William F. Hutson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Stephen D. Hambley and Colleen M. Swedyk present. The meeting was held in the commissioners' hearing room and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

The minutes of the May 4, 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.

*Assistant County Engineer Josh Wolff* presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) determining the necessity to close Chippewa Road (C.H. 50) between Friendsville Road (C.H. 35) and Westfield Road (C.H. 15); (2) determining the necessity to close Root Road (C.H. 58) between Chatham Road (S.R. 162) and Spencer Lake Road (C.H. 45); (3) determining the necessity to close Sterling Road (C.H. 43) between Bell Road (T.R. 148) and Mill Road (T.R. 147); (4) finding that public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of Bridge No. 8 on Garver Road (T.H. 177) in Chatham Township, Medina County, Ohio and authorizing the Medina County Engineer to replace said bridge; (5) declaring a no parking zone along portions of C.H. 78, Kennard Road in Westfield Township, Medina County, Ohio. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the five resolutions; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. In response to Mr. Hambley's question, Mr. Wolff stated that they have coordinated with the Sheriff's Office and the no parking zone is being enforced to keep people moving along. Mr. Hutson stated that Westfield Landing is right around the corner and people can go walk to see the eagle's nest from there. Mr. Wolff stated that the parked cars watching the eagle's nest are becoming a safety issue. Mr. Hambley suggested that since it is Park District land, working with them on signage on where to park could be helpful. Mr. Wolff stated that he will get in touch with the Park District. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

The Medina County Engineer's weekly permits for April 29–May 5, 2021 were reviewed.

*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) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds for the costs of the County Insurance Policies; (4) authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item; (5) authorizing cash transfer for the County Home Levy Fund; (6) approving the donation of a sheriff cruiser to the Medina County Career Center Board of Education; (7) allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of $1,043,383.24. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the seven 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.

*Sanitary Engineer Jeremy Sinko* presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) authorizing the County Sanitary Engineer to invest the retainer of Fechko Excavating, Inc. for the Sharon Township Water and Sewer Improvements 2020 Project in an escrow account MCSE# SW-500/100-281.0; (2) authorizing the County Sanitary Engineer to invest the retainer of X-Press Underground Inc. for the Medina Road (S.R. 18) Water Main Relocation Project in an escrow account MCSE# WR-500/00-7.0.1. 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.

*Facilities Director Steven Bastean* presented and reviewed a resolution accepting and awarding bid for the Medina County Human Services Building Parking Lot Project. 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.

*Office for Older Adults Director Laura Toth* reported that the first month of the reopening has gone fantastic; they are hosting approximately 75 people a week in the Medina Center. The Brunswick Center just started last week so a count is yet to be provided. Activities have been hosted since April 12th in Medina and May 8th in Brunswick. Due to new state orders released last week, staff are no longer subject to testing every other week. Participants still have to sign up for activities ahead of time, but advance calls don't need to be placed anymore to assess COVID symptoms. Participants are still limited, activities must be scheduled and the mask order remains in place. They are continuing Zoom activities and now can have trips. They have contracts with JKL Tours and Great Day Tours and plan to start trips at the end of May and the first part of June. The trips will not be to capacity due to social distancing on the bus. Mrs. Toth stated that they go to all of the casinos in Ohio, a yearly Amish trip, Indian's games, Cleveland historical tours and wineries.

Mrs. Toth stated that they had a very successful Mother's Day parking lot Bingo at the Brunswick Recreation Center with participation up to 40 people. More Bingo is scheduled on June 14th and June 17th for Father's Day. They are at capacity for the Curbside Cuisine; the next event is Wednesday, May 12th. Senior Day is scheduled for May 18th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Medina County Fairgrounds Parking lot off of Lafayette Road. They will have 25 booths being set up in a maze. Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging is the event sponsor and each participant

will be provided lunch from Honey Baked Ham. All seniors were encouraged to fill their car up with people and sign up for this great event. Mrs. Toth stated she is hopeful that next year they can be inside the Community Center with upwards of 500 people as in the past, but they are excited to see everyone rain or shine. In response to Mr. Hambley's question, Mrs. Toth stated that the seniors will stay in their cars and the booth sponsors will come to the cars and talk to the individuals. She noted that seniors should budget about an hour of their time to get through the booths and pick up their lunch.

*Commissioner Hutson* presented and reviewed the following resolution proclaiming May 2021 as Older Americans Month and May 18, 2021 as Senior Day in Medina County. 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.

*Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Board Director Phillip Titterington* reported the Mental Health and Crisis Support is needed more now than ever and through the levy funds they were able to provide additional funding to their contracted agencies to make sure there is capacity in those services.

Mr. Titterington stated that the first quarter of 2021 through the agencies in our continuum care, which include satellite offices in Lodi and Brunswick, they have had 773 clients at Ohio Guidestone (57% adults and 43% youth), Alternative Paths has 4,588 clients (93% adults and 7% youth) and Catholic Charities has 101 clients (89% adults and 11% youth). All of these agencies total to 5,462 total clients being served in the first quarter of 2021 (88% adults and 12% youth). Their agencies are working hard serving a lot of residents in Medina County. The Human Services Levy is critical and has allowed them to fill the gaps that have come up. They have used the money to help fund the 24/7 crisis behavioral health line that is operated through Alternative Paths. In the first quarter of 2021, they had 917 calls or engagements through this phone line, 69 individuals' verbalized suicidal thoughts, 24 active rescues were made, 33 referrals from law enforcement for crisis intervention and 2 mobile responses.

Mr. Titterington stated that the ADAMH Board has 44 supportive housing units serving Medina County residents that have mental illness through a partnership with Medina Metro Housing. By serving those individuals, they also have contracts with Alternative Paths to provide mental health and other case management services. Through the first quarter, Alternative Paths has contracted with the Hope Recovery Community and they added peer supporters to the 24/7 crisis team. When an individual calls the phone line and it is appropriate they are linked with a peer supporter to navigate through that system. In addition, the Alternative Paths and Hope Recovery Community partnership was able to provide peer support services in the jail to assist the inmates. Approximately 420 youth that are diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance are currently receiving services on our continuum. Approximately 1,500 adults and 240 youth who are currently receiving psychiatric counseling for assistance and of those 90% are receiving some type of medication from the services as well.

Mr. Titteringon stated that the levy funding is also being used to build support and expand the infrastructure and comprehensive effective recovery support system especially through Hope Recovery Community. They continue to operate out of a house that the ADAMH Board has purchased and renovated on Highland. They have a total of 10 certified peer recovery supporters and a partnership with OhioGuidestone as well as the Hope Recovery Community. It is important to note that certified peer recovery is very important and they have to go through a state certification that teaches them best practices and they can draw down Medicaid to offset the costs. Currently, they have 7 peer supporters through OhioGuidestone that are serving 168 residents.

Mr. Titterington stated that levy funding is used to help with operational expenses for Hope Recovery Community who is partnered with Alternative Paths to provide peer support and a family peer support program. He noted that this family program is very unique and one of kind in Ohio – it really shows how great Medina County is. Hope Recovery has also teamed up with the Medina County Job & Family Services to partner on their Ohio Start Program. Individuals were are associated with Job & Family Services and who are addicted to drugs or alcohol are able to be linked up with a peer supporter to help them navigate to resources. He added that levy funding is also assisting Cathy's House, which is a certified recovery house operating in Medina County. They are currently serving 11 males and 7 females. In the first quarter, Hope Recovery Community was able to help 97 individuals to detox, with residential treatment or recovery housing.

Mr. Titterington stated that they have medication assisted treatment, which is another form of assistance for those who are opioid or alcohol addicted. He noted that 87 individuals received these services so the capacity is there to help. He stated that they are hopeful that their 12 bed women's recovery house, Discovery Recovery House, are going to be taking its first clients/residents on the week of June 7th. All of the positions are hired and working with MMHA and OhioGuidestone. The goal is to help women with children as well; the house is set up to help with those situations.

<u>Housing Network - Homelessness Initiative</u>

Mr. Titterington and Skip Sipos distributed handout on homelessness in Medina County and reviewed the information. He explained that the Housing Network was formed in 2004 with the purpose of being an advisory group to the Board of County Commissioners on all issues of affordable housing. Over the years, a variety of non-profits, houses of worship and individuals have helped people who have faced housing crisis. Operation Homes, Love INC and many others have done this heavy lifting to help people avoid homelessness. Units of government, the Housing Authority, Job & Family Services, Veteran's Services, County Commissioners Homeless fund also provide assist to these individuals. Hundreds of thousands of dollars each year are dedicated to helping this cause, but the system fails to provide comprehensive benefits to those in crisis. The resources aren't coordinated in such a way that benefit that individual. The Housing Network Subcommittee believes there is a three prong approach to

