

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Sharon A. Ray called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. with Patricia G. Geissman and Stephen D. Hambley present.

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

Doug King, Administrative Assistant in the County Engineer's Office, presented a resolution approving the Final Plat for the Hunters Glen Subdivision Phase II in Montville Township Lot 35. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution 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 November 1 through November 7, 2007.

Scott Miller, Finance Director, presented and reviewed the following Finance Department resolutions: (1) amending the 2007 Appropriations Resolution by transferring appropriations; (2) amending the annual appropriation resolution; (3) expenditure adjustments for various funds; (4) transferring funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item; (5) authorizing the transfer of funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary Fund; and, (6) authorizing the expenditures related to a Planning Commission sponsored Open House, not to exceed \$175 each. Mr. Miller requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$1,063,639.80. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the six 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.

Chris Jakab, County Administrator, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) authorizing Medina County Building Maintenance to advertise for bids for upgrades to the restrooms at the Medina County Human Service Building; (2) appointing Patrice Theken as the county's representative to the Uptown Medina Initiative Board of Directors that was established to implement the "Main Street" program; and (3) approving a memorandum of understanding with the City of Medina for Transit Services as a formalization of the relationship between the county and the city with respect to the provision of fixed route transit services during the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 (retroactive). Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the three resolutions. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Jim Troike, Sanitary Engineer, presented a resolution authorizing the easements for the Sharon Commercial Park 2 – Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Project. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Debra Radecky, Office for Older Adults (OOA) Director, reviewed some of the activities that the senior citizens are being offered this month as follows:

- November 14 – Bingo, Community Legal Aid
- November 16 – Medicare/Medicaid discussion
- November 19 – Cholesterol screening
- November 20 – Day trip - Cleveland Museum of Art (modern masters),  
and OSU Extension program, "Hot Meals for Cold Days"
- November 21 – Medicare Part D Prescription Program workshop with  
insurance providers, and free craft project
- November 23 – Center is closed for cleaning
- November 28 – Community Legal Aid, Bingo, and movie "Hairspray"
- November 19 – Investment Protection Program

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Ms. Radecky said they would be having a holiday week before Christmas with entertainers and a gift exchange with a "Secret Santa". There will be a day trip on December 19 to the Carousel Dinner Theater to see "White Christmas". For October they had five health units, 122 supportive units, and 32 Alzheimer's units. They served 1,283 congregate meals and 5,490 home delivered meals, and took 1,737 transit trips.

Mike Pataky, Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) Director, reported that over the past six weeks the agency has been donating food and health items to help supplement the local food bank at the Methodist Church. The church has serviced over 700 needy families so far this year. He presented a picture of the huge stack of food and health items the agency collected.

Ms. Ray presented a resolution appointing Guilford Township Trustee Glenn Sheller as the Township Trustees Association representative to the Medina County Advisory Council on Aging with his term expiring on September 30, 2009. 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 presented a resolution appointing Nancy Love and William Richardson as the townships' and villages' representatives to the Medina County Convention and Visitor's Bureau Board of Trustees with their terms expiring on October 31, 2009. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution; seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

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.

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

The meeting recessed at 9:46 a.m. for the commissioners to move to the Conference Room for the Discussion Session at 9:48 a.m.

### Discussion Session

Sheriff Neil Hassinger was pleased to report that some of their programs at the Medina County Jail are now working and the population has declined since last year. In 2006, they had to close the Jail to new prisoners (except emergencies) at various times for a total of 72 days because they were so overcrowded. Recently, they were able to close a housing unit because they haven't needed it. He presented and reviewed a report entitled "2006/2007 Jail Population". In 2006, January through October, the Jail had 3,230 bookings. In 2007, during the same timeframe, the Jail had 3,257 bookings. While the population has remained consistent with 2006, the difference is the cooperation with Judges Kimbler, Collier, Chase, and McIlvaine who are helping them immensely. They are getting people in and out of the jail and the average length of stay has been reduced due to the judges and the programs. Some of the classes offered are the General Educational Development (GED) courses, parenting classes for males and females, substance abuse classes, AA meetings, anger management classes, various church services, Bible studies, and Christian movies. Many are taught by volunteers so there is little or no cost to the county. While it may be up to the presiding courts to determine the length of time an inmate spends incarcerated, the Jail's efforts are working to breaking the cycle of recidivism. They have found that educating the inmates and getting them working and paying taxes, the county does not have to support them. There are many mental health inmates; the average daily population (ADP) in January 2006 was 229 and 1,870 inmates received some type of mental health support and 887 inmates received substance abuse courses. The Sheriff said these mental health and substance abuse courses are starting to pay off and they are seeing a reduction in population. In 2006, 908 inmates attended GED courses (an average of 75 per month), 41 took the GED exam and 35 received passing scores. The ADP in January 2007 was 225 and it has steadily dropped to 196 in October 2007. He doesn't think there is another county jail in Ohio that had a reduction in population. The programs are a small part of the entire jail operation, but they are an integral part. They would not be possible, to this extent, if it were not for the

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

volunteers of the community and the corrections staff. Medina County Jail is a leader in county facilities throughout the State of Ohio. He is very proud of this fact and they will continue to set high standards for others to follow.

