

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 15, 2025 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, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:33 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:*

*Holy Week Prayer*

*Almighty Father,*

*I thank you for your gift of your son, Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead and redeemed humankind.*

*Fill us with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that we may be faithful disciples and enthusiastic witnesses of our faith. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!*

*He is risen indeed!*

*Amen*

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 1, 2025.*

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

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental Appropriation in the Airport Construction Fund in preparation for an expenditure for the building of a new T-hangar; Cash transfer from the General Fund Commissioners miscellaneous Levy Reimbursement account to the Job and Family Services Children's Services transfers in revenue account for the 1<sup>st</sup> half Children's Services levy reduction payment; Travel request for the Clerk of Court's Office; a payment for Job and Family Services to Preston Ford for a 2025 Ford Escape replacement vehicle in the amount of \$28,055.00, this vehicle is replacing a 2014 Jeep Patriot which will be auctioned; a payment for Water Resources to the Ohio Water Development Authority for the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Debt Admin Expenses in the amount of \$98,143.00.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute Resolution #25-065 itemizing the financials for the meeting of April 15, 2025.*

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

**AUDITOR/ADP**

*Auditor Chuck Walder and Frank Antenucci from ADP came before the Board to address some misinformation and clarify ADP's role in County Operations. Mr. Walder apologized if any of this is redundant, as they serve on different boards and have inside knowledge on how and why things occur. He wanted the commissioners to understand some of background information.*

*ADP Salaries:*

*County Archive and Records staff were transferred under resolution of the Board of County Commissioners to ADP effective January 1, 2024 without advanced warning or notice. Mr. Walder expressed that Ms. Burhenne was involved in that transfer and Mr. Dvorak served on the Archives and Records Board for many years. Upon the transfer of these employees, a salary review was made, and it became obvious that these employees' pay rates were below that which could easily be obtained working in the fast-food industry. Mr. Walder*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*stated that he made the decision to adjust the affected employees' rates to a more competitive level. These adjustments improved morale, increased the reasonable certainty of employee retention and improved our ability to fill vacant positions. Since the incorporation under ADP, this department's performance has been stellar. Mr. Walder has not received any complaints and has talked to several other elected officials who use their services and that the systems put into place when Ms. Burhenne was there to clear out some of the boxes that needed to be shredded is working and that backlog has been completed.*

*ADP technical personnel in general are paid under market rate when compared to other local government employers and private sector companies. This remains a concern for Mr. Walder as operations are dependent on well-trained Information Technology (IT) personnel for our day-to-day operation. Mr. Walder stated that the team is motivated and addressing concerns and needs throughout the county. Onboarding and training costs continue to skyrocket as the demand for experienced IT professionals is constantly increasing. The County's current experience with cyber events indicates that our dependency on having competent, educated, technical personnel will continue to increase and become even more important. He is always willing to justify these professionals' compensation and value to our taxpayers.*

*Every year, ADP's budget is reviewed, challenged, and justified to the BOCC, often times repeatedly, yet no similar oversight by the Commissioners appears to be made on certain outside agencies whose board members are appointed by the BOCC. In addition, even some hiring authorities within the County who are funded under the county's General Fund are permitted to waive their annual budget hearing before the Commissioners, resulting in virtually no oversight, justification or transparency to our taxpayers. Selecting one department to hyperfocus on while you are able to do, it just doesn't fully serve the public when you allow other agencies to not do that.*

*Apparent Confusion on Geauga County Office Building Audio/Video Equipment:*

*Mr. Walder expressed that it was perplexing that there continues to be confusion or question regarding the current audio/video equipment situation and how we got here. The decisions surrounding the selection, vetting, purchasing, configuration and supervision of installation of this equipment was made by the Commissioners, its staff, the owner's representative, and vendors. These decisions were under the authority and management of the Commissioners with little to no substantive involvement from ADP.*

*Mr. Walder gave the example of the long-standing battle with the Commissioners over the key card system. ADP did approve a key card system; however, it wasn't the one that was installed. ADP needed to figure out how to make it work, fix it and move forward.*

*Mr. Walder continued to state that he wanted to be clear, ADP did not select, vet, purchase, configure or supervise the installation of audio/video technology deployed within the County Office Building. ADP was excluded from the initial design phase of the building's interior layout and the audio/video technology deployed within it. Even though Mr. Walder is the statutory Administrator of ADP, he was not consulted on these critical design matters until well after construction had commenced, at which point he was actively engaged to ensure essential considerations for ADP's minimal operational needs. He personally reached out and negotiated with Geauga Public Health and secured necessary space for ADP personnel – a critical need that Geauga Public Health recognized. Securing even a minimal reconfiguration of that space required his repeated direct engagement with the County Administrator. And we all know or should know the ongoing issue of the adjacent conference space currently assigned to ADP.*

*Mr. Walder stated that to him, it is illogical to assume a modern office building can function effectively without the fundamental integration of technology services. Despite all of this, ADP has diligently worked to mitigate the consequences of numerous costly and avoidable errors made in the planning and construction phases of this building. The well-documented audio/video issues here in Commissioner's chambers are merely one symptom of the broader problems with the building's integrated technology, which has largely been unusable. These problems have been evident, or at least it should have been evident, to the Commissioners for several years now.*