addressing this issue: (1) retain a consultant to gather and analyze the data of all of the dollars spent to help people in crisis, (2) whatever crisis response is determined has to be met with a rapid rehousing model and (3) permanent supportive housing. The Housing Authority has identified an individual for this task who is an expert in Ohio on homelessness. The Housing Authority will contact this consultant later this week and we will pay for this on its own. The data could result in the determination that we need a Homeless Shelter in Medina County, but clearly it needs to be studied. He stated that when there is an abused child there is a protocol in place, but right now there isn't a protocol in place if there is a person on the street. Mr. Sipos stated that a rapid rehousing model is when a person is sheltered it gets them off the street to get rid of the immediate need, but we ultimately we need to address the root cause whether it be addiction, job loss or a disability. Permanent housing means it is housing for folks who have a federally qualifying disability and are street homeless. Our programs are full so we need to revisit to add to our inventory.

Mr. Sipos asked the commissioners to support these steps and to be actively involved. He noted that if the recommendations come back stating that we need to build or buy some type of housing it will need to be determined if it is best to use the American Rescue Plan funds. He also asked that the commissioners revisit the concept of donating the 1.42 acre parcel of land that is adjacent to the Juvenile Detention Center and fronts onto Lafayette Road. They have been in consultation with the City of Medina to use the site to develop five more units of permanent supportive housing on that parcel of land. The donation of the land could help leverage other resources. They are actively looking at other parcels to expand the permanent housing in Medina County.  r. Sipos stated that in his 27 years of employment, he has never seen momentum like this nor the support from several entities across the county. He stated that recently State Representative Sharon Ray was able to get money for the commissioners to analyze this type of data into the state budget.

Mr. Hutson asked how many housing units Metro Housing has in Medina County. Mr. Sipos answered that they manage over 550 units and are always full. Mr. Sipos explained that those units are used for a variety of different clients. He mentioned that the housing units going up in Wadsworth are 45 units of family housing designed to be for workforce. They are hoping that people that come to live there will help fill some of the jobs. He stated that they do have permanent housing that they manage on behalf of the ADAMH Board. In response to Mr. Hutson and Mr. Hambley's questions, Mr. Sipos stated that there is no way to say how many units are needed and that is the purpose of the study. Mr. Sipos stated that the consultant will focus mainly on those facing housing crisis, but from the Housing Authority perspective, our strategy calls for us to continue to add units as resources are available. In response to Mrs. Swedyk's question, Mr. Sipos stated that they are unsure of the cost and they have no plans on building a shelter. Mr. Sipos stated that once the data is gathered, an appropriate response can then be determined. Mr. Hambley stated that when the Housing Network was formed, they didn't really have the churches that you do now. He stated that Skip is right, with Mayor Hanwell's help and the churches being able to come up with a very comprehensive group to have input on developing a plan, it is much more comprehensive and involves a diverse group of stakeholders.

Mrs. Swedyk stated that she supports these three requests and supported last year the donation of the piece of property and supports that again. Mr. Hambley stated that one issue they tried to address over a decade ago when they looked at homelessness was those that are leaving the jail and not having a place within the community to help reduce recidivism and reintegrate them into society; housing is an important component. Mr. Titterington explained that in partnership with the jail and Alternative Paths, they have a community linkages program and this is one of those pieces that is part of the conversation, because as they transition, sometimes they have to go to a different homeless shelter.

Mr. Hutson stated that his understanding when they did the homeless counts in January there were folks that were missed because they were actually being housed in a hotel in various places, so they were not part of the count. He asked if we have an idea of how many there are. Mr. Sipos answered that determining this number is a challenge, but the consultant will help determine that. He stated that MMHA assists over 1,200 households each month with rental assistance or a rental unit. It's a challenge to meet these things, but gathering this data will help us do it. Mr. Titterington added that this is a challenge because not all homeless meet the federal definition of homeless although they meet Medina County's definition of homeless. The great thing about Medina County is the collaboration and other funding pots to help serve. Mr. Hambley stated that he is very supportive of this and we can't start this too soon.

