MEDINA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2026

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

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

Other individuals present: Ben Nau, Chuck Stiver, and Josh Tidey.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: Mr. Dumperth made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chafin. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Resolutions: None.

Purchases: None.

Old Business:

- Regroup Update: Initial implementation of Regroup is complete. Dispatch centers and other county agencies have been trained. There are approximately 77,000 recipients in the system, which includes 67,000 purchased contacts and 9,200 public registrations. Director Nau informed the committee that the purchased data is primarily for specific IPAWS notifications and opt-in sign-ups are typically used to disseminate automated weather messages. Commissioner Harrison recommended sending messages on the previous system prior to it being secured to get more sign-ups.

New Business:

- Emergency Management Association of Ohio (EMAO) Conference: Director Nau sought approval for the Director and Deputy Director to attend the EMAO Winter Conference December 3-4 at Salt Fork Lodge and Conference Center in Kimbolton, OH. The cost is $450 per person. Chairman Deforest made a motion to approve the cost and attendance for both personnel. The motion was seconded by Chief Glauner and passed unanimously via voice vote.

Bills Report: Director Nau shared the bills report, highlighting previously approved large purchases. He also explained that cost recovery payments to local departments were because EMA consolidated the recovery and processed them on behalf of involved departments, thus EMA has to disperse the funds when they are received.

EMA activities:

- Director Nau highlighted training opportunities, focusing on the L-105 Public Information Basics course being hosted September 21-23.

- Director Nau briefed that the Hazmat Plan was approved by the Local Emergency Planning Committee and is being prepared for submission to the State Emergency Response Commission for final approval. He also reminded the committee that the annual LEPC exercise is on September 19th.

- Director Nau provided an update on the previous month's incidents, which included two hazmat calls, a vehicle into the Job and Family Services building, and a barn fire. Additionally, EMA staff were able to support Perry County's EOC following their flooding events.

- Director Nau briefed the status of grant funding and the drawdown of funds, specifically the Emergency Management Performance Grant. It is anticipated to be exhausted at the end of the current quarter.

Miscellaneous:

- Mr. Stiver briefed the committee that he was asked by a county fire department to sell them fire fighting foam that he is a distributor for and has always avoided sales in Medina County, but needed to make some inquiries prior to deciding on the transaction. Mr. Stiver then spoke with Human Resources (HR) regarding whether there would be any concerns or improprieties. HR saw no issue with selling the product to agencies within Medina County but recommended notifying the committee. Mr. Deforest confirmed that Mr. Stiver is not advertising and was sought by the fire department. Commissioner Harrison made sure that the sales would not be occurring on EMA time. No other issues or concerns were noted.

Board Members:

- Commissioner Harrison mentioned that he overheard two teenagers discussing accessibility of a radio tower site in the vicinity of the Whitetail Community near Route 3. After discussion, it was determined this may be a MARCS radio tower and Sheriff Grice would discuss it with Montville Police to possibly drive by the site to see if it is secured. It was also discussed that the tower may be privately owned by a camp in the area.

- Mr. Stiver publicly thanked the city of Wadsworth on behalf of the All-Hazards Team for selling the team their Heavy Rescue truck. He stated that it would bolster the county's response capability and the vehicle was in near pristine condition.

Executive Session:

- At 8:56 am, Mr. Deforest made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss hiring and compensation of public employees. Mr. Dumperth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

- At 9:10 am, Mr. Deforest made a motion to exit Executive Session. Chief Glauner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote. The Executive Committee exited Executive Session with no decisions being made during that time.

- Mr. Deforest made a motion to hire Kaitlyn Jackson as the Emergency Management Specialist I with $60,000 annual pay, contingent upon passing an updated background check and drug screening. Chief Walters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

- Mr. Deforest made a motion to increase Josh Tidey's salary as the Deputy Director to $70,000 annual pay effective on October 1st. Mr. Dumperth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Chief Walters made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chafin and passed unanimously via voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.