Commissioners' Journal
April 21, 2026

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 21, 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
Watch over all who are good-hearted and sincere, even if they often do not understand you. Protect them and let your kingdom come, so that your will is carried out more and more by the many who feel compelled to seek for you and for the goodness and truth, which is your will. Amen

PUBLIC COMMENT
No one in attendance wanted to speak about items on today's agenda.

FINANCIALS
County Administrator Amy Bevan reported on financials approved on April 15, 2026, Resolution #26-057.

The County Administrator approved the financials on April 15, 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.

Ms. Bevan explained the financials as including Appropriation transfers from the Commissioners and Job and Family Services to move money into the unemployment accounts of the Building Department and Job and Family Services to transfer the cash necessary to make a payment by the end of the month; and Cash transfers from Job and Family Services from their Children's Services Fund to Public Assistance, Family First and the General Fund Prosecutor's Office revenue accounts.

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 April 20, 2026:

Department of Water Resources:
Approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with Midwest Tank Management to perform GS submersible mixer replacement at the Services Center Water Tower, and as needed inspections and repair services at both the Services Center and Bainbridge Water Towers for the department for a one-year period, effective April 20, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $8,750.00.

APPROVE FINANCIALS
Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including Cash Transfer reversals and reissued cash transfers from the Commissioners and Job and Family Services from April 7, 2026 that were not entered correctly; Cash transfers from the Juvenile / Probate Court, Job and Family Services, and the Building Department General Fund Unemployment accounts to the Unemployment Compensation Fund; Purchase orders for the Commissioner's Office to Chardon Municipal Court, Fairmount Center for the Arts and the Red Tulip Project of Geauga in preparation for the distribution of approved Opioid Remediation funds for 2026; Travel requests from the Auditor's Office and the Common Pleas Court; an

Encumbrance Increase for the Commissioners' Office to CORSA to prepare to pay the bill for the County's annual insurance coverage; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Brilliant Electric Sign Company, LTD for labor, equipment, material, permits and management to place signage at various county office locations in the amount of $72,622.00; a payment for the Maintenance Department to Kenneth A. Rodick for the County Barn Roof Replacement in the amount of $68,771.54; and a payment for the Maintenance Department to Trane for the installation of a new building heating, ventilation and air conditioning automation system at the safety center in the amount of $48,717.00.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-058 itemizing the financials for the meeting of April 21, 2026.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – REQUEST FOR PARTIAL PAYMENT #33 – INFINITY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – COURTHOUSE EXPANSION GMP PHASE #1 AND #2

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the request for partial payment #33 for Infinity Construction on the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion project, correcting the agenda item that included a partial release of retainage, noting that he had reused the form, correcting that this is just a regular pay request, in the amount of $35,306.18, apologizing for any confusion.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Request for Partial Payment #33 for Infinity Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion GMP Phase #1 and #2 expenses in the amount of $35,306.18.

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

PROBATE / JUVENILE COURT – AMENDMENT FORM / FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY ATTACHMENT A, PAGE 2, AMEND FY26 DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES RECLAIM GRANT

Ms. Bevan explained that she had spent some time this week talking with the Juvenile Probate Court regarding its request for $28,980 in additional grant allocations. Approximately $89,000 in grant funding is currently unallocated. Following the proposed allocations, approximately $60,000 would remain unallocated and could be carried forward into FY27, which would start on July 1, 20026 if it is unspent.

Ms. Bevan explained that the additional $28,980 would be itemized as follows: $1,000 for hospitalization costs associated with Family Life Improvement Program, known as FLIP; $6,000 for Juvenile Probation hospitalizations premiums; $1,980 for Intensive Monitoring; and $2800 for screening and assessments. The hospitalization allocations reflect increases in insurance premiums.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Amendment Form / Fiscal Accountability Attachment A, Page 2, to amend the FY26 Department of Youth Services RECLAIM Grant to amend the budget allocations based on fiscal year to date expenditures, to ensure necessary funding availability for the remainder of the grant period.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – FINAL PLAT – MAPLE RIDGE SUBDIVISION, REPLAT SUBLOTS 6 AND 7 – CREATE SUBLOT 7-R – AUBURN TOWNSHIP

Director Linda Crombie explained that it was approved at the April 14 planning commission Meeting, that it's straightforward, the total acreage is going to be just over four acres, at 4.08, and the lots are on Chanticleer Court.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Final Plat for Maple Ridge Subdivision, Replat of Sublots 6 and 7, creating Sublot 7-R, in Auburn Township.

