

Commissioners' Journal
May 29, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on May 29, 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.

President of the Board, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Memorial Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we pause today to remember the sacrifices of our fallen heroes, we offer our prayers for comfort and peace.

We give thanks for the brave men and women who have served our Country, especially for those who gave their lives in service.

We ask for your strength to be with those who are grieving their loss, and for your guidance to all those who continue to serve.

May we never forget the price of freedom, and may we always strive to live in a way that honors the memory of those who gave their all.

We pray for peace in our world, and for an end to conflict and violence.

May your love and mercy guide us as we strive to create a more just and peaceful world.

God Bless America.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Amy Bevan reported on the items approved, as authorized by Resolution #25-004 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 7, 2025, pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

Ms. Bevan explained that the Acting County Administrator approved the following items on May 16, 2025:

Department on Aging:

Approved hiring Jason Nelson to the position of Full-time Maintenance Coordinator (#1013) to be effective June 23, 2025, at the rate of \$23.24 per hour with a one-year probationary period.

This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

Approved hiring Melinda Sue Whittaker to the position of Part-time Adult Day Service Assistant (#1041-1) to be effective June 2, 2025, at the rate of \$19.23 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

Job and Family Services:

Acknowledged the following new hire appointments, as the Executive Director of Job and Family Services complied with the Board of Commissioners' recruitment and hiring procedures for:

Amy Piotrowski – Clerical Specialist 3 (replacement) – Effective March 18, 2025

On May 27, 2025, the County Administrator approved the following items:

Department on Aging:

Amended the motion from May 16, 2025, to revise the start date to read: Approved hiring Jason Nelson to the position of Full-time Maintenance Coordinator (#1013) to be effective June 16, 2025, at the rate of \$23.24 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 22, 2025.

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

FINANCIALS

Ms. Bevan reported on financials approved by Acting County Administrator on May 20, 2025, Resolution #25-123 that included Travel requests for the Department on Aging and the Clerk of Courts; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Lake Geauga Recovery Services Center for the Jail Treatment Program being paid out of the Opioid Settlement Fund in the amount of \$72,534.00; a payment for the Dog Warden to Cable Communications for the installation of security cameras at the shelter in the amount of \$9,109.25; a payment for the County Engineer's Office to Illuminati Labs, LLC for the addition of T-Mobile to their distribution antenna cell signal enhancement system in the amount of \$46,700.00; and a payment for the Sheriff to Motorola Solutions, Incorporated for an Eventide Logging Recorder for capturing, recording and archiving 911 calls in the amount of \$67,201.04.

The Acting County Administrator approved the financials from May 20, 2025 pursuant to Resolution #25-004 approved January 7, 2025 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 2025, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute the minutes for the special meeting of April 24, 2025.*

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

Motion: *by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 29, 2025.*

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Cash transfer from the Board of Developmental Disabilities from the operating fund to the Residential Services fund for Medicaid waiver and locally funded services; Travel requests for the Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Court, and Veterans Services Commission; a Contract Purchase Order from Maintenance to Doosan Bobcat North America Incorporated for the purchase of a new model year replacement skid steer loader (the old one will be auctioned); a payment for the Auditor's Office to Integrity Appraisal Services for 2025 new construction appraisal services in the amount of \$19,899.00; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Destination Geauga for the 1st Quarter 2025 Bed Tax distribution in the amount of \$8,453.14; and a payment for the Engineer's Office to Southeastern Equipment for a new model Case 721G replacement articulated wheel loader (2018 model was traded in on the new one for \$100,000.00) in the amount of \$145,793.99.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-124 itemizing the financials for the meeting of May 29, 2025.*

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REVISED ACCOUNTING FORMS AUTHORIZATION AND PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the revised accounting authorization and payroll authorization forms to include Ms. Bevan.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Revised Accounting Forms Authorization Form and Payroll Authorization Form for the Department on Aging, Building, Commissioners' Office, Community and Economic Development Department, Department of Emergency Services, Dog Warden, Maintenance and Department of Water Resources.

<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>

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – 2024 LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (LAEPP) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Director Carmella Shale asked the Board to execute the 2024 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Cooperative Agreement for the Hope Farm Easement in Thompson, that has been approved by the State and should be closing within the next month. Commissioner Brakey said she wanted to understand the process. Ms. Shale explained the land remains privately owned but the owner may not develop it, and the funding comes from the Clean Ohio Fund from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 2024 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) Cooperative Agreement between the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (Local Sponsor) regarding funding to be allocated for the protection of Ohio farm lands against conversion to non-agricultural use in the amount of \$110,554.00 for the acquisition of Agricultural Easements approved by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

<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>

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – EASEMENT CLOSING DOCUMENTS – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ASSIGNMENT OF PAYMENT FORM – HOPE EASEMENT

Ms. Shale asked the Board to designate someone that can go to the Title office and execute all the closing documents and paperwork on the easement.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize Amy Bevan, County Administrator, to execute the Easement Closing Documents including the Ohio Department of Agriculture Assignment of Payment form on behalf of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners for the 2024 Local Agricultural Easement Program for the Hope Easement.

<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>

UNITED WAY OF GREATER CLEVELAND – 2025 ALICE REPORT

United Way Director of Communications Maryam Kiefer provided the following information to the Board about the 2025 ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report which is a report that United Way produces that talks about those in our community who don't have enough income to make ends meet. This data goes beyond the federal poverty level data. This information looks up the average cost of living in a locality and whether individuals living there have enough income, including housing, food, healthcare, transportation and on the type of household, then adds childcare and for those who are older, includes increased healthcare costs. Ms. Kiefer explained that she will go over federal numbers and then specific to

Geauga County. Ms. Kiefer proceeded to review the following information about the ALICE Report.

ALICE IN GEAUGA COUNTY



2023 Point-in-Time Data

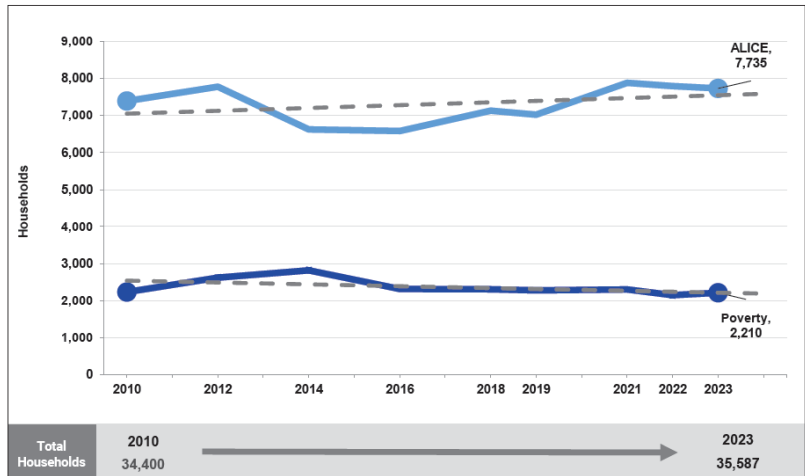
Population: 95,407 • **Number of Households:** 35,587
Median Household Income: \$99,305 (state: \$67,769)
Labor Force Participation Rate: 63.3% (state: 63.5%)
ALICE Households: 22% (state: 25%) • **Households in Poverty:** 6% (state: 14%)

Trends in Financial Hardship

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Households below the ALICE Threshold – ALICE households plus those in poverty – can't afford the essentials.

