

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 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. There were no minutes for approval this week and no resolutions from the Highway Engineer's Office.

Gary Berkowitz, Human Resources Director, presented and reviewed the personnel resolution. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve this resolution. Seconded by Mr. Hambley. Ms. Ray pointed out that the Animal Shelter's part-time replacement employee and intermittent employee will be used on an as-needed basis such as when an employee is sick and to work some Saturday shifts. There was no further discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Gary presented a resolution approving and authorizing the suspension for two days of an electrical inspector in the Building Department. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the suspension. Mr. Hambley seconded. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ken Hotz, Sanitary Engineer, presented a resolution authorizing the acceptance of various waterline easements for two separate projects. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the easements and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Gary Berkowitz, Human Resources Director, presented a resolution amending the Table of Organization for the Animal Shelter. They took a full-time deputy dog warden and reduced that to a part-time position. They also added an intermittent deputy dog warden position to work intermittently and for Saturday hour's coverage. Mrs. Geissman made a motion to amend the revised Table of Organization and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Chris Jakab, Finance Director, presented and reviewed resolutions involving amending the appropriations, various fund transfers, cash transfers, approving an agreement for Health & Development Services between Family First Council's Help Me Grow Program and the Medina County Health Department for service coordination and visitation, creation of a surplus rotary fund to benefit the online auction with distribution of the proceeds of the sales to the various departments, creation of a Safe Communities Program Fund that authorizes appropriations (a grant from the Ohio Department of Safety) in an amount not to exceed \$56,382 administered through the Sheriff's Office, declaring Medina County property as excess property and authorizing them to dispose of the excess property through the online auction and Table A items may be disposed of, authorizing a contract with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging for Passport Services for home delivered meals, and paying the weekly bills totaling \$1,361,438.13. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the eleven finance resolutions and paying the bills. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Mead Wilkins, Job & Family Services Director (JFS), announced that the Coats For Kids drive that they coordinated, raised over \$2,000, which bought 152 coats. He praised the Medina Diner on Route 18 for raising over \$800.

Mead discussed the many "kinship families" in the county, which are families with grandparents raising their grandchildren. They are going to offer kinship referral and information to train grandparents and offer them some financial resources. He said they have approximately 200 people on OWF cash benefits, and these are the people they will reach out to. Mead presented a resolution authorizing agreements for professional services relating to foster, adoptive and kinship family recruitment for Job & Family Services. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

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The second resolution Mead presented was authorizing a professional services agreement between Job & Family Services and Cornerstone Psychological. He explained that Suzanne LeSure and Cornerstone Psychological have been providing, for over ten years, free therapy for Medina County children who have been sexually abused. She organized therapists from different agencies to meet with these children at the JFS Building for several hours every week. This agreement would be to trim some of her administrative costs. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the agreement and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The third resolution Mead presented was to renew the JFS contract with Sterling Oaks with Adult Protective Services. They have needed emergency placement occasionally so this will help them to have that service when needed. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the contract and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The last resolution Mead presented was amending the Prevention, Retention & Contingency Plan (PRC) for JFS. Since they have written sections of the plans at different times, it was necessary for the new administrator and staff to go through the entire contract and make sure the same language was used throughout and that it covered their current needs. He gave examples of two major changes in the plan: they will not count education towards the work department, and appliances went from \$200 to \$400. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the PRC amendment. Seconded by Mr. Hambley. Mr. Hambley asked for verification of his understanding that the major changes were the household expenses applicable towards household appliances increased, and the short-term educational expenses were changed. Mead said those were the two big ones. There was no further discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Karl Cetina, Medina County Drug Abuse Commission (MCDAC) Executive Director, reported that he attended an all-day training seminar on fetal alcohol syndrome disorder this month. He said there is more and more on the national and state levels where experts are getting involved with promoting the importance of proper and early diagnosis. Previously they looked at external symptoms and characteristics to identify the syndrome. Now they have better opportunities to diagnose it early on and better methods. The Tobacco Coalition continues to meet on a monthly basis. Betty Barlow with Oakes Family Care Center and Mitzi Kerr with Medina General Hospital have been very instrumental in developing the Fresh Start Program. This services pregnant women that smoke. Melanie Woods from ADDS has spearheaded the youth cessation effort countywide. They have contacted many of the schools and have involved students in some advocacy programs to help kids to not start smoking in the first place. After the first of the year the coalition will meet on an every other month basis. The working committees will meet on a monthly basis implementing the programs. Karl told the Commissioners that Medina General Hospital's Chaplain Jim Hostettler passed away after a long illness. He was instrumental in spearheading the effort with MGH. Karl will be attending his memorial service today.

