

COMMISSIONERS MEETING, MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008

Patricia G. Geissman called the meeting to order at 9:30 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' meeting on June 30, 2008, was dispensed with as each Commissioner had read them personally. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the 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) closing Chippewa Road (C.H. 50) between Vandemark Road (C.H. 31) and Lafayette Road (U.S. 42) for culvert replacement; (2) closing River Styx Road (C.H. 49) between Greenwich Road (C.H. 97) and Rohrer Road (T.H. 117) for culvert replacement; and, (3) approving use of the Subdivision Drainage Maintenance Fund for work in the Woods at Windsor Pointe Subdivision Phase 2 in Brunswick Hills Township. 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 June 26-July 2, 2008.

Scott Miller, Finance Director, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the annual appropriation resolution; (2) authorizing a cash transfer for the County Home Levy Fund; (3) transferring funds from the General Fund and the Child Support Enforcement Agency Fund to the Title IV-D Prosecutor Fund for Prosecutor services; (4) transferring funds from various County department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop Revenue Line Item; (5) authorizing the submission of an application to the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, which would allow the County to be self-insured and presents no obligation to the County at this point; (6) approval of an agreement between the Ohio Department of Health and the Medina County Family and Children First Council for the administration of the County Help Me Grow Program; and, (7) adoption of the 2009 Tax Budget. Mr. Miller requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$643,947.53. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the five 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 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.

Mr. Berkowitz presented a resolution amending the Table of Organization for the Department of Job & Family Services to add the position of one interim part-time Case Aide ending October 10, 2008. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Chris Jakab, County Administrator, presented a resolution accepting and awarding the bid for window replacements on the west and east sides of the Medina County Administration Building to Gunton Corporation (dba Pella Windows and Doors) in the amount of \$111,225. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE. Mr. Jakab added that the monies had been appropriated in the capital improvement fund. He noted that the final architect interview for the Courthouse Complex Expansion/Renovation Project was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. that day.

Jim Troike, Sanitary Engineer, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) declaring the necessity of constructing Chippewa Lake sanitary sewer and water line improvements in Bungalow Bay Boulevard, Parkway Drive, and Shadywood Drive, approving detailed plans and specifications for the improvements, and authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to commence with advertising for construction bids; (2) declaring the necessity of constructing

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sanitary sewer lining and manhole replacements in Sleepy Hollow Road, within easements west of Hathaway Drive and Ruth Drive, approving the detailed plans and specifications for the sewer lining, manhole installations and manhole replacements, and authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to commence with advertising for construction bids; (3) awarding Contract "C" (general and electric combined) for the Village of Westfield Center Water Treatment Plant improvements and Contract "D" for Well Development MCSE #W-700/00-32.0A; and, (4) granting a sanitary sewer lateral and water service easement to Virgil R. Williams. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed Mr. Hambley and Mrs. Geissman voting AYE. Ms. Ray abstained because the easement runs through her father's condominium's garage.

Lynn Remington, County Home Superintendent, reported that they have 53 residents currently living at the Home and a new admission will be coming in on July 10. Three people are active in the Adult Daycare Program. They are working with student nurses from Lorain Community College on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She proudly announced that this is the third year in a row that their kitchen has received honorable mention from the Health Department. Eagle Scout Brian Cole has completed the Memory Garden and the residents enjoy it. Through his work, they have obtained the volunteer services of another Eagle Scout to revamp the front courtyard. They completed the corrections from the fire alarm inspection and are ready for re-inspection. They held fire extinguisher training and their elevator was inspected. A County Home resident has taken on the responsibility for editing and compiling their Sunshine Newspaper, and she is doing a great job. The date for the 'Swine-n-Dine' pig roast will be Sunday, August 24, 2008.

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

The meeting was opened for public comment.

David Civittolo, OSU Extension Service Agent, reported on some of the summer events that they offer. The Farmers' Market was set up for 17 consecutive dates and this past Saturday, July 5, was their busiest day yet. There were about 25 vendors and the demand has been excellent. They will be holding the Outstanding Fair Court on July 29 at 7:00 a.m. The Cloverbud Day Camp, for children ages 5-8, had 80 participants this year at the Community Center. About 100 youth attended Kelly's Island Camp for four days and they had perfect weather for a change. County Commissioners' Day will be held in Ross County on August 18-19; next year it will be held in Medina County. Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee will be visiting their Extension Office and will have lunch with the Medina Noon Kiwanis on Thursday, July 17.