*ADP has offered to investigate all technology issues surrounding the County Office Building construction, but doing so will require resources that must be balanced against our county-wide responsibilities. We remain committed to solving these problems going forward. However, attempting to rewrite the history of these technological failures through misrepresentation, or*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*assignment to ADP, is not being true to our taxpayers.*

*Live-stream Costs:*

*Inquiry has been made in a public meeting about live-streaming costs for session. Mr. Walder explained that he would provide a detailed breakdown. It is important to first clarify that prior to January 2025, the Commissioners had not requested live-streaming services from ADP while under my authority. In fact, the Commissioners had indicated a specific disinterest in this service. Following a request from Commissioner Brakey in January of this year, ADP provided various live-streaming options with associated details. The current temporary solution was subsequently approved by the Commissioners. ADP has committed to offering more permanent solution by July 2025.*

*To provide context on costs, ADP previously outsourced the live-streaming for Geauga Public Health meetings on YouTube at a cost of approximately \$1,000 per meeting. ADP is currently providing similar service to the Commissioners in-house for approximately \$150 per meeting. We are utilizing two technicians to ensure redundancy and proper training of personnel. You don't have a single point of failure, people get sick, take vacation and other commitments that they have to take on. Mr. Walder stated that we don't want to show up at 9:30 am and not having someone running the livestream. As the process matures and stabilizes, these costs will be further reduced. I am satisfied that ADP resources are being utilized efficiently and effectively to serve all our clients, including the Commissioners, with appropriate training and contingency planning.*

*Potential Email Breach:*

*Finally, recently made public statements have been made regarding a potential breach of Commissioner Spidalieri's, former Commissioner Lennon's and former Administrator Morgan's email accounts. This is deeply concerning in many ways. Anyone that asserts they are having something going on with their email is a category one for him. He went to ADP and asked what is going on, who has access, what reports have been made, what have we investigated and why haven't we heard about it? Given that the two former officials have been separated from the county for over three months, any such incident would predate this year. A review of ADP services logs has revealed no reported email anomalies or requests assigned to Commissioner Spidalieri, Mr. Lennon or Mr. Morgan's email accounts. There are multiple ways people can report incidents.*

*I am concerned as to why these suspected breaches were not reported to ADP, law enforcement, the Prosecutor, Homeland Security or another authority who could promptly investigate the matter. To publicly raise this serious matter now through public pronouncement, without any prior reporting or investigation, is incredibly problematic. We all have a duty to report any suspected nefarious activity on our infrastructure immediately. ADP has well established protocols for investigating security incidents, yet no one apparently felt it their duty or responsibility to ensure that our network and infrastructure remains secure by reporting this matter until now. Mr. Walder stated that they can call in experts to do an investigation, bringing up Dragos who were used during an investigation at a wastewater treatment plant was at risk. They can be expensive, but if the goal is to be safe and protected, then you have to spend the money to accomplish that.*

*Mr. Walder stated that he strongly encourages that a detailed incident report be filed so that an investigation into the matter can commence.*

*Commissioner Brakey asked how many people and who at ADP has the ability to access employee emails, and if you had a bad actor, would they be able to do the conduct being alleged? Mr. Antenucci explained that we treat our email access like law enforcement treats LEADS: restrict access, non-disclosure agreements for individuals who do have access, and is similar to what the Sheriff's Office does. They have a system of checks and balances on any email access, with two people in the security department and two people in the data department, and like LEADS there is logging. Mr. Antenucci explained that what they typically see is sharing of passwords. Ms. Brakey asked for reiteration, that Mr. Walder and Mr. Antenucci cannot access our emails. Mr. Walder replied that they have the same access that regular employees do, and why we are so concerned with others being able to have access. Mr. Antenucci stated that they have three levels of email protection to make sure hackers don't have access, along with the security of email.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

Mr. Walder said that there was an event yesterday, another government agency, a fire department within the county that accesses GIS data through Spillman at the Sheriff's Office. When they log into our system, our backbone looks to see if there could be harm, and identified a potential virus that detected ransomware and blocked them access, as a way to secure the county. Mr. Walder stated that within two hours, it had been identified, and that all the eyes that needed to be had were on it and then they went to work to solve it. In the arena of cybersecurity, it is a daily occurrence now and doesn't see it going away.

Mr. Walder thanked them for being early on in the agenda as he has another event he needs to attend and that is part of the reason why his staff are often here to answer questions if they are able.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RECONSTRUCTION OF BUTTERNUT ROAD – INCLUDING REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE AND RESURFACING OF SECTIONS A-C – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving for the reconstruction of Butternut Road, that includes the replacement of a structure and resurfacing of Sections A-C in Munson Township. Ms. Brakey inquired about the price variation in individual items listed in the bids and asked if they typically see that discrepancy among bidders. Mr. Hajjar stated that sometimes lump sum items are paid in full versus items paid per used and can use that as a tool in their bidding.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Reconstruction of Butternut Road (CH-0021), including the Replacement of Structure #0021-00.320 and the Resurfacing of Sections A-C in Munson Township in the amount of \$1,991,420.00 as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – GRADE LINE, INCORPORATED – REPLACEMENT OF CULVERTS ON VARIOUS ROADS – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve and execute the unit price contract with Grade Line for the replacement of culverts on various roads in Munson Township.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Unit Price Contract with Grade Line, Incorporated for the Replacement of Culverts on Various Roads in Munson Township in the amount of \$195,521.15.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP - EXECUTE TITLE SHEET – SET BID OPENING

Mr. Hajjar explained that these are new projects replacing two bridges. Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to order the replacement of the Haskins Road Bridge, to execute the title sheet of the specifications and set a bid opening and advertisement dates.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute Resolution #25-066 to Order the Replacement of the Haskins Road Bridge (Structure #0191-03.210) in Bainbridge Township.

