

St. Clairsville, Ohio

October 1, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, met this day in regular session. Present: J. P. Dutton, Jerry Echemann and Vince Gianangeli, 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. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann 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 \$296,010.16

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS WITHIN FUND

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

A00 GENERAL FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0011-A001-B04.012 Equipment	E-0011-A001-B03.010 Supplies	\$6,000.00
E-0011-A001-B02.002 Salaries	E-0011-A001-B11.000 Other	\$32,000.00
E-0011-A001-B02.002 Salaries	E-0010-A001-B01.001 Salaries	\$1,600.00
E-0011-A001-B08.000 Advertising and Printing	E-0011-A001-B03.010 Supplies	\$1,750.00
E-0051-A001-A50.000 Budget Stabilization	E-0257-A015-A15.074 Transfers Out	\$21,000.00
E-0131-A006-A02.002 Salaries-Administration	E-0131-A006-A03.002 Salaries-Jail	\$100,000.00
E-0131-A006-A05.002 Maintenance Salary-Sheriff	E-0131-A006-A03.002 Salaries-Jail	\$113,000.00

P05 WATER WORKS FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-3702-P005-P34.074 Transfers Out	E-3702-P005-P18.010 Supplies	\$10,000.00
E-3702-P005-P34.074 Transfers Out	E-3702-P005-P19.012 EQU	\$90,000.00
E-3702-P005-P34.074 Transfers Out	E-3702-P005-P21.000 Materials	\$90,000.00
E-3702-P005-P34.074 Transfers Out	E-3702-P005-P23.011 Services	\$150,000.00

P53 SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-3705-P053-P16.074 Transfers Out	E-3705-P053-P02.010 Supplies	\$5,000.00
E-3705-P053-P16.074 Transfers Out	E-3705-P053-P03.012 Equipment	\$50,000.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUND

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

A00 GENERAL FUND AND S86 NORTHERN COURT-GEN SPEC PROJECTS FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0257-A015-A15.074 Transfers Out	R-1561-S086-S06.574 Transfers In	\$7,000.00

A00 GENERAL FUND AND S87 EASTERN COURT-GEN SPEC PROJECTS FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0257-A015-A15.074 Transfers Out	R-1571-S087-S06.574 Transfers In	\$7,000.00

A00 GENERAL FUND AND S88 WESTERN COURT-GEN SPEC PROJECTS FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0257-A015-A15.074 Transfers Out	R-1551-S088-S05.574 Transfers In	\$7,000.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to make the following additional appropriations, in accordance with the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources as approved by the Budget Commission, under the following certification date:

****JANUARAY 1, 2025****

P81 ARP. ST. & LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY

E-1801-P081-P05.055	Construction	\$300,000.00
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Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR MUTUAL OF OMAHA LIFE

INSURANCE CHARGEBACKS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER PERIOD:

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2025

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to make the following transfer of funds for the Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance Chargebacks for the Third Quarter (July, August, September 2025)

Transfer From		Transfer To	Amount
E-0256-A014-A09.006	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	2,487.62
E-1551-S088-S03.006	CTY CT PROBATION	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-0170-A006-G10.000	PUBLIC DEFENDER	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	51.30
E-0181-A003-A11.000	BD. OF ELECTIONS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	63.75
E-1510-W081-P04.000	PROSECUTOR DRETAC	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	17.10
E-1410-W082-T97.006	TREASURER DRETAC	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-1600-B000-B13.006	DOG & KENNEL	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	82.65
E-0910-S033-S47.006	D.D.HOME	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	185.25
E-5005-S070-S22.006	SENIOR PROGRAM	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	414.90
E-1571-S087-S03.006	EASTERN COURT SPECIAL	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55
E-1561-S086-S03.006	NORTHERN COURT SPECIAL	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55
E-1551-S088-S03.006	WESTERN COURT SPECIAL	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55
E-1310-J000-J06.000	REAL ESTATE ASSESS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	34.20
E-2811-K200-K10.006	ENGINEER K-1 & K-2	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55
E-2812-K000-K20.006	ENGINEER K-11	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	230.88
E-2813-K000-K39.006	ENGINEER K-25	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	42.75
E-3702-P005-P31.000	WATER/SEWER WWS #3	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	279.39
E-3705-P053-P15.000	WATER/SEWER SSD #2	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	69.84
E-1810-L001-L14.000	SOIL CONSERVATION	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	25.65
E-1815-L005-L15.006	SOIL CONSERVATION-Watershed	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55
E-6010-S079-S07.006	CLERK OF COURTS/TITLE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	51.30
E-8010-S030-S68.006	OAKVIEW JUVENILE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	236.61
E-2510-H000-H16.006	DJFS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	709.33
E-2760-H010-H12.006	CHILD SUPPORT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	98.34
E-2210-E001-E15.006	COUNTY HEALTH	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	24.23
E-2211-F069-F04.000	TRAILER PARKS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.43
E-2227-F074-F06.000	SEWAGE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	10.56
E-2213-F075-F02.003	VITAL STATISTICS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	2.69
E-2215-F077-F01.002	REPRODUCTIVE HLTH&WELLNESS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	10.68
E-2229-F081-F01.001	PHER	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-2230-F082-F01.002	PREP	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-2231-F083-F01.002	PHEP	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	6.17
E-2232-F084-F02.008	NURSING PROGRAM	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	5.85
E-2233-F085-F01.002	CHILD FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES PROG.	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-2236-F088-F01.002	GET VACCINATED	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.14
E-2237-F089-F01.002	INTEGRATED NALOXONE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	5.48
E-2238-F090-F01.002	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	16.02
E-2241-F093-F07.002	ADOLESCENT HEALTH & RESLLIENCY	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	4.43
E-2218-G000-G06.003	FOOD SERVICE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	21.44
E-2219-N050-N05.000	WATER	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	1.10
E-2220-P070-P01.002	POOLS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.47
E-2239-F091-F01.002	ENHANCED OPERATIONS	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.00
E-2243-F095-F07.002	BODY ART	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.05
E-4110-T075-T52.008	W.I.C. PROGRAM	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	25.65
E-2310-S049-S63.000	MENTAL HEALTH	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	45.60
E-1520-S077-S04.006	COMMUNITY GRANT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55

E-0400-M060-M29.008	JUVENILE COURT GRT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	17.10
E-0400-M060-M84.008	JUVENILE COURT GRT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-0400-M067-M05.008	JUVENILE COURT GRT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	17.10
E-0400-M078-M02.008	JUVENILE COURT GRT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.00
E-9799-S012-S02.006	PORT AUTHORITY	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	12.84
E-0063-A002-B30.000	MAGISTRATE EMPLOYEE	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	
E-1600-B000-B13.006	AUDITORS CLERK	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.00
E-1545-S055-S02.002	TCAP	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	0.00
E-1546-S056-S04.001	PROBATION SERVICES	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	17.10
E-1518-S075-S03.002	MHAS SUBSIDY GRANT	R-9891-Y091-Y05.500	8.55
Total amount this transfer			5,385.84

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE/AUDITOR’S

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to execute payment of Then and Now Certification dated October 1, 2025, presented by the County Auditor pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.41(d) 1, and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract to order.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING PERMISSION FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO TRAVEL

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann granting permission for county employees to travel as follows:
DJFS-Lisa Davis, Tanya Neal and Kim Rico to Woodsfield, OH, on October 3, 2025, to attend the CCMEP meeting. A county car will be used for travel. Estimated expenses:\$150.00. David Williamson to Cambridge, OH, on October 8, 2025, to attend the TPOC Info Session. Estimated expenses: \$108.80. Mike Schlanz to Wheeling, WV, on October 16, 2025, to attend the Veterans Resource Fair. Estimated expenses: \$5.46. John Regis, Jr, to Columbus, OH, on October 19-21, 2025, to attend the Ohio Child Support Professionals Assoc. Fall Conference. Estimated expenses: \$1,075.00. Jeff Felton to Wooster, OH, on October 29, 2025, to attend the ECODA Fall Retreat. Estimated expenses: \$270.60.
RECORDER-Jason Garczyk to Columbus, OH, on October 15, 2025, to attend the Ohio Recorders’ Association’s Legislative Committee meeting. A county car will be used for travel. Jason Garczyk to Columbus, OH, on November 11, 2025, to attend the Ohio Recorders’ Association’s 2025 Winter CE Conference.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

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

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve the minutes of the Belmont County Board of Commissioners regular meeting of September 24, 2025.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF HIRING GAVIN LOY, FULL-TIME UTILITY WORKER/WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve the hire of Gavin Loy, full-time Utility Worker at Belmont County Water and Sewer District, effective October 6, 2025.
Note: This is a replacement position.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

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

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve the appointment of Mr. Jamie Betts to the Mental Health and Recovery Board, effective immediately through June 30, 2029, based upon the recommendation of the Mental Health and Recovery Board.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PAY APPLICATION NUMBER 7 FROM GRAE-CON CONSTRUCTION, INC FOR THE BELMONT COUNTY HEALTH AND RECORDS BUILDING PROJECT

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve Pay Application Number 7 (through 9/26/2025) from Grae-Con Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,014,786.91 for the Belmont County Health and Records Building project, based upon the recommendation of Mills Group, Project Architect.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PAY REQUEST NUMBER 6
FROM OHIO-WEST VIRGINIA EXCAVATING CO. FOR THE WEST END
FORCE MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve Pay Request Number 6 (7/21/25 to 9/14/25) from Ohio-West Virginia Excavating Co., in the amount of \$16,259.07 for the West End Force Main Improvements Project, based upon the recommendation of Water & Sewer District Director Kelly Porter.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1
FROM BORDER PATROL, LLC FOR THE EASTSIDE LIFT
STATIONS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve Change Order No. 1 from Border Patrol, LLC, for the Eastside Lift Stations Improvement Project for an increase of \$128,278.00 for a new contract total of \$1,398,240.00, based upon the recommendation of Kelly Porter, Belmont County Water & Sewer District Director.

Note: This change order is for larger pumps and additional bypass pumping at the Days Inn Lift Station and single phase to three phase power conversion by installations of VFD's at Stop 32 Lift Station. This cost will be paid for with contingency funds.

CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER

RECIPIENT Belmont County Commission CHANGE ORDER NBR 1
CONTRACTOR Border Patrol, LLC CONTRACT
PROJECT: East End Sewage Lift Stations Improvements DATE 8-27-2025

Description of Change:

Days Inn Lift Station:
Originally specified pump package was not able to meet actual field conditions occurring in the force main system. Larger pumps were needed to provide satisfactory and reliable long-term pumping. Additional bypass pumping and manhours were incurred waiting for new pumps and controls. \$110,377.00

Stop 51 Lift Station:
Electric service was assumed to be 240V three phase and it was 240V single phase. Pump motors ordered for the project were three phase, similar to all other lift station pump motors. Phase conversion was done by installing two VFDs to convert the service power from single phase to three phase. \$17,901.00

Total \$128,278.00

See attached documentation

The time provided for completion in the contract for the above items is (increased/decreased) by calendar days.

RECOMMENDED BY: (Engineer) DATE: 9-10-2025
ACCEPTED BY: (Contractor) DATE: 9/9/2025
APPROVED BY: (Commissioner) DATE: 10/1/2025
DATE: 10/1/2025
DATE: 10/1/2025

Original Contract Amt	1,269,962	00
Previous Changes (+)	0	00
This Change (+ / -)	+ 128,278	00
Adjusted Contract Amt	1,398,240	00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton Yes
Mr. Echemann Yes
Mr. Gianangeli Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE TEMPORARY WATER LINE AGREEMENT WITH ASCENT RESOURCES-UTICA, LLC

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to approve and sign the Temporary Water Line Agreement with Ascent Resources-Utica, LLC, in the amount of \$10.00, for the right to install temporary above-ground water lines for the purpose of transporting fresh water from water sources to and from water impoundment facilities and/or well pads on Parcel# 26-01932.001 in Pultney Township.
Note: Ascent shall reimburse the county for the installation of one temporary above-ground water line at the rate of \$3.00 per linear foot.

TEMPORARY WATER LINE AGREEMENT

For and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration paid to Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio of 101 West Main Street, St. Clairsville, OH 43950 hereinafter referred to as "Surface Owner" (whether one or

more), the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, Surface Owner grants and conveys to **Ascent Resources – Utica, LLC. of 1000 Utica Way, Cambridge, Ohio 43725**, hereinafter referred to as “Operator”, its successors and assigns, permission to lay, maintain, operate, repair, and replace temporary above-ground water lines within a thirty (30) foot wide strip of land, hereinafter referred to as the “Route”, along with the rights of ingress and egress along existing road and paths, as well as all necessary and convenient valves, meters, pumps, connections, fittings, markers, waterline spools, support equipment, regulators and appurtenances for the transportation of water on, over, under, through and across the property.

WHEREAS, Surface Owner is the owner of all interest in and to the surface of the lands located, and further described as: Parcel Tax ID #: 26-01932.001 **in Belmont County, Ohio.**

1. Consideration

The parties hereto agree that Operator shall have the right to install temporary above-ground water lines on the Route from time to time for the purpose of transporting fresh water from water sources to and from water impoundment facilities and/or well pads. Operator shall reimburse Surface Owner for the installation of one (1) temporary above-ground water line at the rate of \$3.00 per linear foot for the initial installation of the water line on the Route. Any additional water line successfully installed on the Route during the term of this Agreement will be reimbursed at a rate of \$3.00 per linear foot. Payment will be made within forty-five (45) days of installation of the temporary above-ground water line on the Surface Owner’s property.

2. Fresh Water Only

Operator, or its successors, shall only run fresh water through the temporary above-ground water line permitted under this agreement.

3. Time Restrictions

Upon installation of a temporary above-ground water line, Operator shall remove any temporary above-ground water line and all equipment, machinery and debris from the premises within twelve (12) months of each installation. Operator agrees that if the temporary above-ground water line remains on the property longer than twelve (12) months, then the Surface Owner shall receive the same consideration as paid for the initial installation.

4. Reclamation Clause

Within sixty (60) days from the removal of the temporary above-ground water line, weather permitting, Operator shall restore the disturbed areas to as near as possible the condition which existed prior to commencement of operations.

5. Location of Route

Operator will provide an approximate Route Plat Map Sketch for each proposed route on the property. Surface Owner understands that there may be route variances at any time due to archeological, civil, environmental, operational and other needs. Operator shall comply with governmental agency regulations to avoid constructability issues, wetlands and/or threatened or endangered species.

6. Indemnify and Hold Harmless

Operator shall indemnify and hold Surface Owner harmless from any and all liability, liens, demands, judgments, suits, and claims of any kind or character arising out of, in connection with, or relating to Operator’s installation and operation of temporary above-ground water line.

7. Independent Contractors, Agents, Employees Bound By Terms

Any and all independent contractors, Agents, Employees etc. of Operator are bound by the terms of this Agreement.

8. Term of the Agreement

The term of the Agreement shall commence as of the date hereof and shall remain in effect for Five (5) years.

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

This instrument has been executed by the undersigned on the 1st day of October 2025.

J. P. Dutton /s/

Name: **J. P. Dutton**

Its: President

Jerry Echemann /s/

Name: **Jerry Echemann**

Its: Vice President

Vince Gianangeli /s/

Name: **Vince Gianangeli**

Its: Member

Bonnie Zuzak /s/

Witness:

By:

Ascent Resources – Utica, LLC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

T.J. Schultz /s/ 9/30/25

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE DELTA DENTAL CONTRACT FOR BELMONT COUNTY

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to authorize Commission President J. P. Dutton to sign the Delta Dental Contract for Belmont County effective January 1, 2026.



Delta Dental Contract
For
Belmont County

This Service Contract ("Contract") is entered into by and between Belmont County (the "Contractor") and Delta Dental Plan of Ohio, Inc., an Ohio non-profit corporation ("Delta Dental"). Delta Dental agrees to perform claims administration services for the Contractor's self-funded benefit plan. Contractor and Delta Dental may be individually referred to as a "Party" or together as "Parties". This is a legally binding contract between the Contractor and Delta Dental and is effective on January 1, 2026, (the "Effective Date").

Section I. Declarations

The benefits available are as set forth in this Contract. Delta Dental's liability is limited to the Benefits stated herein; subject to all the terms of this Contract having reference thereto. This Declarations Section and the Summary of Dental Plan Benefits supersedes any contrary provision contained in subsequent sections of this Contract.

- A. Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Standard Time, January 1, 2026
- B. First Renewal Date: January 1, 2027
- C. Group Number: 1504-0001, 0002
- D. Rate(s):

Administrative Service Fee: Composite - \$5.31 per month per Enrollee

This rate is contingent upon 100% enrollment of the eligible Enrollees of the defined group and their Dependents. In addition to the Administrative Service Fee, Delta Dental shall invoice Contractor for Cost of Claims for the preceding month on the first (1st) of each month. Payment shall be due on or before the twentieth (20th) of that month. Rates do not include any applicable claims taxes.

The Contractor agrees to pay an additional deposit of \$4,200 for a total deposit of \$22,200.00.

DELTA DENTAL PLAN OF OHIO, INC.

BY: 
President and CEO

DATE: September 26, 2025

D-101-Delta-DEC-0724-OH

CONTRACTOR

BY: 
(Authorized Signature)
Commissioner
(Title)

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM: (Revised 11/2024)

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KR#65362169

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

RECESS

Lakyn Phillips, Legal Advocate and Megan Talkington, Community Education Coordinator, Tri-County Help Center
Re: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Ms. Talkington said this year’s theme is “Domestic Violence is Everyone’s Business.” She said they offer counseling, legal advocacy and parenting classes. They also offer emergency shelter and case management services. Ms. Talkington said, “We do a lot of community education and outreach as well.”

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING THE PROCLAMATION DECLARING
OCTOBER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to adopt the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation.

***PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH***

WHEREAS, every person has the right to live in a non-violent home and community. It is the goal of this administration for our communities to be safe; and
WHEREAS, the problem of domestic violence affects all citizens of Belmont County, and is not confined to any particular race, gender, age, social, religious, ethnic, geographic or economic group; and
WHEREAS, 1 in 3 teenagers, 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic violence during their lifetime with 1 in 15 children exposed to domestic violence each year; and
WHEREAS, the most dangerous time for a victim is when they leave their abuser at 70 times more likely to be murdered after leaving an abusive partner, and 72% of murder-suicides involve intimate partners; and
WHEREAS, domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness among families; and
WHEREAS, the financial impact of domestic violence through lifetime economic costs associated with medical services, lost productivity from paid work, criminal justice, and other costs was \$3.6 trillion; and
WHEREAS, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual’s privacy, dignity, security, and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and
WHEREAS, only a coordinated community effort will put a stop this heinous crime; and
WHEREAS, survivors of violence should have access to medical, legal, counseling, housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and
WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide service to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in recognition of the important work done by Tri-County Help Center, Inc. and other victim service providers, the Belmont County Commissioners do hereby recognize October as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". This month let us remember the victims of domestic violence, celebrate the survivors, and work together to eliminate domestic violence from our community.
Adopted this 1st day of October, 2025.

BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
J. P. Dutton /s/
Jerry Echemann /s/
Vince Gianangeli /s/

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

RECESS

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:47 A.M

Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Echemann to enter executive session with Hannah Warrington, HR Manager, 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. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes

Commissioner Dutton left executive session at 11:25 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:44 A.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to exit executive session at 11:44a.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Absent

Mr. Echemann said there is motion to be considered as a result of executive session.

IN THE MATTER OF HIRING DEANNA OLEXO AS FULL-TIME COOK/SSOBC

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to approve the hire of Deanna Olexo, full-time Cook at Senior Services of Belmont County, effective October 2, 2025.
Note: This is a replacement position.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Absent

RECESS

Reconvened Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 9:02 with Commissioners Dutton, Echemann and Gianangeli.

BUDGET HEARINGS-Present: Jody Thomas, Fiscal Clerk
2026 budget requests were reviewed. Mr. Dutton said the sales tax revenue was up a little for the first half of the year compared to 2024. He said the budget for 2025 was flat-lined except for the Auditor’s office which took a 6% reduction and the Commissioners’ office which took an 12% reduction. Healthcare cost are increasing. The average increase over the last 8 years was 5 1/2%. The increase for 2026 is 12%.

SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT-Present: Sheriff Zusack, Chief Deputy Glenn Moore and Miranda Miller, Fiscal Officer
\$9,692,828 requested for 2026. Sheriff Zusack said a new union contract is coming up. He calculated 5% increases. The average jail population has been 100 inmates. He does not have any plans to hire additional staff. Ms. Miller said the severance pay for retirees is \$50,000. She noted food costs have increased. Sheriff Zusack said due to the shortage of deputies they are getting more calls to help cover smaller departments. The capital murder case will increase deputy cost for security. Chief Moore said he has talked to other counties that had similar cases and they were able to get reimbursement from the state. Mr. Dutton said he will talk to state representatives.

Commissioner Echemann left the meeting.

RECESS

PROBATE/JUVENILE-Present: Judge Davies, Court Administrator Dave Carter, D.J. Watson, Sargus Director and Lisa Rine, Sargus Financial Officer.

\$196,639 requested for Probate, \$804,319 requested for Juvenile. Judge Davies said they are finding ways of doing more with less. They have lost 10 staff members in the last seven years and have not replaced them. Mr. Dutton said he doesn’t know of another department the does what they do with what they have. Judge Davies said the Supreme Court did a security audit of his area. There are some changes in the office area. Judge Davies would like to have the witness stand moved in his courtroom and do away with a door. He is willing to contribute to the cost of the courtroom changes.

SARGUS-Present: Judge Davies, Court Administrator Dave Carter, D.J. Watson, Sargus Director and Lisa Rine, Sargus Financial Officer. Mr. Watson said they do not have a draft budget yet. They are good for the rest of the year financially. The union contract will be up this year. He is estimating a 3% increase for salaries. The Capital Bill project started in October. Funds need to be expended by June 30, 2026. Mr. Watson is getting a complete overhaul quote for the HVAC system.

RECESS

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING
COMMISSIONERS MEETING AT 10:38 A.M.
Motion made by Mr. Dutton, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 a.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes
Mr. Echemann	Absent

Read, approved and signed this 8th day of October, 2025.

J. P. Dutton /s/_____

Jerry Echemann /s/_____ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Vince Gianangeli /s/_____

We, J. P. Dutton 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.

J. P. Dutton /s/_____ PRESIDENT

Bonnie Zuzak /s/_____ CLERK