Ms. Ray said they are going into this year's budget cycle. Last year, this Board made a decision to add additional money to offer mental health and other training programs and they are starting to see some positive effects of that. The average length of stay of inmates is now shorter so that means these are new people, not people that have had previous offenses because those are kept for longer periods. She asked if there are any new or additional programs that he feels would be important to fund. Sheriff Hassinger said the classrooms are at maximum capacity so they would have to expand the classrooms if they added new programs. He praised Alternative Paths' mental health and substance abuse programs under the direction of Gail Carmon; she is a tremendous asset. Mrs. Geissman said if they continue to fund the same programs and see the recidivism drop, then they have really accomplished what they started out to do. Ms. Ray said they should count the savings, not only in days not spent at the jail and the population being down, but also being able to alleviate the overtime caused by employees on family medical leave of absence (FMLA). The Sheriff said other counties are having the same problem with FMLA. Mrs. Geissman commented that the Medina County Jail could be a role model for other county jails.

Ms. Ray said that with the jail population being down and housing other counties' inmates is not a profitable endeavor, one of the things she and the Sheriff talked and the Sheriff recommended was putting additional pod construction plans on hold at this point. Not only that, the State of Ohio might be having some grant monies available in the future. The Sheriff added that they may be able to get some federal and state money and save the local taxpayers' money. There are other programs in the county other than the jail that need expanded. Ms. Ray said showing that the jail is effective will be helpful in obtaining those funds. The Sheriff commented that he would have never thought a year ago that he would have 46 male beds empty on a Monday morning. Lt. Lesak added that the 2006 graph shows that last year was the peak year and they are starting to show some reduction. Ms. Ray commented that they would in good shape if they could keep all those people healthy. Sheriff Hassinger said medical "is a different story" and they will never be able to reduce that because of liability, etc. The medical staff does all they can to control it as much as possible.

Debra Radecky, Office for Older Adults Director, presented a rough draft of cost-cutting measures due to less available funds - about \$23,000. They will be receiving the same amount of money they received last year from the Western Reserve Area on Aging (WRAA), but the cost of meals went up 3%. She brought it before the Commissioners at this time because they are on a different cycle than other departments. She wanted their suggestions on cost-cutting options; a reduction in services, increase in local money, or a combination of both. Some cost cutting measures that would make the least impact on the senior citizens were to cut some congregate and home delivered meals and changing an employee to a part-time general outreach position. She had been working on an Alzheimer grant that is not being renewed by the state. They could cut a proportional amount from each city. They provide congregate meals in Wadsworth every day of the week, in Medina on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, and in Brunswick on Wednesdays and Fridays. They thought they could limit the amount of meals per day by 19 because they only receive 15,000 meals per year. They would reduce 5 per day from Wadsworth, 8 per day from Medina, and 18 per day from Brunswick for the year. Mrs. Geissman said she would not like them to do that because it is so important for seniors to get a hot meal. She asked Ms. Radecky what she planned to reduce for the Home Delivered Meals and she said they would reduce that by 30 per day. They err more on the giving side than the not giving side. They would just become more stringent on the guidelines. For example, they would stop giving a caregiver meal to a spouse. They would not cut meals to the truly needed, but would be more stringent in the guidelines. Another cut could be lowering the 3% salary increase to 2.5%. Mr. Jakab pointed out that these were cuts if they did not allow some growth in the local match. If they allowed some growth, Ms. Radecky would not implement some of the listed cuts.

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

The Commissioners discussed the costs of keeping the Alzheimer outreach person's position alive until other funding became available. Ms. Radecky said it is a valuable program, but funds are drying up everywhere. They are on every list serve and they get every grant opportunity that comes out. Medina County has had a 113+% increase in requests and she has requested WRAA change their formula for funding. In order to get an increase, Cuyahoga County (where the senior population has dropped) would take a large cut, so they are waiting for the 2010 census to change the formula in about 2012.

Ms. Radecky said the City of Medina is giving them \$2,000 per year, thanks to Commissioner Geissman. Mr. Hambley said they needed to see how many Medina City residents they are serving. Upon questioning, Ms. Radecky said they have no waiting list for meals because the Commissioners are funding extra meals and an extra driver. Mrs. Geissman said that is the way she would like to keep it. Ms. Radecky said the largest concentration of home delivered meals is in Brunswick and the most congregate meals served are in Wadsworth.