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*Further, this resolution sets a Bid Opening using Bid Express at the County Engineer's Office on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 10:10 a.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on April 17, 2025, and on the county website.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: April 15, 2025*  
*Resolution: 25 – 066*

**RESOLUTION TO ORDER**  
**THE REPLACEMENT OF THE HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE,**  
**STRUCTURE #0191-03.210 IN BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP**

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (Board) has determined by Resolution 24 - 224 that the public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of the bridge over 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 Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.06; and*

*WHEREAS, lands will be taken relative to the improvements; and*

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

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

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

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

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby ordered to let this project for bids in accordance with R.C. 5555.61. The bids shall be let upon a unit price basis. Bids shall be received until 10:00 AM on May 02, 2025 and read publicly at 10:10 AM.*

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

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

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE REPLACEMENT OF THE RIVERVIEW DRIVE BRIDGE – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP – EXECUTE TITLE SHEET – SET BID OPENING**

*Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to order for the replacement of the Riverview Drive Bridge, executing the title sheet and setting the bid opening and advertisement dates.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-067 to Order the Replacement of the Riverview Drive Bridge (Structure #0380-00.310) in Bainbridge Township.*

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*Further, this resolution sets a Bid Opening using Bid Express at the County Engineer's Office on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 10:12 a.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on April 17, 2025, and on the county website.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: April 15, 2025*  
*Resolution: 25 – 067*

**RESOLUTION TO ORDER**  
**THE REPLACEMENT OF THE RIVERVIEW DRIVE BRIDGE,**  
**STRUCTURE #0380-00.310 IN BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP**

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (Board) has determined by Resolution 21 - 011 that the public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of the bridge over Spring Creek on Riverview Drive (TR-0380), at mile marker 00.310 and the grading, paving, widening, and draining of a portion of Riverview Drive in the immediate vicinity of the bridge in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.06; and*

*WHEREAS, lands will be taken relative to the improvements; and*

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

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

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

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

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby ordered to let this project for bids in accordance with R.C. 5555.61. The bids shall be let upon a unit price basis. Bids shall be received until 10:00 AM on May 02, 2025 and read publicly at 10:12 AM.*

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

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

**COMMON PLEAS COURT – CERTIFICATION REQUEST TO AUDITOR – REQUEST TO COMMISSIONERS – QUARTERLY USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS – QUARTER 2 – COMMON PLEAS COURT**

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Certification Request to County Auditor, Request to Board of Commissioners Quarterly Use of County Credit Cards, pursuant to O.R.C. 301.27 for the Year 2025 (Quarter 2) for the Geauga Credit Union – Visa.*

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

**MAINTENANCE – CONTRACT AGREEMENT – GEAUGA MECHANICAL COMPANY**  
*Director Glen Vernick explained that this contract agreement with Geauga Mechanical is for the boiler at the West Geauga Senior Center. Mr. Vernick explained that the boiler is over twenty-five years old and after having a few issues with it, they want to get it replaced.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Contract Agreement with Geauga Mechanical Company to replace the boiler at the West Geauga Senior Center effective April 15, 2025, with work to be completed within 180 days, in an amount not to exceed \$46,640.00.

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

**MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – KNEWCO INCORPORATED D.B.A. PAUL DAVIS RESTORATION OF CLEVELAND METRO AND AKRON**

*Mr. Vernick explained that this service contract is with Paul Davis Restoration for emergencies, like a water leak or if something happens to one of the buildings, we can call them in right away. Mr. Vernick noted that this contract was in place last year and we didn't use anything. Mr. Vernick noted that prior to that, they had a line freeze and bust, and another incident involved the elevator at the Opera House.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Knewco Incorporated d.b.a. Paul Davis Restoration of Cleveland Metro and Akron to provide restoration in the event of an emergency at any County location effective April 15, 2025, for a one-year period, in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.

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

**MAINTENANCE – AGREEMENT – PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES – VERDANTAS ARCHITECTURE, INCORPORATED – VERTICAL ASSESSIBILITY LIFT AT PATTERSON CENTER**

*Mr. Vernick explained that they have been having some trouble with the lift at the Patterson Center and as well as some water problems. Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve the agreement for professional design services with Verdantas Architecture to look at the building and determine if there are any ADA needs. There was a brief discussion about the Patterson Center having a lower level that is used for events, presentations and a lot of 4-H activities.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement for Professional Design Services with Verdantas Architecture, Incorporated to provide professional design and contract administration services related to upgrading the existing vertical accessibility lift at the Patterson Center building located at 14269 Claridon-Troy Road, Burton in an amount not to exceed \$24,600.00.

