

Commissioners' Journal
March 3, 2026

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 3, 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:

Mighty Lord
Bless us in this month of March!
I pray that happiness be at your door, may it knock early, stay late and leave the gift of God's peace, joy, and good health behind.
Amen

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed the sheet to speak about items on the agenda.

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 February 26, 2026, and March 2, 2026:

February 26, 2026:

Department on Aging:

Approved hiring Nella Cordone to the position of Full-time Information and Referral Assistant (1017) to be effective March 30, 2026, at the rate of \$18.11 per hour with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

March 2, 2026:

Maintenance:

Approved hiring Cameron Bachna to the position of Administrative Coordinator (#1922) at the rate of \$24.07 per hour (Grade 9, Step 3) to be effective March 9, 2026, with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Supplemental appropriations in the General Fund to increase the Records Other expense account and the payroll accounts of ADP for the records scanning project approved in session on February 19, 2026; Supplemental appropriation in the Senior Center Construction Fund Land Purchase account in preparation for an encumbrance; Cash transfer from the General Fund to Soil and Water for their 2026 local match funding request; Travel requests for Job and Family Services and Veterans; a payment for the Auditor's ARPA fund to Shook Construction Company for payments related to the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project in the amount of \$914,815.29, a payment for the County Engineer's Office to Morton Salt Incorporated for road salt in the amount of \$204,282.82, and a Revenue Certification from Mental Health in their Capital Reserve Fund for additional Federal and State money they expect to receive in 2026.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #26-038 itemizing the financials for the meeting of March 3, 2026.

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

BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2026 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

Executive Director Don Rice explained that March is recognized as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and asked the Board to approve a resolution recognizing March as DD Awareness Month. Mr. Rice noted that the Board of DD had brought a group of adults from one of its providers and expressed that they would love to get a picture of them with the Board.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-039 Recognizing March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: March 3, 2026
Resolution: #26-039

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2026 AS
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, also known as the Metzenbaum Center, is dedicated to providing vital support, services, and resources to over 1,200 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and is the local government agency in Geauga County for individuals with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities, along with their families, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, encourage all residents to focus on the abilities of every individual and to create opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to function as independently and productively as possible within our community; and

WHEREAS, raising public awareness and fostering understanding are powerful tools in addressing the challenges faced by individuals with developmental disabilities as they seek full inclusion in society; and

WHEREAS, disabilities do not preclude individuals from full inclusion in schools, workplaces, homes, and as valued members of their families and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of promoting and protecting the rights, dignity, and opportunities of individuals with disabilities, and hereby proclaims March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Geauga County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners calls upon all residents to support individuals with developmental disabilities as they live, learn, and work in our community. The Board remains committed to fostering a county in which individuals of all ages are integrated, accepted, and empowered to achieve their full potential in education, employment, and community life. Our community is stronger when we work together to advance equality, opportunity, and inclusion for all.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – APPROVE REDUCTION OF 33% TO MAXIMUM LOAD LIMIT PERMITTED ON ALL COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP ROADS – EFFECTIVE MARCH 3, 2026

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to approve the reduction of thirty-three percent to the maximum load permitted on county and township roads, effective March 3. Mr. Hajjar stated that the reduction is necessary to minimize damage to the roads during periods of freeze, thaw, and excessive moisture. Mr. Hajjar noted that staff monitor conditions as soon as the

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weather starts to break and will post the roads and provide appropriate notice when the reduction becomes necessary.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the reduction of 33% to the maximum load limit permitted on all County and Township roads, effective March 3, 2026, in accordance with Section 5577.07 of the Ohio Revised Code. This reduction is necessary to minimize damage to the roads during periods of freeze/thaw and excessive moisture.

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – ACCEPT AND APPROVE STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR MASTER PLANS EXAMINERS AND FIRM RANKING – DUBER ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES LLC, CODE CONSULTATION AND PLAN REVIEW SERVICES, LLC AND SIXMO

Chief Building Official, Building Department Dan Spada asked the Board to accept and approve the statement of qualifications that were received for master plans examiners and the firm rankings, and to authorize contract negotiations to begin with the three firms.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept and approve the Statement of Qualifications received for Master Plans Examiners and firm ranking for 1. Duber Architectural and Consulting Services, LLC, 2. Code Consultation and Plan Review Services, LLC and 3. Sixmo, and further grant the department the authorization to begin contract negotiations with the firms ranked to be the most qualified to provide the required professional services of plan review and examiner services.

