

Commissioners' Journal
July 8, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 8, 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:

Praying for the Flood Victims in Texas

Psalm 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

May God's comfort, strength, and hope surround every person affected.

Let's lift them in our prayers today!

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 County Administrator approved the following items on July 2, 2025:

Liquor License:

Concurred with the Chester Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Grupo Ramvilla LLC d.b.a. El Mexicano located at 8053 Mayfield Road and Patio, Chesterland, Ohio (C TRFO 3428356).

Concurred with the Chester Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Spence Petroleum d.b.a. Sunmart located at 8247 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, Ohio (C STCK 8429745).

On July 7, 2025, the County Administrator approved the following items:

Department on Aging:

Accepted the resignation of Melinda Whittaker, Part-time Adult Day Service Assistant, to be effective June 30, 2025.

Granted permission to advertise for the position of Part-time Adult Day Service Assistant (#1041-1). This position will remain posted until filled.

Approved hiring Elizabeth Sanders to the position of Full-time Transportation Driver (#1020) to be effective July 28, 2025, at the rate of \$17.35 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

Accepted the retirement resignation of Deborah Markovic, Information and Referral Assistant, to be effective August 31, 2025.

Granted permission to advertise for the position of Full-time Information and Referral Assistant (#1017). This position will remain posted until filled.

Maintenance:

Accepted the resignation of Gary Merker, Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective July 11, 2025.

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MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of 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>

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including an Appropriation Transfer from the General Fund to Public Assistance for our July – September 2025 mandated share; a Purchase Order from the Commissioners to Laketran for a \$14,000.00 grant payment that was erroneously sent to Geauga County and was deposited into the General Fund; a Travel request for the Public Defender; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ravenwood Mental Health Center for 3rd Quarter Youth Center Operations in the amount of \$104,105.00; a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Montrose Ford for a new F-150 Pickup truck in the amount of \$49,148.02; a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Preston Chevrolet for two new Chevy Traverse SUV Social Security investigation vehicles in the amount of \$85,767.30. Mr. Gorton noted that the Tahoe vehicles they are replacing will be upfitted and moved up as patrol vehicles. A payment for Water Resources to Junction Auto Sales Incorporated for a 2025 GMC Sierra 1500 Double Cab pickup truck in the amount of \$48,970.14. The truck this is replacing is a 2015 GMC Sierra 2500 with 154,000 miles which will go to the auction.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #25-140 itemizing the financials for the meeting of July 8, 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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 ANNUAL TAX BUDGET

Mr. Gorton explained that following the presentation last week, he is asking the Board to approve the 2026 Annual Tax Budget. Commissioner Brakey asked about what would happen if there was a need to suppress collection of a levy or based on changes with the proposed elimination of the real estate taxes, what the timeline would be. Mr. Gorton stated that he went to the last budget commission meeting and there seemed to be a "wait and see" attitude based on the budget bill that was going through and what the Governor would veto. Now that process is complete, we can begin the analysis. When the Board was asked to reduce the initial Job and Family Services levy was in October, but the Budget Commission suppressed it to a million last year during one of their last meetings. Somewhere between August and October, we would need to make that decision. The Commissioners go before the Budget Commission in the middle of August and that would be a good time to discuss potential reductions. Mr. Gorton added that it was suggested last year to forego the County share of the local government tax and provide to the Townships, but that was also suggested to hold off on that. There was a brief discussion about making adjustments to the employee salaries for next year, and that it would be good time to start having those discussions. Mr. Dvorak added that three years ago, they agreed to do a three-year program for raises, and he feels comfortable discussing that again.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-141 Adopting the 2026 Annual Tax Budget, in accordance with O.R.C. Sections 5705.28, and 5705.29.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 8, 2025
Resolution: #25-141

*RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 ANNUAL TAX BUDGET
IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.R.C. SECTIONS 5705.28, and 5705.29*

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The Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio met in regular session on the 8th day of July, 2025 at the office of the Board of County Commissioners with the following members present:

