

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ALLEN COUNTY**  
**COMMISSIONERS**

204 N. Main Street

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Lima, Ohio 45801

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Clerk-Brittany Woods-[bwoods@allencountyohio.com](mailto:bwoods@allencountyohio.com)

Board of Allen County Commissioners will be in session

Tuesday and Thursday and adjourn upon completion of business

| <b>DESCRIPTION</b> | <b>GENERAL SESSION</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>DATE</b>        | <b>May 19, 2026</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>LOCATION</b>    | <b>COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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|                    | <b>PRESENT: Brian Winegardner<br/>Beth Seibert<br/>Cory Noonan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>TIME:</b>       | <b>GENERAL SESSION - RECORDED</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>8:03 a.m.</b>   | <b>Memorial Hall Project Update—Cindy Leis, Dave Stratton, Phil Buell, Rex Huffman, Jeff Harris (virtual), Susan Wildermuth and John Willamowski Jr.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Commissioner Noonan provided an overview on the reporting for the funding received by the State for development plans of Memorial Hall -discussion on need to request for extension due to the full \$10M not being spent by the original due date of June 30<sup>th</sup></b></li><li>• <b>Cindy Leis provided an update on progress of development plans for the Memorial Hall site -Design Firm and CMAR have been hired -Retainers have been paid for Bricker Graydon and Rex Huffman for legal services -Hotel Management/Developer Firm proposals are due June 12<sup>th</sup> and a contract will be awarded by the end of June</b></li><li>• <b>Cindy Leis provided an overview on the expenses to date per the Cooperative Agreement with the county for the use of funding from the State designated for the Memorial Hall site -\$207,812.92 has been spent out of the \$3M allotted through the Cooperative Agreement</b></li><li>• <b>Discussion on requested time extension for the use of \$10M funding provided by the State</b></li></ul> |

**-Port Authority is requesting an extension to June 30, 2028**

- Port Authority will provide documentation to the Commissioners for information requested by the State for the Funding Reporting**
- Port Authority requested to enter into executive session to discuss infrastructure improvements and possible purchase of property from the County**

**Commissioner Noonan made a motion to consider entering into executive session to protect the interests of the Pot Authority or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with an economic development project per 121.22 (G)(8). Motion seconded by Commissioner Seibert. The roll was called and approved unanimously.**

**At 8:38 am, Commissioner Noonan made a motion to enter in executive session per 121. 22 (G)(8) to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance and protect the interests of the Pot Authority or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with an economic development project per 121.22 (G)(8). Those that will remain in executive session in addition to the Commissioners include, Cindy Leis, Dave Stratton, Rex Huffman, Phil Buell, Jeff Harris (virtual), Susan Wildermuth and John Willamowski Jr. Motion seconded by Commissioner Seibert. The roll was called and approved unanimously.**

**Back in general session at 9:46 a.m.**

- Discussion was had in regards to the parking lot on the West side of Children Services**
  - attorneys will work on drafting an Access Agreement to complete a Phase 1 on said parking lot**
  - once all parties are in agreeance, the agreement will be placed on the agenda for approval**

**9:47 a.m.**

**RECESS**

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| <p><b>10:05 a.m.</b></p> | <p><b>Staff Update/County Projects Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Board of Elections staff present—Beth Harnishfeger, Morgan Bode and Mark Vernik</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Discussion on Poll Pad Grant Agreement for up to 85% of funding up to \$4,232.75 toward electronic poll pads</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-current poll pads are coming to their end of life and will need to be replaced by next presidential election</li> <li>-these grant funds can cover the cost of approximately 15 replacements out of the 100 needed</li> <li>-the remainder poll pads will be reviewed as a Capital purchase at a later date</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Discussion on funds to be received through buyback of old units</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-amount has not been determined yet</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Commissioners are in agreeance with entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Elections and Ohio Secretary of State to receive funding in the amount of 85% reimbursement up to \$4,232.75 from the Ohio Secretary of State towards the purchase of 15 poll pads</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Board of Elections staff left the meeting</b></p> <p><b>John Willamowski Jr.—</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Continuing to work on Bath Deputy Services Agreement</b></li> <li>• <b>Will be working on drafting an Access Agreement with the Port Authority attorneys for the Children Services West parking lot</b></li> <li>• <b>Discussion on Employee Dishonesty Coverage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-John Willamowski Jr. is continuing to research</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Discussion on the creation of a policy for Property Use requests for county property</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-currently the county has a permit form for individuals to provide to the Commissioners for review to approve or not</li> <li>-a policy will need to be drafted to outline property use guidance—Sofia Clifton will reach out to CORSA to determine if they have any examples</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