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPLICATION FOR REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND REMISSION – PARCEL 10-709526**

*Mr. Gorton explained that the Auditor's office contacted him about the property surrounding the courthouse and since it has been transferred from the City to the County, and it was already exempted, so we are just applying for the property tax exemption as the County. The property transferred on February 22, 2024. Mr. Dvorak added that this happened during negotiations with the City of Chardon. Mr. Gorton noted that if the property is used for anything other than a Courthouse, then it would revert back to the City.*

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Application for Real Property Tax Exemption and Remission (DTE 23 form) for Permanent Parcel No. 10-709526 located on Short Court Street, in Chardon, Ohio.

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ACCEPT, APPROVE AND AMEND POLICY AND PUBLIC COMMENT DURING COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

*Ms. Burhenne explained that last week it was discussed to increase the public comment policy to allow three minutes instead of the original two and it would be effective today.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, approve and amend the Policy and Public Comment during Board of County Commissioners' Meetings, effective April 15, 2025.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO DECLARE PUBLIC ROAD / RIGHT OF WAY UPON SANDHILL TRAIL TO BE VACATED – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

*Assistant Prosecutor Laura LaChapelle explained that at the last meeting, the Commissioners held the Public Hearing and indicated that they would make a decision at a later time. Ms. LaChapelle noted that property owner Mr. Lee is present today. She asked the Board to provide some direction to summarize in a resolution for the Board to consider. Ms. LaChapelle explained that there is a potential resolution to vacate the Sandhill Trail Road. Ms. LaChapelle briefly reviewed that the Commissioners received a petition from Munson Township to vacate the public right of way upon Sandhill Trail. The Board passed a resolution that they believe the public convenience and welfare may require the proposed vacation. The Engineer's Office issued a report. The Public Hearing was held on April 8 where evidence was heard upon the issue on the necessity of the vacation. In the Board's resolution, it is necessary for the Board to identify the abutting property owners, and indicated in the hearing, Jessica S and Matthias A Lee are the sole abutting property owners and there are seventeen parcels that abut the proposed vacation of Sandhill Trail. As the sole abutting property owners, it appears that they will be also being the only parties that benefit from the improvement and the transfer of the Sandhill Trail acreage. As indicated in the public hearing, Sandhill Trail is a paper road that has never been constructed, improved or maintained in any way by the Township or used as a road. Evidence was presented that no utilities have been installed on, over or under Sandhill Trail, the road has been abandoned by the Township and not used for a period of over twenty-one years, and there is no reason to believe that Sandhill Trail will be used as a road anytime in the future. Evidence was also provided that the Lees requested the Munson Township Trustees pursue the vacation of Sandhill Trail as they are actively seeking to consolidate all the parcels that abut Sandhill Trail. Ms. LaChapelle stated that it does not appear to be of significant importance the vacation of the road under these circumstances to cause compensation and damages to be paid from the Treasury and the Commissioners will proceed with the road vacation if compensation and damages that allude to are paid or such part there of that is deemed reasonable and just is paid to the Lees as the sole property owners who will be benefitted by the road vacation based on a provision in the ORC. Ms. LaChapelle stated that in this situation, the Lees are the sole property owners who could be damaged by the road vacation and are also the sole property owners who could be benefitted by the road vacation. It is recommended that the Board determine on consideration of all facts and evidence presented at the hearing that the payment of no compensation as the sole property owner of lands in the vicinity who will be benefitted would be reasonable and just as the Lees are the only property owners and would therefore would be paying compensation for damages if any to themselves. Ms. LaChapelle stated that it is recommended that no damages have been sustained as the primary access to the Lee's house is via a drive access along the westerly property line of their property at 10261 Mayfield Road and the vacation of Sandhill Trail would not cause the Lees to lose this primary access. As indicated earlier, Sandhill Trail has never been physically constructed or improved and never used as a road, and that the Lees have approached the Township to request the road vacation and are actively seeking to consolidate the lots, will have frontage down the road and the transfer of the vacated Sandhill Trail acreage to the Lees will increase the overall value acreage currently held by the Lees, and the public has an interest in utilization of undeveloped and abandoned property. It is also recommended that the Board find, as indicated by the Engineer's Office, that the vacation of the public road / right of way upon Sandhill Trail in Munson Township is in the best interest of the public convenience and welfare.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*As indicated in the Engineer's report, Sandhill Trail is not used to calculate the distribution of auto registration fund monies and in the ORC, any order by the Board vacating the road will not extinguish the rights of ingress and Egress, if any, reserved for the Lees as the sole abutting property owners and the vacation of the road will pass in fee to the Lees subject to service facility rights and permanent easements, in, over or under the road for any service facilities, public utilities, electric cooperatives and the right of ingress and egress to service and maintain those facilities and the right to trim or remove any trees, shrubs, brush other obstacles, but it is my understanding that there is no utilities on that road.*

*Ms. LaChapelle stated that if the Board is in fact interested in vacating the road, these bases have been included in a resolution that can be approved by the Board.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute Resolution #25-069 to Declare the Public Road / Right of Way upon Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) in Munson Township, Geauga County, Ohio to be vacated, pursuant to O.R.C. 5553.045.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: April 15, 2025*

*Resolution: 25-069*

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE THE PUBLIC ROAD/RIGHT OF WAY UPON SANDHILL TRAIL  
(TR-0753) IN MUNSON TOWNSHIP, GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO TO BE VACATED  
PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 5553.045**

