

Commissioners' Journal
January 22, 2026

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on January 22, 2026, 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:

Dear Lord,

Another day has come to us.

Thank you for your mercy and kindness.

Our Father, we are nothing without you.

Thank you for everything.

We lift everything up to you as we face another day.

Please guide us with your wisdom and walk with us with your love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public came before the Board to discuss NOACA and express concerns about the proposed change to the Code of Regulations regarding Board seats and alternates, as well as suggestions of getting out of NOACA altogether. Each member of the public was given three minutes to comment, including: Janet Kramarz, Steven Oluic, Diane Winans, Skip Claypool, Christine Stenzel, Jonathan Broadbent, Susan Cierebiej, Beth Welty, Karen Dyck, Linda Retych, Gary Neola, Bill Cole, and Christen Hall.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator Amy Bevan reported on the items approved, as authorized by Resolution #26-003 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved January 6, 2026, pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.

Ms. Bevan explained that the County Administrator approved the following items on January 16, 2026:

Liquor License:

Concurred with the Parkman Township Trustees in requesting a hearing on the liquor license being requested by TORRESS LLC Tacos422 located at 16220 Main Market Road, Parkman, Ohio (OCT NEW 10011242-1).

Community and Economic Development:

Accepted and approved the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Semi-Annual Report and the Housing Revolving Loan Program Income Report for the period July 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, and further authorize the electronic submission of these reports.

Job and Family Services:

Acknowledged the following new hire appointments, as the Executive Director of Job and Family Services complied with the Board of Commissioners' recruitment and hiring procedures for: John Kravetz – Accountant (replacement) – effective December 1, 2025.

Department of Water Resources:

Approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with Hershberger Roofing and Siding to perform roof, siding and window repair services, as needed at various locations within the department for a one-year period, to be effective January 16, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Approved and executed the service contract agreement with Comfort Systems to perform repair service on HVAC system, as needed for the department for a one-year period, to be effective January 16, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

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Approved and executed the service contract agreement with Sunrise Springs Water Company to provide iron filter and water softener installations, and required maintenance and filter replacements, as needed at various locations for the department for a one-year period, to be effective January 16, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Approved and executed the service contract agreement with National Pump and Process, Incorporated to perform pump maintenance at various locations within the department for a one-year period, to be effective January 16, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Appropriations Transfer to the Sheriff for miscellaneous refunds, reimbursements and web checks that were deposited into the General Fund; Transfer from Community Development in their Brownfield Remediation Grant Fund to move money into their Project Contracts account to re-establish the remainder of the 7145 Pine Street encumbrance; Supplemental in Commissioners Miscellaneous accounts for Contingency, Operating Transfers and the Levy Reimbursement expenses; Supplemental in the Senior Center Construction Fund Contract Services account for an encumbrance to pay for the condenser replacement at the West Geauga Senior Center; Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Board of Developmental Disabilities for gas well proceeds from October – December 2025; Cash transfer from the General Fund to Community Development, Metzenbaum and Board of Elections for the 4th Quarter 2025 interest transfer; Cash transfer from the Juvenile/Probate Court to the Unemployment Compensation Fund to pay for December unemployment charges (these are not for the Judge); Then and Now's from the Commissioners' Office to pay for CORSA insurance deductibles from 2023 and 2024, and from the Common Pleas Court to pay for CLIMBS Jail Group sessions from 2025 that were not previously encumbered; Travel requests for Job and Family Services; a payment for the Auditor's ARPA fund to Shook Construction Company for payment related to the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project in the amount of \$832,207.46; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ravenwood Mental Health Center for 1st Quarter 2026 Youth Center Operations in the amount of \$104,105.00; a payment for the County Engineer's Office to Kimco USA Incorporated for a new salt conveyor in the amount of \$144,327.80; a payment for Maintenance to Doosan Bobcat North America, Incorporated for the purchase of a replacement Skid Steer Loader (old unit will be auctioned in the spring) in the amount of \$62,882.78 and a payment for Maintenance to Kenneth Rodick for the replacement of the County Barn Roof in the amount of \$276,958.59.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-007 itemizing the financials for the meeting of January 22, 2026.

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

AUDITOR AND TREASURER – MONTHLY STATEMENT OF COUNTY FINANCES – DECEMBER 2025

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the monthly statement of county finances filed by the Auditor and Treasurer for December 2025.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Auditor for the month of December 2025, pursuant to O.R.C. 319.35.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, execute and file the monthly Statement of County Finances filed by the County Treasurer for the month of December 2025, pursuant to O.R.C. 319.35.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE ENCUMBRANCE AND EXPENDITURE –
GEAUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY – OIL / GAS WELL REVENUE
RECEIVED THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve an encumbrance and expenditure to provide the oil/gas well revenue to the Agricultural Society for the well on the fairgrounds through December 31, 2025.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve an encumbrance and expenditure to the Geauga County Agricultural Society, pursuant to O.R.C. 1711.15 and 1711.16 for the Year 2026 in the amount of \$798.35 which is the total oil/gas well revenue received by the County through December 31, 2025, from a well located on the Geauga County Fairgrounds property.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST COUNTY AUDITOR TO DISTRIBUTE
BALANCE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUND TO WOMENSAFE

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to request that the Auditor distribute the balance in the domestic violence fund to WomenSafe.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to request that the County Auditor distribute the balance in the Domestic Violence Fund to WomenSafe, the local agency designated by the Commissioners to receive such monies. This allocation is to be paid pursuant to Section 3113.34 of the O.R.C. for the 2026 year, in the amount of \$11,986.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #28 – INFINITY
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION, GMP
PHASE #1 AND #2

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the partial pay request #28 for Infinity Construction on the Courthouse Expansion project, noting that all invoices had been reviewed and approved. There was a brief discussion about how the funding was handled for the magistrate bench gates and whether the court be using the cy pres funding.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #28 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion, GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 in the amount of \$950,817.12.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REVISED PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION FORMS –
DEPARTMENT ON AGING, BUILDING, COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DOG WARDEN, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY,
MAINTENANCE AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the revised payroll authorization forms for the departments under their hiring authority.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the revised Payroll Authorization Forms for the Department on Aging, Building, Commissioners' Office, Community Development, Dog Warden, Emergency Management Agency, Maintenance and the Department of Water Resources.

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #7 – TAXIWAY EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Airport Manager Ric Blamer asked the Board to approve reimbursement request #7 for the local county match share on the Taxiway Extension Construction project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve Reimbursement Request #7 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 \$85,765.41 (FAA Share \$75,958.37 (deducted overpayment from PR#6 of \$1,230.50), ODOT Share \$4,903.52 (includes \$615.25 from PR#6) and local county match share \$4,288.27).

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF TECHNICAL SERVICES – 2025 COUNTY HIGHWAY SYSTEM MILEAGE CERTIFICATION

County Engineer Andy Haupt asked the Board to approve the County Highway System Mileage Certification for 2025, noting that it was a loss of 0.061 miles due to a change on Washington Street at Bainbridge Road. It was noted that townships certify their own mileage.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept and execute the Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Technical Services 2025 County Highway System Mileage Certification of 234.696 miles. This includes a slight deduction of 0.061 miles from the 2024 mileage certification due to the realignment of Bainbridge Road.

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

There was a brief discussion about salt shortage, and if Geauga County is having trouble getting salt. Mr. Haupt stated that it is more of a use problem than storage. We will be okay because the storage structures and process we have in place allow us to have salt on hand and assist those under contract with their salt storage.

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING SFY 2025-2026 MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT (MIPPA) MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS, LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE, STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SHIP) – AND AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCES CENTERS GRANT AGREEMENT

Director Jessica Boalt asked the Board to approve the Grant Agreement with Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for State Fiscal Years 25-26 for Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) and Medicare Savings Programs, Low-income Subsidy and Prescription Drug Assistance, State Health Insurance Program (SHIP). Ms. Boalt noted that this is a reimbursement for staff time that is used to assist seniors with completion of their paperwork.

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Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging SFY 2025-2026 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Medicare Savings Programs, Low-Income Subsidy and Prescription Drug Assistance through the Aging Network, State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and Aging and Disability Resources Centers Grant Agreement for the period September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026 in the amount of \$6,235.21.

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

**DEPARTMENT ON AGING – WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING
PROVIDER AGREEMENT – PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT, STATE FISCAL
YEAR 2026 ALZHEIMER’S RESPITE FUNDS**

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve the Provider Agreement - Purchase of Service Agreement with Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for Alzheimer's Respite Funding for Year 2026. Ms. Boalt also noted that this is a reimbursement for staff time.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging Provider Agreement with Geauga County Department on Aging, Purchase of Service Agreement, State Fiscal Year 2026 Alzheimer’s Respite Funds for eligible Geauga County seniors aged 60 and older for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$52,179.00.

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

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT – ADVERTISE FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS –
MASTER PLAN EXAMINER SERVICES**

Director Dan Spada asked the Board to allow advertisement of Statement of Qualifications for Master Plan Examiner Services. These would be for two-year contracts to assist with plan reviews on residential and commercial plans. The state requires certifications for everything they do, and typically architects hold the certifications to do plan examinations. This allows us to stay efficient.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Statement of Qualifications for Master Plan Examiner Services with responses due on Friday, February 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Notice of this request for Statement of Qualifications will be advertised on January 29, 2026, February 5, 2026, and on the county website.