Households move below or above the ALICE Threshold as economic factors and circumstances change. The line graph to the right shows the number of ALICE and poverty-level households (solid blue lines), as well as the trend over time (dotted gray lines). **By 2023, 9,945 households (28%) were below the ALICE Threshold in Geauga County.**

ALICE and Poverty-Level Households, Geauga County, 2010-2023



Note: See an interactive version of this data at UnitedForALICE.org/Ohio

Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010-2023; American Community Survey, 2010-2023

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages

The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the current economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. The Household Survival Budget is calculated at the county level and by household composition, as costs can vary greatly depending on location and household needs.

In 2023, household costs in Geauga County were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$14,580 for a single adult and \$30,000 for a family of four.

To see costs for different household compositions in Geauga County, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Household-Budgets/Ohio

Household Survival Budget, Geauga County, 2023

	Single Adult	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Monthly Costs		
Housing	\$803	\$1,122
Child Care	–	\$1,917
Food	\$520	\$1,413
Transportation	\$390	\$937
Health Care	\$190	\$673
Technology	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$199	\$618
Taxes	\$273	\$694
Monthly Total	\$2,461	\$7,490
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$29,532	\$89,880
Hourly Wage*	\$14.77	\$44.94

*Full-time wage required to support this budget

For ALICE Household Survival Budget sources, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology

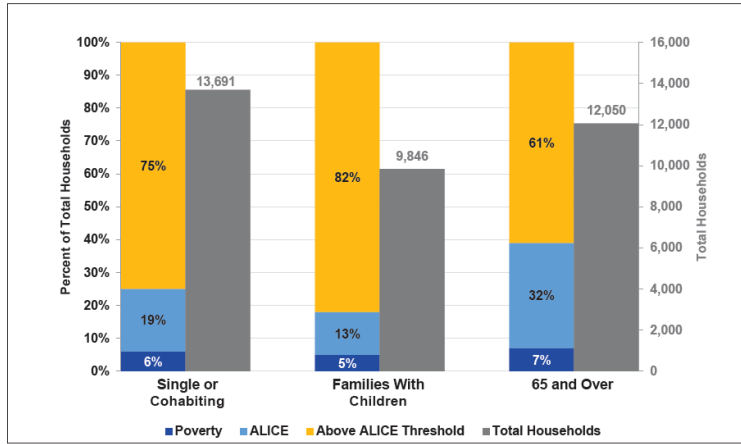
Ms. Brakey asked how this information relates to our Amish population. Ms. Kiefer showed that they are included in the information by location and neighborhood data, but that it is not broken down by which households are Amish.

Financial Hardship is Not Evenly Distributed

The largest demographic groups in the county also tend to have the largest number of households below the ALICE Threshold. However, when looking at the percentage of each group that is below the Threshold, some groups face higher rates of hardship.

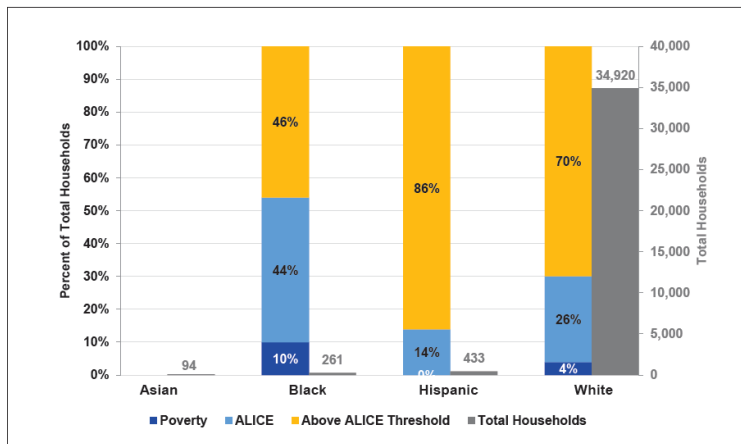
Explore more demographic data at UnitedForALICE.org/Ohio and visit UnitedForALICE.org/Mapping-Tool to see ALICE data for all available geographies.

Household Financial Status by Household Type, Geauga County, 2023



Note: Families with children include married-parent, single-female-headed, and single-male-headed households. Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2023; American Community Survey, 2023

Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Geauga County, 2023



Note: Asian, Black, and White racial categories are for one race alone. Race and Hispanic ethnicity are overlapping categories. The Asian and Black groups may include Hispanic households; the White group includes only White, non-Hispanic households. The Hispanic ethnic group may include households of any race. Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2023; American Community Survey, 2023

Gauga County, 2023		
Town	Total Households	% ALICE & Poverty
Auburn township	2,246	13%
Bainbridge township	5,279	23%
Burton township	1,606	38%
Chardon city	2,066	39%
Chardon township	1,556	26%
Chester township	3,991	28%
Claridon township	1,284	38%
Hambden township	1,774	30%
Huntsburg township	896	29%
Middlefield township	1,224	40%
Middlefield village	1,350	46%
Montville township	846	33%
Munson township	2,577	18%
Newbury township	2,096	33%
Parkman township	1,120	27%
Russell township	2,216	23%
South Russell village	1,386	13%
Thompson township	943	36%
Troy township	1,073	34%

2025 UNITED WAY ALICE REPORT

Karen Perko, Director, Community Engagement
Maryam Kiefer, Director, Public Policy
United Way Services of Geauga County

May 29, 2025
Gauga County Commissioners

FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

- The Federal Poverty Guidelines are calculated by the Department of Health and Human Services every year and varies by family size.
- Determines eligibility for a variety of public benefits programs including (but not limited to):
 - Medicaid, Head Start, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Poverty line calculation was developed by Mollie Orshansky in 1964 through a survey conducted in 1955 that indicated families spent one-third of their post-tax income on **food**.
- Poverty guidelines are calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).



Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

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FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

2025 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,650
2	\$21,150
3	\$26,650
4	\$32,150
5	\$37,650
6	\$43,150
7	\$48,650
8	\$54,150
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,500 for each additional person.	

Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

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UWW ALICE REPORT

- ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, and represents the growing number of working families who are unable to afford the basics of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and technology.
- Report developed every year.
- The ALICE report calculates household costs and income.
 - The Household Survival Budget calculates the cost of household essentials for the United States and each county in Ohio (**housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare, Internet and smartphone plan, and taxes**).



