

Commissioners' Journal
May 6, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on May 6, 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:

Heavenly Father

There's no storm that God won't carry you through

No bridge that God won't help you cross

No battle that God won't help you win

Trust God and never give up.

Amen

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Acting County Administrator Linda Burhenne 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.

May 5, 2025

Approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with Independent Diesel Services, Incorporated to perform Generator Switchgear Breakers Repair at McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant and other ATS related repairs and services, as needed at various locations within the department for a period of one year, to be effective May 5, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of April 8, 2025.

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| <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 an Appropriations transfer to the Sheriff for miscellaneous refunds, reimbursements and web checks that were deposited into the General Fund; Supplemental Appropriation in the Opioid Settlement Fund to cover an encumbrance to the Lake Geauga Recovery Center; a Cash transfer from the Commissioners' Office to the unemployment rotary fund; Travel requests for the Auditor's Office, Common Pleas Court and the Treasurer's Office; a formal Contract Purchase Order from the Commissioners' Office to Schindler Elevator Corporation to install security cameras in the elevators at the Geauga County Office Building; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ohio State University for the county's 2nd quarter 2025 program support payment in the amount of \$63,721.99 and a payment for Maintenance to CT Consultants, Incorporated for professional design services related to the Safety Center Parking Lot project in the amount of \$21,800.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to approve and execute Resolution #25-083 itemizing the financials for the meeting of May 6, 2025.

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| <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> |

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FIRSTENERGY – DISCUSSION REGARDING MIDDLEFIELD SERVICE CLOSURE

FirstEnergy Local Engagement Specialist Dave Conley, Director of Operations Tinh Khongphatthana and Director of Customer Accounts and Local Engagement David Turner came before the Board to discuss the proposed closure of the Middlefield service office. Mr. Conley explained that he has taken over for Dean Hayne, noting that he remembers some of them when he worked with Geauga a few years back. Mr. Conley wanted to address some of the concerns in the letter that was sent by the Board regarding the Middlefield service office.

Mr. Conley stated that to ensure responsible resource management, FirstEnergy plans to consolidate the Middlefield line shop with the Concord line shop and the date remains under review and has not been established yet. FirstEnergy and the Illuminating Company over the past decade has invested significant funds and resources to strengthen the electric grid in Middlefield in Geauga County, including the installation of smart meters and the installation of a new substation in 2012. They have helped prevent or minimize the impact of power outages for business and residents, especially during severe weather. The consolidation of the Middlefield line shop with the Concord sine shop will not impact response times during outages and emergencies. The process for handling outages and emergencies will not change, as the first responders to emergency situations are a trouble crew and they do not respond from the Middlefield line shop. Currently no trouble crews respond from the Middlefield location. When an emergency call comes in, the closest trouble crew is dispatched often from the Concord line shop. After the trouble crew determines what needs to be done, a line crew is dispatched if additional repairs are needed. This is a normal protocol for all line shops. Mr. Conley continued to state that the line crews currently assigned to the Middlefield service center will continue their work but will start the day at the Concord service center.

Mr. Conley stated that they will continue to have line supervisors on call and available to respond to emergencies. Mr. Conley stated that the distribution control center, engineering and work management teams will continue to support the Middlefield area in the same capacity as they currently provide. They will continue to follow the electrical system inspection and maintenance requirements that the O.R.C. calls for.

