

COMMISSIONERS MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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.

The oral reading of the minutes of the Commissioners' meetings on September 4 and September 10 were dispensed with as each Commissioner had read them personally. Mrs. Geissman asked to have the September 4 minutes tabled and her request was granted. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the minutes from September 10; 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) authorizing the President of the Board of Medina County Commissioners to submit applications and execute contracts to the Ohio Public Works Commission for Issue 1 funding; (2) approving annual assessment on improvements constructed under Section 6131.63 Ohio Revised Code on 63.1910 acres of land in Lots 79 and 82 of Hinckley Township known as Tamarind Meadows Subdivision Phase 1 and establishing a public watercourse; (3) approving use of the Subdivision Drainage Maintenance Fund for repair work in Ridgewood Falls Subdivision Phase 1 in Montville Township; (4) approving use of the Subdivision Drainage Maintenance Fund for repair work in Windfall Heights Subdivision Phase 4 in Medina Township; and (5) closing Firestone Road (C.H. 26) between Wandel Road (C.H. 81) and Black River School Road (C.H. 83) for repair of a railroad crossing. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the five 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 September 6-12, 2007.

Bev Valentine from the Finance Department, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the 2007 Appropriations Resolution by transferring appropriations; (2) amending the annual appropriation resolution; (3) transferring funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item; (4) transferring funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary Fund; and (5) amending the Catholic Charities agreement for service coordinators, a family support specialist, and intake and referral services for the Medina County Family First Council's Help Me Grow Program. Ms. Valentine requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$1,250,503.66. 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 a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Medina County Commissioners, as the appointing authority for the Medina County Transit Department, and the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, Local 340. It accepts the resignation of a Transit employee with the understanding that the individual would be given preferential hiring when she was able to return to work and also retain her seniority. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Mr. Berkowitz presented a resolution approving the revised *Medina County Employment Manual* that replaces the *Personnel Manual* that was last revised in 2002. The document has taken almost 48 months to complete and it contains nearly 100 policies with the exception of the Public Records Request Policy that is still being reviewed and should be presented at next Monday's Commissioners' meeting. The manual has been reviewed by the County Prosecutor's

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Office, County Commissioners, County Administrator, Finance Director, and the Human Resources Director. It will be distributed to all the department heads and employees and put on the Human Resources web site. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. Mrs. Geissman thanked Mr. Berkowitz for all his hard work on the manual. She thinks it is wonderful to have this available, not only on the web site, but also on CD to each employee. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Chris Jakab, County Administrator, presented a resolution granting the Medina County Park District land for park expansion. The Commissioners agreed to participate in the non-productive land reutilization program in 2004. In December 2006, the Auditor had a sale on multiple parcels of land and the Park District expressed an interest in reutilizing six of these parcels. The Park District is not an eligible participant in that program so on behalf of the Park District, the Board of County Commissioners procured the parcels. They will transfer those parcels to the Park District for future park land at no cost to the Park District. All of the parcels are located in Brunswick Hills Township and the Brunswick Hills Township Trustees and the Brunswick School Board have approved the transfer of the parcels for public use.

Mr. Jakab presented a resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for the development of the Locally Developed, Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the five Northeast Ohio Counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina. NOACA was designated by the Governor as a recipient of the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs administered by the Federal Transit Administration. Funds were previously awarded to the Board of County Commissioners in the amount of \$25,000 to be used to develop this plan in Northeast Ohio. NOACA presented a MOU to be executed in order to facilitate services. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve both resolutions; seconded by Mr. Hambley. He added that the parcels to be transferred to the Park District were in the Strongsville Heights area and they were all substandard lots that were given away in the 1930's or 1940's as prizes for going to the movie theater. They are not buildable and no one wants them so he is glad to see that the process has come to fruition and the public will gain access to this land. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Jim Troike, Sanitary Engineer, reported that they were having a public meeting that evening in Chippewa Lake to discuss sewer and water line replacement in the Bungalow Bay area and deal with foundation drains in homes.

Patrice Theken, Director of the Department of Planning Services, presented a resolution proclaiming November 2007 as "Medina County Planning Month" and November 9, 2007 as "Community & Regional Planning Day in Medina County". They will hold their sixth annual open house on November 9. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution; seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE. Ms. Theken announced that the department's monthly newsletter would be distributed digitally next year.

