

**BUDGET COMMISSION**

The Geauga County Budget Commission met in regular session Monday, September 18, 2023 at 10:03 a.m. in the Auditor’s office at 215 Main Street, Chardon, Ohio. Present: Chief Deputy Auditor Ron Leyde, representing Geauga County Auditor Charles E. Walder, who was present virtually, Geauga County Prosecutor James Flaiz and Deputy Treasurer Donna Borsi, representing Geauga County Treasurer C. P. Hitchcock.

Also Present: Chief Administrator, Frank Antenucci, Deputy Auditors Tammy Most and Kristen Sinatra

Meeting Advertised: Regular Business  
Virtual attendance offered.

**Prior Minutes**

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 special session.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded by Donna Borsi, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 special session.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

**2023 Certificate Amendments**

**Auburn Township – Amendment #4**

Motion by Donna Borsi, seconded by Ron Leyde, to amend the 2023 Auburn Township Certificate of Estimate Resources, form GCA-015, to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

**Special Revenue Fund**

Increase Fund 2902 Cemetery donation other source revenue 27,000.00 from 0.00 to 27,000.00

<b><u>New Special Revenue Fund Total:</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,881,232.74</u></b>
<b><u>New 2023 Certificate Total:</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,129,843.59</u></b>

*\*Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 9/18/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Auburn Township continued:

Prosecutor Flaiz inquired if revenue was going to need to be de-certified, because of Auburn Township's, recently identified, invalid road levy? It was further shared, that the Prosecutor's office did preliminary research which determined that the Board of Revisions will be required to act on the matter. The remedy of the invalid levy will not only include the elimination of the identified levy but also the return of revenue already collected. Recognizing these factors, the Budget Commission felt the township should be notified, allowing them the opportunity to de-appropriate funds so revenue will not be spent. The details and mechanism for the return of revenue has not yet been determined. The Chief Deputy Auditor will gather the revenue details (amount and time) of the improper collection. Auditor Walder shared that the township will be receiving offsetting revenue as the result of the re-evaluation (Auburn Township residential value increased on average by 30.1%). Thereby, helping to reduce the overall impact caused by the situation. It was noted that Auburn Township has dedicated inside road millage.

**Thompson Township – Amendment #5**

Motion by Ron Leyde, seconded by James Flaiz, to amend the 2023 Thompson Township Certificate of Estimate Resources, form GCA-015, to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

**Special Revenue Fund**

Increase Fund 2903 SAFER fund other source revenue 60,000.00 from 0.00 to 60,000.00

<b><u>New Special Revenue Fund Total:</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,714,634.27</u></b>
<b><u>New 2023 Certificate Total:</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,085,939.04</u></b>

*\*Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 9/18/23 does not exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

**School District Amendments 2023/2024**

**Berkshire LSD – 2023/2024 Amendment #2**

Motion by James Flaiz, seconded Donna Borsi, to amend the Berkshire LSD Official Certificate of Estimated Resources to reflect the following changes to revenue previously certified:

**Special Revenue Fund**

- Increase Fund 019 MHJ Community other source revenue 3,544.00 from 0.00 to 3,544.00
- Increase Fund 020 Latchkey other source revenue 629,000.00 from 0.00 to 629,000.00
- Increase Fund 499 Schl Safety other source revenue 40,000.00 from 30,000.00 to 70,000.00
- Increase Fund 572 Title I other source revenue 33,373.58 from 192,203.57 to 225,293.60
- Increase Fund 599 Title IV other source revenue 300,000.00 from 0.00 to 300,000.00

***Net adjustment 1,005,917.58***

<b><u>New Special Revenue Fund Total:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,589,746.86</u></b>
<b><u>New 2023/2024 Certificate Total:</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,385,309.71</u></b>

*\*Appropriation form GCA-006 dated 9/18/23 does exceed estimated revenue.*

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

**Geauga Public Health (GPH) – Supplemental Appropriation Request:**

Motion by Donna Borsi, seconded by Ron Leyde to accept the Supplement Appropriation request for the following Geauga Public Health Funds:

**Fund 6037**

Equipment	\$10,000.00
Other	\$20,000.00
	<u>\$30,000.00</u>

New Unappropriated Balance: \$ 381,544.96

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

**General Discussion:**

Prosecutor Flaiz opened a discussion about the county levied departments and their budget review. He shared that as the levied departments budgets are presented early in the year (March) he would like to wait until August to determine if any levy revenue would need to be withheld. This will allow the Budget Commission an opportunity to issue a defined “warning” identifying an expected outcome (executed bid) before formal action is taken. Auditor Walder shared, that the annual Budget Hearings allows the Budget Commission the ability to modify revenue and expenses. As the levied departments are included on the County certificate, any action would be taken at their budget hearing. Prosecutor Flaiz continued the discussion by adding that continued attention needs to be focused on the increasing cash balances. He shared that even after the needed construction projects are completed, that annual accumulations should be addressed and adjusted to reasonable collection amounts. Auditor Walder echoed by offering, “The taxpayer should not be charged an annual surplus amount of money. It is to be for what they (levied departments) currently claim to need. It should not be for something that has not yet been thought of.”

**Public Comment:**


Sarah McGlone, representing League of Women Voters of Geauga, requested a clarification of the percent of valuation change. Auditor Walder provided information about the re-evaluation process. He offered to provide a breakdown map of the average projected value change within the county, pending review and vetting of the data, within the next few weeks.

Sarah also requested the name and title for alternate representing Treasure Hitchcock.  
Response: Deputy Treasurer Donna Borsi.

Being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by James Flaiz, to adjourn the September 18, 2023 regular meeting at 10:27 a.m., seconded by Donna Borsi.

Voice vote: Three ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Walder, Auditor  
Secretary/Budget Commission



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