Commissioner Spidalieri asked for clarification that the Middlefield crew does respond to emergencies. Mr. Khongphatthana explained that if an emergency comes up, they receive the call, dispatch the trouble crew to understand what is happening and isolate any hazards that they can, and then when they determine what needs to be done, they send a line crew, the closest one to correct the issue. Mr. Spidalieri responded that his concern is there is so much industry in Middlefield, and that is happening during the day when that crew is working doing what they need to do and can easily respond because they are there. If there is a traffic crash that hits a pole and it goes down, they are there, if Middlefield goes down that is an enormous amount of dollars to those factories that they are committed to, to not have that service, in addition, if there is a dangerous situation with wires down, look at the risk we are putting people into. It's a good location within the county, good representation, having taken the time to go talk to them about what their day consists of, and they do an incredible job for Geauga County. Mr. Spidalieri stated that on the side of cost, what you are paying for to have that service for this county, I think there are other areas you can cut, so as not to take that service away from Geauga County. Mr. Spidalieri does not want to see Geauga County get shortchanged in this. Mr. Khongphatthana explained that for the folks that are relocated, they will still have work in and around the Middlefield area, so when there is an emergency, the closest crew can safely break down and respond to them. Mr. Spidalieri responded that is great for a conversation, you have theory here and reality here and don't think we meet in the middle, we are suffering a huge loss for a small dollar to lose that ability, that he has seen it too many times. As a business owner in Middlefield that talks to a lot of business owners in Middlefield, and the unit in Middlefield has been incredibly responsive to not just Middlefield, but the whole county, and the knowledge they have, you can't recreate that, they are a fine-tuned machine.

Mr. Khongphattana continued to state that the work is going to stay the same, people will still be in and around the shop and those can be relocated to Concord, no loss of service, it is just the reporting location that is changing. Ms. Brakey replied that Concord is thirty minutes away from Middlefield, so if there is an emergency, they have to drive thirty minutes, and it seems like there will be thirty minutes of delay if there is an issue. Mr. Khongphatthana replied that the trouble crews that are around the service area, they are not sitting in the shop waiting to respond. Mr. Spidalieri stated that right now if a transformer goes down at a factory in Middlefield, they are five minutes away to get a transformer, and be back to do an install, if we

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don't have that yard there, where will they get parts, he is not buying the time thing, because there is an incredible amount of time that will be lost going from point a to point b just to get parts and equipment. You can't sit there and be honest in this, because that is not the case, there is going to be an extra amount of time from determination to go pick it up and bring it back. In the end of the day, we need our businesses protected and we have an incredible number of people that have dedicated their business to our county and committed their service to you to provide their power, so it is the least they can do to provide that service. I understand shrinking down to run your company more effectively and efficiently, but we have a very different scenario here with the amount of industry that it is in this town. There is another business going in, that is a million square feet, but at the end of the day it is about service, and we should not be going backwards, and feel this is a bad move for our county.

Ms. Brakey stated that we realize you are not the decision makers and while we don't want to shoot the messenger, but we can fire off a few rounds, perhaps, since you are here. Ms. Brakey stated that 2024 was the test year for FirstEnergy for ratemaking. When the Public Utilities Commissioner of Ohio (PUCO) is deciding FirstEnergy's rate distribution rates, what they are looking at is what your costs were in 2024, and that includes the Middlefield shop. To the extent that you take it off the books, you save money, but the rates are still based on 2024 costs. Mr. Conley stated that the rate case is in front of the PUCO and ultimately it will go through that process and can't comment more than that. Ms. Brakey stated that does not feel like a good faith negotiation with the PUCO regarding what customers rates should be. Ms. Brakey stated that those depositions are going on right now and Mr. Hinton admitted that service will go down in Geauga County as a result of the shop being taken away. Mr. Dvorak added that in time, we will get less service for higher electric rates.

Ms. Brakey noted that Mayor Ben Garlich from Middlefield Village was in attendance and asked if he had anything to say. Mr. Garlich stated that time is money, and we have a ton of industry in Middlefield, and before the new substation was put in, we were down for thousands of hours, and have gotten past that since it was finished, but now you want to take us back again. Mr. Garlich stated that not only do we need a service center, but we also need a first responders' team, so they can be first on site to diagnose. Mr. Garlich asked for additional support. Mr. Garlich added that he had previously spoken to Dean Hayne about response time has decreased. They used to have a response on streetlights of 72 hours, now it's four calls and seventy-two weeks. It seems that FirstEnergy's focus on service has become less of a priority and more on financial gain. It's cumbersome to deal with and he can't believe Geauga County doesn't warrant representation, especially Middlefield. We have six of the eleven largest employers in the county there, and you're a half mile away from most of them. We are asking for support.