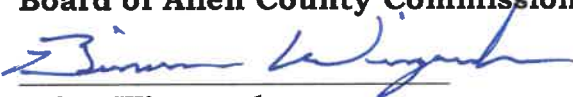
**Britany Woods—**

- **Underground Storage Tank Annual Certification renewal has been sent to the County Engineer for review for payment**  
**-no response has been received from the County Engineer at this time**
- **Discussion on dedication plaque for the Government Center Building**  
**-Commissioners are not in favor of purchasing a dedication plaque, however if the Contractor(s) wish to provide one, the Commissioners are not opposed but would like to review prior to placement**  
**-the possible second plaque of the ten commandments is not desired**

**Susan Wildermuth—**

- **Group Retro refund from BWC will be received in the amount of \$64,303.00**
- **Discussion on Soil and Water Conservation District vehicles and MVR's for their employees**  
**-Commissioners believe they need to require at minimum what the county requires, as the county would most likely be named in any claim that occurs**
- **Provided an update on CORSA claim at the Sheriff's Office**  
**-damage was under the \$5,000.00 deductible but was submitted to CORSA and BWC**  
**-no injuries were reported**
- **Wellness 2026 ends at the end of June**  
**-working with Melissa Bodey on creating a Wellness Survey to provide to employees for input**  
**-Depart Heads/Elected Officials have been sent an email notifying them that a survey will be sent out soon**
- **Provided an update on BWC claims**
- **Discussion on open seat of WOCAP Board**  
**-Georgiana Saffle has requested to be replaced on the Board, as she is resigning**  
**-Commissioner Sibert is working on finding a replacement**
- **Discussion on Mental Health and Recovery Services Board members**  
**reappointments/appointments due to term limits**
- **Discussion on Enterprise billing**  
**-credit of approximately \$10,000.00**

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Commissioners would like the credit to be used toward the next vehicle purchase</li> <li>-Discussion on the necessity of a vehicle for the Coroner—will further discuss</li> <li>• Review of Indirect Costs from Maximus and Memorandum Billing for 2026</li> <li>-review of what has been paid in 2024 and 2025</li> <li>-Commissioners asked Susan Wildermuth to send out to Departments for review and payment</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:16 a.m. | RECESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2:00 p.m.  | <p>Miner-French Ditch View—Amanda Township House, 690 South Conant Road, Spencerville, Ohio 45887</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nathan Davis provided copies of the watershed map and introductions</li> <li>• Provided an overview on the petitioned ditch process and ORC 6131 and 6137</li> <li>• Provided an overview on watershed map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-watershed contains 362 acres/53 parcels</li> <li>-project was originally constructed in the 1880s and was re-petitioned in 1937 for new tile work by M.V. Wittling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provided an overview of proposed scope of project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-tile replacement and clearing of trees and brush</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review of pictures showing current issues in the project area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-visual of where holes are located in the current tile</li> <li>-flooding on French and Miner properties</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provided an overview on amendment process if anyone would like to make any changes to the proposed project</li> </ul> <p>Public Comment was heard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judy Klingler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-shared concerns on being considered part of the watershed due to their property being in multiple watersheds</li> <li>-Nathan Davis will review where the property water drains</li> </ul> </li> <li>• John Klingler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-discussed concerns on additional broken tile and asked for clarification on the watershed boundaries</li> <li>-Joe Gearing stated the broken tile of concern is outside of the proposed project</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

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|                  | <p>-discussion on how assessment amount is determined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Albert Epps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-asked for clarification on how his property drains into the project</li> <li>-Nathan Davis will review and further discuss with Mr. Epps</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Don French (Petitioner)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-asked for proposed tile size for the project</li> <li>-Nathan Davis stated he believes a 24-inch tile will be used, but that will be determined through engineering and design of the project, if it is moved forward</li> <li>-Commissioner Noonan asked if the petitioner would consider an open ditch, and Mr. French stated that he is not interested in an open ditch</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Dorothy Miner (Petitioner)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-provided an overview on septic tank issues and reasoning for being part of petitioning for the project</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Janey McBride</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-asked how waterflow for drainage is determined</li> <li>-Nathan Davis provided an overview on how topography maps are used to determine</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Commissioner Noonan discussed the option of the property owners working together to have the project completed with a private contractor and placed on Ditch Maintenance rather than go through the petitioned ditch process</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>2:39 p.m.</b> | <b>ADJOURN</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                  | <p>Submitted by: <u></u><br/>Brittany N. Woods, Clerk</p> <p>Approved by: <b>Board of Allen County Commissioners</b></p> <p><u></u><br/>Brian Winegardner</p> <p><u></u><br/>Beth Seibert</p> <p><u></u><br/>Cory Noonan</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |