September 29, 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:

V116-225	Minutes of September 24, 2026:	
1st-Striker	2nd-Rush	Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-absent, Striker-yes
V116-226	Safe Haven DV Shelter Funds for 2027	
1st-Rush	2nd-Striker	Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
V116-227	Reallocation of Funds	
1st-Striker	2nd-Rush	Roll Call: Striker-yes, Sherman-yes, Rush-yes
Signed:	Design Build Contracts for New Event Center with Garmann Miller	
1st-Rush	2nd-Striker	Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes
	Letter of support for Council on Aging for ODOT	
1st-Striker	2nd-Rush	Roll Call: Striker-yes, Rush-yes, Sherman-yes
	Area 8 Shared resolution	
1st-Rush	2nd-Striker	Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Striker-yes, Rush-yes

Commissioner Rush moved to approve a quote from Crates Farms and Excavating LLC for the demolishing of the remainder of the machinery building at the fairgrounds for a total of $75,000.00. The funds will be split and come from the remainder of the American Rescue Funds and 4000-1100-504274. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Sherman-yes, Rush-yes, Striker-yes V116-228

Commissioner Striker attended Jim Newlands retirement party on Saturday. They celebrated 52 years of service. Commissioner Striker presented Jim with a proclamation.

Friday morning Commissioner Rush attended the Auditor's district meeting held at Mid-Ohio. It was a very good meeting.

Friday afternoon Commissioner Rush, Commissioner Striker, Maintenance Supervisor Richard Lawson, and Assistant Supervisor Jonny Manns attended the ribbon cutting for the new OSU extension offices. Very nice offices and Jonny and Richard received a shout out for all their hard work and creating a beautiful office space for the extension.

Commissioner Sherman attended the Rock the Block event on Saturday evening. Very nice event, good location and turnout.

Richard Lawson, Maintenance Supervisor updates:

- The boiler at the Annex is operational but is not functioning properly. Technicians are currently evaluating the system, including checking gas pressure and the gas meter.
- Koorsen is onsite conducting the annual fire extinguisher inspections.
- Richard requested consideration of increasing the starting wage for the vacant maintenance position before re-advertising the opening.
    - Commissioner Striker advised Richard to include any proposed wage increase in his budget request
    - Commissioner Sherman stated the Board would discuss the request in conjunction with a broader review of employee wages.
- Commissioner Sherman noted that the boiler issue has persisted since January and emphasized the need to have it fully operational.
- Richard reported that he has arranged for a contractor to repair the backflow issue at Oaklief.

JFS Director Julie Gossard-

- Request for Executive Session to discuss certain personnel matters.

Commissioner Striker moved to enter executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(1) for certain personnel matters including employment and compensation. Commissioner Rush seconded the motion at 9:24. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes. Commissioner Sherman announced the end of executive session at 9:53. No action was taken.

Hardin Storage Battery Project Update

Alexander and Francesca provided an update regarding the Hardin Storage battery energy storage project.

- Representatives noted they currently have projects in eight different states, each governed by different regulatory requirements.
- Alexander reported that Hardin Storage received its construction notice approval from the OPSB.
- Several conditions were attached to the approval, including requirements related to noise mitigation, sound wall engineering, and additional vegetation screening.
- Construction must be completed by December 31, 2029, and the company intends to work closely with the County throughout the process.
- Construction is expected to take approximately one year.
- Approximately 100 construction jobs, potentially more, are anticipated during phased construction activities.
- Upon completion, one facility is expected to add two full-time employees to the current workforce of eight full-time employees.
- Future expansion with an additional building could create additional employment opportunities.
- The battery facility itself will occupy approximately four acres, with the fenced area encompassing approximately six to seven acres.
- Two half-acre stormwater management ponds will also serve as water reservoirs for firefighting purposes if needed.
- The batteries will arrive fully assembled in shipping-container-style units and will be transported by rail and truck before being placed on concrete pads and connected onsite.
- Commissioner Sherman raised concerns regarding transportation weights due to bridge limitations in the area.
- Alexander stated that construction traffic would follow the same route constraints established for Hardin Solar II, utilizing the northern section of Dodds Road.
- Commissioner Rush asked whether road conditions should be evaluated.
- Alexander indicated that road impacts may need to be reviewed and expressed willingness to work with the County on an additional Road Use Maintenance Agreement.
- Commissioners agreed that a road use agreement should be reviewed and requested that project representatives coordinate with Luke regarding the matter.
- Alexander reported that the facility will have a storage capacity of 105 MW / 420 MWh.
- The system will charge using solar-generated electricity and discharge energy during periods of peak demand.
- Commissioner Striker asked whether dry-hydrant pumping access would be available for firefighters.
- Alexander stated that specific coordination with the fire department is still being developed but noted that existing access roads should provide adequate site access.
- Commissioners requested continued coordination regarding road use and site maintenance.
- Alexander stated that landscape screening consisting of vegetation along the northern and southern boundaries is planned in order to limit visibility of the facility from surrounding areas.
- Representatives noted that the site will be regularly maintained, including mowing and vegetation management.
- Commissioner Sherman acknowledged improvements made at other local project sites and thanked the representatives for the update.
- Alexander advised that another public meeting is anticipated in the coming weeks, followed by a period of limited activity.

Joint Board Zoom Meeting
The Board participated in a Joint Board Zoom Meeting for BRSEP.

Bid opening for the Asbestos Abatement at the Former Hardin Hills Health Center Property:
The following bids were received:

- NTWA LLC. - $275,000.00
- Environmental Assurance- $499,000.00
- Midwest Environmental INC.- $484,500.00
- Erie Environmental- $247,877.00
- H & H Environmental- $388,000.00
- Total Environmental Services LLC. - $321,665.00

Commissioner Rush moved to accept the bids as is and to take under the advisement of Regional Planning Director Mark Doll to be awarded at a later date. Commissioner Striker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Rush-yes, Sherman-yes, Striker-yes. V116-229

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

_____, YES/NO
Fred M. Rush

_____, YES/NO
Timothy L. Striker

Attest_____
Clerk of the Board