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

BUILDING – AGREEMENT – F & B ENGINEERING, INCORPORATED – PROFESSIONAL PLAN REVIEW SERVICES

Director Dan Spada asked the Board to approve the agreement with F & B Engineering, for professional plan review services, noting that the rates are in line with the other agreements. The only change is the shift in the date but will end at the same time as the rest.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to accept, approve and execute the Agreement with F & B Engineering, Incorporated to provide required professional plan review services for the period May 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.

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

DOG WARDEN – INCREASE CURRENT NUMBER OF POSITIONS – PART-TIME SHELTER ATTENDANT (#1607-1) – REVISE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – INCREASE NUMBER OF POSITIONS

Dog Warden Matt Granito asked the Board to approve an increase in the number of Part-time Shelter Attendants from two to three positions. Mr. Granito then asked to revise the organizational chart to include the additional position. Mr. Granito briefly explained that they had just lost a part-time employee that had been working certain days of the week and were having trouble filling the position, as Sundays are a hard day to work. Mr. Granito noted that they had recently had an application that requested to work on Sunday only, noting that this person had previously worked for the department and is a certified veterinary technician. Mr. Granito stressed that while they are requesting to add a position, it is not any increase in funding that they would need to fill the remaining days of needed coverage.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve an increase in the number of positions of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607-1) from two (2) to three (3) positions to be effective April 21, 2026.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the revised Organizational Chart to include the additional position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607-1) increasing to three (3) total positions, to be effective April 21, 2026.

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

DOG WARDEN – INCREASE CURRENT POSTING – PART-TIME SHELTER ATTENDANT (#1607-1)

Mr. Granito asked the Board to approve increasing the current posting for the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to increase the current posting for the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607-1) from one to two positions. These positions will remain posted until they are filled.

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

DOG WARDEN – APPROVE HIRING ANDREA BALLAS – PART-TIME SHELTER ATTENDANT (#1607-1)

Mr. Granito asked the Board to approve hiring Ms. Ballas to the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant, noting that she previously worked at the shelter from 2008 to 2017, and has been working at veterinary offices since then but is willing to come back and work for us part-time.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve hiring Andrea Ballas to the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607-1) at the rate of $15.89 per hour, to be effective April 24, 2026, with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

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

Mr. Granito responded to a request from Commissioner Brakey about Avery's Law, recently enacted Ohio legislation that changes how certain dog bite incidents are handled. He explained that the law includes substantial changes to the Ohio Revised Code, including provisions allowing a dog that bites another dog to be designated a nuisance.

Mr. Granito noted that the department is still working to understand and implement the new requirements, particularly because there is not yet any case law interpreting the legislation. He expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the Prosecutor's Office and municipal court prosecutors.

Mr. Granito also discussed the law's implications for public safety and the potential euthanasia of dangerous dogs. He explained that some dogs involved in previous biting incidents might have faced different consequences under the new law. While acknowledging concerns about increased euthanasia, he emphasized that the legislation provides greater protection to the public from dangerous dogs.

Mr. Granito concluded that the changes are substantial and that the department is continuing to determine how best to administer and enforce the new law.

MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT – OHIO PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED – GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER PARKING LOT REPAVE

Program Manager Charles Tkach provided some visual documentation to the Board regarding the change order, noting there is concrete area, which he referred to as a parking bay, along the sidewalk. When we initially looked at the project, we talked about replacing it or not replacing it, and the decision was made back then to not include it in the bid package. As we excavated around the area and we looked at it closer, it looked like it probably needs repair. So, we are recommending that we go ahead and replace it at this time.

The second part of this change order is we are adding new parking spaces to the back of the lot for deputy parking. With the rain and the weather over the past few weeks, the backfill has not compacted and it has not passed. The area failed the proof roll test twice, so we are letting it set for about a week. But we wanted to submit a potential change order; this is not definitive, but it is a potential one to add some geotextile fabric to it to really stiffen it up. We may not need that;

we're going to give it another week. But after that, if we don't do something, we're probably going to delay the project, and that will end up costing more at the end of the day.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1, increasing the Contract with Ohio Paving and Construction Company, Incorporated for the Geauga County Safety Center Parking Lot Repave to replace existing concrete parking bay and sidewalk with extended asphalt parking area and new sidewalk, add geotextile fabric to stabilize subgrade for additional parking spaces on the north end of the Safety Center parking lot in the amount of $27,356.12, for a new fixed, lump sum price amount of $875,038.77.

