

Commissioners' Journal
July 29, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on July 29, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, in Room B303 in Chardon, Ohio.

It is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of County Commissioners that resulted in such formal action, were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

President of the Board James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:33 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

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 24, 2025:

Building:

Approved an unpaid personal leave of absence for Dan Spada, Director / Chief Building Official for forty (40) hours, during the period July 28, 2025 through August 1, 2025.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including an Appropriation transfer to the Sheriff for miscellaneous refunds, reimbursement and web checks that were deposited into the General Fund; Cash transfer from the General Fund to Community Development for their second quarter 2025 payroll funding reimbursement and third quarter operational commitment for 2025; Travel request for Job and Family Services; a payment for the Auditor's Office to Shook Construction Company for ARPA's share of the progress on the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement project in the amount of \$1,500,000.00; a payment from the Commissioners' Office to Laketran for a grant payment that was erroneously sent to Geauga County and was deposited into the General Fund in the amount of \$14,000.00; a payment for Community Development to Lindsey Construction and Design Incorporated for the CDBG grant funding for the Maple Leaf Residences roof and window replacement project in the amount of \$98,859.65 and a Revenue Certification from Water Resources in their Water Resources Fund for additional penalties, refunds and reimbursements revenue not originally budgeted for 2025.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-150 itemizing the financials for the meeting of July 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>

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS – D.B.A. SPECTRUM

Sandra Williams, Director of Government Affairs from Charter Communications d.b.a. Spectrum, came before the Board to discuss the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG) Round 2. This is a competitive grant designed to fund last mile broadband infrastructure projects in areas currently lacking access to reliable high-speed internet. The ORBEG grant program total funding for round 2 is \$94.5 Million and is designed to provide internet service with speeds at 100 Mbps to households upon project completion. Spectrum

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received an award to provide internet service in Geauga County for Burton Township, Huntsburg Township, Middlefield Township, Newbury Township, Parkman Township and Troy Township. Ms. Williams thanked the Board for its letter of support. Ms. Williams stated that there are 1,070 locations that will be passed with 65.3 fiber miles at an estimated cost of \$3.6 million. Spectrum will also be contributing financially to the project. Ms. Williams provided the list of addresses that are in the project area. This project is in progress and must be completed by December of 2026. Commissioner Brakey expressed that it appeared that a lot of the addresses are in Middlefield and wondered how many are Amish homes. Ms. Williams stated that they do not filter out the Amish homes. They go to the households and inquire if they wish to receive service. If they cannot run service to the home, they run it to the closest pole. If in the future the home is sold and another family wants to use the service, that family then won't have to bear the cost of the fiber. If the fiber is not run, that cost is not put on the state of Ohio. Quarterly reports are required on progress, along with information on households that don't wish to have the service. Mr. Dvorak inquired about a service called Sudden Link and whether that service had been purchased by Spectrum or will you use their fiber. Ms. Williams explained that she had been with Spectrum for three years and to her knowledge they did not purchase them, and that Spectrum never uses anyone else's fiber, and that the fiber being put in will be brand new and complete fiber not coax fiber. Ms. Williams explained that she will keep the Commissioners up to date on the progress of the project.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – RELEASE THE BID / PERFORMANCE BOND – HOAR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – HANGAR 1 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Airport Manager Ric Blamer explained that he had a few items before the Board today. Mr. Blamer asked the Board to release the bid / performance bond for Hoar Construction for the Hangar 1 project, as all specifications have been met.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to release the Bid / Performance Bond for Hoar Construction Company for the Hangar 1 Improvement project, as all specifications have been satisfied.

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #2 – TAXIWAY EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PARALLEL TAXIWAY

Mr. Blamer asked the Board to approve reimbursement #2 on the Parallel Taxiway Extension with the local match on the project is \$24,441.59. Mr. Blamer stated that the project is on track and completion on the project will be in the middle of October.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve Reimbursement Request #2 for the Taxiway Extension Construction Project, specifically to Construct Parallel Taxiway A including Taxiway Connector A1 and A2 – Construction, Final Phase and Install Taxiway Edge Lights – Construction, Grant #3-39-0054-028-2024 in the amount of \$488,831.91 (FAA share \$439,948.72, ODOT share \$24,441.60 and local County match share \$24,441.59).

