

**MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2004**

Sharon A. Ray called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Patricia G. Geissman and Stephen D. Hambley present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer.

At the beginning of the meeting the oral reading of the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> was dispensed with. Each Commissioner has read them personally. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the minutes as amended from July 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Doug King, Administrative Assistant in the County Engineer's Office, presented six resolutions. The first three were road closings – two on Vandemark Road (closed Monday through Friday) and one on Station Road (closed Monday through Wednesday). The next resolution was finding that public convenience and welfare requires the resurfacing of Bridge No. 15 on Bellus Road, and the following resolution authorizes the County Engineer to advertise for bids for that project. The last resolution approves the use of the subdivision drainage maintenance fund for repair work in Fox Meadow Subdivision Phases 1 and 2. The six resolutions were approved on a motion made by Mrs. Geissman and seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Commissioners reviewed the weekly permits list.

Chris Jakab, Finance Director, presented resolutions amending the annual appropriation resolution, expenditure adjustments for various funds, authorizing the purchase of gasoline for the Engineering Center, approval of an agreement with Wayne County for the continuation of the Court Mediation Service Program in the amount of \$25,000, approval of an independent contract agreement for temporary casework services with a former employee of the Child Support Enforcement Agency to fill in for vacation periods, authorizing the advertisement for bids for Job & Family Services temporary clerical staffing services for vacations, maternity leave and fill-ins, approving funding agreements with Juvenile Court for Family First Council placement and coordination services, authorizing an agreement relating to the Help Me Grow Program between Family First Council and Job & Family Services, a resolution declaring 12 items of property from various departments as excess property that allows the items to be placed for bid on the online auction site, and the weekly bills in the amount of \$800,736.41. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the nine resolutions and to pay the bills. Seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Gary Berkowitz, Human Resources Director, presented and reviewed the personnel resolution. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the personnel changes and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Gary also presented a resolution for John Stricker, County Administrator, who is on vacation. The resolution amends the Table of Organization for the Child Support Enforcement Agency. It adds an additional Hearing Officer that they need to help with the growing caseloads. Mrs. Geissman made a motion to approve the resolution, and Mr. Hambley seconded it. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ken Hotz, Sanitary Engineer, presented a resolution to authorize a change order for the Penny's Drive sewer replacement project. It was a reduction of \$504.68 because the actual amount was less than the estimated amount. The Fabrizi Trucking & Pavement Co., Inc. final price for the project was \$143,119.82. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the change order. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ken presented a resolution creating a restricted water main in Hamilton Road. Developers installed this project, which is by the golf course. Property owners on the south side can tap in for \$3,500 per connection. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution. Mr.

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Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The third resolution Ken presented was authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to obtain easements for a project replacing the sanitary sewer on Lafayette Road from Fair Road to Lake Road. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The last resolution Ken presented authorizes the Sanitary Engineering Department to advertise for bids to purchase a tractor with a front end loader and backhoe attachment for their Maintenance Department to repair sewer and water lines. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the bidding; seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Dr. Ross Santamaria, Director of Diversion and Forensics, reported that they have 160 active cases and 30 that are pending, which is typical. Malpractice insurance is in place. The licenses for the program have been renewed. Everything is running smoothly.

Patrice Theken, Director of the Department of Planning Services, presented a resolution proclaiming November 2004 as "Medina County Planning Month" and November 5, 2004 as "Community & Regional Planning Day in Medina County". They have held an Open House celebration the past two years where they and other agencies have shown visitors what they have done with regard to planning. The Open House will be on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Mrs. Geissman moved to pass the resolution of proclamation. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Patrice was pleased to announce the awarded grant funds from the Medina County Comprehensive Plan Grant Assistance Program allocating \$25,000 to implement the program. The Medina County Commissioners instituted this program with the assistance of the Medina County Planning Commission and Patrice read the resolution. The grant program provides land use planning assistance to local communities to encourage local officials to plan for their communities' future in a sound and logical manner. It provides a one-to-one match (with a limit of \$5,000) for the cost of professional planning services. The communities may hire a consultant or use the Department of Planning Services in preparing their map or plan. The grant also includes a provision to allow for the grant communities to be reimbursed up to \$300 for costs related to attendance at conferences, seminars, or workshops related to zoning and planning education by local community officials to help them with their comprehensive planning process.