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners ("Board") received a resolution from the Munson Township Board of Trustees on or about March 3, 2025, petitioning the Board to proceed with the vacation of the public road/right-of-way of Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) pursuant to Section 5553.045 of the Ohio Revised Code; and*

*WHEREAS, the Board passed Resolution # 25-038, a Resolution That Public Convenience and Welfare May Require the Proposed Vacation of the Public Road/Right-of Way Upon Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) in Munson Township, Geauga County, Ohio, as further described in said Resolution; and*

*WHEREAS, the County Engineer issued to the Board a written report pursuant to R.C. 5553.06 stating that the Engineer believes the vacation of the public road/right-of-way upon Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) in Munson Township is for the public convenience and welfare; and*

*WHEREAS, the Board held the final public hearing on April 8, 2025, on the proposed vacation of the public road/right-of way upon Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) and heard any evidence bearing upon the necessity of the vacation for the public convenience or welfare and offered either for or against proceeding with the improvement by any interested person; and*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board, in accordance with Section 5553.045 of the Ohio Revised Code, hereby declares Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) in Munson Township, Geauga County, Ohio, to be vacated.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a survey plat and an accurate detailed description of the portion of the road/right-of-way to be vacated will be prepared by the County Engineer and reviewed, reflecting the following route and termini:*

*Beginning at a point where the centerline of Rockhaven Road (TR 0106) intersects with the centerline of Mayfield Road (US 322) then easterly along said centerline of Mayfield Road (US 322) approximately 2369.70 feet to the point where the centerline of said Mayfield Road (US 322) intersects with the centerline of Sandhill Trail. Thence southerly along the centerline of said Sandhill Trail, 66 feet to the southerly right-of-way of Mayfield Road (US 322) and the principal point of beginning. Thence southerly approximately 1250.00 feet to the existing terminus of Sandhill Trail.*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the abutting properties and sole owners thereof are identified as: Jessica S. and Matthias A. Lee ("Lees"); permanent parcel nos. 21-176303, 21-176304, 21-176305, 21-176306, 21-176307, 21-176308, 21-176309, 21-176310, 21-176311, 21-176312, 21-176313, 21-176314, 21-176315, 21-176-316, 21-176317, 21-176318 and 21-176319 and vacated Sandhill Road shall pass, in fee, to the Lees according to law.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Lees are the sole abutting property owners to Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) and will also be the only parties benefitted by the improvement and the transfer of the 1.981 acres from the vacated Sandhill Trail (TR-0753).*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sandhill Trail is a "paper road" and has never been physically constructed, improved or maintained in any way by Munson Township or used as a road; no utilities have been installed on, over or under Sandhill Trail; Sandhill Trail has been abandoned by the Township and not used for a period of over twenty-one years and there is no reason to believe Sandhill Trail will be used as a road anytime in the near future; and the Lees requested Munson Township pursue the vacation of Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) as they are actively seeking to consolidate all of the lots abutting Sandhill Trail.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board does not find the road vacation to be of sufficient importance to cause compensation and damages to be paid from the treasury and shall proceed with the road vacation if the compensation and damages further described herein are paid or such part thereof as the Board deems reasonable and just is paid by the Lees as the sole property owners who will be benefitted by the road vacation, and the balance, if any, shall be paid out of the treasury.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board has determined based on consideration of all the facts and evidence presented at the final hearing that the payment of no compensation by the Lees as the sole landowners of lands within the vicinity who will be benefitted would be reasonable and just under the circumstances as the Lees are the only abutting property owners and would, therefore, be paying compensation for damages, if any, to themselves; no damages have been sustained by the Lees as primary access to the Lees' house is via a drive access (10261 Mayfield Road) along the westerly property line of the Sandhill Farm Estates on Mayfield Road and vacation of Sandhill Trail will not cause the Lees to lose this primary access; Sandhill Trail has never been physically constructed, improved or maintained by Munson Township or ever used as a road and there is no reason to believe Sandhill Trail will be used as a road in the near future; the Lees approached Munson Township and requested the road vacation as they are actively seeking to consolidate all of the lots currently abutting Sandhill Trail and the consolidated lots will have frontage on Mayfield Road; the transfer of the vacated Sandhill Trail acreage to the Lees will increase the amount and overall value of acreage currently held by the Lees; and the public has an interest in the utilization of undeveloped, abandoned property.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the opinion of the Board that the vacation of the public road/right-of-way upon Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) in Munson Township is in the interest of the public convenience and welfare.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) is not used to calculate distributions of the auto registration distribution fund under R.C. 4501.04(E) and, thus, is not a portion of a road certified by the Munson Township Board of Trustees to the director of transportation in accordance with that division as mileage in the township used by and maintained for the public.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the order of this Board does not extinguish the rights of ingress and egress, if any, reserved to the Lees as the sole abutting property owners named herein.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the vacated portion of the road shall pass in fee to the abutting landowners referenced herein subject to all of the following for any service facilities, if any, located on the vacated property: (1) a permanent easement as provided in section 5553.043 of the Revised Code in, over, or under the road for the services facilities, as defined in R.C. 5553.042, of a public utility or electric cooperative as defined in R.C. 4928.01; (2) the right of ingress or egress to service and maintain those service facilities; and (3) the right to trim or*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*remove any trees, shrubs, brush, or other obstacles growing in or encroaching onto the permanent easement that may affect the operation, use, or access to those service facilities.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners is hereby instructed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Petitioner Munson Township Board of Trustees, the Geauga County Recorder and the Geauga County Engineer. Once certified copies of the resolution declaring Sandhill Trail vacated are filed with the township, the Munson Township Board of Trustees, by resolution, shall order the road vacated as required by R.C. 5553.045(E).*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plat depicting the vacation of Sandhill Trail (TR-0753) shall thereafter be filed with the Geauga County Recorder and in the proper road records of the County*

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

*AIRPORT AUTHORITY – REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #1 – TAXIWAY EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – CONSTRUCT PARALLEL TAXIWAY*

*Airport Manager Ric Blamer, Airport Authority Members Greg Gyllstrom and Chip Hess were present. Mr. Blamer asked the Board to approve reimbursement request #1 on the parallel taxiway project in the amount of \$36,915.00, noting that the FAA portion was \$33,223.50 and the ODOT and local match portions were \$1,845.75.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve Reimbursement Request #1 for the Taxiway Extension Construction Project, specifically to Construct Parallel Taxiway A including Taxiway Connector A1 and A2 – Construction, Final Phase and Install Taxiway Edge Lights – Construction, Final Phase of Grant #3-39-0054-028-2024 for Professional Services in the amount of \$36,915.00 (FAA share \$33,223.50, ODOT share \$1,845.75 and local County match share \$1,845.75).*

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - AIRPORT*

*Ms. Burhenne read the following item that was on the agenda:*

*The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve an encumbrance and expenditure to the Geauga County Airport Authority in the amount of \$800,000.00 from the Airport Construction Fund for contributing funds towards the construction of a new T-Hangar at the Geauga County Airport.*

*Ms. Burhenne asked Mr. Gorton to explain. Mr. Gorton expressed that his understanding was this action would be done following additional actions for the airport. It was noted that the agenda had been revised this morning, to remove the other actions regarding the airport. Mr. Gorton explained that if the Board approves an encumbrance and expenditure for the \$800,000.00, it means that the Airport Authority has met the requirements that you had for them. Mr. Gorton put \$800,000.00 in appropriations in place today in the Airport Construction Fund, and after today, if approved, \$800,000.00 will be transferred from the General Fund into the Airport Construction Fund. We will then create the encumbrance and expenditure and provide the Airport the \$800,000.00 to use for the construction of the T-hangars. Mr. Dvorak noted that this is step one in that direction. Ms. Brakey stated that it is only step 1 if the resolution gets approved, and we just received that this morning. Ms. Brakey asked the airport to go over the revised resolution, the redlines that were put into the resolution and why they were made.*

*Mr. Hess thanked Ms. Burhenne for assisting with trying to get this to the finish line. Mr. Hess noted that their legal counsel reviewed the resolution last night and it was sent over this morning. Ms. Burhenne asked the Airport Authority what was approved at their meeting. Mr. Hess stated that the Airport Authority approved the agreement that was based on the revised resolution from what the Commissioners approved. Mr. Hess briefly described the redlined*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

revisions that they made to the resolution. Ms. Brakey expressed that the biggest redline that hasn't been discussed is the affirmation that the Airport Authority has complied with and will comply with the agreement, which she confirmed is the operating agreement between the Commissioners and the Airport Authority. Mr. Hess responded that moving forward, they will comply with the agreement. Ms. Brakey asked if on the record they were stating that they have not complied with the terms of the agreement. Mr. Hess stated no. Ms. Brakey asked why they would not agree to that. Mr. Hess expressed that it might open a door for someone to find something from seven years ago that may or may not have filed, and that they want to move forward. Mr. Gyllstrom expressed that they want to make sure that an oversight on their part does not turn into an absolute withdrawal of the money, adding that they will comply with what the Board wants, but don't want the Board to have a "gotcha." They are asking for a normal cure period: if something comes up that they missed, they want to have thirty days to provide it. Ms. Brakey noted that the cure period is later in the resolution, but wants to discuss the amendment to item #2, which previously stated the Airport Authority has complied and will comply, but that was removed and only says will comply. Mr. Gyllstrom replied that they don't know what they may have missed in the past. Ms. Brakey stated that you have already made that promise; the agreement has been in place and that is what we are operating under. Ms. Brakey asked the Airport Authority what they considered the most important agreement that the Airport Authority operates under. Mr. Gyllstrom stated the joint agreement between the two parties. Ms. Brakey agreed with that, however you will not promise that you are following the terms of that agreement. Mr. Gyllstrom stated that they are unaware if they are late with something or haven't filed something, so why would we say that they did, if they don't know. Discussion continued with the Airport Authority expressing that they feel they have complied but if there is something that is missing, then they would be glad to comply. Mr. Dvorak noted that the agreement that was signed in 2018 didn't include any guidelines or consequences, so maybe to move forward we change the language to moving forward. Ms. Brakey added that the consequence is breaching the agreement.

Ms. Brakey explained that a resolution is a unilateral motion by the Board of Commissioners that was signed last week, and there is no other party to that document. An Agreement is a bilateral understanding between two parties that both parties sign and make promises to one another. Both parties have responsibilities and obligations under an agreement. Discussion continued about the Airport Authority complying to the terms of the agreement and what the consequence is for not complying, which it was noted that the funds turn into a loan based on the draft resolution. The question was raised about when the last time the agreement was read, which the Airport Authority noted that they all reviewed it last week. There was discussion about the agreement, things that could have been better defined and that they should make sure it is current of the Board of Commissioners and that they would gladly comply, move forward and continue to comply. Ms. Brakey stated that the best predictor of future performance is by past compliance. Mr. Hess stated that the funding is for the T-Hangar which over the life of the building will generate \$7.5 million dollars. Mr. Gyllstrom wanted to review the justification for the hangar.

Hangar Bravo is a 'once in a decade' opportunity that will attract new airplanes and airplane owners to the airport who will pay hangar rent and purchase fuel. This additional revenue will, for the first time, adequately fund proper maintenance for the grounds and systems, the six existing hangars and the UH helicopter ambulance living space.

Mr. Gyllstrom provided reasons why this is a 'once in a decade' opportunity by explaining that the Airport Authority normally funds airport improvements using FAA funds, plus small required matching grants by ODOT and Geauga County in the form of entitlements and competitive grants. The FAA will never pay for hangars, hangar aprons or general upkeep of the airport. They did have an airport terminal fund, but it largely goes to bid airports with commercial airlines. As a result of COVID, the BIL (Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law) grant for Geauga County received \$585,000.00 spread over three years for the purpose of building Hangar Bravo. The grant will expire in annual increments starting April 2025, thus the urgency to approve the County's \$800,000.00 to fully fund the project. The Airport Authority has a low bidder who was under the engineering estimate. Mr. Gyllstrom added that if this project is delayed, future inflation in building materials may make this project less affordable.

Mr. Gyllstrom went on to explain what the benefits are to Geauga County. In its first year of operation, the hangar will produce approximately \$48,000.00 in rent revenue plus fuel sales revenue for those additional airplanes. This will help fund maintenance spending. Assuming

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*proper maintenance and it is a modern building, a 50-year useful life is conservatively estimated. Noting that hangars four and five are 60 years old and started life as relocated turkey coops. Mr. Gyllstrom continued, assuming an inflation factor / rent increase of 4% annually compounded and 100% occupancy, Hangar Bravo would return almost \$7.4 million of revenue / maintenance funds over its estimated fifty-year useful life. In simple payback terms, the rent revenue will return the \$800,000.00 investment in approximately thirteen years. We should assume a replacement roof will be needed somewhere toward the later part of its lifespan. A replacement roof would only extend the useful life of this valuable asset, built with 2025 dollars. The annual rental rates for Hangar Bravo will include an accrual for future maintenance.*

*Mr. Gyllstrom expressed the bottom line, as a result of county funding for Hangar Bravo, Geauga would finally have the resources to properly fund the long-term maintenance for the grounds and facilities. Geauga County Airport is one of the few airports in Ohio that runs a break-even to positive income statement with one part-time manager and a host of unpaid volunteers. Our airport and culture are well regarded in Northeast Ohio and strongly support the business of Geauga County. Mr. Gyllstrom stated that as a financial investment, it's a slam dunk, you spend \$800,000.00 for a county facility that over its lifespan will return a revenue stream of \$7 million plus and will fund the maintenance for your airport.*

*Ms. Brakey explained that she had some questions about the grant application It says on the request for action that the \$800,000.00 is the local match to receive the \$585,000.00. However, when you look at the FAA application, it says the local match is only \$30,789.00. Mr. Blamer stated that there are certain expenses that are FAA eligible for reimbursement. When the FAA does the reimbursement, those expenses do so at 90% and then the percentage that doesn't fall into that and that is the \$30,000.00. Ms. Brakey asked for clarification in order to get the \$585,000.00 from the FAA, the local match is only the \$30,000.00, so the Commissioners don't need to give them \$800,000.00 to get the \$585,000.00. Mr. Blamer replied yes. Mr. Hess added that the \$30,000.00 isn't enough to build a building. Ms. Brakey asked if they had looked anywhere else for the funding. Mr. Blamer stated that in December, the Airport Authority felt they had the funding and no need to go elsewhere and since that time, they have been scrambling to get everything together. Ms. Brakey noted that in the FAA assurances, there is a whole bunch of language regarding building a hangar at the aircraft owners' expense, and is more of the typical financing model. Mr. Gyllstrom added that a lot of that building done with private funding is called thru the fence and not on airport property and they don't have anything like that set up in that regard. Mr. Gyllstrom explained that week after week, the Commissioners approve money for all the facilities in the county, and asked if they are the only operation that operates at break even. Mr. Gyllstrom kept stating that they are a county function that operates and maintains the airport for the Commissioners. Ms. Brakey explained that if the Board was putting money into office space, those are the Board's employees that are fulfilling statutory functions of government and they are here five days a week. She asked, do you see how that is different from eight private airplanes in a hangar? Mr. Gyllstrom replied that the eight private hangars will provide revenue of \$7 million plus to maintain the Commissioners' airport. Mr. Gyllstrom continued to state that the agreement fails to recognize that the airport does not produce enough income to properly maintain the Commissioners' airport. Ms. Brakey added that they could produce more revenue by increasing hangar rent. Ms. Brakey asked about the waiting list in the application. Mr. Blamer noted that the waiting list is a moving target, names are put on and taken off due to multiple reasons.*

