

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

204 N. Main Street

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Lima, Ohio 45801

**Phone: 419-228-3700, Ext 8725 Fax: 419-224-0183**

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>July 7, 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>8:00 a.m.</b>   | <b>Springhill Drive Duck Pond Discussion—Joe Gearing,<br/>Nathan Davis, Linda Lamb and Tom Richie</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Current issue is the height of the<br/>overflow/spillway</b></li><li>• <b>Review of project history and Joe Gearing<br/>provided photos of the different heights and risers<br/>for the spillway over the years</b></li><li>• <b>Linda Lamb stated she prefers the higher water<br/>level, as the debris is minimal and is able to<br/>maintain chemicals in the pond with no algae on<br/>the pond</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-when the water level is lower, there is algae<br/>accumulation</li><li>-would like to maintain how the current setup is<br/>with no window on the riser, as there are no<br/>issues and Linda Lamb and Tom Richie will<br/>continue to maintain removal of any debris</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Joe Gearing stated the Engineer's Office would<br/>prefer to remove the riser, as it would allow more<br/>free-boarding</b></li><li>• <b>Commissioner Noonan recapped the previous<br/>meeting held in 2019 that it was stated that there<br/>was to be no riser on the drain</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-there has been no change that would require a<br/>riser based on measurements that have been<br/>taken</li></ul></li></ul> |

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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joe Gearing and Nathan Davis described why it is their recommendation to maintain the level as stated in 2019 without a riser for the safety of water levels in the event of a large storm</li> <li>• Discussion on the option of removing the pond from maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the property owners can request such, however it will have to meet criteria dictated by the Ohio Revised Code and determines it is for the betterment of the watershed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Seibert provided an overview of the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and that the Commissioners must ensure the drainage is working properly per the design of the original project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the project was designed to accept water and allow free board for large storms/flooding</li> <li>-allowing an additional 4 inches of water in the pond with the riser, does not allow room for excess water for large storms/flooding and could cause damage to infrastructure and private property</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion on potentially dredging the pond to create additional volume and freeboard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-water level would need to be lowered to be a betterment to the watershed</li> <li>-Land owners do not want to lose area of the pond are not interested in the option of dredging</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Based on the Drainage Engineer's recommendation, the Commissioners agree to maintain the design of the original project, with no riser being placed in the pond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-if any additional information is determined, it should be brought to the Commissioners attention</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 9:17 a.m. | RECESS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9:28 a.m. | <p>Staff Update/County Projects Discussion</p> <p>Jason Patchet—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on interior signing for the Government Center Building Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-review of the ADA contrast guide provided by Rowmark</li> <li>-Commissioners decided on Driftwood with White lettering</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**Sofia Clifton—**

- **Received communication from Sedgwick recommending settlements for three (3) BWC claims at the Sheriff's Office as these claims are causing increase to the county's premium -settlements would come from the State BWC funds, not the county's**
  - Kurt Kaufman is reviewing the proposed settlements at this time, Sofia Clifton will provide his thoughts once review is complete**
- **Discussion on death during an event at the Fairgrounds**
  - claim will be submitted to CORSA as a notification, in case the county is named in any lawsuits**
  - the Fairgrounds will be submitting claim to their General Liability Insurance Company**
  - will confirm if the promotor or individual participant hold liability insurance for the event**
- **Wellness 2027 has begun**
  - changes to the program will be sent out once all requirements are determined**
  - Delta Dental and VSP will be providing a list of preventative care visits employees attend for Wellness credit**
  - discussion on how Sheriff's Union individuals will be handled moving forward, as now they receive the Wellness rate but are not required to complete the program**
- **Looking into information on potentially utilizing ONU Healthwise Van for providing employee bloodwork for Wellness**
  - Commissioner Noonan believes that this could deter employees from a relationship with their primary care physician but is open to Sofia Clifton obtaining information to review**
- **Webb Insurance communicated with Sofia Clifton that a Lift Station had been listed twice for coverage**
  - coverage is listed at \$321,000.00 per when it was built in 1977 but Sanitary Engineer has stated that it will need to be increased to \$500,000.00 with contents being covered at \$50,000.00**
  - there will not be any premium adjustments**

**Brittany Woods—**

- **Amy Hoffman, Palmer Energy Company, has asked for a Commissioner to complete a form to submit to AEP to release data which is required for the next RFP**
  - Commissioners authorize Cory Noonan, President of the Board, to sign said document on behalf of the Board
- **Received a petition for a partial road vacation of Seriff Drive**
  - there will be a resolution on Thursday's agenda to set a date and time for the View and Hearing, as well as a resolution to instruct the County Engineer to provide a Report of the County Engineer related to the petitioned partial road vacation
- **Provided an update on records request form Cory Parent**
  - all records requested that are held within the Commissioners Office have been provided
  - John Willamowski Jr. is working with the Sanitary Engineering Department to provide remaining requested records