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ALICE DATA SOURCES



- Income: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)
- Household Costs: ACS- household tabulated data, the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS); Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Household Economic and Decision making (SHED); U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey



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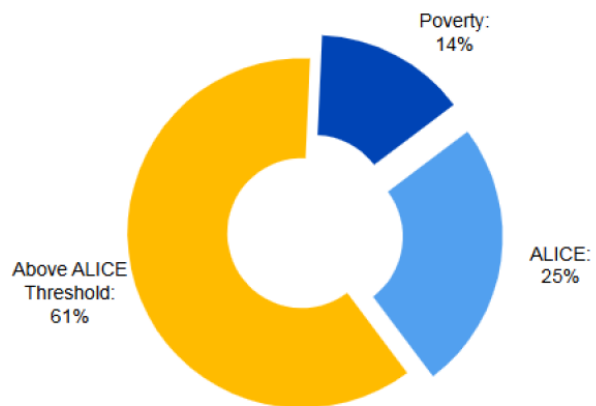
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OHIO ALICE REPORT



- According to the FPL, 14% of households in Ohio (661,888) were in poverty in 2023. Yet United For ALICE data shows that another 25% (1,223,429 households) — almost twice as many — were ALICE.
- The costs of basics in Ohio for a family of 4 is **\$65,000** and **for children in childcare it is \$79,000.**
- 31% of households below the ALICE threshold do not have three months of expenses in emergency savings and only 39% have retirement assets.



5/27/2025

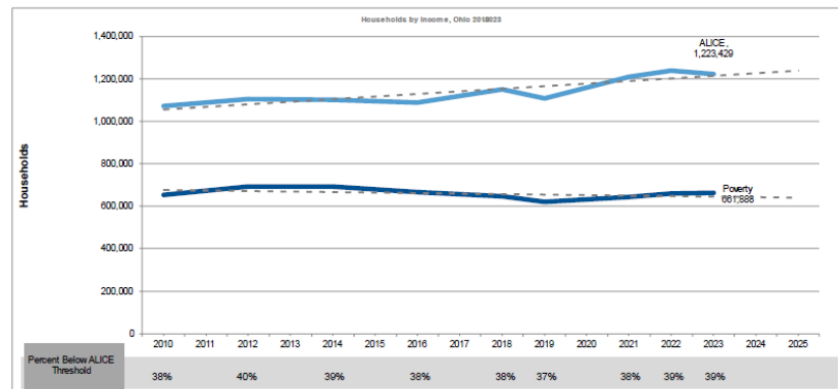
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OHIO ALICE REPORT



Figure 6. ALICE Households Grew, While Households in Poverty Remained Largely Flat
Number of Households by Income, Ohio, 2010–2023



Note: The gray dashed trend lines in this figure highlight the general direction of the point-in-time data for the years shown. These lines indicate whether the numbers of ALICE and poverty-level households have been generally increasing, decreasing, or remaining flat. The ALICE trend line is statistically significant at $p < 0.002$; however, the Poverty trend line is not statistically significant, and caution should be used when making predictions.

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OHIO ALICE REPORT



Household Survival Budget, Ohio, 2023								
Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing	\$711	\$785	\$785	\$785	\$986	\$986	\$711	\$785
Child Care	\$0	\$282	\$752	\$0	\$564	\$1,604	\$0	\$0
Food	\$443	\$749	\$673	\$812	\$1,363	\$1,203	\$408	\$748
Transportation	\$390	\$513	\$513	\$609	\$937	\$937	\$326	\$481
Health Care	\$190	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$673	\$673	\$535	\$1,069
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$182	\$287	\$326	\$278	\$464	\$552	\$207	\$320
Taxes	\$239	\$185	\$282	\$321	\$315	\$531	\$290	\$566
Monthly Total	\$2,241	\$3,241	\$2,871	\$2,275	\$5,418	\$6,602	\$2,563	\$4,085
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$26,892	\$40,092	\$46,452	\$40,500	\$65,016	\$79,224	\$30,756	\$49,020
Hourly Wage	\$13.45	\$20.05	\$23.23	\$20.25	\$32.51	\$39.61	\$15.38	\$24.51

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$15,650
2	\$21,150
3	\$26,650
4	\$32,150

OHIO ALICE REPORT



Figure 4. A Large Share of Workers in the 20 Most Common Occupations Were Below the ALICE Threshold

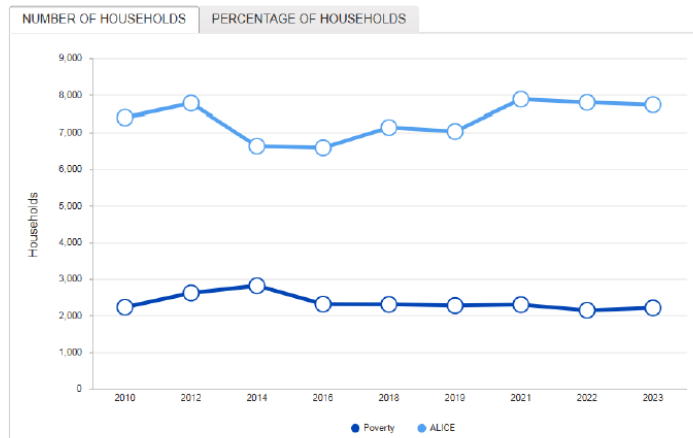
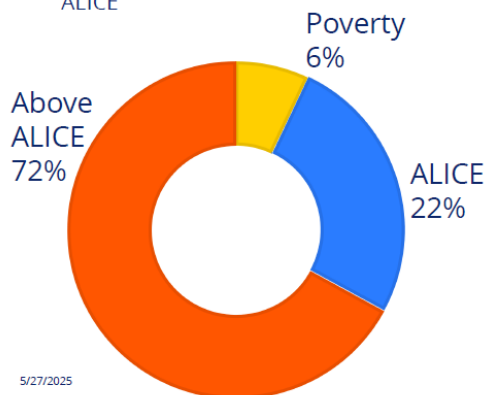
Labor Characteristics, Most Common Occupations, Ohio, 2023

Most Common Occupations	Total Employment (BLS)	Percent of Workers Below ALICE Threshold (ACS PUMS)	Median Hourly Wage (BLS)
Delivery Drivers/Sales Workers	149,420	26%	\$19.70
General and Operations Managers	143,080	10%	\$45.13
Fast Food and Counter Workers	140,760	47%	\$13.16
Stock Workers and Order Fillers	135,260	35%	\$17.57
Registered Nurses	133,300	8%	\$38.43
Cashiers	122,610	44%	\$13.68
Retail Salespersons	120,500	27%	\$14.46
Laborers and Material Movers	114,010	31%	\$18.08
Cooks	101,770	39%	\$14.91
Customer Service Representatives	99,090	22%	\$19.17
Janitors and Building Cleaners	97,680	37%	\$14.10
Personal Care Aides	91,890	47%	\$14.08
Office Clerks	88,140	21%	\$19.14
Waiters and Waitresses	76,110	38%	\$13.92
Elementary and Middle School Teachers	75,230	9%	\$33.98
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	67,680	9%	\$37.89
Orderlies and Psychiatric Aides	64,400	22%	\$17.81
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	63,240	12%	\$22.99
Secondary School Teachers	62,320	4%	\$37.62
Nursing Assistants	61,410	39%	\$18.28

OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEauga COUNTY



- Geauga County Population: 95,407
- Number of Households: 35,587
- Median Household Income: \$99,305 (State average: \$67,769)
- Labor Force Participation Rate: 63% (State average: 64%)
- 39% of households with older adults are ALICE



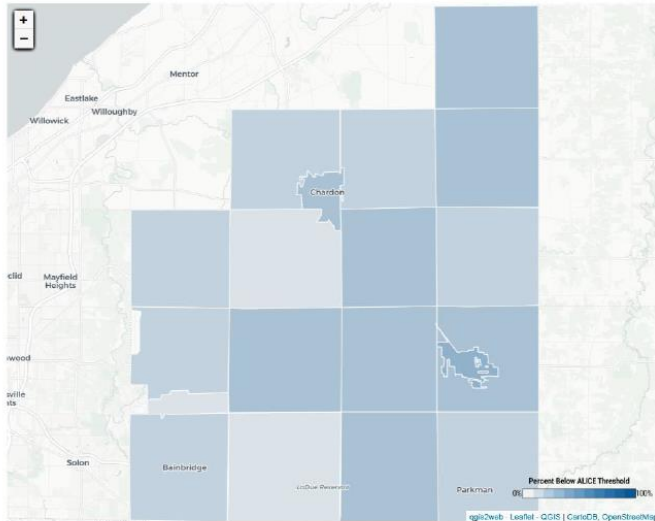
OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEAUGA COUNTY



Household Survival Budget, Geauga County, Ohio, 2023								
Monthly Costs and Credits	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing	\$803	\$924	\$924	\$924	\$1,122	\$1,122	\$803	\$924
Child Care	\$0	\$328	\$875	\$0	\$656	\$1,917	\$0	\$0
Food	\$520	\$880	\$790	\$954	\$1,601	\$1,413	\$479	\$878
Transportation	\$390	\$513	\$513	\$609	\$937	\$937	\$326	\$481
Health Care	\$190	\$454	\$454	\$454	\$673	\$673	\$551	\$1,102
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$199	\$319	\$364	\$306	\$511	\$618	\$225	\$350
Taxes	\$273	\$263	\$375	\$384	\$429	\$694	\$331	\$640
Monthly Total	\$2,461	\$3,767	\$4,381	\$3,747	\$6,045	\$7,490	\$2,801	\$4,491
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$29,532	\$45,204	\$52,572	\$44,964	\$72,540	\$89,880	\$33,612	\$53,892
Hourly Wage	\$14.77	\$22.60	\$26.29	\$22.48	\$36.27	\$44.94	\$16.81	\$26.95

Median Household Income: \$99,305 (State average: \$67,769)

OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEAUGA COUNTY

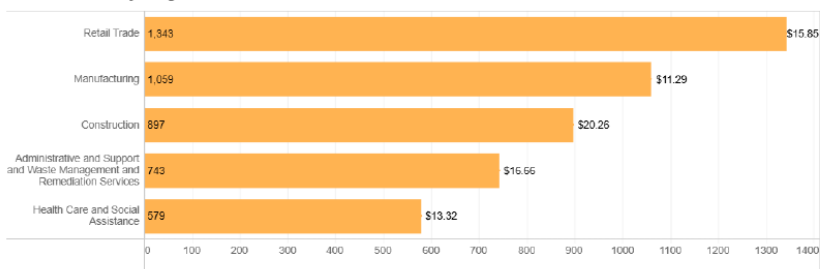


- Neighborhoods with highest % of ALICE Households
1. Middlefield Village: 46%
 2. Middlefield Township: 40%
 3. Chardon: 39%
 4. Burton: 38%
 5. Claridon: 38%

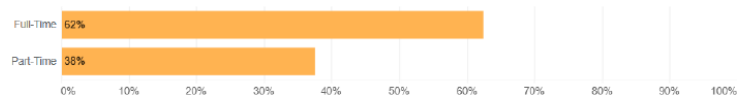
OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEAUGA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT



Most Common Industries for Workers Below ALICE Threshold with Number of Workers and Average Full-Time Hourly Wage



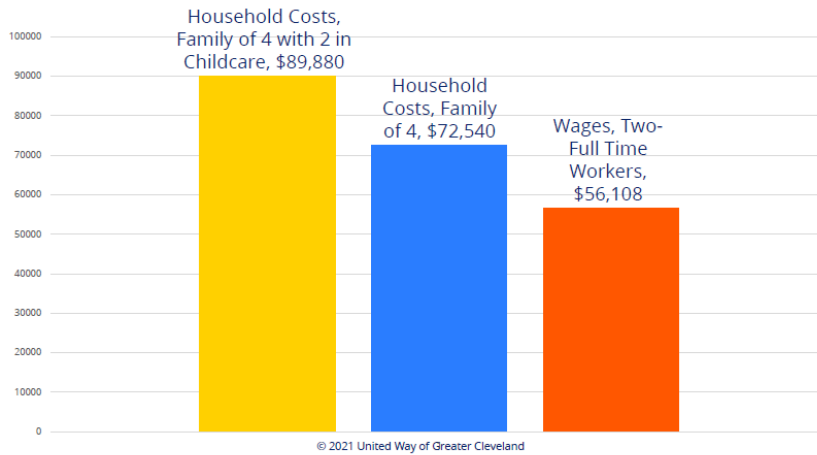
Work Schedules, Workers Below ALICE Threshold



OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEAUGA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT



Basic Costs Exceeded Wages of Common Jobs in Geauga County- Retail trade and manufacturing



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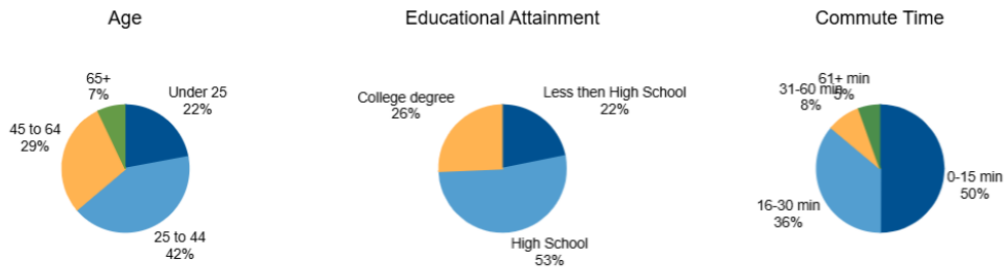
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Ms. Kiefer noted that childcare is the highest cost in Geauga County at \$1900.00 a month for two children in the household.

OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEAUGA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT



Below ALICE Threshold Worker Characteristics



5/27/2025

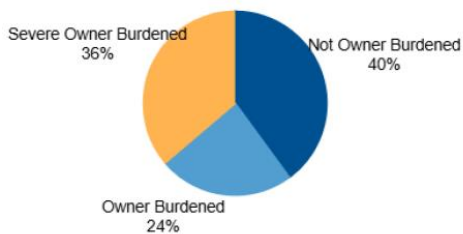
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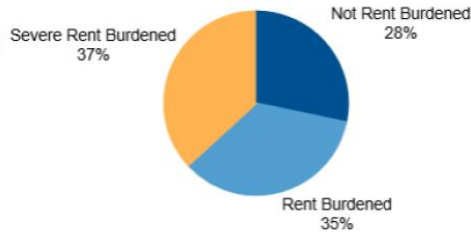
OHIO ALICE REPORT- GEAUGA COUNTY HOUSING



Owner Cost Burden, Households Below ALICE Threshold



Rent Burden, Households Below ALICE Threshold



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HOW WE USE ALICE DATA IN THE COMMUNITY

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UNITED WAY USE OF ALICE DATA



- Allows us to **understand needs and gaps** in services that support people
 - in crisis
 - at home
 - at work or growing income/wealth
- **Helps United Way 211 better direct residents** to services
 - Served over 1,000 Geauga residents in 2024 alone.
- Informs how we **partner and craft community solutions**
 - Geauga Aging and Disability Resource Center
 - Bridges@Work
 - Geauga Poverty Collaborative
- Gives powerful data that **directs Public Policy and Advocacy**

5/27/2025

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ALICE OHIO STATE BUDGET ADVOCACY AGENDA



- Reinstatement of the Governor's recommendation of a \$1,000 Child Tax Credit.
- Reinstatement of the Governor's recommendation of offering Publicly-Funded Childcare for families making up to 200% FPL.
- Allocate \$2 million in each fiscal year to Ohio 211 to ensure all Ohioans have access to information and referral services.

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HOW CAN CITY COUNCIL USE ALICE DATA?



- **Prioritize policy proposals** that address the real cost of living, such as housing, childcare, food, transportation, and health care. ALICE families are most financially strained in these areas.
- **Evaluate program eligibility thresholds** using the ALICE Survival Budget rather than the FPL to ensure that public benefits and supports reach those who truly need them.
- **Use ALICE as a benchmark** when analyzing the potential impact of legislation on working Ohioans, especially those earning just above poverty but still struggling to make ends meet.
- **Inform economic development and workforce strategies** by understanding which jobs pay below the ALICE threshold and how that affects retention, turnover, and regional economic strength.
- Integrate ALICE data into **performance metrics for city-funded programs** to track whether efforts truly improve working families' conditions.

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WEBSITE AND CONTACT



- <https://unitedforalice.org/introducing-ALICE/ohio>
- <https://www.unitedwaycleveland.org/>
- Karen Perko, Director of Community Engagement, kperko@uws.org, (216) 436-2029
- Maryam Kiefer, Director of Public Policy, mkiefer@unitedwaycleveland.org, (216) 436-2105

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Ms. Brakey asked Ms. Kiefer what trends they have noticed in the last five, ten, fifteen years regarding poverty and ALICE data, noting Ms. Kiefer said in Ohio it tends to be flat. Ms. Kiefer stated that for Geauga County specifically, poverty, like the state, has remained flat, but since 2019, it has continued to rise slightly. Ms. Brakey asked if this was related to the cost of living, including housing going up. Ms. Kiefer agreed that while the cost of living has gone up, wages have not kept up with inflation. Ms. Brakey asked what the obstacles are in this county to people getting out of poverty and above the ALICE threshold. Ms. Kiefer noted that the older population in the County is increasing, and they struggle as many are on a fixed income which doesn't change with the costs increasing.

ADP – RESOLUTION BY THE COMMISSIONERS TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE GEAUGA COUNTY AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING BOARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARIDON, PURSUANT TO R.C. 307.847 (E).

Administrator Frank Antenucci explained that there is another township that has inquired about joining the Geauga network. According to the ORC, ADP must have permission from the Board to enter into an agreement for services. ADP is optimistic and excited to offer the opportunity.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-125 by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners to Grant Approval to the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board to Enter into an Agreement with the Legislative Authority of the Township of Claridon, pursuant to R.C. 307.847 (E).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: May 29, 2025

Resolution: #25-125

Resolution by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners to Grant Approval to the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board to Enter into an Agreement with the Legislative Authority of the Township of Claridon pursuant to R.C. 307.847(E)

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.C. 307.847(E), with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners, the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board may enter into an agreement with the legislative authority of any municipal corporation, township, port authority, water or sewer district, school district, library district, county law library association, health district, park district, soil and water conservation district, conservancy district, other taxing district, or regional council established under Chapter 167. of the Revised Code, or with the board of county commissioners or the automatic data processing board or microfilming board of any other county, or with any other federal or state governmental agency, and such authorities may enter into contracts with the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board to provide microfilming, automatic data processing, or other image processing or electronic data processing or record-keeping services to any of them; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board seeks to enter into an agreement for services with the legislative authority of the Township of Claridon, Geauga County, Ohio (“the Township”) to provide microfilming, automatic data processing, or other image processing or electronic data processing or record-keeping services to the Township; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the proposed agreement between the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board and the Township is attached hereto as Exhibit A to this Resolution; and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to R.C. 307.847(E) the Geauga County Board of Commissioners hereby grant approval to the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board to enter into a contract for services with the Township to provide microfilming, automatic data processing, or other image processing or electronic data processing or record-keeping services to the Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution becomes a part of the permanent record of the Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio.

<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 – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RECONSTRUCTION OF BUTTERNUT ROAD – REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE AND RESURFACING OF SECTIONS A-C – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to execute the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving for the reconstruction of Butternut Road, including replacement of a structure and resurfacing in Munson Township. Ms. Brakey asked if the structure is a bridge. Mr. Hajjar replied it is and that they are re-aligning the roadway. Mr. Dvorak asked if the property had been purchased, to which Mr. Hajjar replied yes, and that it had already been obtained.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Unit Price Contract with 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.

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

PROBATE / JUVENILE COURT – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES JUVENILE COURT GRANT AGREEMENT AND FUNDING APPLICATION

Clerk Christine Blair explained that no one from the Court was present this morning and asked the Board to approve the Youth Services Grant Agreement and Funding Application for July 2025 through June 2027. Ms. Brakey asked what the total amount of the grant was. Ms. Blair skimmed through the grant paperwork, noting that it had carryover balances, and it looked like their program costs are \$415,664.47 for 2026 and they will have to come back for the 2027 costs.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Youth Services Juvenile Court Grant Agreement and Funding Application for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.*

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – UNPAID PERSONAL (MEDICAL) LEAVE OF ABSENCE – DANIEL SPADA

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve an unpaid personal (medical) leave of absence for Daniel Spada, Chief Building Official during the period May 27, 2025 through May 30, 2025.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING #2 – PY2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROGRAM

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to waive the reading of the legal notice.*

