

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**July 23, 2025**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in special session as a re-scheduled regular meeting on July 23, 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 9:33 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Commissioner Dvorak explained that both Geauga and Lake Counties lost a great man, Mike Warner. He was Fire Chief for Concord and in his younger years, he worked at Hambden Fire Department, so today's prayer is the Firefighter Prayer:*

*When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage, give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age. Help me to embrace a little child before it's too late or save an elder person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert to hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out. I want to fill my calling and give the best in me, to guard my neighbor and protect his property and if, according to your will, I have to lose my life, bless with your protecting hand my loving family from strife.  
Amen.*

**FINANCIALS**

*County Administrator Amy Bevan reported on financials approved on July 9, 2025, Resolution #25-145 that included a Formal Contract Purchase Order from the Commissioners' Office to Kash Moving Corporation for moving expenses related to the Board of Elections' relocation to the County Office Building.*

*July 15, 2025, Resolution #25-146 that included Appropriations transfer from the Commissioners General Fund miscellaneous Capital Transfers Out account to the Sheriff for additional appropriations needed for the purchase of six new patrol vehicles; Supplemental Appropriation in the Commissioners Capital Reserve Fund Phase II Utilities and Permit Fees expense accounts to cover upcoming expenses related to the sewer service connection of the new Youth Center; a Cash transfer from the Commissioners General Fund miscellaneous Capital Transfers Out account to the new Dog Shelter Building and Improvement Fund that was approved in session on December 27, 2024; a Cash transfer from the General Fund to Family First Council for the July – September 2025 commitment; an encumbrance increase from the Commissioners to Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division for the fees to house juveniles in the custody of the court; Travel request for the Common Pleas Court and the County Engineer's Office; a Purchase Order for Water Resources to Junction Auto Sales Incorporated for the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 replacement pickup truck; a payment for ADP to CDW Government Incorporated for the County's CrowdStrike computer end point user protection services renewal in the amount of \$190,596.46 (paid \$125,604.44 in 2024); a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ohio State University for the County's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2025 program support payment in the amount of \$63,721.99; and a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #21 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$557,166.86.*

*And on July 22, 2025, Resolution #25-147 that included an Appropriations transfer from the Commissioners General Fund miscellaneous reimbursement account to ADP for CORSA Cyber Grant reimbursements that were deposited into the General Fund; Supplemental appropriation from the Auditor in their General Fund Vendor License Reimbursement account to allow for a payment of vendor licenses to the state; a Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Board of Developmental Disabilities for gas well proceeds from April – June 2025; a Cash transfer from the General Fund to Community Development, Metzenbaum and Board of Elections for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025 interest transfer; Travel requests for the Auditor's Office and Job and Family Services; a payment for Community Development to Country Roofing LLC for CDBG Grant funding for the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center Roof project in the amount of \$58,792.06 and a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Motorola Solutions, Incorporated for the 800 MHz trunk radio system upgrades in the amount of \$89,775.00.*

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*The County Administrator approved the financials on July 9, 2025, July 15, 2025 and July 22, 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.*

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 14, 2025 and July 21, 2025.*

*July 14, 2025:*

*Department on Aging:*

*Approved hiring Amy Walsh to the position of Part-time Recreation and Education Assistant (#1005-1) to be effective July 28, 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.*

*Approved an unpaid personal leave of absence for Jason Nelson, Maintenance Coordinator, for eighty hours (10 days) during the period August 11, 2025 through August 22, 2025. This will extend his probationary period by eighty hours (10 days).*

*Community and Economic Development:*

*Accepted and approved the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Semi-Annual Report and the Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program Income Report for the period January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 and further authorize the electronic submission of these reports.*

*Job and Family Services:*

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

*Alyssa Forman, Social Services Worker II (replacement) – effective June 23, 2025*

*Maintenance:*

*Approved increasing the current posting for the position of Maintenance Worker (#1904) from one to two positions. These positions will remain posted until filled.*

*July 21, 2025:*

*Department on Aging:*

*Amended the motion from July 14, 2025 to revise the start date to read: Approved hiring Amy Walsh to the position of Part-time Recreation and Education Assistant (#1005-1) to be effective August 4, 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.*

*Department of Water Resources:*

*Accepted the resignation of Cassandra Stolz, Maintenance Worker (#2330), to be effective July 25, 2025.*

