

COMMISSIONERS MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

Patricia G. Geissman called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. with Stephen D. Hambley and Sharon A. Ray present.

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

The oral reading of the minutes of the Commissioners' meetings on January 14 and 22, 2008, was dispensed with as each Commissioner had read them personally. Mr. Hambley moved to approve both Commissioners' meeting minutes; the motion was seconded Ms. Ray. 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) approving the plans, specifications, and estimate of cost, and authorizing the County Engineer to advertise for bids for the installation of new pavement markings on various Medina County roads; (2) establishing the viewing and hearing dates as necessitated by receipt of a petition from landowners seeking the vacation of a portion of Westfield Landing (T.H. 159) in Westfield Township; and, (3) accepting and awarding the bids for aggregate materials for use by the Medina County Highway Department. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the three resolutions and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Commissioners reviewed the weekly permits list for permits issued January 10 through January 16, 2008, and January 17 through January 23, 2008.

Scott Miller, Finance Director, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the temporary appropriation resolution; (2) amending the 2008 temporary appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations; (3) transferring cash to the Crippled Children's Health Fund; and, (4) authorizing the purchase of 5,000 gallons of diesel and 1,500 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Medina County Highway Garage. Mr. Miller requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$812,227.11. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four Finance resolutions and payment of the weekly bills; the motion was seconded by Ms. Ray. 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. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Mead Wilkins, Job & Family Service (JFS) Director, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) authorizing a maintenance agreement with Northwoods Consulting Partners in the amount not to exceed \$63,233.60 for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2008, relating to the data imaging project for JFS; and, (2) accepting and awarding proposals for professional services relating to foster and adoption recruitment services between Dennis and Kathleen Kinzelman and JFS. Mr. Hambley moved to approve both resolutions and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Mr. Wilkins reported that he and two staff members would be spending two Saturdays, February 2 and 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. assisting with earned income credit tax

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applications for county residents. He said that this is a great program for low and moderate income families. It allows them to get their childcare tax refund for earned income tax credit or if they are poor and do not pay taxes, they can get a refund up to \$4,000. He commented that this is a boost for the economic stimulus package because if a family is poor, they will spend it quickly. Mr. Hambley requested that the Clerk have the information placed on the county's web site.

Mr. Wilkins presented a combined county overview for JFS, the Medina County Child Support Enforcement Agency, and the One Stop Employment & Training Network for last year. About 1,300 low-income Medina County families use publicly-funded childcare while parents work or attend job training, for a total of over \$3 million. Last year, they facilitated 12 adoptions and 87 children received adoption assistance, with the average family receiving about \$4,200 per year for those children. They provided county residents with over \$600,000 for the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC) Program that is designed to provide job training, employment assistance, and work support services to help parents find and maintain employment. There were over 9,000 recipients of food stamps, which is over 5% of the county's population. Less than one percent of the county's residents received cash assistance (\$707 per month) compared to the State of Ohio at 3%. Medicaid is medical insurance for low-income families that mostly serves the aged, blind, and disabled portion of the population. The county served about 2,300 people on a monthly basis last year that were eligible for over \$70 million in medical care and on the state level, the cost is over \$8 billion.

Mr. Wilkins reviewed the data for long-term foster children where they have shifted to servicing many of the older children that would have gone to New Horizons (the shelter that was closed). Nationally, statistics show that these children have terrible outcomes; 1/3 do not graduate from high school, 30% are unemployed, 14% are homeless, and the females are twice as likely as their peers to become pregnant. Medina County JFS devotes much time, energy, and resources to try to improve this at-risk population. Mrs. Geissman asked if many of these older children get adopted. Mr. Wilkins said these are adolescents about 16 years old that, unfortunately, have gone through too much and are badly damaged. They are afraid to get close to people so they look for guardians to work with them.

Brian Nowak, Medina County Drug Abuse Commission Executive Director, reported that he wrote an article for the Gazette's health and wellness section on January 22, 2008. He presented the article for the Commissioners' review. The article and ad refer people to the MCDAC.com web site to inform the community of current law enforcement, education, and treatment programs funded by MCDAC and it provides links to the different grantees' web pages. It also provides up-to-date, well-researched information about the negative effects of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. MCDAC grantees will be submitting their semi-annual reports this week for review.

Mr. Nowak said they received a six-month grant extension for the Tobacco Foundation. They will continue to advocate tobacco-free school campuses, offer cessation services to businesses and employees, and continue to train healthcare professionals in distributing "Quit Kits" and directing patients to the Ohio Quit Line.

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Mr. Nowak reported that MCDAC participated in the Chili Challenge last week and it was a lot of work, a lot of chili, and a lot of fun. They appreciate the opportunity to raise awareness in the community of MCDAC's mission to prevent drug abuse.

