Colleen M. Swedyk called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Stephen D. Hambley and Aaron M. Harrison present. The meeting was held in the commissioners' hearing room and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

The minutes of the January 20, 2026 Commissioners' meeting were emailed in advance. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE. The motion carried.

Public Comment regarding pending resolutions

None.

Resolutions

County Engineer *Administrative Assistant Dan Becker* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for ODOT Item 422 chip & seal of various county roads in Medina County, Ohio
2. Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for item 253 pavement planing and repair of various county roads in Medina County, Ohio
3. Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for ODOT Item 441 thin overlay of various county roads in Medina County, Ohio
4. Accepting and awarding the bid for MED-CR0024-00.00, the resurfacing of Columbia Road (CR-24) from Lafayette Road (US-42) to Norwalk Road (SR-18) in Lafayette and York townships in Medina County

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Commissioner Swedyk thanked the County Engineer's department for all their hard work the last few days.

The commissioners reviewed the weekly permits issued January 15-21, 2026.

Sanitary *Engineer Jeremy Sinko* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Accenture PLC for construction inspection services for the Blake Avenue Reconstruction Project
2. Authorizing change order no. 1 for Automatic Transfer Switch Project

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Mr. Hambley moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Planning Services *Director Denise Testa* presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Amending Resolution 25-0729 by adding two members to the Subdivision Regulations and proposed Development Agreement Work Group

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Human Resources *Director Holly Muren* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
2. Amending the table of organization for the Sanitary Engineering Department

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Finance *Director Brett Thomas* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing a cash transfer for the Medina County Emergency Management Agency
2. Amending the Family Centered Services and Support (FCSS) Grant Agreement between the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Medina County Family and Children First Council
3. Allowing expenses of county officials
4. Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of $1,916,033.53

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

County ***Administrator*** *Matt Springer* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing a one year extension of the contract for yard waste management services for the Medina County Solid Waste District
2. Annual appointment of members to the Medina County Dog Shelter Advisory Committee
3. Authorizing the leasing of a vehicle for the Medina County Building Department

4. Authorizing a contract for the professional services of a beautician for the Medina County Home

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion.

Commissioner Harrison noted that the Dog Shelter Advisory Committee had done good work, and most members were returning. He mentioned that the new member had been featured in a recent piece on WKYC and that there were exciting developments on the horizon with new policies being adopted and implemented

There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Department Updates

Job & Family Services *Director Debbie Kiley* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for PCSA administration expenditures
2. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds for CSEA administration & RMS expenditures
3. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the JFS Children Services Fund (0050) for Children Services Subsidies
4. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the JFS Children Services Fund (0120) for Public Assistance Subsidies
5. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the Child Support Enforcement Agency Fund (0145) for Child Support Subsidies

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the five resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Ms. Kiley then provided a year-in-review of 2025 operations. For the Public Assistance Division, she reported they processed nearly 6,000 applications for assistance and over 1,000 requests for emergency assistance, issuing about $356,000 in emergency benefits for rent, utilities, and car repairs. The division issued over $19 million in SNAP benefits and over $800,000 in cash assistance benefits. They consistently met over 95% of timeliness authorization standards, often reaching 100%, and met Medicaid timeliness measures resulting in incentive dollars.

For the Child Support Division, Ms. Kiley reported they collected over $18 million in support and over $4 million in past due payments. They established paternity on 99% of cases requesting it.

The Child Protective Division screened over 1,500 reports of abuse or neglect and averaged 93 children in care, down from 113 in 2024. Of the 52 children who left care in 2025, 31 were reunified with parents or caretakers, 12 were adopted (a record during her time as director), and 9 emancipated. The average time in foster care was 17 months, not including adoptions. At the end of 2025, the agency had 50 licensed foster homes, including 6 kinship homes. On average, 73 children were placed in their own licensed foster care, with an average of 25 in treatment facilities. The division was recognized by the state for investigative timeliness, bringing in incentive dollars.

Transit *Director Shannon Rine* provided an update on December 2025 operations, noting that ridership was down slightly due to weather but expected to increase as conditions improve. He reported that mileage was significantly down from the previous year, helping to extend vehicle life, and fuel usage was also down, showing continued efficiency improvements. Costs increased slightly in December, but budget projections for the coming year show only a slight increase to account for typical cost increases.

Mr. Rine shared good news about four new buses expected to arrive soon, with a turnaround time of only 4-5 months, which is much improved. He reported that staffing was nearly complete, with only one driver position unfilled. He praised the staff for their focus on safety and mentioned that a new operations supervisor had been hired who was also safety-focused.

