

St. Clairsville, Ohio

October 14, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, met this day in regular session. Present: Jerry Echemann and J. P. Dutton, Commissioners and Jessica Koller, Assistant Clerk of the Board. Absent: Commissioner Gianangeli.

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. Dutton 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 \$764,006.39

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS WITHIN FUND

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

2370-DISTRICT DETENTION HOME

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
2370-370-32-510005 Other Expenses	2370-370-32-510225 Hospitalization	\$56,290.02
2370-370-32-510005 Other Expenses	2370-370-32-510226 Dental	\$6,435.00
2370-370-32-510005 Other Expenses	2370-370-32-510227 Vision	\$1,856.16
2370-370-32-510201 PERS-STRS	2370-370-32-520001 Food Service Exp.	\$10,000.00
2370-370-32-510201 PERS-STRS	2370-370-32-520101 Supplies	\$10,000.00

2411-ENGINEER

2411-412-33-525000 MVGT	2411-412-33-520100 MVGT	\$100,000.00
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1000-GENERAL FUND

1000-110-30-535000 Budget Stabilization	1000-110-41-560000 Transfers Out	\$7,416.18
1000-260-21-510200 Fringe Benefits	1000-260-31-510225 Hospitalization	\$48,500.00
1000-260-31-510200 Fringe Benefits	1000-260-31-510226 Dental	\$1,200.00
1000-260-31-510200 Fringe Benefits	1000-260-31-510227 Vision	\$350.00
1000-260-31-510201 PERS	1000-260-31-520200 Equipment	\$1,150.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

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

1000 GENERAL FUND AND 2140 PROSECUTOR’S-VICTIM PROGRAM

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
1000-110-41-560000 Transfers Out	2140-140-95-460000 Transfers In	\$7,416.18

5437 WATER WORKS FUND AND 3100 MT. VICTORY-BOND RETIREMENT FUND

5437-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	3100-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$1,030.00
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5437 WATER WORKS FUND AND 3432 USDA WATER BOND PAYMENT FUND

5437-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	3432-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$150,000.00
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5437 WATER WORKS FUND AND 3433 USDA WATER BOND RESERVE FUND

5437-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	3433-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$12,350.00
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5437 WATER WORKS FUND AND 4432 WWS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

5437-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	4432-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$28,750.00
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5437 WATER WORKS FUND AND 4441 WWS REVENUE BOND SHORT LIVED FUND

5437-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	4441-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$58,000.00
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5440 SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT FUND AND 3431 SEWER BOND RETIREMENT FUND

5440-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	3431-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$11,000.00
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5440 SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT FUND AND 3435 NEFFS BOND RETIREMENT FUND

5440-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	3435-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$2,848.00
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5440 SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT FUND AND 5430 USDA-SSD BOND PAYMENT FUND

5440-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	5430-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$29,167.00
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5445 WATER AND SEWER GUARANTEE DEPOSIT FUND AND 5437 WATER WORKS FUND

5445-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	5437-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$2,145.48
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5445 WATER AND SEWER GUARANTEE DEPOSIT FUND AND 5440 SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT FUND

5445-430-41-560000 Transfers Out	5440-430-95-460000 Transfers In	\$879.27
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Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton 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 2, 2026

4104-BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

4104-110-40-530000	Construction	\$1,138,224.86
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Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING PERMISSION
FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES TO TRAVEL

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

DJFS-Stacie Brown to Cambridge, OH, on October 20, 2020, to attend the Aetna Ohio Rise Fall Regional Partner Forum. Estimated expenses: 6.\$84.28. Courtney Clark to Columbus, OH, on November 6, 2026, to attend Human Traffic Training. A county car will be used for travel. Estimated expenses: \$300.00. Jeff Felton, John Regis, Jr., Christine Parker, Lynne Zanke, Melissa Regis, Christy Devore, Nichole Couch, Hannah McGraw, Hope Romshak and Ed Braun to Sugarcreek, OH, on November 8-9, 2026, to attend the Adoption Training Seminar. Estimated expenses: \$2,441.68.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ACKNOWLEDGING BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE INTEREST REPORT AND INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to acknowledge the Belmont County Commissioners received and reviewed the following from the Belmont County Treasurer’s Office:

- Interest Report and Investment Portfolio for the months of September 2026.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The board’s regular meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, instead of Wednesday, October 21, 2026, due to a scheduling conflict and to notify the media of the same.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING UNPAID LEAVE FOR MINDY YOHO, FULL-TIME DEPUTY CLERK/EASTERN

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve unpaid leave for Mindy Yoho, full-time Deputy Clerk at Belmont County Eastern Divisional Court, effective October 23, 2026.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF HIRING KATIE HUDAK, FULL-TIME SENIOR CENTER ADMINISTRATOR/SSOBC

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve the hire of Katie Hudak, full-time Senior Center Administrator at Senior Services of Belmont County, effective October 26, 2026.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING RETIREMENT OF VIRGINIA NOON, FULL-TIME CHILD SUPPORT CASE MANAGER/DJFS

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve the retirement of Virginia Noon, full-time Child Support Case Manager at Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services, effective October 30, 2026.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PAY APPLICATION NUMBER 19 (THROUGH 929/2026) FROM GRAE-CON CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BELMONT COUNTY HEALTH AND RECORDS BUILDING

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve Pay Application Number 19 (through 9/29/2026) from Grae-Con Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,138,224.86, 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. Echemann	Yes
Mr. Dutton	Yes
Mr. Gianangeli	Absent

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING JEFF FELTON, BCDJFS DIRECTOR, TO SIGN THE CARLISLE INN GUESTROOM & MEETING SPACE AGREEMENT

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to authorize Jeff Felton, Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services Director, to sign the Carlisle Inn Guestroom and Meeting Space Agreement to host an adoption and foster care training session on November 9, 2026.

Note: Belmont County is partnering with Jefferson County DJFS and East Central Regional Training Center.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

Jeff Felton, Belmont County Department of Job & Family Services Director, said prior to COVID the adoption training was held at Oglebay. Jefferson County would like to have another training and has offered to pay for the speakers.

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING RESOLUTION TO ASSIGN AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE BELMONT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE BOARD’S DESIGNEE WITH AUTHORITY TO REQUEST AND SIGN INTER-COUNTY ADJUSTMENTS OF ALLOCATIONS ON BEHALF OF BELMONT COUNTY

Motion by Commissioner Echemann to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO ASSIGN AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE BELMONT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE BOARD’S DESIGNEE WITH AUTHORITY TO REQUEST AND SIGN INTER-COUNTY ADJUSTMENTS OF ALLOCATIONS ON BEHALF OF BELMONT COUNTY

Re: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

Ms. Klug said the center has a shelter providing victims with a safe place to stay at an undisclosed location, known as Peg’s House. “We offer legal advocacy, trauma-informed mental health counseling, safety planning, and we have a 24-hour hotline for survivors,” said Ms. Klug The hotline answered 267 calls in 2025. She added domestic violence may include emotional, psychological, sexual and financial abuse.

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

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

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

WHEREAS Domestic Violence Awareness Month is observed each October to raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of domestic violence, which affects millions of Americans and impacts every community, including Belmont County; and
WHEREAS it is essential to hold perpetrators accountable, challenge the attitudes and behaviors that allow domestic violence to occur, and create systems where abuse is not tolerated; and
WHEREAS every person has the right to live in a safe, non-violent home and community where all individuals can live with safety, dignity, and respect; and
WHEREAS domestic violence is a serious and pervasive community issue that affects individuals and families of every race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic background; and
WHEREAS domestic violence has a profound and lasting impact on survivors, children, families, and communities, with 1 in 3 teenagers, 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men experiencing domestic violence during their lifetime, and approximately 1 in 15 children exposed to domestic violence each year; and
WHEREAS domestic violence may include physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and financial abuse, as well as patterns of intimidation, coercion, control, or other behaviors intended to harm or instill fear; 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 were \$3.6 trillion; and
WHEREAS survivors of domestic violence demonstrate tremendous courage and strength in seeking safety, healing, and lives free from abuse, and should have access to medical, legal, counseling, housing, advocacy, emergency shelter, and other supportive services necessary to escape the cycle of violence; and
WHEREAS children and other family members may also experience lasting physical, emotional, and psychological effects from domestic violence, making prevention, education, intervention, and comprehensive support essential to the health and well-being of our community; and
WHEREAS the Belmont County Commissioners recognize that ending domestic violence requires a coordinated community response focused on prevention, education, survivor support, and accountability.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Belmont County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes October 2026 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month throughout Belmont County and urges all residents to increase their awareness of domestic violence, support survivors and their families, learn about available resources, and join together to create a community where every person can live safely and free from violence and abuse.
Adopted this 14th day of October, 2026.

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

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

RECESS

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

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to enter executive session with Belmont County Assistant Prosecutor T.J. Schultz, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(3) Court Action Exception to consider imminent court action.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:23 A.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to exit executive session at 11:23 a.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Echemann said as a result of executive session there is no action to be taken at this time.

RECESS

IN THE MATTER OF ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:17 P.M

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to enter executive session with Hannah Warrington, HR Manager, pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) Personnel Exception to consider the employment and compensation of public employees.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 12:49 P.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to exit executive session at 12:49 p.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

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

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE CHANGE OF
CONNIE “RENEE” CRAIG, PART-TIME CENTER ASSISTANT
TO FULL-TIME NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL DRIVER/SSOBC**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve the change of Connie "Renee" Craig, part-time center assistant to full-time Non-Emergency Medical Driver, effective October 19, 2026.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE CHANGE OF
JODI VINCENT, PART-TIME COOK TO FULL-TIME COOK/SSOBC**

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to approve the change of Jodi Vincent, part-time cook to full-time cook at Senior Services of Belmont County, effective October 13, 2026.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

RECESS

Reconvened Monday, October 19, 2026, AT 8:32 a.m. with Commissioners Echemann and Dutton and Bonnie Zuzak, Clerk.

BUDGET HEARINGS

Present: Jessica Koller, Assistant Clerk/Payroll
2027 budget requests were reviewed.

DIVISIONAL COURTS-Present: Judges Costine, Myser and Trouten, Clerks Jessical Uscio, Chelsea Walls and Cheri Westlake.
Judge Myser said Northern Court is under budget due to some employees leaving and the replacements are at a lower wage. Mr. Echemann explained the county health insurance has increased by 15% for 2027. Mr. Dutton said the county is still utilizing the Wellness Program. He noted the revenues from sales tax is up from 2026. Judge Myser said the video equipment they use is aged and will need replaced.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING
COMMISSIONERS MEETING AT 9:07 A.M.

Motion made by Mr. Echemann, seconded by Mr. Dutton to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 a.m.
Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

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

Read, approved and signed this 20th day of October, 2026.

Jerry Echemann /s/

J. P. Dutton /s/ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Gianangeli – Absent

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