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

MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE CONTRACT – EXTEND DATE OF COMPLETION – VERDANTAS ARCHITECTURE, INCORPORATED – GEAUGA COUNTY EAST PARK OFFICE BUILDING FACILITY CONDITION ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Mr. Tkach explained that this change order is to extend the date of completion. Mr. Tkach explained that originally this contract was signed in November 2025 and the original completion date was February 2026, and that's when we were supposed to get the report. The project started late, part of it was because they had been working on the roof upgrade project at the Annex, and part of it was due to the fact that once we were able to release them to work on the project around mid-January, the structural engineer who had been lined up was a few weeks out. Mr. Tkach stated that we are expecting the final report on April 24, but we do need to extend the contract to that date.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1 increasing the Contract by extending the date of completion with Verdantas Architecture, Incorporated for the Geauga County East Park Office Building Facility Condition Assessment Project by an additional fifty-six (56) days through April 24, 2026.

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

MAINTENANCE – CHANGE ORDER #1 – INCREASE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – VERDANTAS ARCHITECTURE, INCORPORATED – GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER VISITATION ROOM ALTERATION PROJECT

Mr. Tkach explained that when we opened the slab, we found some conduits under there, and they had to do the redesigning work, but the work was completed, but they did not submit the change order request. They did two phases of redesign, one involving a wall shift due to pipes in the ceiling and the second was the conduit that was found in the floor, which required redesigning the foundation.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Change Order #1, increasing the Professional Services Agreement with Verdantas Architecture, Incorporated for the Geauga County Safety Center Visitation Room Alteration Project for the redesign of the masonry wall foundation due to unknown conduits discovered under the slab in the amount of $1,933.43 and to extend the date of completion by 212 days through April 30, 2026.

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

MAINTENANCE – AWARD BID – ARCHITECTURAL SIDING TRIM AND ROOFING, INCORPORATED (A-STAR) – GEAUGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX ROOF UPGRADE PROJECT

Mr. Tkach asked the Board to award the bid to Architectural Siding Trim and Roofing on the Courthouse Annex Roof upgrade project. It was noted that the bid was under the estimate.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to award the Bid to Architectural Siding Trim and Roofing, Incorporated (A-Star) for the Geauga County Courthouse Annex Roof Upgrade Project in the amount of $496,604.60 ($432,604.60 Base Bid and $64,000.00 Owner's Contingency) as they represented the lowest and best bid.

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

MAINTENANCE – AGREEMENT – GEAUGA COUNTY MAPLE FESTIVAL, INCORPORATED

Director Rob Weigle asked the Board to approve the Agreement with the Maple Festival to allow them to utilize the southern end of the Short Court parcel during the Maple Festival.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement with the Geauga County Maple Festival, Incorporated to utilize the southern end of the 100 Short Court Parcel during the Maple Festival, for the period of April 23, 2026, through April 27, 2026, for the location and operation of food vendors, festival vendors operating games of skill and / or rides during the event.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 3, 2026 – MAY 9, 2026 – PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler explained that Public Service Recognition Week is held the first full week of May; this is held annually and that the Board has in the past approved departments to spend a certain amount of money per employee during that week.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-059 Proclaiming May 3, 2026, through May 9, 2026, as Public Service Recognition Week.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: #26-059
Date: April 21, 2026

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 3, 2026, THROUGH MAY 9, 2026
AS PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK FOR 2026

WHEREAS, in honor of the men and women who serve America daily as public servants at the federal, state, county and local levels, we recognize that the vast array of services provided by government is an integral part of our lives. Every day, we depend upon the work performed by public employees; and

WHEREAS, public service is a public trust, a high calling and an expression of responsible citizenship. A career in public service will impact the lives of many people, through public policy, education, law enforcement, environmental protection, and more; and

WHEREAS, without these dedicated government employees at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Public Service Recognition Week has been celebrated nationally the first week of May since 1985; and

WHEREAS, we, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners, proclaim that the first full week of May shall be recognized annually as Public Service Recognition Week in Geauga County. We call upon all citizens to recognize the contributions made by public employees at all levels who help ensure the quality of life in our country and in our county; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code §325.25 specifically authorizes employee recognition programs. Therefore, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners wishes to utilize this authority to recognize Geauga County government employees during Public Service Recognition Week through modest expenditures on tokens of appreciation not to exceed $15.00 per employee. Such expenditures may include the provision of meals and non-alcoholic beverages as a means of expressing appreciation.