Mayor Hanwell stated that he was approached by Love INC and the pastor of Grace Church as they were being overwhelmed with the need at hotels to put people up. He asked Mr. Sipos, Mr. Titterington and as many churches as they could, along with the Salvation Army, to the table to discuss the issue. All are doing it, but nobody is a community aggregator of the data. When Mr. Sipos mentioned that he has the database already, part of that meeting was to encourage them to get that data to Mr. Sipos. It's important to get a handle on the numbers we're dealing with. Mayor Hanwell stated that we're trying very hard, but a study will help. He noted that he represents the commissioners on the ADAMH Board and appreciates all that they are doing. He spoke with Representative Ray about the $100,000 request and Senator Romanchuk as well who indicated he will support it if it passes through the House. If it passes, that is $100,000 that would be available. Mr. Hambley stated that amendments are due this week and Senator Romanchuk confirmed he will be supporting it. The important thing is keeping it in there.

Sheriff Grice stated that he knows firsthand about the issues that go on at hotels, so those numbers are a valid point. All Medina County law enforcement occasionally runs into individuals that are homeless, and they are being taken out of the county. He appreciates the work being put into this. Mr. Hambley stated that when they looked into this a decade ago, the homeless count doesn't take into account those who found shelter in Summit or Wayne counties.

Sheriff Grice noted that this county is fortunate because we have so many people that want to help, and the schools play an intricate role in that.

Mr. Hutson inquired about a timeline for engaging the consultant. Mr. Sipos answered that they expect they will need three months to pull this information together and will have recommendations this summer. Mr. Hutson stated that the American Rescue Plan money has a definitive deadline, so in order to consider using any of those funds, it will need to move along quite rapidly. Mr. Sipos stated they recognize time is of the essence, but they also want to keep the momentum alive.

*Treasurer John Burke* provided a brief history on the Fix-It Fund Program noting that the program is again being offered to Medina County homeowners. These are fixed rate loans at up to 2% below the bank's current rate over a period of five years and range from $5,000 to $50,000. Most home improvements are eligible for this program with the exception of items such as swimming pools, satellite dishes or hot tubs. There is no income limit to qualify for these loans, but your home must have a tax appraised value of $250,000 or less (excluding land) and you cannot be delinquent on real estate taxes. Mr. Burke noted that when looking at the appraised value of $250,000, it is estimated that 90% of the homes in Medina County would be eligible for this program. Since 2002, this program has provided more than $14.5 M in low interest home improvement loans to over 1,000 Medina County residents. They have tracked where these dollars have gone and found that 84% comes back into the community as the money is spent with local businesses. Mr. Burke explained that this program is pretty well spread throughout the county throughout the years. Since its inception, loans have gone to homeowners for home improvements as follows: *$2.6M – Brunswick; $1.6M – Wadsworth; $2.6M – Medina; and $7.7M – surrounding townships.* It's been a successful program. Mr. Burke encouraged those who wish to apply to check with Westfield Bank (Medina or Westfield branches), visit MedinaCountyTreasurer.com and download a form, or call the Treasurer's office at 330-725-9746.

In answer to a question by Mrs. Swedyk regarding the $250,000 limitation on home value, Mr. Burke stated that this is an approved program by the commissioners and he reports each December on what the program did that year, and they will consider raising that limit this year because it hasn't been increased in quite a few years. Mr. Hambley confirmed that it's just the house value – not the land. Mr. Burke noted that as we've seen through the Building Department with the increasing new home prices, the cost of building supplies directly effects this programs, so he recommends looking at this issue in December. Mr. Hambley stated that since this program began in 2002, it has expanded to other counties. Mr. Burke confirmed noting that he helped Portage County start their two years ago and Summit County started this year; he believe there are currently five counties in Ohio that have this program. There was brief discussion regarding land banks. Mr. Burke stated that there were double the number of loans last year as more people were at home and working on projects.

*Commissioner Hutson* presented and reviewed the following resolutions (1) proclaiming May 2021 as Community Action Month; (2) appointing a member to the Medina County Advisory Council on Aging & Disability; (3) approving the appointment of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Medina County; (4) approving the filing of an "F" Class temporary permit application to allow the sale of beer during 2021 special events. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*Commissioner Hutson* noted for the record that two new liquor permit requests have been filed: (1) for Hinckley Properties Inc. DBA Buzzard Cove located at 1053 Bellus Rd., Hinckley, OH. The permit classes requested are D1 and D2; (2) for Yours Truly of Mayfield Inc. dba Yours Truly of Medina to Yours Truly of Medina Inc. located at 3725 Medina Road & Patio Unit 119, Medina, OH. The permit classes requested are D5 and D6. No hearings were requested.