Don Whitner, acting Transit Director, reported that Medina County Transit provided transportation for 1,149 riders on the Medina L, 34 riders in Homerville, demand response had 8,689 riders, and the Southwest Circulator had 152 riders. The total riders for the month were 10,024, and the number of riders year to date is 98,678. Vehicle miles for the month reached 70,384 and year to date it comes to 695,634 miles. Fuel used was almost 8,000 gallons for the month. Two of the five brand new buses went on the road Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The rest of the buses should be operational within the week. That will help the department with maintenance costs because the new buses are more heavy duty than those they are replacing. Armstrong Cable was at the offices last week to install a cable that should eliminate the email problems they have been experiencing. They have had some telephone upgrades that will help them with how they receive and handle their phone calls.

Mr. Hambley announced that the organizational meeting of the Transit Advisory Board would be Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Transit Garage. This is open to the public.

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Ms. Ray presented the resolution authorizing the use of the Medina County Comprehensive Plan Grant Assistance Program funds by the Department of Planning Services for the consulting services of HNTB Architects, Engineers, and Planners. This authorizes a maximum of \$2,435 for the purpose of conducting a workshop on effective public participation. The workshop is scheduled for December 10, 2004 and it is open to the public for a small fee for the lunch and refreshments. She encouraged anyone interested in attending to call the county to make a reservation. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray read a memo from the Assistant Clerk giving Commissioners notice that a Regular Annexation Petition was filed on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The petition is for 5.1749 acres from Brunswick Hills Township to the City of Brunswick. The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 10:10 a.m. This notice is in keeping with the requirements by the Ohio Revised Code that it be on record.

Ms. Ray opened the floor to Public Comment, but no one wished to speak at this time.

The Assistant Clerk read the expense of county officials resolution. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the expenses. Seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray announced that there would be a Discussion Session at 10:00 a.m. and an Executive Session scheduled for 10:15 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel/negotiations.

The meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m. and Commissioners reconvened into Discussion Session in the Conference Room at 10:05 a.m.

Dave Miller, Highway Engineer, discussed the proposed Autumn Woods Subdivision intersection onto Substation Road in Brunswick Hills Township. The speed limit on the Brunswick side is 35 miles per hour and on the county side it is 45 miles per hour split jurisdiction. There is a road coming out opposite the development called Cottonwood, which is an existing road coming out of the City of Brunswick, and it has been there a long time. The site distance is only 400 feet. Since it is only 400 feet that would bring the speed limit down to only 25 miles per hour. The developer would have to take a hill down to the north. There is no real problem on the west side where the subdivision is located because that is the old Neura Farm and there is open space. The east side is all subdivided off and it has been there a long time and has a lot of driveway problems. The county would like to see that as a common intersection. The developer, instead of spending \$180,000 to \$200,000, and having problems getting agreements with the owners on the east side of the road, has said he would not bring the intersection out at Cottonwood, but would move it over and go through old farmhouse and bring it out at the top of the hill. Then he would have site distance, but the problem with that would be if that intersection gets built, the county would never be able to correct the other problem in the future. The Engineer's Office is presenting to the Board of Commissioners (since they are the ones that grant variances) that they would like to keep the intersection as originally proposed, however, have the developer put up an overhead caution light and an advanced solar sign ahead of it saying there is an intersection ahead, and have that until they can do a smaller project at a later date to get the site distance they need. With this subdivision coming, he feels they can get all of Substation Road reduced down to 35 miles per hour, but because they go through the state with that, they are never sure.

Mr. Hambley asked Dave if there was an agreement with Brunswick for those types of issues, and if they would pay part of the cost of improvements.

Dave said Brunswick would have to pay about half of the cost. If they can get the caution light there for now and come back in later and get the speed reduced, then they can do an Issue 2 job or some other job later and not affect the owners on the east side of the road.

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Mr. Hambley asked why they couldn't require the property owner to make the full or nearly the full improvement rather than go for Issue 2 funds.

Dave said they could do that, but he is going to come back through and request an intersection.

Mr. Hambley said that the impact would end up being, going right through the Neura Farm and the destruction of it, what the citizen's group is trying to save and Dave agreed.

Ms. Ray asked what the timeline would be for the second part of the project and Dave said about two or three years. The big thing would be to see if there was an accident problem.

Mr. Hambley said he agrees with the judgment of keeping the intersection aligned with Cottonwood rather than offsetting it. He asked if they would have any financial participation in the Issue 2 project other than the two sets of lights.

Dave said they would just have to do the two sets of lights – an overhead at the intersection and a solar panel light flashing warning in advance. If they get the speed limit down to 35 miles per hour and there are no accidents, the road may not need improvement. If that does the job they won't change grades.