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AGREEMENT – SMOOTH RIDER, LLC

Benefits Specialist Megan Erickson asked the Board to approve the agreement with Smooth Rider for fruit smoothies for the employees during the County Employee Health and Wellness EXPO, that is covered by the wellness grant funds. Commissioner Brakey expressed that she would like to see the grant funding used in a different way. A brief discussion was held about maybe supplementing gym membership or fitness challenges. Ms. Erickson noted that there is step challenges that if completed, results in a monetary reward.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement with Smooth Rider, LLC to provide a minimum of two hundred (200) 20 oz. healthy fruit smoothies at a cost of $10.00 per smoothie via the Smooth Rider Smoothie Food Truck on May 7, 2026, during the Geauga County Employee Health and Wellness EXPO, for a total number of smoothies not to exceed four hundred (400) and a not to exceed amount of $4,000.00. This will be covered by the CEBCO Wellness Grant.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AGREEMENT – UBUNTU WELLNESS LLC

Ms. Erickson asked the Board to approve the agreement with Ubuntu Wellness for chair massages for employees during the County Employee Health and Wellness EXPO, adding that the cost is covered by the wellness grant funds.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Agreement with Ubuntu Wellness LLC to provide Two Chair Massage Stations on May 7, 2026, during the Geauga County Employee Health and Wellness EXPO at a cost of $120.00 per hour, per massage chair therapist for the total sum not to exceed $1,200.00. This will be covered by the CEBCO Wellness Grant.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – DISCUSS COUNTY PROPERTY – AUTUMN RIDGE DRIVE (PARCEL #21-703265) – EXECUTE CONSERVATION EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Ms. Bevan explained that the question came up as to why the Commissioners have this property. Looking at the deed, it looks like the property was given to the county. As part of the donation twenty years ago or so, the Board

was supposed to execute a conservation easement. Ms. Bevan noted that for whatever reason it did not happen and we are trying to make it right.

Soil and Water Conservation District Director Carmella Shale explained that the property was a donation, and the donation was done because the developer at the time that built the subdivision, as part of his U.S. Army Corps requirement for wetland impacts, he had to do some mitigation. To compensate for that mitigation, the Army Corps agreed to allow him to donate it to the county commissioners with the stipulation that it would be protected and have an easement on it. Ms. Shale stated the Army Corps looked at it as if it got split amongst private property owners, it's more likely to be impacted. And the east branch of the Chagrin runs through that property and connects to a lot of other protected properties down there, and once you put more property owners attached to it, it's more to monitor and ensure that it doesn't get impacted.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to discuss the county property of approximately 19.9199 acres situated on Autumn Ridge Drive (Permanent Parcel #21-703265) located in Munson Township and further approve and execute the Conservation Easement Agreement.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE PLACEMENT OF 'NO TRESPASSING' SIGNS – AUTUMN RIDGE DRIVE – MUNSON TOWNSHIP