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – RE-ADVERTISE – STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS – MASTER PLANS EXAMINER SERVICES

Mr. Spada explained that three firms had submitted statements of qualifications, and while they move forward with contract negotiations, they would like to re-advertise to try to attract additional firms.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to re-advertise for Statement of Qualifications for Master Plans Examiner Services with responses due Friday, March 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Notice of this request for Statement of Qualifications will be advertised on March 5, 2026, March 12, 2026, and on the county website.

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

DOG WARDEN – APPROVE REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION – PART-TIME SHELTER ATTENDANT (#1607-1)

Dog Warden Matt Granito requested revisions to the job description for the part-time shelter attendant. The position was being advertised, and upon reviewing the posting, he noticed that the job description stated that the employee must participate in euthanasia and be certified to perform it. Currently, the only people who perform euthanasia are Mr. Granito, the Dog Warden, or a veterinarian. Mr. Granito asked to remove that language in hopes of receiving additional applications.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised job description for the currently advertised position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (1607-1) to be effective March 3, 2026.

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

DOG WARDEN - REVISE CURRENT POSTED JOB DESCRIPTION – PART-TIME SHELTER ATTENDANT (#1607-1)

Mr. Granito asked the Board to replace the currently posted job description with the revised version just approved for the part-time shelter attendant position.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to revise the current posted job description for the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (1607-1) to the revised version, effective March 3, 2026. This position will remain posted until filled.

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

DOG WARDEN – APPROVE RE-GRADE – DEPUTY DOG WARDEN (#1602) FROM GRADE 5 TO GRADE 8 – APPROVE REVISIONS TO JOB DESCRIPTION

Mr. Granito explained that the position recently became vacant and, upon reviewing the position and its duties, he felt that it needed to be revised and re-graded from Grade 5 to Grade 8. Mr. Granito stated that they were looking for someone to fill the position long term who could handle field calls, car accidents, and assisting the Sheriff's Office on calls.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the Re-Grade of the Deputy Dog Warden (1602) position from Grade 5 to Grade 8 and approve the revisions to the job description to better reflect the duties of the position, to be effective March 3, 2026.

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

DOG WARDEN – ADVERTISE POSITION – DEPUTY DOG WARDEN (#1602)

Mr. Granito asked to advertise the position of Deputy Dog Warden until filled.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Deputy Dog Warden (#1602). This position will remain posted until filled.

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – ARIS COMPANY DBA MUNN SEPTIC

Director Rob Weigle and Contract Coordinator Liz Rubino asked to have a service contract agreement approved with Aris Company d.b.a. Munn Septic for a three-year period.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Service Contract Agreement with Aris Company DBA Munn Septic to perform pumping services, repairs, replacements, and maintenance on grease traps and septic tanks at various locations as directed by the Director for a three-year period, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.

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

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MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – DEANDRADE LANDSCAPE DESIGN LTD DBA US LAWNS OF CLEVELAND EAST

Ms. Rubino asked to have the service contract agreement approved with Deandrade Landscape Design for lawn mowing and landscaping services at various county locations. There was a brief discussion regarding the receipt of only one quote; however, research indicated that the quoted pricing was in line with market rates.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with Deandrade Landscape Design LTD DBA US Lawns of Cleveland East to perform lawn mowing and landscaping services at various county locations, including the West Geauga Center per the Director for the period April 15, 2026, through October 31, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.

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

MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE BIDS – GEAUGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX ROOF UPGRADE PROJECT

Project Manager Charles Tkach asked the Board to authorize advertising for bids for the courthouse annex roof upgrade project. Mr. Tkach noted that the design was complete and the County was prepared to go out to bid.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the Geauga County Courthouse Annex Roof Upgrade Project to be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on March 6, 2026, March 13, 2026, and on the county website.

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

MAINTENANCE – WAIVE 200-HOUR VACATION ACCRUAL MAXIMUM – SUZANNE SUTKOVSKY, FISCAL AND BUDGET OFFICER (#1921)

Mr. Weigle asked the Board to waive the 200-hour maximum vacation accrual for Ms. Sutkovsky because her workload had prevented her from taking enough leave to reduce her accrued hours. He hoped that, by August, the new employee would be trained, allowing Ms. Sutkovsky to take time off and reduce her accrued hours.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to waive the 200-hour vacation accrual maximum for Suzanne Sutkovsky, Fiscal and Budget Officer (1921) beginning February 15, 2026 (Payroll #26-05) through August 15, 2026 (Payroll #26-17).

