

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on August 12, 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 9:32 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

Lord,

I pray for joy and peace to abound in our family relationships.

May any misunderstandings or conflicts be replaced with unity and forgiveness.

Help us to cherish and support one another in every step of our journey together.

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 August 7, 2025:

Department on Aging:

Approved an unpaid leave of absence for Mindy Hudec, Information and Referral Assistant for twenty-one hours during the period July 21, 2025 through August 1, 2025, for time not covered by accrued sick and vacation leave.

Rescinded the motion from August 4, 2025, as the offer of employment was declined, that read: Approved hiring Sarah Braun to the position of Part-time Adult Day Services Assistant (#1041-1) to be effective August 18, 2025, at the rate of \$19.23 per hour with a one-year probationary period.

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:

Angela Thielo, Social Services Worker II (replacement) Effective July 14, 2025

Department of Water Resources:

Approved and executed the service contract agreement with S. A. Comunale, Incorporated to perform annual fire sprinkler system inspections, and as needed repairs for the department, for a period of one-year effective August 7, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of June 24, 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 Supplemental Appropriations to the various General Fund hospitalization accounts to cover the increase granted to the County's portion of health insurance; Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Sheriff's Office for the local match on Violence Against Women Act grant #2024-WF-VA5-70318; Travel requests for the Common Pleas Court, County Engineer's Office, and

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

Job and Family Services; a Then and Now encumbrance for the Common Pleas Court to Family Pride of Northeast Ohio for New Leaf program services from May 2025 that were not previously encumbered; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #22 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$950,590.72; a payment for Maintenance to Geauga Mechanical Company, Incorporated for a 15 ton chiller replacement at the Courthouse Annex in the amount of \$65,445.00; and a payment for the Sheriff's Office to Flock Group Incorporated for twelve new flock license plate recorder cameras and battery packs in the amount of \$38,250.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-161 itemizing the financials for the meeting of August 12, 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>

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #3 – TAXIWAY EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Airport Manager Ric Blamer asked the Board to approve the reimbursement request #3 on the parallel taxiway project.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve Reimbursement Request #3 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 \$592,676.95 (FAA share \$533,409.26. ODOT share \$29,633.85 and local County match share \$29,633.84).

<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>

PROBATE / JUVENILE COURT – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES, JUVENILE COURT GRANT AGREEMENT AND FUNDING APPLICATION – AMEND FY2026 DYS RECLAIM GRANT APPLICATION – ADJUST A CLERICAL ERROR

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Youth Services, Juvenile Court Grant Agreement and Funding Application to amend the FY2026 DYS RECLAIM grant application to adjust a clerical error, decreasing the total budgeted expenditures by \$1,500.00.

<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>

RECORDER'S OFFICE – ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS – LAND RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Recorder Celesta Mullins asked the Board to grant permission to advertise for competitive sealed proposals for the Land Records Management System. Commissioner Brakey asked if they currently had land management software. Ms. Mullins explained that she had a five-year contract that did not include a renewal clause, so she is required to go out for sealed proposals.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Competitive Sealed Proposals - Land Records Management System to be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Competitive Sealed Proposal Request will be advertised on August 14, 2025, August 21, 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>

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A NAME CHANGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES TO THE GEAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Deputy Director Austin Rice asked the Board to approve a resolution that will declare a name change from the Department of Emergency Services to Geauga County Emergency Management Agency.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-162 to Declare a Name Change for the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services to the Geauga County Emergency Management Agency to be effective August 12, 2025.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: August 12, 2025

Resolution: #25-162

*RESOLUTION TO DECLARE A NAME CHANGE FOR THE
GEAUGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
TO THE GEAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

WHEREAS, Geauga County has carried out its emergency management functions under a multitude of names since the 1970's, including Disaster Services, Emergency Management Agency and more recently Emergency Services, operating as the Department of Emergency Services, in accordance with O.R.C. 5502.271; and

WHEREAS, currently of the 88 counties in the State of Ohio, Geauga County is currently the only county without the term "Emergency Management" in the title of its emergency management program; and

