

BUDGET COMMISSION

The Geauga County Budget Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 10:02 a.m. in the Auditor's Conference Room at 215 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio.

Present: Geauga County Auditor Charles E. Walder, Geauga County Prosecutor James Flaiz, Geauga County Treasurer C. P. Hitchcock, Chief Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde and Chief Compliance Officer & Administrator Kate Jacob McClain

Also Present: Deputy Auditor Tammy Most and Deputy Auditor Kristen Sinatra

Prior Minutes

Motion by Charles E Walder, seconded James Flaiz to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2020 - Regular meeting.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

Geauga Park District – Donations/Approval of Financials

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded C.P. Hitchcock to table action on GPD submitted financials until the requested judgement entries indicating approval of all GDP donations identified in 2020 are provided to the Budget Commission and legal balances can be determined.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

Representatives from the Geauga Park District (GPD) Executive Director, John Oros and Legal Counsel, Todd Hicks requested to be placed on the agenda to address the Budget Commission.

A discussion opened to address the motion made at the October 19th Budget Commission meeting to suspend financial actions for the Geauga Park District pending legal counsel's review and opinion. The rationale for this action is based on the language found in the Ohio Revised Code outlining the requirements for approval of donations issued to a 1545 park district and execution of recognized court entries to support the decision.

The catalysis for the focus concerning park donations arose when the GPD sought reimbursement for gift cards which were identified as being "donated" by a 501C4 organization. Further investigation into the requested reimbursement uncovered multiple idiosyncrasies and discrepancies. Final ruling on this matter remains unresolved.

In late September Auditor Walder submitted a records request to the GPD for information and data with regard to donations made to the GPD in 2019 & 2020 as well as copies of all supporting documentation and communications inclusive of interaction with the probate court. Response remains unanswered.

The Budget Commission is of the belief that approximately \$688,000.00 in donations were receipted into three (3) of the GPD funds (#6015, #6017, & #6035) and were not correctly approved via court action to be used lawfully. Additionally, these donated deposits have been comingled which now makes it impossible to ascertain what funds are legally available to be appropriated and expensed. Ultimately the Budget Commission has two issues: the donations have not been received in a legal manner, and whether anonymous donations are permissible in Government Funds.

A solution was identified when Chief Compliance Officer Ms. Jacob McClain discussed the matter with Mr. Hicks, legal counsel for GPD. The understanding was that the usual practice to make application for a court journal entry would collectively be made for all identified donations. Mr. Hicks shared with the Budget Commission that the Probate judge believes that there is case law to support his prior action of approval via email. The Budget Commission responded that use of email is not transparent or accessible and that they were not requesting anything different from GPD than what they would require from other identified parks within the county. The Budget Commission counseled that the GPD should officially make application. If the judge rejects the application then the GPD would need to take further action. Obtaining proper approval for their donations is the responsibility of the GPD not the Budget Commission.

The discussion concluded with the agreement that Mr. Hicks will provide the cited case law which the Probate judge referenced. Mr. Oros agreed to satisfy the outstanding records request (submitted the end of September).

2020 Amendments

Thompson Park District (511)– Amendment #2

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

General Fund

Increase Other – other source revenue 8,730.00 from 24,175.00 to 32,905.00

New General Fund Total: \$ 70,702.58

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 70,702.58

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Claridon Township – Amendment #4

Motion by Charles E Walder, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the Claridon Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief (2273) Fund other source revenue 103,422.59 from 64,685.51 to 168,108.10

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 1,502,135.11

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 2,144,736.91

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Chardon Township – Amendment #5

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

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief (2272) Fund other source revenue 28,604.38 from 223,550.17 to 252,154.75.

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 2,033,200.98

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 2,426,596.97

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Montville Township – Amendment #4

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

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief Fund other source revenue 71,963.38 from 53,958.74 to 125,922.12.

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 1,069,798.64
New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 1,281,061.66

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Huntsburg Township – Amendment #3

Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the Huntsburg Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief Fund other source revenue 156,450.66 from 49,407.96 to 205,858.62. (24,703.98+131,746.68=156450.66)

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 1,074,468.73
New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 1,499,956.83

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Chester Township – Amendment #4

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

Special Revenue Fund

Increase Permissive MVL Tax (2231) other source revenue 34,503.80 from 0.00 to 34,503.80 (revenue was not certified during the 2020 Budget Hearing)
Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief Fund other source revenue 369,906.92 from 156,025.08 to 525,932.00

Net Adjustment: \$404,410.72

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 9,861,052.88
New Total 2020 Certificate: \$11,440,655.22

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Russell Township – Amendment #6

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

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief Fund (2904) – (Interest income) other source revenue 1,300.00 from 280,603.90 to 281,903.90.

Increase PRF CARES Act Fund (2903) – (Interest income) other source revenue 50.00 from 3,523.15 to 3,573.15.

Net Adjustment: \$1,350.00

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 9,485,851.43

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 13,436,144.66

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Parkman Township – Amendment #3

Motion by Charles E Walder, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the Parkman Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief Fund other source revenue 176,130.80 from 53,525.29 to 229,656.09. [26,762.64 + 149,368.16= 176,130.80]

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 1,714,988.42

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 2,321,720.55

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Thompson Township – Amendment #7

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

Special Revenue Fund

Increase LCRF Coronavirus Relief (2273) Fund other source revenue 81,945.28 from 57,209.16 to 139,154.44

New Special Revenue Fund Total: \$ 1,412,341.70

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 1,825,504.69

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Geauga County – Amendment #21

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

Special Revenue Funds

Increase 2093 Drug Court (state revenue) other source revenue 75,000.00 from 200,000.00 to 275,000.00

Increase 2067 Help America Vote (state revenue) other source revenue 40,000.00 from 128,938.00 to 168,938.00

Increase 2097 Federal CARES Act -interest income- (state revenue) other source revenue .43 from 4,609,910.38 to 4,609,910.81 (Pending approval from Session 11/3/20)

Decrease 2057 Common Pleas Court (state revenue) other source revenue -27,537.00 from 55,072.00 to 28,086.93

Decrease 2068 Common Pleas Court (state revenue) other source revenue -62,402.00 from 124,804.00 to 63,871.34

Decrease 2082 Common Pleas Court (state revenue) other source revenue -26,000.00 from 52,000.00 to 26,861.74

Net Adjustment: -938.57

<u>New Special Revenue Fund Total:</u>	<u>\$102,983,229.20</u>
<u>New 2020 Certificate Total:</u>	<u>\$207,675,070.92</u>

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Geauga County Appropriations

Appropriation Transfer Fund 2097

From: Equipment **(\$445,000.00)**

To: Contract Svcs, Repair Svcs,
Materials and Supplies, Advertising,
Training **\$445,000.00**

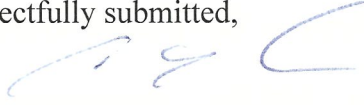
Appropriations – Unchanged (Pending approval from Session 11/3/20)

General Discussion:

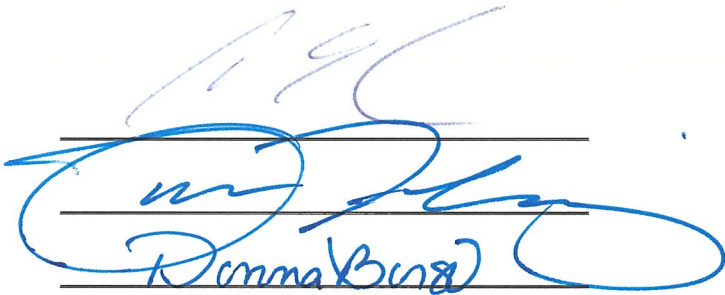
Treasurer Hitchcock shared that the collection numbers for real estate TY 2019 CY 2020 were more favorable than the anticipated projection. However, he underscored that the recommendation of the Budget Commission for taxing districts to reduce revenue collection to 95% was the right thing to do; cautious and prudent.

Being no further business to conduct, Charles E. Walder moved to adjourn the November 2, 2020 regular meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Walder, Auditor
Secretary/Budget Commission



Donna Bush