**Commissioners' Journal**
**March 31, 2026**

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on March 31, 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:
Oh God of creation
You have blessed us with the changing of the seasons!
Remind us of the wonder of your creation
Remind us that it is you who gives us the breath of life
Amen

PUBLIC COMMENT
No one signed in to speak about items on today's 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 March 16, 2026:

Department of Water Resources:
Accepted the resignation of Brian Cain, Water Systems Supervisor (#2327) to be effective April 10, 2026.

Granted permission to advertise for the position of Water Systems Supervisor (#2327). This position will remain posted until filled.

FINANCIALS
County Administrator Amy Bevan reported on financials approved on March 24, 2026, Resolution #26-044 that included a formal contract purchase order from the Commissioners to Title Professionals Group in preparation for a land purchase for the Chardon Senior Center; Then and Now purchase orders from the Common Pleas Court to Lake Geauga Recovery Centers for New Leaf program expenses from July, September and November of 2025 that were not previously encumbered; Travel request for Water Resources; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ohio State University for the county's 1st quarter 2026 agricultural program support payment in the amount of $67,428.63; a payment for Maintenance to Air Force One, LLC for the installation of a new hot water boiler in the safety center in the amount of $21,030.00; and a payment for Water Resources to PerkinElmer US LLC to purchase an Avio 220 Max Inductively Coupled Plasma water quality sample testing device in the amount of $56,155.92.

The County Administrator approved the financials on March 24, 2026, pursuant to Resolution #26-003 approved January 6, 2026, 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 2026, as authorized by O.R.C. 305.30.

MEETING MINUTES
Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 25, 2025.

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

APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Cash transfers to the Sheriff's 911 and 800 Communications funds from the General Fund for the 1st half of 2026 budgeted commitment; Cash transfer from the Board of Developmental Disabilities from the operating fund to the Residential Services fund for Medicaid waiver and locally funded services; Cash transfer from the General Fund to the Sheriff's Victims of Crime Act fund to pay local match for VOCA grant #2026-VOCA-13636081; Travel request for the Common Pleas Court; a payment for ADP to ZeroEyes Incorporated for the firearm detection system renewal for County locations on the square in the amount of $51,015.00; a payment for the Engineer's Office to Morton Salt Incorporated for road salt in the amount of $66,533.38; and a payment for Maintenance to GovTrust Partners, LLC for payment #3 on the Safety Center Visitation Room Alterations project in the amount of $13,253.36.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-045 itemizing the financials for the meeting of March 31, 2026.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #31 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION GMP PHASE #1 AND PHASE #2 EXPENSES

Mr. Gorton explained that payment request #31 for Infinity for progress through February 28 and has been reviewed and recommended for approval. Ms. Bevan noted that the final change order will be coming at the end of April, which includes a credit back to the county.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #31 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 expenses in the amount of $111,216.02.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #32 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION GMP PHASE #1 AND PHASE #2

Mr. Gorton explained that this is the partial release of retainage that Mr. Bestgen asked the Board to grant about two meetings ago. The retainage amount is about half of the retainage amount being held.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #32 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and Phase #2 partial release of retainage in the amount of $456,311.48.

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST #9 – TAXIWAY EXTENSION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PARALLEL TAXIWAY

Airport Manager Ric Blamer asked the Board to approve the reimbursement request #9 on the parallel taxiway. It was noted that the invoices were reviewed and are believed to be correct.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve Reimbursement Request #9 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 $24,610.00 (FAA Share $22,149.00, ODOT Share $1,230.50 and Local County match share $1,230.50).

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION TO FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) FY2027 AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) GRANT PROGRAM – CONSTRUCT T-HANGAR

Mr. Blamer explained that this application is for phase 2 of the T-Hangar construction project, noting that this grant was not initially available. Ms. Brakey inquired about the grant funding and what this grant funding was going to be used for. Mr. Dvorak expressed that if any grant funding can be captured; it would allow the initial $800,000.00 to be used for other repairs and projects at the airport. Mr. Blamer noted that the local share of this grant would come out of the initial funding provided by the Board. There was a brief discussion about this grant being reviewed by the Prosecutor's office, to which Mr. Blamer noted that applications are not typically reviewed, but rather just the grant agreement. Ms. Brakey asked for confirmation that the Prosecutor's Office had not reviewed the documents, to which it was stated they had not.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and execute Resolution #26-046 Authorizing the President of the Geauga County Airport Authority Board to execute and submit the application to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) FY2027 Airport Improvement Program Infrastructure Invest and Job Act (IIJA) Grant Program for the Airport Authority Construct T Hangar Phase 2 project.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: March 31, 2026
Resolution: #26-046

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION TO FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FY2027 AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Airport Authority ("Airport Authority") and the Geauga County Board of Commissioners ("Board of Commissioners") (hereinafter collectively "Sponsors"), desire to make application to the Federal Aviation Administration AIG-IIJA Grant for the Airport Authority's T-Hangar Project ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desire to authorize the President of the Airport Authority to execute and submit a grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the President of the Airport Authority to execute and submit a Grant Application to FAA for the available Federal funding for the Project.