WHEREAS, the name "Department of Emergency Services" has on occasion caused confusion to residents, employees, elected officials, and other county and state stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the term "Emergency Management" is standardized nomenclature at the federal and state levels, and is the commonly understood industry standard; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners discussed the request for the name change at their July 29, 2025 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners finds there is good cause for such an agency name change and that it will not be detrimental to the general interest of the county; and

WHEREAS, it is also understood that only the name of the department is changing from the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services to the Geauga County Emergency Management Agency and the Geauga County Emergency Management Agency will still continue to operate as a program of emergency management under R.C. 5502.271 and is not transitioning to a county-wide emergency management agency under R.C. 5502.26 or a regional authority for emergency management under R.C. 5502.27.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners hereby change the name of the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services to the Geauga County Emergency Services Agency, effective August 12, 2025, and that all necessary agencies, both local, state and federal be notified of the change and that the Geauga County Emergency Management Agency will still continue to operate as a program of emergency management under R.C. 5502.271 and is not a county-wide emergency management agency under R.C. 5502.26 or a regional authority for emergency management under R.C. 5502.27.

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

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE SERVICE CONTRACT – PERKINELMER U.S. LLC

Fiscal and Personnel Specialist Kathleen Miller asked the Board to approve a contract Maintenance Form with PerkinElmer, as they currently have a contract with them and are asking to increase the contract for additional software. Ms. Miller explained that this machine has been down for repair for several months and we are required to outsource to test for metals. This software is really the brains of the machine and needs to be repaired.

Motion: *by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1, increasing the Service Contract with PerkinElmer U.S. LLC for additional software in the amount of \$8,121.69 for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$20,121.69.*

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PUBLIC HEARING #3 – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

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

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

Ms. Brakey swore in those who wish to provide comment or testimony during the public hearing. The public hearing was opened at 9:45 am.

Project Manager Elaine Malkamaki explained that today's hearing is regarding the use of CDBG Revolving Loan Funds. Ms. Malkamaki explained that the economic development revolving loan fund is a tool used to stimulate economic development and create jobs for low to moderate income individuals, can be used for fixed asset loans, offsite public infrastructure grants and community development projects. Revolving loan fund loans are considered gap financing and can be used when a primary loan only covers a portion of project costs and additional funding would be needed to complete the entire project. Ms. Malkamaki explained that since 2021, loans have diminished due to COVID, banks tightening lending and inability for companies to create the jobs required, noting that one job is required for every \$35,000.00 borrowed. The program income that is returned through the loans can be used for projects that meet a national objective. Geauga County is eligible to use the funds that have accrued over the years to purchase the library administration building for the Chardon area senior center. The national objective is that it benefits the low to moderate income, seniors are a limited clientele and are considered low to moderate income; senior centers are limited clientele activities which qualify them as low to moderate income.

Ms. Malkamaki explained the types of projects that can be funded include demolition of blighted property, building rehabilitation, historic preservation, street improvements, water facility, flood and drainage, parks and recreation, sidewalk improvements, sewer facility improvements, and public service, and this is just a few of those. Ms. Malkamaki stated that this project is property acquisition. Ms. Malkamaki explained that they often have trouble using the funds for low to moderate income as the county really only has one small area, in Middlefield Township, they don't have sidewalks, or a lot of the infrastructure, like sewer replacement and things of that nature. The intent is to apply for \$2.6 million; the account currently has a little over \$2.7 million that has been built up over the years. This will leave approximately \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 in the account, which is where the state really wants the account to be. There is also approximately about \$300,000.00 in outstanding loans that are still being paid back, that will start to bring the amount back up and get the program going again. It is a very good program. Ms. Malkamaki stated that the Department on Aging will be putting \$600,000.00 towards the purchase using levy funds. Ms. Brakey asked if there could be an Sai argument to

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

clear out more of the account. Ms. Malkamaki replied that they could apply for what the Board wants to. Ms. Brakey replied that if there isn't another project slated for the funds, I wonder if it makes sense to use more and leave even less in the account. Director Gina Hofstetter replied that she would argue that, adding that she feels it is important to leave a threshold there. Ms. Hofstetter stated that you don't always know things, citing a call that comes in with some interest in funds. Ms. Hofstetter added that we also have the local revolving fund account that has more leniency on the use of the funds. It could be done if you wanted to go that route. Ms. Malkamaki stated that it is interest from loans that have been done over the last twenty years, building up and growing, so we might as well use it.

