

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

Commissioner Hambley moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023 commissioners' meeting; Commissioner Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Public Comment regarding pending resolutions

None.

Commendation Presentation

Commissioner Swedyk presented and reviewed a commendation for the Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority's 70th anniversary. Board Chair Scott Miller accepted the commendation on behalf of MMHA noting that the work the Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority has been doing for the last 70 years has been instrumental in what the county is today. He thanked the commissioners for their support.

Mr. Hambley stated he truly appreciates MMHA's board working with the Housing Network and various projects including the work on an emergency shelter. This is something this county has needed for decades. He appreciates the Housing Authority board being willing to step up and take a leadership role in making that happen.

Resolutions

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

1. Determining the necessity to close River Styx Road (C.H. 49) between Greenwich Road (C.H. 97) and Rohrer Road (T.R. 117)
2. Finding that public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of Bridge No. 14 on Sanford Road (T.H. 102) in Harrisville Township, Medina County, Ohio and authorizing the Medina County Engineer to replace said bridge

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

The commissioners reviewed the weekly permits issued July 27-August 2, 2023.

Sanitary Engineer Jeremy Sinko presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the Medina County Sanitary Engineer's Office Renovation Project
2. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to obtain easements for various water main improvement projects

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

Job & Family Services Business Administrator Steve Sikora presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Authorizing an agreement with the Medina County Showbiz Company for Medina County Job & Family Services Child Support Division.

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

Transit Director Shannon Rine presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Approving a contract with Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and the Medina County Commissioners

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

Human Resources Assistant Nicole Lee presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
2. Amending the table of organization for the Medina County Home and Medina County Office for Older Adults

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Harrison 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. Amending the appropriation measure resolution
2. Amending the 2023 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 Medina County Print Shop revenue line item
6. Allowing expenses of county officials
7. Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the Treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of \$859,090.75

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

Department Updates

County Home Superintendent Greg Brown reported that census is currently at 43 with one more being added today and potentially two more later this month. Regarding staffing, he has one full-time third shift position open. They are adding more intermittent aide positions. He reviewed recent events including the Sharon Center concert by Access the Arts, voting, Litchfield Bank performance and the Medina County Fair. Mr. Brown noted that he spoke at the 4-H auction. Donations have been received from CropKing and Holy Martyrs Church.

Soil & Water Conservation District Manager Eric Hange reported that since his last update, his office assisted with 15 technical events including two drainage site visits; one Planning Commission review; three pond permit applications; two pond management visits; one rain garden site assessment; one erosion issue; three landowner I&E's; and two native plant site assessments. The also surveyed a site with the ODA Engineer for a potential grass waterway. Events over the past month included a presentation at Highland Library on soil types and native plants; provided assistance to Save the Lake with their bioreactor monitoring and data collection at Chippewa Lake; receipt of 39 applications for the buy-back program; a presentation at Medina Library regarding Gardening for Wildlife; and the Medina County Fair booth which included an interactive area for kids.

Mr. Hange reported that the Native Plant Sale will take place September 8-9 and the deadline for ordering garden cover crops is September 8. Upcoming presentations include:

- August 19 – Invasive Species Alternatives – Highland Library
- August 24 – Retention Ponds and Health Lawns – Brunswick Library
- August 31 – Soils discussion with the OSU Master Gardeners
- September 14, 20 and October 4 – Leave the Leaves Presentation
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The August Board meeting will take place on the 16th at their office and is open to the public.

ADAMH Board Director Phillip Titterington announced that Alternative Paths will host a ribbon cutting on August 25 at 10:00 a.m. at their new location in Brunswick. Other locations include Medina, Wadsworth and Lodi. August 31 is National Overdose Awareness Day and Hope Recovery will recognize this at the Nazarene Church in Brunswick at 6:30 p.m. that evening. The month of September is National Recovery Month. Hope Recovery will be hosting their annual fundraiser – Ride-4-Recovery-on September 16 at 10:00 a.m. at Radiant Life Church in Wadsworth. September is also National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. The Medina County Suicide Prevention Coalition's annual Step Up to Prevent Suicide Walk is scheduled for October 15 on Medina Square. September 14 is the Human Services Levy renewal kickoff picnic and will be held at VFW Post 5137 from 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

They currently have 44 supportive housing units, but the need exceeds this number. They work with and thank Alternative Paths and other organizations who help wrap around community-based services. The ADAMH Board's Northland property has 11 units which house those who meet the federal definition of homelessness – there is more of a need that what is available.

Mr. Titterington stated that during the last quarter, 5,578 clients were served with 88% being adults. Of those, 34% of the adults and 20% of the youth are receiving psychiatric services. Approximately 58% of the youth are diagnosed with serious emotional disturbances. The newly constructed Youth Resiliency and Counseling Center is up and running. The Human Services Levy is critical as those funds are what has allowed them to expand and create this new center, and it also assists with crisis. During this reporting period, there were 862 engagements through the hotline with 73 individuals verbalizing suicidal thoughts, 27 active rescues that occurred, and 44 referrals made directly from law enforcement. He mentioned that the state budget included "flat funding" which although it wasn't a decrease, it does not include an increase to meet the needs which is why the Human Services Levy is so important. Brief discussion occurred regarding the Stepping Up Initiative.

Commissioners Resolutions

Commissioner Swedyk presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Appointing and reappointing representatives to the Medina County Home Advisory Council

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

Mrs. Swedyk announced that the Solid Waste District will not be accepting household hazardous waste or specialty waste on Wednesday, August 9. These items can be brought in on Saturday, August 12 and then on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays thereafter.

