



MORROW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

80 North Walnut Street, Suite A
Mount Gilead, Ohio 43338

Commissioners:

Thomas E. Whiston
Timothy A. Abraham
Timothy R. Siegfried

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The following action was taken by the Board of Morrow County Commissioners during regular session on June 28, 2021:

**IN THE MATTER OF
ACCEPTING THE MORROW COUNTY HEALTH INITIATIVE CITIZENS ADVISORY GROUP
MAJORITY OPINION RECOMMENDATIONS WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSES: 21-R-460**

WHEREAS, Commissioner Whiston made a motion to accept the staff report including the following:

That the Morrow County Commissioners accept the package of recommendations presented to them by majority vote of the **Morrow County Health Initiative Citizens Advisory Group**. **While some of these recommendations are specific to the Morrow County Hospital Board, others require action by the Morrow County Commissioners, and some recommendations require joint action and collaboration which the Commissioners embrace.**

The Commissioners thank everyone involved in the Morrow County Health Initiative Citizens Advisory Group for intensively dedicating six months towards making recommendations to both the Morrow County Hospital Board and to the Morrow County Commissioners. We believe that the sincerest thanks for your efforts is to not just acknowledge your recommendations, but to take action towards them with the goal of improving wellness in our County and in expanding available healthcare services.

With that:

The Morrow County Commissioners create by resolution a seven-member Morrow County Wellness Committee with representatives to include:

1. A doctor or nurse working in some capacity within Morrow County
2. A representative from Morrow County EMS
3. A representative from the Morrow County Health Department
4. A representative from the Morrow County Park Board
5. A representative from the Morrow County Development Office
6. A representative from a Morrow County fitness organization
7. A representative from the senior community.

The wellness committee appointees will be considered public officials, falling under Ohio Ethics Law requirements, and will serve a two-year term. The committee will be tasked with self-organization by Roberts Rules and must fully comply with the Ohio Public Records Law and the Open Meetings Act with all meetings being recorded through a publicly-owned system. All members will be required to obtain an Ohio Attorney General's certificate of Ohio Sunshine Training completion and Ohio Ethics Commission certificate. The Committee will "sunset" on July 1, 2023 unless renewed by resolution.

The Committee will be tasked with:

- Encouraging residents to take responsibility for improving and sustaining their own health
- Identifying and promoting available opportunities for recreation and fitness activities
- Informing county residents of available health and wellness services, support programs, and educational opportunities
- Collaborating with already existing social and health networks
- Integrating available transportation and Internet services to meet healthcare access needs.

The Commissioners will accept applications for this Morrow County Wellness Committee through July 31 at their office on 80 N Walnut St., Suite A, Mount Gilead, with a target date of announcing those volunteer appointments by September 1.

The Morrow County Commissioners dedicate \$25,000 to the Morrow County Park District for construction of high-quality trails at the new, Flying Squirrel Preserve in Chester and Franklin Townships. The Commissioners further support the expansion of this beautiful and biologically-diverse property.

The Commissioners not only agree with twice-a-year meetings with the Hospital Board, they **further recommend resuming quarterly meetings** in July 2021 between the Commissioners and the Hospital Board, that those **meetings resume as public meetings, and that they are video recorded and accessible by the County website.** They also encourage that all meeting of both boards be publicly recorded and available on County-owned websites.

The Commissioners recognize and support adherence to Ohio Revised Code 339, and pledge to support Hospital Board members as they work to faithfully follow those laws and all obligations as public officials.

The Commissioners pledge to continue efforts to increase public transportation and improve broadband access. This continues with ongoing efforts that include: support and renewal of the County's road levy that has paved 182 miles of road over the past four years; support of the Ohio Department of Transportation Safety Study currently underway for the State Routes 61 and 229 intersection; support of the Access23 project; and support of the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization's State Route 61, State Route 95, and State Route 229 planning study for improving conditions at those intersections and improved access to Knox County. The Commissioners continue to review **opportunities through the American Rescue Plan for leveraging those funds, and in collaborating with** other government entities and private partners as possible for **expanding broadband access in Morrow County.**

Efforts will continue to build on the success of the recent Dollar Tree Distribution Center attraction project that **created 400-plus jobs that offer health insurance.** This is **one of the top-touted job creation efforts as viewed by the Columbus Region** and creates the opportunity for future, similar investments.

Finally, the Commissioners accept the recommendation from the majority opinion of MCHICAG members **that a new Request for Proposal (RFP) should be issued for the Morrow County Hospital.**

The Commissioners want to **expand available healthcare services in Morrow County** and to **increase competition** for County residents' \$100 million-plus per year hospitalization needs. Fulfilling those needs here, in Morrow County, **better serves our community and greatly supports the creation of good paying jobs and further economic development.**

The Commissioners believe that any successful RFP process for sale/lease/long term operation of the Morrow County Hospital requires accounting for the full legal authority of **both** the Morrow County Hospital Board and the Morrow County Commissioners.

The Commissioners' goal continues to be in **expanding healthcare services** for all Morrow Countians, **keeping an Emergency Room in Morrow County**, as well as **increasing the number of good-paying health service jobs** — the highest demand occupations expected over the next decade by any sector of the economy.

The Commissioners pledge their commitment to the importance of protecting the healthcare employment of individuals currently working at the Morrow County Hospital.

Finally, the best outcomes for all Morrow Countians will come from an open, transparent, and **competitive process**, jointly managed by both boards and **equally accessible to any and all interested parties committed to expanding healthcare services** in Morrow County.

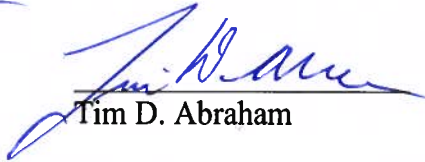
Mr. Siegfried duly seconded this motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Abraham..., "yea" Mr. Siegfried..., "yea" Mr. Whiston..., "yea"

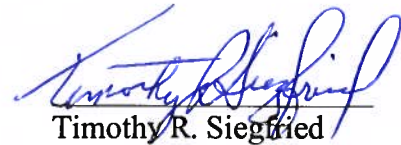
BOARD OF MORROW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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