

William F. Hutson 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.

The minutes of the March 9, 2021 commissioners' meeting were emailed in advance. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the minutes; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

County Engineer Administrative Assistant Dan Becker presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) authorizing the Medina County Engineer to purchase one new Caterpillar model 289D3 tract loader; and (2) authorizing the Medina County Engineer to purchase one new model year cab and chassis with dump body and hydraulics. Mr. Becker presented the weekly permits for March 4-10 for review. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the two resolutions; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Assistant County Administrator Amy Lyon-Galvin presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the appropriation measure resolution; (2) amending the 2021 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations (3) expenditure adjustments for various funds; (4) cash transfers for various funds; (5) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the gasoline rotary fund; (6) declaring Medina County property as excess property; (7) authorizing the purchase of 7,200 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center; (8) authorizing the expenditures related to an Office for Older Adults sponsored Senior Day; and (9) allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of \$1,049,790.40. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the nine resolutions; Mrs. Swedyk 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 a resolution approving the personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; Mrs. Swedyk 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) authorizing a request for proposals for abatement design for the Medina County Courthouse Project; (2) authorizing the advertisement for bids for Medina County Human Services Building parking lot project; and (3) approving an agreement with the City of Medina for the purpose of production and broadcasting of meetings for the Medina County Commissioners by Medina TV. Mr. Miller thanked Andy Conrad and Dan Becker for putting the bid specs together for the parking lot project. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the three resolutions; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. In answer to a question by Mrs. Swedyk, Mr. Miller confirmed that the parking lot project is the entire parking lot. Mr. Hutson stated that there was a good collaboration with County Engineer Andy Conrad on the parking lot project and also with the City of Medina for the video services; both are appreciated. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Sanitary Engineer Jeremy Sinko presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) authorizing the transfer of funds between various Sanitary Engineer funds and county funds; (2) authorizing the Sanitary Engineering Department to purchase a 4x4 single rear wheel drive pickup truck with utility bed; (3) declaring the necessity of replacing existing water mains along Grafton and Marks Road located in Liverpool and Brunswick Hills Townships and to enter into an agreement with HR Gray for professional design services; and (4) authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Dixon Engineering for professional design services to design and bid a new elevated storage tank located in Brunswick Hills Township. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. Mr. Hutson inquired of the cost of an elevated storage tank. Mr. Sinko answered that the estimated cost for everything they need to do with the system was in the \$7M-\$8M range; the tower itself is in the \$3M-\$5M range. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Chief Building Official Richard Nelson reviewed and discussed the February 2021 Monthly Report noting that the value of residential is still up over last year; commercial is down. There were 27 new homes in February and the total residential projects were 192. Commercial projects were 23 which is down in comparison to last year. Year-to-date receipts are down almost 2% compared to last year. He reported that one inspector has left and has moved on to Summit County, and one clerk is out on medical leave until April. He stated that they are shorthanded, but it is working out because they are slow this month. In response to Mrs. Swedyk's question, Mr. Nelson stated that he has not posted the job opening yet because right now the workload does not warrant another position. Mrs. Swedyk asked that since commercial is down; is it working out fine that we privatized commercial? Mr. Nelson stated that commercial still goes out for plan review, but the inspectors are always our employees.

Mr. Hutson asked what the average turn around for residential and commercial is for the month. Mr. Nelson answered three days for residential and two to three weeks for commercial. In response to Mrs. Swedyk's question, Mr. Nelson stated that so far everyone is doing well with the new computer system, but they continue finding things to fix. Mrs. Swedyk stated that it seems like the developers are happy with the residential turnaround; Mr. Nelson confirmed. He stated that they have been getting comments from people on the lack of reports in the new system. They are wanting to know how to get reports like they used to. Mrs. Swedyk noted that the wait times are down

significantly from a year ago. Mr. Nelson stated it is very much appreciated by the contractors on how far the wait times have come down. In response to Mr. Hutson's question, Mr. Nelson confirmed that the year-to-date the total estimated construction cost is \$29.3M as compared to \$22.5M compared to last year. Mr. Hutson stated that there is still a considerable increase in construction in Medina County. Mrs. Swedyk asked if commercial is down due to COVID. Mr. Nelson stated that he is unsure if that is the case and explained that some projects were suspended due to COVID, but last year they were right on average, and he does not anticipate that they will be held up because of COVID this year. Mr. Hambley stated that he has heard that commercial will be more industrial driven. Mr. Nelson stated that we will most likely not see many office buildings going up, but we are seeing a lot of breweries.

