Commissioners' Journal
April 7, 2026

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on April 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Judge's Courtroom, 2nd floor of the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion located at 100 Short Court Street, 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 10:00 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:
It gives me pleasure to be here today for this ribbon cutting ceremony on our courthouse expansion. Geauga County is where history meets the future.
Years ago, to start a building project, the builder would start with a cornerstone. Nowadays, it's groundbreaking ceremonies. Let's pause with prayer about the cornerstones on this new stone laid with prayer, let thy church rise strong and fair.

Ever Lord, Thy name be known where we lay this cornerstone.
May thy spirit here to rest, to hear by sin, oppressed and the seeds of truth sown, where they lay this cornerstone.
Be wise master builder squared here by living stones prepared for the temple near thy throne, Jesus Christ our cornerstone.
Dear Lord, watch over our construction project and keep the skilled tradespeople safe and sound. Amen.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No one in attendance wished to comment on any items on the agenda.

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

Ms. Bevan explained that the County Administrator approved the following items on April 6, 2026:

Department on Aging:
Approved an unpaid personal leave of absence for Ronda Rwyer, Information and Referral Assistant, for four (4) hours on Friday, April 3, 2026. This will extend her probationary period by four (4) hours.

Approved unpaid personal leave of absence for Jason Nelson, Maintenance Coordinator, for four (4) hours on Friday, April 3, 2026. This will extend his probationary period by four (4) hours.

Approved the promotion of Sandi Strichko to the position of Full-time Assistant Transportation Coordinator (#1042) to be effective April 13, 2026, at the rate of $20.90 per hour (Grade 8, Step 1) with a one-hundred-eighty-day probationary period.

Dog Warden:
Acknowledge that on March 17, had approved hiring Mary Beth Lewis to the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607-1) to be effective March 23, 2026, at the rate of $15.89 per hour (Grade 4, Step 3) with a one-year probationary period. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions.

Rescinded the motion from March 17, 2026, to approve hiring Mary Beth Lewis to the position of Part-time Shelter Attendant (#1607-1), for failure to successfully complete the required pre-employment conditions, to be effective March 24, 2026.

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APPROVE FINANCIALS

Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including a Cash transfer from the General Fund to Public Assistance for our April – June 2026 mandated share; Cash transfer from the Commissioners to the Computer Equipment Improvements fund for the budgeted 2026 expenses; Travel requests for the Common Pleas Court, County Engineer's Office, and Public Defender; a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Ravenwood Mental Health Center for 2nd Quarter 2026 Youth Center Operations in the amount of $104,105.00; and a payment for the Commissioners' Office to Infinity Construction Company for pay request #31 and #32 of the Courthouse Expansion Project in the amount of $567,527.50.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-048 itemizing the financials for the meeting of April 7, 2026.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – 2027 TAX BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE

Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve the 2027 tax budget hearing schedule. Commissioner Brakey pointed out that May 5 is Election Day, and we do have a Commissioner on the ballot, and just want to confirm we would still have a quorum. Mr. Dvorak said that if he had to leave, there would still be Commissioners present.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve the 2027 Tax Budget Hearing Schedule, with hearings scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 5, 2026, May 12, 2026, May 19, 2026, and on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Soil & Water
1:05 – 1:35 p.m.	Water Resources
1:40 – 2:10 p.m.	Airport Authority
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Building Department
2:50 – 3:20 p.m.	County Engineer
3:25 – 3:55 p.m.	Coroner
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Mental Health

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Board of DD
1:05 – 1:35 p.m.	Prosecutor
1:40 – 1:55 p.m.	Veterans
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Recorder
2:20 – 2:35 p.m.	Public Defender
2:40 – 2:55 p.m.	Emergency Management
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Law Library
3:20 – 3:40 p.m.	Dog Warden
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Clerk of Courts
4:05 – 4:30 p.m.	Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

12:30 – 1:20 p.m.	Job and Family Services
1:25 – 1:55 p.m.	Board of Elections
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Maintenance
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Maintenance Projects
3:05 – 3:20 p.m.	Municipal Court
3:25 – 3:55 p.m.	Common Pleas / Court Technology
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	Ohio State University
4:20 – 4:35 p.m.	Juvenile / Probate Court

Thursday, May 28, 2026

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Community & Economic Development
1:05 – 2:10 p.m.	Auditor / ADP
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Aging
2:50 – 3:35 p.m.	Sheriff
3:40 – 3:55 p.m.	Treasurer
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Commissioners

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – 3RD AMENDMENT – AGREEMENT WITH ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – HOUSING OF PRISONERS AT THE GEAUGA COUNTY SAFETY CENTER

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand explained that this was an amendment to extend the Agreement with Ashtabula County to continue housing prisoners. This amendment begins April 1 and will remain in effect until the end of the year. Sheriff Hildenbrand stated that Ashtabula County was in the process of building a newer jail, but it will take a couple of years to complete, so we are helping them out and in the process Geauga County makes a little revenue. There was discussion about whether they had broken ground, to which it was noted no, that it would be a few years before it will be complete, noting that they recently purchased some additional property to extend parking during the project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the 3rd Amendment to Agreement by and between the Ashtabula County Commissioners and the Geauga County Commissioners to keep, board and maintain prisoners from Ashtabula County in the Geauga County Safety Center for the period April 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed $230,000.00, including reasonable and necessary medical and mental health expenses, with all other terms and conditions of the original agreement remaining in full force and effect.

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

MAINTENANCE – ADVERTISE FOR BIDS – GEAUGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX MASONRY RESTORATION AND ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Program Manager Charles Tkach asked the Board for permission to advertise for bids for the Courthouse Annex Masonry Restoration and Roof Replacement project.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to grant permission to advertise for Bids for the Geauga County Courthouse Annex Masonry Restoration and Roof Replacement Project to be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Notice of this Bid Opening will be advertised on April 10, 2026, April 17, 2026, and on the county website.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES – OPIOID SETTLEMENT GRANT CYCLE 1 FUNDING

Christine Lakomiak, Executive Director of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services explained that per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the Prosecutor, a Request for Proposals would go to help disburse the Opioid Settlement funds. Ms. Lakomiak wanted to clarify that these funds are from taxpayers, but rather they are funds received through the State of Ohio Opioid settlement. The Board agreed to provide up to $100,000 in settlement funds for services that qualify. Ms. Lakomiak stated that they received six proposals that in total are over $189,000. A scoring rubric was provided for each of the programs. Commissioner Brakey stated that four of the six proposals were recommended for funding, and asked Ms. Lakomiak to provide a brief overview of the proposals.

Ms. Lakomiak explained the projects. Red Tulip proposed transportation services to help with peer support and with getting individuals to treatment. Chardon Municipal Court proposed a

case management / liaison position to help with identified gaps. The Fairmount Center for the Arts proposed to help support first responders through an art therapy program. Lake Geauga Recovery Center has secured $300,000 for a recovery house in the county but still needs an additional $50,000 to purchase the home. Mr. Dvorak noted that the $300,000 came from the Region 13 One Ohio Foundation, that includes Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga and Portage counties. Mr. Dvorak stated that Ms. Lakomiak and he sit on the Board representing Geauga County, along with Sheriff Hildenbrand. Currently there are five recovery houses in Lake County and two in Geauga County.