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

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

AIRPORT AUTHORITY – SPONSOR CERTIFICATION FORMS

Mr. Blamer asked the Board to authorize the President of the Board to execute the Sponsor Certification Forms that are required to be included as part of the application.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Sponsor Certification forms for: Construction Project Final Acceptance Airport Improvement Program Sponsor Certification; Drug Free Workplace Airport Improvement Program Sponsor Certification; Equipment and Construction Contracts Airport Improvement Sponsor Certification; Project Plans and Specifications Airport Improvement Program Sponsor Certification; Selection of Consultants, Airport Improvement Program Sponsor Certification; and Certification and Disclosure Regarding Potential Conflicts of Interest Airport Improvement Program Sponsor Certification.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – RONYAK PAVING INCORPORATED – ASPHALT RESURFACING MUMFORD ROAD – TROY TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Jacob Scotese asked the Board to award the bid to Ronyak Paving for the asphalt resurfacing of Mumford Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to Ronyak Paving Incorporated for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Mumford Road (CH-0024, Sections E-F) in Troy Township in the amount of $499,749.00 as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – AWARD BID – GEAUGA HIGHWAY COMPANY – ASPHALT RESURFACING MESSENGER ROAD – AUBURN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Scotese asked the Board to award the bid to Geauga Highway Company for the asphalt resurfacing of Messenger Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to Geauga Highway Company for the Asphalt Resurfacing of Messenger Road (CH-0031, Sections B-C) in Auburn Township in the amount of $621,926.69, as they represented the lowest and best bid. The Bid Bond submitted shall be held to serve as the Performance Bond for this project.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – COMBINED PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS, LLC INMATE COMMUNICATIONS GENERAL SERVICE AGREEMENT ADDENDUM A, CYBERPATH SERVICES, LLC INMATE MESSAGING AND HANDHELD DEVICE SERVICE AGREEMENT ADDENDUM A – INMATE VIDEO VISITS, CHIRPING AND EDUCATIONAL / ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand explained that they have had an agreement with Combined Public Communications that allows inmates to have calling cards. This amended agreement also allows them to be able to text family members, as well as having tablets to watch movies and participate in video visits. It may help reduce disputes over what movie selection. Sheriff Hildenbrand explained that the inmates cover the costs and the Sheriff's office collects a small portion of those fees. The services are charged by the minute, so the costs are dependent upon how much the inmate uses the service.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Combined Public Communications, LLC Inmate Communications General Service Agreement Addendum A, and Cyberpath Services, LLC Inmate Messaging and Handheld Device Service Agreement Addendum A, for inmate video visits, chirping and educational/entertainment services, that includes a twenty-four (24) month renewal term beginning April 20, 2026 and reflects the FCC ruling that caps commissions from phone calls to $0.13 per minute and Remote Video Visitation to $0.17 per minute for a facility of our size. This will include the addition of tablets via CPC/Cyberpath to enhance communications, programming and educational services to the inmates. Chirping services will be maintained via the tablets instead of current stand-alone chirping devices.

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – AGREEMENTS – PROFESSIONAL PLAN REVIEW SERVICES - DUBER ARCHITECTURAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC, CODE CONSULTATION AND PLAN REVIEW SERVICES, LLC, AND SIXMO

Director Dan Spada asked the Board to approve the agreements with Duber Architectural and Consulting Services, Code Consultation and Plan Review Services and SIXMO for the professional plan review services.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, approve and execute the Agreement with Duber Architectural and Consulting Services, LLC to provide required professional plan review services for the period April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2029, at the rate of $140.00 per hour for 2026, $150.00 per hour for 2027, $160.00 per hour for 2028 and $170.00 per hour for 2029.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, approve and execute the Agreement with Code Consultation and Plan Review Services, LLC to provide required professional plan review services for the period April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2029, at the rate of $140.00 per hour for 2026, $150.00 per hour for 2027, $160.00 per hour for 2028 and $170.00 per hour for 2029.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, approve and execute the Agreement with SIXMO to provide required professional plan review services for the period April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2029, at the rate of $140.00 per hour for 2026, $150.00 per hour for 2027, $160.00 per hour for 2028 and $170.00 per hour for 2029.