MEETING MINUTES

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of June 3, 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>

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of June 10, 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>

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS – RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY PROPERTY AS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR USE AND HAS NO VALUE – ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS, PRINTERS AND ACCESSORIES**

*Deputy Director Nora McGinnis asked the Board to approve a resolution that will allow the Board of Elections to declare the pollbooks and equipment that are outdated and unable to be used to be disposed of properly. Scott Daisher replied to a question from Commissioner Spidalieri about whether they can use them for anything else. Ms. McGinnis added that they wanted to try and donate to the schools, however, the Prosecutor deemed everything as voting equipment and cannot be donated. The pollbooks are no longer supported and cannot be updated.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-148 declaring County Property as not needed for public use, is obsolete or unfit for use and has no value, as authorized by O.R.C. 301.12(I), that includes ninety-five (95) electronic pollbooks, printers and associated accessories (voting equipment).*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: July 23, 2025*  
*Resolution: #25-148*

**RESOLUTION DECLARING COUNTY PROPERTY AS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR USE AND HAS NO VALUE, AS AUTHORIZED BY O.R.C. 307.12(I).**

*WHEREAS, The Geauga County Board of Elections has determined that 95 of its electronic pollbooks, printers and associated accessories (“the Voting equipment”) as more fully described in Exhibit A to this Resolution, have served the intended use for Geauga County and the Voting Equipment is obsolete and unfit for use by the Geauga County Board of Elections; and*

*WHEREAS, The Voting Equipment was acquired in 2016, and is outdated such that the Voting Equipment cannot continue to be used for the purpose for which it was acquired; and*

*WHEREAS, The Voting Equipment cannot be sold or donated to any private, non-governmental entity, or governmental entity other than a county board of elections due to prohibitions in R.C. 3599.27 and Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2025-14; and*

*WHEREAS, The Voting Equipment, due to its age, is obsolete and cannot be used by any other county board of elections; and*

*WHEREAS, The Geauga County Board of Elections requests the Geauga County Board of Commissioners declare the Voting Equipment obsolete and unfit for the use for which it was acquired and direct the Geauga County Board of Elections to discard or salvage the Voting Equipment pursuant to R.C. 307.12(I);*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, hereby determines that the Voting Equipment is obsolete and unfit for the use for which it was acquired and directs the Geauga County Board of Elections to discard or salvage the Voting Equipment described in Exhibit A to this Resolution, in accordance with O.R.C. 307.12(I); and*

*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>

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS – RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH A NEW FUND – 2025 ELECTION SECURITY GRANT FUND

*Ms. McGinnis asked the Board to approve a resolution to establish a new fund for the security grant fund that was received from the Secretary of State, which will be used for cybersecurity. The grant funds have been received, we just need to establish the new fund in order to be able to use them. The funds will be used to upgrade two computers and some other things in order to comply with the Secretary of State's recent directive.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-149 Requesting the County Auditor to establish a new fund called the "2025 Election Security Grant Fund" to account for revenue and expenses from the 2025 Security of Critical Infrastructure Funding.*

*Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio*

*Date: July 23 2025*

*Resolution: #25-149*

*RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO ESTABLISH A NEW FUND*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Elections has requested that the Geauga County Commissioners take action to create a new fund to be established and called the "2025 Election Security Grant Fund"; and*

*WHEREAS, the establishment of this new fund is for the deposit of monies received from the State for the 2025 Security of Critical Infrastructure Funding for the purpose of implementing requirements set forth in Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2025-29 and the Directive 2025-29 Technical Document; and*

*WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Elections has entered into an Elections Security Grant Agreement ("Grant") with the Ohio Secretary of State in order to receive 2025 Security of Critical Infrastructure Funding. A copy of the Grant is attached hereto as Exhibit A to this Resolution; and*

*WHEREAS, the accounts will include standard expense accounts including but not limited to those for, equipment, other expenses and transfers out; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners does hereby request the Geauga County Auditor establish a new fund entitled "2025 Election Security Grant Fund" for the purpose of receiving the Grant funds to implementing the requirements set forth in Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2025-29 and the Directive 2025-29 Technical Document.*

<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 – CHANGE ORDER #1, FINAL – DECREASE CONTRACT – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF VARIOUS ROADS INCLUDING CLAY STREET AND LEGGETT ROAD

*Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve Change Order #1 and final, which is a decrease in the contract with Ronyak Paving for the asphalt resurfacing of various roads including Clay Street and Leggett Road. Commissioner Brakey asked if the deductions in the change order relates to items no longer needed. Mr. Hajjar stated that the material quantity is below the estimated quantity.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, decreasing the Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Various Roads including Clay Street (CH-0037, Sections E-F) and Leggett Road (CH-0033, Section A) in Huntsburg and Montville Townships in the amount of \$32,161.50.*

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #2, FINAL -INCREASE CONTRACT – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING OF AUBURN ROAD

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve Change Order #2, final for an increase in the contract with Ronyak Paving for the asphalt resurfacing of Auburn Road. Mr. Hajjar noted that similarly they had some adjustments in materials needed that were higher than the estimated amounts.

Motion:           by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #2 and Final, increasing the Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Auburn Road (CH-0004, Sections R-U) in Chardon Township in the amount of \$9,581.00.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE REVISED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – INCREASE PART-TIME ADULT DAY SERVICE ASSISTANT (#1041-1) TWO POSITIONS – INCREASE CURRENT POSTING

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to approve a revision to her organizational chart that increases the number of Part-time Adult Day Service Assistants. Ms. Boalt explained that they have had some trouble maintaining this position as a five day a week position, so they are looking to split the one current part-time position of 25-27 hours a week into two smaller part-time positions and make them three days one week and two the next and vice versa to allow for some additional flexibility in the staff that is holding the position. Ms. Boalt explained that they seem to be attracting more of a retired individual who doesn't want to work five days a week.

Motion:           by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised Organizational Chart to increase the Part-time Adult Day Service Assistant (#1041-1) positions from one to two, to be effective July 15, 2025.

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

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to then increase the current posting from one to two positions. The posting should remain in place until we are able to get them filled.

Motion:           by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to increase the current posting for the position of Part-time Adult Day Service Assistant (#1041-1) from one to two positions. These positions will remain posted until filled.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – GRANT PERMISSION TO ADVERTISE – PUBLIC HEARING #3 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

Project Manager Elaine Malkamaki asked the Board grant permission to advertise to hold Public Hearing #3 for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Revolving Loan Fund program. Ms. Brakey asked if this was for the purchase for the senior center and for information on how this worked. Ms. Malkamaki explained that we have to hold a public hearing and apply to use the funds. Ms. Malkamaki explained that the funds are the counties that they have built up over time from repayment of previous loans and the state would prefer us to use the funds and the amount should be much lower than it currently is.

Motion:           by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise, to hold Public Hearing #3 for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Revolving Loan Fund Program. This Public

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*Hearing will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 9:45 a.m. Notice of this Public Hearing will be advertised on July 31, 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>

*MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #1, INCREASE CONTRACT – NORTH BAY CONSTRUCTION - DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES GENERATOR UPGRADE PROJECT*

*Director Glen Vernick asked the Board to approve Change Order #1 for an increase in the contract with North Bay Construction for the generator upgrade, that it was discovered during a meeting that the transfer switch was missed and so this change order is to include that switch, and we have enough time to get it in before the installation and the amount is still lower. Ms. Brakey inquired about the transfer switch and if the power goes out, does this automatically switch the power over to the generator. Mr. Vernick replied yes, that is exactly what it does. Mr. Dvorak asked how many bids had been received and if they all missed the switch. Mr. Vernick explained that they had three bids on the project and all three missed the transfer switch, but he has learned that a lot of them do not like to replace the transfer switch since they work with multiple generators.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1, increasing the Contract with North Bay Construction for the Department of Emergency Services Generator Upgrade project due to a change in the scope of work regarding an automatic transfer switch, in the amount of \$10,359.38.*

<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 – WEST GEAUGA SENIOR CENTER / MSI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DEDICATED STANDBY GENERATOR INSTALLATION*

