

Commissioners' Journal
December 9, 2025

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 9, 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.

The 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:

Heavenly Father,

Make this month of December a month of healing and good health.

Bless the days with your peace of mind.

Heal and calm the troubled mind.

This month marks the end of another year – a year filled with both challenges and blessings.

I thank you for your faithfulness through it all.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed in or spoke about items on the agenda.

FINANCIALS

County Administrator Amy Bevan reported on financials approved on December 2, 2025, Resolution #25-205 that included Supplemental De-Appropriations from Job and Family Services in the Emergency Services Grants, the Auditor in the Mortgage Revenue Bond Fund and from the County Engineer's Office in their Huntington Ridge Stormwater Fund; a Cash transfer from the Commissioners' Office to the unemployment rotary fund; a Cash transfer from the County Engineer's Office from their Road and Bridge Fund to their Maintenance Road Fund for projects completed this year from the Maintenance Road Fund; a Cash transfer from Mental Health from the ADAMS Board Fund into the Capital Reserve Fund; a Travel request for Job and Family Services; a payment for the Department on Aging to Driverge Vehicle Innovations, LLC for a new Ford T350 Transit Van to replace the unit that was totaled earlier this year in the amount of \$73,000.00; a payment from the County Engineer's Office to Oglesby Construction Incorporated for the application of pavement markings on various county roads in the amount of \$263,302.75; a payment for the County Engineer's Office to Miller Builders LLC for the construction of a new salt storage building in the amount of \$349,330.00 and Revenue De-Certifications for the Auditor in their Mortgage Revenue Bond Fund for revenue that will not be received in 2025.

The County Administrator approved the financials on December 5, 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 December 5, 2025:

Department on Aging:

Approved the promotion of Melissa Wheeler to the position of Full-time Senior Centers' Manager (#1003) at the rate of \$32.17 per hour (Grade 16E, Step 1) to be effective December 8, 2025, with a 180-day probationary period.

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MEETING MINUTES

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the minutes for the special meeting of September 24, 2025.

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

**Commissioner Brakey was not at this special meeting – Geauga County Airport Authority Ribbon Cutting and Groundbreaking.*

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including various Appropriations transfers and Supplemental Appropriations and De-Appropriations to adjust accounts and funds to balance for final invoices and payroll to year end including the Auditor, ADP, Engineer, Building Department, Maintenance, Prosecutor, Board of Elections, Coroner, Community Development, Juvenile Court, Water Resources and Common Pleas; Travel requests for the Commissioners' Office, Engineer's Office, and Job and Family Services; a payment for the Auditor's ARPA fund to Shook Construction Company for payments related to the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project in the amount of \$1,500,000.00; and Revenue Certifications and De-Certifications for ADP in their Contract Services Fund, Common Pleas in the Drug Court Fund, Community Development in the Demo and Site Revitalization and Brownfield Remediation Funds, Job and Family Services in the Workforce Development Fund, from the Juvenile Court in the Juvenile Recovery Fund and from Water Resources in the McFarland Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Fund.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-206 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 9, 2025.

Commissioner Spidalieri asked about a potential transfer from the Sheriff's Office to ADP to assist with payroll. While a transfer was initially considered, Pam McMahan sent an email to Mr. Gorton and they decided to pull the transfer and instead make internal transfers of funds to cover payroll. Mr. Gorton noted that it was being treated as reimbursement for services rendered. Mr. Gorton confirmed that this payroll will be covered but noted the need to verify sufficient ADP funding before the final payroll of the year.

Auditor Charles Walder responded that his office had not requested any transfer and that they would be handling accounting differently for ADP, including relocating funds internally to cover completed work. Mr. Walder appreciated Mr. Gorton reaching out, but Ms. McMahan had not discussed the plan with Mr. Walder and emphasized that adequate funds are available. Mr. Spidalieri reiterated concern about ensuring payroll could be posted for all employees.

Mr. Walder explained that his office typically reconciles and pays ADP for services at year-end and cited work performed for several departments, including for Board of Elections and at the County Office Building. Mr. Spidalieri raised concerns about the amount of overtime in the department and that ADP has the only director that is able to be paid overtime. The exchange between Mr. Walder and Mr. Spidalieri became increasingly pointed as they disagreed on budget management, salaries and expenses.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #26 AND #27 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION PROJECT

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the partial pay request #26 for Infinity Construction for the Courthouse expansion project. Mr. Gorton also asked for partial pay request #27 that includes that partial release of retainage that Infinity had come before the Board and spoke about. Commissioner Brakey asked if all the invoices had been reviewed by staff, to which Mr. Gorton explained that they had.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #26 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 expenses in the amount of \$870,262.02.

<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 authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #27 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 expenses in the amount of \$912,622.93.

<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>

*CLERK OF COURTS – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – DELTA DESIGNS, LTD /
BRUYNZEEL STORAGE SYSTEMS, INCORPORATED – HIGH DENSITY STORAGE*

Clerk of Courts Sheila Bevington asked the Board to approve the service contract with Delta Designs to install high density shelving. Ms. Brakey asked about this contract versus a change order later in the agenda that includes credit for shelving. Ms. Bevington explained that in October, she learned that the vendor being used could not make the shelving unit work for us, so she reached out to another vendor that has done previous work for her and asked for help. Ms. Bevington explained that, unlike the prior contract, this contract includes the shelving and installation.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Delta Designs Ltd. / Bruynzeel Storage Systems, Incorporated to provide mechanical assist high density storage systems for the Geauga County Clerk of Courts office as part of the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion project with work to be completed within three months of the contract encumbrance in an amount not to exceed \$35,911.49.

<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 – SNOW AND ICE CONTROL AGREEMENTS –
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP AND CHESTER TOWNSHIP*

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar explained that these two agreements are with Bainbridge and Chester, under which the county pays the townships to handle snow and ice control on county roads.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 13.42 miles of County Roads (Chagrin Road, Bainbridge Road and Washington Street) for the winter season of 2025-2026 and pay Bainbridge Township for snow and ice control in the amount of \$74,253.69.

<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 Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Chester Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 15.09 miles of County Roads (Wilson

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Mills Road, Sperry Road, Mulberry Road and Caves Road) for the winter season of 2025-2026 and pay Chester Township for snow and ice control in the amount of \$83,493.91.

