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 September 2, 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.

Public Comment regarding pending resolutions

None.

Resolutions

County Engineer *Andy Conrad* presented and reviewed the following resolutions:

1. Authorizing the change order number 1 final to the contract for the Medina County Highway Facility Employee Parking Lot Overlay Project between Cardinal Asphalt Company, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
2. Approving change order #1 to the contract for MED-CR-2.82 Smith Road Bridge No. 12 (PID 117876) between V.O. Menuez and Son, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners

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.

The commissioners reviewed the weekly permits issued August 28-September 3, 2025.

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

1. Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement between Medina County and the Ohio Water Development Authority for the Garman Road Well Site Development Project
2. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to apply for the replacement/repair of failing septic systems through the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan funds
3. Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with GPD Group for construction inspection services for the Bachtell and Branch Road Water Main Improvement Project

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

Commissioner Harrison inquired about the septic funds, asking if it was something that people petition the Sanitary Engineer's office for. Mr. Sinko clarified that the process goes through the Health Department, and the Sanitary Engineer's office serves as the "bank" for them. Commissioner Harrison suggested it would be beneficial to have the Health Department present more information about this program in the future.

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

Transit *Director Shannon Rine* presented and reviewed the following resolution:

1. Approving the submission of an application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the SFY2027 ODOT Transit Funding Application

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.

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. Cash transfers for various funds
4. Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary fund
5. Creation of a Juvenile Special Docket FY25 Fund and authorizing appropriations
6. Approval of an agreement for a service coordinator between Medina County Family First Council Early Intervention and Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities
7. Approval of a Family Centered Services and Support (FCSS) Grant Agreement between the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Medina County Family First and Children First Council

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 $1,996,504.41

Mr. Hambley moved to approve the nine 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. Allowing employees to service as precinct election officials pursuant to O.R.C. 3501.28(F)
2. Rescinding Resolution No. 23-0654 and approving a Policy Manual for the Medina County Dog Shelter
3. Authorizing the Medina County Land Reutilization Corporation to serve as the lead entity in seeking grant funding through the Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program

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

Commissioner Harrison expressed appreciation to everyone involved in the Dog Shelter Advisory Committee, noting that the policy manual represents an intentional and comprehensive overhaul that provides a good framework moving forward.

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

Department Updates

***Dog Warden** Del Saffle* provided the following updates on Dog Shelter activities from June-September:

- 72 dogs came through the shelter; 7 were pending from before, with the rest being new
- Currently 13 dogs available for adoption
- 28 dogs reclaimed by owners; 31 dogs adopted out; and 7 dogs surrendered by owners
- Average length of stay: 1-4 days for "nice dogs," with some dogs staying for several months
- Some long-term residents were recently placed into rescue
- Volunteers logged over 84 hours in this period, with approximately 200 hours year-to-date

Mr. Saffle also reported that on August 23rd, "Dog Days of Summer" adoption event at the shelter resulted in one dog adopted that day and two more the following Monday. The event included various rescue groups, Paws of Prayers, Kind Paws, Bark and Biscuits, a dog trainer, DJ, face painting, and refreshments. $192 in donations were collected from hot dogs, plus an additional $50 donation. There was a successful "Fill the Truck" donation drive resulted in numerous bags of dog food, treats, blankets, collars, and leashes. He also mentioned a recent donation from BKO Distillery in Medina, which conducts an annual fundraiser and divides donations between the County Shelter and Medina County SPCA, providing a truckload of food, blankets, treats, collars, and leashes.

Mr. Saffle proudly announced that the Medina County Dog Shelter has received national recognition as a "No-Kill Shelter" from Best Friends Animal Society, with a placement rate of 95-99% over the last several years.

Commissioner Harrison mentioned that the County had an RFQ deadline for the new Dog Shelter Facility and that there was interest from individuals wanting to make donations to the project. He had met with Dan Calvin from the Medina County Community Foundation about potentially housing donated funds through the foundation. He suggested inviting Mr. Calvin to a future meeting to discuss this further.