**Susan Wildermuth—**

- **Maximus has begun annual reporting for 2025 for use in 2027 Cost Allocation plans**
- **Discussion on Records Request received by Julie Shellhammer from the City of Lima**
  - John Willamowski Jr. will review records prior to them being sent to the city
- **Budget packet was provided to the Commissioners for tomorrows meeting**

**Brian Winegarder—**

- **Discussion on Bath Township Deputy services Agreement in relation to the new cruiser being purchased by Bath Township**
  - paperwork had been delivered to the Commissioners Office, however all the paperwork needs to be done in Bath Township's name
  - Brian Winegardner will be delivering paperwork to Bath Township for them to return to Reinke for correction

**Beth Seibert—**

- **Received a request from Michael McVett, City of Lima, for a letter of support/consideration to the Office of Department of Development for Round 2 of their Opportunity Zone for proposed development**
  - Commissioners would like further information on how the tax credits work and if the schools are affected by such
  - Commissioner Seibert will get more information and provide the feedback to the Commissioners
- **Received communication from Tyler Black, Parks District regarding controlled hunting on their property**
  - requesting the Commissioners to consider controlled hunting on the County Farm property
  - Commissioners are not in favor of allowing individuals to hunt on said property
  - Commissioners are in favor of potentially hosting an organization hold a hunting event like Hunting with Heroes
- **Discussion on blinds for the Government Center Building**
  - will discuss with Jason Patchet on an update on ordering of blinds for the first floor
- **Discussion on next steps for securing a moving company for departments from the Courthouse to the Government Center**
  - will further discuss with Jason Patchet on obtaining quotes for such
- **Discussion on Stormwater Assessment for the Government Center Building Project**
  - City of Lima has notified the county that there will be an increase in 20206 on property taxes for Stormwater Assessment
  - there is an opportunity for an up to 50% credit in the Stormwater Assessment
  - Beth Seibert has requested necessary information from WDC Group to provide to the City of Lima
- **Provided an update on RFQ review for the Courthouse Renovation Project**
  - 14 RFQ's were received
  - Committee has reviewed all of the RFQ's
  - interviews will be completed with the top 3 firms with a potential to interview the top 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> as well if necessary

**10:43 a.m.**

**RECESS**

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| <p><b>1:06 p.m.</b></p> | <p><b>Bid Opening—EOD Response Vehicle</b></p> <p><b>Bids Received:</b></p> <p>Gerling &amp; Associates      \$339,243.00    Alternate HVAC \$2,650.00</p> <p>LDV, Inc.                      \$345,010.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jared Gesler stated the State/Federal Government request three (3) bids for review</li> <li>• Project will be rebid—if three (3) bids are not received at that point, an award can be made based on bids received</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>1:10 p.m.</b></p> | <p><b>RECESS</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>1:30 p.m.</b></p> | <p><b>Fairgrounds Mid-Year Update—Troy Elwer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided an update on sponsorship for Gospel Tent Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-donation has been received by the Ag Society in the amount of \$153,000.00 for a 60'x100' shelter house</li> <li>-project will go out for bid, but funds should cover the total project costs</li> <li>-Ag Society will have access to rent the space outside of the week of the Fair</li> <li>-construction should begin after Max's yearly event and will be operational by the 2027 Fair</li> <li>-discussion on naming rights—name will be brought to the Commissioners prior to final determination</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion on Waterline Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Phase 2 was completed within the last couple of weeks</li> <li>-contractor did find several leaks while completing Phase 2</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Received invoice for Phase 2 Waterline Project in the amount of \$43,500.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ag Society will make payment, and Susan Wildermuth will provide reimbursement</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provided an update on smaller projects being completed on the fairgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-minor restroom renovations to replace current water heaters in two (2) of the facilities</li> <li>-electrical upgrades in the campground area</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provided an update on the Farm Bureau Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-construction is moving along</li> <li>-should be open and operational by this years Fair</li> <li>-once project is completed, an appraisal will need to be completed for the building to be added to insurance</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

- **Discussion on potential Administration/OSU Extension Building**
  - Troy Elwer proposed a different location off of 309 for said structure that originally proposed location
  - this location would have easier access to utilities, where the originally proposed location would be difficult to obtain access to the sewer
  - general discussion on potential locations for placement of structure
  - Troy Elwer will continue discuss options with the Fair Board on their interest in being part of the building as well as the location and will look into putting out an RFP/RFQ for a Design Firm to begin moving forward
- **Discussion on unfortunate accident at the fairgrounds that resulted in a death**
  - investigations of the accident are ongoing and all necessary insurance claims have been made by the Fair Board and County

**2:31 p.m.**

**ADJOURN**

**Submitted by:**

Brittany N. Woods, Clerk

**Approved by: Board of Allen County Commissioners**

  
Brian Winegardner

**Brian Winegardner**

Beth Seibert  
Beth Seibert

## Beth Seibert

## Cory Noonan