Patrice said the Department of Planning Services reviewed the applications and are recommending the following communities receive the following amounts in grant awards:

Brunswick City	\$5,000
Brunswick Hills Township	\$5,000
Chatham Township	\$1,500
Liverpool Township	\$3,600
Montville Township	\$5,000
Village of Seville	\$2,000

Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Mrs. Geissman commented that the Seville Comprehensive Planning meeting she went to last week was very well attended. She said she has never seen a community work so well together in the 12 years she has been Commissioner. The whole community was involved in the start of their comprehensive plan. She congratulated Mayor Conrad Sarnowski.

Ms. Ray read the resolutions commending the 2004 4-H Outstanding Court and the following were selected for their participation, dedication, and service to 4-H:

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Rustee Clutter  
Caitlin Disbrow  
Kimberly Eaken  
Dustin Eaken  
Jennifer Kerschner  
Elizabeth Neumeyer  
Nina Pettry  
Stephanie Prebis  
Julie Riedel  
Zach Skubon  
Brittney Smith  
Laura Wack  
Betsey Williams  
Kristy Williams  
Corey Wolff

Mrs. Geissman made a motion to pass the resolution commending the fifteen 2004 4-H Court resolutions. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray stated that the Commissioners received the notice of the transfer of the liquor license of Officers Quarters, Ltd. DBA Best Western Medina on Route 18 to the Mark Restaurant, Ltd. DBA The Mark. This is for informational purposes.

Mrs. Geissman said she was surprised when she saw the change. It is a very nice restaurant that was started in Akron in the late 1960's. There were no further comments

The meeting was opened for public comment. No one wished to speak at this time.

The Assistant Clerk read the expenses of County Officials. Mrs. Geissman moved to allow the expenses; seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The meeting recessed at 9:56 a.m. Patrice Theken took advantage of this time for a photo opportunity with some of the Comprehensive Plan grantees.

At 10:15 a.m. the meeting reconvened to continue the public hearing on the annexation petition of 177.1326 acres of land from Wadsworth Township to the City of Wadsworth.

Ms. Ray stated that there were three pieces of additional information recently received by the Commissioners' Office regarding this annexation so she requested a motion to continue the continuation of the hearing until August 16, 2004. The additional information received was:

- 1.) A letter from Ken Hotz, Sanitary Engineer, regarding an agreement with Wadsworth. The agreement is that the property proposed for annexation is within the service area of Wadsworth City so the sanitary sewer service would be provided whether the property was located within the city or remained in the township.
- 2.) Information from the Department of Planning Services. The Planning Department provided the buffer requirements for both Wadsworth Township and the City of Wadsworth relative to a residential district located by a heavy industrial district.
- 3.) Motion to Continue – Wadsworth Township. Wadsworth Township Trustees sent a Motion to Continue requesting a one-month extension to give them more time to prepare for this matter.

Jeff Witschey, Witschey & Witschey Co., LPA, who is agent for the petitioners, spoke in opposition to the motion to continue. He introduced Craig Corbus from his office. He said they filed the petition on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Out of courtesy they contacted the township to let them

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know they were going to file the annexation and this was over 2-1/2 months ago. He said it has gone beyond the "11<sup>th</sup> hour" and it is "past midnight" time wise. Now the township has asked for a continuance so they can hire council and bring them "up to speed" on the annexation. In his opinion that is not fair – they have had enough time. He added that the township has chosen the Prosecutor's Office as their legal council. He has a problem with that because the Board of Medina County Commissioners has already requested the Prosecutor's Office represent them with respect to opinions on taxes and other issues. To him that is a conflict of interest and the township should have independent council. He has a presentation prepared plus they have brought their expert witness and a representative from Wadsworth City, so they would like to go forward with the hearing this morning and not have it continued.