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

Commissioner Spidalieri inquired about grant paperwork for the T-Hangar project. Mr. Blamer explained that the paperwork had been submitted in time to the Commissioners' office with hopes of it being on the agenda today and he isn't sure what happened and why it was delayed. The deadline to submit the grant is August 18; however, the Airport Authority Board meeting is the 4th. Ms. Bevan explained that it is being reviewed by the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and she is not done with that review, and so Ms. Bevan pushed the item out to give her time to complete that and then reached back out to her about having it for the 5th. Clerk Christine Blair added that when she received it from the FAA she printed, scanned and sent to the Prosecutor's Office ahead of receiving from Mr. Blamer to give the Prosecutor's office additional time for review. When Ms. Blair emailed a question about the resolution, she learned that the Prosecutor's Office was not done with the review and that she wanted to make sure that

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all the Commissioners and Ms. Bevan had reviewed and agreed with the terms of the grant agreement. Mr. Dvorak added that he had received a call from Mr. Joyce's office that the funding was on the way. Mr. Blamer added that they are just hoping to get the project done this year.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – SECOND QUARTER REPORT

Mr. Blamer had previously provided a second quarter report to the Commissioners in advance of today's meeting, so he briefly went over the items that were included. Mr. Blamer explained that the grant from the FAA for the hangar came the day after it was submitted. Mr. Blamer briefly discussed the parallel taxiway project that will include temporary closures of the runway to complete the taxiway project. Mr. Blamer stated that we are close to final completion of the FAA grant for the purchase of property and the consolidation of the parcels.

Mr. Blamer briefly talked about the airport's pancake breakfast. They had over seventy volunteers helping with the event, about 400 people in attendance, and some very unique and special airplanes fly in for the event. Mr. Blamer noted that in the report he included the three biggest users of the airport, which includes PHI – University Hospitals, the Cleveland Soaring Society and Flight training that is performed. Ms. Brakey asked what the numbers meant, which Mr. Blamer noted are takeoff and landings during the three-month period.

Mr. Blamer explained that without grants their revenue was \$102,382.28 with expenses minus the grant expenditure was \$92,768.07 that left them with \$9,614.21, so they are doing well, and they are still 100% occupied. Mr. Blamer mentioned that someone sold their airplane and before he could make a second call, it was full. Mr. Blamer stated that the waitlist continues to remain and the need for hangars is still immense. Mr. Dvorak asked about a sixth-grade camp. Mr. Blamer replied that they held a youth aviation camp in July where they had 18 kids come and learn about aviation. The camp includes multiple things, including flight simulators, hands-on learning, career information and special guests.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – APPROVE ALLOCATION OF MUNICIPAL ROAD FUNDS – STATE ROUTE RESURFACING: STATE ROUTE 44 AND 6 PROJECTS – CITY OF CHARDON

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the allocation of municipal road funds for the resurfacing of State Routes 44 and 6 that are currently under construction in the City of Chardon and will be completed in 2025. Ms. Brakey asked for explanation of the fund and how the funds are generated. Mr. Hajjar explained that it is fuel tax generated funds. The Engineer's Office helps administer the funds, but it is only for use by municipalities, like the Village of Burton, Middlefield and City of Chardon, etc. The municipality has to apply for the funds if they have a project that meets the criteria. Mr. Hajjar noted that there are several others with applications right now that include one project in Middlefield and one in Hunting Valley.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the allocation of Municipal Road Funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the State Route Resurfacing: State Routes 44 and 6 project, sponsored by the City of Chardon. This project is scheduled for construction in 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>

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CERTIFY TO THE AUDITOR THE USE OF MUNICIPAL ROAD FUNDS – STATE ROUTE RESURFACING: STATE ROUTE 44 AND 6 – CITY OF CHARDON

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to certify the use of the municipal road funds for the resurfacing project in the City of Chardon.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to certify to the County Auditor the use of \$300,000.00 from the Municipal Road Fund for the State Route Resurfacing: State Routes 44 and 6 in the City of Chardon, pursuant to O.R.C. 4504.04.

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

LAKETRAN AND GEAUGA TRANSIT -LETTER OF SUPPORT – JOINT APPLICATION TO OHIO WORKFORCE MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Director Joanna Santilli and Ben Kepple from Laketran explained that they were looking for a letter of support for a joint grant with Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program. This will make cross county transportation much easier. The grant would allow a software upgrade to only require one reservation and then allow the rider to only require one ride, essentially integrating the two systems and then training dispatchers to know how to handle the change, along with adding additional drivers. Mr. Kepple replied to a question from Mr. Dvorak and stated that the grant is a three-year period and they are requesting \$1.2 million that is divided over the three years. It is about \$400,000.00 per year, but you never know what you will be awarded until it gets approved.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute a Letter of Support for a Joint Application to the Ohio Workforce Mobility Partnership Program.*

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

LAKETRAN AND GEAUGA TRANSIT – APPROVE MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT TO DRIVEWAY AND PARKING LOT – IN ACCORDANCE TO LEASE AGREEMENT

Ms. Santilli explained that they were asking to make improvements to the driveway. The asphalt currently there needs repairs and resurfacing. It does not include the concrete areas. Ms. Brakey asked who was paying for the project. Ms. Santilli stated that it is a grant through the State of Ohio and in accordance with the lease, they are notifying us and asking for permission to do the maintenance on the parking lot.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve in accordance with the Lease Agreement, Maintenance Improvement to the driveway that includes replacing the existing asphalt in the back lot and resurfacing the existing asphalt in the access drives and parking lot.*

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

Mr. Kepple handed out annual reports to the Board. Ms. Brakey explained that on a recent visit to the senior centers, the biggest complaint she heard was about transportation.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – DISCUSS AND APPROVE ADDITIONAL PROJECTS UNDER CDBG GRANT #B-F-23-IAZ-1 FOR MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY RESIDENCES AND CHAGRIN FALLS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER – UTILIZE REMAINING CDBG ALLOCATION FUNDS ALLOWABLE UNDER THE APPLICATION FOR BUILDING REHABILITATION

Director Gina Hofstetter explained that she wanted to discuss the use of remaining funds from the CDBG projects for the Maple Leaf Community Residences and the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center to complete some additional projects. Ms. Hofstetter explained that the State allows them to use the funds and asked the Board to agree to do the projects. There was a brief discussion about the projects being selected and alternate projects. Ms. Hofstetter explained that the state approves the two projects and if the alternate projects are submitted just in case the state does not approve one of the original projects submitted. These were approved projects in the last grant and are trying to utilize the remaining funds allocated to those two applicants.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to discuss and approve additional projects under CDBG Grant #B-F-23-IAZ-1 for the Maple Leaf Community Residences and Chagrin Falls Park Community Center to utilize remaining project funds as they are allowable under the application for Building*

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Rehabilitation. This includes for Maple Leaf Community Residences the installation of replacement flooring in one home for better ADA accessibility, and for Chagrin Falls Park Community Center to put new siding on the community center and a new roof on the pavilion. Any additional costs remaining from CDBG funds will be covered by the applicant.

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – THREE-PARTY CONTRACT – MAPLE LEAF COMMUNITY RESIDENCES – BURTON CARPET SHOPPE, INCORPORATED UNDER CDBG ALLOCATION PROGRAM GRANT

Ms. Hofstetter asked the Board to approve the three-party contract with Burton Carpet Shoppe to replace the flooring in several areas at the Maple Leaf Community Residences home on Wilson Mills.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Three-party Contract between the Board of Commissioners, Maple Leaf Community Residences and Burton Carpet Shoppe, Incorporated to remove and dispose of carpeting and prepare floor and install vinyl flooring in the family, dining and living rooms and two (2) bedrooms at the Maple Leaf Community Residences home on Wilson Mills Road, Chardon with work to be completed by August 31, 2025 in the amount of \$9,705.03.

<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 EMERGENCY SERVICES – DISCUSSION ON NAME CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT – FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The Department of Emergency Services is requesting the Board discuss the consideration of changing the name of the Department of Emergency Services to the Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

Director Roger Peterson and Deputy Director Austin Rice came before the Board to talk about the history of the department. In the recent discussion regarding signage, it was discovered that Geauga is the only one in the state not called the Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Rice put together some history of the agency and the name changes it has undergone over the years. The public often thinks they are the emergency department at Geauga Hospital. Mr. Rice explained that even in research in the journals it was inconsistent, and for standardization within the state, they are looking to change the name from Emergency Services to Emergency Management Agency. We are the emergency management program of the county, but that is not our name. Ms. Brakey was inquiring about what was bringing up this change now, but it seems that the signage is bringing that. Ms. Brakey inquired about the list of counties and why security was included in some of them. Mr. Peterson explained that it was a rollover from previous homeland security initiatives.

Mr. Peterson added that today was just a discussion about what we are looking at doing and to answer any questions, and once we get the final opinion on how to make the change, we will come back to finalize.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – CERTIFICATE OF NEED – RENEWAL OF .7 MILL LEVY

Director Craig Swenson asked the Board to approve the resolution that would request the certificate of need for the renewal of their 0.7 mill levy. This is a straight renewal, adding that their levies run back-to-back. This is the qualified levy, noting that it is older than the 0.5 mill levy. This .7 mill was replaced back in 2010 and has been around for a long time. Mr. Swenson provided information to the Board about their public children services fund that receives those tax dollars and how they are used for children's services, including placements. Mr. Swenson added that they are still moving forward on the youth center project and are hoping to go out to bid in the fall.

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Ms. Brakey asked Mr. Swenson to give her a good reason why she should vote yes for this levy. Mr. Swenson replied that the State of Ohio does not really fund children's services to the level needed for the community. They take on average 400-700 calls to investigate abuse and neglect cases a year, and with thirty-five staff, these funds are needed to answer those calls and fund the services needed to handle those cases. The County has been supportive of those needs and in 2015 we added the additional levy due to the Opioid crisis. Ms. Brakey noted that they have about \$8 million in that account, so why do they need more. Mr. Swenson replied that once the expenses of the youth center are taken out, they will be at about \$2 million, but expenses can swing and it makes him nervous. During COVID the account increased due to less investigations, and with that they have chosen to use those funds for the new youth center.

Ms. Blair explained that this is the first step in the process. Today's resolution requests the certificate of need from the Auditor's office in order to complete the second resolution that places it on the ballot.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-152 Certificate of Need, as Authorized by O.R.C. 5705.03, .07, .19, .191, .24, .25, and .26 for Renewal of the .7 Mill levy.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 29, 2025

Resolution: #25-152

CERTIFICATE OF NEED
AS AUTHORIZED BY O.R.C. 5705.03, .07, .19, .191, .24, .25 and .26

The Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga, State of Ohio, met in regular session on the 29th day of July, 2025, commencing at 9:30 a.m. at the Commissioners' Meeting Room, 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon, Ohio, 44024, with the following members present:

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

The Clerk advised the Board of County Commissioners that the notice requirements of Ohio Revised Code §121.22 and the implementing rules adopted by the Board thereto were complied with for the meeting.

