MINUTES OF MEETING

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Present: Commissioners Timothy E. Bubb, Duane H. Flowers and Rick Black, Administrator David Edelblute, Clerk Christel Hamper
Guest: Paul Lauritzen, League of Women Voters

9:27 AM: Commissioner Bubb called the meeting to order.

10:14 AM: Commissioner Black made a motion to adopt 26-0407-COMM through 26-0415-SHER. Commissioner Flowers second. Motion carried 3-0.

26-0407-COMM	Approving Minutes of April 30, 2026 Meeting
26-0408-COMM	Approving Payment for Warrants May 7, 2026
26-0409-COMM	Certify Funds
26-0410-COMM	Appropriation of Funds
26-0411-COMM	Transfer of Funds
26-0412-ENG	Approving use of Permissive Tax Fund by the Village of Buckeye Lake
26-0413-PLAN	Authorizing LCPDD to Apply - PY2026 Critical Infrastructure Project - Hartford
26-0414-SS	Entering into an Agreement with Advanced Business Communications
26-0415-SHER	Allowing Expenses for Staff to Attend Conference

9:30 AM: Public Comments – Howard Long, Licking County Historical Society. Presented American Revolutionary War Soldier grave markers to show the Commissioners what are being placed on the graves by the Sons of the American Revolution "SAR" group. SAR coming next week to request funds in order to purchase additional grave markers. The Commissioners have partnered with the Historical Society to recognize the 143 American Revolutionary War Soldiers buried throughout Licking County. Presented several other projects that he is currently involved in. Commissioner Black made a motion to sponsor and support the Licking County America 250 Patriotic Decorating Contest the weekend of July 4th, 2026. Commissioner Flowers seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Requested to have the Licking County Courthouse open the weekend of May 30th for multiple America 250 events being held in Downtown Newark. Commissioner Bubb explained that the Courthouse is a working county building, not a museum. There are logistical issues in opening the Courthouse outside of normal county business hours which would require security and maintenance staff to work overtime. Commissioner Bubb states there are also economic impacts to staffing the courthouse after hours. He would prefer people visit during open hours and visit the Historic Arcade as well as other local businesses. Commissioner Flowers suggested that the video of the Courthouse dedication can be played at a location for people to view. Howard requested a piece of the sandstone remnant from the demolition of the Children's Home to use as a base for the historic marker that was damaged on State Route 40. The marker will be put on display at Veteran's Park. The Commissioners gave approval. Howard will contact Kevin Rine to set that up.

10:30 AM: Ryan Brown and Kevin Eby, Water/Wastewater – Miller Pipeline has exhausted 73% of the Hanover Waterline Extension Project schedule, 46% of work has been completed. If they do not meet the end of the year deadline, there will be daily penalties applied. Coordinating with the local school district to work outside of school bussing hours. Further work will be directional drilled, will not be open cutting any other Hanover Village roads. As soon as the lines are pressurized and chlorine tested, residents can begin hooking up to taps. Hoping to have 50% of homes hook up, equating to about 200 homes. Harbor Hills Water Project warranty is up in September. Tucson will be connecting with residents to reseed some yards that have damage left over from the project. Met with Licking Township Trustees regarding issues of reflective cracks in roads that showed up once the roads were repaved after the project. Upcoming Harbor Hills Booster Station Project will be an upgrade from the last project completed there in the 1990's. Jacksontown Waterline Construction Project is continuing. Project can benefit 31 households as well as Dawe's Arboretum. Tentative completion date is September of this year. Representative Balderson's office did not provide funding toward a water tower this year but provided encouragement to reapply next year. Sewer Plant UV Disinfecting System is reaching the end of its life span, it has been in service since 2006. Will be looking at replacing the system this year.

1:00 PM: April Foster, Veterans Service – Introduced new Veteran Service Commissioner Dwight Reynolds. Provided 2026 Community Impact Snapshot. 12,000 veterans currently live in Licking County. So far this year, they have provided $310,633.62 in financial assistance and have transported 882 veterans to healthcare appointments. Continues to work with Licking County Aging Partners to provide supportive services to the aging veteran population. Updated on status of the renovation projects at both the Newark and Pataskala locations.

1:30 PM: Ian Nickey, Hicks Partners. Todd Ware and Dan McVey, Energy Cooperative – Detailed plans for their future Licking County Pipeline Project. They will be building a 24-inch steel natural gas transmission pipeline in Licking County to supply energy to a Data Center in Innovation Park. The Data Center is paying for the project, Energy Cooperative will own and operate the pipeline. Cooperative ratepayer dollars will not be used for the construction of this project. The pipeline will also benefit Energy Cooperative in expanding their distribution in the future. This will provide 500M cubic feet of natural gas per day, keeping weight off from the electric grid. They will have enough pressure on their lines without the needing to run compression. Will be working with property owners in the area to establish easements. Project will be completed in two phases. Phase I should be up and running September 2027, Phase II should be complete the end of 2028. Project requires regulatory review through the Ohio Power Siting Board to ensure it meets safety, environmental and community standards.

2:22 PM: Meeting Adjourned

LICKING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CERTIFICATION PAGE

Resolution No. 26-0416-COMM **May 14, 2026**

Approving Minutes of May 7, 2026 Meeting

Upon the motion of Rick Black, seconded by Duane H. Flowers.

VOTE:

Rick Black	**Aye**
Timothy E. Bubb	**Aye**
Duane H. Flowers	**Aye**

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Licking County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Christel Hamper, Clerk of the Board

Board of County Commissioners

Licking County, Ohio