James Bennett, Prosecutor's Office, said that the Medina County Prosecutor's Office is the statutory council for both the Commissioners and the township. It is not as if the township went out and hired the Prosecutor's Office – they have them as their statutory council. The statute envisions that the Prosecutor's Office might be involved in a situation such as this where there is a conflict and one Prosecutor is representing the Board and another Prosecutor is representing a township, so they use different Prosecutors. That is why the Commissioners have Bill Thorne and the township has James Bennett and Katharina Devanney. It is not the Board's concern to determine if there is a conflict of interest, and the Prosecutor's Office should not be disqualified from representing the township.

James addressed the "11<sup>th</sup> hour" concern. He said this annexation has been going on for a while but the Board does have 90 days in which to hold hearings. The August 16<sup>th</sup> continuation day would still be within the time that they could have originally held the first hearing. Even now it is a quick turnaround for the petitioner to get the annexation both heard and decided in three hearings. The township was unaware that they could use the Prosecutor's Office as council. He called the trustees and indicated that if they would like any representation, they would be happy to assist. It was not a situation where the township was trying to delay the hearing. It was the Prosecutor's Office offering assistance to their statutory clients that brought about their representation. He and Ms. Devanney have had less than a week to consult with their client, and Mr. Witschey has had at least a year to prepare. He thinks to allow an additional two weeks is not unreasonable, especially when it is within the legal time that they could have originally started the hearing.

Bill Thorne, Prosecutor's Office, said that he has not and will not be discussing this annexation with Mr. Bennett or Ms. Devanney. The Board does not have a conflict with this because there is no role for them to play other than making an independent judgment. The questions that have been asked so far have been purely statutory questions so there have been no discretionary matters dealt with. He talked to John Stricker, County Administrator, last week and he asked about the right to continue the annexation hearing. He told him that when they wrote the annexation statutes they set up a 120-day timetable for making the decision. The Commissioners are well within this original timetable to hear and decide the matter.

Mrs. Geissman stated that she realizes they are working under new annexation guidelines. She asked if it was normal for the Prosecutor's Office to call a township to ask them if they want any assistance when they did not call and ask for any.

Bill said when they hear about something going on that the Prosecutor's Office thinks the townships should have counsel on, they do sometimes contact the entity. It is not abnormal, but it is not something that is done all of the time.

Ms. Ray said if they continue today's hearing to August 16<sup>th</sup> the Commissioners would still have plenty of time to have the hearing and make their decision before the 120 day deadline as set up by statute. She made a motion to accept the request from Wadsworth Township and recess and continue the annexation hearing on Monday, August 16, 2004. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

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There were no further questions or comments.

Ms. Ray stated that the continued annexation hearing for 177.1326 acres from Wadsworth Township to Wadsworth City is schedule for Monday, August 16, 2004, at 10:15 a.m.

Commissioners recessed the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m. the County Engineer's Office received bids for rock salt and also for resurfacing Firestone Road. Their office will review these bids and recommendations will be made.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 p.m. for the discussion session.

Mrs. Geissman suggested they discuss the Department of Jobs & Family Services and what is happening there because there had been no discussion on it. She said she tried calling the Governor on this issue. They are trying to get the counties to pay back all this money that had been spent that they thought was in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) budget. The difference between the TANF and non-TANF is the TANF are the funds that are used for cash assistance. The welfare program is working so well that they have gotten these people to work, but they are the "working poor". Then they need non-TANF dollars and that is the childcare, the health insurance, and food stamps. So they have been spending money and being encouraged to spend this money to give the food stamps, the childcare, and the health insurance because the cash assistance TANF money was there. Actually it was not there, and they found that some of this stuff had been coded wrong.

Ms. Ray stated that it is inconceivable to her that they did not balance this budget for four years – since fiscal year 2000. She said the county gets audited annually as do the cities, villages, and townships. She asked how in the world this could have happened.

