

BUDGET COMMISSION

The Geauga County Budget Commission met in regular session on Monday, July 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditor’s office at 215 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio. Present: Chief Deputy Auditor / Deputy Chief Administrator Frank Antenucci, and Geauga County Prosecutor James Flaiz, and Geauga County Treasurer C. P. Hitchcock.

Also Present: Chief Operations Officer, Pam McMahan, Senior Government Advisor, Natalie Ray, Deputy Auditors: Tina Kloski & Jennifer Hess,

Meeting Advertised: Regular Business

Prior Minutes

Motion by Frank Antenucci, seconded by Jim Flaiz, to approve the minutes for the June 29, 2026 – Special Meeting.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

Motion by Jim Flaiz, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to approve the minutes for the July 6, 2026 – Regular Meeting.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

2025/2026 Certificate Amendments

Kenston Local School District 2025/2026 - Amendment # 3 Final

Motion by C.P. Hitchcock, seconded by Frank Antenucci, to amend the Kenston LSD Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

	Cardinal LSD	FY26	Net Change	GCA-015 #2	GCA-015 #8 [Final]
General	001 General	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 1,144,176.90	\$ 20,707,458.85	\$ 21,851,635.75
Special	018 Public School Support	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (35,519.29)	\$ 108,515.52	\$ 72,996.23
Special	019 Other Local Grants	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ -	\$ 3,504.20	\$ 3,504.20
Special	200 Activity Clubs	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (9,343.18)	\$ 63,923.88	\$ 54,580.70
Special	300 Student Activities	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 33,883.11	\$ 178,946.80	\$ 212,829.91
Special	451 Data Communications	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (883.44)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,116.56
Special	499 Safety Grant	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 21,561.86	\$ 305,048.92	\$ 326,610.78
Special	507 ESSER CARES Grants	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ -	\$ 213,032.24	\$ 213,032.24
Special	510 Coronavirus Relief Fund	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (21,371.00)	\$ 21,478.64	\$ 107.64
Special	516 IDEA Part B	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (69,876.77)	\$ 335,468.81	\$ 265,592.04
Special	551 Title III - LEP	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (4,559.18)	\$ 4,559.18	
Special	572 Title I	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (5,449.90)	\$ 469,146.68	\$ 463,696.78
Special	584 Other Federal Grants	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (11,037.33)	\$ 37,974.36	\$ 26,937.03
Special	587 IEHA Preschool	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (0.97)	\$ 9,003.87	\$ 9,002.90
Special	590 Title IIA Teacher Quality	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (72,409.47)	\$ 231,666.60	\$ 159,257.13
Debt	002 Bond Retirement	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 476,037.57	\$ 880,118.95	\$ 1,356,156.52
Debt	002 Library Bond	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (33,616.24)	\$ 33,616.24	\$ -
Debt	002-920R funds from 2000 bond	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (5,115.08)	\$ 5,115.08	\$ -
Debt	002-9024 COPS Ground Lease	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (437,306.25)	\$ 437,306.25	\$ -
Capital	003 Permanent Improvement	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (69,884.25)	\$ 463,481.33	\$ 393,597.08
Capital	070 Capital Projects Fund	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 65,171.45	\$ 2,006,522.00	\$ 2,071,693.45
Enterprise	006 Food Service	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (11,910.08)	\$ 534,152.72	\$ 522,242.64
Enterprise	009 Uniform Supplies	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (8,946.90)	\$ 29,372.07	\$ 20,425.17
Enterprise	013 Recreation Program	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 12,910.95	\$ 84,515.68	\$ 97,426.63
Internal	014 ACE Charter School	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (78,211.96)	\$ 78,661.95	\$ 449.99
Fiduciary	007 Trust Funds	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 56,494.46	\$ 57,994.46
Fiduciary	022 Safety / Sectionals / Tournament	Change 07/01/2025 revenue total	\$ (500.00)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
*Tax collected reflected an increase from original.					
		New General Fund Total		\$ 21,851,635.75	
		New Special Fund Total		\$ 1,812,264.14	
		New Debt Service Fund Total		\$ 1,356,156.52	
		New Capital Projects Fund Total		\$ 2,465,290.53	
		New Enterprise Fund Total		\$ 640,094.44	
		New Internal Service Fund Total		\$ 449.99	
		New Fiduciary Fund Total		\$ 58,494.46	
		Grand Total New Certificate - All Funds		\$ 28,184,385.83	
		General Fund Net Change		\$ 1,144,176.90	
		Special Revenue Net Change		\$ (175,005.56)	
		Debt Service Net Change		\$ -	
		Capital Projects Net Change		\$ (4,712.80)	
		Enterprise Fund Net Change		\$ (7,946.03)	
		Internal Service Fund Net Change		\$ (78,211.96)	
		Fiduciary Fund Net Change		\$ 1,000.00	
		Total Net Changes		\$ 879,300.55	

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 07/20/2026 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

2026/2027 Certificate Amendments

Kenston Local School District 2026/2027 – Amendment #1

Motion by Jim Flaiz, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to amend the Kenston LSD Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect “actual” July 1, 2026 Unencumbered balances and a revised estimate of Other Source Revenues per their Treasurer’s year-end balance sheet.

[illegible]

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 07/20/2026 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Berkshire Local School District 2026/2027 - Amendment #1

Motion by C.P. Hitchcock, seconded by Frank Antenucci, to amend the Kenston LSD Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect “actual” July 1, 2026 Unencumbered balances and a revised estimate of Other Source Revenues per their Treasurer’s year-end balance sheet.

[illegible]

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 07/20/2026 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Cardinal LSD – 2026/2027 Amendment #1

Motion by Frank Antenucci, seconded by Jim Flaiz, to amend the Cardinal LSD's Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for the 2026/2027 School Year to reflect "actual" July 1, 2026 Unencumbered balances and a revised estimate of Other Source Revenues per their Treasurer's beginning year balance sheet.

	New Fund Totals		Net Change over (under) the	
	GCA-015 #1		GCA-014	
General Fund	\$	24,868,835.04	\$	855,546.36
			\$	2,548,991.68
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
Special Revenue Funds	\$	1,803,828.37	\$	(20,391.57)
			\$	84,085.94
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
Debt Service Funds	\$	686,606.52	\$	38,732.02
			\$	1,342.50
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
Capital Project Funds	\$	1,439,319.99	\$	923,918.47
			\$	(2,420,787.48)
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
Enterprise Funds	\$	556,062.30	\$	(84,029.67)
			\$	(25,946.03)
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
Internal Service Funds	\$	91,788.04	\$	-
			\$	(48,211.96)
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
Fiduciary Funds	\$	52,643.46	\$	(6,220.54)
			\$	(3,500.00)
				Beginning Balance
				Other Source Revenue
New Total - All Funds	\$	29,499,083.72		
Net Change over Original Certificate			\$	1,843,529.72
	New General Fund Total	\$	24,868,835.04	
	New Special Fund Total	\$	1,803,828.37	
	New Debt Service Fund Total	\$	686,606.52	
	New Capital Project Fund Total	\$	1,439,319.99	
	New Enterprise Fund Total	\$	556,062.30	
	New Internal Service Fund Total	\$	91,788.04	
	New Fiduciary Fund Total	\$	52,643.46	
		\$	29,499,083.72	
	Net Change in Beginning Balance:	\$	1,707,555.07	
	Net Change in Tax Revenue	\$	-	
	Net Change in Other Source Reve	\$	135,974.65	
	Total Net Changes	\$	1,843,529.72	

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 7-20-2026 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Geauga County Public Library – 2026 Amendment #2

Motion by Motion by Jim Flaiz, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to amend the Geauga County’s 2026 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as follows to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Capital Project Funds

Increase Chardon Capital Reserve Fund #460 \$3,943,427.50, from \$7,559,357.93 to \$11,502,785.43.

New Capital Project Funds Totals:	\$17,498,785.95
New 2026 Certificate Total:	\$32,914,133.95

Prosecutor Flaiz mentioned this is the money for the administration building that closed two weeks ago. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock mentioned that he had an opportunity to review the drawings in the new facility. And I tried to encourage director to have it appear like A Western Reserve architecture. He was advised by the Director that would cost a premium, just too expensive. Prosecutor Flaiz just feels that this will be similar to Bainbridge; looks terrible from the outside, but great inside. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock added he asked about that and was advised could not afford the Bainbridge look. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock suggested they have; they begin raising money from the private sector. Because he remembers the Kirtland City Library was built solely with private funds. Prosecutor Flaiz added he hopes they take that into consideration.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 12/17/2025 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Financials (Cash Transfer):

Motion by C.P. Hitchcock, seconded by Frank Antenucci, to acknowledge the Supplemental Appropriations as presented:

Cash Transfer:

Fund #6007 Q3 Cost Allocation 2024 bill in 2026

From: GTSW – Cost Allocation	\$(7,145.00)
To: BOCC – Cost Allocation	\$ 7,145.00

Prosecutor Flaiz inquired as to what their cash carryover was last year. He thought it was a lot. He saw an article that the Director mentioned how expensive the recycling centers are, but he thought the Geauga ones were doing very well. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock advised that was because they were privately funded separately. Prosecutor Flaiz mentioned Geauga had a smaller population than Trumbull but recycles indefinitely more than Trumbull. Reviewing the papers, the unencumbered balance as of January 1, 2026, was \$2,847,670.98. He wanted to reiterate that Jennifer has done a great job over there and it has never been better; he only read the article and wanted to mention.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Other Business:

2027 Budgets received since July 6, 2026, Budget Commission meeting: All except for Claridon Twp., Middlefield Twp., Thompson Twp., and Chester Park.

LSD HB 186 – Impact reports

Prosecutor Flaiz spoke to the members on the requested HB 186 impact update. A handout was presented for them to see the specific community impact. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock acknowledged that most of the communities in Geauga had zero impact. Is that not a shock; staff advised we only have so many schools impacted by the floor. Prosecutor Flaiz noted it was only Berkshire. Chief Deputy Auditor / Deputy Chief Administrator Frank Antenucci advised, also the Joint Vocational District.

Natalie Ray used as an example, Newbury Twp, under West Geauga they received a credit reduction on their 2nd half tax bill but it was only for West Geauga, as that area is not under the Career Center. Another example was Cardinal who is affiliated with the Career Center, also saw a reduction, just minimal. Prosecutor Flaiz confirmed that the Auburn Career Center covered Kenston, Cardinal, Berkshire, and Chardon, and not West Geauga. Prosecutor Flaiz inquired on Berkshire; to confirm they are not losing this money, confirming they are only now going to receive it from the State. Natalie confirmed that was the case, and the State was paying the schools out of the money saved from reducing the sales tax holiday. Natalie spoke about how HB186 was designed to be the quick impact everybody on the 20-mill floor will see. Prosecutor Flaiz understood why the schools are suspicious because the state loves cutting their funding. It is easy for the State to dial back tax credits. Natalie mentioned a side note, another component of House Bill 186 is they are doing that phase in / phase out of the non-business credit over to owner occupied. As it is in the bill, the rollback is going to continue, so the school district would be suspicious of that continuing. She was hesitant to use the word retroactive, acknowledging this is what this appears to be for this tax year because it's based off of the 2023 reappraisal. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock inquired if this took effect second half, which was confirmed it did. He went on to say his office had to delay the tax bill release because of this. He acknowledged they have now gone out; stating he was able to get them out faster than the other Counties. Tax collection was moved to August 4, 2026 and his office has already fielded several calls inquiring on when the tax bills will be due. His office has sent out a press release and posted it on their website. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock made further mention how in Medina County, the Treasurer there, notified every homeowner of the delay of tax bills through these robocalls. This was not a means Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock was interested in. He advised them to have made a good faith effort to make it known and collections have already begun. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock mentioned how ISSG did a very good job. Prosecutor Flaiz asked the question when do the schools receive these funds from the State? Natalie added that it is to go out from Department of Education Workforce Department. It was believed that under state law the State has until August 31st to get this reimbursement to the schools. Natalie advised as we are going through the triennial update now, so these numbers will be reset next year. This in conjunction with all the other new legislation, the which levies count towards the floor, that's changing. The idea is that this inflation cap credit will go away. Basically, the State clawed back the floor adjustment, 806,000 from Berkshire, minus inflation. Natalie advised they tied it retroactively to inflation. There are several counties where everybody's on the floor, unlike Geauga County.

HB186 (Inflation Cap Credit) Anticipated Impact By LSD:

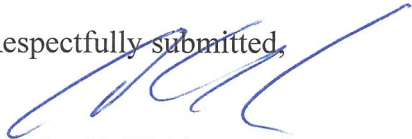
Auburn JVSD			
Real Property	\$	445,368.84	
Manufactured Homes	\$	1,744.30	
Total			\$ 447,113.14
Berkshire LSD			
Real Property	\$	796,823.04	
Manufactured Homes	\$	9,686.34	
Total			\$ 806,509.38
Cardinal LSD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Manufactured Homes	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
Chagrin Falls LSD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
Chardon LSD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Manufactured Homes	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
Kenston LSD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
Kirtland LSD			
Real Property	\$	2,622.92	
Manufactured Homes	\$		
Total			\$
Madison LSD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
Mentor ESVD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
Riverside LSD			
Real Property	\$	0.00	
Total			\$ 0.00
West Geauga			
Real Property		\$2,614,466.30	
Manufactured Homes	\$	3,464.56	
Total			\$2,617,930.86

General Business:

Public Comment:

Ms. McGlone requested the revenue certificates and a copy of the HB186 impact update. A follow-up question regarding a previous meeting mentioned regarding a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners, is that happening. Chief Deputy Auditor / Deputy Chief Administrator Frank Antenucci, that was not the direction they were looking in, more that they could hold the meeting in conjunction with their Budget Hearing as the information will not be vetted in time. Prosecutor Flaiz advised he missed the last meeting and could not weigh in. Treasurer C.P. Hitchcock felt it was the goal of the County’s budget staff and Commissioners to attend the budget hearings here.

Being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by C. P. Hitchcock, to adjourn the July 20, 2026 regular meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Walder, Auditor
Secretary/Budget Commission