Ms. Bevan explained that she had taken a field trip with Soil and Water to put eyes on the actual property and review the reports of trespassing that were occurring. Ms. Bevan attested that it was there, there are trails, adding that they had EMA use drones to fly over the parcel to confirm from an aerial standpoint. Ms. Bevan expressed that she had been in contact with the Sheriff's office to make them aware of the trespassing and now there is a conservation easement in place, putting signs up as an initial enforcement. Ms. Shale explained that they had gotten numerous calls about a lot of dirt bikes or 4-wheelers. Ms. Shale suggested a letter from the county commissioners to the adjacent property owners of that of the county property, to let them know, the county owns this property, and it isn't a public park.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the placement of "No Trespassing" signs, pursuant to O.R.C. 4519.48 and the Conservation Easement on Permanent Parcel #21-703265, approximately 19.9199 acres situated on Autumn Ridge Drive, located in Munson Township.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AUTHORIZE COUNTY PROSECUTOR, PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 25-170, TO EXECUTE AND SUBMIT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY – REMNANT DEFENDANTS' SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT – ONGOING NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the County Prosecutor, pursuant to Resolution #25-170 approved on August 28, 2025, to execute and submit on behalf of the County, the required documents to participate in the six (6) Remnant Defendants' Settlement Agreement (RDSA), as part of the ongoing National Prescription Opiate Litigation and the Prosecutor shall continue to have general, ongoing authority under the Resolution to execute any documents on behalf of the Board related to any opioid litigation involving the County.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – AMEND MOTION – SCHEDULE WORK SESSION – SPECIAL MEETING TO HOLD WORK SESSION -BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to amend the motion of April 7, 2026, that read: schedule a Work Session on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., to be held in the County Office Building, Room B303, Chardon, to now read: schedule a Special Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2026, to be held in the County Office Building, Room B303 that will include a Work Session with the Building Department.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Danko, Hambden Township, explained that she has been a resident of Geauga County for 37 years, and in all that time never worried so much about the direction this county was headed until the last couple of years. Ms. Danko expressed her feelings for several elected officials and that she felt they were tearing this county apart, and that residents need to remember the incident last year with the Dog Warden. Ms. Danko continued to express her frustration and feelings regarding representation at NOACA, and that she felt someone should resign.

John Coachi expressed his frustration and feeling of being run around about getting on the agenda to discuss airport business from the business community, pointing his frustration at a Commissioner and the displeasure about limiting public access and limiting free speech, also requesting a Board member to resign, and requesting again to be put on the agenda to discuss the importance of the airport to the community.

Mayor Bill Coons, South Russell Village, came to give the Board a compliment, that the Northeast Ohio Properties magazine has eight pages or so, showcasing the courthouse. Mr. Coons expressed that he was a big supporter of NOACA and at the Township Association meeting he spoke up about an area where they have people walking, biking and running alongside cars and have received funding from NOACA to put a path in to make it safer for them. Mr. Coons expressed that he had never been to a meeting, but that he has known Mr. Dvorak for many years, and what he had heard today was unbelievable. While everyone has a different point of view, he was glad Mr. Dvorak was running and wished him luck.

Newell Howard, South Russell Village, addressed Mr. Coons about the funding from NOACA and asked how much they received and where it was used. Mr. Coons noted that it had not yet been spent. Mr. Howard asked about a document about NOACA, who had come up with it, asking about the gas tax money and if anyone knows who has records on it and how much is coming back to Geauga County. Mr. Gorton noted that the funding received typically goes through the Engineers' Office, who pays their bills through the Auditor's Office like other departments and offices, who is audited by the state auditor. Mr. Howard asked when Grace Gallucci from NOACA was coming to Geauga County. There was a brief discussion about the elevators at the NOACA building, and it was noted that the elevators work if Mr. Howard would like to attend the next NOACA meeting.

Lake County Commissioner Morris Beverage explained that he has been a commissioner in Lake County for about sixteen months and when he started, he began looking into NOACA and how the money is spent. As a new commissioner who cares about finances, I cared about making sure that we were getting the most bang for our buck out of our participation in NOACA. I will say this: I think that the common ground that I don't dispute with some of the frustrations I've heard from all the commissioners, a lot of times, the restrictions and the issues that go on in NOACA are placed on us by the federal level. And a lot of times to get the money out of the federal government, gas taxes and all that stuff that comes in, unfortunately it goes through an MPO, it goes through an organization such as NOACA because of our representation and the population of NOACA. Lake County is like 10 or 11 percent of the overall regional population and then I'm not quite sure exactly what Geauga's is, but it's less than that. Mr. Beverage stated that all too often, as far as board votes go, you will see some things that disagree amongst the members. And as I said, a lot of the frustrations are with the federal government. There are

things that can be cleaned up at the federal level. I started looking into the opportunity of pulling out of NOACA and starting my own MPO, and what that would look like. Mr. Beverage stated that he will say this, I had a conversation at the U.S. Department of Transportation last year and raised this idea, why do I need to be an MPO? The takeaway was this: one, that MPOs are good for studies, getting studies done in this process and that if you're going to go to a project and go apply for millions of dollars, they want you to want to make sure you've done your homework. And two is advocacy. Well, I can do my own advocacy; I don't need help with that. But from a financial standpoint, I will say now. I'm one commissioner. I don't speak on behalf of the board here today, but the research that I did says that there would be no financial benefit to Lake County when it comes to partnering up with Geauga County. Geauga County has a less urbanized population than Lake County does, and we're less than Cuyahoga County. There are some benefits to being part of NOACA and such as allowing NOACA dollars to be used across Geauga County. Mr. Beverage said I know a lot of times the conversation and the frustrations with NOACA, I feel those; I experience those, but at this point, there is no interest in Lake County exploring the opportunity to start a new MPO.

