

COMMISSIONERS MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2007

Sharon A. Ray called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. with Patricia G. Geissman and Stephen D. Hambley present.

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

The oral reading of the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting on April 23 was dispensed with as each Commissioner had read them personally. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the April 23 minutes; the motion was seconded Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Doug King, Administrative Assistant in the County Engineer's Office, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) determining the necessity to close River Styx Road (C.H. 49) between Poe Road (T.H. 71) and Sharon Copley Road (S.R. 162) for bridge replacement, and (2) determining the necessity to close Congress Road (C.H. 29) between Crawford Road (T.H. 80) and S.R. 224 for bridge repair. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the two resolutions and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Commissioners reviewed the weekly permits list for permits issued April 19-25, 2007.

Scott Miller, Finance Director, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the Annual Appropriation resolution; (2) amending the 2007 Appropriations Resolution by transferring appropriations; (3) expenditure adjustments for Workforce funds; (4) cash transfer for the Achievement Center; and, (5) authorizing the purchase of 7,200 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center. Mr. Miller requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$816,664.06. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the five finance resolutions and payment of the weekly bills; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Gary Berkowitz, Human Resources Director, presented and reviewed a resolution approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Mr. Berkowitz presented and reviewed a resolution approving a one (1) year collective bargaining agreement between the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, AFL/CIO, Local 34 (vehicle operators) and the Medina County Transit Department. All seven county contracts will now be on the same cycle. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Mr. Berkowitz presented and reviewed a resolution approving rate increases in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement between the Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE), AFL/CIO, Local 34, and the Medina County Transit Department that was just approved. The rates are retroactive to January 1, 2007. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Chris Jakab, County Administrator, had no resolutions to present.

Jim Troike, Sanitary Engineer, presented and reviewed a resolution awarding the bid for the collection and recycling of whole waste tires to Genesis Concepts Unlimited, LLC. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray presented a resolution proclaiming May 6-12 as "Building Safety Week". Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the proclamation and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

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The Clerk read the resolution to allow the expenses of county officials. 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 noted that there is an application for a new C1 and C2 liquor permit from Lawrence J. Courtney DBA Sloopys Pizza & Drive Thru, 7114 Wooster Pike, in Montville Township. C1 is "Beer only in original sealed container for carry out only", C2 is "Wine and certain prepackaged mixed drinks in sealed containers for carry out". There were no comments.

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

The meeting recessed at 9:38 a.m. for the commissioners to move to the Conference Room for the Discussion Session at 9:43 a.m.

Discussion Session

Mr. Hambley said he went to the 2-1-1 Task Force meeting last week. He presented and reviewed the January – March 2007 Medina 211 Summary. Calls were up 33% comparing the first quarter of 2007 (550 calls) to the first quarter of 2006 (414 calls). The top ten service requests were: (of 679)

- (1) Utility bill payment assistance
- (2) Rent assistance
- (3) Food pantries
- (4) Homeless shelter
- (5) General legal aid
- (6) Food stamps
- (7) Paratransit programs
- (8) Public housing
- (9) General counseling services
- (10) Low income/subsidized private rental housing

The top ten referrals were: (of 888)

- (1) Community Services Center
- (2) Community Action Medina
- (3) Medina County Job and Family Services
- (4) Matthew 25 Coalition
- (5) Salvation Army Corps Community Center – Medina
- (6) Community Legal Aid Services
- (7) St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
- (8) Salvation Army – Brunswick
- (9) Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority
- (10) Medina County Health Department

The top ten unmet needs (of 41 total unmet requests) were:

- (1) Home rehabilitation/repair services
- (2 – 4) Rental deposit assistance, undesignated temporary financial assistance, yard work (tie between all)
- (5 – 10) Burial services, community clinics, medical expense assistance, moving expense assistance, transportation expense assistance, utility bill payment assistance (tie between all)

The most calls were made from the cities of Medina, Brunswick and Wadsworth (in that order). Wadsworth's calls increased substantially this year due to better marketing.