***Facilities** Director Steven Bastean* provided the following updates on County facilities:

Administration Building:

- The RTU at 60 Public Square has been completed with some punch list items remaining
- The elevator has been completed, awaiting stainless steel cladding on the doors and repair of a scratch on one door
- Electrical panel replacement is ongoing with a tentative date of October 13 (Columbus Day) for the work, which will require a total power shutdown
- The chiller has been completed with a few punch list items remaining
- Four standalone HVAC units have faced manufacturing delays due to EPA rule changes for refrigerant, with a ship date of October 15 and installation expected before Thanksgiving
- Wayfinding signage is still being explored, with a lack of response from signage companies
- Exterior doors have all been replaced with new fobs that will be integrated with a new security system
- Fire alarm panel has been upgraded
- Security camera system has been ordered

County Home:

- North wing structural repairs have been completed
- Walls and soffit framing is in progress
- Front porch has been demolished
- Exterior foundation has been exposed and ready for waterproofing

- IT closet has been reestablished and his team is working on the cabling

Engineers Building:

- Working with architects on designs for bathroom entryway and meeting room renovation at 791 W. Smith

Human Service Center:

- Ground floor restroom project has begun with demolition ongoing
- AHU and RTU replacement upgrade is complete with punch list items remaining
- Generator is still awaiting arrival
- Boilers removed from 93 Public Square Courthouse are being installed, with the first one running and maintaining better temperatures
- Elevator modification is still being engineered by Cone Elevator and will begin after ground floor restrooms are completed
- Parking lot entry lighting from Northland and Huntington Roads should begin installation this week
- Jail fire alarm panel has been fully replaced and approved by the fire marshal

Commissioner Harrison expressed appreciation for Mr. Bastean's foresight in finding new uses for equipment, specifically mentioning the repurposing of the boilers from the old courthouse.

Public Comment

Nola Lother, 3425 Forest Lake, Medina, spoke against the commissioners approving local jail contracts with ICE, citing Attorney General Dave Yost's recent authorization that only county commissioners can sign contracts with ICE to indefinitely detain people facing civil immigration charges. She expressed concerns about ICE enforcement practices and the treatment of detainees in facilities.

Mary Emhoff, 5065 Fox Haven, Brunswick Hills, read a resolution opposing Medina County participation in housing immigrants arrested by ICE, citing constitutional concerns, federal vs. local government responsibilities, and community values of fairness and justice.

Kathy Juliano, 171 Granger Rd., Unit 168, Medina, expressed opposition to ICE enforcement tactics and urged local officials to take a stand against what she described as "masked mercenaries" in the community.

Jack Petrilla, 234 W. North Street, Apt. 103-C, Medina has been resident for over 33 years, shared statistics on deportations and ICE detention and expressed concerns about lack of due process for immigrants. He urged commissioners not to allow county jails to be used for ICE incarcerations.

Susan Burkett read a statement from *Kathleen Knox, 900 Smokerise Dr., Medina*, supporting the resolution opposing Medina County participation in housing immigrants arrested by ICE and expressing concerns about ICE operations overreaching their mandate.

Dan Walker, 613 S. Court St., Medina, shared positive experiences working with immigrants throughout his career and expressed concerns about ICE enforcement dividing communities and undermining trust in local law enforcement.

Melissa Clifford, 4310 Breyton Rd., Litchfield, spoke about property tax issues in the Buckeye School District, noting excess revenue and failed levy attempts. She expressed interest in learning more about how the commissioners handle excess funds and requested information about addressing what she described as a "broken property tax system."

With no further business to come before the commissioners, the meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m. and the commissioners began the Discussion Session in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at that time.

Discussion Session

Gas Aggregation Program

Matt Springer introduced Kevin Lauterjung from Community Energy Advisors to provide an update on the county's energy aggregation programs.

