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Committee meetings

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Summary

- Summit County Council will be voting on the Capital Improvement Budget next week. During this meeting, County Director of Finance and Budget Phil Montgomery explained the projects to council, including facility improvements, stormwater upgrades and the [High Level Bridge replacement](#).
- The sewer trunkline on Mud Brook (near Timbertop) will be replaced after being washed out during the [Aug. 8, 2024, flood](#). Council will appropriate approximately \$829,000 for the project. This will be voted on in a second reading next week because the wrong council district was listed on the item.
- Council will vote on the operating budget next week. This will include carryover funds and projects from 2024.

Follow-Up Questions

- Why did council decide to delay theMud Brook vote for a second reading and not make a motion to amend the item and approve it with the amendment?

- How does the county rent space out, and what limitations exist for a government to rent out space compared to a private business?

Notes

- Rita Darrow, Summit County Council president, started the meeting at 4:35 p.m.
 - Council members present: David Licate, Christine Higham, Joseph Kacyon, John Donofrio, Brandon Ford, John Schmidt, Erin Dickinson and Bethany McKenney

Public comment

- A community member opposes funding for [Oriana House](#) because the organization does not address a person's "spiritual component." She said she worked there and asked about it and was fired and asked not to return
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Personnel committee (Higham, chair)

- Item 2025-018 Salary increases for certain non-union employees based on job performance and additional duties
 - A sheriff's department staffer said certain unclassified employees have taken on extra assignments. This will increase their salary within the budget
 - Item passed unanimously
 - (NOTE: Passage does not mean the legislation is passed into law, it means that it is approved by the committee to receive a vote at the next regular County Council meeting)

Public works committee (Ford, chair)

- 2025-019 Renewal of a one-year \$100,000 contract with [KE McCartney & Associates](#) for design services in the [Surface Water Management District](#) (SWMD)
 - An engineering staffer said this is an annual contract paid for with SWMD funds. She said they were the most qualified vendor when proposals were requested two years ago
 - Darrow asked if this is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - The staffer said it is currently ARPA-funded, but SWMD is starting to generate revenue
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-020 Emergency repairs to the [Mud Brook](#) sewer trunkline by [Wingfoot Rental and Development Co.](#) for \$829,386.18
 - A staffer said this repairs 900 feet of damaged sewers from the [Aug. 8th, 2024, floods](#)

- Schmidt asked when the road would be replaced
 - A staffer said they are talking with the cities of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls and with Woodridge schools to partner and fix the road
 - Licate said this area is no longer in Council District 3, but the resolution says it is
 - Ford asked what should be done
 - A staffer said they could amend the resolution and vote on the item in a second reading next meeting
 - Ford made a motion to take a second reading at the next meeting
 - Motion passed unanimously
 - 2025-021 Purchase of a new pump at Pump Station 51 in the City of Green from the Hannon Co. for \$99,751
 - A staffer said this is one of the “larger” Green pump stations. He said there are typically two pumps in every station and an extra pump in case a pump fails. This replaces one that broke.
 - Item passed unanimously
 - 2025-022 Partnering with the [Village of Mogadore](#) for the Lincoln Avenue and Etter Road Infrastructure Improvement Project for \$75,000
 - A staffer said this is an annual partnership where Summit County can improve sewer lines at the same time as make road improvements in Mogadore
 - Item passed unanimously

Public Safety (Dickinson, chair)

- 2025-023 Authorizing the Sheriff’s use of facilities and equipment at 393 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Road in Green
 - A staffer said this office stores the mobile command unit and does [OVI \(operating a vehicle impaired\)](#) processing. He said Green receives a 3% annual police credit for the facility
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-024 Purchasing five AWD V6 2025 Ford Explorer Police Interceptors from [Bob Maxey Ford](#) Inc. for \$226,900
 - A staffer said the purchase is being funded by a non-match federal grant, but the grant will not cover the full cost of purchasing and marking the vehicles
 - Kacyon asked what the useful life of a vehicle is
 - A staffer said the vehicles last approximately 150,000 miles