<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 – SNOW AND ICE CONTROL AGREEMENTS – CLARIDON TOWNSHIP, MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP AND TROY TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar explained that the snow and ice control agreements with Claridon, Montville and Troy Townships are the townships paying the County to handle snow and ice control on township roads.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Claridon Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 9.32 miles of Township Roads (Ensign Road, Forrest Road (two sections), Hall Road, Spencer Road, Stillwell Road and Taylor Wells Road) for the winter season of 2025-2026 and Claridon Township will pay for snow and ice control in the amount of \$41,327.00.

<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>

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Montville Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 10.712 miles of Township Roads (Burrows Road, Dewey Road, Hart Road (two sections), Hautala Road, Joann Road, Kile Road, Murphy Road, Sun Road and Whitney Road (two sections) for the winter season of 2025-2026 and Montville Township will pay for snow and ice control in the amount of \$45,154.18.

<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 Snow and Ice Control Agreement among Geauga County Board of Commissioners, Geauga County Engineer and Troy Township Board of Trustees to provide snow and ice control on 11.83 miles of Township Roads (Stafford Road, Fox Road, Winagle Road, Patch Road, Nash Road, Tilden Road, Hoover Road, Grove Road and Greystone Road) for the winter season of 2025-2026 and Troy Township will pay for snow and ice control in the amount of \$45,154.18.

<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>

There was a brief discussion about calculating the amount being paid to handle snow and ice control that helps both the county and the townships.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT BOARD MEMBER, CAROLYN BRAKEY, ESQ., CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE – PROPOSED BAINBRIDGE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT – EXECUTE STATE OF OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION APPLICATION

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to appoint Carolyn Brakey as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for Ohio Public Works Commission proposed project of replacing the Bainbridge Road Bridge. There was a brief discussion on what that meant for Ms. Brakey. Mr. Hajjar explained that this designates a board member as the representative for the project, and is a requirement of the state Ohio Public Works funding.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-208 Appointing Board Member, Carolyn Brakey, Esq., as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for the proposed Bainbridge Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0011-0021) Replacement in Bainbridge Township and further approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the State of Ohio Public Works Commission application for financial assistance.

Board of Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 9, 2025

Resolution: #25-208

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING Carolyn Brakey, Esq., MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Whereas, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and

Whereas, Geauga County is planning to make improvements to Replace the Bainbridge Road Bridge, Structure BR-0011-0021 in Bainbridge Township; and

Whereas, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1: That Carolyn Brakey, Esq., Board Member, is hereby appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and is authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above

Section 2: That Carolyn Brakey, Esq., Board Member, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

<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 - RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT BOARD MEMBER, CAROLYN BRAKEY, ESQ., CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE – PROPOSED BASCOM ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT – EXECUTE STATE OF OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION APPLICATION

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to appoint Carolyn Brakey as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for Ohio Public Works Commission proposed project of replacing the Bascom Road Bridge.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-209 Appointing Board Member, Carolyn Brakey, Esq., as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for the proposed Bascom Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0069-0101) Replacement in Hambden Township and further approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the State of Ohio Public Works Commission application for financial assistance.

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Board of Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

*Date: December 9, 2025
Resolution: #25-209*

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING Carolyn Brakey, Esq., MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Whereas, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and

Whereas, Geauga County is planning to make improvements to Replace the Bascom Road Bridge, Structure BR-69-0101 in Hambden Township; and

Whereas, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1: That Carolyn Brakey, Esq., Board Member, is hereby appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and is authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above

Section 2: That Carolyn Brakey, Esq., Board Member, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

<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 – RESOLUTION APPOINTMENT BOARD MEMBER, CAROLYN BRAKEY, ESQ., CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE – PROPOSED ASPHALT RESURFACING OF BASS LAKE ROAD EXECUTE STATE OF OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION APPLICATION

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to appoint Carolyn Brakey as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for Ohio Public Works Commission proposed project of asphalt resurfacing of Bass Lake Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-210 Appointing Board Member, Carolyn Brakey, Esq., as the Chief Executive Officer and Certifying Representative for the proposed Asphalt Resurfacing of Bass Lake Road (CH-0023, Sections F-G) in Munson Township and further approve and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the State of Ohio Public Works Commission application for financial assistance.

Board of Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

*Date: December 9, 2025
Resolution: #25-210*

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING Carolyn Brakey, Esq., MEMBER OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE

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OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC) STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

Whereas, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and

Whereas, Geauga County is planning to make improvements to Resurface Bass Lake Road, CH 0023 Sections F-G, in Munson Township; and

Whereas, the infrastructure improvement herein above described is considered to be a priority need for the community and is a qualified project under the OPWC programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1: That Carolyn Brakey, Esq., Board Member, is hereby appointed to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and is authorized to apply to the OPWC for funds as described above

Section 2: That Carolyn Brakey, Esq., Board Member, is further authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

<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>

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE / VICTIM WITNESS – VICTIM OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AND STATE VICTIM ADVOCACY ACT (SVAA) GRANT AWARD AND ACCEPTANCE FORMS

The Prosecutor's Office Victim Advocate Cindy Haycox-Wellman explained that in June, she came before the Board for permission to apply for her grant, and today, she is back before the Board for acceptance of that grant. Ms. Haycox-Wellman explained how the funding is handled down through the state and that it is used for victim notification for all felony level counts in the Court of Common Pleas and for any juvenile counts through the Juvenile Court.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant #20226-VOCA-136360795 and State Victim Advocacy Act (SVAA) Grant #2026-SVAA-136360799 Grant Award and Acceptance Forms in the amount of \$49,454.07. As part of this grant, \$28,441.07 is being requested from federal VOCA funds with a local match from the County General Fund of \$16,552.00 and \$4,461.00 from SVAA with no local match. This grant is for the period October 1, 2025 through September 30, 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>

LAW LIBRARY – APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FROM GENERAL FUND – OFFSET DECREASE IN REVENUE AND INCREASE IN ANNUAL COST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Director of the Law Library Krystal Thompson and Susan Wieland from the Law Library Resources Board asked the Board to approve a supplemental appropriation to offset a decrease in revenue and increase in subscription costs. Ms. Thompson stated that since 2010, their revenue comes from traffic fines and fees from the municipal court, and that is how all county law libraries are funded. Ms. Thompson explained that since 2011, the revenue coming to them has consistently decreased. Ms. Brakey was a little confused about why they were coming now, if they had entered into a multi-year agreement and have seen these decreases in revenue. It was noted that they have continued to see a decrease and are not sure year-to-year what they will receive. Ms. Brakey noted that there are only two platforms for subscription-based legal research and inquired if they had done a cost comparison between the two companies. They discussed the changes in the subscription options that are available and changes to services as a way to cut costs.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a supplemental appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$24,000.00 to offset the decrease in revenue and increase in the annual cost of Westlaw Subscriptions for the Common Pleas Court, Probate/Juvenile Court, Municipal Court, Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office over the past ten years.