William Hanigan, Workforce Development (WD) Director, presented the WD monthly report for December. Performance through the program year exceeded all of the basic criteria, which is both positive and negative. One of the reasons it is negative is because it deals with the increasing unemployment rate (5.8% in December) in the county. They are working on getting people back to employment. They are adjusting some programs such as orientations and resume writing in order to accommodate the current needs. The Workforce Development Center's foot traffic is seeing a parallel increase to 5,400 visits to the center in the past six month compared to 4,980 visits during the same period a year ago (up by 420 visitors). They are offering an incumbent worker training program with the Medina County University Center for the attainment of supervisory leadership certificates. The next Workforce Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27.

Scott Uhas, Transit Director, reported that ridership in December 2007 was down from December 2006, down by 46 less riders in 2007 compared to 2006. They drove significantly less miles and used 9,000 less gallons of diesel fuel than the previous year. With more efficient, newer vehicles and an improved maintenance program, they increase their mileage by 1/2 mile per gallon of fuel. He has completed his responses for the drug and alcohol review and forwarded the responses to the County Administrator for his final approval. Once approved, they will be forwarded to Columbus. They provided regular service for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and will provide service for Presidents' Day as well. He attended the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) meeting on January 18. He attended an Ohio peers group meeting in Columbus last week with ten other area Transit agencies of all sizes. Everyone seemed to have the same issues with ADA compliance and ADA issues that Medina County is having. They plan to hold these meetings on a quarterly basis. They will try to have representatives come to meetings to assist the group with these issues.

Jeff Van Loon, Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District, District Manager, thanked the Commissioners for attending the public officials' luncheon. They will be holding a Balanced Growth Initiative meeting next Wednesday, February 6, at 7:00 p.m. in Balcony Room B of the Administration Building. Representatives from the Lake Erie Commission will discuss the incentive that would be offered to the watershed. They need 10 jurisdictions out of 13 to participate in the initiative in order to receive grants; they have commitments from seven or eight. About 100 people attended the Forest Tax Law and Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) tax meeting held last week. They will be offering training for engineers for the new stormwater design of retention basins in March in cooperation with the County Engineer's Office.

Mrs. Geissman presented a resolution commending Joyce Davis for her 25 years of service with Medina County as a Probate Court Clerk and they offered her best wishes on her retirement. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Mrs. Geissman presented a resolution commending James McFadden for his years of service with the Medina County Child Support Enforcement Agency and offered him best wishes

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on his retirement. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The Clerk read the resolution to allow the expenses of County officials, a resolution to allow the expenses of the Adult Probation Department, and a resolution to allow the expenses of the County Engineer. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the three expense resolutions and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

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

Mr. Hambley made a motion that following the Discussion Session, the Commissioners enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel/appointment. Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The meeting recessed at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting reconvened in the Conference Room at 10:05 a.m. for the budget hearing with the Medina County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

The meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m.

Discussion Session

The meeting reconvened immediately for the Discussion Session.

Mr. Hambley noted, for the record, the memo from the Clerk advising the Commissioners of the receipt of the petition to vacate a portion of Westfield Landing Road in Westfield Township. A resolution was passed earlier to authorize the scheduling and advertising for a public viewing at the site at 10:45 on Monday, February 25, 2008, and a public hearing on the same day at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Ms. Ray asked about the status of the Great Lakes Construction Company's request for the Commissioners' support of an application for procurement of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAC) funds from the Ohio Department of Development and the resolution to establish a public/private partnership agreement in order for them to qualify. Mr. Hambley said the Prosecutor's Office had some questions and asked that it be tabled until they received final clarification. In addition, the county had asked to be removed from the non-attainment area; therefore, it is uncertain if a company would qualify if the county was removed. Mr. Hambley said the county needed to seek being removed from the non-attainment area because of the public benefit.

Ms. Ray stated that she and Chris Jakab, County Administrator, met with Carole Kowell, District Library Director, on Monday. Mr. Jakab summarized the meeting and said he would be meeting with Ms. Kowell again that morning. They offered the library two different approaches to assist them with their parking needs for employees that would free up spaces for library patrons. One was to lease the county-owned vacant grassy lot located at the intersection of Liberty and Jefferson Streets that could accommodate 20-25 vehicles. The other option was to lease the county-owned parking area at the intersection of Washington and Jefferson Streets that

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could accommodate 30-40 vehicles. The library has about 54 spaces and their need is for approximately 180 spaces.

