

St. Clairsville, Ohio

June 17, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, met this day in regular session. Present: Jerry Echemann, Vince Gianangeli and J. P. Dutton, Commissioners and Jessica Koller, Assistant 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. Gianangeli 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 \$503,711.69

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS WITHIN FUND

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

A00 GENERAL FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0051-A001-A10.000 Professional Services	E-0257-A015-A15.074 Transfers Out	\$7,916.66
<u>S30 OAKVIEW JUV REHABILITATION</u>		
FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-8010-S030-S69.007 Unemployment	E-8010-S030-S62.000 Printing	\$500.00
E-8010-S030-S69.007 Unemployment	E-8010-S030-S63.000 General & Others	\$200.00
E-8010-S030-S69.007 Unemployment	E-8010-S030-S55.010 Supplies	\$7,600.00
E-8010-S030-S68.006 Hospitalization	E-8010-S030-S51.002 Salaries	\$30,000.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

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

A00 GENERAL FUND AND E01 COUNTY HEALTH

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0257-A015-A15.074 Transfers Out	R-2210-E001-E17.574 Transfers In	\$7,916.66

M78 TITLE IV-E REIMB AND M60 CARE AND CUSTODY-JUV COURT

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-0400-M078-M05.000 Other Expenses	R-0400-M060-M05.500 Other Receipts	\$131.86

W80 PROSECUTOR’S-VICTIM PROGRAM AND A00 GENERAL FUND

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
E-1511-W080-P01.002 Salaries	R-0040-A000-A47.574 Transfers In	\$2,472.06

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli 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 dates:

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

N90 BLACK HORSE INN PROJECT

E-9799-N099-N03.000	Construction-Ross County	\$122,509.46
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JUNE 16, 2026

A00 GENERAL FUND

E-0111-A001-E02.002	Salary	\$2,472.06
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M60 CARE AND CUSTODY-JUV COURT

E-0400-M060-M24.000	Other Expenses	\$15,131.86
E-0400-M060-M25.002	Salaries C-CAP	\$36,313.00
E-0400-M060-M26.003	PERS C-CAP	\$3,000.00
E-0400-M060-M27.005	Medicare C-CAP	\$1,416.50
E-0400-M060-M29.008	Insurances C-CAP	\$3,000.00

S12 PORT AUTHORITY

E-9799-S012-S07.000	Professional Services	\$5,073.77
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S30 OAKVIEW JUV REHABILITATION

E-8010-S030-S54.000	Food	\$5,985.45
E-8010-S030-S60.000	Maintenance & Repair	\$7,000.00

S32 OAKVIEW JUV – ACTIVITY FUND

E-8012-S032-S00.000	Activity Fund	\$561.22
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W20 LAW LIBRARY

E-9720-W020-W02.002	Salary	\$2,000.00
E-9720-W020-W03.003	PERS	\$600.00
E-9720-W020-W07.010	Supplies	\$3,967.79

W80 PROSECUTOR’S – VICTIM PROGRAM

E-1511-W080-P01.002	Salary	\$2,472.06
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Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING PERMISSION
FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO TRAVEL**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli granting permission for county employees to travel as follows:

COURT OF COMMON PLEASE/PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISION-Amy Tonkovich, Michelle Lindsey, Mary Lyle, Gina Walker and Meredith Cunningham to Dublin, OH, on June 24-26, 2026 to attend the Juvenile Court Clerks Conference.
SSOBC-Billy Marinacci to Columbus, OH, on July 26-29, 2026 to attend a DRIVE training. Estimated expenses: \$1,300.00.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

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

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to approve the minutes of the Belmont County Board of Commissioners regular meeting of June 10, 2026.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF ACKNOWLEDING RECEIPT OF DONATION
FROM JACK AND RENATE PERKINS/ANIMAL SHELTER**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to acknowledge the receipt of a \$1,000.00 donation from Jack and Renate Perkins to the Belmont County Animal Shelter.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF RESCHEDULING
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING TIME**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to hold the board’s regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday June 24, 2026, instead of at 10:00 a.m., due to a scheduling conflict and to notify the media of the same.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF AMENDING PROPOSAL APPROVED ON JUNE 3, 2026,
FROM ERB ELECTRIC COMPANY/COURTHOUSE**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to amend the proposal approved on June 3, 2026, from ERB Electric Company in the amount of \$4,190.00 for installation of banners on the Belmont County Courthouse in recognition of America 250; updated amount is \$2,890.00.

Note: The work did not take as long as expected.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING SENDING
THE NOTICE LETTER TO REBECCA MCKEEGAN**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to approve sending the notice letter to Rebecca McKeegan re: a creek obstruction issue located at 57780 Deep Run Road, Martins Ferry, Ohio.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER
OF PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS RESOLUTION.**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to adopt the Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails resolution.

“Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”

Motion made by Commissioner Echemann, seconded by Commissioner Gianangeli to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, BELMONT and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, BELMONT County is committed to improving outcomes for incarcerated individuals and reducing recidivism through access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services within the jail]; and

WHEREAS, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I [INSERT NAME & TITLE OF CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL], do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals’ needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

Upon vote the resolution was unanimously adopted.
PASSED AND APPROVED on this 17th day of June, 2026.

BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jerry Echemann /s/
Jerry Echemann, President
Vince Gianangeli /s/
Vince Gianangeli, Vice-President
J. P. Dutton /s/
J. P. Dutton

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

Discussion re: Stepping Up Program-Present: Patty Allen, Mental Health Recovery Board, Jim Sall, Belmont County Jail Administrator and Jarrett Weeks, Belmont County Jail Lieutenant.

Ms. Allen said the program is targeted to reducing the number of mental health illnesses in the jail which includes substance and/or alcohol abuse. “Stepping up is really just formalizing a system that we already have in place. Several years ago, the Mental Health Board partnered with the County Commissioners and the Belmont County Jail to fund and place a social worker within the jail,” said Ms. Allen. She added the program would give access for additional training, make it easier to get grants and can reduce recidivism which makes the community safer. Lt. Weeks said there are a large number of individuals in the jail with mental illness and the Mental Health Board assists very well with this.

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:57 A.M

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli 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. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:28 A.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to exit executive session at 11:28 a.m.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

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

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING THE RETIREMENT OF DONNA BILICA/ JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to accept the retirement of Donna Bilica, full-time Income Maintenance Aide 2 at Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services, effective June 30, 2026.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING
COMMISSIONERS MEETING AT 11:29 A.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Gianangeli to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

Read, approved and signed this 24th day of June, 2026.

Jerry Echemann /s/

Vince Gianangeli /s/ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

J. P. Dutton /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