Mr. Rine commended the handling of recent weather events and thanked those responsible for clearing streets and parking lots, which helped with operations that morning.

MCBDD *Superintendent Stacey Maleckar* presented the MCBDD annual report highlighting 2025 activities. She noted an increase in eligible individuals for services in both children and adults.

She shared highlights of community partnerships, including work with the commissioners on universal changing tables, and collaborations with Medina County Recreation Center, the Village of Seville, and Brunswick City Schools to fund accessible playground equipment and universal changing tables. MCBDD hosted Sensory Friendly Friday at the fair, which was successful and will continue. They worked with safety forces on training and provided Roth ID tags and blue envelopes to help communicate information during crises involving individuals with disabilities. They also increased advocacy programs, working with "people together with the society" and their own advocacy groups.

Ms. Maleckar reported that 2025 was the first year statewide that county board funding systems experienced deficit spending, including a small deficit at MCBDD that is expected to increase in 2026. Several county boards across the state have gone into fiscal emergency as defined by Ohio Revised Code. She noted that 2026 will see continued deficit spending and a 26% increase in Medicaid waiver matches, which for the first time is their greatest cost, exceeding staff and benefits. She emphasized that MCBDD has been conservative and thoughtful in budget planning and is on track to fulfill its commitment through the current levy cycle ending in 2030, barring significant changes at state, federal, or local levels.

Ms. Maleckar then mentioned upcoming initiatives including the Leadership Academy, which is taking applications, and noted that early intervention services continue to increase with positive outcomes. The Momentum Refresh mobile changing units will be at more events throughout the county and has seen increased use.

Commissioner Hambley discussed concerns about a state initiative to eliminate property taxes and noted that over 80% of MCBDD's funding comes from local levies. He emphasized the importance of public education on this issue so people understand where tax dollars are being spent and what services would be affected. Ms. Maleckar confirmed that MCBDD's levies are fixed, meaning the amount collected doesn't increase with property values, and stated that if that funding is lost, services would stop.

Public Comment
Therese Wyrzykowski from Wadsworth introduced herself as a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist working for Judge Hutson and Judge Kimbler in their treatment courts. She explained that the treatment courts are Supreme Court certified and have established a National Treatment Court Alumni Association, of which she is a member.

Ms. Wyrzykowski shared that she had started an alumni group called "We Rise Working Recovery" located at Hope Recovery to keep program participants engaged in the community after completion, as recovery happens in the community rather than in treatment court. Since beginning in June 2025, the group has volunteered with United Way, Salvation Army, and Cupp's Cafe, and is planning a sled writing party on January 31.

She explained that they don't have funds for their alumni group and is working with a pro bono lawyer to establish it as a 501(c)(3) but needs to find board members within two weeks. She asked for direction and support from the commissioners.

Commissioner Swedyk recommended she speak with Philip Titterington for recommendations on potential board members, noting that his board would include the type of people she might be looking for. They also offered to include information in the county newsletter, which reaches 16,000-17,000 community members, and suggested she look into the One Ohio grant cycle for potential funding.

Liquor Permit Notice
Commissioner Swedyk noted that the commissioners received notice of a new liquor permit request from GMA Biscuits Medina located at 4913 Grande Blvd., Medina Township, Medina, OH for a D-51 permit. The commissioners did not request a hearing and the notice was provided for the record.

Petition for Municipal Annexation
Commissioner Swedyk noted that on January 22, 2026, the Clerk of the Board received a municipal annexation petition for three parcels of land totaling 0.8618 acres (more or less) of land from the State of Ohio to the City of Brunswick. No Public Hearing is required. The commissioners' will review the petition at their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at approximately 9:30 a.m.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at 9:55 a.m.

Discussion Session

Violation – Southern Water District Drinking Water Program
Jeremy Sinko discussed a violation in the southern water district drinking water program identified during an EPA sanitary survey conducted earlier in 2025. He explained that the EPA was focusing on auxiliary water systems (ponds, cisterns, or wells) that could potentially contaminate the public water system through back-feeding if not properly protected. He reported that 107 customers in the Southern Waters District have both auxiliary water systems and connections to the public system. These customers will be required to either abandon their auxiliary water system or install a backflow prevention device, which costs approximately $1,000 to install and requires annual certification. If neither action is taken within the timeframe provided (tentatively six months), water service would be suspended as these connections are considered a threat to the public water source under Ohio Administrative Code.

