

June 12, 2025

MINUTES

All Commissioners were present. Staff and Commissioners recited the pledge at 9:00. Purchase orders and bills were reviewed and signed. Pending issues were discussed with the following resolutions approved and signed:

V113-350 Minutes of June 10, 2025:
1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V114-01 Bills
1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
V114-02 Additional Appropriation
1st-Sherman 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
V114-03 Transfer of Funds
1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
Signed: Closing Documents for EPA Letter of Credit from Middlefield Bank
1st-Striker 2nd-Sherman Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes

Commissioner Sherman moved to approve the proposal from iTech solutions for CBTS Harmony email security for a total of \$5,228.00 to come from A001-A17. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes. **V114-04**

Dionne Staley Interim Health Commissioner and Fiscal Officer for Kenton Hardin Health Department-Vital stats are trending up, if we keep trending this way we will meet more than the projected \$35,000 in revenue. Our BCMH (Bureau for children with medical handicaps) funds went to our general fund. This was per the recommendation of the health commissioner we worked with. When we hire a DON one of their responsibilities will be the BCMH fund. January, we had to advance \$10,000 to our food service fund. We don't receive our fees until March/April. Expenses- salaries are still under. We are advertising for a health clerk and a DON. Dionne has done a projection for salaries for the end of the year with potential new hires. Trying to figure out if we would be lower than the budget. DON no luck with getting interviews. Dionne has advertised with Indeed. When we state the starting amount, it is a hindrance. We are working with ODH to figure out how much revenue we could increase and look at our actual expenses and what we could afford not only this year but the following years. Commissioner Sherman- why are we advertising for the health clerk when we have to have a DON to get all the grants and funding? Commissioner Rush- my understanding was that having a DON helped generate more grant money. Dionne- I do have a message out to the financial committee so we can meet and discuss finances for a DON. Commissioner Rush- did you investigate the wage scale when you put the numbers together in March? The finance committee will take it to the board of health and see what they suggest doing. The DON position in January we had some interest, I sent more messages to the people who applied then. The position is 35.5 hours- we work until 230 on Fridays and 30 min unpaid lunch, so it's a 7.5-hour workday. No evenings, weekends, except for a meeting here and there. We don't do vaccines on weekends. They get holidays off. Commissioner Sherman- Have you considered what non-monetary items are good incentives for employees? Dionne- I will be addressing that with the finance committee. Commissioner Rush- what does Wyandot county do? Dionne- I'm not sure, I can ask them. Commissioner Rush- they are very comparable to us. Commissioner Sherman- Hiring a DON is more important than a clerk right now. Commissioner Rush- how is everything else over there? Dionne- it's going well. Slowing down as we get into summer. We have our audits done for 2023/2024 and it was a clean audit. I will bring the letter next month and it will be in my agenda for the board of health meeting. Commissioner Sherman- we appreciate everything you do, and this report is good. Commissioner Rush- how many employees do you have currently? Dionne- we have 6 as of now, last January we had 13. We're about at half.

Hardin County Engineer Luke Underwood- Dola Hardin Northern School. Wessler engineering is working on designing a lift station for Hardin Northern. They have a package plant similar to what we have now. they called and asked about the likely hood of Dola needing sanitary. EPA has been corresponding about areas in Hardin county that needs looked

at. Dola is one. Wessler engineering asked what the likelihood of Dola hooking up to Dunkirk. If so, when they design for Hardin northern, they have to do the design to include Dola. The problem is who would pay the extra. They want to start surveying Hardin northern on the 23rd of this month. The county would pay the difference. Commissioner Sherman- would we assess it? Luke- not until it was connected. 2 options we can do nothing let Hardin northern connect or wait until the EPA tells us the county has to make it happen. Wessler wants an answer next week to see if they need to survey. Commissioner Striker- anyone in Dola know about this? Luke- not exactly but there are issues there. We had a meeting years ago to let them know it would probably go this way. It's not anything that will be soon, but it is coming. Commissioners will discuss it and get back with Luke before next week. About 50 homes that would have to be added. EPA wants to include as many villages as they can, so they have less facilities to inspect. Commissioners want to know what Hardin northern portion is and what the extra looks like. Ben from Wessler is working on Hardin northern. The cost of lift station will be included in the numbers but also break that out so we can estimate what it will be to add Dola. Commissioner Striker- if they build it for Dola but they don't do it does it hurt to have a bigger system? Luke – no it just won't run as often.

Ohio State Representative Jim Hoops- We are very busy working on a budget every two years is the budget process, which is about a 5 or 6 step process. The Governor presents it, House makes changes, then goes to Senate. Senate did that yesterday and it came back to the House, and we didn't agree so now it goes to a conference committee. We are going to step number four. The budget itself when it left the House was 4000 pages and left the senate at 5000 pages. About a 150000-line items. You have general fund money, then fees, then federal money involved too. One of the big issues with federal is dealing with the Medicaid expansion issue. If the federal government doesn't do it, we are not going to continue with it as well. We are looking at things to generate more revenue. Gaming issues, internet gaming, the budget is to educate, medicate, and incarcerate. I was a County auditor in Henry County, then became a state legislature for 8 years, got out for 12 years, and then came back. I know there will be a budget that passes, and I will make sure it is the best it possibly can be for the state. When there are 5000 pages, there is going to be things that are not agreed on 100%, that is not possible. When you have 99 people in the house and 33 in the senate there are a lot of different ideas out there. Property taxes are the biggest issue for people. The law requires that the county auditor have a tri annual update. Or they do a reappraisal and look at the property. So, every three years we have changes. Department of tax has to give approval. In the past, back in the 70's you had 920. Values skyrocketed millage equals the money you will receive. If the value increases the taxes are going to skyrocket. If it increases by 20 then taxes by 20. 920- as values went up the millage went down so you still receive the same amount of money. Let's say the school voted 25 mil. So, as the values go up the millage goes to 24 mil. Then in three years value went up and mil went down. Value went up and millage didn't get lower because they are at the 20mil floor. That is why you saw such an increase because millage didn't change. People have voted on this. We are trying to figure out how to deal with that issue. the inside millage does not apply to the 920. Bond issues. With the budget that came in we're looking HB335. There are groups that want to put an issue on the ballot to eliminate property tax. If we want to do all this over here, what services do we want to get rid of? We have a balanced budget and if you remove taxes you will have to remove services. You are dealing with nursing homes, hospitals, law enforcement issues, mental health issues. With this ballot issue we are trying to figure out how to stop the movement by doing something. I'm one of 99. I feel like we could overreact too. I would like to see where the 920 could also be applied to inside millage. You will not get a big increase over here because the millage will be lower. I believe in local control. This bill will redirect the taxes, instead of property taxes. We didn't do anything about the townships. Another part of the bill gives clarity on what the budget commission can do. This is a very diversified state. Homestead is another part of it but enacted at the local level. You guys would determine what homestead would be like. This is based on income and age. It is an actual bill but something that can be thrown into the budget. Another issue is that the Coroner needs to be elected again. I supported the budget knowing that there is opportunity to change it along the way. The housing trust fund – there is a lot of frustration because we don't know where that money is going. We did find out this would hurt rural counties. The state now says they want to keep it the same. Commissioner Striker- if they do away with property tax can we do sales tax? Jim- yes. Commissioner Rush- we are proud that our county is one that is not in debt. The loss of revenue is a challenge. Jim- what

do the constituents want? Commissioner Rush- the state could do a 1% sales tax.
Commissioner Sherman- what do you do when a county goes under? Put a for sale sign in the front yard? There are ways to keep our taxes down. To go in and slice 20% of budget isn't fair. Commissioner Rush- we have a lot of green energy doing PILOT programs. What happens to the PILOT programs? Jim- that hasn't been brought up as a discussion point yet. If it was done right and people want it, the people who have it can be a big benefit.
Commissioner Striker- if PILOT goes away but township is exempt do they get all the money? Jim-We would have to clarify in the law. We are very interested in PILOT scenario. Those are all the unintended consequences when dealing with an issue this large. I appreciate what you guys do. You run efficiently and keep the taxes down. You make sure to keep expenses down. Commissioner Rush- our predecessors did a lot of work. Jim- thank you all for your time.

Roll call resulted as follows:

_____, YES/NO
President of the Board-Fred M. Rush

_____, YES/NO
Joseph C. Sherman

_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest _____
Clerk of the Board

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