

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

The minutes of the March 13, 2020, March 17, 2020 and March 19 commissioners' meetings were emailed in advance. Mr. Hutson moved to approve the minutes; Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Health Commissioner Krista Wasowski stated that her office will be sending out updates on Tuesdays and Fridays. She provided an update on COVID-19 noting that as of yesterday at 2:00 p.m., there were 442 documented cases in Ohio with an age range of less than 1 year to 93; the median age is 52 years; 104 are hospitalized; there have been 6 COVID-19 registered deaths; and 15 cases reported in Medina County. They will receive another update today which will show more cases reflected. She explained the process of case contact for individuals who test positive. Notification is made to any person or groups of people who may have been potentially exposed by an individual who test positive. There are many people in Medina County that are under isolation or quarantine. Today will be the first time Medina County will lift someone out of quarantine or isolation, so people are recovering and being cleared as not showing symptoms of having Coronavirus. Her office is staffed seven days a week; all hands are on deck. Testing remains limited and those being tested are prioritized. She noted that first responders are being quickly tested to either determine if they have the virus and need to be isolated, or if they don't, to get them back into service so we can maintain our safety forces and EMS within the community. Mrs. Wasowski referenced the governor's Stay at Home order stating that the best thing we can all do is stay home and not go out. Unless you are required as an essential employee, stay at home with your family. She said she needs everyone to stay at home and to not overwhelm our medical system. We don't want what's happening in New York and Italy to happen in Northeast Ohio. Every person must be responsible and she's asking as our Health Commissioner to stay at home. Mr. Hutson stated that there is an order stating this and it's mandatory to obey the order; Mrs. Wasowski agreed. She will be meeting with the police chiefs today to discuss that. There will be traffic monitoring of those traveling and they do expect to see less people out and about. Mrs. Swedyk noted that there was a significant difference in the parking lot today from yesterday. Mrs. Geissman stated that there were hardly any vehicles around the Square. Mrs. Swedyk added that the county departments have done an excellent job of going down to absolute minimum staff to stay open for essential services and required duties. Mrs. Wasowski thanked the commissioners and elected officials for doing that.

In answer to a question by Mr. Hutson about drive-thru testing, Mrs. Wasowski stated that we could have the capability in the future to do that, but right now, there's testing capability on the testing side, but we don't have the supplies for that. Also, in order to safely take samples from people believed to be ill, you have to use full protective equipment and gear. There is a limit of that type of material. She doesn't see that capability anytime soon. She stated that they need people to assume if they have a fever about 100.4 and a cough, stay home even if you're an essential employee. The commissioners thanked Mrs. Wasowski for taking the time to provide a report.

County Administrator presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) authorizing participation in the ODOT Winter Contract (018-20) for road salt; (2) adoption of the 2020 Annual Appropriation Resolution; (3) amending the 2020 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations; (4) revenue adjustments for various funds; (5) expenditure adjustments for various funds; (6) authorizing the purchase of 6,200 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center; (7) creation of a COVID-19 fund and authorizing appropriations; (8) approval of an amended agreement for a service coordinator between Medina County Family First Council Early Intervention and Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities; (9) approval of an amended agreement for intake & referral and service coordinator youth services between Medina County Family First and Catholic Charities of Medina County; (10) allowing expenses of county officials; (11) allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of \$534,485.78; (12) approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners; (13) declaring the necessity of the 2019 Home Sewage Treatment System Repair/Replacement Project approving the detailed plans and specifications and authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to commence advertising for bids; (14) authorizing the Medina County Sheriff to remove its communications equipment from an existing tower and to install equipment at an alternative tower location and declaring an emergency; (15) approving an agreement providing Domestic Relations Court pursuant to the requirements of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act; (16) approving minutes and recommendations from the Housing Councils/Tax Incentive Review Councils representing Liverpool Township, Granger Township, Hinckley Township, Montville Township and Sharon Township; and (17) appointing a representative to the Medina County Advisory Council on Aging and Disability. Mr. Hutson moved to approve the 17 resolutions; Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Public Comment

Stan Scheetz, 342 E. Liberty St., Medina stated that he has been an attorney in Medina, an entrepreneur and hotelier for more than 50 years and has been attending these meetings since 1957. He stated that he felt it was imperative to speak about the courthouse project because he received another email advising of another petition about going to vote. He stated he and his wife do not support going to a vote and they withdrew from the Save Your Courthouse Committee because of that issue. They withdrew because they believe the commissioners are elected to make these decisions and he accepts that; he doesn't like some of them but he accepts it. He stated that he supports every statement that was made by former commissioner Ralph Berry. He supports the new Court of Common Pleas and all of its divisions being built behind the existing 1969 Courthouse. He stated he also supports the new courthouse moving forward at the earliest possible time; he's never meant to be a detractor, but he was upset with the process

itself. When he saw 23 members on a committee and 7 making the decision of how to press forward, he was upset. He stated he supports funding the project with current budgeted tax dollars; he's not looking for a vote as the commissioners are charged with that responsibility. He stated that he's concerned when the economy goes down of how you're going to pay for everything, but that's up to the commissioners. He stated he also believes residents voted on this about three years ago when there was a sales tax levy which was voted down. It was promoted as a safety levy but was also a way to build the courthouse. He supports a cost effective method to build the free standing new Court of Common Pleas solely for the Court of Common Pleas of Medina County; that's what the commissioners are charged with – not to do this joint project. He further stated that he believes the 1969 Courthouse should be retained and repurpose it for another purpose in the future. He asked why would you tear it down, create a forecourt for future expansion, and then pay three times more for something in the future, when you could simply remodel and still accomplish your goal. He stated that his rationale for the retention of the 1969 Courthouse is 1) the County can remodel the existing space for \$100-\$125 per square foot as done in the Prosecutor's building; 2) if you create a forecourt for future expansion later, then the taxpayers will pay \$300-\$400 per square foot for a new building in the future; 3) why would you not preserve the iconic look of our Square; and 4) he feels that the freestanding courthouse should have two new fronts on it – one facing North as a public entrance and one facing South as a private entrance for judges, staff, prosecutors and transportation of prisoners. He stated that at another time, he would like to talk about fact or fiction in relation to potential savings at this courthouse in relation to restrooms and security and the shared costs with the City.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed for Discussion Session at 9:48 a.m.