The commissioners expressed concern about the impact on residents, particularly the cost implications. Commissioner Hambley noted that the Northwest system has approximately 1,300 properties that would face the same requirements. He suggested directing affected residents to contact their state representatives and state senator since this stems from administrative code dating back to 2003. The commissioners discussed particular challenges with ponds, which cannot be easily abandoned like wells or cisterns, and Commissioner Swedyk noted that some provide fire protection benefits.

Commissioner Harrison expressed concern that such requirements could discourage participation in the public water system, which counters the goal of expanding the system to distribute capital costs across more customers. Mr. Sinko confirmed they are working with the prosecutor's office on the notification letter and will include information on how residents can voice their opinions to lawmakers.

NOACA
Commissioner Harrison provided updates on NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency). He noted there was a discussion about ratification of bylaws amendments that the commissioners had acted on the previous week, possibly in a manner different from what NOACA had requested.

Commissioner Harrison then mentioned that he was considering asking Brandon Gibson from the Economic Development Corporation to serve as his alternate on the NOACA board, since his current alternate, Commissioner Hambley, sometimes has conflicts with CCAO meetings. Mr. Harrison explained that board alternates must also serve as alternates on standing committees. The commissioners agreed that Mr. Gibson would be a good choice for the alternate position.

Medina Schools – Consideration of Changes to Middle Schools
Commissioner Harrison addressed an article in the Gazette regarding Medina schools and their consideration of changes to middle schools, which mentioned "local property tax legislation." He clarified that this was not

specifically referring to the commissioners' effort to expand the Homestead Exemption for one year, as confirmed in follow-up communications with Superintendent Sable. Mr. Harrison explained that their action in December was intended to show proactive local response to state pressure regarding property tax relief and was a one-year adjustment that was not a main driver of school financial challenges.

Appreciation

Commissioner Swedyk again expressed appreciation to the County Engineer's department for all of their hard work this weekend and also thanked Steven Bastean and the Maintenance Department for the hard work they did to clear parking lots in County facilities. She also thanked Matt Springer for keeping in constant contact with them to ensure everyone's safety.

Commissioner Hambley moved to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation; Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call vote showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Executive Session

At 10:12 a.m., the Commissioners went into the Executive Session that had been voted on earlier. The Executive Session ended at 10:24 a.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED JANUARY 27, 2026

Number	Resolution Title
26-0061	Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for ODOT Item 422 chip & seal of various county roads in Medina County, Ohio
26-0062	Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for item 253 pavement planing and repair of various county roads in Medina County, Ohio
26-0063	Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for ODOT Item 441 thin overlay of various county roads in Medina County, Ohio
26-0064	Accepting and awarding the bid for MED-CR0024-00.00, the resurfacing of Columbia Road (CR-24) from Lafayette Road (US-42) to Norwalk Road (SR-18) in Lafayette and York townships in Medina County
26-0065	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Accenture PLC for construction inspection services for the Blake Avenue Reconstruction Project
26-0066	Authorizing change order no. 1 for Automatic Transfer Switch Project
26-0067	Amending Resolution 25-0729 by adding two members to the Subdivision Regulations and proposed Development Agreement Work Group
26-0068	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
26-0069	Amending the table of organization for the Sanitary Engineering Department
26-0070	Authorizing a cash transfer for the Medina County Emergency Management Agency
26-0071	Amending the Family Centered Services and Support (FCSS) Grant Agreement between the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Medina County Family and Children First Council
26-0072	Allowing expenses of county officials
26-0073	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
26-0074	Authorizing a one year extension of the contract for yard waste management services for the Medina County Solid Waste District
26-0075	Annual appointment of members to the Medina County Dog Shelter Advisory Committee
26-0076	Authorizing the leasing of a vehicle for the Medina County Building Department
26-0077	Authorizing a contract for the professional services of a beautician for the Medina County Home
26-0078	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for PCSA administration expenditures
26-0079	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds for CSEA administration & RMS expenditures
26-0080	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the JFS Children Services Fund (0050) for Children Services Subsidies
26-0081	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the JFS Children Services Fund (0120) for Public Assistance Subsidies
26-0082	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the Child Support Enforcement Agency Fund (0145) for Child Support Subsidies

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting on this twenty-seventh day of January 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Beck
Clerk of the Board

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Stephen D. Hambley

Aaron M. Harrison

Colleen M. Swedyk