Mrs. Geissman said a Discussion Session would be held immediately following this portion of the meeting and an Executive Session was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel/compensation. Mr. Hambley moved to allow the Executive Session and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The meeting recessed at 9:44 a.m.

Discussion Session

The meeting reconvened at 9:47 a.m. for the Discussion Session.

Joseph Calabrese, CEO and General Manager of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA), said he has been overseeing the Greater Cleveland RTA for about 8-1/2 years. They are doing the best that they can with the resources that they have, but the resources are limited. When he started there, he was surprised to discover that the "regional" transportation was actually a one-county operation that did not include all of Cuyahoga County. North Olmsted and Maple Heights did not join the RTA when it was formed in 1974. Over the past 30 years, he

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has worked for many of the larger transit systems that were truly regional, such as Boston and New Jersey. When he started in Cleveland, in order to make it more regional, he got the neighboring five systems together to sign an agreement saying that if a rider pays a fare in one system, they are paying the fare in all of the systems. Regional is great if there is a lot of money, but it is difficult if resources are strained.

Mr. Calabrese explained that the RTA is struggling primarily for two reasons: (1) escalating diesel fuel costs, and (2) cuts in the State budget. Ohio is the second worst "transit funder" in the country, behind Texas. The attitude in Columbus is that they will fund highways, but public transit funding is a local issue. States that are doing well with public transit have a joint partnership with the federal, state, and the localities. The typical state provides 23% of the funding for public transit - Ohio funds less than 3%. The neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Illinois average about \$700 million for public transit - Ohio's transit systems receives about \$16.3 million, and from that they take the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Transit's funding before they distribute it to 59 transit systems. The drop in funding was during the Taft administration when it was reduced by 63%. They hope the funding will improve in the future with Governor Ted Strickland who understands public transit. He appointed a State task force (that Mr. Calabrese is on) to review highways, bridges, waterways, and rail, in addition to public transit. They held seven public hearings around that State and 85% of every public comment was that they need more money for public transit; therefore, ODOT is becoming somewhat enlightened. The energy cost crisis has raised people's awareness, perhaps a bit late.

Mr. Calabrese said the Greater Cleveland RTA is at total capacity. They have had five years of ridership growth in a row. They instigated a 5% service cut last December to allow them to get through this budget year and they had many complaints about overcrowding. More people are using public transit due to the increase in the price of gasoline, but due to the high fuel costs, they are going to have to cut service. They paid \$4 million for diesel fuel in 2004, \$12 million in 2007, they will spend \$21 million in 2008, and they project spending \$24 million in 2009. Even with a 4-5% increase in ridership and \$1 million in passenger revenue this year, the actual expense will be an additional \$8 million. More ridership is a blessing when it enables them to lose less on every bus that is full versus half-full, but if they have to add busses, it starts the economic loss cycle again.

Mr. Calabrese said they released the RTA tax budget to their Board last week and they will then file it with Cuyahoga County. It shows some major funding issues for next year because of fuel costs and a State that has not yet responded. The Governor's plan with the task force was to have a report issued by fall 2008 in order to have something in the State's budget for next year. He decided to delay the final issue until after the election so that what was issued would not impact the election. RTA will be holding public meetings over the next couple of weeks around the Cleveland area to discuss the possibility of adding a fuel surcharge and reducing services. Their Board discussed cutting services outside of Cuyahoga County. The RTA provides limited services primarily to Medina County and Lorain County. They have reduced those services over time; the last time was when they had a funding crisis. He has received many phone calls from Cuyahoga County residents asking how they could cut services in Cuyahoga County if they provide services out of the County. Although he would prefer it to be a Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) regional (and more) entity, they really are a county entity, which is how they were developed. He said he realizes that there are not a lot of services to Medina County, but these are on the list of services to be cut because of low ridership and also because they are out of the County. Cuyahoga County residents are asking why their tax money is going to fund service for those in Medina County. He presented records showing that the Greater Cleveland RTA carries an average of 72 people per day on six trips per weekday (from Laurel Square and other stops in Brunswick to the Strongsville Park-N-Ride lot). This results in a total loss of \$66,280 per year to the RTA. He proposed that Medina County partially subsidize those services.

