August 27, 2026

MINUTES

Commissioner Striker was absent. 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:

V116-168	Minutes of August 25, 2026	
1st-Rush	2nd-Sherman	Roll call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-absent
V116-169	Additional Appropriation	
1st Sherman	2nd Rush	Roll call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
V116-170	Terminate K. Nolan, JFS	
1st Rush	2nd Sherman	Roll call: Sherman-yes, Rush-yes
V116-171	Bills	
1st Sherman	2nd Rush	Roll call: Sherman-yes, Rush-yes
V116-172	CDBG, Choice One Agreement	
1st Rush	2nd Sherman	Roll call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes

Commissioner Rush moved to approve payment to Ed's TV & Electric in the amount of $5,772.50 to be paid from Account #4000-1100-504274 for electric installation at the Cattleman's Building at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes. V116-173

Commissioner Rush moved to approve payment to Guyton Concrete in the amount of $4,500.00 to be paid from Account #4000-1100-504274 for work on concrete block wall under the Grandstands at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes. V116-174

Commissioner Rush moved to approve payment to T&R Construction in the amount of $12,300.00 to be paid from Account #4000-1100-504274 for the tear down and rebuild of the announcer stand at the Fairgrounds racetrack. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Rush-yes. V116-175

Health Department Updates

- Dionne Staley provided Health Department updates. Additional attendees included: Marty Grey, Keith Severns, Jeryl Kissling, Katey Henson, and Hardin County Prosecutor Brad Bailey

Discussion: New EMA and Health Department shared position

- Commissioner Sherman stated that discussion was needed regarding the new EMA /Health Department shared position.
- Brad Bailey explained:
    - The Health District is a district entity and not merely a subdivision of the county.
    - The position cannot be classified as an independent contractor.
    - The employee must receive standard payroll withholdings and benefits as required.
    - Language in any agreement must clearly address both departments' responsibilities.
- Keith Severns requested clarification on the difference between an independent contractor and an employee.
- Brad Bailey explained:
    - An independent contractor acts as their own employer and determines how contracted work is completed.
    - The primary distinction is who directs and supervises the work.
    - In this case, the position would function as an employee rather than an independent contractor.

Contract Agreement Requirements

- Brad Bailey stated that a formal agreement between the two agencies is necessary before creating the position.
- Dionne Staley reported that the Health Board is waiting to review a contract before deciding whether to proceed.
- Brad indicated that the agreement should clearly define terms agreed upon by both agencies.
- It was clarified that:
    - The position would report solely to EMA.
    - The employee would have one direct supervisor.

Grant Funding Concerns

- The Health Department's portion of the position is grant-funded.
- If grant funding is discontinued, the contract may need to end.
- The cost of the position cannot exceed available grant funding.

Health Department Financial Update

- Dionne Staley reported that the Health Department's General Fund is currently performing well financially.
- Discussion was held regarding salary expenditures.
- Dionne noted that monthly salary figures do not account for three-pay-period months.
- The Health Department is expected to exceed the budgeted salary amount by approximately $10,000.
- The overage is primarily due to unexpected expenses.
- Dionne stated that one of the department's biggest concerns is obtaining coverage for additional expenses.

Sanitarian Position and Staffing Challenges

- The Health Department has initiated a contract arrangement with Union County.
- A list was obtained from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) identifying sanitarians with Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) certifications.
- Counties identified included Union County, Wyandot County, Hancock County, and Logan County.
- Dionne noted that the limited number of individuals holding REHS certifications highlights the difficulty in filling the department's current vacancy.
- The department is reaching out to other jurisdictions to determine whether they may be willing to share personnel resources.
- It was noted that some counties are furloughing employees, resulting in individuals seeking supplemental employment opportunities.

Julie Gossard, Director of Hardin County Job & Family Services-Monthly updates

Human Resources Update

- A new employee began on August 24, 2026, as an Intake SSW2 in Children Services.
- Another accepted an offer for an Intake SSW2 position in Children Services and is completing pre-employment paperwork.
- Current vacancies include:
    - One Intake SSW2 position.
    - One Ongoing SSW2 position.
    - Foster Care Recruiter position remains vacant.

Public Assistance Report

- SNAP error rate was reported at 5.11% as of July 11, 2026. Error rate was 9% and continues to drop.
- Staff continue to closely monitor random moment sampling (RMS) numbers and funding allocations.
- Special attention is being given to SNAP funding as the federal match rate is scheduled to decrease from 50% to 25% beginning in October.

Fraud Investigations

- April 2026: 4 claims established totaling $8,389.00.

- May 2026: No claims established.
- June 2026: 4 claims established totaling $2,946.00.
- July 2026: 15 claims established totaling $34,535.00.
    - Included a claim of $15,061.00 finalized during prosecution.
    - Included a client-error claim of $8,402.00.

Social Services Report

- Abram DeWeese conducted mandated reporter training for local schools:
    - Upper Scioto Valley Schools on August 18, 2026.
    - Kenton City Schools on August 21, 2026.
- Training with the legal team from the Prosecutor's Office was held on August 10, 2026.

OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Report

- The Back-to-School Spirit Pack Program was offered July 14-30, 2026, to assist local students with school apparel needs.
- Each Spirit Pack included seven school-logo items
- Program participation:
    - 191 applications distributed.
    - 135 completed applications received.
    - 251 students represented.

Executive Session

- Director Gossard requested Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) to discuss personnel matters. Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Commissioner Rush at 10:48 am and seconded by Commissioner Sherman. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes. Commissioner Sherman announced the end of Executive Session at 10:59 am. No action was taken.

Fairgrounds Design-Build Selection

- The Board discussed the selection of a Design-Build team for the Fairgrounds Event Center and Office Project.
- It was noted that, under the Design-Build process, the County as the client retains the right to negotiate with the selected team.

Proposal Scoring Results

- Garmann Miller presented the final evaluation scores.
- Proposals were independently scored by three evaluators.
- Each firm was provided 45 minutes for its presentation, consisting of a 30-minute presentation and a 15-minute question-and-answer session.
- Final Best Value Scores:
    - Miller Contracting: 60.0
    - Bruns Construction Enterprises: 85.6
    - Dry Lane Construction: 89.5

Selection Discussion

- Commissioner Sherman stated that Dry Lane Construction received the highest Best Value Score and presented the lowest cost per square foot.
- The total proposed project cost was $5,649,184.00.
- The County requested a 42,000-square-foot building, and Dry Lane Construction's proposal included a 46,000-square-foot facility.
- Commissioner Sherman requested a motion to select Dry Lane Construction as the Design-Build team for the Fairgrounds Event Center and Offices project.
- Commissioner Rush moved to accept Dry Lane Construction as the Design-Build team for the Fairgrounds Event Center and Offices project. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush – Yes, Sherman-yes. V116-176

Next Steps

- The Board will notify Garmann Miller of its selection of Dry Lane Construction.
- An updated project timeline will be requested and presented to the Board.

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

_____ ____, YES/NO
Fred M. Rush

_____absent_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest_____
Clerk of the Board

Attest_____
Deputy Clerk of the Board

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