Commissioner Brakey moved for the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, after providing the normal and customary percentage of the total general fund appropriations for the support of children services and the care and placement of children, has determined that the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten-mill limitation by levies on the current tax duplicate will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the support of such children's services, and that it is necessary to levy a tax in excess of such limitation for the purpose of any operating or capital improvement expenditure necessary for the support of children services and the care and placement of children as provided and authorized in Ohio Revised Code §5705.24; and

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WHEREAS, the levy is at a rate of 0.7 mill for each one dollar of taxable value, for a period of five (5) years and is a renewal of an existing levy first voted on in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the ballot measure shall be submitted to the entire territory of Geauga County and the tax shall be levied on the entire territory and within Geauga County; and

WHEREAS, the levy is to be placed on the ballot at the election held on November 4, 2025, and shall first be levied in tax year 2026 and begin collection in 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Geauga, State of Ohio, that based on the foregoing and pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §5705.03(B), said Board hereby certifies this Resolution to the Geauga County Auditor and requests that the County Auditor certify back to the Board of County Commissioners the amounts described in Ohio Revised Code §5705.03(B)(2) that would be generated by the levy proposed herein.

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

Commissioner Spidalieri seconded the motion.

Upon roll call on the adoption of the resolution, the vote was as follows:

<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 Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the compensation of public employees.

<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 10:11 a.m. with Ms. Bevan and Mr. Swenson. The Board returned at 10:26 a.m. and no action was taken.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF ALBERTA CHOKSHI – BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to accept the resignation of Ms. Chokshi from the Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept the resignation of Alberta Chokshi from the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, effective June 30, 2025.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE AND HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING – RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY – GEAUGA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS POULTRY AND SALE BARNS

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-153 to Schedule and Hold a Special Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Geauga County Fairgrounds Poultry and Sale Barns on Sunday, August 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.*

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: *July 29, 2025*
Resolution: *25-153*

RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE AND HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR A RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE GEAUGA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS POULTRY AND SALE BARNS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to hold a Special Meeting to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Geauga County Fairgrounds Poultry and Sale Barns; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to hold this Special Meeting at the location of the Geauga County Fairgrounds, located at 14373 North Cheshire Street, at the site of the new Poultry and Sale Barns, Burton, Geauga County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board to increase public awareness and access to the meetings of the Board of County Commissioners; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board will hold a Special Meeting to be held on Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the site of the new poultry and sale barns, located at the Geauga County Fairgrounds, Geauga County, Ohio, for the purpose of a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will provide reasonable public notice, including advance notice to the news media, of the Special Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution becomes 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 – CANCEL SESSION – TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

It was briefly explained that session on Tuesday was cancelled due to the meeting at the fair on Thursday.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to cancel session on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND TIME OF AUGUST 28, 2025, REGULAR MEETING – GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR, JUNIOR FAIR 4-H STAGE

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-154 Establishing the Location and Time of the August 28,*

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2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to be held at 10:00 a.m. on the Great Geauga County Fair, at the Junior Fair 4-H stage.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: July 29, 2025
Resolution: #25-154

*RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE LOCATION AND TIME OF THE AUGUST 28, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TO BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR*

WHEREAS, The Geauga County Board of Commissioners would like to recognize the Great Geauga County Fair, as Ohio's Oldest County Fair; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Board to increase public awareness and access to the meetings of the Board of County Commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby establishes the location of the Thursday, August 28, 2025, meeting of the Geauga County Board of Commissioners be held at the Great Geauga County Fair, located at 14373 North Cheshire Street, Burton, at the site of the Junior Fair Four-H stage and will begin at 10:00 a.m.

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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – TABLE REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #22 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

This motion was on the agenda:

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #22 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and #2 expenses in the amount of \$950,590.72.

Ms. Brakey asked if NV5 had reviewed this request, and if there was any additional change orders expected.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to table the Request for Partial Payment #22 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and #2 expenses in the amount of \$950,590.72, until confirmation of review.

<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 – DISCUSS FINAL DESIGN – COURTHOUSE DEDICATION PLAQUE

This motion was on the agenda:

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve the final design for the Courthouse dedication plaque.

