

Patricia G. Geissman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Colleen M. Swedyk and William F. Hutson present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

The minutes of the February 12, 2019 Commissioners' meeting were emailed in advance. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Hutson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Expedited Type 2 Annexation Review

*Commissioner Geissman* presented and reviewed a resolution approving the petition for the Expedited 2 annexation of one parcel of land totaling 41.6657 acres known as being part of Wadsworth Township to the City of Wadsworth, Medina County, Ohio. The commissioners' job is to review the annexation; no public hearing is required. Mrs. Geissman noted that the Commissioners had reviewed the checklist of submission requirements and had determined that the application and attachments were in order. Under the annexation law, this will not result in the area being annexed to be detached from Wadsworth Township. She opened the floor for comments.

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

*Commissioner Geissman* presented a resolution honoring Jerry Clapper for his swift action on August 27, 2018 which resulted in the saving of life. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hutson. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE. The commissioners thanked and congratulated Mr. Clapper.

*Commissioner Geissman* presented a resolution honoring Medina Fire Department and Life Support Team for their life saving steps on August 27, 2018 resulting in the saving of a life. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hutson. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE. Mrs. Geissman stated that as a longtime EMT with the Lodi Fire Department, it's wonderful when you see the training they have had really work.

*Finance Director Mike Pataky* presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the annual appropriation resolution; (2) amending the 2018 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations; (3) revenue adjustments for various funds; (4) approving the submission of a program funding amendment of the FY19 Felony Delinquent Care/Reclaim Grant; (5) authorizing the purchase of 6,800 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the engineering center; (6) creation of the Drug Task Force Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Fund and authorizing appropriations; (7) creation of the Drug Task Force Office of Criminal Justice Services Justice Assistance Grant Fund and authorizing appropriations; (8) accepting a lease agreement with the American Red Cross of Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties; and (9) allowing expenses of county officials. Mr. Pataky requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$1,095,521.66. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the nine resolutions and to pay the bills; Mr. Hutson 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; and (2) authorizing an Employee Assistance Program Agreement extension with REACH EAP. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Hutson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*Assistant Sanitary Engineer Jeremy Sinko* presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) declaring the necessity of constructing a section of sanitary sewer on Marks Road from the northern property line of 3679 Marks Road to the southern property line of 3721 Marks Road in Medina Township, Medina County Sewer District 500 Project No. S-500/00-287.1 in Medina County Sewer District 500; and (2) adopting the Medina County Solid Waste District program for establishment of commercial credit accounts and personal guaranty for municipal solid waste delivered to the Medina County Solid Waste District Facility. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Hutson seconded the motion. Mr. Hutson explained that the establishment of commercial credit accounts and personal guaranty is being instituted due to a past issue of a company dropping off waste at the Solid Waste District ran up a significant bill and never paid. This is trying to forestall that and is something we are going to try and is subject to revision. It will be monitored to ensure that it fits and is a workable program. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*Chief Building Official Chris Randles* noted that there were 23 new home starts during the month of January with an estimated value of construction of \$9,297,430. There was one appeals meeting in January. Commercial permit review times are currently at 14 days; residential permits are at 3 days. The new software went live on January 7 and has allowed for acceptance of credit card payments and in January, 39 percent of collected fees are via credit cards. All inspection results are now being emailed in real-time to the contractor in the field.

*Mr. Randles* presented and reviewed a resolution entering into an agreement with July Sipka for master plans examination services for the Medina County Building Department. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the resolution; Mr. Hutson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

In answer to a question by Mr. Hutson, Mr. Randles stated that they are receiving mostly positive feedback regarding the new permitting software, however, change can be hard. They offer two kiosks in their office for those who wish to apply for permits in person and their office will assist.

*Chief Public Defender Jocelyn Stefancin* distributed case load reports for the last quarter of 2018 and for January 2019. A new staff attorney, Thomas Condosta, has recently been hired and is assigned to Judge Collier's court; he brings a vast array of experience. Ms. Stefancin noted reassignments including Chad Mulkey to the Juvenile Court, Larry Spoljaric and Jerry Samuels to Medina Municipal Court, and Kimberly Stout-Sherrer to Wadsworth Municipal Court; Ms. Stefancin is handling cases for Judge Kimbler.