<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 ON AGING – RESOLUTION HONORING REBA K. DYKES – DEDICATED SERVICE TO GEAUGA COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to approve a resolution for Ms. Dykes for her dedication and service to the Department on Aging. Ms. Dykes' last day was last week and she came back today. Ms. Dykes blessed us with her wealth of knowledge, helped so many seniors and helped make our department so much better. Ms. Dykes thanked the Board for honoring her today, expressing appreciation. She has been working for over fifty years, mainly in social services, and has been here with the county for almost ten years. Ms. Dykes plans to continue serving in her role on the Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services through June 2027, and will continue to look for other ways to continue serving the community. Mr. Spidalieri thanked Ms. Dykes for everything she has done for the county, but also the community.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-211 Honoring Reba K. Dykes for her dedicated service to Geauga County and its residents.

Ms. Brakey read the following resolution:

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #25-211

Date: December 9, 2025

*RESOLUTION HONORING REBA K. DYKES FOR HER DEDICATED
SERVICE TO GEAUGA COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS*

WHEREAS, Reba K. Dykes began her service with the Geauga County Department on Aging as a Social Worker on July 17, 2016, and throughout her tenure has demonstrated exceptional capability, professionalism, and commitment to older adults in our community; and

WHEREAS, Reba's leadership and strong work ethic led to her promotion to Social Services Coordinator on March 25, 2017, and subsequently to In-Home Services Manager on August 30, 2018. In each role, Reba has proven to be self-directed, motivated, resourceful, and consistently willing to go above and beyond in support of her team, especially when navigating complex client needs; and

WHEREAS, as a supervisor, Reba is both respected and appreciated by staff, providing hands-on leadership marked by empathy, steadiness, and professionalism in all she does; and

WHEREAS, in her role as In-Home Services Manager, Reba has been responsible for making some of the Agency's most challenging and consequential decisions, guided by her experience, sound judgment, and steadfast commitment to the well-being of clients and employees; and

WHEREAS, Reba's extensive knowledge, leadership abilities, and reliable presence have greatly benefited the Department on Aging, contributing substantially to the Agency's success with dedication, integrity, and professionalism that have brought positive representation within the community; and

WHEREAS, Reba is deeply vested in the Agency's mission and has consistently upheld the highest standards of service, leaving a lasting and meaningful legacy as she concludes her service with Geauga County; and

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners honors Reba K. Dykes for her dedicated service, tireless work ethic, and lasting contributions to Geauga County and its residents, and extends its sincere best wishes to her as she moves on to her next chapter.

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>

The Board presented the resolution to Ms. Dykes and posed for a picture.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LAKE COUNTY, ASHTABULA COUNTY AND GEAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES – ESTABLISH BACK UP ALERTS, WARNINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS ON BEHALF OF EACH OTHER

Deputy Director Brandon Reed asked the Board to allow Mr. Rice, Director, to execute a memorandum of understanding with Lake and Ashtabula Counties to establish back up alerting notifications and allow them to issue the alerts on behalf of each other. Mr. Reed explained that this will begin to shift to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, IPAWS system that will issue alerts via cell phones instead of the sirens, that have become too costly to maintain and replace.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize, Director, Austin Rice to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Lake County, Ashtabula County and Geauga County Emergency Management Agencies to allow alerting authorities to establish a backup alert authority that can issue alerts, warnings and notifications on their behalf to the respective communities in the unlikely event the original alerting authority is not able to perform that function.

<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>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – REVISED GEAUGA COUNTY RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN (PERP) REVISION 30, DATED JANUARY 2026

Mr. Reed asked the Board to approve Revision 30 and update to the Radiological Emergency Response Plan for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, that includes minor changes, but mainly to update the name of the department within the document, updating the name of the hospital and the removal of the software program called “Stormchaser”.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised Geauga County Radiological Emergency Response Plan (RERP) and execute and further authorize the Director to execute the RERP Plan (for an emergency at the Perry Nuclear Power Plant) Revision 30, dated January 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>

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH – GEAUGA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, SETS FORTH OPERATION PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN HANDLING CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND /OR NEGLECT

Director Craig Swenson asked the Board to approve the memorandum of understanding with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. Mr. Swenson explained that it is a uniform way for the state to oversee counties and all parties involved agree to certain standards in handling cases of child abuse and neglect. Mr. Swenson noted that we can add in some things that we have that other counties might not have.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Ohio Department of Children and Youth – Geauga Memorandum of Understanding to address Child Abuse and Neglect, in accordance with O.R.C. 2151.421, which sets forth operation procedures and responsibilities for all officials involved in handling cases of child abuse and / or neglect.

<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 – TERMINATE – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – CT CONSULTANTS, INCORPORATED / VERDANTAS ARCHITECTURE, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE ANNEX BASEMENT REMODELING PROJECT – SETTLE OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATION AND RETURN REMAINING FUNDS

Program Manager Charles Tkach asked the board to terminate the professional services agreement with CT Consultants / Verdantas Architecture for the courthouse annex basement remodeling project. Mr. Tkach stated that the payment of \$9,556.50 is for work performed, not a termination fee. The project is currently on hold.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve termination of the Professional Services Agreement the CT Consultants, Incorporated / Verdantas Architecture, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Annex Basement Remodeling project, effective immediately, and further authorize processing of the final invoice and settle all outstanding financial obligations with the firm as specified in the contract's termination clause, not to exceed \$9,556.50, and to transfer the remaining project funds accordingly in the amount of \$22,641.50.

