

BUDGET COMMISSION

The Geauga County Budget Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditor’s Office at 215 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio.

Present: Geauga County Auditor Charles E. Walder, Geauga County Prosecutor James Flaiz, and Geauga County Treasurer C. P. Hitchcock.

Also Present: Chief Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde, Deputy Auditor and Manager of Fiscal, Real Estate and Appraisal Pam McMahan, and Deputy Auditors: Tammy Most and Kristen Sinatra

Meeting was advertised: Regular Business

Virtual attendance was offered.

Prior Minutes

Motion by Charles E. Walder seconded James Flaiz, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 – Regular meeting.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

2024 Amendments

Auburn Township Amendment #3

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded by C. P. Hitchcock, to amend the Auburn Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Capital Funds

Increase Fund 4903 Misc, Cap. Projects Fund Reserve other source revenue 60,000.00 from 0.00 to 60,000.00

New Capital Funds Total:	\$ 203,954.45
New 2024 Certificate Total:	\$6,140,053.72

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 7/16/2024 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Thompson Township Amendment #6

Motion by C. P. Hitchcock, seconded by Charles E. Walder, to amend the Thompson Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Special Revenue Funds

Increase Fund 2903 Safer Grant Fund other source revenue 40,000.00 from 120,000.00 to 160,000.00

New Special Revenue Funds Total:	\$ 1,799,292.14
New 2024 Certificate Total:	\$ 2,371,679.73

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 11-18-2024 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

South Russell Village Amendment #8

Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the Village of South Russell’s Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Capital Projects Funds

Increase Special Road-OPWC Fund other source revenue 7,500.00 from 0.00 to 7,500.00

<u>New Capital Projects Funds Total:</u>	\$ 1,614,830.46
New 2024 Certificate Total:	\$11,673,525.92

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 11/18/2024 do not exceed estimated revenue with exception: Manorbrook Fund (CP) unpaid advance from GF- FO is working to resolve within 12-month timeline.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Geauga County – Amendment #10

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded by C. P. Hitchcock, to amend the 2024 Geauga County Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Special Revenue Fund

Increase 2013 Public Assistance (JFS) other source revenue 2,882,740.76, from 6,472,500.00 to 9,355,240.76

Increase 2093 Common Pleas Drug Court Fund other source revenue 55,872.00, from 200,000.00 to 255,872.00.

Increase (new) 2111 Brownfield Remed. Grant other source revenue 2,917,012.00, from 0.00 to 2,917,012.00

Net Adjustment \$5,855,624.76

<u>New Special Revenue Funds Total:</u>	<u>\$129,324,826.00</u>
New 2024 Certificate Total:	\$243,267,633.28

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste (GTSW) Appropriation request:

Motion by C. P. Hitchcock, seconded by Charles E. Walder, to acknowledge the financials as presented:

Appropriation Transfers:

Fund #6007

From: Workers Comp.	\$(1,900.00)
To: Salaries	\$ 1,100.00
Medicare	\$ 300.00
OPERS	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
	\$ 1,900.00

Appropriations - Unchanged

Financials acknowledged: Three ayes.

General Discussion:

A discussion arose regarding the process for handling the Land valuation for Aquilla Village dissolving and becoming part of Claridon Township. Mr. Walder said there will be a meeting of the Transition Advisory Board next week that will address these issues. The understanding from the ORC is that a Receiver is appointed, and any tax collection must go to the Receiver who will distribute it. Mr. Flaiz said he has been in contact with the State Auditor's office and has asked for a list of Receivers but has yet to receive it. It is unclear in the statute who will pay for the expenses associated with the transition. Mr. Flaiz raised the question of who is providing services like plowing roads, garbage, and fire during this transition period. Mr. Walder is guessing the values will come over as new construction to provide for all the costs associated with the transition. Mr. Hitchcock provided a record that had the cash balances from Aquilla which was submitted with their budget. He believed this would be enough cash to carry them through the transition.

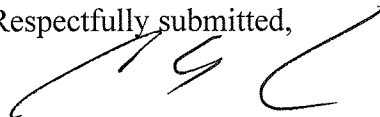
Mr. Walder brought up that while attending the Auditor's conference last week he met with the Chief of Staff for the State School Budgeting and Management, where the flaws of school funding was a topic of discussion. It was mentioned that the school's cash is growing each year and there was little explanation as to why this continues to happen. Mr. Flaiz mentioned that he is planning on taking the school's submitted five-year forecasts and contrast them with the actual numbers at the upcoming school budget hearings. Mr. Hitchcock said his Treasurers conference had some discussion around school funding as well. He said he asked whether there is any regular testing of need for School Emergency levies. The answer was no.

Mr. Hitchcock mentioned he has been invited and accepted a meeting with Township Fiscals. His plan is to bring his review of each district he uses each year to help them understand his conclusions at the budget hearings.

Public Comment:

Being no further business to conduct, C. P. Hitchcock moved to adjourn the November 18, 2024 regular meeting at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Walder, Auditor
Secretary/Budget Commission