The Library is continuing to work on the database. Although they continue to struggle to get updates from the smaller agencies, 90% of the top calls do have updated information.

Mrs. Geissman said she focused on 2-1-1 in her last HANDS Foundation news column to remind people to use the service.

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Mr. Hambley said there is a statewide initiative to provide up to \$2.5 million per year through the public safety budget. Unfortunately for Northeast Ohio, most of that money will go to the rural areas that do not have 2-1-1 centers. The initiative is continuing to move toward the goal of more uniformity (taxonomy) in the language and the referral database so, for example, if you call 2-1-1 from anywhere, and you want to know the services for the county where your parents live, they would be able to transfer you or access that database.

Dr. John Waddell, Tobacco Cessation Coordinator, said there will be a meeting on Friday, May 4 in Columbus to discuss the securitization of tobacco money (\$5 billion) and how this would impact tobacco prevention programs. He compared securitization to winning the lottery and taking the winnings in a lump sum as opposed to having it distributed over years. They would get about 40 cents on the dollar, which is very beneficial for financiers. Approximately 22 other states have done that including Florida, California and Massachusetts. Unfortunately, the states that have done this have taken the money and blown it completely, not using any on tobacco prevention. Not surprisingly, these states that had sterling rates of tobacco control took a terrible plunge. They are very concerned about this because the Strickland administration would like to take \$5 billion and use it to try to reduce property taxes for older citizens on a fixed income. Although this is a commendable purpose, they are afraid the short-term gain would cause long-term costs. Four billion dollars is lost in Ohio each year in direct costs in Medicaid and general health costs due to smoking, and indirect costs (loss of productivity, absenteeism) are another \$4 billion. The Ohio Prevention Foundation feels that if they are going to rob the fund that was originally started when the 46 states sued the tobacco companies for losses incurred from tobacco (not for E-Check that it has been used for, or property taxes) that they should at least get at least 15% for tobacco programs. They would put the money in the bank and operate with the interest. This has passed the House of Representatives so now they need to convince the Senate to give them 15%. They have already diverted \$568 million. He asked the Commissioners if they would consider a resolution to help "nudge" the Senate in the right direction.

Mr. Hambley asked if they would set up an endowment with the 15%. Brian Nowak, Medina County Drug Abuse Executive Director, said there is about \$300 million in the Tobacco Foundation. In an interview, Governor Strickland said they would put the \$300 million in an endowment and get about \$30 million per year to operate from. Mr. Nowak said that is not enough when the tobacco companies are spending \$750 million in Ohio for advertising. They are trying to get the endowment up to \$1 billion. Fifteen percent of the \$5 billion would probably be about \$750 million so added together they would have a strong endowment to fund the various programs. That would be closer in line with what the Center for Disease Controls says by the state standards that they should have to fight tobacco and target the young people with prevention programs.

Dr. Waddell said Ohio is a leader in tobacco control in the United States. When the Master Settlement Agreement was struck in 2000, Ohio put its share in the bank and started the endowment fund and created the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation. Then they started the grants and the Stand Program (a counter-marketing program that helps youth realize that tobacco marketing is a myth). These programs, along with Ohio Quits, have been phenomenally successful. He feels that the tobacco rates would go back up as soon as they let off pressure.

Mr. Hambley asked how much the annual payment is in Ohio now from the tobacco companies. Dr. Waddell said they receive about \$300 million for about 40 years. Mr. Hambley said they would be selling off the promissory note for a lump sum and asked if there was a statewide coalition effort to present information about the securitization. Dr. Waddell said the Tobacco Foundation did not want to fund it. The American Cancer Society, American Lung Association and American Heart Association funded an independent poll done by a national organization. They found that 70% of the voters do not want the legislators to securitize the funds, but if they did do it, they want them to give at least 15% toward prevention. Five states have resisted securitization efforts so far. Mr. Hambley said the House of Representatives has not voted on this yet, but the Finance Commission has. The argument of setting aside at least a sufficient portion to be able to sustain the programs beyond the \$300 million would be sufficient to continue the prevention programs. They know from MCDAC history that prevention pays long-term benefits and that was the intent of the tobacco funds originally. Unfortunately, being placed in the political position of choosing between tax relief for seniors and tobacco prevention is a hard

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choice. This seems like a reasonable way to approach a solution. The Commissioners agreed to send a letter expressing their concern with the proposal to Senator Ron Amstutz.

