

COMMISSIONERS MEETING, MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2008

Patricia G. Geissman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with Stephen D. Hambley and Sharon A. Ray present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

The oral reading of the minutes of the July 28 Commissioners' meeting were dispensed with as each Commissioner had read them personally. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the Commissioners' meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Doug King, Administrative Assistant in the County Engineer's Office, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) determining the necessity to close various roads to through traffic for chip sealing operations on various days throughout August; (2) to enter into an agreement with the Medina County Fair Board to sell materials pursuant to the authority granted in Section 307.15 of the Ohio Revised Code; (3) accepting and awarding the bid to HSH Construction & Excavating, Inc., Wadsworth, Ohio, for the price of \$100,334.35, for the replacement of Culvert No. 5 on Lester Road (T.H. 56) in York Township; and (4) accepting and awarding the bid for the replacement of Culvert No. 1 on Old Mill Road (T.H. 68) in Spencer Township to Cementech, Inc., Tallmadge, Ohio, for the price of \$39,925. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the four resolutions; the motion was seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Commissioners reviewed the weekly permits list for permits issued July 24-30, 2008.

Scott Miller, Finance Director, presented and reviewed the following resolutions: (1) amending the Annual Appropriation Resolution; (2) approving the submission of an FY 2008 Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Law Enforcement Grants Program application; and (3) approving an agreement for a registered nurse and health and development specialist for the Medina County Family First Council Help Me Grow Program. Mr. Miller requested payment of the weekly bills in the amount of \$565,887.12. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the three finance resolutions and payment of the weekly bills; the motion was seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Gary Berkowitz, Human Resources Director, presented and reviewed a resolution approving personnel changes for the employees under the jurisdiction of the Medina County Commissioners. Mr. Hambley moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Ms. Ray. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all commissioners voting AYE.

Lynn Remington, County Home Superintendent, reported that they had one admission in July so there are 54 residents residing at the County Home and three people in the Adult Day Care. They have been doing a lot of painting and cleaning to prepare for the 'Swine-n-Dine' pig roast to be held on Sunday, August 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Entertainment will be a magician, stagecoach rides, car show, remote-control model airplanes show, etc. The residents have been treated to many picnics this summer; they average about six per month. Kids Care will be taking about 35 residents to an Indians baseball game and buying them dinner. The Friends of the County Home will be taking some residents on the Cuyahoga County Scenic Train Ride this month. There have been many generous donations. A professor from Chippewa Lake who is a photographer has been taking residents pictures all summer. They are looking forward to seeing his photo album. In July, 70 individuals volunteered 375 hours of their time.

Dr. Ross Santamaria, Diversion and Forensic Services Director, presented the May statistics for his department. They closed 64 cases year-to-date for Diversion and ten cases for Forensics. They normally handle about 150-200 cases per year. Fees are up; they normally collect about \$35,000 per year and they have already collected about \$26,000 through May. One problem they are seeing that Judge McIlvaine and Judge Chase are sensitive to is the charge of child endangering. There needs to be more education in the community that people cannot leave children in a car unattended. The classic case that they are seeing more of is usually a young mom that has a lot of responsibility and leaves the little ones in the car. She runs into the store to

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get something and it takes longer than expected. With this weather and even with the windows cracked, there are problems with it being too hot. There was an instance where a child left alone escaped from his car seat, put the car in gear, and ran into a building. The judges will usually charge the moms with child endangering and then counseling is provided about what age is appropriate to leave a child in a car unattended. The charges are usually dismissed after counseling. The office is running smoothly and they are very busy.

Dr. Daniel Raub, Health Department Commissioner, said he and Craig Holcomb, Health Department Business Manager, were at the meeting on behalf of the Medina County Board of Health, to ask the Medina County Commissioners to take positive action on their request for a resolution declaring it necessary to levy a tax in excess of the ten mill limitation. They would like the enacted resolution forwarded to the Board of Elections in order for them to place a 0.27-mill reduction levy on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot.

Mr. Holcomb said the Health Department is funded with two ten-year levies (48% of their 2007 revenue), fees they charge for services, and some small federal and state grants (52% of their 2007 revenue). They try to balance the tax levy base with other income so they are not totally tied to the taxpayer base. Medina County is fortunate to have a combined general health district that includes all of the political subdivisions in the County and they all work together. Other counties have a county health department and each city may have a health department. One of their levies is a 0.7-mill. That is up in 2012 and the other one is a 0.3-mill levy that is up this year. The Health Board is requesting that the Commissioners support this levy with a 0.27-mill levy.