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

Mr. Dvorak opened Public Hearing #2 at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Brakey asked that anyone wishing to speak or comment during the hearing raise their hand and be sworn in. Once completed, Project Manager Elaine Malkamaki went over the applications received. Ms. Malkamaki explained that the projects submitted included one from Lake Geauga Habitat for Humanity for a work truck that had a total cost of \$56,000.00, requesting \$36,000.00 of CDBG funds with a local match of \$20,000.00, with a national objective of LMI, Low to Moderate Income and limited clientele. The next project was the Department on Aging for the West Geauga Senior Center for a Generator in the amount of \$189,000.00 that includes \$120,750.00 CDBG funds with a local match of \$68,250.00. Their national objective is limited clientele. The third application is from Chardon Township for an ADA asphalt walking trail with a total project cost of \$100,000.00 and a request for CDBG funds of \$100,000.00 with a national objective of ADA accessibility. The fourth project is for Maple Leaf Community Residences for five generators to be installed in five of the homes for individuals with disabilities in the amount of \$71,600.00 and requesting CDBG funds of \$71,600.00. Their national objective is limited clientele. The fifth project is public services for Burton Public Library for the elevator modernization as the elevator is unpredictable and their meeting rooms and ADA bathrooms are on the second floor. The total project cost is \$223,677.00 and they are requesting CDBG funds of \$150,000.00 with local matching funds of \$73,677.00 with the national objective of ADA accessibility. The sixth project is the Geauga County Agricultural Society for public services to install five shower additions in the bathroom near the riding arena that will include one ADA shower and 4 regular showers for a total project cost of \$97,100.00. They are requesting CDBG funds of \$97,100.00 and their national objective is ADA accessibility. The last project was private rehab for the DDC Clinic

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for special needs children to expand their driveway and parking lot with a total project cost of \$178,250.00 with requested CDBG funds of \$178,250.00 and their national objective is limited clientele. Ms. Malkamaki noted that the grant includes general administration funds of \$41,800.00 to administer the grant and Fair Housing administrative funds of \$10,000.00 to continue to implement Geauga County's Fair Housing program.

Ms. Brakey asked to go over the scoring matrix. Ms. Malkamaki explained that ranking includes safety, health, welfare, feasibility, readiness to proceed, permitting and previous funding. If you received funding, you would not get 3 points, if it was last year it was 1 point, two years it was 2 points, no funding you got three points. Ms. Malkamaki explained that we can choose two projects and the two projects that came out on top were the Burton Public Library elevator and the Chardon Township walking trail. Ms. Brakey asked why the walking trail was a zero for feasibility. Ms. Malkamaki explained that they did not have their architectural plans yet, so we have to get an engineer to do project specifications. Both projects have a larger population that will be served, as a community impact. The Department on Aging, the DDC Clinic and the Maple Leaf Community residences were a close third together, with Habitat for Humanity and the Agricultural Society with lesser points.

Chardon Township Trustee Tim McKenna explained that this project has been on their wish list for a long time. It is a large community park that will add some additional opportunity for individuals using the park. This project was applied for in the last cycle and was on the alternate project list.

Mr. Dvorak asked about when these projects will be completed. Ms. Malkamaki stated that she hopes to get them done next summer, but they have until October of 2027 to get them completed.

Burton Public Library's representative explained that the elevator does not work properly very often. They have been fundraising for years, but it has been a moving target and they would appreciate getting it repaired. The repair costs keep increasing and they continue to fundraise on the project. Ms. Malkamaki noted that they need to provide a letter that any overages on the project need to be covered by their organization.

Ms. Boalt, Director for the Department on Aging, explained that they were looking to get a generator at the West Geauga Senior Center, noting the recent tornado that came through last year was an eye-opening moment. They have a commercial kitchen that they use to provide meals for 684 individuals at the senior center, but they also provide over 8,000 home-delivered and congregate meals, so the septic system needs to keep functioning. The generator at the facility could also allow the location to be used to assist the community during outages.

Being no further comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 10:13 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC) – PY2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) SMALL CITIES ALLOCATION PROGRAM – SELECT TWO PROJECTS – TWO ALTERNATE PROJECTS

The Community and Economic Development Department is requesting the Board select two (2) projects for the PY2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Small Cities Allocation Program and rank two (2) additional projects as alternates, should the selected projects not be approved by the state.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to select the Burton Public Library Elevator project and the Chardon Township Park Trail as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation Projects, with the Department on Aging Generator and the DDC Clinic Parking Lot expansion as the two alternate projects.

<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>

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION PLAN – PY2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Ms. Malkamaki asked the Board to approve the citizens' participation plan which requires two public hearings, noting that townships are consulted for participation in the program.

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Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute the Geauga County Citizens' Participation Plan in regards to PY2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation Program.

<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>

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – RESOLUTION –
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME PROGRAM ANTI-
DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE, PY2025 ALLOCATION PROGRAM

Ms. Malkamaki asked the Board to approve the resolution regarding home program anti-displacement and relocation assistance. Ms. Brakey asked what qualifies as a LMI dwelling. Ms. Malkamaki explained that if rehab or demolition was done on a building, they would have to do an LMI survey. If the county wants to buy occupied property, we would have to pay to relocate occupants.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-126 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Program Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance, PY 2025 Allocation Program.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: May 29, 2025

Resolution: #25-126

*COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME PROGRAM
ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RE-LOCATION ASSISTANCE,
PY 2025 ALLOCATION PROGRAM*

WHEREAS, Geauga County will replace all occupied and vacant occupiable LMI dwelling units demolished or converted to a use other than LMI housing as a direct result of activities assisted with funds provided under the Housing and Community Development Act and HUD Regulations; and

WHEREAS, all replacement housing will be provided within three years of the beginning the demolition or rehabilitations related to conversion; and

WHEREAS, Geauga County will provide relocation assistance to each LMI household displaced by the demolition of housing or conversion of a LMI dwelling to another use as a direct result of assisted activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that consistent with the goals and objectives under the Act, Geauga County Commissioners do hereby agree to provide substantial levels of assistance to persons displaced by HUD-assisted program and will further seek to minimize displacement of persons as a result of assisted activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners finds and determines that all formal actions of the Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution, were taken in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board that resulted in those formal actions were in meeting open to the public in compliance with the law including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

<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>

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – PROGRAMMATIC
AGREEMENT FOR COORDINATION – OHIO'S STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
– ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMS USING HUD ALLOCATED FUNDS

Ms. Malkamaki asked the Board to approve the programmatic agreement. Ms. Brakey inquired about consulting with tribes, to which Ms. Malkamaki replied that many of the western tribes

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absorbed the tribes that lived in our area, and that there are maps for burials, and mounds that were built and when you are disturbing the ground or a historic building, it has to be reviewed. Ms. Malkamaki noted that she is putting through two demolition projects they are working on just to be safe.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Programmatic Agreement for Coordination between Geauga County and Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office for the Administration of Programs using HUD Allocated Funds with Delegated Review Responsibilities Authorized under 24 CFR Part 58.

