

Commissioners' Journal
October 7, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on October 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303, Chardon, Ohio.

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

President of the Board James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:

I praise you, Lord, for autumn, the beauty and hope in the change of the season.

The promise that the coming of autumn heralds another ending.

A new beginning and the wonder of another winter, another spring, another summer, yet to come.

Amen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dog Warden Matt Granito came before the Board to thank them for helping to get the staff body armor and upgraded equipment. Mr. Granito brought a recently found stray dog that was obviously malnourished in Chesterland, but he is such a sweetheart. Mr. Granito stated that the dog will be up for adoption at the shelter.

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 October 2, 2025:

Department of Water Resources:

Accepted the resignation of Karen Peterson, McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor (#2301), to be effective October 17, 2025.

Granted permission to advertise for the position of Full-time McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor (#2301). This position will remain posted until filled.

On October 6, 2025:

Maintenance:

Approved hiring Damian Sherwood to the position of Maintenance Worker (#1904) to be effective October 27, 2025, at the rate of \$20.99 per hour (Grade 6, Step 7) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes 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>

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Supplemental appropriation from ADP in the Computer Improvement Funds Equipment account to cover remaining 2025 purchases; Supplemental appropriation from the Prosecutor's Office in their Delinquent Tax Fee Fund contract services account for a portion of the office security and remodeling costs; Cash transfer from the General Fund to Public Assistance for our October – December 2025 mandated share; Travel requests for the Auditor's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Water Resources; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ravenwood Mental

Commissioners' Journal
October 7, 2025

Health Center for the 4th Quarter Youth Center Operations in the amount of \$104,105.00; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #24 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of \$1,706,159.91; and a payment for Community Development Block Grant Funding to Gold Star Roofing Incorporated for a roof replacement on a pavilion at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center in the amount of \$15,000.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-186 itemizing the financials for the meeting of October 7, 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 – CHANGE ORDER #1, FINAL – INCREASE CONTRACT WITH GRADE LINE, INCORPORATED – REPLACEMENT OF HASKINS ROAD BRIDGE

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve change order #1 and final, which is an increase in the contract with Grade Line for the replacement of Haskins Road Bridge. Commissioner Brakey noted that it looked like the change order was mainly due to changes in material quantities.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, increasing the Contract with Grade Line, Incorporated for the Replacement of the Haskins Road Bridge (Structure #0191-03.210) in Bainbridge Township in the amount of \$5,196.70.

<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 – CHANGE ORDER #4, FINAL – DECREASE CONTRACT WITH AGRI-SLUDGE, INCORPORATED – AQUILLA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve change order #4 and final, which is a decrease in the contract with Agri-Sludge for the Aquilla wastewater treatment plant improvement project. Mr. Gorris explained that in change order #3 the contract was increased to prepare for the worst and we didn't need it all.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #4, Final, decreasing the Contract with Agri-Sludge, Incorporated for the Aquilla Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project in the amount of \$64,396.15.

<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 #14, INCREASE CONTRACT WITH INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT – ITEM TABLED

Ms. Bevan read the item listed on the agenda as follows:

The Commissioners' Office is requesting the Board approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute Change Order #14, increasing the Contract with Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Courthouse Expansion Project, GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 for changes related to the magistrate's bench doors (+\$33,571.00) and a decrease for the elimination of redundant bond charges (-\$1,487.00) for the total amount of \$32,084.00.

Judge Carolyn Paschke from the Common Pleas Court and Jen Murray from TDA came before the Board to explain some of the history behind the change order regarding the magistrates' bench doors. Judge Paschke explained that they had done a mockup of the Judge's chambers and figured that magistrates would have done the same. However, on a walkthrough it was discovered that the doors on the magistrates' benches were not correct. While there should be

Commissioners' Journal
October 7, 2025

two ways to exit the room, the current doors require you to walk into the magistrate's office and then the hallway to re-enter the room. A swinging door for security and logistics is needed.

Commissioner Brakey explained that she had spoken with Judge Rambo and inquired if he had seen these types of benches without a gate before in any other courtroom. Discussion continued and Ms. Brakey stated that she felt this was a design omission. The gates should have been included all along and taxpayers should not pay for this. We are ripping out the existing bench to fix the issue. There should be insurance in place that could cover this mistake and that TDA needs to provide a proposal to make it right.

Ms. Murray from TDA said she had been working with Mr. Parker of Infinity and will see what needs to be done and quickly to not cause any further delays.

Ms. Brakey made a motion to table. Mr. Dvorak seconded the motion, adding that it could be tabled until next week.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to table the item until a proposal could be obtained regarding the costs of the design mistake relating to the magistrate's bench doors.

