

BUDGET COMMISSION

The Geauga County Budget Commission met in special session on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditor’s Conference Room at 231 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio. Present: Geauga County Auditor Charles E. Walder, Geauga County Prosecutor James R. Flaiz, and Geauga County Treasurer C. P. Hitchcock.

Also Present: Chief Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde, Deputy Auditor Heather Penrod and Deputy Auditor Kristen Sinatra.

**Special Meeting Advertised: 2020/2021 School District Budget Hearings
Regular Business**

Geauga County Prosecutor, James Flaiz – Unavoidable delay with attending the meeting.

2020/2021 School District Budget Hearings were called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Auditor’s Remarks

Auditor Walder opened the Budget Hearings presenting the following information. A document was prepared and offered to those in attendance.



**Auditor
Charles E. Walder**
Chief Fiscal Officer

Tax Year 2019 Valuation for Geauga County	\$3,257,209,910
New Construction Values	\$30,566,370
2,188	Commercial & Residential Permits issued
111	New Dwellings
Average Sq. Ft of new dwellings -2,601	
977	Home Sales -Single Family
Average sales price – Single Family Homes	\$292,540

Treasurer’s Remarks

Treasurer Hitchcock also addressed those in attendance: He shared the percentage of 2019 Real Estate Collection (handout).

Overview:

We are very good at collecting.

Average Collection for both Operating and Permanent Improvement Levies for the county’s local school districts is over 100%. The projection for collection will remain on par for next year as well.

Bond Levies and Emergency Levies

The Auditor’s office will contact each school district in October or November to determine January balances if any, and calculate rate requirements for 2021 collection year.

2020/2021 School Year School District Official Certificates of Estimated Resources

Upon the review of the school districts estimates, inside and outside millage available to be levied, renewal and/or additional levies not hereto considered for certification until after voter approval and balances and receipts adjusted as needed, it was moved and seconded as follows to certify 2020/2021 school year tax budgets by approving/adopting official Certificates of Estimated Resources for the local school districts as follows:

Berkshire LSD – Motion by C.P. Hitchcock, seconded by Charles E. Walder, to approve the Berkshire Local School District 2020/2021 budget as presented:

	<u>Tax Receipts</u>	<u>All Other Sources & Balances</u>	<u>Total</u>
4.50 Inside General Fund	1,534,937.00	13,548,499.92	20,951,112.92
45.30 Outside General Fund	5,867,676.00		
2.50 Outside Perm. Impr.	387,129.00	100,000.00	487,129.00
3.65 Bond Levy	1,245,005.00	202,141.00	1,447,146.00
<u>55.95</u> Total Mills			
1.70 Burton Pub. Library	390,949.00		
<u>57.65</u> Total w/Library			
All Other Funds			<u>31,299,900.00</u>
Total - All Funds			<u>54,185,287.92</u>

Brief discussion was held with regard to cash balances; on the decline. Treasurer was aware and noted that adjustments would be made. Auditor’s office will look for debt schedule in November and review Bond levy to determine if rates should be adjusted.

Voice vote: Two ayes. Motion carried.

Settlement Recap

Should be prepared and mailed in March.

Auditor’s Comment:

With change, comes a fresh set eyes and some items may revised. At the same time, unintentionally, some items may be overlooked or improperly handled. Auditor Walder expressed his gratitude with everyone’s understanding and patience as we work through the recent change in personnel.

Cardinal LSD – Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to approve the Cardinal Local School District 2020/2021 budget as presented:

			All Other Sources & Balances	Total
		Tax Receipts		
3.50	Inside General Fund	1,090,963.00	5,139,780.00	14,605,451.00
53.10	Outside General Fund	8,374,708.00		
1.00	Inside Perm. Impr.	311,704.00	557,105.00	868,809.00
2.27	Outside Bond	707,567.00	928,329.00	1,635,896.00
0.75	Outside Library	233,778.00	390,454.00	624,232.00
60.62	Total Mills			
	All Other Funds			1,745,050.00
	Total - All Funds			19,479,438.00

Voice vote: Two ayes. Motion carried.

The Treasurer for Cardinal LSD shared the prospect of early payoff for Library Bond. A final determination will be made after receipt of tax distribution first half. Chief Deputy Leyde offered that reviewing & calculating rates for Bonds will be a main focus of the Auditor’s office.

Gauga County Prosecutor, James Flaiz joined the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Chardon LSD – Motion by C. P. Hitchcock, seconded by James Flaiz, to approve the Chardon Local School District 2020/2021 budget as presented:

		Tax Receipts	All Other Sources & Balances	Total
4.50	Inside General Fund	3,061,397.00	23,003,261.17	51,169,871.17
74.18	Outside General Fund	25,105,213.00		
2.00	Outside Permanent Imp	1,304,679.00	1,849,687.39	3,154,366.39
80.68	Total Mills			
	All Other Funds			13,383,241.00
	Total - All Funds			67,707,478.56

Last year’s bond levy did not pass. The School Board is focusing on a reboot with the community. Operating levy was passed in 2018, sizeable cash balances. The Budget Commission strongly encouraged investigating healthier investment options; exercising caution with regard to term.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Kenston LSD – Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to approve the Kenston Local School District 2020/2021 budget as presented:

		<u>Tax Receipts</u>	<u>All Other Sources & Balances</u>	<u>Total</u>
4.50	Inside General Fund	3,667,271.00	15,857,000.54	48,415,712.54
81.49	Outside General Fund	28,891,441.00		
4.09	Outside Bond Fund	3,333,143.00	2,579,372.52	5,912,515.52
0.70	Outside Bond Fund	570,464.00	299,179.28	869,643.28
<u>90.78</u>	<u>Total Mills</u>			
	All Other Funds			<u>15,809,000.00</u>
	Total - All Funds			<u>71,006,871.34</u>

A discussion arose with regard to funds certified for the Bond Levy Fund. A final payment is factored into the need for revenue; which extends beyond collection period. A meeting can be established to discuss further and review projected need.

A potential future levy made be considered to support and enhance cash balances to maintain the school district.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

General Discussion:

Questions were raised with regard to tax monies; collection and distribution. As the Territory Transfer document between Newbury LSD and West Geauga LSD was executed prior to School Budget Hearings – Does Newbury LSD have the authority to enter into the Resolution Accepting The Amounts and Rates Authorizing The Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them To The County Auditor, what rates and values will be used, and what levies/millage will be transferred? Several arguments were presented offering different perspectives.

Matters which also need to be resolved with the Territory Transfer are as follows:

Newbury and West Geauga Joint Recreation Programs, Auburn Career Center and Newbury LSD .6 inside millage.

It was determined that the questions would be compiled and sent to the Geauga County Prosecutor’s Office to review, assemble, and submit to the Attorney General for an opinion.

The Ohio Department of Taxation will be contacted to verify if it would be allowable for both Newbury LSD and West Geauga LSD to file an Application for Extension of Time to Adopt and File the Annual Budget With the County Budget Commission while awaiting the opinion from the Attorney General as well as, allow adequate time to calculate the impact of the tax money associated with the decision.

Additionally, a document will be prepared for both Treasurer’s to submit to their Boards for execution acknowledging and approving the direct deposit of Newbury LSD tax dollars into an established(identified) financial account for the benefit of West Geauga LSD; upon the official transfer of territory effective 7/1/2020.

Newbury LSD – West Geauga LSD2020/2021 School Budgets

Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to table the submission of the 2020/2021 School Budgets for both Newbury LSD and West Geauga LSD.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Once more information is obtained with regard to the issues impacting the school districts 2020/2021 budgets the respective treasurers will be contacted to reschedule their Budget Hearings.

Prior Minutes

Motion by C.P. Hitchcock, seconded by James Flaiz, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 - special session.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

2020 Amendments

Chester Township – 2020 Amendment #1

Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to amend Chester Township’s 2020 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as follows to reflect “actual” January 1, 2020 unencumbered cash balances and changes to tax revenue due to the new real estate values and rates for collection in 2020:

General	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	494,445.53	estimated to	850,392.99	actual
	Increase tax revenue	3,607.00	estimated to	484,147.00	actual
	Decrease other source revenue	(9,776.00)	estimated to	200,873.00	actual
Motor Veh	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	4,369.38	estimated to	35,352.31	actual
Gasoline Tax	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	34,029.55	estimated to	224,942.92	actual
Road & Bridg	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	642,707.53	estimated to	1,189,447.96	actual
	Increase tax revenue	16,114.00	estimated to	1,939,631.00	actual
	Increase other source revenue	1,201.00	estimated to	225,110.00	actual
Cemetery	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	3,604.56	estimated to	19,059.37	actual
Fire Levy	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	98,419.83	estimated to	246,272.87	actual
	Increase tax revenue	16,040.00	estimated to	1,912,570.00	actual
	Increase other source revenue	1,313.00	estimated to	175,560.00	actual
Police Levy	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	721,014.67	estimated to	850,421.36	actual
	Increase tax revenue	15,974.00	estimated to	1,364,006.00	actual
	Unchanged other source revenue	-	estimated to	276,117.85	actual
Permissive M	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered ca	34,503.80	estimated to	34,503.80	actual
Ambulance	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	157,208.50	estimated to	331,438.28	actual
Educ & Enfr	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	-	estimated to	6,225.00	actual
Underground	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	11,000.00	estimated to	11,000.00	actual
Misc Grants	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	-	estimated to	-	actual
Spec Assess	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	14,775.71	estimated to	15,144.35	actual
Cemetery Beq	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	-	estimated to	45.00	actual
	New General Fund Total	1,535,412.99			
	New Special Revenue Funds Total	9,292,912.72			
	New Capital Project Funds Total	-			
	New Special Assessment Funds Total	44,144.35			
	New Fiduciary Funds Total	45.00			
	Grand Total New Certificate- All Funds	<u>10,872,515.06</u>			
	Net Change in Beginning balances	1,632,670.95			
	Net Change in Tax Revenue	51,735.00			
	Net Change in Other Source Revenue	(7,262.00)			
		<u>1,677,143.95</u>			

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried

South Russell Village – Amendment #2

Motion by C.P. Hitchcock, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend South Russell Village’s 2020 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as follows to reflect “actual” January 1, 2020 unencumbered cash balances in 2020 For the Capital Projects Fund: Revised by Village Fiscal

Capital Projects Fund

VH Headwat	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	0.00	estiimated to	53,229.41	actual
Naureworks	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	675.00	estiimated to	11,820.26	actual
Lk Louise	Increase the 1/1/2020 unencumbered cash balance from	0.00	estiimated to	60,000.00	actual
New Capital Project Fund Total		439,658.69			
		<u>439,658.69</u>			
Grand Total New Certificate Aall Funds		<u>8,704,223.22</u>			
Net Change in Beginning Balances		125,049.67			

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Geauga Health District – Amendment #3

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

Special Revenue Fund

Increase #6011 Water Testing Fees other source revenue 3,000.00 from 73,000.00 to 76,000.00

New Special Revenue Funds Total: \$4,104,592.23

New Total 2020 Certificate: \$ 5,860,396.39

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Supplemental Appropriations – Health District

Motion by Charles E. Walder, seconded by C.P. Hitchcock, to approve the changes to Appropriations for the following Health District Funds:

General Fund

Board of Health #6002	\$12,000.00
Additional monies to support equipment upgrade	
New total appropriations in Fund #6002:	\$936,838.23

Special Revenue Fund

Food Service #6005	\$ 4,300.00
Contract services	\$800.00
Material & Supplies	\$3,500.00

New Total appropriations in Fund #6005: \$200,920.57

Private Water #6011	\$3,000.00
Other	\$3,000.00

New Total appropriations in Fund #6011: \$93,698.18

Sewage #6023	\$33,250.00
Salaries	\$17,100.00
Medicare	\$300.00
Hospitalization	\$13,000.00
OPERS	\$2,400.00
Worker's Comp.	\$450.00

New Total appropriation in Fund #6023: \$547,762.88

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Appropriation Transfers:

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded C.P. Hitchcock, to accept the Appropriation Transfer of funds – Special Revenue Fund - Food #6005

Fund 6005- Special Revenue -Food

From: Repair Services:	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
To: Contract Services	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

New total appropriations in Fund 6005: \$200,920.57

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Geauga County – Amendment #4

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

Special Revenue Funds

Increase #2001 Adams Board Fund other source revenue 75,000.00 from 1,080,164.00 to 1,155,164.00

Decrease #2027 Metzenbaum General Operating other source revenue (1,970,434.73) from 5,023,632 to 3,053,197.27

Increase #2058 Donations other source revenue 10,000.00 from 40,000.00 to 50,000.00

Increase #2063 Residential Services other source revenue 732,434.73 from 8,110,000.00 to 8,842,434.73

New Special Revenue Funds Total: **\$94,738,543.43**

Capital Projects Fund

Decrease #4023 Construction other source revenue (150,000.00) from 150,000.00 to 0.00

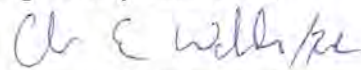
New Capital Projects Fund Totals: **\$19,038,894.46**

New 2020 Certificate Total: \$181,849,530.71

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Being no further business to conduct it was moved by C.P. Hitchcock to adjourn the February 26, 2020 - special meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Walder, Auditor
Secretary/Budget Commission