Commissioner Hutson stated that the commissioners received notice of a new liquor permit request from the Ohio Division Liquor Control for Ridge & Rail LLC DBA Ridge & Rail located at 6784 Ridge Rd., Sharon Township, Wadsworth, Ohio. The commissioners do not request a hearing to be held.

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.

Courthouse Project

Scott Miller stated that a bond rating meeting with Standard and Poor's was held and it was determined that our rating is an AA+, which is just under the AAA rating; he stated that he is hopeful that we will be moved up to an AAA in the future. Five courthouse employees will be visiting Seneca County Courthouse to tour their new courthouse and see the new technology. He stated that the construction documents are being reviewed for the new courthouse and we are on schedule to get the fencing up in the parking lot and moving forward with the project in April or May. We will be issuing bonds the week March 29; they will be issued by Squire Patton Boggs.

Mr. Hutson asked if there will be any directions/announcements provided to the courthouse personnel when things start to change. Mr. Miller stated that they are working with the judges on parking alternatives and we installed the electrical to move the security entrance. He noted that cameras will be installed to monitor activity and the ADA compliant door openers and ramp are underway. In response to Mr. Hutson's question, Mr. Miller stated that the entrance into the parking garage facing west will be closed; only entrances and exits on Liberty and Washington will remain open. Mr. Miller also confirmed that the parking garage still has dividers separating the inbound and outbound, but the City is getting bids to have them removed.

Ohio Secretary of State Office Updates

Eastern Ohio Regional Liaison for the Ohio Secretary of State's Office Alex Pavloff introduced himself and stated that he covers 16 counties including Medina County; his job is to help build relationships in those communities. There are two main functions of his office which include being Ohio's chief election office and new business setup. In the midst of the pandemic, over 171,000 people filed for new businesses, which is an all-time record. He mentioned that he was working with Economic Development when they were disbursing PPP funds and needed to verify the authenticity of a business. Mr. Pavloff noted that they have a program called the Ohio Business Spotlight where they spotlight businesses across Ohio; recommendations for Medina County may be sent to him.

Mr. Pavloff stated that Ohio did a resounding job with the 2020 election and has been called the national model for how elections should be conducted. They had been training since January 2019 which helped with the success. Medina County Board of Elections did a phenomenal job even with higher than normal absentee and early voting. Their parking lot flow was so successful that they were asked to film a segment for video training on how to conduct parking lot operations. In Ohio, 59 percent of all votes cast were absentee or early voters, and 94 percent of absentee ballots were returned and there was an all-time low of rejects and provisional ballots. Mr. Pavloff stated that they disbursed over \$387,000 to Medina County Board of Elections, which included HAVA and CARES funding. In some communities, they have elections approaching with May and August primaries and specials as well as the November election. He reviewed their legislative priorities including: (1) the ability to request an absentee ballot online; and (2) advocating for a change to Ohio's voter's registrations systems that allows us to have a stronger verification process for voters that come from the BMV. He stated they would like to bring the BMV voter registration process up-to-date to cut back on the time spent for the Board of Elections.

Mr. Pavloff stated that they are also advocating for reciprocity of Ohio's Minority on Businesses Enterprises (MBE) organization. Right now, county and local governments have certification processes that are different from the state level. It is burdensome on the business owners to require them to file three or four different times to prove their ethnicity; they are looking to streamline this process. He further noted that they rolled out a system called BOE file, which allows online campaign finance filing for local candidates.

In response to Mr. Hutson's question, Mr. Pavloff stated that there is already communication between the Board of Elections and the BMV, but the legislation is to improve the quality of communication. Mr. Hambley stated that the idea is when you get a new driver's license and you are not registered to vote, the BMV can take their data fields and send them right over to the state or county. Mr. Pavloff stated that it does have an opt-out function for those BMV customers who don't wish to register. Mr. Hambley stated that this should make it easier to transfer data and should be more secure as well; Mr. Pavloff agreed. Mr. Hambley stated that the CCAO is going to be supporting this legislation. Mr. Hambley asked what the impact of the U.S. census data coming in will be. Mr. Pavloff answered that the impact is considerable and the United States Census Bureau should be ashamed of how late they are. He noted that his office, in partnership with the Attorney General's Offices, have sued the United States Census Bureau to speed up the process because it is unacceptable. There are a number of questions up for the legislative and

candidate seats and this is unconscionable. Mr. Pavloff stated that the census data has been officially delayed until September. Mr. Hambley added that without having this data, it will create problems locally. Mrs. Swedyk asked what the holdup is on the data. Mr. Pavloff answered that unaware of the reason. Mr. Hambley stated that the delay of data could push back elections next year and it makes many things very difficult. Mr. Hambley stated that the online absentee ballot is a great idea and both party sides are in agreement that this will move quickly. Mr. Hutson added that will save a lot of paper and postage. Mr. Pavloff stated that by cutting back on these costs it will help his office and the taxpayers. In response to Mr. Hambley's question, Mr. Pavloff stated that he is unsure if the deadlines for the absentee ballots will change yet. Mrs. Swedyk stated that a lot of residents ordered an absentee ballot but never received one because of the mail delay.

