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 December 2, 2025 Public Hearing and December 2, 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

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

1. Amending the Fee and Charges Schedule for the Medina County sanitary sewer and water systems
2. Authorizing revisions to the Medina County Sanitary Engineer's Code of Regulations
3. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to request statement of qualifications for design services
4. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for professional design services to analyze
5. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineering Department to purchase of 4x4 single rear wheel drive pickup truck for the Line Maintenance Department

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

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

1. Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the resolution; 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. Expenditure adjustments for various funds
2. Authorizing cash transfer for the Social Service Levy Fund
3. Accepting the proposal from ISA (International Strategic Analysis) to conduct an economic and sales tax revenue forecast for Medina County
4. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item
5. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary fund
6. Allowing expenses of county officials
7. Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of $1,591,893.51
8. Amending the 2025 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the eight resolutions; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hambley noted that while at a meeting with the CCAO in Columbus, many of his fellow commissioners expressed interest in the economic and sales tax revenue forecast study. With the likelihood of property tax growth being capped under current legislation, counties will be more reliant on these types of forecasts and revenues long-term.

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

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

1. Authorizing the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with Envelope Consulting Services, LLC for Phase 2 Design Services associated with the Medina County Engineering Center Restroom Renovation & Front Entrance Renovation Project
2. Authorizing the Medina County Sheriff Office to accept a donated 2009 Braun ambulance from Sharon Twp Fire Department
3. Authorizing the Medina County Sheriff to add a seized vehicle to the Medina County fleet of vehicles
4. Approving a contract for the provision of medical services for the Medina County Jail
5. Approving an agreement for a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Program at the Medina County Jail for CY2026

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.

Department Updates

Dog Warden Del Saffle provided an update on the Dog Shelter from September 9th to the present:

- 53 additional dogs came through the shelter (43 strays, 9 owner surrenders, 1 police hold)
- 21 dogs were adopted, 21 reclaimed by owners, 7 went to rescue
- Currently 13 dogs available at the shelter
- Zero dogs were euthanized in 2025
- Volunteers contributed approximately 164 hours since September 9th
- On October 7th, shelter workers visited Claggett Middle School's eighth grade class
- Playgroup training was conducted on October 18-19 and was a success.
- A volunteer served the dogs Thanksgiving dinner
- Pictures with Santa will be available at the shelter on Monday, December 15th from 10am-12pm
- The shelter passed inspection by the Lafayette Township Fire Department with zero violations
- 2026 dog licenses are now on sale (December 1-January 31) without penalties

The commissioners expressed appreciation for the volunteer involvement and activities at the Dog Shelter.

Metropolitan Housing Authority Director of Emergency Housing Assistance Programs Jessie Kane introduced Tom O'Connell, incoming Executive Director of MMHA. The commissioners welcomed Mr. O'Connell. Ms. Kane then provided updates on the Next Step Up Shelter:

- Since February 28, 2025 (almost 10 months), they have served 173 people (153 households)
- 18 children have been served at the shelter
- 40 households have self-resolved their housing issues
- 23 clients successfully entered into their own lease agreements
- 8 veterans have been served
- 32 people have secured employment (over 50% of guests enter with some type of employment)
- The 27-bed facility averages 23.96 beds occupied per night, with winter months typically being fuller
- The facility was at full capacity on the day of the meeting

Financial update for 2026:

- Annual operating budget is $600,000
- Carrying over $120,000 from Department of Development funding
- Anticipating $150,000 from the JFS PRC funding contract
- $100,000 committed from the commissioners
- $50,000 committed from each city (Medina: $50,002, Brunswick: $50,001, Wadsworth: $50,000)
- This leaves approximately an $80,000 gap which they plan to raise through philanthropic fundraising and donations

Commissioners Resolutions

Commissioner Harrison presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Appointing members to the Transportation Improvement District ("TID")

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

Commissioner Harrison presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Designating the official representative and alternate for the purpose of voting at the annual meeting of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio ("CCAO") in 2026

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

Commissioner Harrison presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Appointing members to the Medina County Port Authority Board of Directors

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

Commissioner Harrison presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Approving appointments to the Medina County Community Corrections Planning Board ("LCPB")

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

Commissioner Harrison thanked those who were willing to serve on these various boards.

Public Comment

Amanda Chapman from Elite Homes voiced several concerns regarding the Sanitary regulations. She objected to the described excessive easement requirements that extend 36 feet from the right-of-way, which she argued was an improper taking of land. Ms. Chapman presented concerns about the impact this would have on properties, especially those with smaller front yards, stating that the easements should be justified with sufficient reasoning, such as specific soil conditions or rock presence, and not merely for easier access by the county.

