

MEDINA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2026

Chairman Deforest called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Roll Call was conducted. The following Committee members were present: Joe Canestraro, Carol Carter, Dan Chafin, Carl Deforest, Rick Dumperth, Greg Glauner, Terry Grice, Steve Hambley, Aaron Harrison, Jim Shields, and Larry Walters.

Other individuals present: Ben Nau and Josh Tidey.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: Mr. Dumperth made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Grice. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote with Chief Walters abstaining.

Resolutions: None.

Purchases: None.

Old Business:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Mass Notification System Access Approval: Mr. Deforest made a motion to accept the MOUs for Mass Notification System Access that have been received from the City of Medina, the Medina County Engineer, and the Medina County Health Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dumperth. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

New Business:

- All Hazards Advisory Committee (AHAC) Member Appointment: Mr. Deforest made a motion to accept the AHAC's recommendation to appoint Chief Matt Payne of Hinckley Fiore-Rescue and Chief Chris Ridenour of Lodi Fire-EMS for the rest of the year as replacements for Brian Cavanaugh and Jim Carter, who transferred and retired, respectively. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Grice. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Bills Report: Director Nau shared the bills report.

EMA activities:

- Director Nau briefed training opportunities, focusing primarily on ICS training sessions that are scheduled for the rest of 2026. The L-105 Public Information Basics course still has open seats that need to be filled to conduct the class.
- Director Nau highlighted the largest project now is training and implementing the Regroup mass notification system.

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- Director Nau updated the previous month's incidents. The county fair was fairly uneventful except for an AI scanning tool that misinterpreted three separate incidents in Medina as one large incident at the county fair. This issue necessitated a press release to clarify the information for the public.
- Director Nau briefed the status of grant funding and the drawdown of funds, specifically the Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning grant used to pay for training. The largest expense pending is the full-scale exercise scheduled for September.
- Director Nau informed the committee regarding the interview process for the open Emergency Management Specialist position.

Board Members:

- Chief Glauner invited the committee to the Brunswick Rotary's Night at the Races event on September 19th and gave everyone an information flyer.
- Commissioner Hambley thanked Director Nau for assistance during the Chippewa Lake and Gloria Glens water main issue. There were many lessons learned regarding the value of public information and working better to keep the public abreast of the ongoing response. Commissioner Hambley also noted that the local fire department was not informed of the outage.
- Commissioner Harrison informed the committee that the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Aviation Advisory Council is seeking two representatives to be on the council. If anyone is interested, they can let Commissioner Harrison know.
- Sheriff Grice inquired there was a geofenced message released during the water main break incident in Chippewa Lake and Gloria Glens. Director Nau confirmed that there were when he was engaged with the Sanitary Engineers. He also briefed that the new mass notification system can handle attachments in messages and that would be used in the future to better inform the public of areas impacted, e.g. those under a boil water notice or not.

Mr. Deforest made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dumperth and passed unanimously via voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 am.