Mrs. Geissman said that this is a big issue and everyone is asking how this happened. She said Mead Wilkins, Job & Family Services Director, is in Columbus today along with Suzanne Alexander, the policy analyst for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO), and they will keep the Commissioners abreast of what is going on. Mrs. Geissman said they probably both received the letter from Mr. Potter, the Deputy Director from the Office of Fiscal Services, and a response from Suzanne Alexander. She tried calling the Governor all last week, and he was out of the country. Today he is still out of the office, but they wanted to know why she was calling. She thinks he is screening calls. She told them she still wanted him to call her. She knows that Representative Calvert met with Hays last week to see what could be resolved. She has not had an opportunity to talk this weekend because he had a little grandchild born this weekend. She said we are the victims of our success. They have done so well on welfare reform and have done what the state told them to do, spending the TANF dollars on non-TANF items, that now they are in this big hole. It is inconceivable that they expect them to pay all of this back. She is not sure what amount of money would be forgiven, if any. They are working to see if some of this money can be forgiven. They are meeting today and both Mead and Suzanne are supposed to call as soon as they know anything they can share with us.

Ms. Ray said Suzanne's letter was fairly harshly written.

Mrs. Geissman said she is sure it caused some ire. This is an absolute mess and how did the state Job & Family Services overlook anywhere from \$57 million to \$200 million in overspending.

Ms. Ray asked if they were going to come up with a plan of how they are going to handle it. Some of the counties are not going to be able to pay the money back.

Mrs. Geissman said that as they can see in the letters, they are trying to come up with answers and there are several agencies and leadership that would like to be a part of that. They

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are going ahead with it. The County Commissioners' Association (CCAO) would like to be a part of this because they represent all of the counties in the state of Ohio. Almost all of the counties are involved in this. Just a few small counties did not spend when they were told to spend. Medina County had things to spend the money on, like the Teen Center and Lodi Resource Center. The majority of counties are involved in this mess. She is not sure how it is going to be resolved but it is going to have to be resolved very quickly and also resolved that somehow or other there is some forgiveness – whether it is on the state level or the federal level. There is no way the counties are going to be able to pay this money back. She thinks they should be very careful in the future with this coding process to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again.

Mr. Hambley brought up some items in Mead Wilkins' July 26<sup>th</sup> letter to the Commissioners regarding expenditures and elimination of contracts. He is concerned with closing the Lodi Family Resource Center in 30 days because, unlike other programs, this would be impossible to start back up. Other programs you can stop and start to do the programs again some time in the future, as money would become available. The Center knew in ten months there was not going to be any more money. They had been spending the last couple of months, and they were planning on spending the next couple of months, looking for money from other sources. They went to the Cleveland Foundation and they looked at the entire cycle for funding that is available in the county, whether it is United Way grant, Medina County Fund, or even Letha House. It is all coming out this spring. They were given a 30-day notice so there is no way they would find any money in 30 days.

Mrs. Geissman said she doubts they would find funding by the end of June 2005. They have been looking for funding for three years now. The only way they remained open was through the Family First Council. The best answer to that is, all of the services that are being done there can be serviced here in Medina, but they would have to find transportation over here and it is an inconvenience. Tom Whelan, Director of Lodi Hospital, mentioned that some of the services could come up to the hospital and continue their services in Lodi. That is a needy area. That is where we have the poorest of our poor.

Mr. Hambley pointed out that a lot of time and money has been spent to get the new location and move it forward. He asked if there was any way they can try keep it open and to provide funding from the General Fund. He read in the Plain Dealer what Tom Hays apparently said that Medina County was overreacting, and that there was cash in the TANF funds, and this would be resolved. If he is saying that - are we overreacting and why take that action to close down the Lodi Resource Center?