Charles Huber, Chief Building Official, gave the Building Department's report for building permit activity for August 2007. There were 58 building unit starts for August 2007, which continues a downward trend for the same month since 2003 (110 in 2003, 102 in 2004, 93 in 2005, and 79 in 2006). The detailed breakout of a variety of different building permits for August 2007 compared to August 2006 showed a 9.76% increase in revenues collected for residential permits with a decrease in the number of permits (382 in August 2007 and 614 in August 2006). Some of this may be attributed to the increase in permit fees that went into effect on May 10, 2007. Year-to-date total revenues were down 7.1% comparing 2007 to 2006. Permitting activity, broken out by townships and villages, shows Brunswick Hills Township having the most residential permits for the month of August 2007 (59) and Montville Township having the most residential permits year-to-date through August 2007 (478). Non-residential permitting activity for townships, villages and cities shows Wadsworth City having the most with 15, and 47 year-to-date.

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Mr. Huber said the organization serving the insurance industry has provided their results of the survey of the Medina County Building Department for 2006. They do a survey every five years. Good fire departments and building departments lower the insurance risk for property insurance. Medina County was once again awarded a rating of four for one- and two-family residential and a rating of four for non-residential commercial and industrial, which is the same rating as five years ago.

Mr. Huber reported that the new State of Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission has certified Medina County to permit and inspect the installation of manufactured homes outside of manufactured home parks for all jurisdictions within the county except the City of Brunswick.

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

Ms. Ray presented a resolution appointing Cynthia L. Dennison as a Commissioners' representative to the Audit Committee with her term expiring on September 30, 2008. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve the resolution and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. Mr. Hambley said, although this applicant does not live in Medina County, she is employed by Lodi Community Hospital. Mrs. Geissman added that she is the Chief Financial Officer and they are very fortunate that she is interested in serving on this committee. Mr. Hambley said she has very good credentials and he is very comfortable with the appointment, but they would have to ask her to resign if she would change her employment to outside the county. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray presented a resolution commending Patrick Beyer for his years of distinguished public service to the citizens of Medina County. 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 Clerk read the resolution to allow the expenses of county officials and a resolution to allow the expenses for the County Engineer. Mrs. Geissman moved to approve both of the expense resolutions and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Ms. Ray announced that the Discussion Session would be at 10:00 a.m. and an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation was scheduled for 10:15 a.m. Mrs. Geissman moved to allow the Executive Session and Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m. for the commissioners to move to the Conference Room for the Discussion Session at 9:58 a.m.

Discussion Session

Mrs. Geissman said it is renewal time for the county's service agreement with the Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium (NEOTEC) and the Joint Office of Economic Development (JOED), which is the governing board of NEOTEC. This would be done automatically unless they are told differently. The other Commissioners agreed to allow the service agreement for another year.

Jim Troike, Sanitary Engineer, discussed the memo he sent to the Commissioners about the Homestead Reduction that had been offered to Medina County Sanitary Engineer's sewer and water bill customers that qualified for Homestead Exemption. Governor Strickland has signed into law a new and expanded Homestead Exemption that will provide additional property tax relief to all homeowners 65 and older and all permanently disabled homeowners. Previously, there were income guidelines. Mr. Troike said the county cannot afford to offer the sanitary sewer and water bill reduction to everybody 65 and older. He said Mr. Jakab suggested they "grandfather" existing individuals that qualified based on age and income, but not make it available to any others and phase out the Homestead Reduction Program. Mr. Hambley said they have about 1,109 households that receive benefit from that reduction in their sewer and

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water bills. They estimate with the reduction of the means test and the expansion of the Homestead Exemption Program at the state level, it would be extended to 7,000 households. That would still be over a 600% increase in the number of recipients of the benefits. Their choices would be to “sunset” the program, continuing the 1,109 and not add any new households, or allow the Homestead Exemption and charge the remaining customers more. Mr. Troike said that would be about \$.80 additional for the sanitary sewer per month and \$1.05 additional for water per month. Mrs. Geissman said phasing it out in time is the most reasonable thing to do. Nancy Girton, Auditor’s Office, commented that many people are not aware of the reduction. They feel that the Homestead Exemption for their property taxes is a windfall and may not know the reduction for the sewer and water bills ever existed. The Commissioners agreed to eliminate the program over time. The current recipients on the list as of October 1, 2007 would continue seeing the reduction as long as they have their sewer and water account with the Medina County Sanitary Engineer’s Office. Mr. Troike will draft a resolution for the Commissioners’ review next Monday.

