Aaron M. Harrison called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Stephen D. Hambley present; Colleen M. Swedyk was unable to attend. 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 August 19, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting were emailed in advance.

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

Proclamation

Commissioner Harrison then presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Recognizing the month of September as National Recovery Month

He read the proclamation recognizing September as National Recovery Month, highlighting that it is now in its 36th year of celebrating gains made by those in recovery. The proclamation emphasized that National Recovery Month is dedicated to increasing awareness of substance use disorders and honoring people thriving in recovery. It acknowledged the dedication of the Medina County Mental Health and Recovery Board and Hope Recovery Community in providing hope, support, advocacy, and resources to those impacted by substance use.

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

Sammie Wonkovich from Hope Recovery Community, introduced herself as a person in long-term recovery who has not found it necessary to use drugs or alcohol in over 7 years, thanked the commissioners for their investment in recovery and the fight against substance use disorder. She noted that Medina County has transformed from a place where one wouldn't want to find recovery to a community that embraces recovery, expressing pride in being a resident and person in recovery in Medina County.

Phillip Titterington from the Mental Health and Recovery Board added his appreciation, noting that the recovery community has been operating for almost 8 years. He emphasized that people do recover and encouraged anyone curious or in need to visit the recovery community. He thanked the commissioners, the county, his staff, and most importantly, the recovery community for their support.

Public Comment regarding pending resolutions

None.

Resolutions

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

1. Authorizing the change order number 1 final to the contract for the Medina County Pavement Planing and Repair project between Crossroads Asphalt Recycling, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
2. Determining the necessity to close Greenwich Road for culvert replacement
3. Determining the necessity to close Lake Road for culvert replacement
4. Determining the necessity to close Smith Road, C.H. 4, for culvert replacement
5. Approving change order #1 to the contract for C.H. 2 Medina Line Road Bridge #18 Replacement Project OPWC Project No. DIAB11 between Cole Excavating LLC and the Medina County Board of Commissioners

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

The commissioners reviewed the weekly permits issued August 14–27, 2025.

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

1. Declaring the necessity to upgrade the existing electrical infrastructure at the Hinckley WWTP and authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to commence advertising for construction bids
2. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for water main construction inspection services for the Main Drive Water Main Project
3. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for water main construction inspection services for the C.H. 19 Lake Road Realignment, O.P.W.C. Project No. DIAC08
4. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to replace the existing HVAC system at the Liverpool Wastewater Treatment Plant through Equalis Group competitive bidding
5. Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the Village of Chippewa Lake to replace existing sanitary sewer and water mains as part of the village's Brookshore Drive Improvement Project
6. Accepting and awarding the bid for the Garman Road Well Development Project

7. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to request qualifications for professional design services to design and provide construction management services for the Chippewa Road Water Main Replacement Project
8. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Dixon Engineering for professional design services to rehab Windfall Elevated Storage Tank

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

***Job & Family Services** Business Administrator Steven Sikora* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Amending the Prevention, Retention & Contingency Plan (PRC) for Medina County Job and Family Services
2. Authorizing a continued contract between Medina County Job and Family Services and the Dave Thomas Foundation for adoption

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the two resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed both 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

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

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

1. Expenditure adjustments for various funds
2. Revenue adjustments for various funds
3. Authorizing the purchase of 6,600 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
4. Declaring Medina County property as excess property
5. Approving the transfer of Medina County Inventory between various Medina County offices
6. To allow expenses of the County Engineer
7. Allowing expenses of county officials
8. Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims in the amount of $926,672.45

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

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

1. Repealing Resolution No. 19-0413 and adopting the All Hazard and Flood Mitigation Plan as submitted by the Medina County Emergency Management Agency
2. Accepting proposals for the Medina County Jain Inmate Communications System and awarding a contract
3. Authorizing a change order for the Hubbard Valley Radio Tower project
4. Approving the return of a vehicle from Medina County Emergency Management Agency to Perceptics
5. Approving the transfer of a vehicle from Medina County Emergency Management Agency to York Township
6. Approving a memorandum of understanding for the Medina County Mental Health & Recovery Board participation in the Senior and Adult Services programming

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the six resolutions; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion.

Commissioner Harrison noted regarding the tower project change order that $5,000 was the total cost, commenting they "really dodged a bullet on that one." He explained that while no one did anything wrong in how they typically receive property, the issue could have been much worse if concrete had already been poured. Springer explained that just before Speelman started drilling borings for concrete pylons, they discovered a flowage easement recorded in the 1970s belonging to the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. They were able to avoid encroachment, but it required the $5,000 change order.

There was no further discussion. Roll call showed both commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried.

Department Updates

***Planning Services** Director Denise Testa* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the advertisement for bids for the Medina County Program Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant (PY24 CDBG) City of Wadsworth Sidewalk Replacement Project
2. Authorizing change order #1 for the Program Year 2024 (PY24) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded City of Brunswick Street Improvement Project

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

Mrs. Testa then reported the legal notice for the Subdivision Regulations and proposed Development Agreement RFQ was published in the Gazette on August 22nd. Emails were distributed to prospective consultants and contacted the Ohio APA (American Planning Association) to post on their website. As of the meeting date, 14 firms downloaded the RFQ.

