

The Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, met this day in regular session. Present: Jerry Echemann, Josh Meyer and J. P. Dutton, Commissioners and Bonnie Zuzak, Clerk of the Board.

MEETINGS ARE NOW BEING RECORDED
ALL DISCUSSIONS ARE SUMMARIZED. FOR COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS
PLEASE SEE CORRESPONDING CD FOR THIS MEETING DAY.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING RECAPITULATION OF VOUCHERS FOR THE VARIOUS FUNDS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve and sign all bills that have been certified in the Auditor's office and considered by the Board. It is hereby ordered that the County Auditor issue her warrant on the County Treasurer in payment of the bills allowed:

IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$3,928,337.04

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS WITHIN FUND

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve the following transfers within fund for the following funds:

A00 GENERAL FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0131-A006-A02.002 Admin-Salaries	E-0131-A006-A15.000 Unemployment	\$10,000.00
E-0131-A006-A03.002 Jail-Salaries	E-0131-A006-A10.000 Transport Inmates	\$10,000.00

H08 WIA AREA 16/BCDJFS

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-2610-H008-H02.000 Carroll County	E-2610-H008-H20.000 WIOA Area 16 Admin	\$9,056.45
E-2610-H008-H06.000 Jefferson Co. Flood	E-2610-H008-H05.000 Belmont Co.-Flood	\$33,031.83

W98 CEBCO WELLNESS GRANT

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-1498-W098-W13.000 2020 Expenses	E-1498-W098-W06.074 Transfers Out	\$440.00

Y91 EMPLOYER'S SHARE HOLDING ACCOUNT

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-9891-Y091-Y01.006 Hospitalization	E-9891-Y091-Y12.500 HSA Fund	\$415.14

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUND

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve the following transfers between funds as follows:

W98 CEBCO WELLNESS GRANT AND A00 GENERAL FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-1498-W098-W06.074 Transfers Out	R-0040-A000-A47.574 Transfers	\$440.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS FUNDS/CLOSED CARRY-OVER PURCHASE ORDERS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to make the following additional appropriation, in accordance with the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as revised by the Budget Commission, under the date of March 24, 2021:

CARRYOVER PURCHASE ORDERS THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND REQUIRE REAPPROPRIATION

A00 General Fund

E-0181-A003-A11.000	Other Expenses	\$353.84
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H00 Public Assistance

E-2510-H000-H09.000	Facilities	\$564.78
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E-2510-H000-H11.000	Travel and Expenses	\$7,555.92
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Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to make the following additional appropriations, in accordance with the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as approved by the Budget Commission, under the March 24, 2021 meeting:

A00 GENERAL FUND

E-0051-A001-A02.002	Salaries-Employees	\$440.00
E-0051-A001-A51.000	Oil & Gas	\$19,780.71

H08 WIA AREA 16/BCDJFS

E-2610-H008-H09.000	BRN Funds	\$98,857.25
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H11 FAMILY & CHILDREN 1ST COUNCIL/BCDJFS

E-2770-H011-H12.000	SFY20 Multi-Sys Youth Funding	\$17,550.00
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L05 WATERSHED COORDINATOR GRANT/BSWCD

E-1815-L005-L01.002	Salaries	\$30,000.00
E-1815-L005-L11.003	PERS	\$5,000.00

P65 BELOMAR-LMI HOUSING TRUST FUND

E-1765-P065-P10.000	Grant Expenses	\$15,000.00
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S30 OAKVIEW JUVENILE REHABILITATION

E-8010-S030-S54.000	Food	\$1,000.76
E-8010-S030-S55.010	Supplies	\$161.91
E-8010-S030-S64.012	Equipment	\$10,350.00

S32 OAKVIEW JUVENILE-ACTIVITY FUND

E-8012-S032-S00.000 Activity Fund \$214.10

T01 HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT/BOE

E-9701-T001-T05.000 Grant Expenses \$19.55

T11 BEL.CO COMMISSIONERS C.D.B.G.

E-9702-T011-T01.000 Grant \$1,475.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann Yes
Mr. Meyer Yes
Mr. Dutton Yes

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF MONIES BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to request the Belmont County Budget Commission certify the following monies.

OIL & GAS RECEIPTS MARCH/GENERAL FUND-\$19,780.71 deposited into R-0050-A000-A02.500 on dates below-

03/01/2021 \$408.53
03/01/2021 \$6,178.54
03/01/2021 \$300.50
03/02/2021 \$6,146.45
03/02/2021 \$1,128.61
03/02/2021 \$301.14
03/02/2021 \$98.41
03/02/2021 \$816.40
03/04/2021 \$112.02
03/04/2021 \$2,415.54
03/04/2021 \$77.04
03/04/2021 \$1,797.53
TOTAL \$19,780.71

P65 LMI HOUSING TRUST FUND-BELOMAR-\$15,000.00 deposited into R-1765-P065-P01.501 on 03/17/2021

T11 GRANT MONIES-\$1,475.00 deposited into R-9720-T011-T01.501 on 03/17/2021.

W98 CEBCO WELLNESS/GENERAL FUND TRANSFER-\$440.00 transferred from the W98 CEBCO Wellness into R-0040-A000-A47.574 on 03/24/2021 (To cover administrative cost paid to Cindy Stock out of the General Fund).

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann Yes
Mr. Meyer Yes
Mr. Dutton Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve the minutes of the Belmont County Board of Commissioners regular meeting of March 17, 2021.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann Yes
Mr. Meyer Yes
Mr. Dutton Yes

Announcement: The Belmont County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications to fill a position on the Belmont County District Library Board. Interested parties can contact the Commissioners' office at [\(740\) 699-2155](tel:7406992155) to request an application. Applications will be accepted through March 24, 2021.

IN THE MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve the appointment of Caitlyn Romshak to the Mental Health and Recovery Board, effective immediately through June 30, 2023, to fill the unexpired term of Jeanette Hissom, based upon the recommendation of the Mental Health and Recovery Board.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann Yes
Mr. Meyer Yes
Mr. Dutton Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING HIRING/DJFS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to adopt the resolutions authorizing the hiring for the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services as follows:

Note: These are replacement positions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners serves as co-appointing authority for the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, in this capacity, the Board has the authority to establish compensation and benefit levels and authorize any hiring and/or other employment changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners does hereby grant the Director of the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to hire Ms. Amy Halicky, effective March 29, 2021 as an Eligibility/Referral Specialist II. Ms. Halicky will be employed as a full-time permanent, bargaining unit employee. Compensation shall be in accordance with the salary schedule as indicated in the current bargaining unit labor contract.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners serves as co-appointing authority for the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, in this capacity, the Board has the authority to establish compensation and benefit levels and authorize any hiring and/or other employment changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners does hereby grant the Director of the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to hire Ms. Dana Neavin, effective April 12, 2021 as an Eligibility/Referral Specialist II. Ms. Neavin will be employed as a full-time permanent, bargaining unit employee. Compensation shall be in accordance with the salary schedule as indicated in the current bargaining unit labor contract.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners serves as co-appointing authority for the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, in this capacity, the Board has the authority to establish compensation and benefit levels and authorize any hiring and/or other employment changes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners does hereby grant the Director of the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services, the authority to hire Ms. Danelle Hines, effective April 19, 2021 as an Eligibility/Referral Specialist II. Ms. Hines will be employed as a full-time permanent, bargaining unit employee. Compensation shall be in accordance with the salary schedule as indicated in the current bargaining unit labor contract.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF THE VACATION OF
A PORTION OF EBBERT NORTH RD. T-219
RICHLAND TWP. SEC. 22, T-6, R-3/RD IMP 1180**

Office of County Commissioners

Belmont County, Ohio

The Board of County Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, met in Regular session on the 24th day of March, 2021, at the office of the Commissioners with the following members present:

Mr. Echemann
Mr. Meyer
Mr. Dutton

**RESOLUTION – ORDER TO CLOSE ROAD
Sec. 5553.10 O.R.C.**

Mr. Echemann moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, At least ten days have elapsed since the final order of the board in the matter of this improvement, and

WHEREAS, No person, firm or corporation interested, has effected an appeal from our orders in the matter of the above named improvement, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That it is hereby ordered that the proceedings be recorded as provided by law, and that said road be vacated, as ordered heretofore, made on journal of the date of March 10, 2021, and a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Richland Township Trustees.