<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 – DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS FOR INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE BY THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT FOR STORMWATER DRY POND MANAGEMENT – COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

Acting Director Rik Wareham asked the Board to approve the declaration of restrictive covenants for inspection and maintenance of the stormwater dry pond at the county office building. Ms. Brakey noted that there was a maintenance component and asked if the maintenance department would be handling that. Mr. Wareham explained that they have to ensure that the embankments are clear, that there is no trash floating, or any debris or brush in the outlets. Mr. Wareham noted that they have been doing that maintenance.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for Inspection and Maintenance by the Geauga County Maintenance Department for Stormwater Dry Pond Maintenance at the Geauga County Office Building, located in Claridon Township (Parcel #13-705036) for the benefit of the Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District.

<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 – AGREEMENT – WATER RESOURCES EMPLOYEES - LOCAL 4340 COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO/CLC

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to execute the agreement between the Water Resources employees and the Local 4340 Communications Workers of America. Mr. Gorris noted that this was the union contract that will be in place through December 31, 2028. Ms. Brakey asked for the benefit of the audience to explain how the revenue for the department works and being an enterprise fund. Mr. Gorris explained that being under the Commissioners' hiring authority, we are referred to as an enterprise fund. That means we are funded by the revenue we bring in from water and sewer bills, testing being performed by their wells, NPDES plants at businesses, inspection fees, connection fees, and tap in fees. We are a 99% self-funded

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organization. There also may be some grants that may come in. They do their own maintenance on their buildings and improvements to their plants. The funding for the McFarland plant improvements are coming through loans and grants, and any of those loans will be paid back through revenue in capital improvement funds.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement between the Board of County Commissioners for Geauga County and the Geauga County Department of Water Resources Employees, Local 4340 Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO/CLC for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028.

<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 – SUBAWARD AGREEMENT – NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA) USEPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve the subaward agreement with NOACA for a USEPA climate pollution reduction grant. Mr. Gorris explained that NOACA was awarded a USEPA grant, and a portion was offered to Water Resources. This is a reimbursement grant. Mr. Gorris explained that they were going to perform this task of looking at alternative energy sources for operating a twenty-four-hour operation. Mr. Gorris noted that it would be non-storage as they would use the energy as fast as it would be produced. Ms. Brake noted a clause in the agreement, but Mr. Gorris explained that he doesn't feel the agreement would be cancelled and they were going to do look at these options anyway.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Subaward Agreement between the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and Geauga County for Water Resources for the USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program in the amount of \$29,075.00.

<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>

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – APPROVE SUBMISSION OF AMENDED 2025 CERTIFICATION LIST OF DELINQUENT SEWER USER FEES, WATER FEES, TAP-IN INSTALLATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFICATION TO COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Gorris explained that this is an amended list of delinquent sewer user fees, water fees, tap-in installation fees with a lock in time and date of December 2, 2025. Mr. Gorris hopes that going forward he will be doing these twice a year to catch changes in ownership, and hopes to get this list down to a quarter of what this currently is. Mr. Gorris explained that the regulations have been in place but were never implemented, and they issued shut off notices and they have been paid and caught up, so it worked.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the submission of the Amended 2025 Certification List of delinquent sewer user fees, water fees, tap-in installments and subsequent certification to the Geauga County Auditor, in accordance with O.R.C. 6117.02 and the Geauga County Department of Water Resources Rules and Regulations (Section F.501) in the total amount of \$459,519.40 (\$430,568.44 Arrearage and \$28,930.96 Penalty), amounts current as of 7:30 a.m. December 2, 2025.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT – APG OFFICE FURNISHINGS – POWER AND A/V CONNECTION BOXES, CABLING AND INSTALL

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve Change Order #1 to increase the contract with APG

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Office Furnishings to include power and A/V connection boxes, cabling and installation.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1, increasing the Contract with APG Office Furnishings for power and A/V connection boxes and cabling into the conference room tables, including installation and shipping, in the amount of \$16,170.86, for a new not to exceed amount of \$576,411.40.

<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 #2 – DECREASE CONTRACT – APG OFFICE FURNISHINGS – REMOVE HIGH DENSITY SHELVING AND INSTALLATION – EXTEND CONTRACT ONE MONTH

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve Change Order #2 which is a decrease in the Contract with APG Office Furnishings to remove the high-density shelving and installation at the Clerk of Courts office.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Change Order #2, decreasing the Contract with APG Office Furnishings for the removal of high-density shelving and installation for the Clerk of Courts (\$34,497.99), for a new not to exceed amount of \$541,497.99 and extending the length of the contract by one month through 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>

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – PERMANENT ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR 2026

Mr. Gorton explained that he was going to present the permanent annual appropriation for 2026 that will go into effect January 1st of next year. Mr. Gorton thanked everyone for their assistance.



2026 Permanent Appropriations

December 9, 2025

Amy S. Bevan, County Administrator
Mark Jimison, Deputy County Administrator
Adrian Gorton, Budget & Finance Manager



2026 Permanent Appropriations Budget Process

- Budget Commission certifies the revenues expected to be received for the year, along with the unencumbered fund balance identified at the beginning of the year. Together, revenues + beginning balance = Resources
- County Commissioners appropriate funds to county departments. The total amount of the appropriations by fund cannot exceed the certified amount of resources as determined by the Budget Commission.

2

Mr. Gorton explained that in August, following the Tax Budget submission, the Budget Commission certified the 2026 revenues by Fund. Appropriations by fund cannot exceed the certified resources for that fund.