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT – STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS – MASTER PLANS EXAMINERS AND FIRM RANKING – F & B ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED – BEGIN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Spada asked the Board to accept the statement of qualifications and ranking for F & B Engineering for Master Plans Examiners and authorize contract negotiations. There was a brief discussion about only receiving one State of Qualifications the second time around, and that these companies do plan reviews for multiple communities and there are only a few around

the area.

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. F & B Engineering, Incorporated, and further grant the department the authorization to begin contract negotiations with the firm to be the most qualified to provide the required professional services of plan review and examiner services.

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERING FIRMS

Director Gina Hofstetter asked the Board to acknowledge the statement of qualifications that were received from architectural and engineering firms. The statements are kept on file for one year, so the firms can be considered for projects.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to acknowledge receipt of the following Statement of Qualifications for Architects and Engineering firms to be considered for projects and be on file for one year from date of approval, including Architects: Byron D. Myers, Architect LLC, GPD Group, LDA Architects, Technical Assurance, ThenDesign Architecture, Verdantas and Burgess and Niple; and Engineers: Barrington Consulting Group, Incorporated, GPD Group, Technical Assurance, Verdantas and Burgess and Niple.

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

DOG WARDEN – AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES – ASHTABULA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – ALLOW GEAUGA COUNTY DOG WARDEN TO ACCEPT FOR SHELTER AND CONFINEMENT DOGS SEIZED AND IMPOUNDED BY ASHTABULA COUNTY DOG WARDEN

Dog Warden Matt Granito brought with him a dog up for adoption, "Lil Bit." She is about three to five years old and is looking for her forever home. Mr. Granito explained that he has been temporarily accepting dogs seized or impounded by the Ashtabula Dog Warden since December because Ashtabula County did not have an available dog shelter and was negotiating an agreement with the Humane Society. Under the proposed agreement, Geauga County would continue to shelter and care for the dogs, Ashtabula County would pay the applicable boarding and medical costs, and Geauga County would retain any adoption fees for dogs adopted through its shelter.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement for Services between the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners and the Geauga County Board of Commissioners that allows the Geauga County Dog Warden to accept for shelter and confinement dogs seized and impounded by the Ashtabula County Dog Warden, pursuant to O.R.C. Chapter 955, which includes to house, feed and care for all dogs, providing minimal medical care if necessary and humane destruction of a dog if necessary, until an owner is found, the dog is placed or adopted, with Ashtabula County paying Geauga County quarterly if the dog(s) are taken back $15.00 per dog per day for daily board, plus medical costs if necessary and if the dog is kept by Geauga for adoption or euthanasia, a flat fee of $200.00, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 and will be renewed automatically for one additional term of one year through December 31, 2027, unless otherwise terminated.

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

STATUTORY GROUP – GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER ROOF REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE

The Statutory Group meeting opened at 10:00 a.m. pursuant to O.R.C. 153.36 to review and approve the plans, drawings, representations, bills of materials, specifications of work, and detailed and aggerate cost estimates for the proposed Geauga County Safety Center Roof Upgrade Project.

Present were Commissioners James W. Dvorak, Carolyn Brakey, and Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri; Clerk of Courts Sheila Bevington; Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand; and Randy Taylor who attended as the representative appointed for the Judge of the Common Pleas Court.

Not in attendance was sitting Judge Berger of the Probate and Juvenile Court. Judge Berger was not able to attend due to trials that had been previously scheduled.

Program Manager Charles Tkach provided documentation to the members of the Statutory Group regarding the project.

Mr. Tkach explained that pursuant to O.R.C. 149.433, the Safety Center Roof designs, drawings and specifications for the Safety Center Roof Upgrade presented for review during this meeting are not considered a public record and are not subject to mandatory release or disclosure.

Mr. Tkach explained that as required by O.R.C. 153.36, the members of the statutory group meet to review and, if appropriate, approve by a majority of the Statutory Group the current plans, drawings, representations, bills of materials, specifications of work and estimates of the cost thereof in detail and in the aggregate for the proposed Geauga County Safety Center Roof Upgrade.

