Aaron M. Harrison 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 20, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting were emailed in advance. Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE. The motion carried.

Public Comment regarding pending resolutions

None.

Resolutions

County Engineer *Administrative Assistant Dan Becker presented and reviewed the following resolutions:*

1. Approving Change Order #1 to the contract for T.H. 65, Spieth Road Bridge #34 Replacement Project OPWC Project No. CI30Z/CI31Z between Denes Concrete Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
2. Approving Change Order #1 to the contract for T.H. 78, Kennard Road Bridge No. 22 Replacement Project OPWC #DIAB10 between R&I Construction, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
3. Authorizing the Change Order #1 Final to the contract for the 2024 Friendsville Road Improvement Project OPWC No. DIAA02 between Melway Paving Co., Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
4. Determining the necessity to close Mennonite Road (CH-51) for culvert replacement

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the four resolutions; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

The commissioners reviewed the weekly permits issued May 15–21, 2025.

Sanitary Engineer *Jeremy Sinko* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the Marks Road Water Main Replacement Project
2. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to upgrade the existing blower building at the Plum Creek Maintenance Facility through Equalis Group competitive bidding
3. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Davey Resource Group for professional design services For the Champion Creek Riverbank Restoration Project
4. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for professional design services to assess the treatment processes at the Liverpool Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the four resolutions; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Human Resources *Director Holly Muren* presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners

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

Finance *Director Brett Thomas* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Revenue adjustments for various funds
2. Cash transfers for various funds
3. Cash transfer for Title IV-D reimbursement
4. Authorizing the appropriations of the Sheriff's Office Onset/Unit FY25 Grant
5. Approving an agreement for the Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Grant FY24 for the Medina County Drug Task Force
6. Authorizing the acceptance of the FY25 Recovery Ohio Subgrant Agreement between the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and the Medina County Drug Task Force
7. Authorizing the purchase of 7,000 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
8. Allowing expenses of county officials
9. Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of $712,553.30

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the nine resolutions; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

*County **Administrator** Matt Springer* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Approving a lease with A. Altman Company for office space for the Clerk of Courts Wadsworth Auto Title Office
2. A resolution of the Medina County Board of Commissioners approving the use of virtual meetings by the Revolving Loan Fund Committee pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.221

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. Mrs. Swedyk noted the new location for the Title Office in Wadsworth would be better and the facility would be more visible and easier for residents to use. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Department Updates

Transit Director Shannon Rine provided updates on the Transit department for March:

- Ridership is maintaining an upward trend, partly due to warmer weather.
- There were four trip denials to the outskirts of the county, below the 2024 average of 18.
- The department is working to control costs amid rising fuel prices, labor, and maintenance expenses.
- Senior and Adult Services ridership remains high, while Job and Family Services ridership has evened out.
- The department is exploring alternative ways to improve service to the Amish community in the southern area, including potential phone systems or sign-in sheets at general stores.
- Overall ridership is increasing in most areas compared to previous years.
- The department is looking at purchasing new buses with more flexibility for mobility devices as replacements for aging vehicles.

Commissioner Swedyk inquired about the prevalence of service issues in Homer Twp. or Harrisville Twp., to which Mr. Rine confirmed it was primarily in Homer Twp.

Job and Family Services Director Debbie Kiley presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing an agreement with County Commissioners Association and West Publishing Corporation for Medina County Job and Family Services Child Support Division
2. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for County mandated share
3. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for PCSA administration expenditures

Mrs. Swedyk moved to approve the three resolutions; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Ms. Kiley then provided an in-depth update on Child Protective Services, emphasizing a troubling trend regarding the rising costs for children in foster care, particularly those situated in treatment facilities. She explained that treatment facilities across Ohio have significantly increased their daily rates, with some rates rising by nearly 30% compared to the previous year. Ms. Kiley highlighted that all child protective agencies in Ohio are experiencing this challenge. The daily rate for these facilities often exceeds $500, which only covers room, board, and the cost of services, excluding additional expenses like clothing and educational necessities.

Moreover, the number of children requiring high-acuity care has grown, with 25% of children in care now residing in treatment facilities — a noticeable increase from 13.5% in 2024. She stressed that the financial burden on the department is profound, with costs for 27 children exceeding $350,000 daily. The facilities provide essential care for behavioral health or substance use issues, yet the department struggles with the substantial expenses associated with such care, as Medicaid does not cover room and board.

In response to these rising costs, Ms. Kiley has strategically left two vacancies in the Child Protective Division to assist in absorbing some financial strain. However, she admitted that she can make no further staff reductions given the current workload, as 108 children are presently in care. To address the escalating costs, Ms. Kiley has joined a rate setting committee initiated by the Public Children's Services Association. This committee aims to standardize rates across counties in Ohio and negotiate more equitable pricing with these treatment facilities. The effort is to establish a transparent rate card system that provides clarity on charges and services offered at these facilities.