Mr. Holcomb presented information on some of services the Health Department provided for the residents of Medina County last year:

Nursing Division - Their Child and Adult Health Clinics serviced over 3,000 people. They gave about 5,000 flu shots and 3,000 TB tests. Two thousand patients were served at the walk-in clinics. They did home visits for newborn babies, and did health visits to children with chronic diseases and to senior citizens that are not ambulatory. They provided senior citizen health education, youth body mass index checks, 250 lead risk assessments, 6,400 school hearing and vision tests, and 3,800 patients were served by the dental clinic.

Environmental Division - This division protects public health through licensing, inspections, and enforcement of over 20 environmental programs and many are mandated by the State of Ohio. They performed over 8,500 inspections last year. They issued over 1,000 licenses for a food program for all of the restaurants, grocery stores, and other food services (including the Medina County Fair). Each license can require several inspections throughout the year. They issued 1,200 plumbing permits, inspected about 100 pools and spas, 600 sewage systems, 55 schools, and 350 reported rabies bites (12 of those people required shots). They performed about 10,000 larvicide treatments to kill mosquitoes before they are born. They inspected doctor's offices and hospitals for infectious waste. They inspected manufactured-home parks, campgrounds, and jails. They encouraged compliance for the new smoke-free workplace law.

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program - This is a nutrition education program geared toward pregnant women, women who have just had their babies, and toward children age one-day through five-years old. Healthcare referrals and immunization screenings are provided. They serviced 2,085 people with a supplemental food program that provides milk, cereal, juice, eggs, and infant formula. In a three-month period they issued about 22,800 vouchers that will end up being \$400,000 worth of groceries purchased in local grocery stores. In one year's time, that is about \$1.6 million that goes from the WIC Program into the local economy.

Birth and Death Records - They issued about 5,000 birth certificates and about 5,500 death certificates last year. They are highly influenced by the Department of Homeland Security and all the new laws for emergency preparedness to match up a birth with a death so there is no illegal use of someone's identification.

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Health Promotion Vision - These are education programs and emergency preparedness programs. They started the Medical Reserve Corps for disaster volunteers and a new obesity program. The car seat inspection program at the County Fair was very well attended this year. Also, people can call for an appointment and bring their car in to have the car seat inspected on the second Monday of each month. They have trained people to provide instructions.

Mrs. Geissman thanked them for providing the information and invited them to make a quarterly presentation.

Mr. Hambley asked how much the current levy is collecting and Mr. Holcomb said it collects about \$1.1 million. Mr. Hambley asked how much they anticipate collecting on the partial replacement with a reduction. Mr. Holcomb answered that they expect to collect about \$1.4 million with the recent real estate evaluation (about \$27 per year per \$100,000 valuation). Mr. Hambley asked how much the levy represents of their total funding and Mr. Holcomb said about 1/6; they have a \$6.5 million total budget.

Ralph Berry, Republican Chairman of the Board of Elections (BOE), presented and reviewed a handout entitled "Board of Elections Request for 2008 Additional Appropriation". With Mr. Berry were Pam Miller (board member), Jan Pilat (BOE Director), and Bill Mickas (computer expert). The BOE's total request was for \$75,300; the breakdown was \$48,000 for the Salary - Staff Extra Fund, \$3,300 for the Travel Fund, and \$24,000 for the Equipment Fund. He said their usual expenses for a November election are \$23,890 and their original request would have been sufficient to handle that amount. He realizes they needed to make some reductions to that original request in order to balance the County's budget. The \$26,000 the Commissioners funded initially would have met the \$50,000 they requested.

Mr. Berry said the problem they have recently encountered is the absentee ballot issue and a processing expense of \$23,936. The Secretary of State told them that they should expect 30% of the voters to request absentee ballots, which would equate to 30,000 people in Medina County. They have no way to verify that amount, but they must be prepared to handle it. This will require some additional part-time workers and equipment. First, applications need to be verified that the person is a valid voter and then they mail that person a packet. Mrs. Geissman asked how much it costs in postage to mail each packet and Mr. Berry said it costs \$1.34 each, which is paid by the County. Each packet includes a two-page ballot, directions, labels, and two envelopes (one is a secured envelope to place their ballot in and the second one is a return envelope to be mailed or taken to the BOE). Both political parties, on a state basis, will be mailing absentee ballot applications to all of their party members and all of the independent voters. This is justification that there will be more absentee ballots. Workers will need to open two envelopes and segregate the two-page ballot by precinct so that it can be hand-scanned. They are not sure yet when the scanning can begin.