Ms. Brakey expressed hesitation regarding the Lake Geauga Recovery Center proposal, stating that she requested the location of the new recovery house and learned it would be at 400 North Street in Chardon. The proposed home is across the street from St. Mary's Church and School. She asked whether nearby residents or parents of students at St. Mary's School had been informed of the proposed recovery house and, if so, whether they had an opportunity to provide input.

Ms. Brakey emphasized that she was not suggesting that the proposed recovery house posed a threat to the surrounding area and acknowledged that there may be a need for additional recovery houses in the community. Her concern was whether appropriate notice and outreach had occurred given the residential location and its proximity to the school. Ms. Brakey stated that she would like additional information about those issues before moving forward to fund the proposal, adding that she was comfortable with the other three proposals.

There was a brief discussion about the recovery house being level 1 or 2, or rather just being certified as a recovery house. Ms. Lakomiak noted that the house was purchased from St. Mary's.

Ms. Brakey made a motion to approve the proposals from the Red Tulip Project, the Chardon Municipal Court and Fairmount Center for the Arts for a total of $77,000.

Mr. Dvorak stated that adding $50,000 to the $300,000 is a wise choice, adding that we need as many recovery houses as we can, and that the Prosecutor along with others around that state have been working on these settlement funds, and feel strongly that they need to vote on this today or at the next meeting. Ms. Brakey added that she wanted to make sure that the community is in favor of and welcoming this recovery house before we vote to subsidize it.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to select and approve the proposals for Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Cycle 1 from Red Tulip, Chardon Municipal Court and the Fairmount Center for a total award amount of $77,000.00.

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

<u>COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION #26-049 THIRD AMENDMENT – APPROVE USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS – YEAR 2026 – INCLUDE REMOVAL AND ADDITION OF USERS – COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES</u>

Clerk Christine Blair asked the Board to approve the third amendment to the use of county credit cards for the year 2026, that includes adding and removing users for the County Engineer's Office and the Department of Job and Family Services.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-049 Third Amendment, Approving the Use of County Credit Cards for Year 2026 for Agencies and Cardholders to include the Removal and Addition of Users for the County Engineer's Office and the Department of Job and Family Services, pursuant to O.R.C. 301.27.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: April 7, 2026
Resolution: #26-049

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THIRD AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARDS FOR THE YEAR 2026 FOR AGENCIES AND CARDHOLDERS TO INCLUDE THE REMOVAL AND ADDITION OF USERS FOR THE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES, PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 301.27

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners in Resolutions #26-004, #26-006 and #26-032, approved the applications for the use of County Credit Cards submitted by the following Agencies for the Year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Agencies included in the Resolutions are the Auditor's Office, including ADP, Common Pleas Court, including the Drug Court, Court IT and Probation; Clerk of Courts; County Engineer's Office; and Board of Commissioners for the Offices including, Department on Aging, Building Department, Commissioners, Community and Economic Development, Job and Family Services, Maintenance Department, and the Department of Water Resources; and

WHEREAS, by this third amendment the Board desires to further amend the Resolution to include the removal and addition of users for the County Engineer's Office (Geauga Credit Union Visa) and the Department of Job and Family Services (Wright Express); and

WHEREAS, the Board, pursuant to O.R.C. 301.27, requires those Agencies at the beginning of each quarter to submit estimates of work-related expenses expected to be purchased using the credit card along with the specific appropriation line items from which those expenditures will be made; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners approves the Third Amendment for the Use of County Credit Cards for Year 2026 by those Agencies that have submitted their credit card request applications along with card limits, daily spending per card, monthly spending per card, single transactions limits, daily number of transactions per card, monthly number of transactions per card and the designation of whether the credit card(s) will be issued in the Agency's name or in the name of a specified cardholder, as amended and designated in Exhibit A, attached; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that those Agencies are further required to submit to the Auditor's Office and the Board of Commissioners' Office the forms set forth in the Credit Card Policy for each employee or officer authorized to use a credit card.

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

Exhibit A - Credit Cards Year 2026 – Third Amendment

The Credit Cards shall be issued in the name of the employees or officers listed below under the Agencies/Offices of the appointing authorities or if no employees or officers are designated, in the name of the Agency/office of the appointing authority listed:

AUDITOR / ADP
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Auditors ADP
Account #[redacted]-0125
Card Limit - $5,000.00
Daily Spending Limit - $5,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit - $5,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $5,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit
Monthly Transaction Limit

Charles E. Walder
Pam McMahan
Frank Antenucci

COMMON PLEAS COURT
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Common Pleas Court
Account #[redacted]-9548
Card Limit - $6,000.00
Daily Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $2,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit per card - 6
Monthly Transaction Limit per card 2

Judge Carolyn Paschke
Judge Matthew Rambo
Dave Lubecky
Randy Taylor
Barbara Powell
Kevin Starrett
Karen Lee
Andrea Hathaway

COMMON PLEAS COURT – DRUG COURT
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Common Pleas – Drug Court
Account #[redacted]-7916
Card Limit - $6,000.00
Daily Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Single Transaction Limit per card - $2,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit per card - 6
Monthly Transaction Limit per card – 2

Maureen Maruna
Greg Potts

COMMON PLEAS COURT – COURT IT
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Common Pleas – Court IT
Account #[redacted]-3603
Card Limit - $6,000.00
Daily Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $2,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit per card - 6
Monthly Transaction Limit per card – 20

Velta Moisio
Jeff Maze

COMMON PLEAS COURT – PROBATION DEPARTMENT
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Common Pleas Court – Probation Department
Account #[redacted]-9453
Card Limit - $6,000.00
Daily Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit per card - $2,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $2,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit per card - 6
Monthly Transaction Limit per card – 2

Nicole Walker
Danielle Bokar
Matthew Zupancic

CLERK OF COURTS
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Clerk of Courts
Account #[redacted]-1626
Limit - $1,000.00 per month

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Sheila M. Bevington

COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to County Engineer's
Account #[redacted]-7830
Card Limit - $15,000.00
Daily Spending Limit - $5,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit - $15,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $5,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit - 10
Monthly Transaction Limit - 25

Andrew Haupt
Steven Yaney
Traci Salkiewicz
Shane Hajjar
Jacob Scotese
Brittany Randles
Nicholas Lowery
Joe Rini
Aubrey Baker
Thomas Goodridge
Lee Thomas
Rick Carlson
Tim Woodcock
Nick Goodrich
Kelly Baeslach
Tom Ross
Jake Schuenaman
Elijah Haller
Anthony Tirabassi

Giant Eagle / PNC Bank Visa – Issued to County Engineer's
Account #[redacted]-7461
Limit - $1,000.00 per month
Steven Yaney
Traci Salkiewicz
Aubrey Baker
Brittany Randles
Nicholas Lowery
Andrew Haupt
Kelly Baeslach