Ms. Kiley informed the commissioners that on a state level, Governor DeWine has been supportive, with his current budget reflecting attention to Child Protective Services. Discussions are ongoing with federal legislators to maintain crucial funding streams like Title 20 and Social Services Block Grant, which if reduced, could cost the agency over $800,000 annually. She also pointed out the impact of new federal rules requiring facilities to meet higher standards, which partly explains the increased rates as these facilities pass on the costs of complying with elevated standards to counties.

The commissioners engaged with Kiley on the financial implications, recognizing the challenge posed by the limited number of in-county placement options and the necessity for continuous travel to facilities in other parts of Ohio. They discussed potential solutions and encouraged more state-level and federal interventions to moderate these

costs and improve care accessibility for the county's youth. They recognized the rate-setting effort as a positive step towards a more systematic and transparent financial structure for child protective services.

Commissioners Resolution

Commissioner Harrison *presented and reviewed the following resolution:*

1. Approving the appointment of the Local Emergency Planning Committee ("LEPC") for Medina County

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

Public Comment

1. *Nola Lowther, resident of Medina,* urged the commissioners to end or refuse to enter into contracts with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for detaining immigrants in local jails. She cited concerns about family separation, due process, and the impact on community safety and trust.
2. *Kathie Jones, resident of Sharon Twp.,* inquired about any existing contracts between the county and ICE. The commissioners clarified that while there is a federal contract with the U.S. Marshals Service, there are no current contracts with ICE. Ms. Jones expressed opposition to potential ICE contracts, citing concerns about lawsuits, public safety, and community trust.
3. *Pauline Chapman, resident of Montville Twp.,* expressed her concerns about the potential for Medina County to contract with ICE, stating her opposition to such agreements and her desire for the county to maintain its reputation as a friendly community.

With no further business to come before the commissioners, the meeting recessed at 10:02 a.m. and the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at that time.

Discussion Session

Public Hearing

Commissioner Hambley reminded everyone of the public hearing scheduled for the following day at 1 p.m. regarding the development agreement, which is open to the public for input. The meeting will be held at Pulte Group.

Amish Community

Stan Scheetz offered information about contacting the Amish community, suggesting that the main point of contact for decisions is the Bishop. He also mentioned Grace Church and the auction house as potential meeting places, and noted that many Amish now have cell phones in designated areas for business purposes. The commissioners thanked Mr. Scheetz for the information, acknowledging the added difficulty in providing public transit services to rural areas.

Adjournment

Mrs. Swedyk moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Hambley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED MAY 27, 2025

Number	Resolution Title
25-0403	Approving Change Order #1 to the contract for T.H. 65, Spieth Road Bridge #34 Replacement Project OPWC Project No. CI30Z/CI31Z between Denes Concrete Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0404	Approving Change Order #1 to the contract for T.H. 78, Kennard Road Bridge No. 22 Replacement Project OPWC #DIAB10 between R&I Construction, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0405	Authorizing the Change Order #1 Final to the contract for the 2024 Friendsville Road Improvement Project OPWC No. DIAA02 between Melway Paving Co., Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0406	Determining the necessity to close Mennonite Road (CH-51) for culvert replacement
25-0407	Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the Marks Road Water Main Replacement Project
25-0408	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to upgrade the existing blower building at the Plum Creek Maintenance Facility through Equalis Group competitive bidding
25-0409	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Davey Resource Group for professional design services For the Champion Creek Riverbank Restoration Project
25-0410	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Hazen and Sawyer for professional design services to assess the treatment processes at the Liverpool Wastewater Treatment Plant
25-0411	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
25-0412	Revenue adjustments for various funds
25-0413	Cash transfers for various funds
25-0414	Cash transfer for Title IV-D reimbursement
25-0415	Authorizing the appropriations of the Sheriff's Office Onset/Unit FY25 Grant
25-0416	Approving an agreement for the Ohio Drug Law Enforcement Grant FY24 for the Medina County Drug Task Force
25-0417	Authorizing the acceptance of the FY25 Recovery Ohio Subgrant Agreement between the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and the Medina County Drug Task Force
25-0418	Authorizing the purchase of 7,000 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
25-0419	Allowing expenses of county officials
25-0420	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
25-0421	Approving a lease with A. Altman Company for office space for the Clerk of Courts Wadsworth Auto Title Office
25-0422	A resolution of the Medina County Board of Commissioners approving the use of virtual meetings by the Revolving Loan Fund Committee pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.221
25-0423	Authorizing an agreement with County Commissioners Association and West Publishing Corporation for Medina County Job and Family Services Child Support Division
25-0424	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the County General Fund (0010) to the Public Assistance Fund (0120) for county mandated share
25-0425	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from the JFS Children Services Fund (0050) to the JFS Public Assistance Fund (0120) for PCSA Administration expenditures
25-0426	Approving the appointment of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Medina County

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting on this twenty-seventh day of May 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian S. Gallatin
Assistant Clerk of the Board

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Colleen M. Swedyk

Stephen D. Hambley

Aaron M. Harrison