*Commissioner Hambley* moved to go into Executive Session after Discussion Session to discuss the employment of a public employee; Mrs. Swedyk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed at 10:32 a.m.

**Discussion Session**
At 10:32 a.m., the Commissioners began the Discussion Session in the commissioners' hearing room.

Medina Municipal Court
Commissioner Hutson stated that the City of Medina passed their initiative last week that enables them to move forward with placing the Medina Municipal Court in the 1969 portion of the county courthouse. Mayor Dennis Hanwell thanked the commissioners for their support on that issue. The Board of Elections indicated that the ballot will be certified on May 25 and on that date, the city will then engage Brandstetter Carroll to look at the 1969 building in detail to accomplish the needs of the municipal court including, but not limited to, the shared security checkpoint, access from the sallyport into the 1969 building and the separation of in-custody prisoners, court staff and the general public. He stated that the City of Medina has been trying to resolve the issues of the Medina Municipal Court for more than two decades, and this is an answered prayer and opportunity to work together with the county which is beneficial for both political entities as far as cost savings, it's most efficient and effective use of the building and staff. Mayor Hanwell stated that he has no doubt that this will serve the needs of the municipal court for 50+ years. Along with that, discussions need to be held between the city and the county regarding a lease agreement; the city is eager to begin those discussions.

Mr. Hutson proposed that the commissioners formally take action in the near future to express their willingness to engage the City of Medina in the discussions about having them in the 1969 edition in either a lease or some terms that would give them a long term home. Mrs. Swedyk stated that the commissioners we working with the city for three years on a potential project together and she is glad that they can continue on with this. Mr. Hambley stated that he, too, is in favor of moving forward. Mr. Hutson stated that they appreciate it and look forward to working with the city. The mayor thanked the commissioners.

Frank Ricci

Mrs. Swedyk stated that Frank Ricci was a former employee of Title First Inc. and was a beloved member of the Medina Community. He built many friendships over the years in the Administration Building while filing deeds and doing map research. A request has been made to place a memorial bench at the Administration Building in memory of Mr. Ricci with funds that had been collected by a group of people. The commissioners agreed that the bench may be placed at the Administration Building.

MCDAC

Mrs. Swedyk reported that the MCDAC meeting was held yesterday; they will be forwarding recommendations to the commissioners' for their review. Amy Lyon-Galvin distributed and reviewed a handout to the commissioners outlining the ten grant applications received for grant cycle 7/1/21-6/30/22. She explained that the top funding priority established by the grant guidelines is that the Drug Task Force is fully funded at an operational level. Funding priority number two is to fund school resource officers which was specified as 200 work days to correspond with the school year primarily. The third priority is to fund all other grant applications which meet the requirements outline in O.R.C. 5705.19(j). Based on $2.4M requested with $1.9M available, based on the priorities in the grant guidelines, they were able to accomplish funding those in categories 1 and 2.

Mrs. Swedyk stated that they had formed a subcommittee to evaluate the priorities, so for 2021, the priorities were 1 and 2 which were able to be funded. Ms. Lyon-Galvin explained that she wanted to bring this to the commissioners' attention that this is the slate that was voted on yesterday and supported by the MCDAC committee members. She would like to bring this to the commissioners for approval next week.

Mr. Hambley inquired if in this last fiscal year when schools were not opened, was there any money not expended and returned to MCDAC. Ms. Lyon-Galvin answered that those officers were repurposed, and because that money had been part of their award in budget process, they were able to repurpose those officers. They did still have a presence in the schools as much as they were able to. She stated that there was only one awardee last year that had a change in staff that had a particular position unfilled for a period of time, and they are returning to the county a little more than $2,000 for monies they were unable to spend having that position unfilled for a period of time. Ms. Lyon-Galvin complimented everyone on their applications as they were very thoughtful in structuring their applications being mindful of the funding priorities so they met the objective of the program. Mrs. Swedyk noted that the Drug Task Force did not request an increase. Ms. Lyon-Galvin confirmed that this will be on the agenda next week.

NOACA

Mr. Hambley stated that regarding prior conversations about our relationship with NOACA and Scott's ongoing research regarding detachment or reassigning our metropolitan planning area, it came to his attention that there are Rural Transportation Planning organizations. Our urbanized area still has to be assigned which includes Brunswick, Medina and Wadsworth; other than that it's rural and they qualify to become part of a rural transportation planning organization if it adjoins other rural areas, and they would not be subject to NOACA approval. The NOACA money is only for the urbanized area. One of the scenarios to look at is maybe our rural area would be able to be reassigned to one of these rural transportation planning organizations. Mr. Hambley noted that this is one of the options the commissioners can look at. It looks like an option to deal with some of the issues that have been legitimately raised for our rural areas that NOACA doesn't represent. Mrs. Swedyk asked if that means part of our county would remain in NOACA. Mr. Hambley stated that unless we find a way to realign – it's one of those options. If we find a way that there is a process to remove ourselves entirely, okay, but if we can't, then Medina and Brunswick and with the new census, the organized area would still be subject to it, the transit system would still be part of the urbanized system, but it wouldn't change our votes or the amount of money NOACA gets, and maybe there's even an opportunity in the scenario that Wadsworth would then become a part of AMATS. This an option to at least explore. He noted that you have the local entities/governments more involved with their own transportation planning. The townships in our county would be much more involved with state projects and governance. Mrs. Swedyk stated that if we're going to pay dues to an organization, shouldn't we consider the option of moving into AMATS? Mr. Hambley explained that he's not saying we shouldn't look into those options, this is being offered as another option. He added that the political composition of Lorain County has somewhat changed with the Board of Commissioners and their rural areas are not happy with NOACA either, so maybe this is something we just jointly start working with some other parties. There are some large areas of the state that have rural planning and it might makes some sense to examine it. Mr. Hutson stated that if we're going to look at options, we might as well look at all of the options. He has spoken with commissioners from Geauga and Lorain counties about their perspectives and they received the letter Medina County sent out and are interested in seeing how it turns out.

Mr. Hutson noted that the Long Range Transportation Plan is available on the internet and is 597 pages long; it's very interesting to see what's included and what's not included.

Courthouse Update

Scott Miller provided an update on the Courthouse Project noting that the access controls are in front of the building now, camera systems are up and will soon begin staging. Next week, they will begin the process of removing bushes

in preparation of building a ramp to the front door. He stated that he is hopeful some of the excavating will begin in June and getting fences up. In answer to a question by Mr. Hutson regarding the fences, Mr. Miller stated that he expects the fencing will not be up until after Memorial Day.

American Rescue Plan

Mr. Miller stated that guidance on the American Rescue Plan funds was received yesterday; it hasn't changed much from the original intent. Several documents were released and are being reviewed. Amy will be sending out recommendation requests to all elected officials and department heads for needs they have and it is hoped that this information will be compiled prior to the May 25 meeting for discussion purposes. Mrs. Swedyk requested the list be provided to the commissioners' in advance of the meeting; Mr. Miller agreed. He noted that it is more restrictive than he expected, so caution on spending will need to be exercised to ensure compliance with the regulations.

North Pump Station

Jeremy Sinko reported that bids were opened Friday for the North Pump Station and were within $75 of the engineer's estimate. Mr. Sinko will present a resolution awarding the bid.

Solid Waste District Activities

Mr. Sinko reported that there is a crack in the inbound scale that was recently repaired. This will require the scale be closed again for another repair at a cost of approximately $25,000.

The fire system at 8700 Lake Road is triggering false alarms when it rains due to the old hardwire system. A quote will be presented to upgrade the system to resolve the issue.

The renovations at 8730 Lake Road are moving along nicely. When the rebid process happened, the furniture was left out of the bid. There are two offices and two conference rooms that need furniture; they are looking into the cost for these.

Mr. Sinko stated that he has been working with Steven Bastean on a new fob system for the new building; it came in just under $20,000. This will be part of the loan that they will use for the building. GPD submitted their designs for the residential campus upgrade at just under $49,000. This is to develop the entire 8730 Lake Road property to handle residential traffic only; the 8700 Lake Road scales would then be open to commercial traffic only. He will prepare a resolution for the GPD contract.

Mr. Sinko reported that with the heavy rains on Mother's Day, they only received four complaints to their office. All the rehab they have been doing over the last seven years seems to be paying off.

