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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 7, 2025 Commissioners' meeting were emailed in advance.

*Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call 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. Approving annual assessment on improvements constructed under the authority of Section 6131.63 Ohio Revised Code on 3.7728 acres of land in Lots 7 & 8 of Montville Township known as Hawks Ridge Subdivision and thereby establishing said improvements as a public watercourse
2. Approving the final plat for Hawks Ridge Subdivision located in Montville Township Lots
3. Approving annual assessment on improvements constructed under the authority of Section 6131.63 Ohio Revised Code on 33.1663 acres of land in Lots 76 & 77 of Sharon Township known as Highlands of Sharon Subdivision Phase 1 Replat No. 1 and thereby establishing said improvements as a public watercourse
4. Approving the final plat for Highlands of Sharon Subdivision Phase 1 Replat No. 1 located in Sharon Township Lots 76 & 77
5. Determining the necessity to close Ridgewood Road (C.H. 60) for culvert repair

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

The commissioners reviewed the weekly permits issued October 2-8, 2025.

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

1. Accepting and awarding the bid for the Hinckley WWTP Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade Project
2. Authorizing change order no. 1 for Blower Building Upgrade Project at Plum Creek Maintenance Facility
3. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Jones and Henry Engineers for professional design services for the Chippewa and Lake Road Water Main Replacement Project

*Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the three resolutions; Mr. Hambley 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 resolutions:

1. Authorizing the small purchases procurement method for the Medina County Program Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant (PY24 CDBG) Battered Women's Shelter, also known as Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center, van purchase
2. Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners

*Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Hambley 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 Medina County Job & Family Services

*Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Hambley 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 cash transfer for the County Home Levy Fund
2. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Vehicle Maintenance revenue line item
3. Accepting an application for the use of a procurement card for the Medina County Probate & Juvenile Courts
4. Allowing expenses of county officials

5. Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of $6,181,647.60

*Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the five resolutions; Mr. Hambley 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 change order for the Medina County Human Service Center Building Restroom Renovation Project
2. Accepting and awarding a proposal for professional design and construction management services for the construction of a new Medina County Dog Shelter

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

**Department Updates**

*Medina Metropolitan Housing Executive Director Skip Sipos* provided the following updates on the Next Step Up Emergency Housing Shelter:

- 141 guests have entered the shelter since February 28, including 15 children and 7 veterans
- 6 canines and 2 felines have been welcomed
- 19 households have successfully transitioned and executed lease agreements
- 35 households have self-resolved by relocating with family or finding more appropriate housing
- 3 shelter veterans have utilized VASH vouchers (federal rental assistance program)
- Guests have connections to or arrive from all three county cities and many unincorporated areas
- Churches, businesses, and other entities have been providing support services including meals and training
- The shelter has 27 beds and 2 cribs
- Case management is provided to all shelter residents
- Funding outlook: The shelter is not eligible for state funding for calendar year 2026 as it's not considered "new" in the state's funding rotation
- The City of Medina has authorized a $50,000 allocation for operations next year, contingent on other cities and the county participating
- The current year's budget is $600,000, with next year expected to be similar
- A volunteer academy will be launched before the end of the year
- A dedication ceremony for the shelter is planned for November 20 at the fire station nearby
- A bingo fundraiser is scheduled for February 27, 2026

**Public Comment**

*Teresa Snyder, 10145 Shaw Rd., Chatham Twp.,* spoke about her concerns regarding property taxes and the broader implications for retirees on fixed incomes as well as healthcare funding. She recounted an example she heard from Cuyahoga County where property and building valuations increased, leading to a significant rise in property taxes. This incident, she explained, affected elderly residents, including retirees, who found themselves unable to afford the increased taxes, potentially being priced out of their homes. She emphasized that these concerns were echoed on a broadcast from The Ohio Channel, which highlighted statewide issues with rising property taxes.

Ms. Snyder suggested that property taxes for retirees should be frozen at the moment they retire, without regard to their income level. She argued that such a measure would provide retirees the confidence to support school levies and similar funding initiatives, knowing that their tax liabilities would remain constant. She stated that she spoke consulted with former Medina County Auditor Mike Kovack and he expressed that it was a promising concept. She expressed her intention to further discuss her idea at the local trustees' meeting and to follow up with her state representative for broader legislative support.

Ms. Snyder then raised concerns about the potential impact of healthcare funding on seniors, particularly with respect to Medicaid. She highlighted how Medicaid's role in long-term care is often misunderstood, explaining that despite common misconceptions, Medicare does not cover long-term care, and the financial burden falls to Medicaid. She urged attention to how healthcare funding, intertwined with potential government shutdowns in Washington, impacts seniors and vulnerable populations reliant on Medicaid for long-term care needs, including those with severe health challenges such as stroke and trauma cases.

*Nick Bundren, of Land & Liberty Coalition,* stated that he had been participating in an 88 County Tour of Ohio and had a list of questions to pose to the commissioners. Those questions will be submitted to the commissioners in writing.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed at 9:51 a.m. and the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at that time.

