

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

Commissioner Hambley moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 commissioners' meeting; Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Public Comment regarding pending resolutions

None

Retirement Commendation

Commissioner Swedyk presented and reviewed a resolution commending Laura Kennedy for her more than 30 years of service with Medina County. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. Mr. Harrison stated that he has worked with Laura as a member of the public over the years – she has done a great job. The commissioners thanked her for her service and congratulated her on her retirement. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Resolutions

Sanitary Engineer Jeremy Sinko presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to request statement of qualifications for professional design services
2. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Dixon for construction inspection services for the Substation Road Water Tank project

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.

Solid Waste District Director Barb Walton presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the disposal of a 2000 International hook truck
2. Authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the 2024 Community Development Grant
3. Authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the 2024 Water Bottle Refilling Station Grant

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the three resolutions; 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. Revising Commissioners' Employment Manual

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. Amending the appropriation measure resolution
2. Amending the 2023 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
3. Expenditure adjustments for various funds
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 \$486,806.45

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the 5 resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

County Administrator Chris Jakab presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing a contract for the professional services of a beautician for the Medina County Home
2. Authorizing a contract for the provision of medical services for the Medina County Home
3. Approving an addendum to the lease with the Strand Co., Ltd. for office space for the Clerk of Courts Wadsworth Auto Title Office located at 123 Broad Street, Wadsworth, Ohio

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

Department Updates

Transit Director Shannon Rine reviewed the monthly report for October noting that the Medina Flex was a big step for them, and they were able to increase ridership in Medina from 502 passenger trips in October 2022 to 1,342 to October 2023. He thanked his team for their efforts in educating the public about the Flex program. They are reducing miles on the revenue side. They are increasing trips while reducing fuel. They had 14 trip denials for the month of October – in August it was 101. He estimated that they will be getting 30%-35% more productivity. He stated that they provided 1,119 trips for the Office for Older Adults as they are seeing an uptick in senior ridership. Mr. Rine reported that they are planning a soft launch for the Brunswick Flex on January 2, 2024 and he will be working to get this information out to the public.

Job & Family Services Director Debbie Kiley reported that the Child Protective Division received 131 calls of abuse and neglect, and they remain at 146 children in care. Four children have been reunited with their families and one child has been adopted. The recent Toy Drive was a success, and she thanked the county for their support. She stated that Sen. Romanchuk did a ride along with two of her Child Protective workers. This was a great opportunity to have a conversation with him regarding things they are thankful for as well as some of their frustrations.

Ms. Kiley stated that each year, the state asks the Child Support offices to participate in a self-assessment process and report back to them. This is a great opportunity to share with the state what we are doing well and where improvements can be made. It also helps the state define based on county percentages the incentive dollars that are received from the federal government to the state.

The Public Assistance Division historically has little turnover, but they had one recent resignation and one retirement which created vacancies. They currently have four people in training and caseloads have been disbursed to existing staff while that training is completed.

Commissioners Resolutions

Commissioner Swedyk presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Appointing a member to the Medina County Advisory Council on Aging & Disability

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.

Public Comment

None.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed at 9:46 a.m.

Discussion Session

At 9:46 a.m., the Commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Gas Aggregation

Chris Jakab stated that he was contacted by our Energy Consultant yesterday reporting that gas prices have significantly dropped, and he thinks it's time for the county to possibly lock in rates. The aggregation program's current rate is rather high at \$8.78/mcf, and the current rate structure offering is down to \$5.55/mcf for a 12-month contract. The consultant thinks that locking into a 12-month contract is the best approach. He presented a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to negotiate gas rates for the County Aggregation Program. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. Mr. Harrison noted that if we locked in now at \$5.55/mcf, it could change. Mr. Jakab explained that if we don't lock it in now, it could go up or it could go down, but the current pricing structure is not beneficial to residents of the county who participate in the program. Mr. Hambley stated that NOPEC is even higher than our current rate. At this point, given that the consultant has more of an enlightened approach and knowledge of the industry, he is comfortable with the recommendation. Mr. Jakab mentioned that Dominion Energy is the other supplier for a small group of residents, and their offered rate is \$4.09/mcf versus the current \$7.40/mcf.

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

December 26 Commissioners' Meeting

Mr. Jakab confirmed that the December 26 Commissioners' regular meeting has been cancelled. Mr. Jakab has been authorized to approve the weekly bills for that week.

NOACA

Mr. Harrison stated that NOACA has a pending resolution for Friday's board meeting supporting the repeal efforts associated with the proposed Boston Road interchange. Because this is a pending action at this board meeting, it will be a public comment item. Discussion occurred regarding Strongsville's stance on this matter, previous traffic study (2015) and the lack of consideration for Howe Road, as well as the findings for the southern option (Montville Township) which presented more benefit to the region and overall positive impact to the region. Mr. Hambley thanked Mr. Harrison for taking the lead on this.

Hearing Loop

Mrs. Swedyk noted that she received a second quote on the hearing loop and will provide the information to the other commissioners to review.

Ron Bischof

Mrs. Swedyk noted the passing of Montville Township Trustee Ron Bischof. Mr. Bischof was a trustee for more than five decades. He was a wonderful man, an incredible leader, and did so much for his community. It is an incredible loss to that township. A moment of silence was recognized.

9-1-1 Program Review Committee

Chris Jakab provided an update on 9-1-1 systems' funding and the next generation fee. Sheriff's Office Communication Supervisor Jonelle Meredith recently hosted a training session at the University of Akron Lafayette Campus; she provided an overview of the training session. She explained that on October 3, 2023, the state passed the new ORC Section 128 which increased the surcharge to 40-cents per device through October 2025. After that date, the surcharge will then revert to the 25-cents per device. Additionally, both the 9-1-1 Technical Advisory and 9-1-1 Planning committees were dissolved and instead, a 9-1-1 Program Review Committee was created. There are new requirements for those who will be appointed as members to that committee. Ms. Meredith will be attending a meeting on December 11, which will review what the new final plan needs to look like which will need to be submitted to the state by April 3, 2024.

The makeup for the new 9-1-1 Program Review Committee was discussed. Mr. Hambley suggested that before next year, the board of commissioners will need to make their appropriate appointments. He inquired as to who convenes the committee; Ms. Meredith responded that the county commissioners do. The commissioners stated they were fine with the Sheriff being selected as the elected official member. The CEO of the most populous municipality would be Brunswick City Manager Carl DeForest. The member of the legislative authority of a municipal corporation in the county would be among Medina, Wadsworth and the villages.

Regarding PSAPs, the Sheriff's is one; Montville, Medina and Medina Twp. are one PSAP; Wadsworth is their own; and Brunswick and Brunswick Hills are one for a total of four PSAPs in the county. Mr. Jakab asked if the routing had been completed; Ms. Meredith responded they are still waiting for Frontier to issue wireless ESNs. Ms. Swedyk suggested talking with the Prosecutor's Office to get some clarity on how the city's member is to be selected. Mr. Grice noted funding changes the current 9-1-1 plan as it was done on a rotation. Previously, you could only pay a maximum of three PSAPs, but now it is unlimited. The expenses will need to come out first. If a capital improvement is to be included in that, it needs to be considered first. For the next generation 9-1-1, 50% of the 40-cents will go to fund the state. Ms. Meredith stated the Sheriff's Office is the only wireless PSAP in the county. As far as collecting the money, all PSAPs must be in compliance. If one city falls out of compliance, it will take away the money for the entire county. Mr. Jakab asked what "being in compliance" means; Ms. Meredith responded they must have certain training, keep EMD certifications up, answer calls within a certain ratio of time, etc. There are a total of 28 rules that each PSAP must meet. Once the final plan is complete, each municipality and township must pass a resolution approving the final plan. Mr. Grice will contact the mayors. Mr. Jakab will be in contact with Mr. Lyons at the Prosecutor's Office as to how to proceed.

Ms. Meredith stated that she predicts the next big expense will be text to 9-1-1 and stated that should be done sooner rather than later because other counties have done it without the state's help. Mr. Harrison mentioned if we had surplus funds available, then we could move forward with that.

Mr. Harrison noted a meeting should be convened well before the April deadline. It was suggested a meeting should be held in the first part of January 2024. Mr. Harrison will be the commissioners' designated member on the 9-1-1 Planning Review Committee. He inquired as to the cost for text to 9-1-1; Ms. Meredith responded prior to the pandemic, she received a quote for \$77,000, plus a monthly cost for call delivery and other costs. When we were at the 25-cents per device, the annual amount collected was between \$391,000 and \$425,000. Mr. Jakab noted last year's amount collected was \$414,000. Additionally, Ms. Meredith stated the OCR includes two caveats: (1) the county commissioners can put a parcel fee on every parcel in the county; or (2) can pass a levy to fund it.

Mr. Hambley proposed having a resolution prepared to appoint Mr. Harrison and Mr. Grice to the 9-1-1 Program Review Committee. This will be discussed next week and on resolution the following week.

Sheriff Radios

Sheriff Grice discussed potential savings of \$310,000 for radios bringing the cost to \$526,000 over five years – 20 radios per year. Discussion occurred regarding whether this process could be accelerated to meet requirements of ARPA funding. Chief Neil will put together new options/recommendations for the commissioners' consideration based on the parameters of ARPA funding.

Dispatch Software

Sheriff Grice discussed Central Square RMS Dispatch Software noting that every agency is on the same platform to write reports and to dispatch except for Brunswick, Brunswick Hills and Wadsworth. With this move for them to answer their own 9-1-1 calls, if we can get to one platform, it provides for situational awareness throughout the entire county. Wadsworth and Brunswick have an opportunity to make a change. There is a one-time fee of approximately \$250,000 to have them brought on and they would have to pay an annual fee which would be an increase over what they are currently paying. Chief Neil and Ms. Meredith noted potential gained efficiencies/benefits by their joining platform. Sheriff Grice stated that he is not aware of a deadline for the cities to make this change. Mr. Hambley suggested splitting the cost since it is a mutual benefit; Mrs. Swedyk and Mr. Harrison agreed. Sheriff Grice will have discussions with Brunswick, Brunswick Hills and Wadsworth on this matter.

Adjournment

Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED NOVEMBER 28, 2023

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
23-0973	Commending Laura Kennedy for her more than 30 years of service with Medina County
23-0974	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to request statement of qualifications for professional design services
23-0975	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Dixon for construction inspection services for the Substation Road Water Tank project
23-0976	Authorizing the disposal of a 2000 International hook truck
23-0977	Authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the 2024 Community Development Grant
23-0978	Authorizing the submission of a grant application to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the 2024 Water Bottle Refilling Station Grant
23-0979	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
23-0980	Revising Commissioners' Employment Manual
23-0981	Amending the appropriation measure resolution
23-0982	Amending the 2023 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
23-0983	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
23-0984	Allowing expenses of county officials
23-0985	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
23-0986	Authorizing a contract for the professional services of a beautician for the Medina County Home
23-0987	Authorizing a contract for the provision of medical services for the Medina County Home
23-0988	Approving an addendum to the lease with the Strand Co., Ltd. for office space for the Clerk of Courts Wadsworth Auto Title Office located at 123 Broad Street, Wadsworth, Ohio
23-0989	Appointing a member to the Medina County Advisory Council on Aging & Disability
23-0990	Authorizing the County Administrator to negotiate gas rates for the County Gas Aggregation Program

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting on this twenty-eighth day of November 2023.

Respectfully submitted,	COMMISSIONERS	_____
		Stephen D. Hambley
	OF	_____
_____		Aaron M. Harrison
Rhonda J. Beck Clerk to the Commissioners	MEDINA COUNTY	_____
		Colleen M. Swedyk