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey

Ralph Spidalieri

Commissioner Brakey presented the following resolution and moved the adoption,

motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio, hereby submits its annual tax budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2026, for consideration of the County Budget Commission:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution becomes part of the permanent record of the Board of County 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>

A complete copy of the 2026 Tax Budget will follow these minutes

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) BOARD – RESOLUTION TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE GEAUGA COUNTY AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) BOARD TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTVILLE

ADP Chief Deputy Administrator Frank Antenucci asked the Board to approve a resolution to allow ADP to enter into an agreement with Montville Township to assist them with some minimal services.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-142 to Grant approval to the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Board to enter into an Agreement with the Legislative Authority of the Township of Montville, Geauga County, Ohio to provide microfilming, automatic data processing or other imaging processing or electronic data processing or record keeping services, pursuant to O.R.C. 307.847(E).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 8, 2025

Resolution: #25-142

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 Montville 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 Montville, Geauga

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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 contract between the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing Board and the Township is attached hereto as Exhibit A to this Resolution.

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 an agreement 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.

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

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) BOARD - RESOLUTION TO GRANT APPROVAL TO THE GEAUGA COUNTY AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) BOARD TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWBURY

Mr. Antenucci asked the Board to approve a resolution to allow ADP to enter into an agreement with Newbury Township. This agreement would include more services relating to security technology.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-143 to Grant approval to the Geauga County Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Board to enter into an Agreement with the Legislative Authority of the Township of Newbury, Geauga County, Ohio to provide microfilming, automatic data processing or other imaging processing or electronic data processing or record keeping services, pursuant to O.R.C. 307.847(E).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 8, 2025

Resolution: #25-143

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 Newbury 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 a contract 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 Newbury, 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.

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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 an agreement 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>

AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING (ADP) BOARD – ACCEPT AND AUTHORIZE ADP TO RESERVE A LICENSE AND PLACE THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION QUEUE – DILIGENT COMMUNITY BOARD – SOFTWARE PLATFORM
Mr. Antenucci is requesting the Board formally consider themselves in the implementation queue for Diligent Community. Diligent Community is a software platform that will streamline the public interaction with boards like this. The League of Women Voters suggested it and Ms. Brakey brought it to Mr. Antenucci in December to look into it. Mr. Antenucci continued to explain the boards that will be using the software, and how it will work, creating agendas and putting what the board wants the public to have access to on a website linked to the Commissioners' website. ADP is purchasing the software and is offering the Commissioners one of the licenses that is included. Ms. Brakey explained that she is excited about the possibility of using this for the Commissioners' office

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept and authorize ADP to reserve a license and place the Commissioners' Office in the implementation queue for a future migration to the Diligent Community Board software platform.

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

COMMON PLEAS COURT – ADULT PROBATION – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION, COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT AGREEMENT, COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ACT 2.0 GRANT, EXHIBIT A – TARGETED COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON (T-CAP) GRANT, EXHIBIT B

Chief Probation Officer Nicole Walker, Common Pleas Court, asked the Board to approve the Community Corrections and T-CAP grant in the amount of \$530,227.00 with no local match.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Community Corrections Grant Agreement, Community Corrections Act 2.0 Grant, Exhibit A and Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (T-CAP) Grant, Exhibit B, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$530,227.00.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF SPERRY ROAD

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving for the resurfacing of Sperry Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Sperry Road (CH-0012, Sections B-G) in Newbury, Russell and Chester Townships in the amount of \$1,220,100.00.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF FAIRMOUNT ROAD

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving for the resurfacing of Fairmount Road.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Fairmount Road (CH-0016, Sections C-E) in Russell and Newbury Townships in the amount of \$690,223.00.*

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – RELEASE BID / PERFORMANCE BONDS - MULTIPLE PROJECTS

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to approve the release of the bid / performance bonds for several projects.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the release of the Bid / Performance Bonds for the following projects:*