Mrs. Geissman said that is the same question she asked Mead – are they reacting too quickly on this? He has to give his 30-day notice because there are so many unknowns. He said if they find out they could keep it open, he can send them another letter telling them they have the funding. That was one of her concerns, too, because there are so many unknowns. As far as the services go, many programs can be picked up at the hospital and Tom Whelan has mentioned that and the only thing she sees that is really significant in the community that means so much to families down there is that Teen Center. That community has needed something for decades down there and this is one of the nicest things that happened through this program. The closing of that will be detrimental to those teens down there and there is no way to make up for that. The other services they are already looking at finding a location to do it – maybe not all at the same location, but a location.

Mr. Hambley asked Mrs. Geissman if she does not believe the Resource Center is needed in terms of how it has been constructed.

Mrs. Geissman said she thinks it is needed down there, but she does not think they need to get alarmed at the fact that the services are stopping because they are not stopping. The services are still available. Every one of the services except the Teen Center will still be available. Some of them may not be in the community any longer, but they will still be available in Medina, as they always have been. When they thought they had the extra money, it

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was nice to take it to where the problem is. When they thought they had the extra money, it was nice to take it to where the problem is. If you do not have the extra money, then you deal with the situation by making sure the people can get in for the services or taking it to them to the individual areas that might open up their doors to allow someone to come in and have space.

Mr. Hambley asked Mrs. Geissman if she was convinced that even if they were to get an extension until the end of this year or into next year, that there was no hope that they were going to find the additional funding.

Mrs. Geissman said they looked everywhere. They looked for three years. They went to Lodi Village Council and they would not help at all. All the different grant areas have been applied to. There just did not appear to be any funds. The only hope they had at the time was through Family First and they came through and used some of the discretionary funds that they now were told they should not have been spending.

Ms. Ray said at this point it looks like the state does not have a clear direction of how they are going to handle this. Maybe this would be situation where they should call LNE Group and have them check private foundation grants and see if there would be any money that would be available for a Teen Center. In addition to public money, they do private funding searches. They may be something out there that is specific to a Teen Center. It would not hurt to see.

Mr. Hambley said that closing the Resource Center is difficult to get going again especially with all the time and effort that has been put into it. He hates to basically make a quick judgment especially if it means they just need to hold the course for a while longer until they really find out what is going on. The worst-case scenario would be they end up having to provide the money until they can find another funding source.

Mrs. Geissman said that is basically what they are doing. If there is any possibility of keeping it open, or there is any possibility of forgiveness of these funds, or more funds available – they should probably know that soon.

Mr. Hambley said in the mean time they have already given them a 30-day notice. Every foundation and agency does not happen now. It happens next spring. A project that is based at this location has \$25,000 from United Way that Colleen successfully applied for.

Mrs. Geissman said she does not know how the General Fund money could come up with that.

Mr. Hambley said they are basically talking about this year's budget for four months to keep the Resource Center open. He asked Chris Jakab how much it would cost.

Chris said \$20,000 for four months.

Mr. Hambley said the question is whether they have \$20,000 available to us in our carryover.

Mrs. Geissman said why don't they wait. Mead wanted to talk to them last week and she told them they had better postpone it because she thought Ms. Ray should hear what he had to say, too. He is in Columbus today. So let's see what he has to say next Monday.

Mr. Hambley said okay, but it moves them closer to that deadline when the Resource Center closes and makes it more difficult to start up. Transit would have to be available to Lodi and because of the deficit in our Transit system they are talking about limiting the number of days they are going to be able to serve this county. They have a large deficit problem there with all of the state cuts and high maintenance. Costs have hit badly. They are going to lose people.

Mrs. Geissman said they are probably going to have more state cuts. If there isn't any forgiveness on this big mess then that is probably going to be thrown on the lap of our legislators

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along with all the problems they already have. They will probably lose their local government funds. If they cannot get this resolved and forgiven she thinks it is certain they will lose them. That is really going to be rough on townships and villages, and the libraries would have to close their doors. It is a real serious problem.

Ms. Ray said they would take it day by day. She asked Mrs. Geissman to let them know as soon as she hears from Mead.

Mrs. Geissman said as soon as Mead calls her today she would let them know.