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

**MAINTENANCE – RESCIND MOTION – OCTOBER 28, 2025, TO ACCEPT AND
APPROVE DESIGN FIRM RANKINGS – EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF
COUNTY’S ANIMAL SHELTER KENNELS**

Program Manager Charles Tkach asked the Board to rescind the motion from October 28, 2025 regarding the Expansion and Renovation of the County’s Animal Shelter Kennels, as the scope of the project has changed to a more long-term solution than the short-term solution originally planned.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to rescind the motion taken on October 28, 2025 to accept and approve the design firm rankings in compliance with O.R.C. 153.69 (A) and evaluation of Statements of Interest and Qualifications received for providing professional design and contract administration services for the expansion and renovation of the County’s Animal Shelter Kennels including TC Architects, Incorporated, LDA Architects, Incorporated and Verdantas, LLC and further selected TC Architects,

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Incorporated as the most qualified firm to provide professional design and contract administration services, in accordance with O.R.C. 153.69(B) and authorize commencement of contract negotiations.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CERTIFIED LIST OF GOVERNING BODY AND CONTACT PERSONS – FACILITY AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION – USDA ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to authorize the President of the Board to execute the certified list of governing body and contact person information for the USDA reporting requirements.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Certified List of Governing Body and Contact Persons regarding the Facility and Financial Information for the USDA Annual Reporting requirements.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT – GENERAL SERVICES – MCDONALD HOPKINS, LLC – YEAR 2026

Ms. Bevan asked the Board to approve the Engagement Letter for general services with McDonald Hopkins, LLC for the Year 2026. Ms. Bevan noted that the board had previously approved Meyers Roman, and that if the board chooses, we can add additional firms if needed.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Letter of Engagement – General Services with McDonald Hopkins, LLC for the Year 2026 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, unless prior approval of the Board.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.2 TO THE CODE OF REGULATIONS – NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

Commissioner Brakey expressed that this resolution to ratify the NOACA Code of Regulations provides the County with more autonomy regarding who can fill its allocated seats, but also places more pressure on selecting elected officials for those seats in response to recently proposed legislation. Commissioner Spidalieri explained that over the time he has been a commissioner, one of the members of the board put the Engineer into one of those seats. While he has been criticized for not attending meetings, including NOACA meetings, he made sure that his alternate represents him and his position.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #26-008 to Ratify an Amendment to Article IV, Section 4.2 to the Code of Regulations of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA).

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: January 22, 2026
Resolution: #26-008

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RESOLUTION TO RATIFY AN AMENDMENT TO
ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4.2 TO THE CODE OF REGULATIONS OF
THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY (NOACA)

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina and the City of Cleveland and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

WHEREAS, membership to the NOACA Board of Directors is determined by NOACA's Code of Regulations, Article IV, Section 4.2 Composition; Alternates; Term; Process for Appointing Board Seats, which establishes the composition of the Board, qualifications of members and alternates, and the apportionment of board seats; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 2026, the NOACA Board of Directors adopted Resolutions 2026-001 and 2026-002, which together amended Article IX and Article IV, Section 4.2 of the Code of Regulations to update Board membership qualifications and refine ratification requirements; and

WHEREAS, the combined effect of these amendments is to provide member counties greater discretion over their respective Board representation while preserving accountability to elected government; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IX of the NOACA Code of Regulations, as amended, amendments to Article IV, Section 4.2(a), (b), (d) as applicable to Geauga County, and (k) require ratification by the five member counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Geauga County hereby ratifies the amendments to Article IV, Section 4.2(a), (b), (d) as applicable to Geauga County, and (k) of the NOACA Code of Regulations as adopted by the NOACA Board of Directors on January 9, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ratification shall take effect in accordance with Article IX of the NOACA Code of Regulations upon concurrence of the required member counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to NOACA indicating such approval and adoption of the amendment to the Code of Regulations by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners; and

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

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	No
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

BOARD DISCUSSION

Ms. Bevan explained that last week during discussion it was agreed to send a letter to the Planning Commission Member regarding attendance and that item is before the Board today for execution.

NOACA SEAT POSITIONS

Commissioner Spidalieri requested clarification on the NOACA item, and what that meant going forward. Ms. Brakey stated that it means the county has three seats and the commissioners need to decide who to appoint to those seats. Mr. Spidalieri stated that we need to do that, as there is an important meeting on Friday. Ms. Brakey made a motion to appoint Commissioner Dvorak, the County Engineer, and herself to the NOACA seats.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to name the County Commissioner Appointees to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) as Carolyn Brakey, Commissioner, James Dvorak, Commissioner, and Andy Haupt, County Engineer.