Mrs. Geissman asked if there was an increase in ridership lately with the high cost of gasoline. Mr. Calabrese said he checked the ridership that day and there were about the same

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number of riders as the average for the past year, about 36 people in and 36 people out. No service will pay for itself. Mr. Hambley said more Medina County people would be going up to the Park-N-Ride in Strongsville, which creates a problem with parking. Mr. Calabrese said the biggest growth has been at the rail stations and the Park-N-Ride lots. They expanded the Strongsville lot in 2006 and the North Olmsted lot 2007. They will be expanding the Westfield lot this year. About 40% of the people that use those Park-N-Ride lots are people coming in from outside Cuyahoga County. Reasonably, it would make more sense to have a major Park-N-Ride lot with ten-minute service and nice vehicles outside the county so people are not congesting traffic, polluting air, and spending gas to and from a Park-N-Ride lot further away. The Strongsville Park-N-Ride lot offers service every eight-ten minutes and the out-of-county service is only about every half hour.

Mr. Hambley asked about the surcharge. Mr. Calabrese said they add \$1 to the basic fare for out-of-county trips. He explained the benefits of consolidation and further regionalization using the example of bringing in North Olmsted and Maple Heights into the RTA and no longer subsidizing those two services. They were told that if they wanted to provide their separate systems with RTA subsidizing them, they would only be subsidized at the level at what it costs RTA to provide those services. They were able to save \$2.8 million when they consolidated and brought those employees in (one of them was Medina County Transit Director Scott Uhas). One of the task force recommendations to the Governor will be to provide some incentives to regionalize because there are none now. Mr. Hambley asked what their cost was per mile and Mr. Calabrese said their operating costs are about \$100 per hour (a combination of both miles, hours of service, and maintenance).

Mr. Jakab asked if rail service would be remaining intact. Mr. Calabrese said their goal is to shift more customers to rail service. In 2000, about 90% of the customers used bus service and 10% used rail service. Rail service was 40% of their costs, but only 10% of the customer base. In the 1980's and 1990's, the sales tax was increasing at about 5.7% per year and 70% of their revenue is generated from the sales tax. They had enough extra to cover inflation. In the 2000's, the annual growth of the sales tax has increased less than 1%. Because people are paying more lately for groceries and gasoline (both non-taxable items) they have less disposable income; therefore, they are seeing a reduction in sales tax. Mr. Calabrese said they are hoping to have a plan in place mid-August for the RTA Board's approval around October 1, 2008.

Bob Zienkowski, Brunswick City Manager, asked if there was a possibility of reducing one route instead of eliminating the Brunswick bus service. Mr. Calabrese said there was always that possibility. The middle route seems to be carrying the most people. They do really well with the Park-N-Ride lots with a 15-minute frequency that gives people some confidence with using the service. If someone has to work late and they don't have a way to get home, that would be very difficult. Surely, there are ways to reduce the amount of service if possible. From a transportation planning perspective, it is almost "all or nothing". They are encouraging more people to take the rail and they are ending a lot of the bus service. Before, rail service was not comfortable or perceived as safe so they are updating the service.

There was a short discussion about adding services and Mr. Calabrese said the service is not what any of them want it to be. The issue is that there is no money mechanism for that. Due to a recent newspaper article, there have been many complaints about overcrowding, but financially it never makes sense to have another bus partially full at \$100 an hour. They do offer a lot of service; the Greater Cleveland RTA provides 46% of the public transit service in the State. The RTA carries more customers in Cleveland than Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Toledo combined. They take 50,000 cars per day off the roads in Cleveland and reduce congestion, emissions and smog, and that service takes resources. The reason they have more service than other cities is that they have a 1% sales tax. The State of Ohio has been devastated; Youngstown cut 50% of their transit service, Akron cut 32%, and Dayton cut 17%. The Cleveland RTA has only cut about 8% (better than most) and this is because of debt financing and being very creative. The biggest advocate for public transportation has been Senator Capri Cafaro because she has listened to her constituents who have asked how they can work if they can't get there. Many people want to be functional in society and pay taxes, and these are the

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people asking for help to get a ride to work to support themselves. If the government can't do that, it will be in tough shape. Mr. Calabrese said the RTA would like to work with Medina County for the next four to six weeks to see if there is any possible way they can continue to provide Medina County services beyond October. They are looking for creative ideas and a way to justify the service to the Cuyahoga County Commissioners who appoint his Board members. He complimented Medina County Transit Director Scott Uhas for bringing a wealth of experience. Mr. Hambley asked Mr. Zienkowski if he would be presenting this to the Brunswick City Council and he said he would. Mrs. Geissman thanked Mr. Calabrese for the information.

Ms. Ray said she and County Administrator Chris Jakab would be meeting with bond counsel and the City of Medina on Tuesday, July 8, regarding the proposed parking deck.