<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>

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2025 AS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Director Craig Swenson asked the Board to approve a resolution to recognize June as Elder Abuse Awareness month. Geauga County is not immune to elder abuse and last year there were 110 screened in cases that met metrics for elder abuse and neglect. It is a concerning issue, with a call every three days. There is not a lot of rental property in the community, and we have families that paid off their homes and as they age, their fixed income doesn't allow them to keep up the home, while lack of mobility turns into self-neglect. Mr. Swenson noted that these are issues of concern, and we need to be respectful but keep them safe. It can be traumatic for them, and it is a delicate balance. JFS works closely with the Department on Aging to be able to help these individuals. They are limited on what they can do with funding from the state, and they use social services block grant funds to assist with these services.

Mr. Swenson invited the Board to attend the Live Well Festival June 4 at the Claridon Woodlands Lodge, which includes health and wellness vendors for individuals 50 and older. Mr. Swenson explained that cases are on the rise, and this year is trending to be above last year. Reporters are family members, neighbors, staff of the Department on Aging, Sheriff's office, or banking staff, noting anyone can call in and express a concern.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-127 Recognizing June 2025 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #25-127
Date: May 29, 2025

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2025 AS ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, We know that our seniors (age 60 and older) have helped contribute greatly to our Geauga County community and to the development of our current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, As a community Geauga County values the importance of protecting and supporting our seniors and ensuring that they live in a safe and secure environment without fear of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Geauga County has a large senior population that has growing needs, but the rising incidence of elder maltreatment has generally remained hidden from the public view; and

WHEREAS, While as a community we are blessed to have many wonderful, nurturing families that take care of our elders, we must recognize that Geauga County is not immune from the reality that some elders in our county endure abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation; and

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WHEREAS, In the United States an estimated 1 in 10 Americans have suffered some form of elder maltreatment. In 2024, the Geauga County Adult Protective Services Team investigated one hundred and ten (110) separate reports of elder maltreatment in the county; and

WHEREAS, As a caring community we must not only respond to and stop the elder maltreatment where it exists, but we must also be diligent in our efforts to ensure that our community is aware of its role in recognizing and preventing such maltreatment going forward; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners recognize June 2025 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month in Geauga County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution becomes part of the permanent record of the Board of Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

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

MAINTENANCE – STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS ON FILE – PROFESSIONAL DESIGN AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION – SELECT LDA ARCHITECTS, INCORPORATED – MOST QUALIFIED FIRM – KENNEL EXPANSION AND RENOVATION – ANIMAL SHELTER – BEGIN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Project Manager Charles Tkach asked the Board to acknowledge the statement of qualifications on file for professional design and contract administration and select LDA Architects, Incorporated as the most qualified firm for the Animal Shelter kennel renovation and allow him to begin contract negotiations. Total project estimate is \$250,000.00 with an architectural fee under \$50,000.00. Mr. Tkach replied to a question from Commissioner Spidalieri about the expansion of the existing kennels and adding to it, and is based on what the architect designs. Mr. Spidalieri asked why the architect costs \$50,000.00. Mr. Tkach explained this is an estimate. We won't know the cost until we select them and begin negotiating a contract. Mr. Spidalieri said that we need to start looking at all these architectural fees. Mr. Tkach explained that we are looking at multiple options: building out what is there or purchasing and adding to what is there. Mr. Spidalieri brought up the idea of bringing on an in-house architect that can do some of these projects. The general public doesn't do this for their projects. Mr. Tkach added that if you bring in an in-house architect you won't get the number of projects completed, noting that currently Maintenance has 15 projects being worked on. You would not get all those projects done in-house. Mr. Dvorak added that he wanted to see the full \$250,000.00 go towards the improvements at the shelter and use the other donations to the shelter for architect fees.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to acknowledge the Statement of Qualifications on file for Professional Design and Contract Administration including 1) LDA Architects, Incorporated, 2) SME and 3) Verdantas, LLC and select LDA Architects, Incorporated as the most qualified firm in accordance with O.R.C. 153.69(A) for the kennel expansion and renovation at the Geauga County Animal Shelter Building and further authorize the department to begin contract negotiations, in accordance with O.R.C. 153.69 (B).

<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 – ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – SAFETY CENTER VISITATION ROOM ALTERATION PROJECT

Mr. Tkach asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for bids for the Safety Center Visitation Room Alteration project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the Geauga County Safety Center Visitation Room Alteration Project to be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

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Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on May 30, 2025, June 6, 2025, and on the county website.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MAINTENANCE – CONTRACT AGREEMENT – REDCON, LLC – NEW FENCE FOR PLAYGROUND AT COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

Director Glen Vernick asked the Board to approve a service contract with Redcon LLC to install new fencing for the playground. Mr. Vernick explained that the fence is melting due to the sun reflecting off the windows down to the fence. This is not covered under the warranty and after doing some research, he found another material that will be more durable.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Contract Agreement with Redcon LLC to install a new fence for the playground located at the Geauga County Office Building to be effective May 29, 2025, with installation to be completed within 180 days in an amount not to exceed \$12,600.00.*

Roll Call Vote:

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

MAINTENANCE – UNPAID PERSONAL LEAVE – KEVIN BORSI, ELECTRICIAN

Mr. Vernick asked the Board to approve unpaid personal leave for an employee.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve unpaid personal leave of absence for Kevin Borsi, Electrician (#1925) for the period of May 2, 2025 through May 12, 2025 and for the period May 16, 2025 through May 21, 2025.*

Roll Call Vote:

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – AGREEMENT – GUTOSKEY AND ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED – ENGINEERING SERVICES – VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve the agreement with Gutoskey and Associates for surveying and land planning, adding that part of that will be for the extension of the sanitary sewer for the Youth Center.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement between the Geauga County Board of Commissioners and Gutoskey and Associates, Incorporated for Engineering Services to Geauga County for Engineering, Surveying and Land Planning, as needed at various locations within the department, in the amount of \$35,000.00 (\$25,000.00 Wastewater and \$10,000.00 Water).*

Roll Call Vote:

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – EXTEND SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – HERSHBERGER ROOFING AND SIDING

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to extend the current service contract to an additional eight months.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1 extending the Service Contract Agreement with Hershberger Roofing and Siding for an additional eight (8) months through January 7, 2026 in the original amount of \$40,000.00.*

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – FIREHOUSE 8 EXTINGUISHER SERVICE, LLP

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to increase and extend the service contract with Firehouse Extinguisher who has agreed to hold their current pricing.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1 increasing the service Contract Agreement with Firehouse 8 Extinguisher Service, LLP in the amount of \$4,000.00 and extending the length of the contract one year (365 days) through March 26, 2026 in the new not to exceed amount of \$8,000.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – C.U.E. EXCAVATING CONTRACTORS, LLC