Home Depot Commercial Account
Account #[redacted]7611
Limit - $5,000.00 per month
Joseph Rini Jr. #00038
Matthew Carver #00036
Keith Delfs #00011

Centerra Fuel Card Account - Limit $5,000.00 per month

Andrew Haupt - #6049	Luke Horwatt - #6022	Evan Miner - #6031
Brent Buell – #6014	Jerad Howes - #6023	Connor Packard - #6033
Matthew Carver - #6016	Corey Keeney - #6025	Ronald Quercioli - #6034
Brent Eldred - #6018	Brian Kingure - #6027	Joseph Rini - #6035
Eric Hawk - #6021	Jonathan Kreuz - #6028	Steven Sabol - #6036
Kevin Shea - #6038	Christopher Villers - #6041	Richard Carlson #6015
Ross McKinstry #6050	Thomas Ross #6046	Tyler Schubert #6037
Leland Thomas #6040	Nicholas Goodrich #6048	

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
First National Bank Visa – (21 cards) [redacted]-7015
(8 assigned cards – rest are shared – signed out)
Total Credit Limit $20,000.00
No limits on transactions – daily /weekly / monthly
Wright Express (82 cards) [redacted]-5 (sub card account numbers)
Home Depot (3 cards) [redacted]-0003, 0004, 0005
(shared cards – signed out for use)
Centerra – 1078085 (shared cards – signed out for use)

First National Bank – assigned cards
Scott Hildenbrand (7064)
Thomas Rowan (7747)
Gary Gribbons (355)
James Jonovich (3267)

David Shaffer (1486)
Donald Seamon (1494)
Matthew Bosworth (1683)
Gregory Bordon (3259)

First National Bank and (Wright Express - #)

Robert Altemus (7163-2)
Christopher Anderson (7141-8)
Heather Anderson
Nichole Ansell
Matthew Baldwin (7162-4)
Brian Banville
Eric Bartholomew
James Bartlett
Thomas Berigan (7165-7)
Christina Bevington
Jonathon Bilicic (7181-4)
William Boehnlein
Gregory Borden (7172-3)
Sarah Boslett (7184-8)
Matthew Bosworth (7138-4)
Matthew Brickman (7164-0)
Charles Brown
Ella Burge
Scott Capron
Carmen Centrickio
Isaiah Charlton (7176-4)
Julie Christian
Philip Cleveland
John Copen (7199-6)
James Corely
Paul Cox
Melissa Cree
Bryan Dawson (7156-6)
Andrew Day (7195-4)
Steven Deardowski (7169-9)
Justin Decavitch
James G Dhayer
Nathan Dhayer (7186-3)
Joshua East (7158-2)
Heather Eskridge
Justin Falcone (7132-7)
Matthew Farrar (7709-1)
Travis Fasko
Rachel Felt
Jennifer Fry
John Fudella (7704-2)
Nicholas Gaeta
Jennifer Gamiere (7707-5)
Jesse Gandolf
Tracey Georskey
Kason Greenwood
Gary Gribbons (4395-1)
William Haines
Jennifer Hanas
Sharon Harless (7146-7)
Jason Heller
James Hildebrand Jr. (7167-3)
Scott Hildenbrand (7189-7)
Christopher Holt (7137-6)
Andrew Humar (7142-6)
Zachary Hupp
Daniel Itschner
Barbara Jeschelnig
Amanda Jonovich (7160-8)
James Jonovich (5798-8)
Tracy Jordan (7150-9)
James Kailburn (5113-3)
Rebecca Klein
Erin Knife
Gary Kracker
Christina Lamtman
Brian Leonard
David Loomis
Jonathan LoPresti (7149-1)
Lillian Macek
Allison Malchow
Michelle Malliski
Daniel Martin (6706-4)
Jessica Martin
Andrew Maryash
Cassandra Matejka
Sandra McBride
Thomas McLaughlin (7191-3)
Casey Merrill
Melissa Metz
Joshua Mikolajski (7139-2)
Eric Miller (7147-5)
Erinne Musacchio (7197-0)
Timothy Oboczky
Christina Obrien
Erica O'Neill
James Ours (5801-0)
Matthew Paul
Eric Pavlick (6704-9)
David Peterson
Diane Peterson
Brian Phan (7153-3)
Eric Phillips
Tammy Phillips
Paul Polverine (7161-6)
Vincent Polverine
Richard Potter
Randal Primer (7157-4)
Austin Quigley (7196-2)
Terrance Radcliffe (7183-0)
Robert Ramirez
Joseph Ray (5114-1)
Michael Reid (7130-1)
Carolyn Rhodes
Benjamin Rhodes
Trevon Richardson (7193-9)
Thomas Rowan (7188-9)
Michael Santilli (7131-9)
Lisa Sayre
Michael Scarnienchi
Donald Seamon (7177-2)
David Shaffer (7173-1)
Joshua Shimko
Russell Shultz

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Cody Smith (7174-9)
Matthew Smith
Francisco Tapia
Ryan Taylor
Robert Tropf (7168-1)
Jaclyn Tryon
Timothy Vecchio (7140-0)
Joshua Wendl (7135-0)
Grant Winney
Erik Wright (7708-3)
Jacob Smith (7154-1)
Courtney Speck
Robin Taylor (7159-0)
Christine Tosti
Christopher Tryon
Scott Tyler
Donald Walker (5797-0)
Michael Wilson (7151-7)
Gretchen Wolfe
Jeffrey Raymond (7166-5)
(Coroner – 3082-4)
(New Employees - 5800-2, 6707-2, 7136-8, 7145-9, 7148-3, 7152-5, 7155-8, 7170-7, 7171-5, 7175-6, 7178-0, 7185-5, 7192-1, 7198-8)
(Pool – 6873-7, 7133-5, 7143-4, 7180-6, 7190-5, 7194-7, 7705-9, 7710-9, 7711-7)
(Blank – 7187-1)
Board of Commissioners for the Offices of:

Department on Aging
PNC Giant Eagle Visa (3 Accounts – 3 cards) – Chardon, Middlefield, GCOB - [redacted]-4770, West Geauga – [redacted]-4812, and Bainbridge – [redacted]-8030
Issued in the name of Department on Aging
Card Limit $3,000.00 / month – per account
Daily Spending $1,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $500.00
Daily Number of Transaction – 2
Monthly Number of Transactions – 10

Marc's (Marc Glassman) – in house account limit $2,000.00 - monthly

Centerra (Fuel Card)- account – limit $3,000.00 / month (for 22 cards)
Daily Number of Transactions – 4 per card
Monthly Number of Transactions – 60 per card

Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Department on Aging
Account - [redacted]-1516
(5 cards, Numbered 11, 12, 13,14 and 15)
Card Limit $15,000.00 / Month
Cards #12, 13, 14, 15
Monthly credit limit - $1500.00 Each Card (4 cards x $1500.00 each =$6000.00)
Single Transaction Limit - $300.00
Daily Transaction Limit - 2 transactions per day
Monthly Transaction Limit - 8 total monthly – not to exceed a total of $1500.00 per card
Card #11
Monthly credit limit $9000.00
Single transaction $3000.00 - 2 transactions per day
Monthly Transaction Limit - 8 total monthly - not to exceed the monthly total of $9000.00