*Home Care Services: Assist w/ Daily Living for Seniors Age 60 and over (2019)
Cherished Companions, Qual Care, Hills at Home, Maple Grove Enterprise
Home Care Services: Assist w / Daily Living for Seniors Age 60 and over (2021)
Cherished Companions, Qual Care, Hills at Home
Home Care Services: Assist w / Daily Living for Seniors Age 60 and over (2022)
Cherished Companions, Qual Care, Hills at Home, Arcadia Home Care
Re-Bid: Elderly Nutrition Program – Catered Meals – Symba & Snap Gourmet (2022)*

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

MAINTENANCE – AWARD BID – GOVTRUST PARTNERS, LLC – GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER VISITATION ROOM ALTERATION PROJECT

Program Manager Charles Tkach asked the Board to award the Bid to GovTrust Partners for the Safety Center Visitation Room Alteration project. Ms. Brakey agreed that they are the lowest bid, but had concerns regarding whether they are the best and asked Mr. Tkach to provide some additional information. Mr. Tkach replied that they reached out to the owner who explained that the company was just formed in February under this new name. They have not completed a project under the new company name. However, they had been focused on residential projects and that this new section will be focusing on government. Mr. Tkach reached out to two owners that they had done projects on and they spoke very highly of the company, and felt very strongly about recommending them for the project. The project is in line with the other types of projects that they have completed.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to GovTrust Partners LLC for the Geauga County Safety Center Visitation Room Alteration Project in the amount of \$130,098.00 as they represented the lowest and best bid.*

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

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MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES – TECHNICAL ASSURANCE, INCORPORATED

Mr. Tkach asked the Board to approve Change Order #1, which is an increase to the agreement for professional design services with Technical Assurance Incorporated for additional engineering services relating to the roof replacement and masonry work on the Annex building.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1 increasing the Agreement for Professional Design Services with Technical Assurance, Incorporated for additional engineering services related to the roof replacement and masonry restoration for the Geauga County Annex Building, located at 219 and 215 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio in the amount of \$17,000.00 for a total not to exceed amount of \$34,500.00.

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

MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE BIDS – COUNTY MAINTENANCE BARN ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Tkach asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for bids for the County Maintenance Barn Roof Replacement project. Ms. Brakey noted that this is a slate roof being replaced with a synthetic slate material but also wondered if we should consider a metal roof. Mr. Tkach explained that metal was considered. However, a metal roof lasts thirty years and is comparable in price to the synthetic slate roof, which should last fifty years.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the County Maintenance Barn Roof Replacement Project to be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on July 11, 2025, July 18, 2025, and on the county website.

<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 WATER RESOURCES – AUTHORIZE RALPH SPIDALIERI, REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND PAYMENT REQUEST #3 – HDR ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED – MCFARLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve Commissioner Spidalieri, the authorized Representative, to execute the Ohio Water Development Authority Fund Payment Request #3 for the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.

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 #3 for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project for technical services by HDR Engineering, Incorporated in the amount of \$49,317.24.

<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 WATER RESOURCES – CERTIFICATION REQUEST TO COUNTY AUDITOR, REQUEST OF COMMISSIONERS – QUARTERLY USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS – INCREASE IN QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL AMOUNTS – HOME DEPOT

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve an increase in the quarterly and annual amounts of use for their Home Depot Commercial Account.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Certification Request to County Auditor, Request to Board of Commissioners Quarterly Use of County Credit Cards, for an increase in the Quarterly and Annual amounts for the Home Depot Commercial Account.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING GEAUGA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES ON BEING NAMED A NORTHEAST OHIO TOP WORKPLACE FOR 2025