2026 Permanent Appropriations General Fund Certified Resources

Minimum Estimated Unencumbered Carryover Balance	\$6,669,334
2026 Revenues	<u>\$47,813,129</u>
Total Resources	\$54,482,463

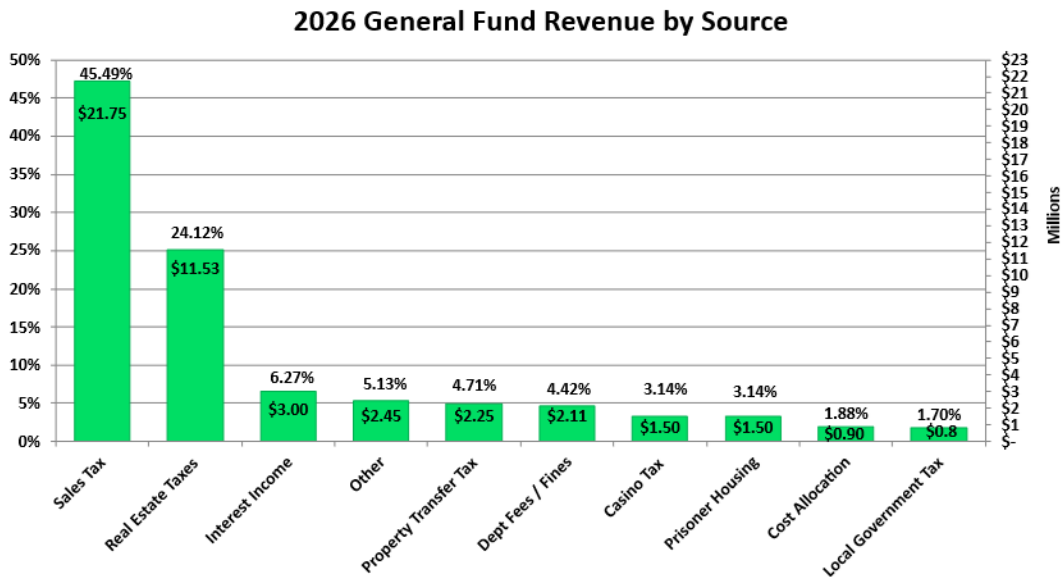
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Mr. Gorton stated that for the 2026 Permanent Appropriations, the Budget Commission Certified \$54,482,463.00 of resources for the General Fund. The minimum carryover is expected to be a lot higher, close to \$15 Million, due to some unbudgeted revenues and unused appropriations being returned to the General Fund. Unfortunately, this is the just the way the County's financial system works. The beginning balances are based on the current year's ending balance and there are unused appropriations. As of yesterday, we are over our budgeted revenues by about \$2.3 Million (\$500K Property Tax, \$300K Transfers In – closed fund, \$400K Prisoner Housing, \$1Million interest) with a little over three weeks left in the year. Modest increases from this year's adopted revenue budget for 2026 include a \$250K increase in the sales tax, \$86,000.00

increase in property tax, \$40,000.00 in the State Reimbursement for Real Estate, \$35,000.00 in Clerk of Court fees, \$55,000.00 in refunds and reimbursements, \$13,000.00 in Sheriff web check fees and \$100,000.00 in Cost Allocation. There was only one budgeted revenue decrease in Inmate Incarceration Reimbursement for \$1,000.00.



2026 Permanent Appropriations General Fund Revenue Sources



4

Mr. Gorton went over the chart, explaining that the 2026 General Fund Revenue is estimated at \$47.8 Million. The chart above shows the breakdown of this amount. A majority (\$21.75 Million, just about 45.5%) of the revenue is estimated to come from Sales Tax. This is the 1% county portion of the 6.75% Sales Tax paid in Geauga County. The State of Ohio charges 5.75%. Average rate in the State of Ohio is 7.3%. Ohio law allows counties to option up to 2.25%.

Just under a quarter of the revenue (\$11.5 Million, about 24%) comes from the 2.5 mils county general fund portion of the real estate taxes paid.

Interest income remains at \$3 Million for 2026 for a little over 6% of our income currently. Other revenue is at \$2.45 Million or 5% of the revenue budgeted for next year is made up of several items including rents, gas wells proceeds, insurance & other reimbursements, misc. grants and county auction proceeds.

Property Transfer Tax is 4.7% or \$2.25 Million. These are the fees paid when a property is transferred to a new owner.

Department Fees/Fines are estimated at about 4.4% or \$2.1 Million for 2026. Included in these fees are those charged by the Auditor, Building Dept., Courts, Recorder, Treasurer and Board of Elections for the services they provide to the residents.

The Casino Tax is the tax on the gross earnings of a casino. 51% of the casino tax is set aside for counties, and the amount received is allocated to the counties based on the population. For 2026, we estimate that amount to be \$1.5 Million.

Prisoner Housing is the revenue generated from housing inmates at the county jail from other areas. It is again being budgeted for next year at \$1.5 Million.

Cost Allocation is the chargeback to county departments outside of the General Fund for services provided by the General Fund.

Local Government tax is a revenue sharing tax that comes back to the counties from the State.



2026 Permanent Appropriations

Total Appropriations, All Funds \$167,411,097
Total Appropriations, General Fund \$51,293,758

General Fund Line Item Requests \$51,293,758

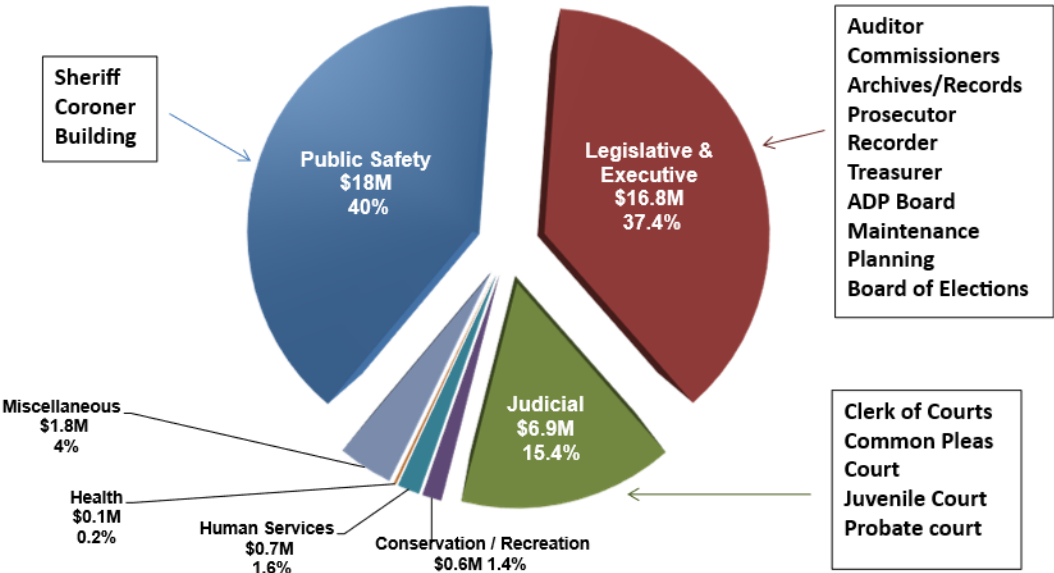
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Mr. Gorton stated the overall budget for 2025 is \$167.4 Million. This includes the General Fund (\$51.3 M). The total of \$167.4 Million is a \$1.3 Million decrease from the Tax Budget due mostly to a reduction in the Building Improvement fund. The reduction was made necessary due to the number of projects that received approval this year which reduced the available resources previously budgeted going into next year. The General Fund Permanent Appropriations are submitted at \$51.3 Million. This is an increase of about \$650,000.00 compared to the tax budget. The increase was the result of balancing out the Capital Transfers Out account to coincide with the amounts that were approved during the Tax Budget for the Airport (\$25K), the Building Improvement fund (\$1.5M), and the Computer Equipment Improvement fund (\$800K). All requests were fully funded. There are no items waiting for funding.