Upon roll call, Commissioner Spidalieri voted no and then began to offer comment regarding the timing of the project, and he felt there were other ways to figure out the cost of the change., Ms. Brakey raised a point of order, noting that discussion should occur before or after the roll call vote, not during it. The rest of the roll call vote continued:

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>No</i>
	<i>Commissioner Brakey</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE HIRING AND APPOINTMENT OF MARK JIMISON – DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (#1324)

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve hiring and the appointment of Mark Jimison as the Deputy County Administrator.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the hiring and appointment of Mark Jimison to the position of Deputy County Administrator (#1324) to be effective October 14, 2025, at the rate of \$48.19 per hour (Grade E18, Step 4). This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

<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 read a brief bio on Mr. Jimison explaining a little bit about him. Mr. Jimison is a lifelong resident of Geauga County, returning home after retiring as a Colonel from the United States Marine Corps. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Citadel and his Juris Doctor from the University of Akron. Additionally, he has a Master's in Strategic Studies from the Air War College and is a member of the Ohio Bar Association. Mr. Jimison worked as an Assistant Geauga County Prosecutor for David Joyce between law school and receiving his orders for Active Duty. Ms. Bevan stated that Mr. Jimison will bring a suite of skills to the county and the Commissioners' office given his skills and overall knowledge of Geauga County.

Mr. Jimison was in attendance for session and came before the Board to thank the Board for their support in hiring him. The people involved in the hiring process were very professional and he looks forward to working in the county he grew up in and to serving Geauga County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Newell Howard from South Russell Village stated that today is the second anniversary of all those killed in Gaza. Remember them and hopefully soon something will be done there.

Commissioners' Journal
October 7, 2025

Adam Litke, Geauga Public Health Administrator, explained he had a present for Commissioner Dvorak, a thank you for starting the special needs fishing program in Geauga County and for assisting him with getting the program started in Lake County. Mr. Litke presented Mr. Dvorak with a "golden" fishing rod. Mr. Dvorak explained the program and thanked Mr. Litke for the gift, noting that he must know he is "reely" into fishing. Mr. Dvorak explained that he started the program about ten years ago with his Rotary, and they work with the Park District to do the special needs fishing day. Mr. Dvorak stated that he worked with Lake County to bring the program there and would love to see that program expand to other counties as well.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the 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 9:53 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Mr. Gorton, Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler and Benefits Specialist Megan Erickson. The Board returned at 10:12 a.m. and as a result the following actions were taken.

Ms. Erickson explained that they have been working with CEBCO on healthcare plan options as Geauga County received an 18% increase. We have worked to find a comparable plan that will reduce the increase and ease the burden on the taxpayers. Mr. Gorton briefly explained why we decided to remove the other plans, and it really had to do with premium costs. Those employees who have to experience the change will be offset by paying the wellness rate for next year. Mr. Dvorak added that the resolution keeps the employees contributing ten percent of the cost.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept and approve the 2026 Geauga County CEBCO/Anthem Healthcare, Anthem RX Prescription, 1F Plan, and Delta Dental Renewal Plan and Rates to be effective January 1, 2026.

<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 accept and approve the 2026 Geauga County CEBCO/Anthem Healthcare County and Employee Contribution Rates, to be effective January 1, 2026.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Bevan explained that with the recent changes to the engagement letters for outside counsel that requires her to engage the Board before using outside counsel. She quickly realized that the policy manual is beyond the bandwidth internally as a staff and would like to go to the two outside counsel firms and request a proposal on cost, approach and timing to get the policy manual reviewed and done. Ms. Bevan stated that she would like to try and get it done for the start of the new year.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events. Ms. Brakey reminded everyone that the Sheriff's Trunk or Treat event was on October 22. She will be doing a trunk if anyone would like to join her.

MEETINGS

Wed., 10/8 Geauga County Township Association Meeting and Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Schoolyard Studio, Burton

Commissioners' Journal
October 7, 2025

- Thu., 10/9 Special ADP meeting, 11:00 a.m., Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room*
- Thu., 10/9 Geauga County Agricultural Society Annual Meeting and Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Mary Yoder's*
- Mon., 10/13 **County offices will be closed for general business due to Columbus Day.**
Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as usual.*
- Tue., 10/14 University Hospitals Wellness Trail Ribbon Cutting, 12:00 p.m., Ravenwood Drive*
- Thu., 10/16 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. County Office Building, Room A334*
- Thu., 10/16 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Tue., 10/21 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*
- Mon., 10/27 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building*
- Tue., 10/28 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.*

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

Commissioners' Journal
October 7, 2025

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK