

BUDGET COMMISSION

The Geauga County Budget Commission met in regular session on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditor's Office 215 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio. Present: Geauga County Prosecutor James R. Flaiz, and Chief Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde representing Auditor Walder.

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

Auditor Walder present virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting Advertised: Regular Business
Virtual attendance was offered for public viewing.

Mr. Flaiz opened the meeting at 10:01 and motioned to recess the meeting until 11:30 in order to include the Treasurer and resolve some technical issues. Ron Leyde seconded.

Voice vote: Two ayes. Motion carried. **Meeting recessed at 10:20 am**

Meeting reconvened: Mr. Flaiz opened the meeting at 11:36am

Present: Geauga County Prosecutor James R. Flaiz, Geauga County Chief Deputy Treasurer, Caroline Mansfield representing Treasurer Hitchcock, and Chief Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde representing Auditor Walder.

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

Auditor Walder present virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Prior Minutes

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 - regular session

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded by Caroline Mansfield, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 - special session

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Request to Convert Inside Millage**Chardon LSD**

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to accept Chardon LSD resolution to convert millage.

Chardon LSD Resolution #2023-07 voted on March 20, 2023, authorizing the conversion of 1.00 mill of unvoted General Levy revenue for current expenses to a Permanent Improvement Levy (R.C. Sections 5705.314, 5705.06 and 5705.09). To be effective TY2023CY2024.

Auditor Walder began by saying there was a meeting between the Treasurer, Ms. Armbruster, President of the School Board, and Superintendent, Mike Hanlon of Chardon Schools and himself after the budget hearing in February. Mr. Hanlon, asked if the approval of the Budget Commission was necessary for this resolution to proceed. Mr. Walder confirmed that approval by the Budget Commission was necessary. Mr. Hanlon and Ms. Armbruster, continued with a list of the Capital Improvements that have been completed and those that are planned. The budget as submitted to the Budget Commission did not include any of these projects Mr. Walder noted. Mr. Flaiz wanted to point out, a letter to the editor in a recent edition of the local paper, written by a few former School Board members, contained some information that he presumed Ms. Armbruster had provided them. This letter to the Editor contained a list of capital projects which was not included in the submitted budget. Ms. Armbruster confirmed that she had provided requested reports and the budget, as submitted, did not list any of these projects. Mr. Flaiz continued that the budget contained an ending

balance that was projected at: 28,933,312. Ms. Armbruster agreed but went on to point out her 5 year plan projected the district at a deficit beginning in year 2027. Mr. Flaiz stated that according to the 5 year plan and the calculated “burn rate”, it will take 68 years to go through this money. Mr. Walder wanted to point out that part of the Commission’s frustration over this letter to the editor was that the people writing the letter were privy to information that was not provided to the Budget Commission via the submitted budget. The Commission suggested at the budget hearing that the money being accumulated by Chardon Schools should be utilized for the many necessary capital projects. Chardon LSD’s 2024 budget was approved by the commission with the understanding that the money will be spent. However, there was no indication within the budget of how or whether the funds would be spent. Yet the letter in the paper had specific information as to how the funds would be and have been spent. The Commission is simply asking that the same information that is provided to the taxpayers is also provided to the Commission. Mr. Flaiz went on to further point out that the information in the budget portrayed a district that is accumulating cash with no plan to spend it. Ms. Armbruster and Mr. Hanlon confirmed that the letter was not written at their behest. They only provided a list of capital projects that had already been completed. Mr. Flaiz quickly noted the problem of a large cash balance remaining after these improvements have been completed. He went on to say that he is well acquainted with the condition of the facilities and the “security deficiencies” that remain in the high school and hopes that some of this money would be invested to remedy these issues. Mr. Walder wanted to make sure that Ms. Armbruster understood that the capital expenditures, current and future, must be included in the budget submission. Mr. Flaiz stated that the Commission’s responsibility is to review the budget as submitted, and test that the taxpayer’s money is not being “stockpiled”. “You are telling the taxpayers something different than what you’re telling the Budget Commission.”

The intent is to move \$800,000 each year by transferring the millage. Mr. Flaiz responded that he didn’t believe that \$800,00 wasn’t nearly enough. He further added that the capital expenditures must be reflected in the budget. Mr. Walder went on to say that there must be attention to the growing carry over balances to make sure there is no advance taxing, ie. taxing current taxpayers for future expenditures, taking place. Holding on to cash for future improvements can easily be advance taxing if not administered properly. Mr. Walder also wanted to take exception to the notion in the letter implying that the commission did not read all the documents the school submitted. Mr. Walder reads all submitted materials, the Chardon LSD 2024 budget did not contain said materials.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

2023 Amendments

Chardon Township – Amendment #3

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

Special Revenue Funds

Increase 2041 Cemetery Fund other source revenue 1,500.00 from 25,500.00 to 27,000.00

<u>New Special Revenue Fund Total:</u>	<u>\$2,468,398.95</u>
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$3,140,199.57

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 4/3/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Burton Village – Amendment #2

Motion by Caroline Mansfield, seconded by Ron Leyde, to amend the Burton Village's Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Special Revenue Funds

Increase B 08 Fire Levy Fund real estate tax revenue 80,000.00, from 322,351.00 to 402,351.00

Fiduciary Funds

Increase G 11 Unclaimed Funds other source revenue 10,000.00, from 0.00 to 10,000.00

New Special Revenue Fund Total:	\$2,387,125.73
New Fiduciary Funds Total:	\$ 123,166.47
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$9,529,106.30

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 4/3/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Russell Township – Amendment #3

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the Russell Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

General Fund

Increase #1001 beginning carry-over balance 187.97, from 1,215,965.11 to 1,216,153.08

Special Revenue Funds

Increase #2111 Fire Levy beginning carry-over balance 707.68, from 952,899.77 to 953,607.45

Increase #2141 Road District Fund beginning carry-over balance 114.16, from 11,643.22 to 11,757.38

Net Adjustment: \$821.84

Capital Project Funds

Increase # 4401 OPWC other source revenue 50,000.00, from 0.00 to 50,000.00

New General Fund Total:	\$ 2,385,982.08
New Special Revenue Fund Total:	\$10,609,894.47
New Capital Projects Fund Total:	\$ 2,620,255.09
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$15,621,215.44

Adjustments occurred to beginning balances as warrants issued in 2022 were voided; lost in the mail.

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 3/17/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Thompson Township – Amendment #3

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

Special Revenue Funds

Increase #2081 Police Levy beginning carry-over balance 105.93, from 234,133.93 to 234,239.86

Special Assessment Funds

Increase #2191 Lighting Assessment beginning carry-over balance 219.24, from 447.28 to 666.52

New Special Revenue Fund Total:	\$1,634,634.27
<u>New Special Assessment Fund Total:</u>	<u>\$ 1,866.52</u>
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$ 2,000,339.04

Adjustments occurred as warrants issued in 2022 were voided; lost in the mail.

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 3/15/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Auburn Township – Amendment #2

Motion by Caroline Mansfield, seconded by Ron Leyde, to amend the Auburn Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Reallocate #2191 Fire Levy revenue in the amount of 32,100 to Debt Service Fund to support the payment for USDA (Fire Station) loan.

New Special Revenue Fund Total:	\$4,751,621.37
<u>New Debt Service Fund Total:</u>	<u>\$ 212,200.00</u>
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$6,000,232.22 Balance unchanged

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 3/22/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Russell Citizens Park 511 – Amendment #1 re-sign.

Revise (effective 2/6/2023) the Russell Citizens Park District 511 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources; correcting a clerical mistake. Formula issue. System was adjusted and a revised certificate is being presented for re-signing.

<u>New Capital Project Fund Total:</u>	<u>\$ 750.00</u>
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$30,452.73

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 12/22/2022 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Certificate was re-signed.

Russell Citizens Park 511 – Amendment #2

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the Russell Citizens Park 511 Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Capital Project Funds

Increase P30 Capital Project Fund other source revenue 2,571.11, from 0.00 to 2,571.11.
(via transfer from GF)

New Capital Project Fund Total:	\$ 3,321.11
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$33,023.84

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 4/3/2023 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Middlefield Village – Amendment #2

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded by Caroline Mansfield to amend the Middlefield Village's Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

General Fund

Increase Other-other source resources 194,990.62, from 331,665.00 to 526,655.62

Special Revenue Funds

Increase B01 Streets Fund other source revenue 21,420.00, from 152,000.00 to 173,420.00

Increase B02 State Highway other source revenue 4,000.00, from 28,500.00 to 32,500.00

Increase B03 Cemetery other source revenue 18,200.00, from 48,000.00 to 66,200.00

Increase B04 Parks/Rec other source revenue 10,000.00, from 80,500.00 to 90,500.00

Increase Ambulance Levy Tax 31,047.00, from 68,776.00 to 99,823.00

Increase B08 Police Levy Tax 8,342.88, from 187,510.00 to 195,852.88

Increase B11 Income Tax other source revenue 511,045.13, from 2,800,000.00 to 3,311,045.13

Increase B21 I/T Infrastructure other source revenue 126,600.00, from 750,000.00 to 876,600.00

Increase B26 Local Fiscal Recovery other source revenue 18,954.72, from 0.00 to 18,954.72

Net Adjustment: \$749,609.73

Capital Project Funds

Increase D03 Equipment Replacement other source revenue 183,285.31, from 230,052.00 to 413,337.31

Decrease D09 Water Looping other source revenue (32.78), from 800.00 to 767.22

Net Adjustment: \$183,252.53

Enterprise Funds

Decrease E00 Refuse other source revenue (5,185.00), from 170,500.00 to 165,315.00

Increase E01 Water other source revenue 73,695.94, from 758,750.00 to 832,445.94

Increase E02 Sewer other source revenue 105,838.51, from 817,000.00 to 922,838.51

Increase E09 Water Emergency other source revenue 650.00, from 850.00 to 1,500.00

Decrease E12 New Well other source revenue (1,838,401.00), from 2,103,800.00 to 265,399.00

Net Adjustment: \$(1,663,401.55)

New General Fund Total:	\$ 2,712,581.08
New Special Revenue Funds Total:	\$10,207,385.99
New Capital Project Funds Total:	\$ 1,616,547.92
New Enterprise Funds Total:	\$ 6,213,382.97
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$20,932,048.31

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 4/3/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Bainbridge Township – Amendment #3

Motion by Caroline Mansfield, seconded by Ron Leyde to amend the Bainbridge Township Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

Capital Project Funds

Increase 4905 TIF#1 Fund other source revenue 494,701.15 from 0.00 to 494,701.15

Increase 4906 TIF#2 Fund other source revenue 34,540.27 from 0.00 to 34,540.27

Increase 4907 TIF#3 Fund other source revenue 10,261.38 from 0.00 to 10,261.38

Net adjustment: \$539,502.80

New Capital Project Fund Total:	\$ 809,796.35
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$27,054,512.76

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 4/3/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

City of Chardon – Amendment #3

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the City of Chardon's Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

General Fund

Decrease Other-other source resource revenue (97,571.00) from 1,660,418.00 to 1,562,847.00

Special Revenue Funds

Increase 212 SCMR Fund other source revenue 48,008.00 from 545,992.00 to 594,000.00

Decrease 218 Park and Rec other source revenue (24,400.00) from 355,000.00 to 330,600.00

Decrease 246 Special Projects other source revenue (14,000.00) from 245,000.00 to 231,000.00

Increase 248 Probation Services other source revenue 34,671.00 from 315,529.00 to 350,200.00

Increase 260 Sidewalk Imp Fund other source revenue 127,012.00 from 109,988.00 to 237,000.00

Increase 292 Opioid Settlement Fund other source revenue 2,000.00 from 0.00 to 2,000.00

Net Adjustment: \$173,291.00

Capital Project Funds

Decrease 460 TIF other source revenue (20,000.00), from 95,000.00 to 75,000.00

Decrease 462 Hidden Glen RID other source revenue (10,500.00) from 111,500.00 to 101,000.00

Decrease 464 Cider Mill RID other source revenue (520.00) from 520.00 to 0.00

Decrease 469 Redwood TIF other source revenue (17,848.00) from 17,848.00 to 0.00

Net Adjustment: \$(48,868.00)

Enterprise Funds

Decrease 562 Water Cap Imp Reserve other source revenue (60,000.00) from 1,049,569.00 to 640,010.00

Decrease 570 Sewer Operating other source revenue (36,401.00) from 1,401,756.00 to 1,365,355.00

Decrease 572 Sewer Cap Imp Reserve other source revenue 10,812.00 from 564,612.00 to 553,800.00

Increase 579 WWTP Cap Imp other source revenue 72,000.00 from 265,000.00 to 337,000.00

Net Adjustment: \$(35,213.00)

Fiduciary Funds

Decrease 892 Unclaimed Money other source revenue (381.00) from 2,500.00 to 2,119.00

New General Fund Total:	\$ 11,596,719.96
New Special Revenue Funds Total:	\$ 9,091,147.14
New Capital Project Funds Total:	\$ 4,835,597.27
New Enterprise Funds Total:	\$ 6,478,718.66
<u>New Fiduciary Funds Total:</u>	<u>\$ 183,032.24</u>
New 2023 Certificate Total:	\$ 32,566,704.79

**Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 3/29/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

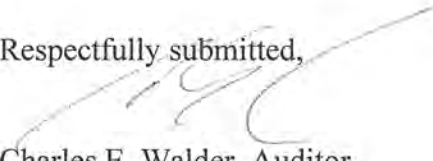
Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Clarification of the members of Budget Commission in attendance for the meeting and request for copies of Certificates for all revenue certifications.

Being no further business to conduct it was moved by Caroline Mansfield to adjourn the April 3, 2023 - regular meeting at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles E. Walder, Auditor
Secretary/Budget Commission

