

Today's weather
HIGH: 82
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Sunrise: 6:06
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Commissioners OK resolution regarding social services levy

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — The Medina County commissioners unanimously passed a resolution on Tuesday, determining the necessity of placing a renewal levy for health, human and social services on the November ballot.

"There's a current social service levy on the books in Medina County. It was first approved by the voters in November 2018 (and) it's a 1-mill levy," said Chris Jakab, Medina County administrator. "The proceeds from the levy are currently shared by our county Job and Family Services office, our (Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health) Board and our Office

for Older Adults."

The new resolution states that the proposed levy would be for five years, with the first tax collection in 2025.

During the Board of Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, Medina County Commissioner Steve Hambley emphasized the fact that because the levy is a renewal, there would not be any new money collected. He stated that the

"This authorizes the auditor to provide us with an estimate of potential revenue to be generated from the 1-mill levy. There will be a subsequent resolution authorizing it to be placed on the ballot once the auditor responds to this particular resolution."

Chris Jakab, Medina County administrator

county is being frugal with the renewal, as the agencies are not asking for any increase in funding.

With the commissioners' unanimous vote, the resolution will be given to the Medina County auditor for certification.

"This authorizes the auditor to provide us with an estimate of potential revenue to be generated from the 1-mill

levy," Jakab said. "There will be a subsequent resolution authorizing it to be placed on the ballot once the auditor responds to this particular resolution."

At a previous meeting, the commissioners asked for the directors of the three county departments to further discuss the levy and how the funding would be a benefit.

See **LEVY, A2**

LEVY

From A1

Medina County Office for Older Adults Director Laura Toth said that since 2019, MCOOA has grown in sev-

eral aspects: the transition of Adult Protective Services in September 2021 to MCOOA from Medina County Job and Family Services; the opening of the Soprema Center Cafe in Wadsworth; and the over-

all growth of people using the OOA's services.

Toth said that any future funding will go to sustaining the growth that MCOOA has experienced over the past few years.

Medina County Job and Family Services Director Debbie Kiley said that the department receives funding from the levy, in addition to funding from the state and federal levels. She also noted that Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has ensured that funding for JFS programs is put within the state budget.

"We're also incredibly grateful for the approval of this levy from the voters because if not for those two things, we wouldn't be able to meet the needs of care for the children that we currently have," Kiley said.

Before January 2021, Kiley said that MCJFS would typically have 70 to 80 children within their care on a weekly basis. Since then, there has been exponential growth within MCJFS, with approximately 130 to 140 kids in its care at a time.

Kiley said that without several sources of funding, the department would not be able to meet the need.

Medina County ADAMH Board Director Phillip Titterington said that with the levy funding, the ADAMH Board has been able to expand and reach the additional needs of the community, wrapping them in the more necessary services offered.

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or scrawford@medina-gazette.com.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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