She then expressed concerns about water meter sizing by the county, emphasizing that homeowners should have the flexibility to upsize meters at their own cost. She argued this would allow for future modifications like outbuildings equipped with bathrooms, pools, or other water-dependent features. She noted that current sizing practices do not consider potential future additions and that homeowners are unable to specify these on the initial application for water metering. She also raised issues regarding the location of meters, advocating for outdoor pit meters due to situations where residents are absent for extended periods and cannot provide access for indoor meter readings. Ms. Chapman requested more information about the automated meter reading system and questioned the rationale behind increasing fee schedules, noting that the schedule had changed three times in three years.

Commissioner Harrison acknowledged her concerns and noted that many of these issues are expected to be addressed in future Subdivision Regulation Committee discussions.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed at 9:58 a.m. and the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at that time.

Discussion Session

Sheriff's Office Equipment - Body Cameras and Tasers

In follow up to the December 8th special commissioners meeting, Captain Kris Conwill explained the proposal regarding the acquisition body cameras and tasers. The discussion highlighted several aspects:

- Bundled Equipment Proposal: The proposal aims to bundle the new body cameras and tasers together to manage and potentially reduce overall costs. This approach not only provides a financial benefit but also ensures consistency in the technologies being applied across the board.
- Qualitative Improvements: The upgrade is not a mere replacement of old equipment but is intended to advance the technological capabilities significantly. The new body cameras and tasers represent several generations of advancements beyond the currently used refurbished equipment. These improvements are expected to increase operational efficiency and effectiveness.
- Enhancements to Non-Lethal Options: The upgraded tasers are part of a broader strategy to improve non-lethal options available to law enforcement officers. This can potentially lead to safer interactions during critical incidents.
- Addressing Reliability Issues: By adopting these new technologies, the Sheriff's office aims to resolve existing reliability problems with the current body cameras. Enhanced reliability is crucial for ensuring that the equipment performs when needed and that it accurately captures and records relevant data during incidents.

During the discussion, the commissioners acknowledged the importance of these improvements as a risk mitigation tool. They recognized that the potential risks and liabilities of not having adequate equipment in place outweigh the costs associated with the upgrades. The expectation is that the upgraded technology will provide better documentation and evidence, thereby reducing misunderstandings or misrepresentations during enforcement activities. The commissioners showed support for the initiative, and a resolution is expected to be on next week's agenda.

Flock Camera System

Captain Conwill provided an overview of the Flock camera system, its operational scope, and its potential uses within the county. The Flock system captures single images of vehicles, focusing primarily on license plates and the rear view of the vehicle, in line with Ohio's rear-plate requirements. This data is stored in a secure environment for a duration of 30 days, ensuring that its access is strictly controlled to uphold privacy standards. The system allows only those law enforcement agencies, which have been expressly granted permission, to access the stored images. This safeguard ensures that personal privacy is maintained while still providing valuable investigational assistance. This system operates primarily as an investigative tool. It assists law enforcement in tracing and finding missing persons and vehicles connected to criminal activities. There are currently between 60 to 100 Flock cameras installed throughout the county and have proven to be a significant asset. Some townships within the county have opted to fund the installation of additional cameras. Mr. Hambley inquired if the expectation was for the county to pick up the costs of the additional cameras; Captain Conwill stated that the townships will pay for theirs – not the county.

Commissioner Harrison noted concerns over how the data collection could impact privacy, emphasizing a balancing act between the investigative benefits and the potential cost to civil liberties. He expressed a specific concern that law-abiding citizens might have their information recorded and retained in a manner inconsistent with privacy expectations, even if the system is currently compliant with safeguards and regulations. Mr. Harrison acknowledged

that while there is significant upside from the investigative use of the Flock cameras, it is important to ensure that the surveillance does not lead to unintended privacy infringements. Commissioner Harrison noted that it remains vital to continually assess and safeguard against risks, particularly because any database containing sensitive information could be targeted by unauthorized parties.

Westfield Wastewater Treatment Plant

Sanitary Engineer Jeremy Sinko opened the discussion by summarizing two key communications received the previous day. He first referenced an email from the consultant Hazen, which relayed feedback from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. According to the agency, the Westfield plant is already discharging above the acceptable ratio for Camel Creek, its receiving stream. He explained that Camel Creek is a low-capacity waterway, and the EPA indicated that any additional discharge would trigger significantly more stringent regulatory limits, especially regarding phosphorus. Because of these constraints, the EPA suggested that expanding the Westfield facility to accommodate flow from the Chippewa sewer system would be extremely difficult. Mr. Sinko noted that the necessary expansion—from the plant's current permitted capacity of 600,000 gallons per day to an estimated 2 million gallons per day—would not likely be feasible at the current site. He added that, by contrast, the proposed Chippewa facility is designed for one million gallons per day with room for future growth. Mr. Sinko then summarized a second email, this one from the mayor of Westfield Village. The mayor responded to the county's earlier inquiry regarding the possibility of acquiring the Westfield plant. He rejected the idea of transferring the plant and sewer system to the county for no cost, stating that the infrastructure holds value and that the village has no interest in relinquishing ownership, operations, or associated liabilities under such terms.

The board discussed how to proceed in evaluating potential alternatives. Commissioner Swedyk stated that she had been contacted by a member of the Westfield Village Council, who expressed interest in meeting with the board to further discuss the matter, noting the potential use of executive session. Commissioner Hambley stated that the county should obtain a thorough feasibility analysis before scheduling any meeting with Westfield officials. He explained that an informed discussion requires clarity on the financial, regulatory, and engineering implications of any alternative. He stated that without a completed analysis, the county would not be in a position to evaluate whether acquiring or upgrading the Westfield plant is a viable or fiscally responsible option. Commissioner Harrison agreed with the need for a complete analysis but noted that the order of engagement is flexible so long as the county does not commit to any course of action prematurely. He referenced initial discussions suggesting potentially high costs associated with any Westfield-based alternative, including the possibility of rerouting Chippewa flows to a different tributary via a two-mile pump system. He noted that each option must be evaluated comprehensively, not only in terms of construction but also long-term operational capacity and financial sustainability. He also acknowledged that, while improvements to the Westfield system could serve a larger existing customer base than the Chippewa alternative, overall customer numbers remain limited and will be a factor in assessing affordability.

The commissioners then reviewed concerns regarding the current $88 million Construction Manager at Risk estimate for the proposed Chippewa plant. They discussed the question of how long the guaranteed maximum price would remain valid, whether potential design modifications might reduce costs, and whether any reduction would be significant enough to warrant proceeding. Mr. Sinko stated that Hazen had engaged a third-party reviewer to assess whether the GMP is justified and in line with market expectations. He confirmed that the consultant is actively working on the feasibility study for the Westfield alternative and that the necessary construction drawings from Westfield Village have already been provided. He stated that the analysis is expected to be completed by mid-January. The commissioners agreed that any meeting with Westfield officials should occur after the feasibility analysis is received, ensuring that the county will be better positioned to assess all available options.

Fairgrounds Strategic Planning

Commissioner Swedyk noted that a meeting with the Fair Board and the company hired to evaluate the property is scheduled for December 16.

Adjournment

Mrs. Swedyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED DECEMBER 9, 2025

Number	Resolution Title
25-0928	Amending the Fee and Charges Schedule for the Medina County sanitary sewer and water systems
25-0929	Authorizing revisions to the Medina County Sanitary Engineer's Code of Regulations
25-0930	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to request statement of qualifications for design services
25-0931	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for professional design services to analyze
25-0932	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineering Department to purchase of 4x4 single rear wheel drive pickup truck for the Line Maintenance Department
25-0933	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
25-0934	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
25-0935	Authorizing cash transfer for the Social Service Levy Fund
25-0936	Accepting the proposal from ISA (International Strategic Analysis) to conduct an economic and sales tax revenue forecast for Medina County
25-0937	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item
25-0938	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary fund
25-0939	Allowing expenses of county officials
25-0940	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
25-0941	Amending the 2025 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
25-0942	Authorizing the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with Envelope Consulting Services, LLC for Phase 2 Design Services associated with the Medina County Engineering Center Restroom Renovation & Front Entrance Renovation Project
25-0943	Authorizing the Medina County Sheriff Office to accept a donated 2009 Braun ambulance from Sharon Twp Fire Department
25-0944	Authorizing the Medina County Sheriff to add a seized vehicle to the Medina County fleet of vehicles
25-0945	Approving a contract for the provision of medical services for the Medina County Jail
25-0946	Approving an agreement for a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention Program at the Medina County Jail for CY2026
25-0947	Appointing members to the Transportation Improvement District ("TID")
25-0948	Designating the official representative and alternate for the purpose of voting at the annual meeting of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio ("CCAO") in 2026
25-0949	Appointing members to the Medina County Port Authority Board of Directors
25-0950	Approving appointments to the Medina County Community Corrections Planning Board ("LCPB")

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Beck
Clerk of the Board

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Colleen M. Swedyk

Stephen D. Hambley

Aaron M. Harrison