Director Craig Swenson explained the Northeast Ohio Top Workplace Award. A new employee in their Human Resources division had done the award application at her previous place of employment. It is an in-depth look at office, and provides feedback about the office, and how the staff feels and gives you information about what you are doing well and where you can improve. Mr. Swenson continued to state that we met the benchmark and were named a Top Workplace in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Swenson stated that while it is great that we achieved this, we also want to continue to improve. Mr. Swenson thanked the Commissioners for giving him the tools for his staff to do the work they do and help the people that they serve. Mr. Swenson expressed that he appreciated that his staff feels the way they do.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-144 Honoring Geauga County Job and Family Services on being named a Northeast Ohio Top Workplace for 2025.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 25-144
Date: July 8, 2025

*A RESOLUTION HONORING GEAUGA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
ON BEING NAMED A NORTHEAST OHIO TOP WORKPLACE FOR 2025*

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2025, Cleveland.com and The Plain Dealer announced Geauga County Job and Family Services a Winner of the Northeast Ohio Top Workplaces 2025 Award; and

WHEREAS, this honor is based on confidential employee experience surveys conducted by Energage, LLC, which accessed employers throughout all of Northeast Ohio with at least 35 employees – including public, private, nonprofit or governmental employers; and

WHEREAS, survey components evaluated whether employees feel engaged, closely aligned, empowered to execute, respected and supported, enabled to grow, and fairly valued, with 188 top-ranked employers selected from Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne counties; and

WHEREAS, this recognition underscores Geauga County Job and Family Services' dedication to serving the residents of the county with professionalism, compassion, and integrity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Geauga County Job and Family Services on being named a Northeast Ohio Top Workplace for 2025 and recognize the agency's continued excellence in public service and workplace culture; and

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTE NONBINDING LETTER OF INTENT – GEAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD – LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Kathryn Pitrone, Library Trustee, and Library Director Kris Carroll explained that they are very happy with this collaboration and feel it is good for both the library and the county to move forward with our various projects. Ms. Brakey added that she feels they are taking a valuable public asset and shifting from one taxpayer pocket to another, keeping it in use for the public.

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It helps the county to be one step closer to vacating the 470 Center location and the library to be more efficient with the new library building. Ms. Carroll added that it brings combined efficiency for them to have programs and the administrative piece together. Mr. Dvorak added that it's a great collaboration and we are gaining this building for our Chardon Senior Center. Ms. Brakey expressed that this will be a welcome space for our seniors.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute a nonbinding Letter of Intent with the Geauga County Public Library Board indicating the Commissioners' desire to purchase and the Library Board's desire to sell the Geauga County Public Library Administration Center Building.

<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 – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #21 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION GMP PHASE #1 AND PHASE #2 EXPENSES

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve the request for partial pay request #21 for Infinity on the Courthouse Expansion project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #21 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 expenses in the amount of \$557,166.86.

<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 – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – KASH MOVING AND STORAGE – RELOCATION OF BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve the service contract agreement with Kash Moving for the relocation of the Board of Elections to the county building. There was a brief discussion about the six-month time period to move set forth in the agreement, but there is no anticipation of the move taking that long.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Kash Moving and Storage, to provide services related to the relocation of the Geauga County Board of Elections to the County office building, with the move to be completed within a six-month period, in an amount not to exceed \$39,040.00.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION

Opioid Settlement Funds:

Mr. Dvorak explained that a meeting was held the end of June with Prosecutor Jim Flaiz, Director, Christine Lakomiak from Mental Health and Ms. Burhenne to discuss the balance in the fund, how those funds could be spent, and how they differ from the OneOhio funds. Mr. Dvorak explained that the fund has over \$500,000.00 and hope that they will be able to help agencies that may have a shortfall from the state, and if law enforcement has any needs.