After no further comments or any questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:52 a.m.

Ms. Malkamaki asked the Board about changing the amount. Mr. Dvorak stated that he felt comfortable with the \$2.6 million, then we are able to have something ready if they can help out a business. Director Jessica Boalt explained that they have a senior center construction account that is used to make improvements at the senior centers, and that includes funding to use towards the renovation once purchased and towards the purchase of the building. Ms. Boalt stated that they have funds to go towards the purchase, \$600,000.00 or \$500,000.00, they are comfortable with the funding.

MAINTENANCE – CONCEPT DESIGN – UPGRADING SAFETY CENTER ROOF

Project Manager Charles Tkach and Director Glen Vernick came before the Board to discuss the item below that was listed on the agenda:

The Maintenance Department is requesting the Board approve the proposed Concept Design for upgrading the Safety Center Roof for an engineering estimate of construction cost of approximately \$3,000,000.00 to \$3,500,000.00.

Mr. Tkach explained that the concept design came back from the engineer and provided a report following the discovery work and the recommendation is different from what was initially recommended. Mr. Tkach explained that back in September of 2024, there was an estimate that had been received in 2022, and it was estimated that there were only about 2100 square foot of wet insulation and at that time it was recommended to repair that insulation and put a new roof on top, and that was estimated at \$1 million. Mr. Tkach explained that they took that estimate and based on prior reports, they did not anticipate that the insulation would grow in wetness. In September in 2024, we anticipated on the reports to do about 2,000 square feet of insulation. Mr. Tkach stated that the engineering firm did a thermal scan and core samples on the roof, and the insulation ranges in depth from ten inches to two inches, depending on the location on the roof. Mr. Tkach stated that the results of those scans state that there are 15,000 square feet of wet insulation and they are recommending sections 1 and 4, higher roof area and by the sally port need to be completely torn off and re-roofed.

Two options were provided, 2 ply modified system or a higher-level system that has PVC and will protect the roof longer. Mr. Tkach stated that option A is \$3 million dollars, the higher quality, option B is \$3.5 million. Mr. Tkach asked them to do a breakdown of the cost of the roof overlay versus the cost of the insulation replacement, which is about \$750,000.00. It is a huge change in price, but so is the amount of insulation. Mr. Tkach looked over all the numbers and did some review of the reports, the cost estimates and changes in the insulation amounts and the current roofing material costs and it is much higher than the original estimate. Mr. Tkach continued to go over the areas of the roof in the reports and the recommended changes, and asked the Board to approve the changes in the estimates and then choose an option cost in order to estimate the project for bid.

There was a brief discussion about the need to shut down the HVAC system based on the odor levels and how to handle the inmates during that time.

Ms. Brakey asked about the differences in the types of roof systems. Mr. Tkach explained that he felt the reason the roof is deteriorating so quickly, and it is based on small holes that create bigger holes, and the hybrid system would provide a longer option based on how it gets used, but the key to the life is maintaining it, and making sure that any hole gets repaired right away. The current roof was a twenty to thirty year roof and given the current weather conditions in northeast Ohio, it is more likely to last more towards the twenty. Ms. Brakey asked if one of these options is more conducive to the climate and snow load we have here. Mr. Tkach replied

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

to Ms. Brakey that the hybrid with PVC will probably hold up better and both are easy to repair. Mr. Dvorak expressed that he was in favor of the more durable and longevity option of a roof and is comfortable with the hybrid with PVC. Mr. Tkach stated that he would like the Board to make a decision on which option they would like to go with.

Motion: by Commissioner Dvorak, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the proposed Option B, Concept Design for upgrading the Safety Center Roof for an engineering estimate of construction costs of approximately \$3,500,000.00.

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

MAINTENANCE – OFFICE BUILDING PARKING LOT EXPANSION

The Maintenance Department is requesting the Board discuss an alternate location for the Geauga County Office Building parking lot expansion, impact to professional services scope and authorization to proceed with either original scope and location, a new location, or revised scope to evaluate multiple locations for the project.