Commissioners discussed the guest editorial by Phil Duke, Library Board member, in the morning's Gazette. Mrs. Geissman stated that the article said what needed to be said, and it explained all the problems that the library had encountered. She said an elderly woman had visited her office in tears last week who had gone around the block four times trying to park her car and ended up having to park far away and the first thing she saw in the library was the spectacular mural. Mrs. Geissman said she was consoled at the library and she consoled her also. She explained that there was \$500,000 in donations that made some of the extras possible. She called the library director to apprise her of the situation and asked her to encourage the employees to explain about the large donation if someone like that comes in again. Mrs. Geissman said she told the lady that the county was working with the library and the city to address the problem. Ms. Ray agreed that the editorial was great until the point where he "took a shot" at the county. She said she would call him and explain to him all the county had already done. Mr. Hambley said, unlike the other entities, the county has added parking to that area. Ms. Ray said the library has a Board meeting this evening and she hoped they would take advantage of both of the temporary solutions. If they do, Ms. Ray anticipated that the county would put signs around the Courthouse parking lot saying that it is for employees and county visitors to the Medina County Courthouse and Prosecutor's Office. Mrs. Geissman suggested that they might not have to go to the expense of signs if the library takes advantage of the county's offer. Mr. Hambley said he would not want to profit from parking since the library patrons and employees are Medina County residents and taxpayers. Mrs. Geissman said she would not want to profit, but the county needed to cover the expenses of plowing and maintaining the parking lots. Mr. Hambley said the library employees should also consider carpooling. Ms. Ray said everyone knows the solutions are temporary and not permanent. She agreed there needed to be a reasonable cost to cover the maintenance issue. The Commissioners agreed to postpone the posting of signs.

Chris Jakab, County Administrator, said that Greg Hannan, Medina City Planning Director, is coming to his office at 1:30 p.m. as a result of their meeting with the City of Medina last week. The city is putting together a request for proposal document for architects/planners to conduct an assessment of the Courthouse parking issue and they wanted Mr. Jakab to review it.

Scott Miller, Finance Director, said he would like to meet with each Commissioner individually next week to discuss the budget. His goal is to have the budget completed by the end of February.

John Burke, Treasurer, reported that the real estate tax bills would be late this January. He and Auditor Mike Kovack have signed a document to extend the normal due date. This is not unusual for it to fluctuate every year depending on when the Treasurer receives the final tax amounts from the Auditor. The tax amounts had not been received later than December 29 in the past four years, but there is no set date yet. The Auditor hopes to be able to provide the amounts by the end of this week and then it takes the Treasurer about a week to print and mail the 80,000 tax bills. The main reason for the delay is the new software system that the Auditor and Treasurer had installed to replace the 24-year old software system and their main goal is to ensure its accuracy. The extended due date will be posted on the bills, which will probably be the end of February or the first part of March 2008. Mrs. Geissman said she would ask the

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Auditor if he would be extending the time for Board of Revisions for people to dispute their tax bills.

At 10:34 a.m., Commissioners recessed to immediately go into the Executive Session that was voted on earlier for the purpose of discussing personnel/appointment.

Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED 1/28/08

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
08-0039	RESOLUTION COMMENDING JOYCE DAVIS FOR HER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH MEDINA COUNTY
08-0040	RESOLUTION COMMENDING JAMES MCFADDEN FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE MEDINA COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
08-0041	RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS
08-0042	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLANS SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE OF COST AND AUTHORIZING THE MEDINA COUNTY ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW PAVEMENT MARKINGS ON VARIOUS MEDINA COUNTY ROADS
08-0043	RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING VIEWING AND HEARING DATES AS NECESSITATED BY RECEIPT OF A PETITION FROM LANDOWNERS SEEKING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF WESTFIELD LANDING (T.H. 159) IN WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO
08-0044	RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND AWARDED THE BIDS FOR AGGREGATE MATERIALS FOR USE BY THE MEDINA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
08-0045	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
08-0046	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2008 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION BY TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS
08-0047	CASH TRANSFER TO THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S HEALTH FUND
08-0048	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF 5,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL AND 1,500 GALLONS OF REGULAR UNLEADED GASOLINE FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY HIGHWAY GARAGE
08-0049	RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER

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THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- 08-0050 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT RELATING TO DATA IMAGING PROJECT FOR MEDINA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
- 08-0051 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS
- 08-0052 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF THE ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT
- 08-0053 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER
- 08-0054 ACCEPTING AND AWARDED PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RELATING TO FOSTER AND ADOPTION RECRUITMENT SERVICES BETWEEN DENNIS AND KATHLEEN KINZELMAN AND MEDINA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this twenty-eighth day of January, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vereb, Clerk

COMMISSIONERS _____
Patricia G. Geissman

OF _____
Stephen D. Hambley

MEDINA COUNTY _____
Sharon A. Ray