

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 April 28, 2020 commissioners' meeting 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.

*County Administrator Scott Miller* presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) determining that equipment used by the Medina County Engineer is excess property and authorizing its disposal under the provisions of Section 317.12 Ohio Revised Code; (2) finding that public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of bridge no. 20 on Ledge Road (Ch-135) in Hinckley Township, Medina County, Ohio and authorizing the Medina County Engineer to replace said bridge; (3) authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for a modified bituminous asphalt resurfacing of Crow Road, County Highway 64, in Medina County, Ohio; (4) determining the necessity to close Spieth Road (Ch-65) between Erhart Road (CH-3) and Beat Road (TR-106); (5) amending the appropriation measure resolution; (6) amending the 2020 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations; (7) revenue adjustments for the sale of surplus county property; (8) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services Protect Ohio Fund (0055) to the Children Services IVE/Levy Fund (0050); (9) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services IV-E Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for Children Services (IVE) administrative expenditures; (10) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services SCPA Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for SCPA administration expenditures; (11) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the Public Assistance Fund (0120) for County mandated share; (12) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary Fund; (13) declaring Medina County property as exempt property; (14) allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of \$744,768.47; (15) approving personnel changes for the employers under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners; (16) temporarily amending the disposal rate for bagged refuse delivered to the Medina County Solid Waste District Facility (17) authorizing the Sanitary Engineering Department to advertise for bid for four (4) vehicles; (18) authorizing the advertisement for bids for Medina County Human Services Building Retaining Wall Repair and Waterproofing Project; (19) amending the Social Services Policies and Fiscal Plan for Medina County Job and Family Services; and (20) proclaiming May 4-9, 2020 as "Economic Development Week." Mr. Hutson moved to approve the 20 resolutions; Mrs. Geissman seconded the motion.

Mr. Hutson thanked Amy Lyon-Galvin for looking at the solid waste and trash bag issues. It's been a huge issue for a lot of residents and this is a good solution. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bethany Dentler* thanked the commissioners for joining an international movement to recognize this week as "Economic Development Week" which celebrates the efforts they undertake every day to help local communities grow and businesses to thrive. In the past several years in Medina County, these efforts have focused on connecting companies to financing tools so they can invest capital in new buildings and equipment, or they have been partnering with schools and workforce development agencies to make sure employers had access to the talent they need to grow. Mrs. Dentler noted that in Medina County, they have focused their efforts much more on working with the local business community and this focus is paying off huge dividends as they have spent the last two months helping companies through this Coronavirus challenge. In mid-March, they mobilized our county's full time economic developers into a task force. Almost daily, their team is talking with the economic developers from the cities of Medina, Brunswick and Wadsworth. They have built the relationships necessary to call company executives and get an honest assessment of how they are doing and what resources they need to survive. She stated that they are talking to the manufacturing industry, retail and commercial businesses, and property owners to get their perspectives and share that information with our legislatures and officials who are making decisions about what support is needed, as well as reopening policies.

Mrs. Dentler provided an overview of what they are seeing in Medina County noting that manufacturers that supply the automotive industry are struggling the most as the demand for their product has dried up until the OEMs are back online. Contractors with a significant office presence in Medina County are generally still up and running; they are still quoting jobs which is a good sign, but they do anticipate a slowing down in the coming months. Many of the service firms in the development industry such as engineering firms are either working in the office or working remotely. Most industries that were initially deemed "essential" stayed up and running with some even still looking for employees. For those opportunities, they are updating their worklocal.net website with job openings for companies that are just here in Medina County. A number of companies that traditionally make consumer goods and have slowed down have transitioned to manufacturing personal protective equipment. Now that all manufacturers have been allowed to reopen, they are having to invest time and materials to comply with social distancing guidelines and other conditions. They are keeping the businesses updated with the latest information and are maintaining information on their website [medinacounty.org/covid-19](http://medinacounty.org/covid-19). She stated that while the county's unemployment rate has gone from 4.4 percent in February to 6.3 percent in the last month, the weekly unemployment claims are quite shocking compared to what we've been used to seeing, those initial unemployment claims are coming down and she stated that she believes Medina County is in good shape to weather this storm. Once the storm clears, we'll be in much better shape to assess the storm damage and begin cleanup. Right now, we're already getting insight into what national trends may result from this pandemic including the increased

