

The Geauga County Data Board met on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 2:00 pm at 231 Main Street in the Auditor's Appraisal Conference room and via Microsoft Teams for a Special meeting. Members present: Chuck Walder, County Auditor; Scott Hildenbrand, County Sheriff; Joe Cattell, County Engineer; Sheila Bevington, County Clerk of Courts; Tim Lennon, County Commissioner; C.P. Hitchcock, County Treasurer; Jim Flaiz, County Prosecutor; Michelle Lane, Board of Elections Director and Nora McGinnis, Board of Elections Deputy Director and Celesta Mullins, County Recorder. Also present: Pam McMahan, Deputy Auditor; Ron Leyde, Chief Deputy Auditor; Katie Taylor, Engineers HR, and Fiscal Officer; Frank Antenucci, Chief Deputy Administrator; Allen Keener, Chief Technology Officer; Anastasia Nicolas, Chagrin Valley Times and Shelly Lewis, League of Woman Voters of Geauga.

Approval of ADP meeting minutes from 12/6/22

Motion: by Chuck Walder, seconded by Chris Hitchcock to approve the ADP meeting minutes from 12/6/22.

Voice votes: 9 ayes, 0 absent, 1 abstain. Tim Lennon not present at that meeting. Motion carried.

ADP/Auditor Cost Reductions

Chuck commented that due to the removal of about \$240,000.00 in Salaries from ADP's 2023 Budget there will need to be a reduction in what technology ADP could support. It is imperative to support the infrastructure and there are primarily three business models that he is speaking of which are the financial system (New World), MVP which will become ISSG and lastly Realink. All three of those systems were scheduled to have significant upgrades and improvements moving from server based to Cloud based technology which will cause licensing, cost structures, and support structures to change. Chuck went on to say since the bottom line of ADP's budget does not support what was envisioned for those products with the decrease in 2023's budget other options had to be explored.

Chuck explained he used the Recorders as the model when years ago they removed their business systems from the oversight of ADP and by doing that they were able to use their own resources and funding for them. Chuck proposed the Auditor be removed from ADP oversight from a standpoint of manpower for the three business systems that the Auditor invokes and uses. Those three systems need funding to move forward, and they are essential in making sure our systems remain secure.

Chuck added that at the beginning of 2022 the Federal government put certain restrictions on what software can reside on Federal computers. They eliminated the ability to put certain applications that were housed in or written by Chinese based companies. Governor DeWine passed an executive order that forbids any Chinese based application or software from running on any State owned or leased piece of equipment. Sheriff asked how the proposed agreement saves money and Chuck replied he can use REAF and Auditor money to pay for some of those resources because he will have to have his own IT staff. Jim asked since the funding was cut at the last minute is there a way to reduce ADP's cost footprint by eliminating or reducing the services that are provided to the BOCC and those under their hiring authority. Chuck stated the tool must be supported whether it is serving the Auditor or the entire County.

ADP now has moved two of the three people that were working on these projects to assist with the cyber issues and for the first time has a dedicated cybersecurity person whose position was to be backfilled with that money. Chuck went on to mention it would be catastrophic to the County to take a step backward when Federal and State indicators show those issues are getting worse. Chuck said he believes he will need 24 months to accomplish this initiative and recommends yearly the ADP Board reviews it to see if it is cost effective, what changes were made, and if the agreement based on those criteria fails it can be undone if need be.

The agreement is for IT and OT and still has the requirement to come before the ADP Board anytime technology is bought but support and implementation will be done by Auditor IT staff.

Tim asked if the \$240,000.00 was for additional employees that ADP wants to hire or is it for people that were already hired over the last six months. Chuck said the \$240,000.00 was in last March's submission for the 2023 Budget for three employees and that budget was vetted through the Budget Commission, and it was removed in December at a Commissioners appropriation hearing. Tim asked if the \$240,000.00 was in a supplemental request and Chuck said that was not it was in the tax budget. Jim questioned why Tim is asking questions when he voted to cut the Budget the questions should have been asked before the Budget was cut. Tim said he was under the impression some of the employees had been hired without the approval of the County Commissioners. Jim stated the Commissioners do not approve who ADP hires and Tim said that was correct but having the funding to go forward if its above and beyond and further added to the budget for ADP as that budget has gone up from last year (2021) by about \$200,000.00 so it should not be implied it was cut. Tim said the \$900,000.00 for contract services, etc.

Chuck said there are two numbers and Tim said that is where he became confused. Chuck said the \$900,000.00 was going to be a supplemental that came about after the Homeland Security presentation Adrian approached Frank and Chuck in the parking lot and said he had spoken with the Commissioners and what the Commissioners want to do was a series of supplementals between that time and the end of the year or it would be done in March but went on to say chances are ADP would get the majority of the money in the current year. Chuck said that part was not in the Budget submission because at first it was but then was removed because he said he understands the Commissioners strike out certain items until carryover occurs. Chuck went on to comment the \$240,000.00 was originally budgeted and approved throughout the whole cycle. Tim asked if this was additional to what had already been approved. Chuck said no it was not additional the \$240,000.00 was in ADP's tax budget that came out in August. Chuck went on to say usually the County auto-appropriates so on January 1 whatever the tax budget was set at is appropriated but different than any year he has been Auditor he has never seen it happen that funding was removed out of just ADP's budget. ADP's was the only funding item removed in the appropriation measure now ADP has to figure out how to go forward because all year long ADP thought they were going to have that money and there were no indicators to the contrary, so ADP started putting people in place and ran low on people as some received promotions and now those positions need to be backfilled with the money from the 2023 budgets.

