September 15, 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:

V116-196	Minutes of September 10, 2026			
1st-Rush	2nd-Sherman	Roll Call: Rush-yes	Sherman-yes	
V116-197	Additional Appropriation			
1st-Striker	2nd-Rush	Roll Call: Striker-yes	Rush-yes	Sherman-yes
V116-198	Reallocation			
1st-Rush	2nd-Striker	Roll Call: Striker-yes	Sherman-yes	Rush-yes
V116-199	Ditch Maintenance			
1st-Striker	2nd-Rush	Roll Call: Sherman	Striker-yes	Rush-yes
V116-200	Ditch Maintenance			
1st-Rush	2nd-Striker	Roll Call: Rush-yes	Sherman-yes	Striker-yes
V116-201	Indigent Attorney August			
1st-Striker	2nd-Rush	Roll Call: Sherman-yes	Striker-yes	Rush-yes
V116-202	Release of Funds			
1st-Rush	2nd-Striker	Roll Call: Sherman-yes	Striker-yes	Rush-yes

Commissioner Sherman expressed appreciation to the Fair Board, participants, and especially the 4-H members for their outstanding efforts in making this year's fair a success. He noted that a tremendous amount of work takes place behind the scenes, much of which goes unnoticed by the public, and commended everyone involved for a job well done. Commissioner Sherman remarked that it was a great fair and that he is looking forward to next year.

Commissioner Rush also commended the Fair Board and all those involved with the Hour of Inspiration held on Sunday, featuring Eli Yoder. He noted that the event delivered a meaningful message and was well attended, including attendance by Commissioners Sherman and Rush. He thanked everyone who contributed to the program's success.

Commissioner Sherman moved to sign the renewal agreement with CEBCO for 2027. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll call: Rush-yes Sherman-yes Striker-yes

Commissioner Rush moved to approve payment to Specialty Steel in the amount of $6,703.00 for work completed on the Grandstand at the Hardin County Fairgrounds. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll call: Sherman-yes Striker-yes Rush-yes

Commissioner Rush moved to approve the quote from Lester Miller Roofing in the amount of $28,850.00 for the replacement of Hardin County Fairgrounds Arena roof. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll call: Rush-yes Sherman-yes Striker-yes

Megan Crist, Land and Liberty Coalition, introduced herself and the organization’s new field representatives, noting they are meeting with county officials across the state. She discussed renewable energy development, property rights, and local approaches to solar energy projects.

Commissioner Sherman stated that decisions regarding solar development are largely left to the townships. Commissioner Rush emphasized that decisions on renewable energy development should be guided by township residents and their elected officials.

Ms. Crist shared examples from other counties, stating that communities with protective ordinances may have more flexibility than those that choose outright bans. She noted that solar projects can provide additional revenue for schools and local governments.

Commissioner Rush explained that road use agreements are negotiated with developers to ensure roads are restored to the same or better condition after construction. He noted that one project included approximately $2.5 million in road improvements.

Ms. Crist referenced a solar project in Vinton County located on a former strip mine site and discussed potential benefits from road agreements and PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) programs.

- **Ben Schroeder, Wessler Engineering** reviewed the preliminary study for wastewater regionalization improvements in the Roots Fairwayview subdivision. Two alternatives for wastewater service are proposed:
    - Construction of a lift station pumping north to the City of Kenton's system (preferred option).
    - Pumping south and connecting to City of Kenton's system.

Both alternatives have similar estimated costs; however, the northern route would provide the opportunity for future connections, including the Myers area, if needed.

- County officials emphasized that the project is intended to address the immediate wastewater issues in the Root Addition area and nearby affected homes. There are currently no plans for additional expansion.
- City representatives questioned whether the city's wastewater treatment plant has sufficient capacity, noting existing overflow concerns during heavy rainfall events. The county engineer stated Inflow and infiltration (I&I) issues are included in the project scope.
- Officials noted that the existing Root Addition package treatment plant is nearing the end of its useful life. The Ohio EPA supports transitioning flows to the city system and is encouraging regional wastewater treatment solutions rather than upgrades to the existing facility.
- Regardless of the project's outcome, existing inflow and infiltration issues will need to be addressed. Engineering reviews have identified sources of overflow within the current collection system.
- The public meeting scheduled for Thursday is a required component of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) process. The county cannot pursue grant funding until the study is completed.

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

_____, YES/NO
Fred M. Rush

_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest_____
Deputy Clerk of the Board