2026 Permanent Appropriations

2026 General Fund Operating Expenses by Category



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Mr. Gorton explained that this pie chart shows the 2026 General Fund operating expenses by category. The numbers shown here are net of the Commissioner's transfer out accounts which total just about \$6.4 Million that support various departments outside of the General Fund including 9-1-1, 800 Communications, Court Technology, Debt Service, Capital Transfers, Grant Matches, etc.

The chart shows the split of the General Fund Spending (less Operating Transfers Out). 40% of the budget goes to Public Safety, which is the Sheriff, Coroner and Building Department.

37.4% of the budget goes to Legislative & Executive, which is the Other Elected Officials including Auditor, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Commissioners, Recorder as well as Board of Elections, ADP Board, Planning and Maintenance.

Judicial makes up almost 15.4% of the budget and includes the Courts and Public Defender. The remaining categories are small, Conservation and Recreation which is the OSU Extension and Soil & Water which is 1.4% of the budget, Human Services is the Veterans Service Commission, which is 1.6% of the budget, Health is the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps requirement that the county fund 0.1 mill to treat handicapped children in the county. Historically we do not spend the full amount, and he does not budget the full amount, but if necessary we are required to fund the full amount.

Major Miscellaneous items include the following:
Juvenile Det. Centers (Lake & Richland) - \$48K
Youth Center Funding - \$416K
Annual Insurance Liability - \$550K
Postage - \$200K
Legal Fees including Appointed Counsel - \$195K
Court of Appeals - \$54K



2026 Permanent Appropriations
Supplemental Appropriation Process
February 2026

Description	Estimated Amount
Estimated 1/1/26 Cash Balance	\$15,000,000
Reduce for Carryover Encumbrances	<u>(\$2,500,000)</u>
Net Resources Available 1/2026	\$12,500,000
Plus Certified Revenue for 2026	\$47,813,129
Less 2026 Appropriations	<u>(\$51,293,758)</u>
Actual General Fund Unappropriated Balance	\$9,019,371
\$5M transfer to Building Improvement for various projects	<u>(\$5,000,000)</u>
Pending General Fund Requests	\$0
Estimated Unappropriated General Fund Balance remaining	\$4,019,371

7

Mr. Gorton stated that currently we are estimating that the cash balance on January 1st will be \$15 million dollars. It is our intention to transfer \$5 Million out of the General Fund and into the building improvement fund. We are estimating our carryover encumbrances at around \$2.5 Million, leaving a \$12.5 million unencumbered balance. The certified revenue for 2026 is \$47.8 Million less appropriations of \$51.3 Million, leaving \$9 Million for the building improvements projects and other unbudgeted requests. The Commissioners will evaluate current and future projects in order to determine the best use for the remaining unappropriated balance.



2026 Permanent Appropriations Pending Requests for Funding

There are no pending requests for funding.

8

Mr. Gorton explained the pending requests above are all from the General Fund. The pending requests below are from funds outside the General Fund and get their spending money from the General Fund. In order for them to show revenue, I have to show an expense in the General Fund. These are not the only funds that get at least a portion of their money from the General Fund. Once the actual amounts are known after the start of the new year, all these requests will be evaluated and considered for funding.



2026 Permanent Appropriations General Fund Debt

- General Fund will continue to try and complete the various projects that we have without the issuance of any additional debt.

9

Mr. Gorton noted that the County Courthouse Expansion Project is nearing completion and there are additional rehabilitation and replacement projects that are ongoing. The General Fund remains in a good position to tackle these projects without the need to go out to the market and get additional funds. Mr. Gorton mentioned that depending on what happens with property taxes, they may have to consider doing something.



2026 Permanent Appropriations Future Items

- Evaluating the County's overall footprint regarding properties and buildings
 - Cautious approach to the status of property taxes and alternatives
- Balancing needs and wants to maximize benefits to residents

10



2026 Permanent Appropriations

Questions ?

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Mr. Dvorak stated that he had no questions. Ms. Brakey asked about the \$5 Million transfer for the building improvement fund, inquiring about what was on the horizon for that money. Mr. Gorton noted that it was slated for several roofs, including the Safety Center at about \$3.6 Million and the roof at the Annex for about \$1 Million. Mr. Dvorak noted the Safety Center Parking lot, to which Mr. Gorton stated, is ongoing and includes a \$250,000.00 grant, and will be completed soon. Ms. Brakey asked about the parking lot expansion here at the county office building. Mr. Gorton noted that there is no dollar figure attached to that. Commissioner Spidalieri asked for clarification on the difference in the two budget numbers. Mr. Gorton stated that the General Fund is the fund that operates the core aspects of government including our office and other Elected Officials, and that \$51 Million is included in \$167 Million, but are also the other funds that operate the departments that are not in the General Fund represented by the Prosecutor's Office, including Job and Family Services, Health Department, Board of Developmental Disabilities, and Mental Health. Some of those funds receive funding from the General Fund, like 9-1-1, 800 MHz infrastructure fund, computer equipment improvements, and Community Development.