Tim asked if the \$900,000.00 was going to be in perpetuity and continuing into future budgets or are these one-time big infrastructure type purchases. Chuck said he believed Tim asked that at the October hearing and some of it is ongoing and some of it is one time only. Chuck can get the numbers for those and said it was stated in the meeting from October which tools were ongoing and which tools were a onetime event. Tim asked if the \$1.3 million additional was going to be part of 2024's budget. Chuck said no there is a percentage that will be ongoing because certain technologies and licensing will change but it will be a variable. The \$900,000.00 included going to a total Cloud based backup with a few exceptions. Chuck said ADP has been working on these projects for the last two and a half years as the County was a decade behind in its technology.

Chris stated he thought it best for the County if the Commissioners went back to the already approved tax budget and corrected the perhaps inadvertent reduction of \$240,000.00 to the ADP tax budget. Chuck said Tim is only one vote and has historically been a good supporter of ADP and that is what was surprising that there was no notice that the \$240,000.00 was taken out and he will tear up the agreement he is proposing if things change. Chuck said he has hired his first Auditor IT person and he is training and helping ADP currently. Tim asked if Chuck would sit down with him and show him the supplemental requests in detail what is immediate, what is infrastructure, and what is going to carry on into future budgets and what is not. Chuck said he would be happy to do that. Jim said he believed that was already done at the Budget

hearing. Tim said he heard the Budget request and asked questions when he was there, and his understanding was some of the big-ticket items were going to be supplementals where we would work through the process.

Chuck said his biggest worry is New World as it has a life expectancy, and that the accounting system is going to come to an end at some time and the County better be ready because it will come to a stop without a financial system, so it needs to be off loaded to the Cloud. Chris stated he believes the Auditor suggesting he would go independent is a disservice to all the taxpayers as ADP is a collaborative body which has each other's backs and to lose one integral part of the consortium would not be a step forward. Chris went on to say Tim is now an informed member and it is very important we go back to the already approved tax budget and restore that money as quickly as possible so we can move forward. Jim said he is not a fan of the agreement, but he believes the ADP Board has to approve because the Board has to protect itself and cannot be at the whim of Gerry (Morgan) going into New World and taking money out of ADP's budget in November without any public meeting or any comment from any of the Commissioners because that is what happened.

Chuck said if the agreement is not needed in a week, or a month and the problem disappears all the work that is done independently is not lost it is all a gain as he is going to invoke resources to pursue going Cloud based. Chuck said if things change he is willing to come back and do the right thing for the taxpayers and he agrees with Chris the Board's design is to streamline the technology in the County and make it cheaper as that is the Board's goal and objective and also to make a standardized approach to technology to prevent outside intrusion and stop agencies that start to separate off as there might be one group that is not very secure that negatively effects another group. Chuck said he will be as secure or stronger than the County is going to be because the New World system runs the backbone for the entire County. Joe asked if the Commissioners restored the funding does Chuck walk away from the agreement to separate as the way the agreement is written it does not have that in there. Chuck said if the Commissioners restore the money there would be no need for the agreement so language could be added to the agreement as item #7 to sever the agreement. Joe said there was a mention of 24 months in the agreement and Chuck said that was the grace period if the Commissioners came back and decided to restore the funding the agreement would no longer be needed.

Motion: by Jim Flaiz, seconded by Joe Cattell to approve the Agreement Pursuant to R.C. 307.842 with the Geauga County Auditor with the addition of item #7.

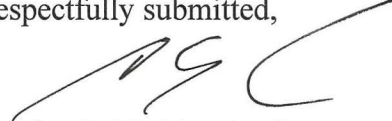
Voice votes: 9 ayes, 0 absent, 1 abstain. (Tim Lennon) Motion carried.

Public Comment

Shelley Lewis asked what the three roles were that ADP needs to fill. Chuck said a Network, Server and Cybersecurity person and the server person would transfer to be a Cloud person when the servers move to the Cloud.

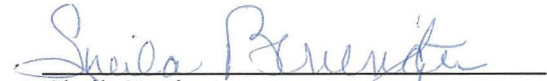
BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, Chris Hitchcock, motioned to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,



Charles E. Walder, Auditor
Secretary/ADP Board



Michele Lane
Board of Elections Director


Sheila Bevington
Clerk of Courts

Celesta Mullins
Geauga County Recorder



Scott Hildenbrand
Geauga County Sheriff


Nora McGinnis
Board of Elections Deputy Director

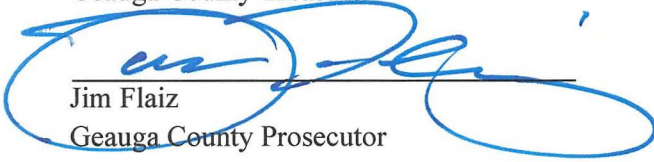


Joe Cattell
Geauga County Engineer

Christopher Hitchcock
Geauga County Treasurer



Tim Lennon
Geauga County Commissioner



Jim Flaiz
Geauga County Prosecutor