Mr. Tkach explained that the scope of the project is to replace and upgrade the roof of the Safety Center. It was constructed in 2004, about twenty-two years ago. This was a built-up roofing system and over the last ten years has shown leakage, patchwork and reached the end of its expected life. Mr. Tkach reviewed the provided documents, including infrared scan images and details from the core sampling, maps, cost breakdown and information, including warranty regarding the project.

Ms. Brakey asked about the warranty on the roof, and if the whole roof, both overlay and replacement areas, would be included in the thirty-year warranty. Mr. Tkach replied, yes, both areas are included in the warranty. Ms. Brakey asked the Sheriff about the issues they have been experiencing in the Safety Center as a result of the roof. Sheriff Hildenbrand stated that when it rains outside, it rains inside. The roof also is leaking on electronic equipment. One section of the jail was shut down recently due to leaking.

There was discussion that in 2017, repair work was done on the roof, and it should have been replaced at that time, but it was not, and now we are dealing with a cost of about ten times as much.

Mr. Taylor asked when it would be going out to bid. Mr. Tkach stated that they must get approval from the state, and provided it gets approval, they hope to have the new roof on before the snow flies.

Ms. Bevington explained that she was able to tour the facility and inquired about the interior ceiling tiles that have discoloration on them. Mr. Tkach stated that ceiling tiles would be separate, but anything from the metal deck up is being replaced.

There were no further questions.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the Plans, Drawings, Representations, Bills of materials, Specifications of work and estimates of the cost thereof in detail and in the aggregate required relating to the proposed Geauga County Safety Center Roof Upgrade.

Roll Call Vote:

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| Commissioner Dvorak | Aye |
| Commissioner Brakey | Aye |
| Commissioner Spidalieri | Aye |
| Clerk of Courts, Ms. Bevington | Aye |
| Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand | Aye |
| Common Pleas Judge Representative, Randy Taylor | Aye |

Sheriff Hildenbrand expressed how the process was nicely organized and that it was easy to work together and get this done.

The Statutory Group meeting concluded at 10:14 a.m. and the Board moved back into the regular meeting.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Executive Director Craig Swenson asked the Board to approve the resolution that recognizes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-047 Recognizing April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 26-047
Date: March 31, 2026

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, we know that our children are our future and that it will someday fall to them to shape our community, our nation, and the world for all future generations; and

WHEREAS, as a community Geauga County values the importance of providing a safe and supportive environment in which families can nuture, love, and parent their children; and

WHEREAS, children who are loved and nurtured grow to love and nurture others and to provide the love and care bestowed upon them to their children, their family, and their community; and

WHEREAS, while as a community we are blessed to have many wonderful, nurturing families we must recognize that Geauga County is not immune from the reality that some children in our county endure abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, as a caring community we must not only respond to stop abuse and neglect where it exists, we must also be diligent in our efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and ensure that our community is aware of its role in recognizing and preventing child abuse and neglect.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners recognize April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Geauga County.

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

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

Gina Schultz explained that the purpose of this resolution is to bring awareness to child abuse and neglect, noting that it can happen anywhere and at any income level. Ms. Schultz thanked the community for the levies and thanked the providers that assist with families. Ms. Schultz stated that Junction Auto is a big supporter and is once again allowing them to place blue

pinwheels on the hill. Each pinwheel represents a case that was investigated. In 2025, they had 410 investigated cases of abuse and neglect. It was mentioned that, although this number increased compared to 2024, it remains below the levels seen during the past ten years. The increase was attributed to more cases being screened in and a greater emphasis on preventative intervention. Ms. Schultz stated that as of yesterday, 115 cases were investigated for this year and the cases themselves are also increasing in complexity.

Mr. Swenson briefly talked about the cost of placements for kids, noting that the cost has increased immensely and hoped that this could be addressed legislatively.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – APPROVE HIRING AMY DAVIDSON, SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR I

Mr. Swenson explained that they had two supervisor positions open; they filled one position internally, and are asking the Board to approve hiring Ms. Amy Davidson, who comes from Summit County as a Deputy Director but wants to be a supervisor here. With twenty-eight years of experience, they would like to hire her at fifteen percent above the base rate and are asking the Board for permission to approve the hiring of Ms. Davidson.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve hiring Amy Davidson to the position of Social Services Supervisor I at the rate of $38.47 per hour to be effective April 13, 2026, with a nine-month probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

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

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER #2 – INCREASE CONTRACT – SHOOK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – MCFARLAND CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FURTHER AUTHORIZE RALPH SPIDALIERI TO EXECUTE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AND WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER FORM

Director Nicholas Gorris asked the Board to approve Change Order #2, which would increase the contract with Shook Construction Company for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Mr. Gorris explained that the change order covered several items, including unforeseen site conditions, additional rebar required for structural work, an effluent pipe that was lower than shown on plans, two requests from the department that were not included in the original specifications, filling in the former septage receiving area, reworking a room for facility operations, replacing the air intake pipes with stainless steel for greater durability, changes to the filter building, fire alarm system upgrades, and several miscellaneous items.