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Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	No
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

The Board returned to the letter for the Planning Commission:

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute the letter to the Planning Commission Member regarding his attendance and attendance requirements for the Board.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - NOACA APPOINTEE ALTERNATES

Mr. Dvorak asked Mr. Haupt who he would like his alternate to be, then Mr. Dvorak and Ms. Brakey chose their alternates. Mr. Spidalieri expressed his displeasure for what transpired and the actions taken by the other members of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to name the alternates for the County Commissioner Appointee's to the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) as Traci Salkiewicz for Andy Haupt, Nicholas Gorris for James Dvorak and Shane Hajjar for Carolyn Brakey.

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	No
	Commissioner Brakey	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

BOARD DISCUSSION CONTINUED...

Clerk Christine Blair explained that on January 8, the Board received a packet from the Village of Middlefield regarding the consideration of a TIF ordinance to comprise five individual Tax Incentive Districts. Ms. Blair provided that packet to the Prosecutor's Office and conferred with them on the actions necessary that the Board of Commissioners would need to take. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Laura LaChapelle explained that altogether, the five districts look to total about \$80 million. Ms. Blair pointed out some inconsistencies in the documentation within the packet that caused concern, and it was explained that the Board had thirty days to respond whether the Board is in agreement or objects. Ms. Blair asked for discussion from the Board to determine the next steps to proceed. Mr. Dvorak suggested having the Prosecutor negotiate the terms. This would then allow the Board to move forward with a resolution and request negotiations with the Village.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to object to the proposed Village of Middlefield, Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) Ordinance to establish five (5) separate Heritage Pointe Incentive Districts and to prepare the necessary resolution, and further request the County Prosecutor to assist with negotiations on the terms.

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

LAKE GEAUGA RECOVERY CENTERS

Lake Geauga Recovery Centers Executive Director Melanie Blasko came before the Board on behalf of Executive Director, Christine Lakomiak of Mental Health and Recovery Services to follow up on a previously mentioned request for funding of a treatment house in Geauga County. Ms. Blasko explained that Lake Geauga Recovery had been awarded One Ohio funding of \$300,000.00 for a new treatment house and they have found one. They put in an offer and are working through the process. However, the cost of the house is \$350,000.00. Ms. Blasko stated that Ms. Lakomiak mentioned the possibility of using Opioid Settlement Funds for the remaining amount of the house. Ms. Brakey explained that a Request for Proposals was going to be put out by the end of the month and they could put a proposal in at that time. The Board will review the submitted proposals and make a decision on using the \$100,000.00 available to award.

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PUBLIC COMMENT (30 MINUTES)

Members of the public expressed and provided their feedback to the Board regarding the action taken regarding NOACA and its Code of Regulations, board seats and alternates, that included: Skip Claypool, Elsie Tarcy, Jenna Permosé, Joyce Marenc, Janet Kramarz, Jane Sterling, Francine Nardolillo, Gary Neola, Carol Syrus, Beth Welty, Jonathan Broadbent, Christine Stenzel, Steven Oluic, and Linda Retych.

The Board chose to respond to a few questions that were asked directly to the individual Board members.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:03 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Deputy County Administrator Mark Jimison, Jobs and Family Services Executive Director Craig Swenson and Assistant Director Paul Reiman. The Board returned at 11:21 a.m. and as a result the following action was taken:

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept the recommendation of the Director of Job and Family Services to issue an involuntary disability separation order for Elizabeth Berndt pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code Section 123:1-30-01, effective close of business January 22, 2026, and further approve and authorize the Board to execute the Order of Removal, Reduction, Suspension, Involuntary Disciplinary Separation form per O.R.C. 124.34 for the involuntary disability separation of Elizabeth Berndt, and notify Ms. Berndt of the required procedures to apply for reinstatement.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) The Annual Statement of Unpaid Fees for the calendar year 2024 filed by the Sheriff's Office of an accurate account of all fees, costs, penalties, percentages, allowances and perquisites that have remained unpaid for more than one year pursuant to ORC 325.31.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Thu., 1/22	Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors - Special Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Warren, District Office
Mon., 1/26	Special ADP Meeting, 10:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room
Mon., 1/26	Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. Geauga County Office Building
Tue., 1/27	Investment Advisory Committee, 9:00 a.m., Geauga County Office Building, Room B303
Tue., 1/27	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Tue., 2/3	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Tue., 2/10	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

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BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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