

COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

Patricia G. Geissman reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. with Stephen D. Hambley and Sharon A. Ray present. The purpose of the public hearing was to review and receive comments on the operating grant for financial assistance for public transportation services in Medina County.

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting. (A sign up sheet is attached.)

Mrs. Geissman opened the meeting to comments.

Scott Uhas, Medina County Transit Director, stated that the purpose of Medina County Transit's application to the State is for State and Federal operating assistance for Transit. It is an application and there are no guarantees of receiving any funds. Mr. Uhas reviewed increases in costs such as diesel fuel, and vehicle maintenance and repairs. He explained that the vehicles are getting older and require more maintenance and repairs. If the State were to grant the funds that were requested, Federal assistance would be about \$985,000, the State allocation would be about \$177,000, and the local cash required would be \$139,000 (not including fare box revenue). Fair box revenue is anticipated to be about \$50,000.

Mr. Uhas said they anticipate that they will need to raise fees in the fourth quarter of 2008. The standard fare structure is based on grids, but he would prefer to have one flat fare instead. Mrs. Geissman asked if the flat fare would increase revenues. Mr. Uhas said it probably would for about 80-85% of the clients and that would help the fare box revenue. He doesn't think the increase would stop anyone from riding the buses though. The reality is that it is expensive to take a cab from one side of the City of Medina to the other. There has not been a fare increase in the three years that he has been the Transit Director. Almost every other system in the State of Ohio has increased fares. Similar to Medina County and in the same region, Geauga County Transit charges \$6 (ADA) and \$8 (general public) per trip. A public hearing would be required and he would provide statistics from other agencies.

Mr. Hambley pointed out that the County would still have subsidized rates for agencies that would not be affected. Mr. Uhas said those rates are contracted rates based on the number of trip miles.

At 11.12 a.m., Mr. Hambley moved to close the public hearing and Ms. Ray seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll call showed all Commissioners voting AYE.

All deliberations concerning official business and formal actions by this Board of Commissioners were conducted in an open public meeting this twenty-ninth day of September 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Vereb, Clerk

COMMISSIONERS _____
Patricia G. Geissman

OF _____
Stephen D. Hambley

MEDINA COUNTY _____
Sharon A. Ray