Public Comment

Stan Scheetz, 342 E. Liberty St., Medina, stated that he was pleased when Bill Hutson was elected to be the person for the judgeship, and he is very happy with the appointment of Aaron Harrison. It's delightful to have another younger person involved. He feels that Mr. Harrison is an idealist, and he is a respected attorney. He gave him a six-month grace period before he would be critical, but that has expired. He stated that he expected Mr. Harrison to seize the day and express his opinions more aggressively rather than simply acquiescing as he was learning the process. Mr. Scheetz wished all three commissioners the best, noting that he loves and respects them and stated that they are in a thankless position.

Mr. Scheetz stated that he was very happy with the retirement of Scott Miller, but he is sorry it didn't work out with Amy. He is thrilled that Chris Jakab is back as he brings stability. At times during Mr. Miller's tenure, it was more like "on-the-job training." When he was overseeing the courthouse, Mr. Scheetz felt like Mr. Miller didn't have any construction expertise, although he did a good job overall.

Continuing, Mr. Scheetz noted that he applauded the commissioners for considering the withdrawal from NOACA which is dominated by Cuyahoga County and the urban areas versus our rural area. He's sick of the gerrymandering going on in their redefining these definitions for their purposes rather than ours. He hopes the commissioners will take an aggressive position in not only talking to outside counsel, but possibly talking to other counties such as Wayne, Richland, Ashland – the 71 corridor – because it seems like they could create a 4-6-member coalition that would have much more in common with Medina County where goals and resources could be shared to get things done. He stated that it was frustrating for him when he worked on the bypass for almost ten years. He got all kinds of promises from everyone, but NOACA blocked everything, even when he got resolutions from every single township and city on where it should go. There was still no way to go forward with NOACA's positions.

Mr. Scheetz then stated that he is pleased with the selection of the Executive Director for the Medina County Convention & Visitors Bureau – that is the type of seasoned person most hoteliers were looking for rather than simply a political appointee. He is thrilled she has some connections here with the county, and he's hoping she doesn't run into a circumstance of micromanagement by either the commissioners or the Economic Development. He had been concerned about three appointees that are Chamber members, three appointees are Economic Development directors – he feels like sometimes they can't speak their true mind because they are worried about potential repercussions because they are caught up with budgets and approvals of everything they have to do. He's hoping that she has some independence, and we see some real good things come from this.

Mrs. Swedyk stated that the commissioners have been very much hands-off in the selection of the new person, and she feels the appointees did an excellent job choosing an extraordinarily qualified person. Mr. Hambley stated that he's mindful that the construction of designing the MCCVB – there was a transition period where there were only three of them which was meant to be very short term, and they have established a very good balance within that even geographically which was very important as well as people who would be actively supporting the Executive Director which was missing before. Mrs. Swedyk added that when you have a nine-member board, it's very rare to have everyone be all in on the selection, and from what she's heard, she was by and far a unanimous decision. Mr. Scheetz agreed noting that he was surprised there weren't more applications.

With no further business to come before the Commissioners, the meeting recessed at 10:05 a.m.

Discussion Session

At 10:05 a.m., the Commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Election Day

Commissioner Harrison reminded that today is Election Day and encouraged everyone to vote.

NOACA

Commissioner Swedyk mentioned the \$82,000 invoice from NOACA. Mr. Harrison commended our Finance Department for paying all of our bills that come in, but this is one he is inclined to wait on for now just to see where things fall. He's noticed in past years and as of the beginning of the year, we have been paid in full and not all of the other organizations and municipalities do that. Discussion occurred regarding how other counties breakdown the invoices for payment with Mr. Hambley noting that every county determines for themselves how to split the bill. Mrs. Swedyk stated that she would like to wait a few months because \$82,000 annually is an extraordinary amount of money for our community. Mr. Harrison stated that he's had ongoing discussions with Andy Conrad where he has attempted in points in the past to obtain information about how much federal money comes in on behalf of Medina County, and for whatever reason, we seem to have a difficult time getting answers. Mr. Harrison stated that he circulated a letter he'd like to send to Representative Ray related to some potential state legislative options; Mrs. Swedyk and Mr. Hambley agreed he could send the letter with their signatures. Mr. Harrison suggested vetting 3-4 options including outside legal counsel and legislative options. Mr. Hambley noted the upcoming Climate Action Plan public sessions.

Adjournment

Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AUGUST 8, 2023

<u>Number</u>	<u>Resolution Title</u>
23-0616	Determining the necessity to close River Styx Road (C.H. 49) between Greenwich Road (C.H. 97) and Rohrer Road (T.R. 117)
23-0617	Finding that public convenience and welfare requires the replacement of Bridge No. 14 on Sanford Road (T.H. 102) in Harrisville Township, Medina County, Ohio and authorizing the Medina County Engineer to replace said bridge
23-0618	Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the Medina County Sanitary Engineer’s Office Renovation Project
23-0619	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to obtain easements for various water main improvement projects
23-0620	Authorizing an agreement with the Medina County Showbiz Company for Medina County Job & Family Services Child Support Division.
23-0621	Approving a contract with Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and the Medina County Commissioners
23-0622	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
23-0623	Amending the table of organization for the Medina County Home and Medina County Office for Older Adults
23-0624	Amending the appropriation measure resolution
23-0625	Amending the 2023 appropriations resolution by transferring appropriations
23-0626	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
23-0627	Cash transfers for various funds
23-0628	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Medina County Print Shop revenue line item
23-0629	Allowing expenses of county officials
23-0630	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the Treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
23-0631	Appointing and reappointing representatives to the Medina County Home Advisory Council

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

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