

Commissioner Stephen D. Hambley opened the public hearing at 11:00 a.m. in the Commissioners’ Hearing Room. Commissioner Aaron M. Harrison was also in attendance. Commissioner Colleen M. Swedyk was unable to attend. The purpose of the public hearing was for a levy of a \$5 permissive motor vehicle license tax pursuant to O.R.C. 4504.24 for the purpose of providing additional general operating revenues for planning, construction, improving, maintaining, and repairing public roads, highways, and streets; maintaining and repairing bridges. This is one of two public hearings.

The following people were in attendance:

- County Engineer Andy Conrad

*County Engineer Andy Conrad* explained this is one of four permissive fees the county can enact. This was enacted in 2017 by the State of Ohio. He was not in favor of enacting this right away, but rather enact the tax only when it is needed. The gas tax increase from 2019 is not showing the revenue projections as expected. The highway construction costs from 2022 are showing inflation of 11%. They are projecting 4.6% on average for each year for the five years. There are decent sized projects going on right now. There is a bridge on Friendsville Rd that the superstructure is being replaced at a cost of \$1.1 million. The original estimate was \$650,000, but has increased due to inflation. The \$5 permissive needs to be discussed and has contacted the state. Based on current registrations, the projected revenue increases from \$450,424 to \$922,000. The Highway Engineers office maintains 323 miles of road and 281 bridges. Fenn Rd is 2.4 miles long and the contract price for paving it is \$994,000. Money will need to be saved for future projects. If the \$5 permissive fee is passed, it takes the State a year to start collecting it. If it is to the State in July, it will be collected in July.

Commissioner Harrison inquired if once in place, will this allow the county to keep up with maintenance. Mr. Conrad stated this will be it at the local level. The State of Ohio funds a portion of the bridges and roads through the gas tax and fees. There are groups working at the State level to complete a study of stakeholders of an equitable solution to fund road and bridge maintenance if gas consumption is going down. Commissioner Hambley noted that they are still studying and working on a long-range planning solution with decrease of gas consumption.

Mr. Conrad stated that maintaining infrastructure helps to increase the maximum life and long-range planning helps to facilitate that. If successful in the \$5 permissive fee, this will make the County secure in the long-range planning. There are still material shortages. A bucket truck was estimated to take two years in order to get the parts. There is aging equipment and the long range plan includes these infrastructure items, too.

Public Comment

*None.*

Adjournment

Mr. Harrison moved to adjourn the public hearing; the motion was seconded by Mr. Hambley. There was no discussion. Roll call showed both commissioners voting AYE. The public hearing adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this thirtieth day of May 2023.

Respectfully submitted,	COMMISSIONERS	_____ Stephen D. Hambley
	OF	_____ Aaron M. Harrison
_____ Brian S. Gallatin Assistant Clerk to the Commissioners	MEDINA COUNTY	_____ Colleen M. Swedyk