Ms. Stefancin reported that for the last quarter of 2018, it was consistent in terms of new cases being open and the pending balance. At the end of October, there were 665 open cases, November had 621 open cases and December had 700 open cases. Overall for 2018, the Public Defenders' office provided services in 2,078 criminal cases between all of the courts in the county. For January 2019, there are currently 70 pending felony cases, 515 pending cases between the two municipal courts and 97 cases pending in the juvenile court for a total of 682 cases. There is an increase in cases for client services in the Wadsworth Municipal Court and Common Pleas Court in terms of general indictments being handed down. For example, in 2018, there were 1,407 felony indictments filed in the Common Pleas Court and the Public Defender's office was appointed to 99 of those indictments. In the Wadsworth, they receive all of those appointments. Last year, there were 502 cases in the Wadsworth Municipal Court that were closed out through the year and there is only one attorney handling those cases. In answer to a question, Ms. Stefancin stated that there are national standards for caseload requirements for both public defenders and private attorneys in the criminal justice system. There is a National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice who sets the standards and the Association for Chief Public Defenders adopted those standards. For misdemeanor cases, the standards indicate that there should be no more than 400 cases handled per attorney at the municipal court level on an annual basis; the attorney in Wadsworth is 102 cases over the national standard. At the Common Pleas Court at the felony level, it is 150 felony cases per year. Chad Mulkey and Jocelyn Stefancin each had about 50 felony cases so they are being underutilized there. There are new standards that go into effect March 1 regarding reimbursement rates. The State office will be reaching out to each of the counties about reimbursement rates. Commissioner Swedyk requested that future reports include a year-to-date column. Ms. Stefancin stated that she normally does it on the back and it can be added. This form was created by the state so she will do another flow chart.

*Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Jim Dieter* reported that Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Dorothy Pelanda will be hosting a meet and greet on March 13 at 12:30 p.m. at Westfield Township Hall. Mr. Dieter announced that the Conservation Teacher of the Year Bree McNeil has been named the State Conservation Teacher of the Year; she is a science teacher from Sacred Heart in Wadsworth and utilizes their equipment to teach her students about erosion and water control. She will be receiving her award from the state on February 26 in Columbus.

Mr. Dieter stated that last year Ron Zickefoose inspected 616 bee hives; most were in good condition. The meeting held in the Amish community went well and they appeared receptive to registering their hives. He also reported that tree sales are going well; the prairie project is also coming along.

*Veterans Service Office Director Ed Zackery* provided a 2018 end of year brief reviewing the history, mission and services provided by the Medina County Veterans Service Office. In 2018, their office provided relief to 447 Medina County veterans and their families. There were \$254,983.04 in vouchers written for 2018 and \$255,777.62 vouchers paid out. On average, the dollar amount spent on assistance per veteran was \$570.43. Mr. Zackery noted that Medina County has seventeen active veteran organizations throughout the county. Recently, there have been some veterans that have started a local Desert Veterans group which is for the veterans of the Persian Gulf War and OIF/OEF.

Mr. Zackery reviewed medical services provided to veterans and stated that in 2018, they transported 1,180 veterans to the VA Medical centers in Cleveland, Parma and Akron. Medina County currently has two group homes for veterans. The VA also contracts with several nursing homes within the county. They filed 353/597 rating/total VA claims in 2018 along with 14 appeals and assisted 2,477 veterans and family members with paperwork; this is an increase of more than 100 clients from 2017. He noted that the VA spent \$65.4M on the veterans of Medina County in 2017. Mr. Zackery stated that as they continue to see more veterans, they have managed to keep their operating expenses relatively low. The only decrease they have seen is in home loan applications.

Mr. Zackery reviewed outreach events and stated that it is their preference to be out in the community. He noted that there will be a pancake breakfast on March 30 and their banquet will be held on May 4.

*Commissioner Geissman* presented and reviewed a resolution reappointing members to the Medina County Community Improvement Board. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hutson. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*Commissioner Geissman* presented and reviewed a resolution reappointing Amanda A. Barreto, Attorney at Law, to the Medina County Board of Building Appeals and Residential Board of Building Appeals. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hutson. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*Commissioner Geissman* noted that Commissioners had received a Notice to Legislative Authority for RCE Midway Tavern Inc. DBA Midway Tavern for D1, D2 permit class. There were no comments.

## **Public Comment**

*Michael Schmidt, 7920 Ballash Rd.*, stated that he is a Westfield Township trustee as well as a trustee for the Westfield Fire and Rescue District. He provided a history of the new safety services building noting that the property was professionally appraised for \$450,000 and the property owner sold it to them for \$160,000; it was a great value for the township. Subsequently, they hired a design service contractor to determine the cost of the building. Once a number was determined, they went to the voters to get it approved and it took three times on the ballot to get it through. They then hired Simmons Brothers to be the main contractor to build the new safety services building. They are very fortunate and thank the Village of Westfield Center for providing the sewer tap for free, which was a savings of \$16,500. What they have requested of the commissioners is to waive the water tap fee which would save the township about \$7,500; every dime they save will go back to the community and back into the fire station. He stated that one of the reasons they are requesting this is because other compensations have been made to other townships in the past. Mr. Schimdt cited a resolution from March 2018 where the commissioners sold to the Lafayette Township Board of Trustees a parcel of 8 acres for the sum of \$10. He stated that he had contacted the realtor on the sign, but that agency no longer represents the commissioners. Medina County Economic Development Corporation advised him that a fair price they were looking at was \$25,000-\$40,000 per acre as being what the commissioners would accept. He stated that that conservatively, at \$25,000 per acre, the commissioners gave them \$205,000, or at \$40,000 per acre, the commissioners gave them \$329,000. What they are asking for is some relief for \$7,500 to waive the water tap fee for their safety service building.

Commissioner Hutson stated that he is not in support of it. He lives in Westfield in the Fire District and he has been very connected for many years. He thinks comparing what was done for Lafayette Township to this is apples and oranges. The Lafayette Township land was mostly undevelopable for normal business, there were setbacks and other buffers that came into play that Lafayette as a township did not have to comply with. The county had the land and had been marketed by the Port Authority with a different realtor many years ago, and he thinks it was the right thing to do. In this respect, there are other safety services buildings that are going up and this is an enterprise fund from a water standpoint and he doesn't believe that the tap fee should be waived. The county is willing to work with the township in regard to the driveway in having the driveway for the building come across county property that services the water towers. Where they can make accommodations, they are willing to do that, but he doesn't think waiving the water taps fees are an appropriate accommodation.

Commissioner Geissman stated that it is the commissioners' policy not to reduce or give those costs free because there is a certain amount of money they have to bring in from tap in fees to cover costs. When comparing it to Lafayette, there is another greater reason that she recalls, which is all of the rescue calls that go to the County Home, for instance, that they never have to pay for from Lafayette Township, plus there are a lot of government facilities in Lafayette Township that there are no taxes going to Lafayette on those properties either. There is a good reason to do what they did with the land that couldn't be used and it did help Lafayette Township as they have helped the county many times. More importantly, it is their policy not to reduce those tap in fees for nonprofits or other governmental agencies.

Mr. Schmidt stated that it doesn't seem fair or equitable. He noted that Mr. Scheetz was asking for a development south on Lake Road and city council stated that the land should stay in the city because the land could become valuable to new income tax businesses down the road and forfeiting the land would eliminate any income tax collection. He stated that he is not begrudging what they did with Lafayette Township; he thinks it's wonderful and an excellent benefit to the township. That land will at some point be sold and be an income producing property. They are asking for a pittance compared to what was really allocated to Lafayette Township. He appreciates where the commissioners are coming from, but they wanted to make it noted because every dime that they save goes right back to the community and the fire station.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m.

## **Discussion Session**

At 10:31 a.m., the Commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

### Facility Task Force Meeting

Commissioner Hutson stated that a Facilities Task Force meeting is this afternoon to continue planning for a new courthouse. The drawings and photographs that are in The Post are conceptual. They have only looked at the site and how much space is needed to fit them all in one site. Commissioner Geissman noted that they have to make a decision if they are even going to do it with Medina City. Mr. Hutson explained that they wanted to see if it conceptually would work. The drawings and photos are not anywhere near a final concept or a final plan and wants to reassure the public that public comment will be invited into the concept once they have more information.