Mr. Gorris noted that the overall project is approximately $31 million project and that, although the change order may appear large; the change orders remain within the allowable percentage for the project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve Contract Change Order #2, increasing the Contract with Shook Construction Company for the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project in the amount of $257,081.05 and further authorize Ralph Spidalieri, authorized representative to execute the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) and Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) Contract Change Order Form.

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

MAINTENANCE – PHASE 1, OPERATIONAL / FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM, ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAM, SCHEMATIC DESIGN; PHASE 2, DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, PHASE 3 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS SUBMISSION CHECKLISTS – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL – SAFETY CENTER ROOF

Mr. Tkach explained that this is another step in the Safety Center Roof project, which includes submitting the plans to the State for review and approval.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Phase 1, Operational/Functional Program, Architectural Program, Schematic Design; Phase 2, Design Development; and Phase 3 Construction Documents Submission Checklists to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction for review and approval of proposed upgrade to the Geauga County Safety Center Roof, as required by O.A.C. Sections 5120:1-7-01(G) and 4101:1-1, 106.1.2,6.

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

MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #2 – INCREASE CONTRACT – 5K COMMERCIAL ROOFING, LLC – MAINTENANCE BARN ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Tkach explained this change order for the maintenance barn roof replacement project to extend the date of completion by sixty-one days due in part to weather conditions.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #2, increasing the Contract with 5K Commercial Roofing LLC for the Geauga County Maintenance Barn Roof Replacement project by extending the contract completion date by sixty-one (61) days through June 15, 2026.

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

MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT – V.L. CHAPMAN ELECTRIC INCORPORATED – WEST GEAUGA SENIOR CENTER / MSI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DEDICATED GENERATOR INSTALL

Mr. Tkach explained this change order for the generator project at the West Geauga Senior Center / MSI Wastewater Treatment Plant that relates to the location of the automated transfer switch.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1, increasing the Contract with V.L. Chapman Electric Incorporated for the West Geauga Senior Center / MSI Wastewater Treatment Plant dedicated Generator Installation to revise the design location of the automated transfer switch in the amount of $25,720.15.

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

MAINTENANCE – SERVICE CONTRACT AGREEMENT – HZW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS LLC

Contract Coordinator Liz Rubino asked the Board to approve the service contract with HZW Environmental Consultants for a two-year period.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the service Contract Agreement with HZW Environmental Consultants, LLC to provide various professional Health, Safety and Environmental Consulting Services per the Director for a two-year period, effective March 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $25,000.00.

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

MAINTENANCE – APPROVE HIRING EVAN MINER – TECHNOLOGY SUPERVISOR (#1910)

Director Rob Weigle asked the Board to approve hiring Mr. Miner to the position of Technology Supervisor (#1910).

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve hiring Evan Miner to the position of Technology Supervisor (#1910) at the rate of $30.64 per hour (Grade 13, Step 3) to be effective April 13, 2026, with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – DESIGNATE JAMES W. DVORAK, VOTING REPRESENTATIVE (ALTERNATE, MEGAN ERICKSON) – CEBCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and designate Commissioner, James W. Dvorak as voting representative (Alternate, Megan Erickson) at the CEBCO Annual Membership Meeting, on Friday, April 10, 2026.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Newell Howard, South Russell Village, explained that this past Sunday was Vietnam Veterans Day, reminding the people of Geauga County of what this day represents, and that we cannot forget those who served our country. Mr. Howard asked about NOACA and when Ms. Gallucci was coming. Mr. Dvorak noted that Ms. Bevan was communicating with her office. Mr. Dvorak also noted that the safe buggy lanes project was completed about six years ago and included funding from NOACA.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(3).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Deputy County Administrator Mark Jimison and Outside Counsel. The Board returned at 11:43 a.m. and as a result, no action was taken.

Mr. Spidalieri did not return from Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:43 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Mr. Jimison, Sheriff Hildenbrand, Megan Erickson, Kathy Hostutler and Adrian Gorton. Mr. Spidalieri rejoined them during the executive session. The Board returned at 12:16 p.m. and as a result, no action was taken.