likelihood that U.S. companies will be moving manufacturing back to the U.S. to build more robust supply chains here in the region. Even as retail big box stores might be closing, they leave behind the opportunity to redevelop those large physical spaces into distribution facilities since Americans have become more dependent than ever on e-commerce and home delivery of consumer goods including groceries. She stated that in Medina County, we have a great team in place and they are deploying the tools needed by our business community to get back to work and we also have great transportation networks and the real estate to take advantage of these new economic development trends that will create new jobs for our community. Mrs. Dentler commended her fellow economic developers as well as our Chamber of Commerce executives, the Medina County Health Department, and our local officials at every level for working together in supporting our business community. She stated that she is optimistic that Medina County will be back to full strength probably sooner than most.

In answer to a question by Mr. Hutson, Mrs. Dentler stated that there is a site specifically for masks and face shields manufacturers; the site is not posted yet, but there is a link to a website with an order form. This link will be posted on their resource page. There is another link at the repurposingproject.sharetribe.com where they have 300-600 Ohio manufacturers who have said they are either making PPE including hand sanitizer, or they have revamped their plant to make those.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed for Discussion Session at 9:44 a.m.

### **Discussion Session**

At 9:44 a.m., the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

#### Letter to the Governor

Commissioner Hutson noted that he has received a number of phone calls from concerned business owners regarding the reopening process for the State of Ohio and the approach that has been taken. Wayne County Commissioners and Ashland County wrote letters taking a position on this about a wholesale reopening of the State. Mr. Hutson stated he does not know if that is the right approach, but the State of Ohio should have a plan to reopen the State; it is currently being done on a piece meal basis and is not addressing the entire economy. In his opinion, when the economy was shut down, a plan for reopening should have been in place. Mr. Hutson stated he would like a letter be written to Governor DeWine asking him to accelerate the planning process and publish a comprehensive plan that addresses all aspects of business. Mr. Hutson noted that he is not suggesting to open everything today. He described a situation of a local gym owner. Commissioner Geissman stated her masseuse has been shut down and explained her situation. Mr. Hutson stated he would like the commissioners have a letter drafted that expresses our concerns and desire to see a comprehensive plan to reopen the State. Mrs. Geissman stated at least having a plan in place is important. Commissioner Swedyk stated she would like to have a letter too because there are so many businesses reaching out to us to say they have no idea when they will be able to open; it is very difficult. Mr. Hutson asked Bethany Dentler if she has heard anything from her members. Mrs. Dentler stated that the major issue is the uncertainty and not knowing when they will be able to reopen. A lot of companies want a date set even if it is in July so that they know and can plan. It is the lack of certainty that causes the anxiety.

#### Courthouse

Commissioner Geissman stated that last Tuesday, she shared her gut feelings about putting the Courthouse on hold until we see where we are at. One of her Columbus contacts made it very clear that we may have some serious problems. The State has a shortfall of \$11 billion and are putting together a proposal for the legislator to vote on reducing funds to schools, libraries and local government funds. Mr. Hutson stated he heard something similar, but a different number. Mr. Hutson stated that he heard \$7 billion, but he doesn't know what the right number is. He stated that he believes based on the county's projections, we ought to continue the plan and continue to look at it, and as of today, he is not prepared to pull the plug. Mrs. Swedyk stated that she would like to keep going. Mrs. Geissman noted that she would like us to be aware that we may very well, if we continue to lose funding, that we will have to do exactly what the courthouse group is saying that we would be doing. All three of us have felt strongly that we would never have to put on a levy. Mrs. Swedyk stated that she would never vote for a levy. Mr. Hutson stated he is not interested in a levy. Mrs. Geissman stated let's hope so, but we never know.