She has been continuing her tour of local jurisdictions, having completed 12 of 22 scheduled visits. In September, she will present to Westfield Township, Lafayette Township, Montville Township, and Wadsworth Township. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:30 PM in Balcony Room B. They would review a concept plan in Medina Township for September, and for October, they currently had a text and map amendment, though the day of the meeting was the deadline for submissions.

For the PY24 Community Development Block Grant, the Lodi and Brunswick projects were mostly complete. The Lodi project came in under budget, so she would request a budget amendment to reallocate additional funds. The Wadsworth sidewalk project would begin bidding with a construction completion date of November 30th. If unable to complete by year-end, they would rebid for 2026 as the grant runs through October 2026.

For Fair Housing, they mailed their annual mailing to local jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations last month and had a presentation scheduled for Medina Creative Housing the following week. The Zoning Inspectors Networking Community (ZINC) would meet September 25th to identify townships and villages interested in participating in the zoning notification email proposal from the Building Department. They also discussed creating zoning form templates for both existing and new zoning inspectors.

The Fairgrounds Strategic Plan is progressing with over 770 survey responses received. Focus groups were completed last week through Teams meetings, with the community leaders meeting as the final focus group to complete.

OSU Extension *Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator Ashley Kulhanek* provided the quarterly update. She began with important news about the SNAP Education Program - federal funding had been discontinued as of September 30th. County staff would continue offering programming for the next few weeks until advised to discontinue. For over three decades, SNAP Ed had supported Ohio's communities, reaching more than 250,000 low-income individuals annually through direct nutrition education and another 2 million through innovative community partnerships and the statewide social marketing campaign "Celebrate Your Plate." In Medina County, SNAP Ed had worked with Medina Metropolitan Housing, Head Start programs, and Medina County Senior and Adult Services, among other partners. She thanked all partners for their support and collaboration over the years.

From the Community Development Program, Kyle White had announced plans to retire at the end of October. Until then, she was offering beginning grant writing workshops, presenting for the Ohio Township Association, and presenting on building entrepreneurial-friendly communities at the National Extension Tourism Conference. Commissioner Harrison suggested they might bring Kyle back for a proclamation to acknowledge her retirement.

From Family Consumer Sciences, three Safe Sitter classes were offered over the summer, all filling to capacity. Support continued for couples in the Strong Couples Project, and Erin taught lessons at all three 4-H camps. Looking ahead to fall, two Basics of Canning classes would be hosted at the extension office, with Safe Sitter classes continuing monthly. Erin would also offer Brain's Workout, a brain health program, twice monthly through Soprema Senior Center and would provide Medina City Schools with financial literacy education for elementary students.

From Agriculture and Natural Resources, July's annual Pond School taught 32 pond owners how to manage healthy pond ecosystems. They had just completed their 11-week Certified Naturalist Volunteer Training, with graduates going on to volunteer for conservation organizations. Immediately after, they began the new Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program with 16 new volunteers learning about botany, soils, plant propagation, pests, and pollinators. Master Gardener volunteers had maintained a booth at the Medina County Fair, installed three raised bed gardens there, worked in Medina City Schools providing hands-on classroom activities, and were preparing to host a Gardening with Bulbs workshop on October 11th. They were collaborating with Lorain County to offer a free Berry Production School on September 25th.

On September 26th, they will host their Annual Ag Day event at the fairgrounds for Wadsworth Middle School seventh graders - over 300 students would learn about agricultural careers from 12 community partners. She noted that careers in agriculture extend beyond farming into all four program areas and invited the commissioners to attend.

From 4-H Youth Development, Medina held three successful camps in June: Cloverbud Day Camp for K-2nd grade, Junior Day Camp, and Kelly's Island Overnight Camp for ages 9-14, with 294 total campers and youth counselors. At the Medina County Fair, 1,059 youth exhibitors participated with 4,461 entries in livestock, horse, and dog categories, plus 753 still projects ranging from creative arts and STEM to leadership and healthy living projects.

The commissioners thanked Kyle White and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.

Public Comment

None.

With no further business to come before the commissioners, the meeting recessed at 9:55 a.m. and the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at that time.

Discussion Session

Property Taxes

Commissioner Hambley noted that notices had gone out and that property taxes were the number one topic at the recent commissioners' symposium they attended. This was a historic situation in many communities, with Medina County experiencing historic highs. He had asked Matt Springer to work with the auditor's office to estimate the increase from higher valuations on inside millage, anticipating close to $3.6 million.

Commissioner Hambley explained that Representative David Thomas and others had pointed out opportunities for counties to provide more targeted tax relief. While no counties were using the piggyback homestead exemption (due to technical flaws making it difficult), at least four counties - Delaware, Erie, Geauga, and Summit - had rolled back their inside millage. He questioned whether, as fiscal conservatives, they really needed all of the $3.6 million increase and suggested they consider rolling back some inside millage for next year's bills.