- Kacyon asked how long they last
 - The staffer said it depends on the usage
- Kacyon asked if there is a plan to switch away from fossil fuels
 - The staffer said there is not because they need to constantly replace vehicles and switching to electric or hybrid vehicles would raise costs
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-025 Contract with Proware to provide the Common Pleas Court's case management software for \$223,700
 - A staffer said this is an annual contract and Proware has been responsive to county needs
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-026 Hiring one full-time case manager and two part-time peer support specialists for [Community Support Services](#) and the [Hope Mental Health Court](#) for \$124,645
 - A staffer said this is the fourth year of a grant-funded program
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-027 Agreement between the Legal Defenders Office of Summit County and municipalities in Summit County to pay unreimbursed payments for legal defenders services
 - A staffer said this is a new contract where the county will only receive unreimbursed payments. The county won't have to receive all of the payments and send them back to municipalities
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-028 Contract with Oriana House Inc. for community corrections services for \$9.5 million
 - A staffer said this is an annual general fund contract that has increased by 2.9%. Oriana House provides housing and health services
 - Kacyon asked for the cost per patient or bed
 - The staffer said she could send council a list of services and costs
 - Another staffer said the one-page billing should be sent to council
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-029 Partnering with the City of Akron to manage the computer-aided dispatch system for \$156,000
 - A staffer said they are moving away from [Fairlawn Gig](#) and are partnering with Akron for 24-hour dispatch service. She said they will still be using Fairlawn Gig for county fiber services
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-030 Purchasing a mobile response trailer for Summit County Operations

Response Teams for \$130,000

- A staffer said teams deployed to North Carolina didn't have a set place to sleep, this is also a local response issue. She said a mobile command trailer would solve this issue locally and elsewhere
- Darrow asked who would pay for the trailer when it is dispatched outside of Summit County
 - The staffer said the requesting state pays for it
- Higham asked what special response teams Summit County has
 - The staffer said teams include HAZMAT and technical rescue
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-031 Purchasing audio equipment and upgrades for the Public Safety Training Room at the [Dispatch Center](#) for \$77,280.48
 - A staffer said the 50-person training room has noise from the air handlers. She said these new mics and speakers will drown out the noise
 - Item passed unanimously

Health and Human Services Committee (Jeff Wilhite, chair; Ford, acting chair)

- 2025-032 Awarding \$100,000 of opioid settlement funding to Akron Children's for the county [Unite Us](#) data-sharing program)
 - A staffer said this will work with Cleveland Clinic, Summa Health and now Akron Children's to implement Unite Us
 - She said she will give an update about Unite Us at the next meeting
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-033 Renting part of the second floor of 175 S. Main Street to the Summit Medina Workforce Area Council (SMWAC)
 - A staffer said this office space lease renewal is for SMWAC. He said they relocated on the second floor from the left of the elevators to straight ahead of the elevators. Rent is staying at \$450 per month and the lease goes until March 31, 2027
 - Item passed unanimously
- Council is taking time on item 2025-011 (awarding \$3.2 million to Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities to continue a pilot program assisting older adults)

Finance Committee (Donofrio, chair)

- 2025-034 Appropriating funds for the 2025-2030 capital improvement budget
 - Phil Montgomery (director of Finance and Budget for the County of Summit)

said council received a list of projects and costs last week and the capital improvement book was sent to council this morning.

- He said they are not looking to appropriate the entire six-year \$101 million plan but are asking to appropriate \$29 million of local funds for 2025. He said additional federal and state money is expected
 - He said this is a 6.6% decrease of \$108 million in 2024
 - He said improvements include a new curtain wall replacement for the Medical Examiner and parking deck charge orders
 - Facilities improvements include dispatch facility improvements, fiber internet expansion, Ohio Building remodeling, Summit Artspace renovations, and jail door upgrades
 - Equipment upgrades include sanitary sewer vehicles and other county vehicles
 - Bridge improvements include the High Level Bridge replacement (\$75 million over six years)
 - Other improvements include economic development, roads, ditches and stormwater
- Item passed unanimously
- 2025-035 Appropriating 2025 operating funding
 - Montgomery said when funds are not spent in previous years, the money carries over in the next year, or if a project is not complete, the project and funding is carried over.
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-036 Contract with Advice X Technologies LLC for PureStorage Solution for \$104,580
 - A staffer said this will replace the two storage devices that serve all 275 county servers
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-037 Contract with FairlawnGig for virtual court internet for \$120,000
 - Item passed unanimously
- 2025-038 Contract with Zoom for Zoom licenses for virtual court and county operations for \$97,049.38
 - A staffer said the video conferencing is mostly used by the courts and the cost has increased by 6%, which is typical, according to the staffer
 - Item passed unanimously
- Summit County Council unanimously went into executive session at 5:17 p.m. to discuss building security
- The meeting ended at 6:02 p.m.