Mr. Spidalieri added that after these meetings, people always ask about sales tax, and when people go shopping and pay the 6.75% sales tax, there is a misconception that the county gets it all, but that is not the case, the county only gets 1% of the 6.75%, and the county still receives

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about \$21 million. If the county received more than that 1%, we could look at doing so many things, if we could control our own money instead of going to the state. Ms. Brakey agreed with him, adding that at the recent CCAO Winter Conference, they listened to legislators and they have no interest in giving counties more funding. Discussion continued about the state passing more laws that require counties to pay mandated portions without providing counties with the funding to cover them. Mr. Spidalieri mentioned that townships also continue to struggle to cover their expenses, and feels that there needs to be a reset. Mr. Spidalieri thanked and expressed appreciation to Mr. Gorton, Ms. Bevan and Mr. Jimison for their hard work.

Mr. Gorton opened the floor for questions. Dave Lair, former County Administrator, asked about the debt on the county office building and current financing set up. Mr. Gorton explained that we are about five years into twenty-year loans, with very small interest rates, and as we realize we are making more money on the money in the bank, and we will continue to monitor the rates, and right now, we are in the best position, and if it looks like we should make a change, we will explore the options.

Skip Claypool expressed what a great job Mr. Gorton does, but mentioned a slide from the summer that was shown, and inquired about the carryover balance and the appearance of the need to spend it. Mr. Gorton noted that we have reduced levies and made those levies whole from the General Fund, noting that Job and Family Services has been the recipient of that. Last year it was \$1 million, the previous year it was about \$2.5 million, as a way to reduce the burden on the taxpayers. Mr. Gorton noted that there is an abundance of caution right now pending the elimination of property taxes as a way to weather any decrease that may happen and how we will need help funding those departments. Mr. Claypool said that Mr. Gorton wasn't answering the question, to which he added that some of it was construction projects, we had been saving funding so we can do these projects and not raise taxes to cover the costs. Mr. Gorton explained that the Commissioners are within the General Fund and they do have different funds, but a majority of the operations are in the General Fund. Mr. Gorton stated that in order to wisely spend resources, there are a number of projects to shore up the old buildings and take care of some problems to take care of what we have.

Jonathon Broadbent asked about a chart that illustrates income exceeding revenue projections. Mr. Gorton noted that it is the cash balance, adding that he didn't have the total cash balance of all funds but will talk about the cash balance with the General Fund. You have \$6.7 million cash plus what was budgeted in revenue, that gives us the \$54.5 million that is supporting expenses of \$51.3 million, so there is an additional \$3 million in revenue we are expecting to have. However, if you look at the budgeted amount, the difference is the cash balance. Mr. Gorton stated that since he has been in the Commissioners' office, since late 2017, there has been about \$8 million in cash carryover, but as of late, it has been more and that has been due to property tax and sales tax, along with the growth in the county has contributed to that, mentioning the big box stores that have come to the county. Mr. Spidalieri added that since COVID, we have received ARPA funding, and that gave us false strength, and we were able to offset and build our account, but by using the funds, it then showed we had a surplus, but it wasn't a surplus, we would have had to spend those funds if we had not received the funding. There was a brief discussion about being limited on funding they can put away, noting a contingency fund and capital improvement funds, that have time frames for use.

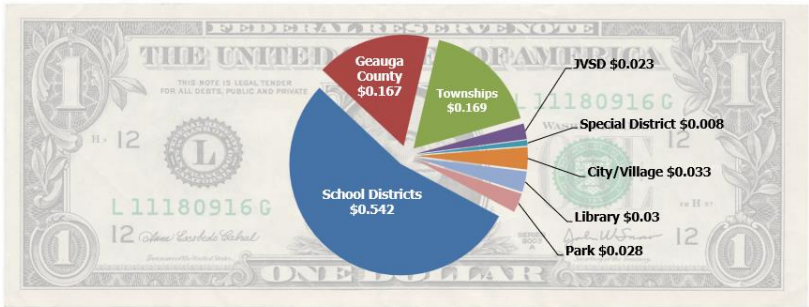
A local resident asked about the carryover balance. Mr. Gorton explained that there are often accounts throughout the year that are budgeted at an amount, but often end up higher, noting prisoner housing and interest income, and those are not reflected until the end of the year.

Mr. Lair mentioned who determines the property tax, how they are assessed and how they are distributed. Mr. Gorton went back and found these slides from July 2025 from the Tax Budget presentation, which shows the breakdown of the property tax. It was important to note that on the second slide, the green areas are voted on levies.



Geauga County 2026 Tax Budget Property Tax Overview

For every \$1.00 of property tax paid by a homeowner in Geauga County, on the average **\$0.167 is used to fund County programs**. The remaining 83.3 cents funds the local school districts, including JVSD, the Townships, Municipalities, the public Library and the Parks.



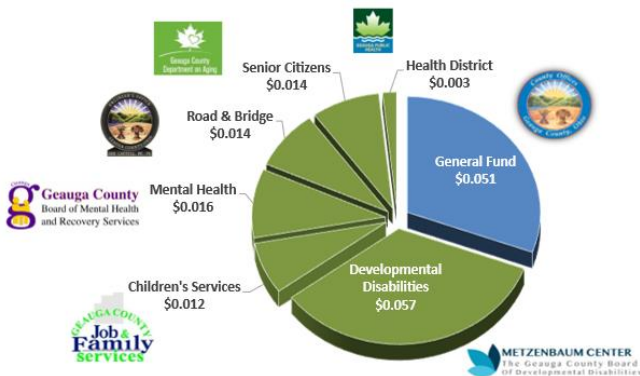
Source – Geauga County Auditor's Office

7



Geauga County 2026 Tax Budget Property Tax Allocation

The \$0.167 County Portion of the average property owner's property tax is allocated as follows:



Green slices denote funding derived from local levies.

8

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the Resolution approving the annual appropriation.
Mr. Spidalieri noted that he would approve the budget except the ADP Board budget.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri* to approve and execute Resolution #25-212 (Permanent) Annual Appropriation, for the year ending December 31, 2026, in accordance with O.R.C. Sections 5705.38 and 5705.40.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: December 9, 2025
Resolution: #25-212

GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
(PERMANENT) ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.R.C. SECTIONS 5705.38, and 5705.40

The Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio met in regular session on the 9th day of December, 2025 at the office of the Board of County Commissioners with the following members present:

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James W. Dvorak Carolyn Brakey Ralph Spidalieri

Commissioner Brakey presented the following resolution and moved the adoption, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio, that to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of said County, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, the following sums be and the same hereby set aside and appropriated for the several purposes for which expenditures are to be made for and during said fiscal year, as follows, viz:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution become part of the permanent record of the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio.