Scott Miller explained that currently our revenues are \$1 million over and expenses are \$800,000 less than the end of April 2019. Back in December when revenues were estimated, they were estimated at \$44 million. Once we passed the budget in March, we reduced our revenue projection \$2.2 million. In looking at the numbers, Mr. Miller stated he is comfortable with the projections and the revenues are conservative. The State indicated that sales tax was down 8 percent in March so we projected it to be down 15 percent. Mike Pataky and Drew Lacey are talking daily about our budget. Mr. Miller stated it is being monitored. Any debt issued this year will not be due until next year. We are in the schematic design phase and construction will not be started this year. If at any time we see a huge reduction in revenues, at that point, adjustments can be made. The County gets \$1.6 million in Local Government Funds; it is a substantial amount, but the majority of revenues is sales tax and property tax. There should not be much of a decrease in property tax. Mrs. Geissman noted a concern we might have is a lot of people that are unable to pay their taxes if they are unemployed. Mr. Miller stated he does not expect it to be substantial. In 2008 and 2009, there was a large decrease. This is different because there are people who were furloughed and are going back to work rather than being laid off and not having jobs to go back to. Mrs. Swedyk stated she would like to continue and get finalized plans so that if revenue projections remain to be alright as they are thus far, we could potentially be ready for a really good opportunity at really low rates. Mr. Hutson added bidding and financing opportunity might be good.

Mr. Hutson inquired when we would go out for bid according to the schedule; Mr. Miller answered probably in November or December. Mr. Miller noted he heard from Gilbane who has some projects that they are currently bidding out and are much lower than what the estimate was. He is hoping we will have the same situation with the wall we are bidding out. The financing rates are extremely low right now. Mr. Hutson stated if we get to August/September and other revenues are down, then we can reassess. We are asking businesses to plan to reopen, so he believes the sales tax revenue will be stable, and there is also internet sales tax now. Mrs. Geissman inquired if that has made a difference. Mr. Miller answered that sales tax is up. He stated that he would like to know how the State came up with a shortfall because the income tax isn't due until July 15; it is a large portion. Mrs. Geissman stated that she trusts the person who told her and he emphasized \$11 billion. It seemed like an awful lot. Mr. Miller stated the Auditor is expecting a 4-5 percent decrease in income tax in Wadsworth. Mrs. Swedyk stated the State relies on income tax and we do not; we rely on sales tax and property taxes.

#### Census

Commissioner Swedyk stated Medina County passed 73 percent for the census response. Ohio is only at 60 percent. The census can be completed at: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

#### **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 10:00 a.m.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED MAY 5, 2020**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
20-0342	Proclaiming May 4-9, 2020 as “Economic Development Week”
20-0343	Determining that equipment used by the Medina County Engineer is excess property and authorizing its disposal under the provisions of Section 317.12 Ohio Revised Code
20-0344	Finding that public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of bridge no. 20 on Ledge Road (CH-135) in Hinckley Township, Medina County, Ohio and authorizing the Medina County Engineer to replace said bridge
20-0345	Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to advertise for bids for a modified bituminous asphalt resurfacing of Crow Road, County Highway 64, in Medina County, Ohio
20-0346	Determining the necessity to close Spieth Road (CH-65) between Erhart Road (CH-3) and Beat Road (TR-106)
20-0347	Amending the appropriation measure resolution
20-0348	Amending the 2020 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
20-0349	Revenue adjustments for the sale of surplus county property
20-0350	Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services Protect Ohio Fund (0055) to the Children Services IVE-Levy Fund (0050)
20-0351	Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services IV-E Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for Children Services (IVE) administrative expenditures
20-0352	Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services SCPA Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for SCPA administration expenditures
20-0353	Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the Public Assistance Fund (0120) for county mandate share
20-0354	Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary Fund
20-0355	Declaring Medina County property as excess property
20-0356	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
20-0357	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
20-0358	Temporarily amending the disposal rate for bagged refuse delivered to the Medina County Solid Waste District Facility
20-0359	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineering Department to advertise for bid for four (4) vehicles
20-0360	Authorizing the advertisement for bids for Medina County Human Services Building Retaining Wall Repair and Waterproofing Project
20-0361	Amending the Social Services Policies and Fiscal Plan for Medina County Job and Family Services

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this fifth day of May, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rhonda J. Beck  
Clerk to the Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

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Colleen M. Swedyk

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William F. Hutson

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Patricia G. Geissman