Mr. Hambley asked how the Secretary of State came up with 30,000 for the expected number of people who would be requesting absentee ballots. Pam Miller said they are expecting an 80% voter turnout for this November's Presidential election. This was based on the experience of the increased amount of absentee ballots requested in the elections of 2004 and 2006, both political parties encouraging the absentee ballot voting, and the security issue. Mr. Hambley asked if an obstacle to the absentee ballot voting would be the cost to the voter to send it back. Mr. Berry said they estimated the return cost to be \$1 and they tell them that in the information sheet. People can drop the ballots off or come to the BOE in that 30-day window to vote. The Health Department has permitted the BOE to use their conference room for two weeks prior to the election for the walk-in voters. They can vote electronically or by paper ballot. There were 53,000 people that voted in March and over 100 people asked for paper ballots instead of voting electronically. The Secretary of State directed them to have the same number as 25% of the people that voted in 2004 in paper ballots available at the polls and the County will have to pay about \$17,000 for that this year. The benefit is that at the end of 2009, the County will be reimbursed from the Secretary of State's fund to repay counties for that additional cost.

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Mr. Berry explained that the travel funding request is because they used the funding given to them at the beginning of the year because they sent extra people to training and conferences to find out the status of the Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting system. They were in a “panic” at the beginning of the year because they were not sure if it would be permitted to be used or not. The rumor was that the Secretary of State was going to say that DRE systems were unacceptable in Ohio, but she has recently said she would accept the system. The extra expense to cover the higher gasoline reimbursement is included as well.

Mr. Berry clarified the equipment needs for the November 2008 election. They want to lease 10 touchscreen voting machines and 6 optical scanners and purchase 12 optical scan memory cards, 3 computer workstations with voter registration software, and a ballot-on-demand printer. The printer is necessary to print ballots in the office when needed in case people come to vote before the pre-printed ballot order comes from the printer.

They have received over 60 directives (unfunded mandates) from the State this year; some are automatic and some are new this year. For example, a mandate having to do with polling place security and voting was to create a security form for the voting machines. He commended Bill Mickas for developing security-type forms and chain of evidence forms for the BOE. Mr. Berry broke down and analyzed the request for election supplies and contract services. They have money in another account that they can use to offset these additional costs, but he asked the Finance Director to wait until later in the year to do that. They have looked at ways to cut costs including Commissioner Ray’s suggestion to use high school students to offset some costs, but that is not practical due to the timing. It is money they need to spend. Mrs. Geissman sympathized about the unfunded mandates and said that Commissioners across the State of Ohio are very upset about it. They had Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner at their County Commissioner Association of Ohio (CCAO) Board meeting to try to get some explanations.

Mr. Hambley asked how quickly they were required to report election results to the Secretary of State after the end of an election. Mr. Berry said there is no specific time frame; it is when they get done. Ms. Pilat said they can’t open the ID envelopes until the Secretary of State tells them they can. Ms. Miller said they had permission to do that earlier in the last election and they are hoping Secretary Brunner would permit it even earlier this election. Mr. Berry said the high-speed scanners are about \$65,000, but they cannot justify that cost.

Ms. Ray asked if it is not possible to use high school seniors this election or any election. She would really like to see them get involved in the election process. Ms. Pilat said she had used seniors on Election Day, but the schools do not want to let them miss school for the day and she needs them for the entire day. Brunswick High School does not have school on Election Day and she used some students for greeters in some of the larger polling places. Ms. Ray said she talked to the superintendents from Wadsworth and Medina and they were very excited about the possibility. She explained to them that it might also include the week preceding it. Ms. Pilat said they could use them for the day. Ms. Ray said some schools give credit toward their Civics Class and they wouldn’t get paid. Mrs. Geissman asked if they were mandated to pay them if they wanted to volunteer, and Ms. Pilat said she did not think so. Mr. Berry said it would be perfect if they could work all day on Election Day. Ms. Pilat said if they want to be poll workers there is training in the evening that they could attend. Ms. Ray said perhaps there could be a combination of volunteer work training and payment for being poll workers. She asked if she should pursue it. Mr. Berry said they are in good shape with enough poll workers this election. He feels the Board would support that in the future and they would cooperate in any way they can. Ms. Ray said they could involve them as greeters and in assisting with the computers. Ms. Pilat said Brunswick High School is closed on Election Day and she only had one girl volunteer. If they could have gotten out of school, they probably would have been more than happy to volunteer.

Mr. Hambley asked about the appropriation for machine testing personnel. Mr. Mikas said they test every voting machine one month before the election with a certain process. Mr. Hambley was surprised that 11 people could fit in the small space. Ms. Pilat said they are welcome to come to the BOE and watch and she would provide the date. Mr. Berry said they have a great arrangement with the Health Department, but there is not enough room even if they

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keep the same system in place. Mr. Mikas said if the DRE's need to go, they would be replaced by scanners and they would still need a place to store the scanners.

Mrs. Geissman said there have been many changes and costs since the incident in Florida; hopefully, it will settle down and they will be able to do the same thing all across the State of Ohio. She understands that this must be a very frustrating time for them. The Commissioners feel obligated to do what is necessary for them to do to hold a good election.

Mrs. Geissman presented a certificate of recognition to Matthew J. Kreglow on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts' highest honor.

The Clerk read the resolution to allow the expenses of County officials and another resolution to allow the expenses of the County Engineer. Mr. Hambley moved to approve both expense resolutions and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The meeting was opened for public comment and no one wished to speak.

Mrs. Geissman said that an Executive Session was requested at 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel/appointment. Mr. Hambley moved to allow the Executive Session and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

The meeting recessed at 10:29 a.m.

Discussion Session

The meeting reconvened at 10:32 a.m. for the Discussion Session in the Conference Room.

Ms. Ray said she would continue to explore the possibility of utilizing high school seniors by the Board of Elections if it was fine with the other two Commissioners. She said that the BOE seems somewhat resistant to using them, but if they use them as greeters and they can get Civics Class credit, they could start building on that. Mrs. Geissman said she felt a resistance as well and it may be because they are so overwhelmed with what they have to do that they just don't want one more responsibility. She does not think they are against it; they think it is a good idea. Perhaps she could get it prepared and worked out for next year's election. Ms. Ray said Ms. Pilat said she could use a few greeters and assistance for people with the automatic voting machines so she will pursue that and the others agreed. She is pleased they said it was something they would explore because she thinks it is important for the students.

Mrs. Geissman discussed the Ohio Department of Development grant that the Mayor of Lodi asked the Commissioners to sign by last Monday, August 4. They would not approve it or sign it because there was not enough time to review it. It was a collaborative grant with Rittman and Harrisville Township Trustees and they refused to sign it as well. She said she discovered that the Village of Lodi did not know it was being sent to them and the Mayor has been told by Lodi Council that he cannot do things like that on his own.

Mrs. Geissman said the Commissioners received a letter from Job & Family Services Director Mead Wilkins regarding 2-1-1 and his desire to renegotiate the contract. Mr. Hambley said he, Chris Jakab and Scott Miller have been working with Julie King from United Way. They will study the call history and seeing what other agencies have been benefiting from the service to ask them to participate in the funding of it.

Mr. Hambley said he and Chris Jakab were in Wadsworth last week for a joint meeting with their Office for Older Adults (OOA). They will be having future meetings with them, OOA Director Debra Radecky and the foundation to work out the issues with the congregate meals.

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Mr. Miller reported that he sent the application to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the County to become self-insured if that is what they chose. They are getting estimates on savings and also the possibility of County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA) providing access insurance for Workers' Compensation along with six or seven other counties. The target date to become self-insured would be either October 1, 2008 or January 1, 2009.

Mr. Hambley made a motion that the Commissioners authorized the County Administrator to negotiate, and prepare a contract for their consideration with Silling Associates, Inc. for architectural services for the Medina County Courthouse expansion. Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

Commissioners recessed the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m., the Commissioners went into the Executive Session to discuss personnel/appointment that was voted on earlier.

At 11:15 a.m., Mr. Hambley moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED 8/4/08:

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Resolution Title</u> |
|---------------|---|
| 08-0775 | RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CLAIMS AND AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE UPON THE TREASURER IN SETTLEMENT OF SUCH LIST OF CLAIMS |
| 08-0776 | RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE NECESSITY TO CLOSE VARIOUS ROADS TO THROUGH TRAFFIC FOR CHIP SEALING OPERATIONS ON VARIOUS DAYS THROUGHOUT AUGUST |
| 08-0777 | RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MEDINA COUNTY FAIR BOARD TO SELL MATERIALS PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN 307.15 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE |
| 08-0778 | RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND AWARDED THE BID FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CULVERT NO.5 ON LESTER ROAD (T.H.56) IN YORK TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY ENGINEER |
| 08-0779 | RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND AWARDED THE BID FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CULVERT NO.1 ON OLD MILL ROAD (T.H.68) IN SPENCER TOWNSHIP, MEDINA COUNTY, FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY ENGINEER |
| 08-0780 | RESOLUTION AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION |
| 08-0781 | APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF AN FY2008 DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (DARE) LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION |
| 08-0782 | APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT FOR A REGISTERED NURSE AND HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST FOR THE MEDINA COUNTY FAMILY FIRST COUNCIL HELP ME GROW PROGRAM |
| 08-0783 | RESOLUTION APPROVING PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR THE EMPLOYEES UNDER THE JURSDICTION OF THE MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS |
| 08-0784 | RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS |
| 08-0785 | RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXPENSES OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER |

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this fourth day of August 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSIONERS _____
Patricia G. Geissman

OF _____
Stephen D. Hambley

Pam Vereb, Clerk

MEDINA COUNTY _____
Sharon A. Ray