*Mr. Dvorak inquired about how many Airport Authority members on board now were on it in 2018 when the agreement was signed. Mr. Dvorak noted that they needed some time to have suggestions from the Prosecutor on the agreement and if they need to tweak the agreement or not. Mr. Hess asked how they are to communicate, Ms. Burhenne? Ms. Brakey added that if it is a session item it needs to go through Ms. Blair, to which Mr. Dvorak agreed, adding that Ms. Burhenne and Ms. Blair work hand in hand. Mr. Gyllstrom noted that we are effectively doing a terrific job of running out the clock. Mr. Blamer stated that we need full funding for the hangar, and if we don't have it, there is no point in applying for it. Mr. Blamer expressed that they cannot go forward with an application for a grant if they don't have full funding in force. Mr. Hess added that in December, they moved forward and spent a lot of money already with engineering, specifications and plans, and they would lose that money.*

*Mr. Dvorak added that the idea was to get the airport in a position to make money to put back into the buildings. Mr. Hess stated that they have many projects to complete, and they have*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*brought them before the Board for many years requesting funding. Last year, the Commissioners provided \$380,000.00 for the hangar one improvement. Ms. Brakey noted that having the UH helicopter there is a benefit to the county. Mr. Gyllstrom noted that they would come back to the Board for hangars four and five, putting new roofs on them will extend the life of these old coops and bring in revenue streams for another twenty years. They run on a shoestring, and it's a county asset.*

*Ms. Brakey stated that the Prosecutor's office needs to approve the agreement and if there is a change in the resolution, they need to revisit it. Ms. LaChapelle added that they want the resolution and the agreement to reflect the intention of the Board. We just need to make sure everything is consistent and in line with the Board's intent. Mr. Gyllstrom expressed frustration about the Prosecutor's Office timing and the question was asked about getting a response and if they could work with their outside counsel on this. Ms. Burhenne added that they will do what they need to in order to get things ready for next week. There was a brief discussion about the application and the certifications and then there will be a final agreement from the grant that will need to be executed by both the Airport and the Commissioners and legal for both.*

*Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he wanted to make a motion to provide the \$800,000.00 in order to make sure they will be provided the funding. Ms. Brakey added that last week the Board made a decision on the funding and they should not back down on that. Mr. Blamer inquired about the Commissioners holding on to the funding, to which Mr. Gorton stated that the funds will be transferred to the airport and you will manage the contract. Mr. Spidalieri inquired about his motion, which it was noted, died for lack of a second. Mr. Spidalieri expressed commendation for the airport board for everything, being a volunteer board, having an agreement in place since 2018, audits done by the state, and nothing was flagged for any inconsistencies, and that it was hard for him to sit here and listen to what they have committed to and hang in on the fight. At the end of the day, the airport is a county asset, and they have done some things to make it safer. Mr. Spidalieri stated that he would like to figure out based on the population of the county, what is paid into the airport per person, to which Mr. Blamer noted that it is 14 cents per year. What does it give the business community, education for kids, pilot programs, rides to introduce aviation, is a small price to be paid. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that a motion was done last year to provide funding and commend them for their patience, and apologize for some of the statements that have been made, and that each Commissioner can speak for themselves, but myself, I want to say thank you.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to table the item regarding the encumbrance and expenditure until next week.*

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

**BOARD DISCUSSION**

*Ms. Burhenne explained that last week Mr. Spidalieri brought up concern about FirstEnergy's Middlefield Service Office closing and a letter was drafted and submitted to all of you. If you are all in agreement, we can move forward. Ms. Burhenne explained that she had spoken with Mr. Conley with First Energy as well as Mr. Peterson at the Department of Emergency Services about the concerns and that he feels they would still receive coverage from the surrounding area crews. There was a brief discussion about support documentation that might be included. Ms. Brakey noted that she had added some teeth to the letter, based on FirstEnergy having a base distribution rate case before the Public Utilities Commissioners of Ohio (PUCO), and part of that case it says they would be making cuts that wouldn't affect services. Both Mr. Dvorak and Mr. Spidalieri were comfortable with that.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the letter to President Torrence Hinton, President of First Energy regarding the Middlefield Field Office closing.*

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

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

*It was noted that the letter was written to Torrence Hinton with copies being sent to John Hawkins, Vice President of Operations, Toby Thomas, Chief Operating Officer and Wendy Zele, Local Engagement Specialist.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Gail Roussey from the League of Women's Voters wanted to provide their support for the videotaping of the Commissioners' meeting, noting that there is no substitute for seeing for yourself what is happening and urged the Board to continue the practice.*

*Steve Hairston, local resident, expressed that last week was the first time he saw the video, found it easy to access, while it went long, when he logged on there were 23 people watching. People are watching and he is glad it is there.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending April 2, 2025, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Inmate meals for the month ending March 2025.*
- c) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for Prisoner Transport for the month ending March 2025 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*
- d) 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 March 2025, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

- Tue., 4/15 Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, Board of Directors meeting, 3:00 p.m. County Office Building, Room B303*
- Mon., 4/21 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building, First Floor*
- Tue., 4/22 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Wed., 4/23 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*
- Mon., 4/28 Special ADP Board meeting, 1:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*
- Tue., 4/29 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

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

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*James W. Dvorak*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Carolyn Brakey, Esq.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ralph Spidalieri*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**April 15, 2025**

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