Homeless Coalition

Mr. Hambley stated that he attended the Homeless Coalition meeting; it was a great turnout. Mayor Hanwell organized this coalition along with the churches, Love Inc. and Operation Homes. They are moving forward and are trying to put together a study group to present to the commissioners with recommendations noting that he believes that there is consensus about putting in a drop in shelter. They went to Wooster and had good observations of the Salvation Army Shelter and the need for case management. They recognize that there are some abusers in the system and they want to start to sharing data from church to church. There is no doubt that COVID has had a significant impact on donations and demand. They are looking for ways to share resources and give support to each other. Mr. Hambley noted that some of the federal money the County will be receiving can go to non-profits that were affected by COVID. Churches are quickly running out of funds and this is an area we will have to consider to help. Mr. Hambley thanked Mayor Hanwell and the City of Medina in bringing this to the table and supporting this group.

NOACA

Mr. Hambley stated that an item came up about a letter written to the legislature asking for the regional councils having control of the broadband dollars. It asked the legislature with the broadband dollars to allocate dollars that would be distributed by these councils. He stated that this is an area of concern and he is not sure NOACA being in charge of these dollars in Medina County would be beneficial to us. Questions are in the State process and it is something we need to monitor. If the State starts to distribute funds this way, we will have to make sure we have a seat at the table in order to have some influence on the distribution of these dollars. Mr. Hutson stated that he was surprised and he doesn't remember this coming up in discussions. Mr. Hambley stated that she sent out a letter in the packet. Mr. Hutson stated he was not aware of it.

Mr. Hambley stated that they are trying to get certified for multi-county strategic economic development plans noting that Andy Conrad had some comments on areas of concerns regarding this. Mr. Hambley stated that in this county, we already have been annually reviewed since 2018, but we are not eligible for funds because we are a single county. Again, we have to make sure we have a seat at the table in the distribution of the economic development dollars.

County Home Advisory Council

Mrs. Swedyk stated that the special meeting for the County Home Advisory Council was held on March 10. Friends of the County Home were in attendance as well. They were given some options and will have another special meeting on March 24 to come to a consensus with recommendations to the commissioners regarding the levy. Mrs. Swedyk stated that finances were forecasted with different scenarios on levy options. Mr. Hutson stated he didn't see anything regarding the projected expenses for the home. Mr. Hambley mentioned the pending federal money coming in and see if the County Home is qualified in getting some of these funds. There are essential workers out there and we need to be more competitive with wages for the County Home staff. Mrs. Swedyk stated that she would be surprised if the capital improvement projects they are looking at such as the boiler and windows could not be covered under those funds. A straight renewal could be possible with some subsidies a possibility instead. Mrs. Swedyk stated that we may be receiving more money than we are anticipating.

Adjournment

Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED MARCH 16, 2021

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
21-0182	Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to purchase one (1) new Caterpillar Model 289D3 compact tract loader
21-0183	Authorizing the Medina County Engineer to purchase one (1) new model year cab and chassis with dump body and hydraulics
21-0184	Amending the appropriation measure resolution
21-0185	Amending the 2021 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
21-0186	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
21-0187	Cash Transfers for various funds
21-0188	Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the gasoline rotary fund
21-0189	Declaring Medina County property as excess property
21-0190	Authorizing the purchase of 7,200 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
21-0191	Authorizing the expenditures related to an Office for Older Adults sponsored Senior Day
21-0192	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the Treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
21-0193	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
21-0194	Authorizing a request for proposals for abatement design for the Medina County Courthouse Project
21-0195	Authorizing the advertisement for bids for Medina County Human Services Building Parking Lot Project
21-0196	Approving an agreement with the City of Medina for the purpose of production and broadcasting of meetings for the Medina County Commissioners by Medina TV
21-0197	Authorizing the transfer of funds between various Sanitary Engineer Funds and County Funds
21-0198	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineering Department to purchase a 4x4 single rear wheel drive pick-up truck with utility bed
21-0199	Declaring the necessity of replacing existing water mains along Grafton and Marks Road located in Liverpool and Brunswick Hills Townships and to enter into an agreement with HR Gray for professional design services MCSE#WR-500/5-1.3
21-0200	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Dixon Engineering for professional design services to design and bid a new elevated storage tank located in Brunswick Hills Township

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this sixteenth day of March, 2021.

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