Mr. Conley asked Mr. Khongphatthana to talk about the trouble response. Mr. Khongphatthana responded that when there is an issue, a call is made into the control center, who calls the trouble crew directly or the supervisor, who responds and troubleshoots and determines the hazard. If a line crew is needed, they arrange for a crew to come in. If the Middlefield crew is the closest and they are able to safely stop their work, they will do so and respond. If not, then it will be crews from other areas to respond to the emergency. Mr. Garlich mentioned that he could think of ten times when there was an issue, they responded within fifteen minutes and had the issue fixed in a short period of time. Mr. Garlich expressed that Geauga County warrants the best services from FirstEnergy. When an incident happens, the quicker the response, the less money is lost to the business in the area.

Ms. Burhenne asked a question about if they are consolidating with the Concord office, will it include a reduction in staff, and if you are not reducing staff and you own the building, how is this action saving money. The response from Mr. Khongphatthana is that this is good resource management. Mr. Conley added that they are not the decision makers, it is still being planned and a date has not been set, but that the plan is to move forward with the consolidation. Mr. Spidalieri used fire departments in a big city that has multiple stations as an example of reducing response times, these crews are like a fire department, they are the first responder that deals with emergencies, it feels like we are shutting down a critical station that is serving the area. Our first responders need you; our businesses need you and our residents need you, and we need to rethink this as a partnership to help Geauga County. If there are so many good things that have come out of this, why are we going backwards; the dollars do not justify the decision that it is moving towards.

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Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand explained that on their side, the problem is response times. Right now, if we call for FirstEnergy to come out, the standard answer is 1 -2 hours, and that is not if they are not in storm mode. As soon as we get a little snow, rain or the wind blows, they go into storm mode and we have no idea how long it is going to take. Sheriff Hildenbrand continued to state that he felt there was no way the response time was going to be the same from Concord as it would be from Middlefield, especially in the middle of the night when employees are from Mesopotamia and Trumbull County. It is much easier to go to Middlefield to get a truck than Concord obviously. Sheriff Hildenbrand stated that you have always sold to us that you are sending a supervisor to evaluate and maybe make the scene safe, but that doesn't happen. The Sheriff's Deputies have to sit there, the Fire Departments have to sit there, sometimes the roads are closed and they have to wait, and often times you have peoples' lives at stake. If a wire is on a vehicle, or if a line dropped and started the house on fire, we can't put the fire out because the lines are charged, and if you have an emergency, time seems to take hours when it's only minutes. Sheriff Hildenbrand expressed some frustration about FirstEnergy pulling the only garage in Geauga County and move to Concord because response times are going be affected and you are responsible to respond to emergencies, so if those times take even longer, that will be on you. Sheriff Hildenbrand expressed that he has said this in every meeting he has had with FirstEnergy, that when they go into storm mode, he would rather you tell me it will take at least day to respond. That gives emergency workers an idea of what to do and how to respond, but not giving any kind of ETA, it is very aggravating. You need to work with public safety and moving that yard out of Middlefield is not going to help.

Mr. Conley stated that in this role, he will continue to work with all of you on the communication and be available for you in that way. Mr. Khongphatthana continued to state that they have trouble crews in and around the area, and when there is an emergency, they are the first to respond around the clock and in the service territory. If someone is stuck on an emergency, they dispatch the next closest crew in the area. You need to state the emergency when the call is made to prioritize the emergency response. Sheriff Hildenbrand stated that he has been to the communications center and the command center and you have millions of dollars of computer equipment and staff and you would think you could give us some kind of ETA on the response. Those computers are prioritizing those calls. Sheriff Hildenbrand stated that he couldn't remember when the last time a representative was at a commissioners' meeting, adding that FirstEnergy needs to work with them and stressed again that moving that Middlefield site out is not the answer, and not the best for us.