Discussion Session

At 9:49 a.m., the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

County Buildings

Scott Miller stated that many other buildings in the county are offering limited services and closed their buildings offering drop boxes to the public and requiring appointments be made. He would like to do the same with the Administration Building and the Professional Building. Signs have been made for those who need access to services indicating where they can call to make appointments. This will limit traffic in the buildings and will provide for social distancing for the employees. Mr. Miller indicated that the Courthouse and Human Services Center will remain open. Mr. Hutson stated that is an excellent idea for not only the protection of the public, but also of employees. Mrs. Swedyk stated that attorneys that have deals to close will be able to make appointments so they can walk their deals through required departments. Mike Kovack and John Burke indicated they are fine with it. Mr. Miller stated that Print Shop will be open from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. to take care of mail. The commissioners agreed to close the building to the public at this time.

State of Emergency

Mr. Miller stated that other counties have declared a State of Emergency. The CCAO has indicated that because the State has declared a State of Emergency, the counties do not need to as they have access to those monies as do the businesses within the county. Christina Fozio explained that her concern on behalf of the County that while the State's declaration may provide relief for counties, the idea is that there will likely be federal funding available. She would not like the County to miss the opportunity to receive federal funding based on the County not declaring an emergency. Declaring it is not a difficult thing to do and ensures that the documentation is in place should it need to be used. Mrs. Geissman stated that she agrees. Ms. Fozio drafted a resolution that she will send for review. To date, approximately 42 counties have declared an emergency. The commissioners agreed to have the resolution reviewed by the Prosecutor.

Credentials

Christina Fozio noted that she will provide Rhonda a link to Ohio's credentialing system for essential employees.

Remote Meetings

Mrs. Swedyk stated that it's expected that legislation will pass providing the ability to hold virtual meetings. Mrs. Geissman noted that we don't know how long we're going to have to do this and stated we need to do something if we're not going to meet like we are today. Mr. Hutson explained that even though there's a public meeting, the meeting itself must be accessible to the public; it doesn't necessarily mean the public has the ability to participate in it. His understanding is that the legislation will allow public bodies to stream their proceeding so the public has the ability to observe. If there is a capability for submission of questions, he thinks it's something the commissioners should consider if technologically they can do it. Mrs. Swedyk said we're moving toward having the capability to meet whatever compliance comes out of the State House in order to keep people safe. Mr. Hutson suggested another meeting be scheduled this week to pass the emergency resolution and also deal with this technological issue. He recommended Thursday so that Rhonda and Scott can be provided direction on what to procure. After brief discussion, the commissioner agreed to have a special meeting Thursday, March 26 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Miller stated that he will check with our IT personnel to see what is needed. Mike Kovack suggested live streaming on Facebook; Mrs. Swedyk noted that is probably the direction they will be taking.

EMA

Mr. Hutson complimented EMA and Christina Fozio for their work in coordinating various activities. They have been collecting personal protection equipment and funneling it to where it's needed. Ms. Fozio provided an example of customer service they provide by assisting through collaboration with Lafayette Fire Department and the Maintenance Department the delivery of a refrigerator to a resident receiving Meals on Wheels who had been without a refrigerator for ten days. EMA is a resourceful department that has built good relationships to provide

service to residents. Mrs. Geissman noted that the HANDS Foundation also has funding and volunteers that assist seniors.

Commissioners' Newsletter

Mrs. Swedyk thanked Megan for the special edition newsletter that included helpful information regarding available assistance; positive feedback was received.

Adjournment

Mr. Hutson moved to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion. Roll call showed both commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED MARCH 24, 2020

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
20-0242	Authorizing participation in the ODOT Winter Contract (018-20) for road salt
20-0243	Adoption of the 2020 Annual Appropriation Measure
20-0244	Amending the 2020 appropriations resolution by transferring resolutions
20-0245	Revenue adjustments for various funds
20-0246	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
20-0247	Authorizing the purchase of 6,200 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
20-0248	Creation of a COVID-19 fund and authorizing appropriations
20-0249	Approval of an amended agreement for a service coordinator between Medina County Family First Council Early Intervention and Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities
20-0250	Approval of an amended agreement for intake and referral and service coordinator services between Medina County Family First and Catholic Charities of Medina County
20-0251	Allowing expenses of county officials
20-0252	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
20-0253	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
20-0254	Declaring the necessity of the 2019 Home Sewage Treatment System Repair/Replacement Project approving the detailed plans and specifications and authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to commence advertising for bids
20-0255	Authorizing the Medina County Sheriff to remove its communications equipment at an alternative tower location and declaring an emergency
20-0256	Approving an agreement providing Domestic Relations Court pursuant to the requirements of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act
20-0257	Approving minutes and recommendations from the Housing Council/Tax Incentive Review Councils representing Liverpool Township, Granger Township, Hinckley Township, Montville Township, and Sharon Township

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this twenty-fourth day of March 2020.

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