Ms. Bevan explained that several options had been sent to the Board for consideration. Ms. Brakey made a motion to approve option 2. Mr. Spidalieri asked for clarification on which option that was, and it was noted it was the current commissioners and not the construction companies at the bottom. Mr. Spidalieri said that Mr. Lennon's name should be included on the plaque since he had a large involvement in the project, that he had brought this up at the last

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meeting and that if it will confuse people, remove my name and put his name on it. Ms. Brakey asked for specific contributions to the Courthouse. Mr. Spidalieri explained that Mr. Lennon was involved in negotiations with the City of Chardon, and had been engaged from the beginning on the building plans. Mr. Lennon worked with Mr. Morgan on the project, and he was engaged on the project and provided updates to the Board. Mr. Dvorak added that a lot of them put time in on the process and the Prosecutor's office represented them, and a lot of time was put in by a lot of different people. Ms. Brakey added that if you look at the plaque on the wall in this building, it has three Commissioners' names on it, and it doesn't include the previous Commissioners that purchased the property. There are other ways to recognize those involved in the project. Mr. Dvorak said that he liked the option that has the three current Commissioners and the architect and construction company. It was determined that they each had an opinion and were not going to come to a decision today. Mr. Spidalieri asked what the plaque was going to cost, and that if we were not going to include Mr. Lennon, we should take Mr. Spidalieri's name off or just not put a plaque on the building.

After this discussion and no second on the motion, no vote was taken, and this item was tabled.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CONCUR WITH BURTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES – WITHDRAW REQUEST FOR HEARING ON LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTED BY 15015 ENTERPRISES LLC

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to concur with the Burton Township Trustees in withdrawing the request for a hearing on the Liquor License requested by 15015 Enterprises, LLC located at 15015 Kinsman Road, Middlefield, Ohio (C NEW 6549500).

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).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:36 a.m. with Ms. Bevan and Maintenance Director Glen Vernick. The Board returned at 11:09 a.m. and no action was taken.

BOARD DISCUSSION

There was a brief discussion about the Great Geauga County Fair, including the Bell Building and Merchant Hall 2. Ms. Blair explained that typically now, letters have been sent out to Officials and Directors regarding brochures and giveaways that will be put into the building. Ms. Blair stated that Merchant Hall 2 was added to the mix this year and we have been on hold waiting for information on what is happening with the two buildings, so we know who is going to which building. Mr. Dvorak explained that Merchant Hall 2 is new this year and in large part to America 250 and any department or agency that is involved in the America 250 can have space in the building. This is kind of an experiment this year and next to see how it goes. Mr. Dvorak mentioned the Commissioners and Destination Geauga having space in Merchant Hall 2 and several other Elected Officials have expressed interest in that building, which will open up table space in the Bell Building. Mr. Dvorak stated that an email should be sent out asking yes or no whether they will be in Merchant Hall 2. Ms. Blair added that we will reach out to Ms. Noah from the fair about paperwork that will be required by those in the Merchant Hall 2 building and giving them a final list of who will be in which building. Ms. Brakey brought up having two tables, one in each building and how the tables will be staffed in both buildings. Mr. Dvorak continued about how to handle coverage and his vision for Merchant Hall 2. Ms. Bevan wanted to make sure those interested in Merchant Hall 2 understand the rules and that we have a list of who will be in the building by Friday, so a list can be provided to the fair in order to prepare the concession agreements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Newell Howard from South Russell Village explained they wrapped up Liberty Camp last week and explained the different things they did during the week.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) *Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2025*
- b) *A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending July 16, 2025 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- c) *Geauga County Soil and Water Conservation District received the State of Ohio, Keith Faber, Ohio Auditor of State, Highest Achievement in Open and Transparent Government award for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

- Wed., 7/30 Special Board of Revision Hearing, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*
- 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. that will include Public Hearing #3 at 9:45 a.m. for the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Program*
- Mon., 8/18 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m.*
- Tues., 8/19 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 11:21 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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