### Ice Festival

Jeremy Sinko noted that the kids enjoyed the ice festival that was this weekend. Commissioner Geissman stated that they were still beautiful this morning.

### CHIP

Mike Pataky stated that a couple weeks ago, he had submitted a request for RFPs for the CHIP program. He will be reviewing them and expects to have a resolution next week.

### HVAC School

Steven Basteau stated that some of his employees are completing HVAC training through the Career Center and they will be installing part of a boiler tonight at the JFS building.

#### Coroner's Office

Scott Miller stated that the coroner's office has moved to the Administration Building on the first floor. This is the first of several moves this year.

#### Charity Ball

Commissioner Swedyk noted that the ball was lovely. Commissioner Geissman stated that it turned out very good and they did things that were a little different this year, but overall everything was wonderful. Commissioner Geissman applauded Judy Barabas for the fantastic job with the programs, the PowerPoint and her help with the ball.

#### CCAO

Commissioner Geissman stated that she attended the CCAO meeting last week. Larry Obhof was there and they are asking Larry to do everything he possibly can to persuade the governor to put in his budget bill 100 percent reimbursement for indigent defense. Mrs. Geissman previously spoke to John Husted about this. This would help the general fund as the costs keep going up; this is happening across the State of Ohio. Commissioner Hutson asked if they said anything about the State of Ohio actually taking over the Public Defenders. Mrs. Geissman answered that it was one of the comments another commissioner made, but there is no talk about that. They want it to be local and it was supposed to be 100 percent reimbursement many years ago. Commissioner Swedyk stated that it would be nice to help pay for the voting machines. Commissioner Geissman stated that it definitely could go into the general fund. Hopefully, the State of Ohio can provide more money.

#### County Prosecutor Open House

Stan Sheetz suggested the prosecutor hold an open house for the public officials and the Bar Association to see the new office space and how the money has been spent. Commissioner Geissman stated that it was a great idea. Scott Miller stated it is a great idea, but that would need organized through the prosecutor. Mrs. Geissman stated that she thought he would like that idea.

#### **Adjournment**

Mrs. Swedyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hutson seconded the motion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
19-0118	Resolution honoring Jerry Clapper for his swift action on August 27, 2018 which resulted in the saving of life
19-0119	Resolution honoring Medina Fire Department and Life Support Team for their life saving steps on August 27, 2018 resulting in the saving of a life
19-0120	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
19-0121	Amending the annual appropriation resolution
19-0122	Amending the 2018 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
19-0123	Revenue adjustments for various funds
19-0124	Approving the submission of a program funding amendment of the FY19 Felony Delinquent Care/Reclaim Grant
19-0125	Authorizing the purchase of 6,800 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
19-0126	Creation of the Drug Task Force Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Fund and authorizing appropriations
19-0127	Creation of the Drug Task Force Office of Criminal Justice Services Justice Assistance Grant Fund and authorizing appropriations
19-0128	Accepting a lease agreement with the American Red Cross of Summit, Portage and Medina Counties
19-0129	Allowing expenses of county officials
19-0130	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
19-0131	Authorizing an employee assistance program agreement extension with REACH EAP
19-0132	Declaring the necessity of constructing a section of sanitary sewer on Marks Road from the northern property line of 3679 Marks Road to the southern property line of 3721 Marks Road in Medina Township, Medina County Sewer District 500 project no. S-500/00
19-0133	Adopting the Medina County Solid Waste District program for establishment of commercial credit accounts and personal guaranty for municipal solid waste delivered to the Medina County Solid Waste District Facility
19-0134	Entering into an agreement with Julie Sipka for master plans examination services for the Medina County Building Department
19-0135	Reappointing members to the Medina County Community Improvement Board
19-0136	Reappointing Amanda A. Barreto, Attorney at Law, to the Medina County Board of Building Appeals and Residential Board of Building Appeals

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this nineteenth day of February 2019.

Respectfully submitted,	COMMISSIONERS	_____
		Patricia G. Geissman
	OF	
_____		_____
Rhonda J. Beck		William F. Hutson
Clerk to the Commissioners	MEDINA COUNTY	
		_____
		Colleen M. Swedyk