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – ADVERTISE BIDS – SERVICES CENTER WATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to authorize advertising for bids for the services center water treatment facility upgrade project. Mr. Gorris noted that the project had been delayed and revised due to the arrangement with University Hospitals, which provided additional funding to expand the standpipe. Mr. Gorris provided an overview of the project and said that it would increase the amount of water available to the system, strengthening and protecting the system for the future. The project has received EPA approval. The project was estimated to cost about \$900,000.00 and included federal ARPA funding.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the Services Center Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project to be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Notice of

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this Bid Opening will be advertised on March 6, 2026, March 13, 2026, and on the county website.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – ADVERTISE BIDS – MERRITT ROAD
SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT**

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to authorize advertising for bids for the Merritt Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project, estimated to cost about \$160,000.00. He noted that the extension would cross Ravenwood Drive and serve the four parcels north of Ravenwood Drive, including the proposed youth home. The Board approved funding for the project as a locally funded infrastructure upgrade.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the Merritt Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project to be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 2:10 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on March 6, 2026, March 13, 2026, and on the county website.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – APPROVE 2026 DEPARTMENT FEE TABLE

Mr. Gorris asked the Board to approve the 2026 department fee table. If approved, lab customers would see the new rates in their May bills. The rates would apply to testing performed on or after April 1. The fee table did not apply to monthly or bimonthly sewer rates, but to requested services, such as water-system connections, permit application fees, and lab testing. Mr. Gorris stated that the most significant change was the late-fee percentage. He noted that many customers do not pay their bills and instead have the unpaid balances certified to the Auditor and placed on their property taxes. Last year, nearly \$450,000.00 was certified to the Auditor, representing five percent of the department's budget.

Mr. Gorris stated that the amount had been increasing over time. Implementing water shutoffs, as permitted by the department's rules and regulations, had prompted many customers to enter payment plans. Mr. Gorris noted that shutting off sewer service was not as simple. He said the department wanted customers to pay their bills and hoped that imposing a 12.5% on the amount due as a late fee would be sufficient to encourage payment and restore revenue needed for improvements. Mr. Gorris noted that some fees had not been updated since 2019. Some fees that were no longer needed had been removed, and new fees had been added based on services the department provides. Some fees were set at actual cost. Mr. Gorris continued reviewing the fee changes, including changes affecting commercial customers and backflow services. Lab fee increases were primarily due to the cost of chemicals and other testing supplies. Mr. Gorris stated that the department hoped the changes would help align fees with costs. He also responded to a question about how the department planned to notify and educate its customers. The Board briefly discussed conducting an annual review to ensure the fees remained appropriate and could be adjusted as necessary.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the 2026 Department Fee Table, to be effective April 1, 2026.

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

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTE LETTER OF SUPPORT – PARKMAN
TOWNSHIP GRANT APPLICATION REQUEST – PARKMAN COMMUNITY HOUSE
BALCONY AND PORCH**

Joyce Peters of Parkman Township explained that the project originally involved replacing the concrete porch pad but quickly became much larger and more intensive project. The Building Department provided guidance on how to move forward. A

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structural inspection estimated the potential cost at about \$300,000.00, which exceeded the \$100,000.00 the Township had set aside. Ms. Peters explained that a community member had offered to assist with grant writing to help obtain funding for the repairs.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute a Letter of Support for Parkman Township's grant application request for repairs to the Parkman Community House balcony and porch.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTE LETTER OF SUPPORT – DDC CLINIC
FEDERAL SUPPORT – U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute a Letter of Support for the DDC Clinic for federal support through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for essential facility upgrades and critical capital equipment.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION

No items were presented or discussed by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Michael McGuire, Chesterland, discussed ICE and detainees, expressing his opinion that ICE detention policies are unconstitutional and illegal. Dr. McGuire made statements about President Trump and what he believed the federal government and the local County Sheriff's Office were doing in connection with ICE detainees. He concluded by calling for the Commissioners' contract with ICE to be canceled.

Newell Howard, South Russell Village, asked whether NOACA was coming to Geauga County to discuss gas-tax revenue. Mr. Howard continued discussing gas taxes and asked when Ms. Gallucci would be coming to speak, mentioning South Russell Village's concerns with NOACA.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to move into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the purchase of property for public purposes, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(2).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. with Ms. Bevan; Deputy County Administrator Mark Jimison; Department on Aging Director Jessica Boalt; and Community and Economic Development Director Gina Hofstetter. The Board returned at 10:44 a.m., and as a result, no action was taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- a) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities' Ethics Council meeting minutes from November 19, 2025.
- b) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities' January 21, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

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MEETINGS

- Thu., 3/5 ADP Regular Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room
- Tue., 3/10 Planning Commission Meeting, 7:30 a.m., County Office Building, Room A334, Chardon
- Tue., 3/10 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
- Mon., 3/16 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m., County Office Building
- Tue., 3/17 The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

James W. Dvorak

Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

Ralph Spidalieri

Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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