**BOARD DISCUSSION**
Department on Aging 2025 Overview –

Director Jessica Boalt provided the following presentation:

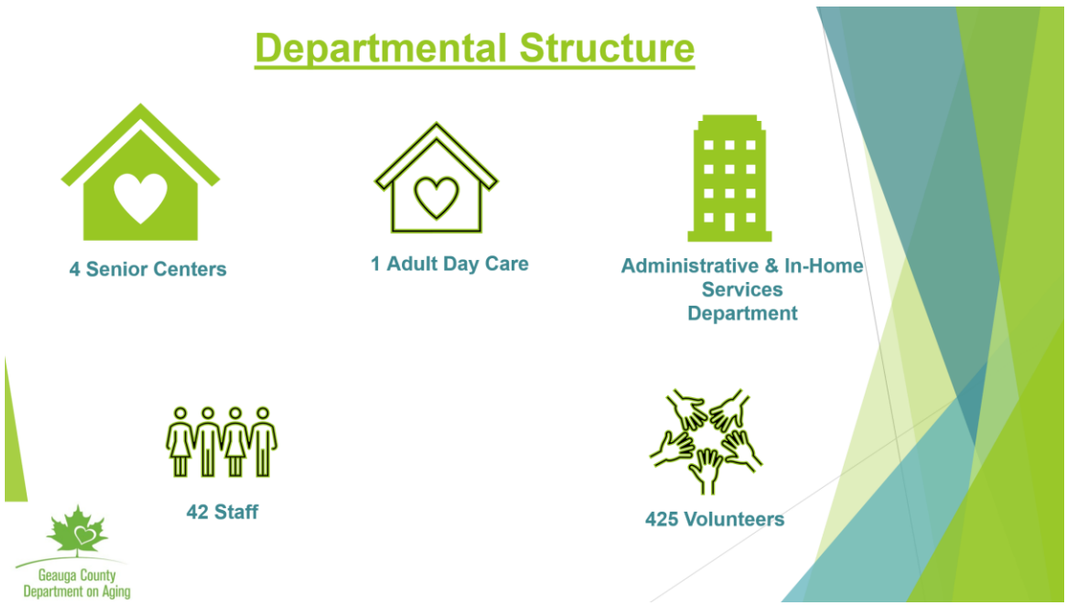
It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve Geauga County and its seniors and lead my staff to do that. I want to provide some information about what we do at the agency and include a few highlights from last year.







Ms. Boalt explained that when they are looking at services and programs, they review this and ask the questions if it meets or touches on this.