In other business, Mrs. Geissman said she spoke with Linda Hoffmann from the Public Defender Commission, and they are doing the last of the interviews for the lead attorney. They are meeting tomorrow in the hopes of appointing that department head.

Mrs. Geissman said that Chris Jakab posted the position for the attorney for jail inmates on the Internet. They received an application from one county attorney and several from outside the county. She said they probably do not realize that there is not much activity or money involved. She suggested that he interview the county attorney and then check with the Sheriff.

Chris said he would make copies of all of the resumes for the Commissioners review.

Ken Hotz, Sanitary Engineer, said that the bids they received for the water meters two weeks ago were confusing. They met with all three companies and it turns out the high bidder is actually the low bidder. The bids were \$1.5 million, \$1.4 million, and \$973,000. This includes all the 63,000 meters to replace the old ones and 8,200 radio transceivers. The two lower bidders did not include the touch pads that enables them to read the meter from outside the home, which is necessary now because both husband and wife both work and meter readers cannot get in during the day. He will prepare a resolution for next week.

Mr. Hambley discussed the letter Commissioners received from the Greater Cleveland Poison Control Center. The Ohio Department of Health is no longer supporting them and that could also affect federal support. They are requesting a letter from the Commissioners to Governor Bob Taft and also to the Director of Health indicating that they want the Ohio Department of Health to continue supporting the Poison Control Center. He said the Center provided a good report of their activity in Medina County. He asked if the other Commissioners were in agreement to writing a letter of dismay to the lack of funding.

Ms. Ray commented that their work is very impressive. It seems contradictory to her that, with all the importance placed on homeland security; there is no money available for poison control. You would think that a Poison Control Center would be something they would absolutely want to make sure stays stable.

Chris Jakab said that there is a meeting with the Governor on Thursday in an attempt to resolve the problem, and the Governor is thinking about changing that decision. It is important that the Commissioners send their letters before Thursday. All the Commissioners agreed to compose a letter.

Mr. Hambley discussed the vehicle mileage survey. He said Medina County reimburses \$.30 per mile now. The IRS suggests \$.37-1/2 and the survey shows varying amounts.

Chris said the average is \$.327. Upon questioning about the impact on the budget, Chris said he would do a cost analysis.

There was a short discussion about a higher rate for carpoolers, but they decided it would be too confusing.

Chris Jakab said he and John Stricker, County Administrator, have been meeting with a telecommunications company consultant who is trying to get the county's business. They are

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looking into reducing telecommunications costs and coming up with a better and more economical approach to the current system. There is a guaranteed payback on investment over a 12-month period of time. He said the way technology is changing; sometimes there is a better way of doing things, and he will provide a report.

Ms. Ray passed out a proposed agenda that Chris put together regarding fiscal issues for the department head meeting in September. She asked the others to look it over and see if they wanted to make any additions. She said she also has Gary Berkowitz, Human Resources Director, working on a proposed agenda about employment policies, training, and he can talk about mileage as well.

Ms. Ray said they received a letter from Medina Mayor Jane Leaver. She is appointing Mark Kolesar to serve as the city's representative to the Medina County Flood Damage Prevention Committee.

There was a discussion about getting together with Mead Wilkins when he returns and discuss the recent 30-day notice given for the Lodi Resource Center. He will not be back until August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chris said he is meeting with Colleen Rice on Wednesday to talk about closeout plans.

Mrs. Geissman said she would call Tom Whelan from the Lodi Community Hospital to check on room for the agencies.

Mr. Hambley stressed the importance of continue offering the programs in Lodi.

Chris said they could have given a 60-day notice, so maybe they can extend it to a 60 or 90-day notice to see if things can get resolved at the state level. He understands that Colleen has not been successful getting grant funding and this could be because most funding sources fund new startup programs - not continuing existing programs.

Mrs. Geissman added the services are available at the county seat and many grants are turned down because of duplication of services.

Commissioners agreed to meet for a discussion session on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting recessed at 2:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in the Hearing Room at 2:12 p.m. for a public hearing regarding a proposed \$2 increase in the dog license fees. Commissioners received a shelter report in advance.