Mr. Tkach explained that in April, we had a discussion about expanding the parking lot at the county office buildings and the Board chose the most qualified engineering firm. That firm is prepared to submit a proposal, and it was brought up to consider looking at an alternate option, across the street where the new youth center is going. Director Glen Vernick stated that during a meeting where other elected officials were present, it was asked to look across the street. Ms. Brakey asked who wanted it; Mr. Vernick replied that the Auditor asked them to look into it. Mr. Dvorak stated that even during construction of this building, the proposed expansion was on the west side, and at this time, he feels we need to continue in that location. Ms. Brakey stated that the purpose of this parking lot is for early voting expansion, that a lot of those coming in are elderly and we need to make sure that parking is close to the building. Mr. Dvorak added that he wants to continue with the west side of the building for the parking lot. Ms. Brakey added that she would just like to hear the argument for moving it. Mr. Tkach added that there are two wells on the property and limits how close we can get to them. Mr. Vernick stated that he would like to stay on this property as much as possible and if in the future we need it, we look more into it, because it will also involve other things like sidewalks and lighting.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING LINDA BURHENNE – DEDICATED SERVICE TO GEAUGA COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-163 Honoring Linda Burhenne for her dedicated service to Geauga County and its residents.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #25-163

Date: August 12, 2025

RESOLUTION HONORING LINDA BURHENNE FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO GEAUGA COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, Linda Burhenne resides in Lake County, where she and her husband, Jack, raised their six children, and now enjoys spending time with her grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burhenne served her community both as a School Board Member for eight years and as a Leroy Township Trustee for twelve years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burhenne began working for Geauga County in 2006 as the Special Projects Coordinator in the Commissioners' Office, was promoted in 2009 to Director of the Archives and Records Center, and again in 2014 to Director of Administrative Services, where she oversaw Human Resources, Safety and Risk Management, and assisted the County Administrator; and

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

WHEREAS, Ms. Burhenne served Geauga County and its residents for over twelve years before retiring in 2018, returned in February 2023 as the Temporary Director of the Archives and Records Center, and in July 2023 was appointed Assistant County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, Ms. Burhenne was reappointed as the Assistant County Administrator and named the Acting County Administrator, assisting the Commissioners with overseeing the department directors, management of the office, and leadership of major county projects. Throughout this time, she fulfilled her long-held personal goal of proving she could serve as County Administrator — and in doing so, she proved it not only to herself, but to everyone who had the privilege of working alongside her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burhenne completes her service to Geauga County in August 2025, concluding a distinguished career of public service marked by remarkable drive, boundless energy, unwavering tenacity in serving the residents of Geauga County; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners honors Linda Burhenne for her dedicated service, tireless work ethic, and lasting contributions to Geauga County and its residents.

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>

Ms. Burhenne thanked the Board and said that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Geauga County for almost twenty years. Ms. Burhenne expressed that the Board was in great hands with Ms. Bevan and that it was a good time to go back and be a grandma. Ms. Brakey expressed that she really helped the Board with the transition, that she learned a lot from her, that with her help they got a lot of things accomplished, thanking her for her service. Mr. Dvorak expressed that it was a pleasure to work with you and that Ms. Burhenne was a no-nonsense person; he appreciated her time here. Ms. Brakey presented Ms. Burhenne with some flowers in appreciation.

The Board posed for a few pictures with Ms. Burhenne.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING JOSEPH GANDEE – HARD WORK IN RECOVERY AND BEING A TRUE SUCCESS STORY OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, NEW LEAF PROGRAM

Ms. Bevan briefly explained some information about the New Leaf Program, noting their mission statement “to help participants suffering from addiction and combined addiction and mental illness, by providing resources, support and requiring accountability; with the goals of assisting participants in becoming productive members of our community, reducing recidivism, providing treatment instead of incarceration where appropriate, and improving the safety of the public and participants”. Throughout the 16–24-month program, participants meet with honorable Judge Paschke, talk about progress, participation and treatments, and achievements and they are also supported by a treatment team. Ms. Brakey explained that she and Mr. Dvorak were at the graduation, and Mr. Gandee was arrested for a very serious drug crime, and now he is employed by Infinity Construction and working on the Courthouse. This is a story that shows someone who has completely changed their life around and congratulations to him. Mr. Dvorak expressed that there are a lot of success stories, and the community really is involved, and is very proud of the New Leaf program.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-164 Honoring Joseph Gandee, for his hard work in Recovery and being a True Success Story of the Geauga County Common Pleas Court, New Leaf Program.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #25-164
Date: August 12, 2025