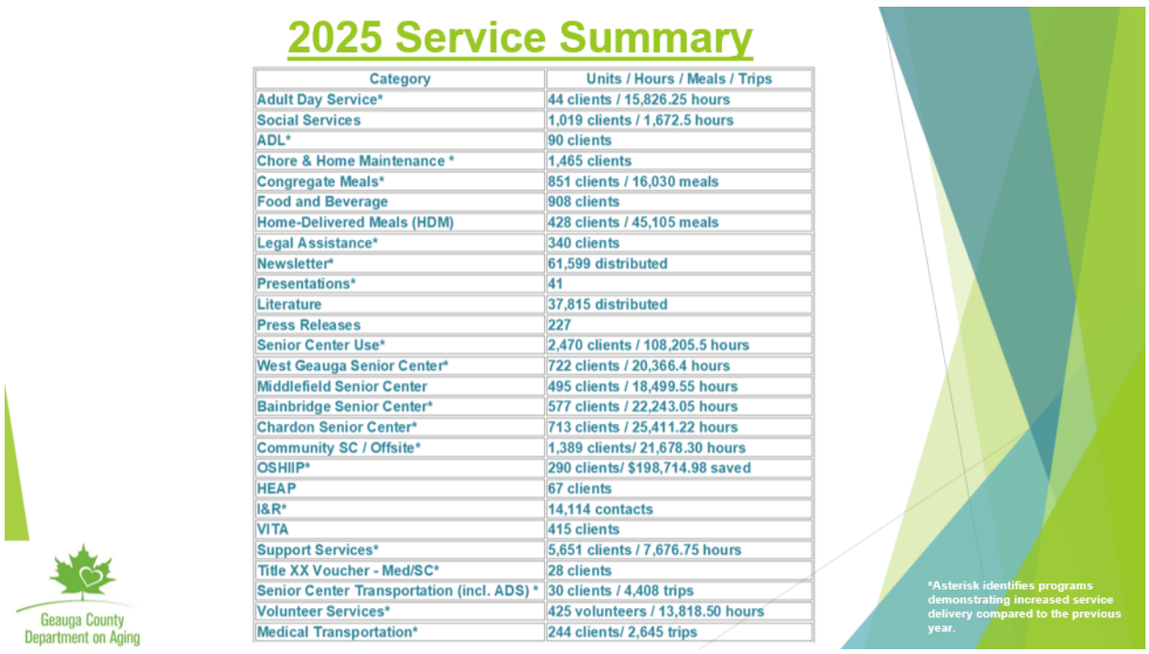

Ms. Boalt talked about the department, noting the locations of the four senior centers, Chardon, Bainbridge, Middlefield, and Chesterland. The Adult Day Care services are located at the Chesterland Senior Center. The Administrative and In-Home Services department are housed here in the county office building, in Suite 200. They have forty-two staff and in 2025 had 425 volunteers, of which 208 were home-delivered meals volunteers.

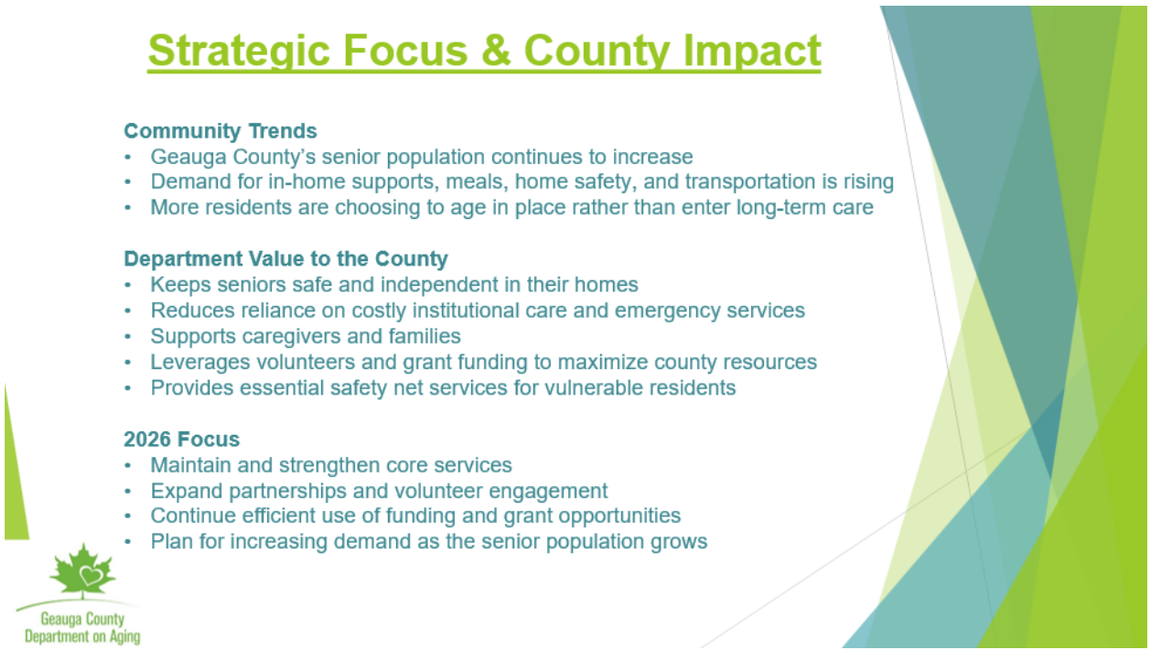



Ms. Boalt explained that she is often asked what a senior is; the federal definition of a senior is sixty (60) years of age. Ms. Boalt briefly went over the programs and services they provide through the department. Ms. Boalt noted that they were just wrapping up tax season and scheduled 416 appointments, and offer assistance with durable medical equipment, like walkers or rollers if needed, by working with their partners.

Ms. Brakey asked about the most popular programs.

Ms. Boalt flipped to the next slide, which was a breakdown of services, and pointed out some of the most used programs and services.




Ms. Boalt noted that the population continues to trend towards seniors, noting that over 30% of the population in Geauga County is age 60 or older. Ms. Boalt noted that in 2024, they provided about 1,800 transportation trips and in 2025 they provided over 2,600 trips, and these were for medical appointments. Ms. Boalt expressed that our in-home meal program isn't just a balanced nutritional meal every day; it is also a well check visit to ensure our seniors are safe and well.