Ms. Ray said she is not familiar with the area, but Mr. Hambley said he was very familiar having grown up there. All of the Commissioners went with the judgment of the Highway Engineer for the flashing lights and reduced speed limit and going with a project later on.

Mr. Hambley pointed out, otherwise it would be too cost prohibitive so the developer would just put the road through the old farmstead and there would be no advantage to that. He asked Dave if he talked to Brunswick's Engineer to see what their perspective is and if they would be agreeable.

Dave said he would speak with them on the joint project and get back to the Commissioners. He added that the worst thing would be if the developer moves the intersection and that prevents any improvements in the future.

Gary Hallman and Jim Bigam from Medina General Hospital came to the Commissioners' discussion session to discuss a proposal for improvements for the morgue at the hospital. Gary said that they have found through the years that the morgue is greatly pinched for space. The morgue was put in the basement level when they did their north addition of the Emergency Room in 1988/90. It was better than before, but since that point in time the population has exploded in Medina City and throughout the county. It has also exploded at the hospital to the point where they are totally landlocked at the current location. It is on the lower level just east of an elevator and that provides the work area for autopsies and a refrigeration area for bodies.

Jim said they have space to hold six bodies now, but the two bays on top are too cumbersome to send bodies up there on a lift. If they are Coroner's cases they have concerns because if something occurs and there is damage to a body, that is evidentiary for the future in law enforcement. Jim explained that he is in charge of the Police Officers as well as contract guard service. The guards are the ones that go to the floor when there is a deceased patient and bring them down to the morgue. The person is either kept there as a Coroner's case or the patient is sent out. Time has to pass for that to occur, contacting family, waiting for families to make proper arrangements, family disputes, etc., and it has taken up to two weeks. They only have storage capacity for four and if it is a Coroner's case the body stays until the autopsy is completed, which is in the adjoining room. This is cumbersome because there is one doorway with an autopsy going on and at the same time another body is coming in or someone is picking up a body. There are also specimens kept and catalogued in that same area. There have been instances where they had to stop taking bodies or keep them in the hospitals they are in. Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital and Lodi Hospital's deceased in a Coroner's case also come to the county morgue at Medina General Hospital as well as natural deaths out in the street.

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Gary said they identified about 1-1/2 to 2 years ago that they could expand what they have as far as the cooler area. There is not a lot they can do with the work area, but they can get by with it because typically they deal with one body at a time. Architects and other people looked at equipment and changes from the construction side to accommodate a greater flow of traffic. With the footprint of the hospital they do not have any open space.

Ms. Ray asked how much more capacity the renovations would provide and Jim said it would increase it from four to eight. (They do not use the two upper bays except for body parts or small children.) The proposal would be to extend out to the front and move the doorway. Going into the autopsy room to the right is where they keep specimens so they would take that area out and move it to the back where there is a locker room making more room in the autopsy area.

Gary pointed out that a morgue is not an area where they want to take families of the deceased. In a lot of Coroner's cases they have to, for identification purposes or if a family member insists. With the new system they would not have to take the family into that area, but they can view the body on a cart through a window.

Jim said they could also look into digital photography or cameras so the family could see the image from an office. There is certainly a lot that goes with a morgue with the sights and the smells so this would make it more presentable to the public.

Mrs. Geissman asked if the plan would be one room as a cooler where they would have bodies on gurneys instead of the drawers and Gary said that was correct. That would also make the body easier to work with.

Mr. Hambley asked if the figure for expansion was about \$100,000.

Gary agreed and said for a current Coroner's case the hospital receives a fee of \$505. Out of that they pay \$220 to a denier (the individual that comes in who is specifically trained to complete the surgical procedure on the body to retrieve organs or make slides of body parts so the pathologist, who makes the rationale for death, can do the autopsy). There are a multitude of other tests that the hospital runs to provide information to the pathologist. A pathologist fee is also paid directly to the pathologist. The pathologist rules on the death and deals with the Coroner, Dr. Grabenstetter. They are looking for some financial help since this is a partnership with the county to make this a more appropriate county morgue. There is slightly less than \$30,000 in equipment in that expansion figure and the balance of the money would be for construction. Whether a portion of that could be paid or something done with the rent flow or the fee – he is open to some give and take to see what is affordable.

There was a short discussion about the different ways for the county to contribute financially to the morgue improvements such as the picking up the denier fee or increasing the fee, paying for the equipment or a \$25,000 portion of the construction costs, and Homeland Security funds.

John Stricker said that Buck Adams sent a letter to Homeland Security asking them if the equipment portion only would be an appropriate use of that Homeland Security money, but he has not gotten an answer yet. John said he invited Dr. Grabenstetter to attend today's meeting, but he was not available. He confirmed the need and said that the rolling cart method would be better. Dr. Grabenstetter also said the current situation is not good for those that want to see a loved one's body.

Chris Jakab asked if the hospital would be amenable to the county financing a portion over a several year period.

Gary said at this point in time the hospital's resources and the county's resources are getting squeezed. Their thought was to open up a dialog to see what is reasonable for both.

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Chris asked how the hospital was planning to finance the improvements and Gary said they would take from their cash resources.

Ms. Ray suggested they allow the county to continue to look into what monies are out there and get back with them in two weeks, and all agreed.

Ken Hotz, Sanitary Engineer, said that he would be bringing in a revision to the tap in fees for new development to the next Commissioners' meeting. Commissioners passed a resolution in 1993 to establish a tap in fee for sewer lines and waterlines for developers. The fee automatically increased \$100 per year. That arrangement expires this year so it is time to review it. In a subdivision now, the tap in fee is \$2,000 per sewer and \$2,000 for water. They would like to increase that \$100 per year for the next five years effective January 2005. This has nothing to do with the cost of the Sanitary Engineers' installing a sewer or waterline down a street. That is a different fee that is \$4,500 for sewer and \$3,500 for water.

Mr. Hambley asked for some financial projections for them to review and Ken said he would provide projections plus show what other counties are charging as well.

Bill Thorne asked if Roxanne in Tax Maps talked to anyone about the replatting of the Technology Park property. She called him Friday and said they needed to formally vacate that road before they could replat.

Mr. Hambley said that they had the public viewing and public hearing at the last meeting and a resolution is forthcoming from the Highway Engineer's Office. He suggested that they go ahead and approve it in anticipation of a resolution being produced because they need to move forward.

Mr. Stricker said they needed to vacate and reaccept the plat as submitted that has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Hambley made a motion to vacate and reaccept the plat for the Technology Park Drive and University Boulevard. Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Mr. Hambley said that the 211 Task Force met Friday and he asked Bill Thorne to look at the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as soon as possible. They have already approved the expense of \$3,100. The ADAMH Board, Emergency Management, Job & Family Services, and the Commissioners will all sign it. Mr. Hambley said the United Way Board is meeting on Wednesday and they will be approving their portion of the project. The current database, Infolink, needs to be significantly updated before they go online. He asked the other Commissioners if they approved of him drafting a letter for Commissioners signatures asking their agencies to update their information by a certain date. He will draft a second letter to the other agencies they do not fund, asking them to update information as well.

Ms. Ray said, with all the people's time and trouble being devoted to making this an excellent resource, she certainly has no problem with the letters and Mrs. Geissman agreed.

The meeting recessed at 10:47 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. Commissioners went into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel/negotiations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

### RESOLUTION PASSED:

- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING SUSPENSION OF VICTOR RUSSELL, ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR, BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 11/22/04 AUTHORIZING THE SANITARY ENGINEER TO OBTAIN EASEMENTS FOR VARIOUS WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MEDINA COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2004 APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION BY TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
- 11/22/04 TRANSFER OF COUNTY GENERAL FUNDS TO THE COUNTY DIVERSION PROGRAM
- 11/22/04 CASH TRANSFER FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTER
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FUND FOR DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT MAGISTRATE SERVICES, JUVENILE COURT MAGISTRATE SERVICES AND PROSECUTOR SERVICES
- 11/22/04 AUTHORIZING CASH TRANSFER FOR THE GENERAL BOND RETIREMENT FUND
- 11/22/04 APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BETWEEN MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL HELP ME GROW AND MEDINA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
- 11/22/04 CREATION OF A SURPLUS PROPERTY ROTARY FUND
- 11/22/04 CREATION OF A SAFE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM FY05 FUND AND AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION DECLARING MEDINA COUNTY PROPERTY AS EXCESS PROPERTY
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH WESTERN RESERVE AREA AGENCY ON AGING FOR PASSPORT SERVICES
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO FOSTER, ADPTIVE AND KINSHIP FAMILY RECRUITMENT FOR MEDINA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND CORNERSTONE PSYCHOLOGICAL
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ADULTS FOR MEDINA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

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- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PREVENTION, RETENTION & CONTINGENCY PLAN (PRC) FOR MEDINA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF MEDINA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE CONSULTING SERVICES OF HNTB ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, PLANNERS
- 11/22/04 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Sharon A. Ray

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Patricia G. Geissman

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Stephen D. Hambley

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela M. Vereb, Asst. Clerk

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