Ms. Ray explained that the Animal Shelter is a self-funded department under the County Commissioners. It has been operating in the red so they are asking for a \$2 increase, which is the most it can go up according to the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). The last increase was in 1996. It should raise another \$46,000 that could address maintenance issues. This increase is still in line with surrounding counties. She said she is proud of the shelter: it is clean and neat, and the staff is very helpful.

Mrs. Geissman said she was approached by a woman that expressed concern about gassing the animals. Mrs. Geissman told her that according to experts, it is not a painful death. She asked for more information to pass along to this person.

Ms. Ray said she met with the three other animal agencies in the county – the SPCA, the Forgotten Animal Shelter and Alterpets. She wanted to let them know ahead of time about the proposed increase in dog license fees. She received no negative reports, and all of them felt they had a good relationship with the Animal Shelter.

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Del Saffle, Assistant Deputy Warden, said that a year ago they started giving animals a shot to relax and tranquilize them before they put them in the machine. This prevents them from panicking from being in an enclosed area or hearing the gas entering the chamber. Animals with respiratory problems are injected with sodium Phenobarbital only. There was an older gas chamber used years ago that was a decompression chamber, but that was outlawed before 1986. The method used now is carbon monoxide that comes in a tank, and it is 99% pure. The machine was endorsed by the humane society. It takes about 45 seconds until the animal is unconscious and the machine takes a 40-minute cycle. They have a veterinarian from Creekside Animal Clinic in Wadsworth on Fridays. She totally believes in the machine. Del said he has put animals to sleep both ways and he doesn't like doing it either way. If he has to do it – he prefers the machine. Once he starts the cycle, he does not have to stand and look at the animal face to face. Del told Mrs. Geissman he would provide information for her that says their machine is an acceptable means of euthanasia.

Mr. Hambley asked why the revenues were declining.

Del said one reason was that they are getting fewer dogs into the shelter every year. He thinks the spay and neutering program must be working. They also stopped euthanizing for the public when they began the spay and neutering program. The local veterinarians were unhappy with their clients taking their dogs to the shelter to be put to sleep for \$10 after they had served them for 10 or 12 years. They also watch what animals they accept. They do not take any older animals from owners anymore because they had problems placing them.

Chris said the fees were down in the 2003 report because the collection period is December and January. If all of the activity took place in December that may have skewed the previous year's numbers somewhat. The second sheet shows the collection for the two-month period, which is a more stable picture. The fees did decrease this past licensing period though. The Auditor's Office made an effort to contact residents who did not reapply for dog licenses plus they go door to door. They made a concerted effort to see that all of the dogs that should be licensed are, in fact, licensed.

Joan Heller, Assistant Auditor, said they found a few unlicensed dogs using those methods. Upon questioning she said the penalty for not purchasing a license is double the cost.

Mr. Hambley asked why the additional registration tag cost for kennels is only \$2.

Del explained that those are duplicate tags. A kennel license gives the kennel five tags. If they have eight dogs, for example, and they want tags for every one – they would get duplicates of the same numbers.

Chris said there are some exemptions for some kennel owners in terms of the fact that they do not have to have licenses for all of their dogs due to the nature of their business. The fact that they are getting the duplicate tags is actually just additional revenue and not a requirement of the kennel owner.

Mr. Hambley made a motion to close the hearing at 2:30 p.m. Seconded by Mrs. Geissman. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray said the resolution authorizing the increase would be on next Monday's agenda in order to give the Auditor's Office time to do the paperwork.