*Mr. Vernick asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for bids for the West Geauga Senior Center / MSI wastewater treatment plant dedicated standby generator installation. Mr. Vernick explained that this will install a generator at the West Geauga Senior Center to keep the building up and running along with the wastewater plant that covers all the buildings on the property, that includes the Metzenbaum building and the transportation building. Ms. Brakey asked what MSI stood for. Clerk Christine Blair responded that it was Metzenbaum Sheltered Industries. There was a brief discussion about the generator handling the entire facility that includes the HVAC running along with the wastewater plant. This generator will allow the building to stay open in the event of emergencies and needs to be used as a warming center or shelter.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the West Geauga Senior Center/MSI Wastewater Treatment Plant Dedicated Standby Generator Installation to be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on July 25, 2025, August 1, 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 – AWARD BID – ULLMAN OIL COMPANY – FUEL AND FUEL TANK PROVIDER*

*Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to award the Bid to Ullman Oil Company as the Fuel and Fuel Tank Provider as they were the lowest and best bid, as well as the only bid received. Mr. Gorris explained that Ullman is the current supplier and will be providing fuel based on state bid pricing.*

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*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to Ullman Oil Company for the Fuel and Fuel Tank Provider as they represented the lowest and best bid.

*Roll Call Vote:*

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Brakey	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – AUTHORIZE RALPH SPIDALIERI, REPRESENTATIVE TO EXECUTE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FUND PAYMENT REQUEST #4 – MCFARLAND CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS – TECHNICAL SERVICES -HDR ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve Commissioner Spidalieri, the authorized representative, to execute the Ohio Water Development Authority Fund, Pay Request #4 for HDR Engineering for technical services related to the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant improvement project.

*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 #4 for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project for technical services by HDR Engineering, Incorporated in the amount of \$65,245.33.

*Roll Call Vote:*

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Brakey	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

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

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve Commissioner Spidalieri, the authorized representative, to execute the Request for Partial Payment #1 for Shook Construction for the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and the Ohio Water Development Authority contractors estimate and fund payment request #1. Mr. Gorris noted that the difference is the \$1.5 million will be paid out of the ARPA funds. Ms. Brakey asked who the owners' representative on the project was that was ensuring the work being done is up to standard. Mr. Gorris explained that the technical services agreement with HDR Engineering is assisting and he is also overseeing the project and plans to be out there every day starting next week. Mr. Dvorak asked when the project would be completed, to which Mr. Gorris stated July 2027 and hopes that in March / April they will be switched over and then once that happens, they have to demo the existing treatment process. There will be a period of time that both plants will be running at the same time.

*Motion:* by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize Ralph Spidalieri, authorized representative, to execute the Request for Partial Payment #1 for Shook Construction Company for the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project in the amount of \$3,110,816.00, and execute the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) Contractor's Estimate, and the OWDA Fund Payment Request #1 in the amount of \$1,610,816.00.

*Roll Call Vote:*

Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
Commissioner Brakey	Aye
Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – SHEPP ELECTRIC COMPANY, INCORPORATED

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve the service contract agreement with Shepp Electric Company for generator maintenance and service. Mr. Gorris explained that this is similar to what Maintenance is doing with transfer switches. Mr. Gorris stated that they had one at McFarland go down and it took a long time to find someone, and with the help of Ms. Blair they found someone local that was able to do the high-tension commercial work. Mr. Gorris