Ms. Burhenne asked if they would reconsider. Mr. Conley replied that as of right now, the plan is to consolidate and obviously they will share any information they gained today with management. Ms. Brakey stated that the letter we sent to Mr. Hinton said that the Commissioners will file public comment inthe distribution rate case before the PUCO. If they fail to reconsider, and it appears that is the case, she will begin to compile comments so we can get them filed with the PUCO. Mr. Conley thanked the Board for allowing them to come before the Board today. Mr. Dvorak asked them to please convey this strong message to the superiors.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO ORDER THE PAVEMENT MARKINGS OF VARIOUS ROADS, GEAUGA COUNTY – EXECUTE TITLE SHEET FOR SPECIFICATIONS AND SET A BID OPENING ON MAY 23, 2025

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to order the pavement markings of various roads in Geauga County, including execute the title sheet of specifications and set a bid opening and advertisement dates. Ms. Brakey asked how they evaluate which roads to include in this. Mr. Hajjar stated that generally they do roads in a three-year cycle, so the first pass hasn't been done for two years so it goes on the list. Roads in the Amish communities wear edges faster, so some of those roads get done every two years, but sometimes every year. Mr. Hajjar stated that any road that was paved last year gets a paint line, and so those will be included as this product is a much more durable poly paint the following year. It's a county wide evaluation that starts with general principles, and then they evaluate expedite painting, or if they are planning to do a road resurfacing, if they feel it will hold up, they may wait on it.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-084 to Order the Pavement Markings of Various Roads, Geauga County.

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This resolution requests the Board to approve and execute the Title Sheet of the Specifications for the same.

Further, this resolution sets a Bid Opening using Bid Express at the County Engineer's Office on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 10:10 a.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on May 8, 2025, and on the county website.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: May 6, 2025

Resolution: 25 – 084

RESOLUTION TO ORDER
THE PAVEMENT MARKINGS OF VARIOUS ROADS
GEAUGA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (Board) has determined by Resolution

#24 - 225 that the public convenience and welfare requires the application of pavement markings on various roadways in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.06; and

WHEREAS, lands will not 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 23, 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 Geauga County Engineer.

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| <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 PLACEMENT OF CRACK SEAL ON VARIOUS ROADS IN GEAUGA COUNTY – EXECUTE TITLE SHEET – SET A BID OPENING ON MAY 23, 2025

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the resolution to order the placement of crack seal on various roads in Geauga County, execute the title sheet and set the bid opening and advertisement dates.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-085 to Order the Placement of Crack Seal on Various Roads in Geauga County.

This resolution requests the Board to approve and execute the Title Sheet of the Specifications for the same.

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Further, this resolution sets a Bid Opening using Bid Express at the County Engineer's Office on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 10:15 a.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on May 8, 2025, and on the county website.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: May 6, 2025
Resolution: 25 – 085

RESOLUTION TO ORDER
THE PLACEMENT OF CRACK SEAL ON VARIOUS ROADS,
IN GEAUGA COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners (Board) has determined by Resolution 25 – 072 that the public convenience and welfare requires the improvement of various highways by applying crack seal to county highways as necessary in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 5555.06; and

WHEREAS, lands will not be taken relative to the improvements; and

WHEREAS, the cost of such improvement, which includes the placement of crack seal on various county roads as a maintenance measure to extend the lifespan of the pavement, 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 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 23, 2025 and read publicly at 10:15 AM.

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

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| <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> |

There was a brief discussion about the Engineer's Office having two machines to do crack seal. However, the amount of crack seal has gone up substantially and crews are committed to other maintenance projects, and feel it is better to do as a contracted service than in-house this year.