Mr. Hambley made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel/discipline. Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The Executive Session ended at 3:07 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Hambley that was seconded by Mrs. Geissman. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

**MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2004**

RESOLUTION PASSED:

- 04-0670 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS
- 04-0671 RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2004 AS "MEDINA COUNTY PLANNING MONTH" AND NOVEMBER 5, 2004 AS "COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PLANNING DAY IN MEDINA COUNTY"
- 04-0672 RESOLUTION COMMENDING RUSTEE CLUTTER ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0673 RESOLUTION COMMENDING CAITLIN DISBROW ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0674 RESOLUTION COMMENDING KIMBERLY EAKEN ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0675 RESOLUTION COMMENDING DUSTIN EAKIN ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0676 RESOLUTION COMMENDING JENNIFER KERSCHNER ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0677 RESOLUTION COMMENDING ELIZABETH NEUMEYER ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0678 RESOLUTION COMMENDING NINA PETTRY ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0679 RESOLUTION COMMENDING STEPHANIE PREBIS ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0680 RESOLUTION COMMENDING JULIE RIEDEL ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0681 RESOLUTION COMMENDING ZACH SKUBON ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0682 RESOLUTION COMMENDING BRITTNEY SMITH ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0683 RESOLUTION COMMENDING LAURA WACK ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0684 RESOLUTION COMMENDING BETSY WILLIAMS ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0685 RESOLUTION COMMENDING KRISTY WILLIAMS ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0686 RESOLUTION COMMENDING COREY WOLFF ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE 2004 4-H OUTSTANDING COURT
- 04-0687 RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE VANDEMARK ROAD (C.H. 31) BETWEEN RODGERS ROAD (T.H. 98) AND CHIPPEWA ROAD (C.H. 50)

**MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2004**

- 04-0688 RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE VANDEMARK ROAD (C.H. 31) BETWEEN COON CLUB ROAD (T.H.67) AND CHATHAM ROAD (S.R. 162)
- 04-0689 RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE STATION ROAD (C.H. 23) BETWEEN CROCKER ROAD (T.H. 8) AND GRAFTON ROAD (C.H. 42)
- 04-0690 RESOLUTION FINDING THAT PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND WELFARE REQUIRES THE RESURFACING OF BRIDGE NO. 15 ON BELLUS ROAD (C.H. 140) IN HINCKLEY TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO
- 04-0691 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MEDINA COUNTY ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING OF BRIDGE NO. 15 ON BELLUS ROAD (C.H. 140)
- 04-0692 RESOLUTION APPROVING USE OF SUBDIVISION DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR REPAIR WORK IN FOX MEADOW SUBDIVISION PHASES 1 AND 2 IN MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO
- 04-0693 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
- 04-0694 EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENTS FOR VARIOUS FUNDS
- 04-0695 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 2,600 GALLONS OF PREMIUM UNLEADED AND 3,600 GALLONS OF REGULAR UNLEADED GASOLINE FOR THE ENGINEERING CENTER
- 04-0696 APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH WAYNE COUNTY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE COURT MEDIATION SERVICES PROGRAM
- 04-0697 APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR TEMPORARY CASEWORK SERVICES FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
- 04-0698 AUTHORIZING THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TEMPORARY STAFFING SERVICES
- 04-0699 APPROVAL OF FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL PLACEMENT & COORDINATION SERVICES
- 04-0700 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT RELATING TO HELP ME GROW BETWEEN MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL AND MEDINA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
- 04-0701 RESOLUTION DECLARING MEDINA COUNTY PROPERTY AS EXCESS PROPERTY
- 04-0702 RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 04-0703 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

**MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2004**

- 04-0704 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE PENNY'S DRIVE SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING CO., INC. MCSE #SR-500/100-1
- 04-0705 CREATING A RESTRICTED MAIN IN HAMILTON ROAD (SANITARY ENGINEER PROJECT W-500/00-202.1)
- 04-0706 AUTHORIZING THE SANITARY ENGINEER TO OBTAIN EASEMENTS FOR VARIOUS SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
- 04-0707 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SANITARY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TO ADVERTISE FOR BID TO PURCHASE ONE TRACTOR WITH FRONT END LOADER AND BACKHOE ATTACHMENT
- 04-0708 RESOLUTION APPROVING GRANT AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MEDINA COUNTY
- 04-0709 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

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Sharon A. Ray

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia G. Geissman

Pamela M. Vereb, Asst. Clerk

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Stephen D. Hambley