PNC Giant Eagle
Card ending #4770
Duane Bidlack
Deana Catucci
Hannah Heinz
Chris Mackar
Becky O'Reilly
Karen Stone
Jessica Boalt
Nathan Gorton
Virginia Lester
Jeanne Molzon
Ellie Rickard
Melissa Wheeler
Card ending #4812
Christine Bacon
Vicki Zanella
Cathie Wells
Card ending #8030
Keri Skrtic
Matthew Samardge

Marc Glassman / Marcs
Christine Bacon
Duane Bidlack
Jessica Boalt

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Deana Catucci	Nathan Gorton	Hannah Heinz
Michelle Warren Hering	Virginia Lester	Chris Mackar
Jeanne Molzon	Becky O'Reilly	Ellie Rickard
Keri Skrtic	Karen Stone	Bonnie Tayek
Cathie Wells	Melissa Wheeler	Vicki Zanella
Matthew Samardge		

Centerra - Account has 22 cards issued in the Department on Aging
[redacted]6001, 6002, 6003, 6005, 6006, 6007, 6008, 6009, 6010, 6011, 6012, 6013, 6014, 6015, 6016, 6017, 6018, 6019, 6032, 6033, 6034, 6035
Cards are per vehicle, not per person, with approved users as follows

Christine Bacon	Kristen Bibby	Duane Bidlack
Jessica Boalt	Rudy Breunig	Josh Burton
Nathan Gorton	Hannah Heinz	Michelle Warren Hering
Virgina Lester	Michael Niles	Becky O'Reilly

Bill Phillips	Ellie Rickard	Elizabeth Sanders
Keri Skrtic	Karen Stone	Shaun Strand
Sandi Strichko	Jeff Thomas	Melissa Wheeler
Kim Yonosik	Vicki Zanella	Matthew Samardge
Chris Mackar	Jason Nelson	

Geauga Credit Union Visa
Card #11

Duane Bidlack	Jessica Boalt	Rudy Breunig
Josh Burton	Jason Nelson	Karen Stone
Melissa Wheeler	Michelle Warren Hering	

Card #12
Rebecca O'Reilly — Ellie Rickard
Card #13
Hannah Heinz
Card #14
Keri Skrtic
Card #15
Christine Bacon — Vicki Zanella

Building Department
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Building
Account #[redacted]-9638
Card Limit $3,000.00
Daily Spending - $3,000.00
Monthly Spending - $3,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $3,000.00
Daily Transaction Limit – 10
Monthly Transaction Limit - 20

Dan Spada
Mike Davet
Doreen Eppich

Staples Account
Account #[redacted]0537
Office Supplies

Dan Spada
Mike Davet
Doreen Eppich

Commissioner's Office
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Board of Commissioners
Account #[redacted]-8127
Card limit - $4,000.00
Daily Spending Limit - $4,000.00
Monthly Spending Limit - $4,000.00

Single Transaction Limit - $4,000.00
Daily Number Transactions – 10
Monthly Number Transactions - 50

Geauga Credit Union Visa

James W. Dvorak	Carolyn Brakey	Ralph Spidalieri	Amy Bevan
Christine Blair	Mark Jimison	Kathy Hostutler	Megan Erickson
Deborah Ashburn	Adrian Gorton	Kerry Barson	

Board of Commissioners for the Community & Economic Development
Geauga Credit Union Visa – Issued to Community & Economic Development
Account #[redacted]-7431
Card Limit - $1,500.00
Daily Spending - $1,000.00
Monthly Spending - $1,500.00
Single Transaction Limit - $1,000.00
Daily Number Transactions – 5
Monthly Number Transactions - 20

Gina Hofstetter
Elaine Malkamaki

Board of Commissioners for the Department of Job and Family Services

Geauga Credit Union Visa	$7,500.00 / month
Account #[redacted]-7251	
PNC Giant Eagle Visa	$1,000.00 / month
Account #[redacted]-5912	
Wright Express (WEX) Fleet	$5,000.00 / month
Account #[redacted]-5	

Single Transaction Limit - $1,000.00
Daily Limit - $2,420.00

Geauga Credit Union Visa

Misty Gotham	Gina Gubanyor (Schultz)	John Kravetz
Lisa Milgate	Paul Reiman	Alyssa Steinhoff
Craig Swenson		

PNC Giant Eagle
Rachael Brown (Tetlow)
Lisa DiFini
Brook Dowling (Bourdeau)
Amy Fazi (Buresch)
Misty Gotham
Gina Gubanyor (Schultz)
John Kravetz
Cassandra Kuharik
Cheryl Morgan
Alyssa Steinhoff
Kelly Thurling

Wright Express (WEX) Fleet

Leslie Abbuhl	Heidi Abrams	Lori Babik	Jillian Barath
Dawn Bates	Kelly Bidlack	James Blazey	Matthew Blevens
Scott Christopher	Michelle Cmunt	Haley Cruikshank	Shaina Brown
Marleen DeMarco	Brooke Dowling (Bourdeau)		Amy Fazi (Buresch)
Todd Foreman	Alyssa Forman	Misty Gotham	Gina Gubanyor (Schultz)
Ashley Higgenbotham		Allie Hulsmann	Molly Johnson
Tim Kehres	Alex Koppel	John Kravetz	Cassandra Kuharik
Melanie Lacy (Becker)		Pauline Loveland	Sydney Creamer
Camryn Lutz	Kylie McCann	Heather McGhee	Peter Medved
Lisa Milgate	Jodi Miller	Kristina Miller	Casey Mills
Cheryl Morgan	Faith Peters	Amy Piotrowski	Caryn Radcliff
Paul Reiman	John Roberts	Robin Schwed	Patricia Spisak

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Alyssa Steinhoff	Craig Swenson	Josephine Thomsen	Kelly Thurling
Amy Tressler	James Zock	Colleen Simpson	Natalie Cavolo (Roncagli)
Matt Cebron	Kelly Cinadr (Conroy)		Lauren Clark (Rakocy)
Meighan Griffin	Julie Seline (Dwyer)	Tracy Sindelar (Olszowy)	

Board of Commissioners for the Maintenance Department
Home Depot (Commercial) – Issued to Board of Commissioners / Maintenance
Account #[redacted]1456
Card Limit – $12,500.00
Daily Spending Per Card – Not to exceed monthly limit
Single Transaction Limit – Not to exceed monthly limit
Daily Number of Transactions – 10 per card
Monthly Number of Transactions – 50 per card
Monthly Spending Per Card -

Rob Weigle	#00041	$5,000.00
Rik Wareham	#00009	$5,000.00
Richard Cox	#00039	$1,000.00
Ken Kovach	#00020	$1,000.00
Connor Loza	#00028	$1,000.00
John Ludlow	#00024	$1,000.00
Paul Ovark	#00038	$1,000.00
Jason Nelson (Aging)	#00040	$1,000.00
Shaun Strand (Aging)	#00037	$1,000.00
Josh Burton (Aging)	#00019	$1,000.00