GEAUGA TRUMBULL SOLID WASTE MANGAGEMENT DISTRICT – RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE UPDATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GEAUGA-
TRUMBULL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Director Jennifer Jones asked the Board to approve the updated solid waste management plan. Every five years, the EPA requires us to update and do a complete review of all the programs and assess the ability to handle waste for both Geauga and Trumbull Counties. This includes review of all the programs they offer and decide their plans for the next five to fifteen years. This process is done through the policy committee that includes a wide range of board members including representatives from each county, business, health departments and the public. Ms. Jones stated that it takes about twelve to fifteen months to write the new plan, it's about three hundred pages, and we are at the point of asking that the plan be reviewed and approved by each county, municipality, township and village. This will be our basis of operations for the next five to fifteen years.

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Ms. Brakey stated that she found it interesting in the statistics, that while Geauga County is about half the size of Trumbull but in most of the recycling categories, Geauga County has more pounds of recycling except for e-waste. Ms. Jones explained that some items are not a surprise, using the example of appliances that have Freon, and scrap yards in Geauga County won't take them, except the district, so they bring those to us. In Trumbull, they have a lot of scrap yards that will do that. Ms. Jones also noted electronics being about the same. Geauga County has a tendency to have thin televisions as a more affluent population, which is less weight to dispose of, whereas Trumbull have areas that have bulky projection and console televisions. CRTV's are one of the most expensive items they get. Statistically, areas that have more financial means are more likely to recycle or use recycling programs. Geauga County typically has the same amount as Trumbull even though you are half the size.

Mr. Dvorak asked what percentage is needed from both counties. Ms. Jones replied that she needs sixty percent from each county, the largest municipality from each county, so here, Chardon in Geauga, and the Commissioners from each county. Ms. Jones explained that so far, we have two responses, but it is very early, and both are a yes. Ms. Jones stated that if the plan is rejected, the EPA would write the plan, and they would have no say in what they decide to fund or not fund. This plan lays out what they want to do, but it is our legal ability to spend on things. They cannot start a new program or project unless it is in the plan, so there are things included in it that they are hoping to do or have the potential to do it. If it's not included in it, we can't do it. Ms. Brakey noted that we want to keep the state out as much as we can.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-086 Approving the Updated Solid Waste Management Plan for the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: May 6, 2025

Resolution: #25-086

*Approving the Updated Solid Waste Management Plan
for the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District*

WHEREAS, H.B. 592, enacted by the 117th General Assembly of the State of Ohio and effective June 24, 1988, required that the Board of County Commissioners of each county within the state establish and maintain its own "county solid waste management district" or, with the Boards of County Commissioners of one or more other counties, establish by agreement and maintain a "joint solid waste management district" pursuant to Section 343.01 of the Revised Code, for the purposes of solid waste management planning and providing for, or causing to be provided for, the safe and sanitary management of solid wastes within all of the incorporated and unincorporated territory of such a county district or joint solid waste management district; and

WHEREAS, the respective Boards of County Commissioners of the Counties of Geauga and Trumbull determined to, and did enter into an agreement entitled "Agreement Establishing the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District" dated January 1994 which established the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee is required by the Ohio Revised Code to prepare, adopt and submit to the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for review and approval "a solid waste management plan" for the Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District; and

WHEREAS, a public comment period of thirty (30) days for comment concerning the draft plan was established from February 3, 2025 through March 5, 2025 and a public hearing concerning the updated plan was held March 12, 2025 in Warren at the District office, all in accordance with published notice and procedures set forth in Section 3734.55 of the Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee, after consideration of comments and recommendations received concerning the updated plan, made certain modifications to the updated plan and adopted and submitted to this legislative authority a copy of the updated plan for the District as so modified; and

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WHEREAS, this legislative authority is required by Division (B) of Section 3734.55 of the Revised Code to approve or disapprove the final updated plan within 90 days after receiving a copy of the final updated plan and has been requested to approve the updated plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga, State of Ohio, that:

- Section 1. The final updated plan is hereby approved in the form submitted to this legislative authority and presently on file with the Fiscal Officer of this legislative authority.*
- Section 2. The Clerk of this legislative authority is hereby authorized and directed to mail or otherwise deliver promptly a certified copy of this Resolution to the Policy Committee.*
- Section 3. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board concerning and related to the adoption of this Resolution were taken in a meeting of this Board that was open to the public in compliance with the law.*
- Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.*

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

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| <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> |

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - ADVERTISE TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING #2 – 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ALLOCATION PROGRAM

Project Manager Elaine Malkamaki asked the Board to approve advertising to hold Public Hearing #2 for the Community Development Block Grant Allocation program. Ms. Malkamaki asked the Board if they wanted representatives from each project present or just discussed on the applications. There was discussion about it changing over the years and to save time to just have the staff from Community Development present the projects.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to grant permission to advertise to hold Public Hearing #2 for the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Allocation Program to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Notice of this Public Hearing #2 will be advertised on May 8, 2025 and on the county website.

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| <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 asked the Board to approve a contract agreement with Geauga Mechanical to install a chiller unit at the Annex, including the Auditor's office and the mail room. This is some preventative maintenance, as the current unit is about nineteen to twenty years old and we are looking to get ahead of any issues with it.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Contract Agreement with Geauga Mechanical Company to upgrade the 15-ton chiller at the Geauga County Courthouse Annex, effective May 6, 2025 with work to be completed within 180 days in an amount not to exceed \$65,445.00.

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| <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> |

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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE ENGINEERING AGREEMENT – GUTOSKEY AND ASSOCIATES, INCORPORATED

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve a contract maintenance form to increase the engineering agreement with Gutoskey and Associates for some additional survey work.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1, increasing the Engineering Agreement with Gutoskey and Associates, Incorporated for additional funds needed for boundary surveys in the amount of \$5,000.00 for a new not to exceed amount of \$20,000.00.

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| <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> |

DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES SUBGRANT AGREEMENT (eG-2627-11-6138)

Director Craig Swenson and Gina Schultz asked the Board to approve the bi-annual subgrant agreement with the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. This agreement allows them to receive federal funds through the State then passed on to us to run the quadruple combined agency. Ms. Brakey stated that the agreement had a lot of regulations that have to be followed and asked how they keep track of all those things. Mr. Swenson explained that there are, but they are monitored closely by the State, they go through regular audits. The State comes in a few times a year to make sure they are in compliance with those regulations. Mr. Swenson noted that each one of the divisions in the agency have contacts at the State that they can reach out to for questions and concerns.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Subgrant Agreement (#G-2627-11-6138), upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, establishing the terms, conditions and requirements governing the administration and use of Federal Funds by Geauga County Job and Family Services for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

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| <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

Park Street House:

CASA Director Mary Ruth Shumway came before the Board expressing that what is being called the Park Street House, she hopes in the future it might be called CASA for Kids of Geauga County., It is a magnificent location and would serve the program. Ms. Shumway has spoken to Judge Paschke about using the first-floor room in the Courthouse as a visitation room to do supervised visits. In the county right now, there is nothing right now, and unless cases involve Job and Family Services, we are on our own. Ms. Shumway stated that CASA served 71 children for Job and Family Services and 70 for private custody cases and domestic relations has more. These children are often caught in the middle between emotional brawls between parents, and sometimes they need a supervised visitation center, parenting coaches and other things to make it safe for the children. Ms. Brakey asked if she felt the house was big enough to serve the needs of CASA. Ms. Shumway stated that they could use the library or other rooms within the county for large trainings. Ms. Shumway noted that they are doing more trainings more often with less people because every CASA is required to do twelve hours of ongoing training and does run the guardian ad litem program and so any Attorney appointed to a case, she is required to ensure they up to date on the requirements for Rule 48 and do assignments for those people. Ms. Shumway noted that so far this year, we have appointed a private attorney six times, but the juvenile court uses CASA for ninety percent of what they do. There was a brief discussion about who decides when to use a GAL, to which Ms. Shumway stated she doesn't make the decision, but twice she asked the Judge to do so, on cases with volatile parents that she didn't feel was safe for a volunteer. The courts recommend, and every time there is a Job and Family Services case, for sure they are involved. Last year, they had 38 juvenile delinquent cases where they were involved. Unruly child case they are involved because you have to have someone to

