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of November 2024 pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Mon., 12/30 Board of Revision, Special Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room

Wed., 1/1 **County Offices will be closed in honor of New Year's Day. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal.**

Tue., 1/7 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. and include the Annual Organizational Meeting.

Tue., 1/14 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. (tentative – pending approval for 2025)

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Gauga County Board of Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri

James W. Dvorak

Timothy C. Lennon
Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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