Board of Commissioners for the Department of Water Resources
Geauga Credit Union Visa (1 card)
Account #[redacted]8232
Issued to Department of Water Resources
Card limit - $5,000.00
Daily Spending per card - $5,000.00
Monthly Spending per card - $5,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $5,000.00
Daily Number Transactions – 10
Monthly Number Transactions – 50

Nicholas J. Gorris, P.E.
David Osborn II
Kathleen Miller
Linda Paranish

Home Depot (Commercial) (7 cards)
Account #[redacted]1328
Card Limit - $3,900.00
Daily Spending per card - $3,900.00
Monthly Spending per card - $3,900.00
Single Transaction Limit - $3,900.00
Daily Number Transactions – 10
Monthly Number Transactions – 50

Nicholas J. Gorris, P.E. #00015
David Osborn II #00006
Ray Farinacci #00007
Dana Maruna #00011
Brian Cain #00013
Shawn Maruna #00012
Robert Carter #00016

Tractor Supply Company – Business Account
Account #[redacted]8125
Card Limit - $4,000.00
Daily Spending - $4,000.00

Monthly Spending - $4,000.00
Single Transaction Limit - $4,000.00
Daily Number Transactions – 10
Monthly Number Transactions – 50
Ray Farinacci

Ms. Blair asked the Board to approve the applications for authorization for the use of county credit cards form for the year 2026, that includes the County Engineer's office and Department of Job and Family Services to include the additional users.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Applications for Authorization for the use of County Credit Cards forms for the Year 2026, per O.R.C. 301.27 for the County Engineer's Office and Department of Job and Family Services.

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

Ms. Blair asked the Board to approve the certification request to the County Auditor, to the Board of Commissioners for the quarterly use of the county credit cards for Job and Family Services to increase their quarterly advertising amounts.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute the Certification Request to County Auditor, Request to Board of Commissioners Quarterly Use of County Credit Cards, pursuant to O.R.C. 301.27 for the Year 2026 (Quarters 1 and 2) for the Department of Job and Family Services to increase the Geauga Credit Union Visa amount for advertising per quarter.

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

<u>COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – WAIVE 200-HOUR VACATION ACCRUAL MAXIMUM – MATT GRANITO, DOG WARDEN</u>
Ms. Bevan explained that Mr. Granito is consistently losing vacation time, and he would never ask for this himself, so I am asking on his behalf to waive the 200-hour maximum vacation accrual for six months. With the addition of staff, he will be able to have a little more time to use that vacation time.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to waive the 200-hour vacation accrual maximum for Matt Granito, Dog Warden beginning April 12, 2026 (Payroll #26-09) through October 24, 2026 (Payroll #26-22).

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

<u>COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – SCHEDULE WORK SESSION – THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026</u>
Ms. Bevan asked the Board to schedule a work session for April 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., with a focus on the 470 Center Street location, the entities that remain at that location, the potential and future of the old courthouse, in terms of who will be occupying that space, the renovations and start to break down the facilities into smaller chunks. Ms. Bevan added that they will be including those that could potentially have a place in the old courthouse to come and be in the audience. The meeting was originally planned to start at 10:00 a.m. and due to another meeting scheduled for that day at NOACA, the time was requested to start at 9:00 a.m. and keep it to an hour in length.

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to 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.

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 - NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-050 Recognizing April 2026 as National County Government Month.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: April 7, 2026
Resolution: 26-050

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties, serving more than 330 million Americans, provide essential services that support healthy, safe, and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, county governments fulfill a vast range of responsibilities, delivering services that touch nearly every aspect of residents' daily lives; and

WHEREAS, Geauga County is committed to protecting and enhancing the health, well-being, and safety of its residents through efficient, cost-effective, and responsive governance; and

WHEREAS, Geauga County, in coordination with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, encourages residents to engage with and better understand the vital services provided by county government; and

WHEREAS, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners recognizes and commends the dedication, professionalism, and public service of the county workforce, who deliver critical services to the people of Geauga County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners do hereby recognize April 2026 as National County Government Month.

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

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

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING OF THE GEAUGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri to approve and execute Resolution #26-051 Celebrating the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion.

Board of County Commissioners, Geauga County, Ohio

Date: April 7, 2026
Resolution: 26-051

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING OF
THE GEAUGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE EXPANSION

WHEREAS, in 1808, Geauga County began holding court in a one-room log cabin, which was later replaced by a brick structure in 1826, and subsequently repurposed as the

Chardon Library. In the early morning hours on July 25, 1868, a great fire—suspected to be arson—broke out and destroyed most of the buildings on Chardon Square; and

WHEREAS, by December of that year, Chardon began rebuilding, which included a new courthouse and jail, completed in 1870 as the fifth courthouse to serve Geauga County. This longstanding landmark is listed on the National Register of Historical Places and serves as an iconic backdrop for many events that take place on the square; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2023, the Geauga County Commissioners, alongside other county elected officials and the City of Chardon, broke ground on the Courthouse Expansion Project, estimated to cost approximately $21 million. This expansion doubles the size of the historic courthouse, enhances overall security, includes secure spaces for judges and inmates, and improves accessibility for individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, today, April 7, 2026, we celebrate the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion, marking improved functionality, accessibility, and efficiency of the Courthouse for the many generations who will walk through its brick and stone, working or doing business, for at least one hundred fifty years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Geauga County Board of Commissioners hereby honors and celebrates the grand opening of the new Geauga County Courthouse Expansion.

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

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



BOARD DISCUSSION

Session "on the road" concept

Ms. Bevan explained that she and Max Yost have been talking about a "session on the road" concept, to engage the public in a structured way. Mr. Yost explained that this was a way to increase accessibility of the Commissioners in Geauga County by holding session outside of the office building, looking at locations within the townships like the Parkman Community Center, and Town Halls, like in South Russell Village, Burton and Bainbridge Townships, to try and reach the corners of the county. Mr. Yost said that it would be more of a quarterly idea not to disrupt regular business, and looking at the calendar had a few dates in mind, looking at Thursdays in June and October and looking at holding it at 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. There was some discussion about the time of those meetings, and that daytime meetings make it hard for working residents to attend, as well as the Trustees work and that would make it hard for them to attend as well but also noting that evenings are also hard on the staff. Ms. Brakey added that she also wanted to make sure it could also continue to be livestreamed. This idea is a concept and can continue to be refined, just trying to find other ways to engage the public.

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PUBLIC COMMENT
No one in attendance had any public comment.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - RECESS
Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Spidalieri moved to recess the meeting at 10:30 a.m. until the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 11:30 a.m.

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

The Board reconvened at 11:30 a.m. at the West Side Main Entrance of the Courthouse for remarks and the ribbon cutting of the Courthouse Expansion project.

Mr. Yost thanked everyone for being here this morning for the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Mr. Yost wanted to acknowledge the partners.

Brett Bestgen, Infinity Construction, explained that after two years we are finally here, no more blocking roads, loud noises, weird smells and parking issues. On behalf of myself, Project Superintendent Joe Daugherty and Project Engineer Anthony Fantozzi, thank you for letting us work on this project. We are all residents of Geauga County and have got to work on an iconic and historic building in Geauga County. Thank you to the Judges, and all the court staff, this has been a long hard process for you during construction. You have been great partners through all this. It seemed like yesterday we were in the second-floor courtroom explaining what the addition was going to look like and how construction was going to be. Thank you to the City of Chardon, Police and Fire Departments, they were all great partners through all of this.

ThenDesign Architect Brad Gellert expressed that the goal from the beginning was to respect the past while serving the future. The 1870 Courthouse is a remarkable piece of Italianate architecture, and we worked hard to ensure this addition feels like a natural continuation of that legacy, not an interruption of it. We're proud that it creates a safer, more functional environment for the public and the dedicated staff who work here every day. Thank you to everyone who made this possible, including staff from his office.

Ribbon Cutters today include:
Brett Bestgen from Infinity Construction
Joe Daugherty from Infinity Construction
Brad Gellert, ThenDesign Architecture
Sheila Bevington, Geauga County Clerk of Courts
Jim Flaiz, Geauga County Prosecutor
Commissioner Carolyn Brakey
Commissioner Jim Dvorak
Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri
Former Common Pleas Court Judge David Ondrey
Common Pleas Court Judge Carolyn Paschke
Common Pleas Court Judge Matt Rambo
Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand
Chardon Fire Chief Justin Geiss



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COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE - RECESS

Motion: by Commissioner Brakey, seconded by Commissioner Dvorak moved to recess the meeting at 11:35 a.m. until the continuation of the ceremony and presentations at the Heritage House on the square.

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

The Board reconvened at 12:00 p.m. at the Heritage House, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Chardon High School Officers.

Mr. Dvorak thanked everyone for being here. This is a great day in Geauga County. He provided the following prayer:

Heavenly Father,
We come before you with hearts full of gratitude as we mark the completion of this project. Thank you, Lord, our provider, who has given us the resources, wisdom and strength to see this labor through to the end. We thank you for the safety and protection you provided to every tradesperson, keeping them from harm. We acknowledge that unless you build this courthouse expansion, we labor in vain. We are grateful for your hand over every detail from the foundation to the final stone.

We pray this building serves its purpose well. This new addition will be devoted to only one thing, for many years, and that is the pursuit of justice.
Lord, this is a big day, a historic day, a milestone of brick and stone. This building will be a building of service to the people and will show the sense of community and sense of pride.
By connecting the old building to the new, Geauga County is where history meets the future.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

This project will incorporate the latest requirements in sustainability, operational excellence, state of the art security and communication technology. We will have a lasting treasure.

In July 1868, a massive fire broke out in downtown Chardon, destroying the courthouse and almost every other building along Main Street. However, none of the important records were lost. Arson was suspected but never proven. I asked the late Judge Forest Burt about the fire, and he said he wasn't on that committee.

A moment of silence was held in honor of the late Judge Mary Jane Trapp.

Emily DeLaurio from Senator Jon Husted's Office presented a certificate on behalf of the Senator, honored to recognize the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the expansion of the Geauga County Courthouse. This expansion represents a major investment in the county's future. As the community grows, this project will enhance the functionality, accessibility and efficiency of the county's courthouse operations. Geauga County is dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive community where Ohio residents can live, work and thrive. This transformative project reflects on the county's ongoing commitment to strengthening and improving resources that support residents. Please accept my sincere congratulations on the Geauga County Courthouse Expansion project.

Congressman David Joyce, Ohio's 14th Congressional District, presented a proclamation and a flag that had been flown over the Capitol in honor of today for the Commissioners. Mr. Joyce explained that as he was driving this morning, he thought to himself that he should hear the John Denver song, it's good to be back home again, because this is home. Mr. Joyce explained that he spent 29 years working in the courthouse, four years as Public Defender and 25 years as a County Prosecutor. Geauga County has needed this building for a long time, so he commended the Commissioners for finally getting the job done. It's important for anyone who comes to this county and walks there, they understand that justice is being served inside that building. Mr. Joyce stated that it's important, as he would tell young prosecutors who would come work in the office, that they have to work very hard on the front end of the case because once somebody is indicted, they never get that day back in their life. They will always be that person who got indicted, so they had to make sure they did their work, working overtime, with law enforcement as Geauga County had a wonderful reputation, you started, processed, worked with jurors, that

are intelligent and listen intently to both the prosecution and the defense, and that there wasn't a day that he felt there wasn't a verdict that wasn't just, and that is something to be said for our community, and that building is one thing, something that shines like a beacon again to everyone in our community. That in our county: honesty, fairness and the rule of law stand for something. Thanks again to the Commissioners, thank you for having me here, God Bless you all and please say a prayer for America.

Senator Sandra O'Brien, District 32, thanked everyone for being here on this special occasion, explaining that she and her husband grew up here in Geauga county, graduating from Kenston High School, noting that Chardon has a special place in their hearts. Ms. O'Brien read the following commendation from the Senate:

On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 136th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to pay tribute to the Geauga County Courthouse on the occasion of the ribbon cutting for its completed expansion project, April 7, 2026. Recognition for this special event is fitting, for the Geauga County Courthouse is certain to continue to achieve a praiseworthy reputation for its design and functionality. This facility has been modernized, allowing for a more accessible and efficient space that can better serve its citizens, and clearly, great care and considerable resources have been invested in improving this historic building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Indeed, its ribbon cutting is a justifiable source of pride and a fine reflection on the entire community.

All those associated with the expansion of the Geauga County Courthouse are to be commended for their dedication to updating the structure while maintaining its character and legacy, and thanks to their support, this public facility can more effectively meet the needs of its employees and visitors. It is through the civic-minded approach of citizens such as these that Ohio continues to be an ideal state in which to live, and we applaud them on their tremendous efforts.

Thus, with sincere pleasure, we salute the Geauga County Courthouse for this memorable event and extend best wishes for the future.

Judge Matt Lynch, 11th District Court of Appeals, thanked everyone for being here. You recall that at the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God" and Judge Mary Jane Trapp was definitely one of those peacemakers. On the Appellate Court where we sit on panels of three judges, you usually need a peacemaker in the crowd, because getting three Judges to agree to anything is not always easy. Harry Truman said that he loved peace so much, that he was willing to fight for it. Mary Jane Trapp was also a fighter, for justice and for peace. So, it's appropriate that we dedicate this new courthouse in her name, and ask that you bow your head, and say a prayer for all.