Ms. Boalt expressed that she looks forward to continuing to serve the seniors of Geauga County. Ms. Bevan complimented Ms. Boalt for everything she and her department do, noting that she, like other directors, goes above and beyond to help with many different projects in addition to their regular duties.

Ms. Boalt explained that she has been working with neighboring counties on how they can mirror the services and programs that Geauga offers. Ms. Boalt noted that they have all staff meetings regularly to make sure what they are providing continues to be the best option for our county. It was noted that there are a few seniors from surrounding counties that attend our centers but do pay fees for participating in the programs.

Berkshire Local School District Safe Route to School Grant
Ms. Bevan explained that last week, a legal opinion was provided to the Board regarding Berkshire Local School District's Safe Route to School grant and asked them how they wanted to move forward. Commissioner Spidalieri expressed that he was not involved in the matter, despite repeated references to the Commissioners' involvement. The Board briefly discussed the school applying for the grant, which raised questions about whether Burton Village or Burton Township, rather than the County, should be applying for the grant.

Mr. Dvorak noted that he had attended two meetings with the County Engineer and signed a document acknowledging of the program and their intent to move forward but had not committed the County to the project.

Ms. Bevan advised that, based on the legal opinion that was provided, the liability and oversight responsibilities associated with the grant were not acceptable to the County. She stated that, although the proposed sidewalks would provide a safety benefit, the County is not in a position to administer the grant and provide the required oversight on such a rushed timeline.

Courthouse Expansion Ribbon Cutting Update
Communications/Media Specialist Max Yost explained that the ribbon cutting planned for next week starts with session at 10:00 a.m. The ribbon cutting portion will begin around 11:30 a.m. outside, then following that the program will continue at the Heritage House beginning at noon, with several key speakers and conclude with local Elected Officials. The event will hopefully conclude before 1:00 p.m. Mr. Dvorak inquired about the guest list and mentioned a few others that they may want to consider being included. Ms. Bevan noted that they plan to set up on Monday afternoon at the Heritage House.

Autumn Ridge Trespassing
Ms. Bevan explained that the property is not easy to navigate and plans to go out and walk the perimeter on Thursday to get a firsthand look at the damage. The commissioners can then decide how to move forward next week via a resolution to place no trespassing signs. Ms. Bevan said that they have neighbors that have reported the trespassing and they are working with the Sheriff's Office on handling the situation.

**Commissioners' Journal**
**March 31, 2026**

Opioid Settlement Grant
Clerk Christine Blair explained that proposal packets were dropped off on Friday for the Board to review. The Board will have to decide who they would like to award funds to, and per the Memorandum of Understanding, up to $100,000.00 in funds are available.

Good Friday
Ms. Bevan said that she learned that the Treasurer's office was planning to close at noon on Good Friday and asked the Board if they were open to considering doing the same.
Ms. Bevan read a motion regarding closing the offices at noon.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to close the Geauga County Offices at Noon on Friday, April 3, 2026, in light of the Good Friday holiday, whereas all regular scheduled employees under the hiring authority of the Board of Commissioners will receive up to four (4) hours of paid time off. Twenty-four operations will continue to operate as normal. Further, those employees required to work on Friday, April 3, 2026, will be entitled to their overtime rate of pay for actual hours worked, for up to the four (4) hours.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a) Geauga County ADP (Automatic Data Processing) 2025 Annual Report

b) Geauga County Airport Q4 Report

c) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending March 11, 2026, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

OTHER
The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

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|---|---|---|
| Thu., | 4/2 | Work Session, 10:00 a.m. County Office Building, Room B303 |
| Tue., | 4/7 | The Commissioners will hold session at 10:00 a.m. in Judge Paschke's Courtroom, Chardon, that will include the Ribbon Cutting on the new Courthouse Expansion and conclude at the Heritage House |
| Wed., | 4/8 | Board of Revision, 12:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room |
| Tue., | 4/14 | Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. County Office Building, Room A334, Chardon |
| Tue., | 4/14 | Investment Advisory Committee, 9:00 a.m. County Office Building, Room B303 |
| Tue., | 4/14 | The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. |
| Mon., | 4/20 | Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building, Suite B168 |
| Tue., | 4/21 | The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. |
| Tue., | 4/21 | Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, Directors Meeting, 3:00 p.m. County Office Building, Room B168 |
| Tue., | 4/28 | The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m. |

**BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD**

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

_____
James W. Dvorak

_____
Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

_____
Ralph Spidalieri

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Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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