Mr. Lauterjung first discussed the natural gas program:

- The program is currently not active, with the previous contract having ended in June 2025
- Previously, about 12,500 residents and small commercial natural gas users were enrolled
- All previous participants are now on the Standard Choice Offer (SCO)
- Market factors affecting pricing include:
- Bearish factors: record high production and ample storage
- Bullish factors: increased electricity demand from data centers, with natural gas accounting for 50% of generation in the PJM region
- Inconsistent national energy policies creating market volatility

Mr. Lauterjung explained that they've been monitoring the market to find favorable pricing and noted that the gap between futures pricing and SCO rates has been narrowing, making it a good time to consider reactivating the

program. He recommended negotiating a 12-month contract to provide price stability without being locked in too long.

Regarding the electric program:

- Currently active until April 2026
- 19,500 accounts enrolled
- Current rate is 6.05 cents per kilowatt hour, compared to the standard utility rate of about 9 cents
- Green energy option has 8% participation, down from over 20% last September
- The program has beaten the standard utility rate for 70% of the time (54 of 76 months)
- Future challenges include significant increases in capacity costs, which have risen 800% due to projected increased demand from data centers

Mr. Lauterjung recommended proceeding with negotiating a new natural gas contract and mentioned that an RFP for the electric program will be issued next week.

Brunswick Waiver Request Hearing Update

Commissioner Harrison announced that a public hearing related to the City of Brunswick waiver request is scheduled for September 16 at 11:00 AM. He outlined the procedure for the hearing:

- The City of Brunswick will present its case in support of the waiver request
- Interested parties will have an opportunity to present
- Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person
- The hearing will be recessed and will reconvene on October 14 at 2:30 PM
- At the October 14 meeting, the district will present its arguments, subject to cross-examination
- No additional public comment is anticipated for the October 14 meeting
- All presenters and commenters will be sworn in
- A court reporter will be present for both dates

Property Taxes

Commissioner Hambley noted that the property tax rollback discussion raised by Melissa Clifford during public comment would be addressed next week when Commissioner Swedyk returns. He mentioned that they would be working with the Finance Director and County Administrator to prepare materials for a public discussion on potential property tax relief.

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 10:45 a.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Number	Resolution Title
25-0681	Authorizing the change order number 1 final to the contract for the Medina County Highway Facility Employee Parking Lot Overlay Project between Cardinal Asphalt Company, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0682	Approving change order #1 to the contract for MED-CR-2.82 Smith Road Bridge No. 12 (PID 117876) between V.O. Menuez and Son, Inc. and the Medina County Board of Commissioners
25-0683	Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement between Medina County and the Ohio Water Development Authority for the Garman Road Well Site Development Project
25-0684	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to apply for the replacement/repair of failing septic systems through the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan funds
25-0685	Authorizing the Sanitary Engineer to enter into an agreement with GPD Group for construction inspection services for the Bachtell and Branch Road Water Main Improvement Project
25-0686	Approving the submission of an application with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the SFY2027 ODOT Transit Funding Application
25-0687	Approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners
25-0688	Expenditure adjustments for various funds
25-0689	Revenue adjustments for various funds
25-0690	Cash transfers for various funds
25-0691	Authorizing the county auditor to transfer funds from various county department accounts to the Gasoline Rotary fund
25-0692	Creation of a Juvenile Special Docket FY25 Fund and authorizing appropriations
25-0693	Approval of an agreement for a service coordinator between Medina County Family First Council Early Intervention and Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities
25-0694	Approval of a Family Centered Services and Support (FCSS) Grant Agreement between the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Medina County Family First and Children First Council
25-0695	Allowing expenses of county officials
25-0696	Allowing claims and authorizing issuance upon the treasurer in settlement of such list of claims
25-0697	Allowing employees to service as precinct election officials pursuant to O.R.C. 3501.28(F)
25-0698	Rescinding Resolution No. 23-0654 and approving a Policy Manual for the Medina County Dog Shelter
25-0699	Authorizing the Medina County Land Reutilization Corporation to serve as the lead entity in seeking grant funding through the Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program
25-0700	Recognizing the month of September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting on this ninth 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