Mr. Hambley said reducing the number of home delivered meals by using stricter guidelines is consensus. Ms. Ray said the Office for Older Adults shouldn't get 2-1/2% raises if the rest of the county gets 3%, and the others agreed. The Commissioners did not want to cut the congregate meals because it gets the seniors out and it is good for them. Ms. Radecky said there is a group that comes every day for convenience and socializing as opposed to nutrition. They suggest \$1 per meal donation (they are not permitted to charge the actual cost if there is federal funding involved). Mr. Jakab said the donations are helpful in sustaining the programs. Ms. Radecky suggested they could limit the amount of meals slightly to force a rotation. Ms. Ray said it is not income-based and there are people that are financially able to make other arrangements but they are getting the same benefit as some seniors that really need it. Mrs. Geissman said they have been trying to get seniors to realize that the OOA is for all seniors because at one time it was just the needy. They tried to make it a booming place for seniors and they don't want to take a step backwards. Socializing is good for their mental health. People go to places where there is food. Ms. Ray asked if she could comfortably reduce the number of meals and not neglect anyone and Ms. Radecky said she could if she ran a nutrition assessment. The Commissioner agreed to fund the outreach worker and to fund the majority needed for meals. Mr. Hambley said Wadsworth and Brunswick said Wadsworth and Brunswick contribute a lot to their centers. The county supplies the staff and facility for the City of Medina's center. Mrs. Geissman said the City of Medina needs to know about the budget cuts. Mr. Hambley asked Ms. Radecky to formulate the figures to show the City of Medina how much would be needed in order not to make cuts.

Scott Miller said the Audit Review Committee would be at Monday's Discussion Session to present their report that was sent to the Commissioners.

Mr. Hambley said they discussed the weighted vote at the NOACA Board meeting on Friday. Amy Wainright, Air Quality Planner, contended that the governing board needed to go through the process of amending NOACA's code of regulations and it was their contention that it was the only way code could be amended. He and Lorain County Commissioner Betty Blaire corrected them and said the counties could adopt it without going to the NOACA Board since they are a Council of Governments; it is a code of regulations adopted individually by each of the five counties. They all agreed that the best and least problematic means of amending and repealing the weighted vote would be to go through the NOACA Board first. The Executive Committee asked the consensus of the Board, by a motion, and the Executive Committee will begin public meetings on December 14 to produce the resolution for the Board that, hopefully, will address and amend the code no later than the end of March. There are differences of opinion as to whether the vote would be proportional or non-proportional representation. They did a survey of all the other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to find out if their Boards were proportional and whether they have weighted votes; they found that most do not. Board representation does not have to be proportional. They had consensus among the four outlying counties about amending the vote to eliminate the weighted vote and that appointed officials should not be President or Vice President. If the code is not amended, Lorain County officials

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

said they would pull out of NOACA. They have been communicating with AMATS and are seriously evaluating joining; Cuyahoga County and NOACA are taking it seriously.

Mr. Hambley presented a document entitled "Status of the Highway Trust Fund: 2007", and in it testimony concludes that the availability of money for transportation is dwindling. It lists the projects that are at risk if the funding mechanism is not provided by the Highway Trust Fund. They could run out of money by 2009 so projects scheduled for 2010 would not get funded. Since 2000, outlays have exceeded receipts and project funds have been slowly eroding. There could be a 42% cut in projects on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) list. Some of Medina County's projects are on S.R. 42, 83, 252, and Boston Road. It shows the magnitude and impact on the region if they don't get funding. Congress needs to address the situation with a tax increase, road use charges, or using the General Fund revenues. The current gas tax is not a percentage so it doesn't matter if the gas goes up to \$5 per gallon or \$2 per gallon; the tax would still be 25 cents, for example, on either amount so they are suggesting Congress consider that. They took the position that Congress needed to address the region's infrastructure issue. With the weighted vote, Cuyahoga County could say their road projects are more important because of the urban core and that the outlying counties should bear the 42% cut. They are tied together in terms of the long-term ability to work as a region and identify how the federal funds should to be used.

Ms. Ray said they will need a resolution to appoint members to the Flood Plain Appeals Board. Mrs. Geissman said she is waiting for a reply from her County Planning Commission alternate. The Clerk will prepare the resolution when she receives confirmation of her willingness to serve.

At 10:55 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 11/13/07**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
07-1096	RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS
07-1097	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT FOR THE HUNTERS GLEN SUBDIVISION PHASE II LOCATED IN MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP LOT 35
07-1098	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2007 APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION BY TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS
07-1099	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPORATION RESOLUTION
07-1100	EXPENDITURE ADJUSTMENTS FOR VARIOUS FUNDS
07-1101	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS TO THE MEDINA COUNTY PRINT SHOP REVENUE LINE ITEM
07-1102	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS TO THE GASOLINE ROTARY FUND
07-1103	A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURES RELATED TO A PLANNING

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

COMMISSION SPONSORED OPEN HOUSES

- 07-1104 RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
  
- 07-1105 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MEDINA BUILDING MAINTENANCE TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR UPGRADES TO THE RESTROOMS AT THE MEDINA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE BUILDING
  
- 07-1106 MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO THE UPTOWN MEDINA INITIATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
  
- 07-1107 APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF MEDINA FOR TRANSIT SERVICES
  
- 07-1108 AUTHORIZING THE SANITARY ENGINEER TO OBTAIN EASEMENTS FOR VARIOUS SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
  
- 07-1109 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE MEDINA COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
  
- 07-1110 RESOLUTION APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MEDINA COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
  
- 07-1111 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 thirteenth day of November, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Vereb, Clerk

COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon A. Ray

OF

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia G. Geissman

MEDINA COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen D. Hambley