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

*A RESOLUTION HONORING JOSEPH GANDEE FOR HIS HARD WORK
IN RECOVERY AND BEING A TRUE SUCCESS STORY OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY
COMMON PLEAS COURT'S NEW LEAF PROGRAM*

WHEREAS, Honorable Judge Carolyn Paschke of the Geauga County Common Pleas Court started the New Leaf Program, a Drug Court, in June 2019, which was quickly certified by the Ohio Supreme Court in October 2019, and to date, twenty-nine graduates have completed the program; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for the New Leaf Program requires a diagnosis of a severe substance use disorder, a determination of high risk for recidivism, and a pending felony case. While participation is optional, once entered, completion is a condition of probation; and

WHEREAS, the New Leaf Program is a sixteen to twenty-four (16-24) month program consisting of six phases, including treatment, weekly or bi-weekly status hearings, random weekly drug screens and participation in prosocial activities; and

WHEREAS, participants' progress in the program is overseen by a treatment team that includes Judge Paschke, an Assistant Prosecutor, an Assistant Public Defender, the Sheriff, a Probation Officer, the Program Coordinator, and representatives from local treatment providers, who determine whether participants may advance to the next phase of the program; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Gandee entered the program after violating probation on a drug-related case, successfully completed programs at NEOCAP, Concord Pines, Aftercare, Seeking Safety and Life Skills, and successfully graduated from the New Leaf Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gandee's enthusiasm and helpfulness throughout the process have demonstrated his determination to succeed—from being offered a job at the OxShoppe to his current role with Infinity Construction on the Geauga County Courthouse project. Mr. Gandee is a true success story of the programs available, having worked hard to return to his family and achieving independence, with further goals ahead that he is well on his way to achieving.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor Joseph Gandee, for his hard work in recovery and being a true success story of the Geauga County Common Pleas Court's New Leaf Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution become 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 – CONTRACT MAINTENANCE FORM #1 – INCREASE
CONTRACT – BRILLIANT ELECTRIC SIGN COMPANY**

Ms. Bevan stated that signage at this campus has been three years in the making, and went and met with all the stakeholders to go over the name on the sign, look at placement, and review all aspects and she feels we are now in a good place. There will be two additional signs for this building at both entrances. Ms. Bevan wanted to take the overall picture and try and overcome some of the obstacles and issues that the public has had difficulty with and correct names of the offices. She hopes to have everything done by the end of the year.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Contract Maintenance Form #1, increasing the Contract with Brilliant Electric Sign Company for two additional small ground signs in the amount of \$12,342.00 and extending the date of completion through November 19, 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' Journal
August 12, 2025

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AWARD BID – APG OFFICE FURNISHINGS – FURNITURE CONTRACTOR – GEAUGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

Ms. Bevan replied to a question, that there was only one bidder and the estimate was around \$600,000.00. Jennifer Murray with TDA and Amanda Rura from APG Furniture came up to answer questions the Board may have. Ms. Murray explained that the bid met the plans and specifications on the project and TDA is familiar and have worked with APG and recommend them for the project. Ms. Rura briefly provided some information about the company and said she looks forward to working on the project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to APG Office Furnishings for the Furniture Contractor Geauga County Courthouse Expansion project in the amount of \$560,240.54 as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

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

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 a public employee, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. with Ms. Bevan and Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler. The Board returned at 10:57 a.m. and as a result the following action was taken:

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the appointment of Michael Austin Rice to the position of Director, Geauga County Emergency Management Agency (#1701) to be effective August 17, 2025 at the rate of \$40.62 per hour (Grade E15, Step 6).