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve an increase to the service contract with C.U.E. Excavating for various excavating services. The original amount was mainly used for the Pilgrim Village lift station. This is just to increase that current contract for any additional services that may need to be done.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1 increasing the service Contract Agreement with C.U.E. Excavating Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Wastewater (now \$35,000.00) with a new not to exceed amount of \$50,000.00.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – AUTHORIZE RALPH SPIDALIERI, AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND PAYMENT REQUEST #1 – MCFARLAND CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to authorize Mr. Spidalieri to execute the OWDA fund payment request #1 for HDR for engineering on the McFarland Creek project. This invoice has been paid, this is reimbursement for technical services through the OWDA loan.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize Ralph Spidalieri, authorized representative to execute the Ohio Water Development Authority Fund Payment Request #1 for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project for technical services by HDR Engineering, Incorporated in the amount of \$19,593.93.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES - AUTHORIZE RALPH SPIDALIERI, AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND PAYMENT REQUEST #2 – MCFARLAND CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to authorize Mr. Spidalieri to execute the OWDA fund payment request #2 for HDR for technical services related to the McFarland Creek project, adding that this is a reimbursement on the invoice that has been paid.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize Ralph Spidalieri, authorized representative to execute the Ohio Water Development Authority Fund Payment Request #2 for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project for technical services by HDR Engineering, Incorporated in the amount of \$52,493.79.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – INCREASE TEMPORARY WATER PERMIT APPLICATION FEE

Mr. Gorris explained that this increase to their Temporary Water Permit Application Fee has a retroactive effective date due to an increase he put into place but did not put before the Board for approval. The second increase is to try and get the amount high enough to cover the actual costs of the work being performed.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve an increase to the Temporary Water Permit Application Fee from \$50.00 to \$150.00 with a retroactive effective date of April 1, 2024 and an increase from \$150.00 to \$200.00, with a retroactive effective date of May 19, 2025.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – APPROVE ADDITION OF TEMPORARY WATER PERMIT EQUIPMENT SET-UP FEE

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve a new fee on the approved list for a temporary water permit equipment set up fee, to fall in line with the EPA. This fee will cover part of the cost to hire someone to do the backflow testing required on the water permit.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the addition of the Temporary Water Permit Equipment Set-up Fee to the list of previously approved Department of Water Resources fees, with a retroactive effective date of May 19, 2025. The Equipment Set-up Fee of \$550.00 covers the cost of installation, backflow testing and removal of temporary water fill station used by customers with a temporary water permit.

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

Mr. Dvorak asked for the estimated timeframe for shovels in the ground at McFarland, which Mr. Gorris replied four weeks ago, noting that by the end of this week we should be at final grade and can start digging for the new headworks building. The build is active, the existing building is gone, and they are working to remove the sand filter building.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #7 – INCREASE CONTRACT – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Assistant County Administrator Linda Burhenne explained that the next three items, are change orders for the Courthouse that have been discussed previously by the Board. This increase is the installation of the baggage scanner. Mr. Spidalieri asked why ADP had to approve this, which Ms. Burhenne replied that the Sheriff selected the scanner and because it touches the network, ADP had to approve it.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #7 increasing the Contract (GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2) with Infinity Construction Company on the Courthouse Expansion Project deducting for the addition of ordering and overseeing the installation of the baggage scanner not covered in the original contract in the amount of \$54,194.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #8 – DECREASE CONTRACT – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Ms. Burhenne explained that this is a compilation of multiple changes but is a decrease in the contract cost and includes extending the substantial completion date of the Courthouse to October 10.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #8 decreasing the Contract (GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2) with Infinity Construction Company on the Courthouse Expansion Project for the removal of speakers, network equipment and transaction windows, along with the addition of a clerk and finance counter and additional window shades not covered in the original contract in the amount of (\$18,110.00) and extending the substantial date of completion by an additional twenty-two days through October 10, 2025.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #9 – INCREASE CONTRACT – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Ms. Burhenne asked the Board to approve Change Order #9 increasing the contract with Infinity Construction Company for the roof, explaining that when they went to attach the new building to the old building, it was discovered that the old portion was more deteriorated than expected, so this is to repair the old courthouse section in order to connect it to the new section. Ms. Burhenne noted that the roof of the existing courthouse is 19years old. Ms. Brakey asked if this is one section, why are we not just replacing the whole roof. Ms. Burhenne explained that there was discussion, a price was given, and it was declined due to concern over the increasing cost of the project. Mr. Dvorak also asked about replacing the whole roof of the existing courthouse. It was decided to look into replacing the whole existing roof.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #9 increasing the Contract (GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2) with Infinity Construction Company on the Courthouse Expansion Project for additional work required on the existing Courthouse Roof not covered in the original contract in the amount of \$48,400.00.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PARTIAL PAYMENT #20 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Ms. Burhenne asked the Board to approve the partial payment request #20 for Infinity. Ms. Brakey inquired if NV5 had reviewed the pay request, to which Ms. Burhenne replied that it had.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #20 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 expenses in the amount of \$572,668.05.*

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

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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RECLASSIFY LINDA BURHENNE FROM FULL-TIME TO PART-TIME

Ms. Burhenne asked the Board to allow her to go down to part-time and have Fridays off to take care of her grandchildren at least for the summer.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the request from Assistant County Administrator, Linda Burhenne to be reclassified from Full-time to Part-time (32 hours per week), effective May 29, 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>

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Brakey welcomed Amy Bevan, adding she is excited for Amy to be here in this role. It is a big job and that she looks forward to the future. Ms. Brakey wanted to recognize Ms. Burhenne and Ms. Blair, along with other staff, for picking up the slack when we didn't have an administrator. You got right in there and did the job, served the people and did it professionally.

Ms. Brakey noted that the Commissioners' comments were filed with the PUCO regarding the closure of the Middlefield service office. The PUCO will review the comments when they determine First Energy's base distribution rates.

Ms. Brakey explained that last week she was in Washington D.C. for the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Conference, which included County Commissioners and State Legislators. There were briefings from the Trump Administration along with other administration staff about a variety of topics. Ms. Brakey briefly talked about the many things that were discussed and that she brought up the Federal Inspections for the County Jail to house ICE detainees. They had the opportunity to tour Vice President Vance's office and were given a pin that includes the vice-presidential seal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Jones from Auburn Township expressed that she was able to follow one day of the PUCO hearings and asked if we would hear about First Energy and the comments that were filed. Ms. Brakey expressed that it is hard to know when the PUCO will make a decision, but you can sign up for the PUCO alerts. Ms. Brakey added that electric rates are going to spike in June due to rising capacity costs.

Anastasia Nicholas with the Chagrin Valley Times inquired about any input on the ACLU lawsuit. Mr. Dvorak expressed that right after the Safety Center was completed, they started housing ICE detainees which helped us pay off the build sooner. Mr. Dvorak feels it is frivolous for them to do this. Ms. Brakey expressed that we shouldn't comment on ongoing litigation but added that the Court will need to decide if the documents need to be released.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting Minutes for April 16, 2025*
- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending May 7, 2025, May 14, 2025 and May 21, 2025 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 April 2025, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

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MEETINGS

- Thu., 5/29 2026 Tax Budget Hearing, 8:45 a.m.*
- Thu., 5/29 2026 Tax Budget Hearings, beginning at 12:30 p.m.*
- Tue., 6/3 2026 Tax Budget Hearing, 8:15 a.m.*
- Tue., 6/3 Investment Advisory Committee, 9:00 a.m.*
- Tue., 6/3 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 6/10 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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