He emphasized they had a short window to take action and suggested that when Commissioner Swedyk returned, they should sit down with Matt Springer and Brett Thomas to examine future expenses. He noted that communication would need to occur with all elected officials and departments they budget for, explaining that any rollback would mean reduced increases and everyone would need to tighten their belts.

John Hunter from the Auditor's office interjected that the counties that had rolled back had the luxury of living a year with the increases first. He wanted to ensure no one got the impression they weren't serious about looking at reductions, but noted it was a moving target as they didn't yet know actual numbers for Medina County. Mr. Hambley stated that the $3.6 million estimate from Kristen Johnson was conservative - it could be higher or lower.

Commissioner Hambley acknowledged that good years pay for bad years but noted this decision could be made year by year. He questioned whether they could level off the increase rather than taking it all in one year. He mentioned that the legislature seemed to want counties to act before collecting the income, and every commissioner he'd spoken with said their legislators were looking to counties and local governments to do their share.

Commissioner Harrison expressed willingness to have the conversation, calling it perfectly appropriate as they should consider options for providing relief. However, he questioned whether aggressive rollbacks by every county would prevent a constitutional amendment or other ballot initiative to "fix" the issue. He worried such measures would be more radical and wide-ranging, leaving them without solutions. While there had been implications from the legislature that "if you don't do this, the voters are going to do it for you," he noted voters might do it anyway. Still, he agreed they owed it to the community to put forth their best efforts.

Mr. Hunter noted that one school district, Cloverleaf, was going to roll back on their own, with others considering it as they had that window. Commissioner Hambley concluded they should have the conversation but needed more definitive numbers and information, reiterating that everyone would need to do their share in these extraordinary times.

Adjournment

Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed both commissioners voting AYE; the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Number	Resolution Title
25-0648	Recognizing the month of September as National Recovery Month
25-0649	Authorizing the change order number 1 final to the contract for the medina County Pavement Planing and Repair project between Crossroads Asphalt Recycling, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0650	Determining the necessity to close Greenwich Road for culvert replacement
25-0651	Determining the necessity to close Lake Road for culvert replacement
25-0652	Determining the necessity to close Smith Road, C.H. 4, for culvert replacement
25-0653	Approving change order #1 to the contract for C.H. 2 Medina Line Road Bridge #18 Replacement Project OPWC Project No. DIAB11 between Cole Excavating LLC and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0654	Declaring the necessity to upgrade the existing electrical infrastructure at the Hinckley WWTP and authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to commence advertising for construction bids
25-0655	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for water main construction inspection services for the Main Drive Water Main Project
25-0656	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Wade Trim, Inc. for water main construction inspection services for the C.H. 19 Lake Road Realignment, O.P.W.C. Project No. DIAC08
25-0657	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to replace the existing HVAC system at the Liverpool Wastewater Treatment Plant through Equalis Group competitive bidding
25-0658	Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the Village of Chippewa Lake to replace existing sanitary sewer and water mains as part of the village's Brookshore Drive Improvement Project
25-0659	Accepting and awarding the bid for the Garman Road Well Development Project
25-0660	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to request qualifications for professional design services to design and provide construction management services for the Chippewa Road Water Main Replacement Project
25-0661	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with Dixon Engineering for professional design services to rehab Windfall Elevated Storage Tank
25-0662	Amending the Prevention, Retention & Contingency Plan (PRC) for Medina County Job and Family Services
25-0663	Authorizing a continued contract between Medina County Job and Family Services and the Dave Thomas Foundation for adoption
25-0664	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
25-0665	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
25-0666	Revenue adjustments for various funds
25-0667	Authorizing the purchase of 6,600 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline for the Engineering Center
25-0668	Declaring Medina County property as excess property
25-0669	Approving the transfer of Medina County Inventory between various Medina County offices
25-0670	To allow expenses of the County Engineer
25-0671	Allowing expenses of county officials
25-0672	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
25-0673	Repealing Resolution No. 19-0413 and adopting the All Hazard and Flood Mitigation Plan as submitted by the Medina County Emergency Management Agency
25-0674	Accepting proposals for the Medina County Jail Inmate Communications System and awarding a contract
25-0675	Authorizing a change order for the Hubbard Valley Radio Tower project
25-0676	Approving the return of a vehicle from Medina County Emergency Management Agency to Perceptics
25-0677	Approving the transfer of a vehicle from Medina County Emergency Management Agency to York Township
25-0678	Approving a memorandum of understanding for the Medina County Mental Health & Recovery Board participation in the Senior and Adult Services programming
25-0679	Authorizing the advertisement for bids for the Medina County Program Year 2024 Community Development Block Grant (PY24 CDBG) City of Wadsworth Sidewalk Replacement Project
25-0680	Authorizing change order #1 for the Program Year 2024 (PY24) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funded City of Brunswick Street Improvement Project

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda J. Beck
Clerk of the Board

COMMISSIONERS

OF

MEDINA COUNTY

Colleen M. Swedyk

Stephen D. Hambley

Aaron M. Harrison