**Discussion Session**

Property Tax Relief

Superintendent Andy Hill and Treasurer Doug Beeman from Wadsworth City Schools discussed the commissioners' consideration of the homestead exemption expansion. They brought forward a resolution from their Board of Education that opposed the homestead exemption piggyback. Dr. Hill expressed the board's recognition of the property tax issue, emphasizing that it's a significant concern needing attention, but also highlighted the potential financial strain it could impose on their school district. He shared that the district is forecasting a $6.7 million deficit after the next year. This situation would worsen if they lose approximately $550,000 annually due to the proposed homestead exemption expansion. He pointed out that, unlike districts at the 20-mill floor, Wadsworth doesn't benefit

from significant tax revenue growth when property values rise, as they're not at the 20-mill minimum many other districts benefit from. He also mentioned that the district has been actively making employment reductions, notably through attrition, to adjust to declining enrollment and reduce expenses.

He noted that school board acknowledged the commissioners' challenging position, understanding the reasons behind considering the exemption expansion. Yet, they wanted to ensure that the commissioners were thoroughly informed about the potential negative impacts on school funding in their district. Mr. Beeman reiterated their concern over the dependency on inside millage for any revenue growth, given the stagnation in state funding, and communicated their reliance on local levies.

Commissioner Harrison clarified that the homestead exemption expansion is intended to be temporary, lasting only one year, to provide relief while anticipating property tax reform at the state level. With the hope that the state's initiatives will address persistent issues, the commissioners expressed a sincere hope that by the time the 2027 tax bills are due, state policies will provide some relief. Mr. Hambley noted that more than 1,500 senior households, disabled individuals, and veterans in the area would benefit from this relief. The commissioners expressed that this action had been a delicate balance, aiming to offer significant support to the municipality's most financially vulnerable residents while recognizing the simultaneous need to avoid unintended consequences for the local schools' finances. Commissioner Swedyk emphasized that the exemption could help prevent tax delinquencies, which would directly affect the schools' revenue, as delinquent tax revenue collection is crucial for school funds. Mr. Harrison also mentioned plans to roll back county inside millage as part of efforts to alleviate some of the financial impacts on the districts. The commissioners noted that the move is not taken lightly but is necessary to preemptively fend off tax delinquencies for residents on fixed incomes who could face severe fiscal challenges without this temporary measure and expressed a commitment to reviewing department budgets to ensure that fiscal responsibility contributes positively toward the community's needs.

MetroParks Request for Letter of Support

Commissioner Swedyk reported that Metropolitan Parks presented to Hinckley Township regarding a property in discussion, but the board of trustees took no action, so she did not believe any action was required from the commissioners at this time; Commissioners Hambley and Harrison agreed.

*Mrs. Swedyk moved to go into executive session to consider the employment and compensation of public employees; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.*

**Executive Session**

At 10:15 a.m., the Commissioners went into the Executive Session that had been voted on. The Executive Session ended at 10:57 a.m.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Swedyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED OCTOBER 14, 2025**

| Number | Resolution Title |
|---|---|
| 25-0793 | Approving annual assessment on improvements constructed under the authority of Section 6131.63 Ohio Revised Code on 3.7728 acres of land in Lots 7 & 8 of Montville Township known as Hawks Ridge Subdivision and thereby establishing said improvements as a public watercourse |
| 25-0794 | Approving the final plat for Hawks Ridge Subdivision located in Montville Township Lots |
| 25-0795 | Approving annual assessment on improvements constructed under the authority of Section 6131.63 Ohio Revised Code on 33.1663 acres of land in Lots 76 & 77 of Sharon Township known as Highlands of Sharon Subdivision Phase 1 Replat No. 1 and thereby establishing said improvements as a public watercourse |
| 25-0796 | Approving the final plat for Highlands of Sharon Subdivision Phase 1 Replat No. 1 located in Sharon Township Lots 76 & 77 |
| 25-0797 | Determining the necessity to close Ridgewood Road (C.H. 60) for culvert repair |
| 25-0798 | Accepting and awarding the bid for the Hinckley WWTP Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade Project |
| 25-0799 | Authorizing change order no. 1 for Blower Building Upgrade Project at Plum Creek Maintenance Facility |
| 25-0800 | Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Jones and Henry Engineers for professional design services for the Chippewa and Lake Road Water Main Replacement Project |
| 25-0801 | Authorizing the Medina County Board of Commissioners' signatures for the Foote Professional Condominium Development Replat No. 1 |
| 25-0802 | Authorizing the small purchases procurement method for the Medina County Program Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant (PY24 CDBG) Battered Women's Shelter, also known as Hope and Healing Survivor Resource Center, van purchase |
| 25-0803 | Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners |
| 25-0804 | Amending the table of organization for Medina County Job & Family Services |
| 25-0805 | Authorizing cash transfer for the County Home Levy Fund |
| 25-0806 | Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Vehicle Maintenance revenue line item |
| 25-0807 | Accepting an application for the use of a procurement card for the Medina County Probate & Juvenile Courts |
| 25-0808 | Allowing expenses of county officials |
| 25-0809 | Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims |
| 25-0810 | Authorizing a change order for the Medina County Human Service Center Building Restroom Renovation Project |
| 25-0811 | Accepting and awarding a proposal for professional design and construction management services for the construction of a new Medina County Dog Shelter |

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting on this fourteenth day of October 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Beck
Clerk of the Board

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Colleen M. Swedyk

Stephen D. Hambley

Aaron M. Harrison