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*noted that the switch would transfer but not transfer back, so it needed to be replaced.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Shepp Electric Company, Incorporated to perform Generator maintenance and repair services, including emergency service calls, at various locations within the Department for a one-year period, effective July 22, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – OHIO WORKERS' COMPENSATION GROUP  
RETROSPECTIVE RATING PLAN AGREEMENT – CCAO SERVICE CORPORATION  
*Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler asked the Board to approve the Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Plan for 2026, that was previously presented to the Board by our representative from Sedgwick. The deadline is about three days away and she is asking the Board to approve the agreement. Ms. Brakey stated that Geauga County's EMR has improved over the years but the group retro refunds have declined over the same period of time. Ms. Hostutler explained that the BWC adopted a reserving program, a system called ACES, which causes lower rebates in the Group Retro program, but overall premiums have gone down over the years and having lower premiums will cause lower rebates within the pool. Ms. Hostutler explained that fifteen years ago when this program got started, Geauga County was at the inception and took a chance and it started out to be a very good thing that a lot of other counties quickly became a part of. Ms. Hostutler added that when the base rates go down, the premiums go down and then rebates follow. The BWC can formulate this however they want. Ms. Brakey stated that we are paying a fairer price, by paying less up front and so we are getting less of a refund. Ms. Hostutler stated that this program has fifty-nine counties in the pool and we all pay our own premium based on our claims experience, and have all the elected officials, Directors and departments on board in the county help significantly along with our charge back program, so there is more buy in from those that are included in the program, and keeping claims down, and that we have been fortunate to have never had an employee fatality in the county. Ms. Hostutler added that in 2018 and 2019 when we had no refunds, the Governor stated that the BWC had too much money and was giving it back to the counties. It was given back by the BWC not through the Group Retro program. Ms. Brakey expressed an interest in looking at other options so that we are capturing our own performance. Mr. Dvorak added that being part of this consortium and the program really suggests that you have a committee, hold safety meetings. Ms. Hostutler added that it is called the 10-point plan and was developed by CCAO, and you have to meet criteria and follow that plan. Ms. Hostutler understands her side and if we were out on our own, but it was highly recommended to be part of the group. While we are doing good now, it only takes a series of bad claims that can drive up the costs for the county. Ms. Brakey expressed that it feels like we are subsidizing other counties that are not performing well. Discussion continued about wanting to be part of the pool and performing well, but if something happens and you have a bad claim being part of the pool helps even out the bad claims against the good.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Geauga County/County Commissioners Association of Ohio Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Plan Agreement with the CCAO Service Corporation for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$11,500.00 and further execute the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Employer Statement for Group-Retrospective-Rating Program enrollment form.*

<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 – CHANGE ORDER #10 – INCREASE CONTRACT – GMP  
PHASE #1 AND PHASE #2 -INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – COURTHOUSE  
EXPANSION PROJECT

*Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve Change Order #10, that is an increase in the contract with Infinity Construction Company for the Courthouse Expansion project. This was part of the*

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*discussion from last week that was brought forth by ADP.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #10 increasing the Contract (GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2) with Infinity Construction Company on the Courthouse Expansion Project for additional audiovisual upgrades and the deletion of a network switch in the amount of \$11,344.00.*

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

*COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment and compensation of public employees, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1).*

<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 10:16 a.m. with Ms. Bevan and Ms. Hostutler. The Board returned at 10:30 a.m. and as a result the following actions were taken:*

*Ms. Bevan explained that they were looking to hire an Intern to assist with communication support, press releases, and social media management. They want to start with an intern to identify the needs and the support need of the Board.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the creation, title and job description for the position of Intern (#1332) to be effective July 22, 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>

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised organizational chart to include the position of Intern (#1332) to be effective July 22, 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>

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Intern (#1332). This position will remain posted until filled.*

<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>

*Ms. Bevan asked the Board to appoint Mr. Rice as Acting Director.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to appoint Michael Austin Rice as Acting Director of the Department of Emergency Services to be effective August 2, 2025, at the rate of \$34.39 per hour, for a period not to exceed six months, or until the Director position is filled.*

<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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BOARD DISCUSSION

*FirstEnergy Line Shop Update:*

*Ms. Brakey explained that she spoke with Mr. Connelly at FirstEnergy and currently as of July 8, no one is reporting to the Middlefield line shop. Mr. Connelly is unsure of the current plans on renting or selling the facility.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

*Diane Jones, Auburn Township, asked for clarification on the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant completion and reference to March about a switchover date. Mr. Gorris stated that March 2027 would be substantial completion and begin the switchover with total completion in July 2027.*

*Newell Howard, South Russell Village, explained that Liberty Camp just finished up in Lake County and this week is in Geauga County at Chickagami Park. He offered the Board to attend on Friday for the final day and signing of the Declaration of Independence.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending July 9, 2025, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Inmate meals for the month ending June 2025.*
- c) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for Prisoner Transport for the month ending June 2025 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*
- d) The Monthly Inventory Report, Consolidated Investment Portfolio and Obligations and Securities monthly reports filed by the Treasurer's Office for Geauga County for the Month of June 2025, pursuant to ORC 135.35(L).*

OTHER

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

MEETINGS

*Tue., 7/29 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Tue., 8/5 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Tues., 8/12 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. County Office Building, Room A334*

*Tue. 8/12 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Mon., 8/18 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m.*

*Tues., 8/19 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 Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m.*

*Geauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*James W. Dvorak*

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*Carolyn Brakey, Esq.*

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*Ralph Spidalieri*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

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