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

Mr. Rice thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity and will represent them and the county well.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Courthouse Plaque:

Ms. Bevan brought up revising the courthouse plaque, noting that we have six options, including no plaque and a credit of about \$6,000.00, to a plaque with the current Commissioners, with and without the contractors, and dedicating the building to the residents. Mr. Dvorak explained that he had been talking to other counties, and historically that it is the sitting Commissioners at the completion and the contractors, he likes that the most. Ms. Brakey asked about the plaque on the county office building, and it was noted that there really wasn't discussion on it, that they were just shown a picture of it. Ms. Brakey briefly talked about some of the expenses with the Courthouse and felt that there was a lot ways that the funds could have been better managed. Mr. Dvorak replied that there is a lot of detail in the Courthouse inside and out. Commissioner Spidalieri expressed that he wants a credit for the \$6,000.00. Ms. Brakey brought up the idea of making a smaller plaque that would be less expensive as a compromise between Mr. Dvorak's and Mr. Spidalieri's positions.

Fair Safety:

Fair Board Secretary Meg Noah and Sheriff Chief Deputy Tom Rowan came before to discuss safety at the fair. Ms. Noah explained that Cuyahoga County Fair had an incident on Saturday night and following that, the media started reaching out for a statement. Ms. Noah explained

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

that they wanted to get ahead of it and put out a press release in light of the fair coming up in the next few weeks. Ms. Noah stated that they work with the Sheriff and feel confident they will keep the community safe during the fair. Chief Deputy Rowan added that they work constantly with the Fair Board to ensure safety, they bring in extra lighting, post signs and have temporary flock cameras, maintain contact with the fusion center which is Homeland Security that does the open-source investigation and keep an eye on any threats to large scale events. Chief Deputy Rowan noted that they have 24-hour security during the fair. Fair Board member and Safety Committee Chair Jim McCaskey added that this isn't a knee-jerk reaction, that they met a month ago with the Fire and Sheriff Departments to go over safety issues, including bag searches and no masks are allowed to be worn. They feel confident in safety and security. There was a brief discussion about a five-year plan that was to be done in phases to add cameras on the fairgrounds. They have completed phase 3 and there are some additional areas that still need to be completed. The lights in the parking lot have just been upgraded and are very well lit now, as it is just important to ensure safety out there as well as on the grounds. Ms. Brakey brought up the recent incidents and the timing of them at the other fairs and if the Fair Board had any consideration of closing early or increasing the police presence. Mr. McCaskey stated that at this point, we are business as usual and right now have no intent to close early. Ms. Brakey expressed that she would like to see an increase in ticket prices at the gate, adding that local residents tend to buy advanced tickets at a discounted price, and higher gate fees will discourage bad actors from coming to the fair.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Newell Howard from South Russell Village expressed that he is concerned with the pedestrians walking across the street to get into the fair, and that they need to add a crosswalk, and add signage to ensure the safety of those visiting the fair.

Skip Claypool, Chesterland, expressed that he sits as an alternate for Ralph Spidalieri on the NOACA Board and he is concerned with the climate action plan that is based on poorly done data and it is going before the Board in September and feels there are things that are detrimental to Geauga County. Mr. Claypool mentioned that it is very complex, but includes items that will negatively impact Geauga County residents.

Joe Zacaro, Waterfall Lane, stated that he backs up the information from Mr. Claypool and requests the Board of Commissioners take a look at removing Geauga County from NOACA and make us a separate entity from that.

Christine Stenzel, Munson Township, inquired about undercover police presence at the fair. Ms. Stenzel added that she had read a lot of information about NOACA and feels that Mr. Claypool knows more about NOACA than anyone and agrees that we need to get out of NOACA, and asked if we are making any progress about getting out of NOACA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Inmate meals for the month ending July 2025.*
- b) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for Prisoner Transport for the month ending July 2025 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

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

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

Tues., 8/19 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Sun., 8/24 The Commissioners will hold a special session at 5:00 p.m. at the Geauga County Fairgrounds for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Poultry Barn and Youth and Livestock Center

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

Thu., 8/28 The Commissioners will hold session at 10:00 a.m. at the Great Geauga County Fair, Jr. Fair Stage, Burton

8/28 – 9/1 Great Geauga County Fair, Burton

Mon., 9/1 County Offices will be closed in honor of the Labor Day holiday, Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal

Thu., 9/4 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Tue., 9/9 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. County Office Building, Room A334

Tue., 9/9 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 11:18 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
August 12, 2025

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