Mr. Hambley said that there had been a computer system crash over the weekend at the Juvenile Detention Center. He spoke with Juvenile Court Judge John Lohn who seemed to be under the impression that if the Commissioners had granted funding for the hardware in the budget, the crash would not have happened. Mr. Jakab said the \$28,000 hardware replacement was funded, but not the software. He is working with the judge's assistant and will provide updated prices. Ms. Ray said the Juvenile Court had other priorities in their budget. Mr. Hambley said he wanted to make sure nothing was overlooked.

Mr. Jakab said he received a grant agreement from the Ohio Department of Development for two-year funding for the Transportation Improvement District (TID). There is a \$500,000 expenditure deadline of November 2009. They will need the updated project priority list.

Mr. Jakab said the "Medina County Adult Tobacco Survey Final Report 2008" that was commissioned by the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission (MCDAC) and the tobacco grant program, has been completed. He presented copies to the Commissioners for their reference.

Mr. Jakab said the Medina County Health Department has forwarded a request for a levy replacement measure on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot. It would be a .27 mill partial replacement operating levy for a .3 mill levy that is expiring. Mrs. Geissman asked if it would bring in the same amount of money. Mr. Jakab said it would bring in more money because it is based on the current value. There will need to be a certification by the County Auditor to determine the estimate of the revenue to be collected. He will provide that information when it is available. There are no timing restrictions with this levy and it can go on the ballot at any time.

Mr. Jakab said the Sheriff's Office has requested an increase in funding for their medical service budget. They would like to change a full-time Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) position to a full-time Registered Nurse (RN) position at a cost of approximately \$7,000 for the last six months of the fiscal year. They need to provide more services at the Jail than the LPN can provide and it would cut down on overtime due to the short staffing situation and turnovers. Although the Jail population is down, the service demands have not decreased corresponding to the population. Also, the mental health numbers have never been higher.

The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m. for the Commissioners to interview the architectural firm of Silling Associates for the Courthouse Complex Project.

At 12:30 p.m., Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED 7/7//08

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
08-0663	ALLOW CLAIMS & AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER TO SETTLEMENT OF SUCH CLAIMS

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- 08-0664 DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE CHIPPEWA ROAD (C.H.50) BETWEEN VANDEMARK ROAD (C.H.31) AND LAFAYETTE ROAD (U.S.42)
- 08-0665 DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE RIVER STYX ROAD (C.H.49) BETWEEN GREENWICH ROAD (C.H.97) AND ROHRER ROAD (T.H.117)
- 08-0666 APPROVING USE OF SUBDIVISION DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR WORK IN THE WOODS AT WINDSOR POINTE SUBDIVISION PHASE 2 IN BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO
- 08-0667 AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
- 08-0668 AUTHORIZING CASH TRANSFER FOR THE COUNTY HOME LEVY FUND
- 08-0669 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND THE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FUND TO THE TITLE IV-D PROSECUTOR FUND FOR PROSECUTOR SERVICES
- 08-0670 AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS TO THE MEDINA COUNTY PRINT SHOP REVENUE LINE ITEM
- 08-0671 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS COMPENSATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE COUNTY TO BE SELF INSURED
- 08-0672 APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY HELP ME GROW PROGRAM
- 08-0673 ADOPTON OF THE 2009 TAX BUDGET
- 08-0674 APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 08-0675 AMENDING THE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES
- 08-0676 ACCEPTING AND AWARDDING BIDS FOR WINDOW REPAIRS AT THE MEDINA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- 08-0677 DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTING CHIPPEWA LAKE SANITARY SEWER & WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS IN BUNGALOW BAY BLVD., PARKWAY DR. & SHADYWOOD DR. APPROVING THE DETAILED PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS & AUTHORIZING THE SANITARY ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS
- 08-0678 DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTING SANITARY SEWER LINING & MANHOLE REPLACEMENTS IN SLEEPY HOLLOW RD, WITHIN AN EASEMENT WEST OF HATHAWAY DR., & RUTH DR. & APPROVING DETAILED PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS & AUTHORIZING THE SANITARY ENGINEER TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS
- 08-0679 AWARDDING CONTRACT "C" (GENERAL & ELECTRICAL COMBINED) FOR THE VILLAGE OF WESTFIELD CENTER WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS & CONTRACT "D" FOR WELL DEVELOPMENT
- 08-0680 GRANTING A SANITARY SEWER LATERAL & WATER SERVICE EASEMENT TO VIRGIL R. WILLIAMS
- 08-0681 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 seventh day of July, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSIONERS _____
Patricia G. Geissman

OF _____
Stephen D. Hambley

Pam Vereb, Clerk

MEDINA COUNTY _____
Sharon A. Ray