Mr. Meyer seconded the Resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann
Mr. Meyer
Mr. Dutton

Adopted the 24th day of March, 2021.

Bonnie Zuzak /s/
Clerk, Board of County Commissioners
Belmont County, Ohio

-
1. "locating," "establishing," "altering," "widening," "straightening," "vacating" or "changing the direction of."

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION FOR BELMONT COUNTY ENGINEER TO
PARTICIPATE IN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S ROAD SALT CONTRACT FY 2021**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to adopt the resolution authorizing the Belmont County Engineer to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation’s road salt contract for contracts awarded in 2021.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION
IN THE ODOT ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2021**

WHEREAS, the Belmont County Board of Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as the "Political Subdivision") hereby submits this written agreement to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) annual road salt bid in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 5513.01(B) and hereby agrees to all of the following terms and conditions in its participation of the ODOT road salt contract:

- The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions established by ODOT in the road salt contract and acknowledges that upon award of the contract by the Director of ODOT it shall be bound by all such terms and conditions included in the contract; and
- The Political Subdivision hereby acknowledges that upon the Director of ODOT’s signing of the road salt contract, it shall effectively form a contract between the awarded salt supplier and the Political Subdivision; and
- The Political Subdivision agrees to be solely responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the ODOT road salt contract and agrees to hold the Department of Transportation harmless for any claims, actions, expenses, or other damages arising out of the Political Subdivision’s participation in the road salt contract; and
- The Belmont County Board of Commissioners electronic order for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) will be the amount the Belmont County Board of Commissioners agrees to purchase from its awarded salt supplier at the delivered bid price per ton awarded by the Director of ODOT; and
- The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to purchase a minimum of 90% of its electronically **submitted** salt quantities from its awarded salt supplier during the contract’s effective period; and
- The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to place orders with and directly pay the awarded salt supplier on a net 30 basis for all road salt it receives pursuant to ODOT salt contract; and
- The Political Subdivision acknowledges that should it wish to rescind this participation agreement it will do so by written, emailed request by no later than Friday, April 30 **by 5:00 p.m.** The written, emailed request to rescind this participation agreement must be received by the ODOT Office of Contract Sales, Purchasing Section email: Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov by the deadline. The Department, upon receipt, will respond that it has received the request and that it has effectively removed the Political Subdivision’s participation request. Furthermore, it is the sole responsibility of the Political Subdivision to ensure ODOT has received this participation agreement as well as the receipt of any request to rescind this participation agreement. The Department shall not be held responsible or liable for failure to receive a Political Subdivision’s participation agreement and/or a Political Subdivision’s request to rescind its participation agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the following authorized person(s) that this participation agreement for the ODOT road salt contract is hereby approved, funding has been authorized, and the Political Subdivision agrees to the above terms and conditions regarding participation on the ODOT salt contract:

<u>Jerry Echemann /s/</u>	(Authorized Signature) <u>3-24-2021</u>	Approval Date
<u>Josh Meyer /s/</u>	(Authorized Signature) <u>3-24-2021</u>	Approval Date
<u>J. P. Dutton /s/</u>	(Authorized Signature) <u>3-24-2021</u>	Approval Date

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 21, 2020, BY AND BETWEEN BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AND BELMONT COUNTY VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

March 24, 2021

Motion made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve and authorize Commission President Jerry Echemann to sign the amendment to the agreement effective October 21, 2020, by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio and the Belmont County Victim Assistance Program.

Note: The location of the Victim Assistance office has changed.

AMENDMENT TO 2020-2021 LEASE AGREEMENT

This Amendment to Contract is entered into this 24th day of March, 2021 by and between the Board of County Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio (Lessor) and the Belmont County Victim Assistance Program (Lessee).

Witnesseth:

Whereas, Lessor and Lessee entered into an Agreement dated October 21, 2020, a copy of which is attached hereto as EXHIBIT A and made a part hereof by incorporation; and

Whereas, paragraph 2 of said Agreement provides a description of the office space; and

Whereas, that description has changed since the Lessee has relocated to another county building;

Now Therefore, by agreement of Lessor and Lessee, the Agreement dated October 21, 2020 attached hereto is amended and modified in the following respect:

Paragraph 2 is of said Agreement is deleted, and replaced with the following paragraph 2:

One Hundred Fifty-four (154) square feet of office space shared with the Belmont County Prosecutor on the first floor of the building known as the Belmont County Justice and Office Complex, and located at 52160 National Road East, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

In all other respects the Agreement dated October 21, 2020, remains in full force and effect.

Jerry Echemann /s/
Jerry Echemann, Commission President
Belmont County Board of Commissioners
Lessor

Kevin Flanagan /s/
Kevin Flanagan, Prosecuting Attorney
Belmont County Victim Assistance Program
Lessee

Approved as to form:
David K. Liberati /s/
David K. Liberati
Belmont County Assistant Prosecutor

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING INTO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN BELMONT COUNTY LEPC AND BOARD OF BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding, effective January 1, 2021, until December 31, 2021, by and between the Belmont County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the Board of Belmont County Commissioners for the purpose of promoting public safety and prudent emergency planning for the citizens of Belmont County.

Note: This is regarding the funding provided by the LEPC for services to be provided by the Director and staff of the Belmont County Emergency Management Agency.

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding, effective January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021 is entered into by and between the Belmont County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), 68329 Bannock Road, St. Clairsville, OH 43950, and the Board of Belmont County Commissioners (Commissioners) 101 West Main Street St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950, for purpose of promoting public safety and prudent emergency planning for the citizens of Belmont County, Ohio.

In consideration of the services to be provided by the Director and staff of the Belmont County Emergency Management Agency as described below, the LEPC agrees to provide the sum of twelve thousand eight hundred and ten dollars (\$12,810.37) annually, provided that (1) the LEPC has such amount, and (2) said sum does not exceed 75% of the fund balance. Said funds shall be made available to the Commissioners during the first quarter of each calendar year this agreement is effect.

In consideration of the funds provided by the LEPC to the Board as described in this agreement, the EMA shall provide the following services to or for the LEPC:

1. Grant writing and administration
2. Administration of SARA Title III filings by local chemical facilities
3. Compliance and enforcement of SARA Title III regulations
4. Compliance with SERC mandated reports
5. Emergency response to spills and releases of regulated materials
6. Information coordination of LEPC public records
7. Plan development, review, and updates
8. Annual exercise of the LEPC county plan and emergency response
9. Administration of the LEPC Cost Recovery Program
10. Such other administrative duties as may be needed, provided that such additional duties shall not interfere with nor impede the discharge of the emergency management responsibilities of the EMA Director and staff

The parties stipulate that funds provided by the LEPC to the Commissioners shall be used to supplement existing funding for salaries, benefits and other operational expense categories of the EMA; and that said funds are being provided by the LEPC to the Commissioners on the condition that such funds shall be used in addition to, and not as a replacement of, funding currently budgeted by the Commissioners to the EMA.

Each party hereto reserves the right to revise or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding annually prior to the anniversary of the date of the signing. Unless terminated, by either party upon written notice to the other not later than 30 days prior to the anniversary date, this agreement shall be in effect for the calendar year.

Date: March 24, 2021

BELMONT COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Dave Ivan, Chairman

BOARD OF BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BY: Jerry Echemann /s/ DATE: 3-24-2021
Jerry Echemann, President

BY: Josh Meyer /s/ DATE: 3-24-2021
Josh Meyer, Vice-President

BY: J. P. Dutton /s/ DATE: 3-24-2021
J. P. Dutton

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
David K. Liberati /s/ Assist P.A.
BELMONT COUNTY
PROSECUTOR

March 24, 2021

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PURCHASE FOR BELMONT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve the following purchase for the Belmont County Sheriff's office, based upon the recommendation of Sheriff Dave Lucas:

- One (1) 2021 Ford Explorer from Lebanon Ford, at the estimated price of \$33,039.00 to be used as a transport vehicle.

Note: Lebanon Ford beat the state minimum purchase pricing.

- Hall Public Safety quote for uplifting in the amount of \$5,303.37.

Total cost \$38,342.37.

Note: The Belmont County Sheriff's Department will pay for the vehicle out of their Commissary funds. This is a replacement vehicle.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM DELUXE DOORS/JAIL

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve the proposal from Deluxe Doors in the amount of \$3,290.00 to furnish and install two (2) Raynor ControlHoist ½ HP sally door operators and remove and haul away existing operators at the Belmont County Jail.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PROPOSAL FROM ERB ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR COURTROOMS AND EASTERN, NORTHERN AND WESTERN DIVISION LOBBIES/JOC

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve proposal from ERB Electric Company in the amount of \$8,979.00 to provide and install four (4) 180-degree ACTI cameras (two in each courtroom) and three (3) 360-degree ACTI cameras (one each in Eastern, Northern and Western Division lobbies) at the Belmont County Justice and Office Complex.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING QUOTE FROM OHIO DESK/ JOC

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve Quote No. 245993, in the amount of \$341.00 from Ohio Desk to increase the height of two (2) overheads by 8" in the Prosecutor's office and clean/touchup Judge's desk in Room #140 located at the Belmont County Justice & Office Complex.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING QUOTE FROM S.A. COMUNALE CO./DJFS FOX SHANNON LOCATION

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to approve quote number 375756 from S. A. Comunale Co., Inc., in the amount of \$895.00 to conduct a five-year hydrostatic test (functionality test) of the closed piping system between the Fire Department Connection (FDC) and FDC check valve assembly at the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services/Fox-Shannon location.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM-Richard Hord, Martins Ferry, inquired about if the injection well is still going in at Route 40 and Exit 331. Mr. Dutton said there is activity commencing. He said, "Personally, for me, there is extreme disappoint in the state in terms of how they have communicated with us, particularly in the last few weeks or months. We sent a letter back in February expressing some disappointment to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources saying that with all of the conversations we have had with them prior to granting the testing permit that they didn't have the decency, in my opinion, to at least let us know they were granting the permit and where the next step was going to go. We had communicated that in the letter and asked them to reach out to us and explain where this is going from this point forward because there has been a lot of community concern about the project. It has been about six weeks and we have not received a response back. It feels as though the state, in my opinion, is not having proper communication for all of the communication we have sent them in the last eighteen months." Mr. Meyer agreed the communication with us from ODNR has been very poor. Mr. Dutton added there is a rig on site today.

Keith Sommer, Belmont County District Library Board member, requested the appointment of John Davies to the District Library Board to fill an unexpired term.

RECESS

Oil & Gas Industry update

Present: Larry Merry, Belmont County Port Authority Director and Mike Chadsey, Oil and Gas Association Director of Public Relations.

Mr. Merry said there has been a little downturn of oil and gas activity recently which is typical. It is a commodity, so when price goes up and down, activity goes up and down. He said it is amazing from a few years ago the improvements made to the roads, literally millions of dollars have been invested. Farmers have made improvements to their property with lease money or royalty money coming in. Mr. Merry said, "The industry, in my opinion, as a whole, has been a great positive to this community, not only in royalties and lease payments, but also in jobs. There is still a tremendous amount of jobs remaining in this community, literally hundreds and hundreds of jobs that weren't here ten to twelve years ago. The average oil and gas job pays about \$40,000 more than the average job in Belmont County." Mr. Merry noted he is on the Oil and Gas Association board. Mr. Chadsey said, "There has certainly been a lot of talk recently in the press about what the industry's impact has been in Eastern Ohio and I'm here to say we have a long and proud history of development here in Eastern Ohio." The first oil well in Ohio was in Noble County in 1814. He said shale development is sort of the next great chapter in our oil and gas story. The first permit was issued to Chesapeake in 2010 to 2011 in Harrison County. Mr. Chadsey said they are now several thousand wells in, a lot of processing and pipeline facilities have been built to handle that gas. He said, "One of things that our message has always been is as much as we have seen the last ten years there is that much more ahead of us. We continue to build our manufacturing base." Mr. Chadsey said they have about 208,000 employees in Ohio that work directly in the oil and gas industry. He said the industry has paid about \$141 million in ad valorem tax which has benefited the State of Ohio. Mr. Chadsey said there are certainly some challenges out there. He thinks they need to do a better job of working with operators to make sure they are being a good community partner and make sure they are following the regulatory code. Mr. Echemann

asked what Mr. Chadsey felt the effects would be from the new administration coming in. Mr. Chadsey said they have seen some pretty dramatic impacts. He didn't think there would be much impact here in Belmont County for any particular pipeline, but some of the other things the new administration has done has been more problematic, particularly the federal ban on federal leasing which they expect will become a permanent ban. This will take about 25% of production off the table so you will probably see some price increases. He said you will continue to see discussion on climate change which they recognize as a challenge. He added they don't agree it's a climate crisis. Mr. Chadsey said, "Our message has been to the President that we will work with you when we can, we will oppose you where we must, but don't forget we are part of the solution of climate change, not part of the problem." Mr. Dutton said to look at it optimistically, these decisions affect different parts of the country differently. He asked what is the near and long term future with the industry. Mr. Chadsey replied, "When you can't drill in the Gulf or you can't drill in Wyoming you've got to do it somewhere, which is an opportunity for this area. Ohio is a good place to do business, there is a common sense regulatory structure here and the rock is really good. Those three things makes for a pretty good scenario. I think there is reason to be cautiously optimistic that we have a bright short and long term future here." Mr. Dutton said even at the lowest of lows, from a pricing standpoint, activity never stopped here locally which shows the strength of the industry moving forward. He added the industry had a direct impact on our area with jobs, ad valorem taxes and the Road Use Maintenance Agreements. Mr. Dutton said other benefits are from hotel stays, that funding goes directly to local communities for local fairs and festivals. The sales taxes from gas stations and restaurants changes how the county operates in terms of things they do. He added there is a correlation between the county's financial stability and the oil and gas industry. Mr. Chadsey said they are showing today's students you can stay here and you can make a good living. New curriculum programs have been added in local colleges.

RECESS

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:34 A.M

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to enter executive session with Dwayne Pielech, Senior Services of Belmont County Executive Director and Katie Bayness, HR Administrator, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) Personnel Exception, to consider the employment of public employees.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:56 A.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to exit executive session at 11:56 a.m.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

Mr. Echemann said as a result of executive session there are two motions for the board to consider.

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF ERNEST WARD, PART-TIME TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANT/SSOBC

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to accept the resignation of Ernest Ward, part-time Transportation Assistant at the Senior Services of Belmont County, effective March 26, 2021.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF RACHEL STIDD, FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK/WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Meyer to accept the resignation of Rachel Stidd, full-time Administrative Clerk at the Belmont County Water & Sewer District, effective April 1, 2021.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:57 A.M

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Meyer to enter executive session with Katie Bayness, HR Administrator, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) Personnel Exception, to consider the compensation of public employees.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

Mr. Meyer exited executive session and continued via phone.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:44 P.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to exit executive session at 12:44 p.m.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Yes

Mr. Echemann said as a result of executive session there are no motions for the board to consider.

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Mr. Echemann said there is no further business for the board to consider.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING
COMMISSIONERS MEETING AT 1:14 P.M.**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 1:14 p.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Meyer	Absent

Read, approved and signed this 31st day of March, 2021.

Jerry Echemann /s/_____

J. P. Dutton /s/_____ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Josh Meyer /s/_____

We, Jerry Echemann and Bonnie Zuzak, President and Clerk respectively of the Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes of the proceedings of said Board have been read, approved and signed as provided for by Sec. 305.11 of the Revised Code of Ohio.

Jerry Echemann /s/_____ PRESIDENT

Bonnie Zuzak /s/_____ CLERK