Lord, we pray for all those that will work in this courthouse, the Sheriff and the Deputies, the Judges, the Clerks, the Administrative staff, yes and even the lawyers.
Lord, we ask you all to draw them towards peace and to become peacemakers. We ask you also to bless all those in the community that will come into this courthouse.
Lord, they come to the courthouse with broken promises, broken marriages, broken contracts, broken hearts and sometimes broken lives. And we know that, in the spirit of peace and justice, we ask that you give them a sense of joy and patience, and that their patience and joy be beyond all our understanding. And we ask these things in these blessings over this community in Jesus' precious name.
Amen

Judge Eugene Lucci from the 11th District Court of Appeals thanked the Commissioners. It's a privilege to stand in this square today. I've been reading about the history of this courthouse, and what strikes me most is not how much has changed, but how much hasn't. In July of 1868, a fire consumed this entire square: the courthouse, the jail and every building on Main Street gone. The Cleveland Plain Dealer reported it in a single devastating line: "The whole business portion of Chardon, including the courthouse and jail, were burned last night. The loss was enormous. The future of Chardon as a county seat was genuinely in doubt." And yet, within six months, a newspaper was describing Chardon as "rising from her ashes". A building committee had been formed. Funding had been secured, new blocks were rising from the ruins, and at the head of the square a new courthouse was taking shape. The one you see here today. The response tells you everything you need to know about this community. There is a word for what Chardon demonstrated in 1868 and has demonstrated again across more than two centuries: resilience.

Not the resilience of people who had easy choices, but of people who had no good options and chose the hard right path anyway. This expansion project required that same quality. It was not without controversy. Residents cared deeply about this square; historic preservation was not a talking point; it was genuine community value. The county took those concerns seriously. Went back to the same quarry used in the nineteenth century, matched the brick and the sandstone, and honored the Italianate lines that have defined this square for one hundred and fifty-six years. The result is a building that does not apologize for the past in order to embrace the future; it does both at once. From a log cabin in 1808 to this, the arc is long, but it bends always towards justice. And toward the stubborn pride of a community that refuses to let its institutions be less than its ideals. Congratulations Geauga County, you did it right.

Judge Lucci presented a resolution from the Judges of the Court of Appeals, including Judge Matt Lynch, Judge John J. Eklund, Judge Robert Patton, Judge Scott Lynch and himself.

Judge Scott Lynch, 11th District Court of Appeals, thanked everyone. Mr. Lynch stated that as he stands here back on Chardon Square today, I think most of the clearest feeling is just an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Judge Lynch explained that he was here today with his family, it was Easter break, so his four kids were able to come today for this occasion. Being here as the newest member on the 11th District Court of Appeals is just an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Chardon square in particular is a special place for me and my family. When his oldest, Archie, was just reaching school age, his wife Carrie and I decided to move our growing family and growing law practice to the City of Chardon. Building a lot of memories here as we were building our family. I am grateful to everyone from the city, the county and the state for making this possible, and for building a new courthouse right here on Chardon Square, and in Chardon, the seat of Geauga County. I want to specifically thank the three Commissioners, President Jim Dvorak, Carolyn Brakey and Ralph Spidalieri. Thank you for the invitation to speak today and a special acknowledgement to now retired Judge David Ondrey, to his successor in office Judge Matt Rambo and Judge Carolyn Paschke, congratulations.

Judge Lynch said a priest friend and mentor said he would rather officiate a funeral than a wedding, you appreciate life at both, but a funeral, there is a special understanding just how precious life is, and there's a lesson that there's always things, certainly death, that's outside of our control. When I think of this courthouse and what it represents, it's a serious place. It's important to public officials like us to be sure it's a fun day; it's a celebratory day. This courthouse means a very different thing to the average person of the public. When that person walks through the courthouse doors, it might be one of the most important days of their life. It might be one of the most difficult days of their life. A mother who's lost a child, a victim of crime, an addict still struggling to turn away from the sobering moment and the life-altering consequences at the courthouse. There's a common saying that laws are written by men, but perfect justice only belongs to God, and the peacemakers, as Judge Matt Lynch pointed out that Mary Jane Trapp did well. I think they remember that nothing we do in these halls of justice is going to be perfect. That it's a part of human nature, it's part of what we do. So, the stakes here are high. And when the stakes are high, may we remember how vulnerable it is for any of us to submit ourselves to a process that is outside of our control. May the peacemakers who serve here in all our nation's courts and in this courthouse rebuilt again on Chardon Square, may the peacemakers restore the people who walk through these doors back to the things that they care about the most. What they care about most when at its best has very little to do with the law, what we care about most, the times with our family and enjoying the freedoms God gave us and that our country and our courts protect, may this courthouse be a place of peacemaking for many generations to come.

Commissioner Jim Dvorak expressed that he was very involved with this project, when it comes to brick and stone, that was his industry for fifty years. He stated that he had the honor and pleasure of laying the sample panel up to see if the bricks were correct and matched the best we could. Mr. Dvorak stated that he laid the first block at the elevator. The mason contractor allowed him to come in and be part of the first stone set; it is very precise and detailed. The contractor said that you will never find another job like this because of the matching in with the old and new. Mr. Dvorak stated that it was an honor to be a part of this project, and that it is a great day in Geauga County.

Commissioner Ralph Spidalieri thanked everyone for being here. Mr. Spidalieri briefly told a story about where this project started and where it ended, mentioning the work years ago with the Prosecutor's Office and the back and forth of buildings on the thirty-five acres just outside

town in the city, the idea of a full complex there, including the administration building. Former County Administrator Gerry Morgan and I met with Judge Ondrey, and when we walked into meet with him, there was a huge painting of the courthouse, and at that moment, I knew that it needed to be here. Mr. Spidalieri stated that it was humbling to see this project complete, and all the hard work that everyone has done, and the Commissioners that voted yes to fund this project. I feel that I played a very small part in this, because it was all the other players that made it happen. I truly appreciate the opportunity to be here and share these things with you.
Thank you and congratulations.

Commissioner Carolyn Brakey explained that she felt a little silly standing here today, having just come into office in January 2025. The decision to move forward with the design, the design itself and the funding commitment were all made by the prior Board of Commissioners, which included former Commissioner Tim Lennon. Ms. Brakey stated that when she arrived the work was well underway, however, her responsibility, along with the rest of the current board, was essentially carrying it through the final stages, reviewing change orders, approving invoices and ensuring the project stayed on track. Ms. Brakey called out County Administrator Amy Bevan, who joined the team after Ms. Brakey did, but provided steady oversight throughout the later phases of the project. Ms. Brakey thanked Linda Burhenne, Acting County Administrator, who consistently showed up for all those weekly progress meetings and helped ensure accountability on the project to the taxpayers. Ms. Brakey thanked the City of Chardon for their contribution to the project and for their cooperation, as well as Infinity Construction for bringing its work to this project and bringing it to completion. Ms. Brakey made note that it was special to have Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Bestgen along with all the other Geauga County workers who had a direct hand in this build, and on something that will stand for years, but in the real value of how it will serve the people of Geauga County every day.

Court of Common Pleas Judge, Carolyn Paschke stated that she really thought this day would never come. I started practicing law here in Geauga County over thirty years ago, and conversations about either building a new courthouse or adding on to the courthouse. Those of you who have been around a while, like me, can remember perhaps Judge Henry with his plans, including one that was underground. Judge Paschke stated that she thought it would never come to fruition. She remembered early conversations shortly after becoming Judge with Commissioner Spidalieri, and them asking to participate in a study, asking them to consider other locations, the spark of "wow" there might be some changes and updates. Judge Paschke noted that Prosecutor Flaiz was instrumental in the early phases as well, and conversations started to take shape. Congressman Joyce talked about going back to this building, that was built and finished in 1870, that was not suitable for modern security, it wasn't functional for us, we had people sharing offices, and rooms that were intended to be closets. As the project started to come together, it was really remarkable, I am grateful to those judges and those folks that came before us that sort of started to have the vision. Grateful to the earlier Commissioners and Prosecutor Flaiz that worked to get this project off the ground and moving forward. I am grateful for our partnership with the City of Chardon, we have tried to be good neighbors, and know it's been rough, but thank you for your contribution. Thank you to the Commissioners, Tim Lennon, Ralph Spidalieri and Jim Dvorak. A big thank you to ThenDesign, Brad Gellert and Jen for listening, working with us and making sure that we had a building again that was safe, functional and comfortable. Thank you to the Commissioners for letting us work with the architects and for the opportunity to tell them what we needed. Thank you to Infinity. Thank you to all of us who had to work here on the square, there were times when it was difficult, noise, fumes, mud and dust and parking problems, a variety of difficult things, including all kinds of weather, but they kept spirits up and did everything to make situations better. Thank you to Sheriff Hildenbrand, Chief Rowan and Sergeant Copen and the Court Security staff, as one of the big issues and most important factors of this new courthouse was the security issue, and we appreciate the input and knowledge that helped design and build this building in a way that was going to be safe. Thank you to my bench mates, Judge Ondrey and then later Judge Rambo with all the planning, decisions and support in this project. Special thanks to Velta Moisio, our County IT Director, as she played a big role in this, she had vision, resources and skills that I could not have brought to this project. Judge Paschke stated that she is also thankful for county IT staff, and IT staff from the Sheriff's office. Judge Paschke continued by thanking Randy Taylor for being our liaison, and finally to our court staff, for putting up with all the things throughout the project, and finally Geauga County and its residents, this is your building. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in this building, new safe, functional and comfortable courthouse. We will work hard to provide professional, efficient justice worthy of this building and worthy of this great county.

Court of Common Pleas Judge, Matt Rambo explained that he wanted to echo what Judge Paschke stated, like Commissioner Brakey, I came in a year ago, and much of his decisions where, were do you want to put your desk, what should the chairs look like, who is going to park where. The building that I've been handed for the rest of my time on the bench, and hopefully for years to come in Geauga County is spectacular. It's so much better in terms of comfort, security and needs on a daily basis for court operations.

Judge Rambo explained that they had commemorative plaques, in the shape of a maple leaf with an outline of the courthouse and called names of the individuals who were essential in making this project happen.

Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand stated that this project means a lot to him. Sheriff Hildenbrand stated that he grew up in this town and went to school at Chardon and for many years. His grandfather was head of maintenance for the courthouse, including cleaning, and twice a year would climb up and change the clock, and every time he would be in the paper for manually changing the clock. Sheriff Hildenbrand explained that when he was in middle school, he would come up the hill and empty all the trash cans in the courthouse and the ashtrays, because at that time it was full of ashtrays. As we know, times have changed dramatically, and unfortunately, we must provide much more security and be more cautious of everyone who walks through the doors. I feel very fortunate to be a part of this project, starting from the ground floor, from just sketches, we were able to provide input and make sure the security of the new courthouse was going to be top notch, and thanks to everybody involved, because that building is much safer for everyone that enters those doors, not only employees but also the public.

City of Chardon Mayor, Chris Grau, thanked everyone for putting this event on. Mr. Grau mentioned walking up the hill with his granddaughter, who asked him who lived in that beautiful house. Geauga County lives in that beautiful house. It is an outstanding feature here on our square.

On this grand occasion of our new courthouse dedication, City Council greatly appreciates the cooperation of our Commissioners and your construction management team, to not only build a courthouse that provides excellent and safe workplace accommodations for talented, legal and law enforcement staff, but also a building that reflects and complements the historic beauty of our square. There was a lot of listening going on, and you accomplished what we hoped would happen, a courthouse that is fundamentally beautiful.

We raise these walls, not just of stone, but of every right we've ever known. A place where voices strong or small may stand and speak, be heard by all. To let these doors stay open wide to justice walking side by side. And may this house through time endure a symbol steadfast, strong and sure. I don't know who wrote it, but I think it's very appropriate for today. Thank you again and I look forward to a strengthened relationship with Geauga County leadership.

Kate Jacob, Geauga County Bar Association, explained that it was a privilege to stand before you today as we have opened this beautiful new home for justice in Geauga County. While we look toward the future, we must also pause to honor those who've laid the foundation for this moment. Today we remember the late Judge Mary Jane Trapp, whose unwavering service to the law and the people of Geauga County remains a guiding light for all who will enter those halls. Judge Trapp was not only a brilliant jurist, but a dedicated steward of our history. It was her vision and leadership that spearheaded the courthouse time capsule project. We will officially dedicate the time capsule on July 4th as part of Chardon's America 250 celebrations. We very much hope to see you all there. Today, as we dedicate this courthouse, we owe a debt of gratitude to the late Judge Trapp, whose tireless service to Geauga County set a standard of excellence for us all.

County Administrator Amy Bevan wanted to close with a few remarks a little closer to home for my team. There are many individuals who contributed to this moment, but I really want to recognize the City of Chardon, so Mayor Grau, today is as much ours as it is yours. It marks the christening of not only a new building that will strengthen and modernize how local government serves its people, but it also represents something much bigger, a renewed partnership between the City of Chardon and Geauga County Board of Commissioners. That partnership is what truly moves communities forward. Mayor Grau, City Council, and City Manager Ben Young, thank you deeply for your leadership, persistence and your willingness to collaborate with me. Quite simply put, we could not have done this without you. Days like today are energizing when you

see what's possible when alignment replaces silos, you start to realize that this is just the beginning, there is far more ahead of us than behind us.

Ms. Bevan wanted to give a special thank you to Director of Community and Economic Development Gina Hofstetter and Director of the Department on Aging Jessica Boalt, who stepped out of the box and helped us prepare for this event today. Ms. Bevan recognized Max Yost, Media Relations, for doing a great job today. Thank you so much everyone for coming today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a) Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, February 18, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

b) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the weeks ending March 18, 2026, March 25, 2026, April 1, 2026, as required by O.R.C. 955.12.

c) Ohio Department of Taxation, Journal Entry for Reappraisal and Triennial Update, dated March 9, 2026

OTHER

The Board reviewed upcoming events.

MEETINGS

Wed.,	4/8	Board of Revision, 12:00 p.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room
Mon.,	4/13	Special ADP Board meeting, 1:00 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
Wed.,	4/22	Board of Revision, 9:00 a.m. Auditor's Appraisal Conference Room
Thu.,	4/23	The Commissioners will hold a Work Session at 9:00 a.m. (pending action)
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 12:48 p.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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