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC)

Ms. Burhenne and Director Gina Hofstetter explained that this has been a long process. When she first started, the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) had lost its 501c3 status, and very few meetings had taken place. The history of the CIC goes back into the 1960's and was once used for corporate bonds and property. Ms. Hofstetter explained that traditionally, it is a development tool that can be used, noting that Lake County has a land bank. About two years ago, we looked at the direction we wanted to take the CIC. We created a small board, changed

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the identity and after going back and forth with the attorney for the CIC and the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney at the expense of thousands of dollars that have added up where we are today, and that is, we still do not have a CIC. Ms. Hofstetter explained that we are up for an audit on the 23-24 books, required to produce a Hinkle report and then the state comes and does an audit. Ms. Hofstetter asked the Board for their thoughts on the CIC, their interest in it, or thoughts in dissolving it. There are some legal obligations that have been incurred that will need to be paid.

Ms. Burhenne said that the CIC had two functions. One appeared to be a social club: businesses paid to be a part of it, and they held quarterly luncheons. The other function was to manage some property sales, that included being able to sell a property without having to go through the bidding process. This was used to sell the Job and Family Services building to UH Hospital and the former senior center to Ravenwood. Ms. Burhenne expressed that unless the Board has ideas that we don't know about, we have tried very hard to get the CIC back up and we have not been able to get the Code of Regulations to the finish line. It is legal to dissolve it. Ms. Burhenne stated that if we want to keep the CIC, we need to find an attorney who will work with us. There was a discussion about the difference between using the CIC and the bid process.

A county can use a Community Improvement Corporation to sell county-owned properties as an agent, bypassing standard public sale requirements and potentially selling at below market value. This is done to facilitate economic development, revitalize areas, or address specific community needs. The CIC can acquire, improve and sell properties for economic development purposes.

Ms. Brakey added that it sounds like using the CIC to sell a county-owned property would result in a lower sales price for the county but could also result in less expenses and hassle. Ms. Hofstetter stated that it was in 2019 to do the sales of the buildings and prior to that it was used in 2012. Ms. Brakey stated that she was in favor of dissolving it.

Courthouse Matters

Ms. Burhenne explained that she had two requests from Infinity that she needed to discuss and get directions on from the Board. Ms. Burhenne stated that Infinity Change Request #26 is an increase for additional Crestron equipment and wiring from BEINCOURT for about \$22,000.00. The other is Infinity Change Request #27, which is a reduction due to placement of previously quoted switches at the recommendation of ADP for about \$11,000.00 and will be combined as one change order. Ms. Burhenne asked the Board if they wished to move forward.

Ms. Burhenne brought up the bronze plaque to be placed on the Courthouse addition by providing a sample picture of the plaque and asking the Board what they wanted it to say. Mr. Dvorak asked where it was going to be placed. Ms. Burhenne explained that it will be in the western main entrance, so one side will be a niche for the time capsule from the Bar Association and this plaque will be in the same area. There was a question about the date to be on it, and the plaque for the County Office building does have a date and will look very similar to what was done for this building. The Board briefly discussed what they feel should be on the plaque. Commissioner Spidalieri added that he felt former Commissioner Lennon should be included as he was a part of the Courthouse project.

Ms. Burhenne explained that she had some information on the roof of the existing Courthouse, adding that an engineer came out in June to review it. While we do not yet have the full report yet, Ms. Burhenne provided the Board with some pictures and explained that the dipping of the roof line is most likely due to the loss of mortar at the brick veneer behind the cornice and the resulting settling of that brick. If the existing roof is reroofed and this work is not performed, some of the new roof and existing open will need to be replaced in the future to allow for removal of the deteriorating elements. Ms. Burhenne noted that she feels that this will be a project for the future when the Board addresses the existing courthouse and will be a big deal.

Ms. Burhenne explained that she is still working on the cabling and the new quote is about half of what was originally presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received from the public.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending June 25, 2025 and July 2, 2025, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*

- b) *Geauga County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions 2024 Annual Report*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Tue., 7/8 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. County Office Building, Room A334*

- Wed., 7/9 Geauga County Township Association Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Chester Township*

- Tue., 7/15 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

- Tue., 7/15 Special ADP Meeting, 1:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*

- Tue., 7/22 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

- Tue., 7/29 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 Brakey to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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