Mr. Hambley reported that HousingMedina.org or MedinaHousing.org is a subscription that the county has acquired with the combined support of the Housing Network members (Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority, Medina County Fair Housing Consortium, 2-1-1, and United Way). Property providers can register and list their properties and they can control the listing by adding to it and removing from it (it becomes inactive) when the unit is rented. If it becomes available again, they reactivate it. All the properties have information available such as photographs, rent deposit requirements, contact phone number, maps, detailed information (the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, etc.), parking, school system, other community resources, and HUD information. Renters can surf for properties by rent range, address, zip code, availability, and detailed information. Links are provided to the local Chambers of Commerce, Fair Housing, schools, libraries, and community resources. There is a helpful tool that calculates and matches a person’s income with the rent they can afford. There is also a budget worksheet and a method to calculate moving costs. Metropolitan Housing has a kiosk set up in their office for people to access affordable housing information. Individuals can go online and see the different properties and print out information. The software was created by Socialserve.com who does this for a number of states as well as Cuyahoga County and other counties. The total cost for the contract to provide this resource to the community is \$3,300 per year. Postcards will be sent to people that own rental property to let them know about this free service they can use in addition to advertising in the local newspapers. This service can provide more information than what is provided in newspaper format and allows people access to community resources to help them make better decisions and do comparison shopping. Mrs. Geissman asked how this program is advertised. Mr. Hambley said people can be told about it by 2-1-1, Housing Network members and realtors. This also creates a competitive platform for rental properties that helps keep prices lower. Mrs. Geissman suggested that the Board of Realtors send letters to their members letting them know of this service. Mr. Hambley said Cliff Bellar with the Board of Realtors sits on the Housing Network and he has offered to help.

Mr. Jakab said Greg Hanna, City of Medina, provided information and offered to come to the next Commissioners’ meeting to provide further clarification regarding the questions they had about the Main Street Program funding. The Commissioners said they would like him to come to the meeting.

Mr. Jakab said the new real estate tax software system went live last week with very few problems. There is additional training being held now and in the near future that is provided by the Manatron contract.

Mr. Jakab said he and Scott Miller have a meeting with the Jail administration on September 25 to discuss some inmate medical-related issues.

Mr. Jakab introduced Keith Spitler, who will be doing computer-related functions for the Building Inspection Department and some other departments.

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At 10:17 a.m., Commissioners recessed to go into the Executive Session at 10:20 a.m. to discuss pending litigation that had been voted on earlier.

At 10:25 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 9/17/07

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
07-0897	RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2007 AS MEDINA COUNTY PLANNING MONTH AND NOVEMBER 9, 2007 AS COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PLANNING DAY IN MEDINA COUNTY
07-0898	RESOLUTION COMMENDING PATRICK BEYER FOR HIS YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF MEDINA COUNTY
07-0899	RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS
07-0900	RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REVISED EMPLOYMENT MANUAL
07-0901	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS TO THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR ISSUE 1 FUNDING
07-0902	RESOLUTION APPROVING ANNUAL ASSESSMENT ON IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 6131.63 OHIO REVISED CODE ON 63.1910 ACRES OF LAND IN LOTS 79 & 82 OF HINCKLEY TOWNSHIP AND KNOWN AS TAMARIND MEADOWS SUBDIVISION PHASE 1 AND ESTABLISHING THEREBY A PUBLIC WATERCOURSE
07-0903	RESOLUTION APPROVING USE OF SUBDIVISION DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR REPAIR WORK IN RIDGEWOOD FALLS SUBDIVISION PHASE 1 IN MONTVILLE TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO
07-0904	RESOLUTION APPROVING USE OF SUBDIVISION DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR REPAIR WORK IN WINDFALL HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION PHASE 4 IN MEDINA TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO
07-0905	RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE FIRESTONE ROAD (C.H.26) BETWEEN WANDEL ROAD (C.H.81) AND BLACK RIVER SCHOOL ROAD (C.H.83)
07-0906	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2007 APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION BY TRANSFERRING APPROPRIATIONS
07-0907	RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION
07-0908	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS TO THE MEDINA COUNTY PRINT SHOP REVENUE LINE ITEM
07-0909	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM VARIOUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS TO THE GASOLINE ROTARY FUND

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- 07-0910 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES AGREEMENT FOR SERVICE COORDINATORS AND FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST AND INTAKE AND REFERRAL SERVICES FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL HELP ME GROW PROGRAM
- 07-0911 RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 07-0912 RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY TRANSIT DEPARTMENT, AND THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES LOCAL 340 ON BEHALF OF KIM BRAUN, TRANSIT DRIVER
- 07-0913 RESOLUTION GRANTING THE MEDINA COUNTY PARK DISTRICT LAND FOR PARK EXPANSION
- 07-0914 APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREA WIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
- 07-0915 RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
- 07-0916 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS
- 07-0917 RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY ENGINEER

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vereb, Clerk

COMMISSIONERS _____
Sharon A. Ray

OF _____
Patricia G. Geissman

MEDINA COUNTY _____
Stephen D. Hambley