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advocate for the child as the parent no longer can. Ms. Brakey expressed that she was excited that the space will work for CASA. Ms. Burhenne noted that Mr. Vernick and Mr. Antenucci will need to be consulted to ensure the building is ready.

Mr. Dvorak asked if every county in the state has a CASA program, to which Ms. Shumway replied, no, but 66 of the 88 counties do and she is working with other counties that are interested, including Amish CASAs.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the discipline of a public employee, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1).

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| <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> |

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. with Mr. Swenson and Ms. Schultz. The Board returned at 10:36 a.m. and as a result the following action was taken:

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept the disciplinary recommendation of the Director of Job and Family Services to suspend Michelle Moore, Social Services Supervisor I, for eight hours (1 working day) without pay for violation of Section 3 of the Geauga County Job and Family Services Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual, and further approve and authorize the Board to execute the Order of Removal, Reduction, Suspension, Involuntary Disciplinary Separation Form per O.R.C. 124.34 for eight hours (1 working day).

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| <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 – CERTIFICATION REQUEST TO COUNTY AUDITOR, REQUEST TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS QUARTERLY USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS – COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to approve the certification request for each quarterly's use of county credit cards for the Engineer's Office and the Department of Emergency Services.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey 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 (Quarters 1, 2 3 and 4) for the County Engineer's Office and the Department of Emergency Services.

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| <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> |

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anastasia Nicholas, Geauga Times Courier, asked about the Park Street House and the plan when it was purchased. Mr. Dvorak explained that the house is located on the corner of the square and they gained the house as a building, and a parking lot next to the current parking lot, that once the construction vehicles are removed, they will begin to develop a plan for the area and maybe merging the parking lots together. Mr. Dvorak added that the concept idea of CASA moving in and being close to the court. Mr. Dvorak said that maybe in ten to fifteen years, Commissioners do something differently, but parking is a valuable part of it. There is an easement that gives access to exit the parking lot onto Route 6. At this time, the direction is to allow CASA to move into the house, moving them out of the 470 Center Street property. Board of Elections is set to move in and then those remaining will move back into courthouse once completed and then the senior center project. Ms. Nicholas asked about the parking spaces

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being for employees or for the public. Mr. Dvorak noted that it would more than likely be employees.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to move into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for public purposes, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(2).

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| <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> |

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:43 a.m. with Ms. Burhenne. The Board returned at 10:48 a.m. and as a result, no action was taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending April 23, 2025 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Tue., 5/6 2026 Tax Budget Hearing, 9:00 a.m., Room B303*
- Tue., 5/6 2026 Tax Budget Hearings, beginning at 12:00 p.m., Room B303*
- Wed., 5/7 Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*
- Thu., 5/8 2026 Tax Budget Hearings, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Room B303*
- Tue., 5/13 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m., Geauga County Offices, Room A334 (Third Floor)*
- Tue., 5/13 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 5/13 2026 Tax Budget Hearings, beginning at 12:30 p.m., Room B303*
- Mon., 5/19 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m., County Office Building, Room 168*
- Tue., 5/20 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 5/20 2026 Tax Budget Hearings, beginning at 12:30 p.m., Room B303*
- Mon., 5/26 **The County Offices will be closed in honor of Memorial Day. Twenty-four Hour Operations will continue to operate as usual.***
- Thu., 5/29 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

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BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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