May 28, 2026

MINUTES

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:

V115-294 Minutes of May 26, 2026:
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
V115-295 Release of funds JFS
1st-Striker 2nd-Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
V115-296 Resignation – J. Lowden JFS
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Striker-yes, Sherman-yes, Rush-yes
V115-297 Bills
1st-Striker 2nd-Rush Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes
V115-298 New Hire JFS Fellowship Program
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
Signed: Temporary Permit Tenancy Form- upcoming concert series
1st-Rush 2nd-Striker Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
Title IV-E JFS Skyfall Residential Homes
1st-Striker 2nd-Rush Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
Commissioner Sherman e-signed the new Perry Pro Tech agreements.

Commissioner Sherman attended the Museum Board meeting last night.
Commissioner Rush attended the Health Board Meeting Tuesday night.
Commissioner Striker updated that the Toy Factory Historical Marker is complete and has been put back on its pole.

City Updates – Lynn & Cindy

- **Columbus Street Sidewalk Project**
  - Project began June 6 and is expected to take approximately 4–6 weeks.
  - Pavement work is nearing completion; striping still needs to be done.
  - Timeline for striping contractors is currently unknown.
- **Phase 2B Project Planning**
  - Bidding expected in late fall.
  - Scope includes:
    - Franklin Street (Wayne to Leighton)
    - Columbus Street to Leighton
  - Plans include full water line replacement.
  - A current dead-end near the Mouse House will be eliminated.
- **Railroad Coordination**
  - Project is currently awaiting inspection by CSX.
- **Funding**
  - Grant funding has been secured for both water and sewer improvements.
- **Contractor Performance**
  - Positive feedback from Commissioner Sherman regarding blacktop contractor performance.
- **Street Lighting**
  - Streetlights have reportedly shipped and are expected to be installed soon.
- **Twirl Parking Lot**
  - The County owns the lot and the City performs maintenance.
  - Installation of utility boxes is planned.
  - An easement agreement will be completed.
  - Boxes will be installed on concrete pads (not ground boxes).
- **City Engagement**
  - Hosted 4th grade classes for a mock City Council meeting.
  - Students asked thoughtful and engaging questions.
- **Rite Aid Building**
  - Building has been purchased by a developer.

- Plan is to renovate and lease the space.
- **Tree Plantings**
  - Trees are surviving overall, though some appear stressed.
- **Drop Lot Use**
  - Will be used for Phase 2B construction.
  - Will be restored to grass after project completion.

Health Department Update – Dionne Staley & Bia Evans

- **Staffing Issues**
  - Three resignations received within the past week.
  - Only one environmental health specialist (Shane) remains.
  - Approximately 300+ food inspections are required annually.
- **Immediate Concerns**
  - Maintaining required food inspection program coverage.
  - Risk of not meeting State of Ohio requirements.
- **Potential Solutions**
  - Exploring contracted staffing through:
    - Ohio Public Health Association
    - Logan County
    - Union County
  - Reaching out to former employees for possible return.
- **Hiring Efforts**
  - Actively seeking qualified candidates.
  - Salary limitations may impact recruitment.
  - New hire would need to cover all environmental health duties.
- **Financial Overview**
  - Food program: ~$29,000
  - Year-to-date revenue: ~$45,000
  - Approximately 95% of revenue is typically received by this time.
- **Inspection Expectations**
  - Standard inspections:
    - Restaurants: Twice per year
    - Fast food establishments: 3–4 times per year
  - Additional inspections occur with complaints.
- **Workload & Staffing**
  - Former staff member (Derek) worked approximately 25–30 hours/week on food inspections.
  - Total recorded hours: 35.5 (most recent reporting period).
- **Programs & Funding**
  - Approximately 10% of environmental health salary is supported by General Fund.
  - Includes administrative duties, rabies program, and other unfunded mandates.
- **Contingency Risk**
  - If staffing shortages continue, may be forced to return the food inspection program to the State.
- **Operational Actions**
  - Shane is reviewing upcoming June inspection needs.
  - Contact made with the Ohio Department of Health for guidance.
- **Additional Staffing Options**
  - Considering Environmental Health Technician role:
    - Does not require certification for basic tasks (water/sewer sampling).
    - Training would be provided.
- **Emergency Preparedness Position**
  - Vacancy exists.
  - One former employee may remain if advancement opportunities are available.
  - Approximately 90% of this position is grant-funded.

Governance & Board Operations

- **Board Quorum Concerns**
  - Current bylaws require 8 members with no contingency provisions.
  - Legal opinion requested from Brad and Katey.

- **Legal & Compliance**
  - Prosecutor consulted regarding quorum, voting, and meeting procedures.

Commissioner Discussion

- **Commissioner Sherman**
  - Expressed appreciation to Health Department staff.
  - Recommended holding a special meeting to inform the board of the seriousness of the situation.
- **Commissioner Rush**
  - Emphasized importance of board attendance and quorum compliance.

Bid Opening for the 2026 Hardin County Asphalt Overlay Project- The Engineer's estimate for the project was $1,269,450.00. The following bids were received and opened:

1. Bluffton Paving Inc. $1,058,167.00
2. The Shelly Company $1,289,551.00

Commissioner Rush moved to accept the bids as is, to be taken under the advisement of the Hardin County Engineer and to reward at a later date. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: all ayes. V115-299

_____, YES/NO
President of the Board-Joseph C. Sherman

_____, YES/NO
Fred M. Rush

_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest_____
Clerk of the Board

V115
300