Commissioners' Journal
April 28, 2026

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 28, 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 9:31 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:
Serving others
Father, allow me to serve others with a joyful heart.
Never keeping score. Always giving. Never expecting to receive.
Allow me to give of myself.
To give of my talents and of my goods.
To give of my time and of my energy.
To give of my heart and of my soul.
Help me understand the needs of others.
Allow me to serve others as you serve, with gentleness, compassion and tenderness.
Amen.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Newell Howard, South Russell Village, expressed that the Engineer's Office had items on the agenda involving money and asked where the money for these projects comes from.

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 23, 2026, and April 27, 2026:

April 23, 2026:
Maintenance
Approved hiring Aaron Chambers to the position of Maintenance Worker (#1904) at the rate of $20.46 per hour (Grade 6, Step 5) to be effective May 4, 2026, with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

April 27, 2026:
Maintenance
Rescinded the motion from April 23, 2026, that read: Approved hiring Aaron Chambers to the position of Maintenance Worker (#1904) at the rate of $20.46 per hour (Grade 6, Step 5) to be effective May 4, 2026, with a one-year probationary period. The offer of employment was not accepted.

Water Resources
Approved and executed the service Contract Agreement with Go Green Heating Air Conditioning dba Auburn Heating, Plumbing and Air Conditioning to perform the HVAC and Plumbing Maintenance Services including annual preventative maintenance, as needed at various Wastewater and Water District locations within the Department, for a one-year period, effective April 27, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $16,500.00 ($15,000.00 Wastewater, $5,500.00 Water District).

MEETING MINUTES
Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of December 9, 2025.

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 Appropriations Transfer to the Sheriff for miscellaneous refunds, reimbursements and web checks that were deposited into the General Fund; Cash transfer from the General Fund to Community Development for their second quarter 2026 operational commitment; Travel requests for the Auditor's Office, Common Pleas Court and Engineer's Office; Then and Now encumbrance for the Commissioners' Office to the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) for an insurance deductible from 2024 that was not previously encumbered; Purchase Order from Water Resources to acquire a new 2026 Dodge RAM 1500 Quad Cab truck as well as upfit it as an operations vehicle to replace a 2016 GMC Sierra that will either be traded it or auctioned whichever is more; a payment from the Auditor's ARPA fund to Shook Construction Company for payment related to the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project in the amount of $252,977.25; a payment from the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #33 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of $35,306.18, and a payment for the Engineer's Office to Bainbridge ($74,253.69), Chester ($83,493.91) Townships for their snow and ice control agreements from the 2025-2026 season in the amount of $157,747.60.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-060 itemizing the financials for the meeting of April 28, 2026.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION SERVICE AGENCY AGREEMENT – SEDGWICK CLAIMS MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INCORPORATED - UNEMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Benefits Specialist Megan Erickson presented the agreement with Sedgwick Claims Management for unemployment compensation services.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Unemployment Compensation Service Agency Agreement between Geauga County and Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Incorporated for unemployment services for the period May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, in the amount of $1,250.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – WORKERS' COMPENSATION SERVICE AGENCY AGREEMENT – SEDGEWICK CLAIMS MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INCORPORATED – WORKERS' COMPENSATION SERVICES

Ms. Erickson presented the agreement with Sedgwick Claims Management for workers' compensation services.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Workers' Compensation Service Agency Agreement between Geauga County and Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Incorporated for workers' compensation services for the period May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, in the amount of $9,500.00.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – COUNTY RISK SHARING AUTHORITY (CORSA) INSURANCE PROGRAM RENEWAL

Human Resources Administrator Kathy Hostutler, Sherry Barbosky, CIC, CRM, CORSA Underwriting Manager, and Scott Landis, Agent, Insured Partners, presented the Board with information to discuss the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) Insurance Program Renewal.

Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Brakey to accept and approve the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) Insurance Program Renewal for the period May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, and further authorize the payment of $577,843.00.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – GEAUGA HIGHWAY COMPANY – RESURFACING OF MESSENGER ROAD (SECTIONS B-C) AUBURN TOWNSHIP

Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar presented the Unit Price Contract with Geauga Highway Company for the resurfacing project on Messenger Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Unit Price Contract with 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.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – RONYAK PAVING, INCORPORATED – RESURFACING OF MUMFORD ROAD (SECTIONS E-F) TROY TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar presented the Unit Price Contract with Ronyak Paving, Incorporated for the resurfacing project on Mumford Road.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Unit Price Contract with 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.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – UNIT PRICE CONTRACT – FECHKO EXCAVATING, LLC – REPLACEMENT OF PETTIBONE ROAD BRIDGE – AUBURN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Hajjar presented the Unit Price Contract with Fechko Excavating, LLC for the replacement of the Pettibone Road Bridge.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Unit Price Contract with Fechko Excavating, LLC for the Replacement of the Pettibone Road Bridge (Structure #BR-0607-C-01.250-2026) in Auburn Township in the amount of $1,209,979.23.

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

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – RELEASE THIRTY-THREE PERCENT MAXIMUM LOAD LIMIT REDUCTION – COUNTY HIGHWAYS AND TOWNSHIP ROADS

Mr. Hajjar asked the Board to approve releasing the Maximum Load Limit reduction of thirty-three percent that had been put into place on County Highways and Township Roads.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to release the thirty-three percent (33%) maximum load limit reduction on all County Highways and Township Roads, in accordance with O.R.C. 5577.07, to be effective April 28, 2026.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES (OCJS) SUBGRANT AWARD AGREEMENT – STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAWA)

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand and Chief Deputy Tom Rowan presented the subaward grant agreement to the Board for the VAWA, Stop Violence Against Women grant.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Subgrant Award Agreement for Stop Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant #2023-WF-VA2-8214a for the period January 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026 in the amount of $35,606.51 (OCJS $26,704.88, Local County Match $8,901.63).

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – ADDENDUM TO THE FUEL CARD SERVICES AGREEMENT – WEX BANK AND SOURCEWELL FOR WEX FLEET CARDS – PURCHASING FUEL

Director Jessica Boalt requested an addendum to the Fuel Card Services Agreement with WEX Bank and Sourcewell to allow the Department to use WEX fleet cards for the purchase of fuel.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Addendum to the Fuel Card Services Agreement between WEX Bank and Sourcewell for WEX Fleet Cards for the purpose of purchasing fuel.

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE MERIT INCREASE – DUANE BIDLACK, FISCAL AND BUDGET OFFICER (#1035)

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve a merit increase for Duane Bidlack.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a Merit Increase for Duane Bidlack, Fiscal and Budget Officer (#1035) from $30.07 per hour (Grade 11, Step 6) to $30.89 per hour (Grade 11, Step 7) to be effective April 27, 2026 (Payroll #10).

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE MERIT INCREASE – SHAUN STRAND, CHORE AND HOME SAFETY COORDINATOR (#1032)

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve a merit increase for Shaun Strand.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a Merit Increase for Shaun Strand, Chore and Home Safety Coordinator (#1032) from $23.94 per hour (Grade 10, Step 1) to $24.83 per hour (Grade 10, Step 2), to be effective April 27, 2026 (Payroll #10).

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE MERIT INCREASE – CHRIS MACKAR, RECREATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANT (#1005)

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve a merit increase for Chris Mackar.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a Merit Increase for Chris Mackar, Recreation and Education Assistant (#1005) from $19.81 per hour (Grade 6, Step 4) to $20.46 per hour (Grade 6, Step 5), to be effective April 27, 2026 (Payroll #10).

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

DEPARTMENT ON AGING – APPROVE MERIT INCREASE – BETH OLIVERIO, INFORMATION AND REFERRAL ASSISTANT (#1017)

Ms. Boalt asked the Board to approve a merit increase for Beth Oliverio.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a Merit Increase for Beth Oliverio, Information and Referral Assistant (#1017) from $18.68 per hour (Grade 5, Step 5) to $19.23 per hour (Grade 5, Step 6) to be effective April 27, 2026 (Payroll #10).

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

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - APPROVE MERIT INCREASE – ELAINE MALKAMAKI, PROJECT MANAGER (#1411)

Director Gina Hofstetter asked the Board to approve a merit increase for Elaine Malkamaki.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve a Merit Increase for Elaine Malkamaki, Project Manager (#1411) from $27.36 per hour (Grade 11, Step 3) to $28.28 per hour (Grade 11, Step 4) to be effective April 27, 2026 (Payroll #10).

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

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES - RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 – FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

Director Craig Swenson, Social Services Supervisor Gina Schultz, and Recruitment Specialist Allie Hulsmann asked the Board to recognize May 2026 as Foster Care Awareness Month. Information was presented on statistics in Geauga County, the services that are provided, and upcoming events and activities planned during the month to raise awareness, including a 5K and 1-mile walk.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-061 Recognizing May 2026 as Foster Care Awareness Month.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Resolution: 26-061
Date: April 28, 2026

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 AS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, children and youth in foster care deserve safe, stable, and nurturing homes that support their well-being, growth, and long-term success; and

WHEREAS, foster parents, kinship caregivers, child welfare professionals, and community partners play an essential role in providing care, stability, and advocacy for young people experiencing out-of-home placement; and

WHEREAS, caregivers, including foster parents, kinship caregivers, and respite providers, play a vital and compassionate role in providing stability, comfort, and care to children experiencing challenging and uncertain circumstances, opening their homes and hearts, often with little notice, and demonstrating extraordinary commitment, patience, and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Foster Care Awareness Month provides an important opportunity to recognize the challenges faced by youth in foster care, highlight their resilience and strengths, and promote understanding of the need for supportive services and permanent connections; and

WHEREAS, raising community awareness encourages more individuals and organizations to learn about foster care, support foster families, and engage in efforts that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS, continued collaboration across public agencies, nonprofits, schools, community organizations, and individuals is vital to ensuring that every child and youth has the opportunity to thrive; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of County Commissioners recognize May 2026 as Foster Care Awareness 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.

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

<u>DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES - ADVERTISE POSITION – EQUIPMENT OPERATOR – WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS (#2353)</u>
Director Nicholas Gorris requested to advertise for the position of Equipment Operator – Water/Wastewater Systems, internally for five days then if needed to advertise externally, until the position can be filled.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Equipment Operator – Water/Wastewater Systems (#2353), internally for a period of five (5) working days. If there are no qualified candidates presently employed within the Department, this position will be advertised externally until the position is filled.

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

<u>COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - APPROVE AN INCREASE TO NUMBER OF POSITIONS – PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS / MEDIA SPECIALIST (#1333-1) TO TWO POSITIONS – APPROVE REVISED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – INCLUDE ADDITIONAL POSITION – ADVERTISE THE POSITION UNTIL FILLED</u>
Ms. Bevan requested that the Board allow her to increase the current number of positions for Part-Time Communications / Media Specialist, update the organizational chart and then advertise

for the additional position. This will allow the current Communications / Media Specialist to train the new hire.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve an increase to the number of positions of Part-time Communications / Media Specialist (#1333-1) from one to two positions, to be effective April 28, 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 Communications / Media Specialist (#1333-1) to be effective April 28, 2026.

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

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for the position of Part-time Communications / Media Specialist (#1333-1). This position will remain posted until the position is filled.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – 2026 CONTRACT – GREAT GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR
Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to approve the contract for the use of the Bicentennial Bell Building during the Fair.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 2026 Contract for the Great Geauga County Fair, during the period September 3, 2026, through September 7, 2026.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – SCHEDULE SPECIAL MEETING - WORK SESSION – THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026, AT 9:30 A.M.
Ms. Bevan asked the Board to schedule a special meeting to hold a work session to discuss facilities, including discussion of the 470 Center Street complex, the Opera House and the old Courthouse.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to schedule a Special Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026, that will include a Work Session to be held in the County Office Building, Room B303.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION
Ohio State Highway Patrol
The Post Commander for the Chardon Ohio State Highway Patrol Post requested to use county property to conduct a sobriety checkpoint. Ms. Bevan briefly explained that the Post is required to conduct sobriety checkpoints and work in conjunction with the Sheriff and Chardon Police Departments. The Post has to submit their plan to the Prosecutor, which they have done. Ms. Bevan asked if the Board wished to have something in writing or if a verbal approval was sufficient. A question of needing liability insurance was raised and Ms. Bevan noted that she would inquire about having the Board added to a certificate of liability insurance.

Commissioners' Journal
April 28, 2026

Upcoming Board Appointments – Public Library and Mental Health and Recovery Services
The Geauga County Public Library submitted a letter about their upcoming board appointment at the end of June and requested that the current board member be reappointed. The question was raised as to whether the Board wished to advertise and accept applications. It was noted that the Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services will also have four board positions coming open, but the application will need to be updated to reflect changes to that board's composition and criteria for those positions. The Board expressed a desire to do a press release and accept applications for both boards.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Douglas Lundblad, Hambden Township, explained that he wished to address Commissioner Brakey about her Facebook page and posts made regarding Steve Oliuc.

Newell Howard, South Russell Village attempted to make a second public comment, but it was noted that he spoke during the first comment period and could not speak a second time according to the Board's public comment policy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending April 15, 2026, and April 22, 2026, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

b) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Board meeting minutes, March 18, 2026

OTHER
The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

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 10:47 a.m.

Geauga County Board of Commissioners

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James W. Dvorak

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Carolyn Brakey, Esq.

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Ralph Spidalieri

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Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk

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