Radio Systems

Mr. Hutson stated that the Sheriff's office is looking at radio systems and has put together a cross-section of fire and law enforcement across the county and is having them meet fairly regularly to evaluate systems and determine whether they should stay on and continue to invest in the Harris system or try to make a break from it. Mr. Hambley stated that means looking at the MARCS system and it looks like the state is eventually almost going to compel us to switch to that. Mr. Hutson stated that 76 of the 88 counties are on MARCS, so it's being pushed. There was a grant from the State Fire Marshall's office, so all of the fire departments in the county transitioned over to MARCS. Part of the reason why the county went with the Harris system was to support the local fire departments because they didn't have the money to convert. Mrs. Swedyk asked if in their discussions are they talking about how this will be paid for Mr. Hutson answered that one of the things is there was some hope that some of the American Rescue Plan money would be available for that. Mr. Hambley stated that in the budget, they put in there traditionally the state pays half the cost, and they eliminated that. Now there is a push for them to pay all of it. Mrs. Swedyk added that this also effects the schools; Mr. Hutson confirmed. Mr. Hambley stated unfortunately, it's a monopoly and it's proprietary, and there is a huge resistance not to allow other systems to talk to one another; that is the big issue here. Mr. Hutson agreed noting that the State Patrol is on the MARCS system and if they have a multi-jurisdictional chase or pursuit, there are issues with contacting other departments to assist.

Mr. Miller stated that we still have over $1M in debt outstanding on the radio system, and with the towers we just put up, we are probably at about $2.8M invested in the radio system. To move to a new radio system at this point in time would be throwing $2.8M out the window. One of the reasons we were unable to go to MARCS was the fire stations and radio coverage as we would have had to build three towers at $1M each. If we have to build another tower and purchase new radios, we're talking millions of dollars. He stated that he doesn't know if American Rescue Plan monies can be used, but if we can justify it, we need to be cautious to ensure compliance. If we are found to not be in compliance, we have to pay the money back. Mr. Hutson stated that as he understands it, all the radios can be converted, so the big issue is the towers. Mrs. Swedyk stated that the debt is also an issue and Mr. Hambley added that the monthly cost is as well; Mr. Hutson agreed.

**Executive Session**

At 10:58 a.m., the Commissioners went into the Executive Session that had been voted on earlier. The Executive Session ended at 11:26 a.m.

**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 11:26 a.m.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED MAY 11, 2021**

| Number | Resolution Title |
|---|---|
| 21-0478 | Proclaiming May 2021 as Older Americans Month and May 18, 2021 as Senior Day in Medina County |
| 21-0479 | Proclaiming May 2021 as Community Action Month |
| 21-0480 | Determining the necessity to close Chippewa Road (C.H. 50) between Friendsville Road (C.H. 35) and Westfield Road (C.H. 15) |
| 21-0481 | Determining the necessity to close Root Road (C.H. 58) between Chatham Road (S.R. 162) and Spencer Lake Road (C.H. 45) |
| 21-0482 | Determining the necessity to close Sterling Road (C.H. 43( between Bell Road (T.R. 18) and Mill Road (T.R. 147) |
| 21-0483 | Finding that public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of bridge No. 8 on Garver Road (T.H. 177) in Chatham Township, Medina County, Ohio and authorizing the Medina County Engineer to replace said bridge |
| 21-0484 | Declaring a no parking zone along portions of C.H. 78, Kennard Road in Westfield Township, Medina County, Ohio |
| 21-0485 | Amending the appropriation measure resolution |
| 21-0486 | Amending the 2021 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations |
| 21-0487 | Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds for the costs of the county insurance policies |
| 21-0488 | Authorizing the County Auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item |
| 21-0489 | Authorizing cash transfer for the County Home Levy Fund |
| 21-0490 | Approving the donation of a sheriff cruiser to the Medina County Career Center Board of Education |
| 21-0491 | Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims |
| 21-0492 | Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners |
| 21-0493 | Authorizing the County Sanitary Engineer to invest the retainer of Fechko Excavating, Inc. for the Sharon Township water and sewer improvements 2020 project in an escrow account MCSE# SW-500/100-281.10 |
| 21-0494 | Authorizing the County Sanitary Engineer to invest the retainer of X-Press Underground Inc. for the Medina Road (S.R. 18) water main relocation project in an Escrow Account MCSE # WR-500/00-7.0.1 |
| 21-0495 | Accepting and awarding bid for the Medina County Human Services Building parking lot project |
| 21-0496 | Appointing a member to the Medina County Advisory Council on Aging & Disability |
| 21-0497 | Approving the appointment of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Medina County |
| 21-0498 | Approving the filing of an “F” Class temporary permit application to allow the sale of beer during 2021 special events |

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Beck
Clerk to the Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Stephen D. Hambley

Colleen M. Swedyk

William F. Hutson