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

**Commissioner Spidalieri originally stated that he would approve except for the ADP Budget, after discussion, roll call was taken and he voted No.*

***A full copy of the Permanent Appropriation will follow these minutes.*

BOARD DISCUSSION

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Ms. Brakey reported that Geauga County was referenced in the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's decision in FirstEnergy's electric distribution rate case. She explained that the Board had submitted concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Middlefield service center, noting it is the only such facility serving Geauga County, and that those concerns were acknowledged in the Commission's order. Ms. Brakey stated that this level of recognition is uncommon. She further indicated that the Board intends to submit additional correspondence to ensure the County remains part of the proceeding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Skip Claypool, Chester Township, thanked Mr. Spidalieri about the ADP situation, but has a question, and wanted to make everyone aware that ADP is a separate board, and the Auditor is the secretary of that board. Mr. Claypool noted that the ADP board should be making decisions, and that the Auditor made it sound like he had control over the employees and the board. Mr. Claypool asked the Board to look into it further.

Newell Howard, South Russell Village, noted that this is the 80th Anniversary of the end of the World War II in Japan and Mr. Somrak who was on the Missouri when the treaty was signed, and he recently passed away. We need to remember when the was started on December 7th on the USS Arizona and now the USS Missouri is part of the memorial.

Phil Malensek, Hiram, stated he had some questions on the items for the County Engineer's office on snow and ice control. Ms. Brakey explained that two townships are paying the county and the others are the county paying the townships. Mr. Malensek brought up septic systems in Geauga County and said that everyone is going to start being billed and it will not matter how long the system has been in place and is asking why, if you have a new system, why are you getting billed. Mr. Dvorak explained that the Commissioners do not have control over the health board. Ms. Brakey asked Mr. Litke to clarify. Mr. Adam Litke stated that the state is requiring NPDES systems, that you have to sign a contract that will be inspected two times a year. The \$100 fee is to assist with the inspections to make sure systems are being maintained and help eliminate failing systems. The fee will be used to assist residents that may need assistance, so the idea is to give it back to the residents. Mr. Malensek asked if inspectors were going to coordinate with the Sheriff's office to do inspections since they do not have permission to walk on private property without permission. Mr. Litke noted that it is required by state law.

Jonathon Broadbent, Newbury resident, expressed that there are issues around this tax budget, and he has been pouring through the slides and is thankful Mr. Spidalieri pointed it out and that is ADP. Mr. Broadbent made some comparisons between Geauga County ADP employees against other county ADP departments. He noted that Geauga County has 16 full-time and three

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part-time and collectively have 19 employees petitioning for overtime pay. While we have cybersecurity issues, computers need to be installed, but all counties need that. Mr. Broadbent asked if the budget had been denied, what would happen.

Jim MacNeal, Troy Township, wanted to direct attention to the item regarding climate pollution reduction, noting that we are attempting to reduce a pollutant that does not exist. Carbon dioxide is not a pollutant, and wants to be clear that he speaks as a chemist with fifty years' experience, explaining the science behind it, and that carbon dioxide is plant food, it is not a pollutant.

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 12:07 p.m. with Ms. Bevan, Deputy County Administrator Mark Jimison and Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler.

The Board returned at 12:20 p.m. and as a result the following actions were taken:

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve hiring Robert Weigle to the Unclassified position of Director, Maintenance, Building and Grounds (#1901) to be effective December 15, 2025, at the rate of \$47.40 per hour (Grade E16, Step 8). 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>

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to close the Geauga County Offices on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, and Friday, December 26, 2025, in light of the Christmas Holiday, whereas all regular scheduled employees under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will receive up to sixteen (16) hours of paid time off. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal. Further, those employees required to work on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, and Friday, December 26, 2025, will be entitled to their overtime rate of pay for actual hours worked.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD J. REGOVICH

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #25-213 Honoring the Life and Public Service of Lake County Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #25-213

Date: December 9, 2025

***HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF
LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RICHARD J. REGOVICH***

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County notes with deep respect the passing of Lake County Commissioner Richard J. "Rich" Regovich on November 26, 2025, following a courageous battle with cancer; and

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WHEREAS, Commissioner Regovich faithfully served his community as Willowick Councilman and Mayor and later as the 81st Lake County Commissioner, always placing the needs of residents first; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Regovich was recognized for principled leadership and strong fiscal stewardship, helping guide the new county jail, the largest capital project in Lake County history, without raising taxes. Commissioner Regovich supported key public safety and community initiatives, including the new Public Defender's Office, the Sheriff's training facility, and efforts advancing workforce and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Regovich served regionally alongside the Geauga County Commissioners on the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Board and, with Commissioner Dvorak, on the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Region 13 Board; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Regovich remained dedicated to his duties until his final days, demonstrating unwavering commitment to the county he loved; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County extends sincere condolences to Commissioner Regovich's wife, children, family, friends, and the Lake County community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County, Ohio, hereby honors the life and public service of Lake County Commissioner Richard J. Regovich and expresses gratitude for his lasting contributions to Northeast Ohio.

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting minutes from October 15, 2025*
- b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending November 19, 2025, and November 26, 2025 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- c) The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Opinion and Order on Case No. 24-468-EL-AIR, Case No. 24-469-EL-AIR, Case No. 24-470-EL-AAM and Case No. 24-471-EL-UNC*
- d) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Inmate meals for the month ending November 2025.*
- e) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for Prisoner Transport for the month ending November 2025 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Tue., 12/9 ADP meeting, 2:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room

Thu., 12/11 Community Corrections Board meeting, 11:30 a.m., Judge Paschke's Courtroom

Mon., 12/15 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building

Tue., 12/16 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

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Tue., 12/23 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Thu., 12/25 County Offices will be closed in honor of Christmas. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal.

Thu., 12/30 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

Thu., 1/1 County Offices will be closed in honor of New Year's Day. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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