Chris Jakab, County Administrator, said they advertised for request for quotations for labor attorneys and received five responses to date. He will provide copies for the Commissioners to review and then they can set up times for interviews in the next three to four weeks.

Mr. Jakab said he met with Debby Atkinson from the Treasurer's Office about the revisions to the Fix-It Funds Program and will provide a draft for their review. They successfully incorporated the requested changes. Ms. Atkinson asked if they would need to go before all of the cities, townships and villages and Mr. Jakab said they would need to go before the cities and villages (not the townships) because there was an expiration date of five years from the original agreements. Mr. Hambley asked if this was necessary in order to continue getting support from the building departments. Mr. Jakab said he thinks it is to make their residents eligible. He has asked Treasurer John Burke to check the Ohio Revised Code section about the requirements. Ms. Atkinson asked advice on how to best explain the reduction in maximum house value eligibility going from \$250,000 to \$200,000. Mr. Hambley said it is to put the program more in line with current housing policies to provide more money to more people that are in actual need of it. It does not exclude people that are middle-class; it allows for better distribution.

Ms. Ray said the Commissioners received a very nice letter from a person that got a new roof with housing funds. This dovetails very nicely with the #1 unmet need on the 2-1-1 requests - home rehabilitation/repair services.

Ms. Ray said the Wadsworth Municipal Court's ten-year old video arraignment system has been giving the court problems for about four months and is costing a lot of money. She would like to meet with Mr. Jakab this week to look into its repair. Mr. Jakab believes the problem to be a cable issue with Armstrong.

Ms. Ray said they hope to have an agreement to present to the SPCA and then the Board of Commissioners within the next couple of weeks.

At 10:05 a.m., Mrs. Geissman moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED 4/30/07

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
07-408	RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY 6-12, 2007 AS BUILDING SAFETY WEEK AND THIS YEAR'S THEME FOR THE CELEBRATION IS BUILDING SMARTER FOR DISASTERS AND EVERYDAY LIFE
07-409	RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS
07-410	RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE RIVER STYX ROAD (C.H.49) BETWEEN POE ROAD (T.H.71) AND SHARON COPLEY ROAD (S.R.162)
07-411	RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE CONGRESS ROAD (C.H.29) BETWEEN CRAWFORD ROAD (T.H. 80) AND GREENWICH ROAD (U.S. 224)
07-412	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION

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- 07-413 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2007 APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION BY TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS

- 07-414 EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENTS FOR WORKFORCE FUNDS

- 07-415 CASH TRANSFERS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

- 07-416 AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 7,200 GALLONS OF REGULAR UNLEADED GASOLINE FOR THE ENGINEERING CENTER

- 07-417 RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 07-418 RESOLUTION APPROVING ONE (1) YEAR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OAPSE AFL/CIO LOCAL 34 (VEHICLE OPERATORS) AND THE MEDINA COUNTY TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

- 07-419 RESOLUTION APPROVING RATE INCREASES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OAPSE AFL/CIO LOCAL 34 AND THE MEDINA COUNTY TRANSIT DEPARTMENT

- 07-420 RESOLUTION AWARDDING A BID FOR THE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING OF WHOLE WASTE TIRES

- 07-421 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this thirtieth day of April 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vereb, Clerk

COMMISSIONERS _____
Sharon A. Ray

OF _____
Patricia G. Geissman

MEDINA COUNTY _____
Stephen D. Hambley