Commissioner Spidalieri wanted Mr. Beverage to know his disappointment and disgust with him directly, pointing out his frustration that Mr. Beverage led the charge in changing NOACA's bylaws. Mr. Spidalieri felt he was probably the point of the tip to eliminate his ability to be represented at NOACA by what he put forward; instead, he should have used his energy and efforts to get our full board and our engineer represented. Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he hopes the climate changes in Lake County and that he gets put in the same position that he has been put in. Mr. Spidalieri added that you backdoored Geauga County and you backdoored me directly.

Mr. Beverage responded that there are different ways to look at the situation. He wanted to leave more control in Lake County over who we appointed and who represented Lake County at NOACA. He did what he felt was right for his county, and you will do what is right for your county.

Mr. Spidalieri expressed that he did not feel they were on the same playing field; he would support Lake County to get funding over Cuyahoga. Our strength is your strength, but you basically diminished it, even further for a vote where you've got representation with your engineer. Every county has representation there except for Geauga; we are the minority group of three, and your efforts should have been to push for us to have another member on that board.

A newspaper reporter asked all the commissioners including Mr. Beverage about any discussion about data centers, and if one is coming to Perry. Mr. Beverage responded that it was being talked about, and that he has no issues with data centers per se, if they are not polluting my water, but that project at this time and location, I am not in favor of.

There was discussion about power rates going up, and that Vistra energy just struck a deal with Meta, and that is great to have more money coming into energy generation, but there is an energy generation problem here in this state. Mr. Beverage expressed his frustration over the deal struck between Vistra and Meta that would allow Meta to take one hundred percent of the power coming out of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant starting in December of this year. Mr. Beverage said he didn't understand how if we have generation issues with power and electricity, taking an entire nuclear power plant off the grid benefits us as ratepayers in society. However, the hope is that then this money that comes in from that, it will allow Vistra to fast track, research and development of new energy generation. Unfortunately, I don't think that's going to happen anytime soon, right? And I don't think you can build an energy generation or a power plant as fast as you can at any center.

<u>COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – EXECUTIVE SESSION</u>

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

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

Commissioners' Journal
April 21, 2026

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m. with Ms. Bevan, Deputy County Administrator Mark Jimison, Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand, Chief Deputy Tom Rowan, Megan Erickson, Kathy Hostutler and Adrian Gorton. The Board returned at 10:54 a.m. and as a result, no action was taken.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a) Geauga County Airport Authority 2025 Annual Report

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Mon.,	4/20	Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building, Suite B168
Tue.,	4/21	Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District, Directors Meeting, 3:00 p.m. County Office Building, Room B168
Wed.,	4/22	Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room
Thu.,	4/23	The Commissioners will hold a Special Session at 9:00 a.m. that will include a Work Session with the Building Department
Tue.,	4/28	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Tue.,	5/5	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Tue.,	5/5	The Commissioners will hold 2027 Tax Budget Hearings 12:00 – 4:30 p.m., Room B303
Wed.,	5/6	Board of Revision, 12:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room
Tue.,	5/12	Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. County Office Building, Room A334, Chardon
Tue.,	5/12	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Tue.,	5/12	The Commissioners will hold 2027 Tax Budget Hearings 12:00 – 4:30 p.m., Room B303
Mon.,	5/18	Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. County Office Building
Tue.,	5/19	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Tue.,	5/19	The Commissioners will hold 2027 Tax Budget Hearings 12:00 – 4:30 p.m., Room B303
Mon.,	5/25	**The County Offices will be closed in honor of Memorial Day. Twenty-four Hour Operations will continue to operate as usual.**
Thu.	5/28	The Commissioners will hold session at 9:30 a.m.
Thu.,	5/28	The Commissioners will hold 2027 Tax Budget Hearings 12:00 – 4:30 p.m., Room B303

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

_____
James W. Dvorak

_____
Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

_____
Ralph Spidalieri

_____
Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK