



**SENECA**

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



# Seneca County Board of Commissioners

2019 Year in Review Report

# Seneca County overview

- The county includes two cities, six villages and 15 townships
- Population: 55,207 (2018 U.S. Census Bureau estimate)
- Area is roughly 550.6 square miles
- Includes:
  - 235.65 miles of state highway miles
  - 397.7 miles of county roads
  - 628.2 miles of township roads
  - 1,261.6 total miles of roadway
  - 396 bridges



# Major themes



**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**



**PERSONNEL CHANGES**



**CAPITAL PURCHASES  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
UPGRADES**



**RENEWED  
COMMITMENT TO  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**



**TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCESSIBILITY**



**COOPERATION AND  
COLLABORATION IN  
AND OUT OF THE  
COUNTY**



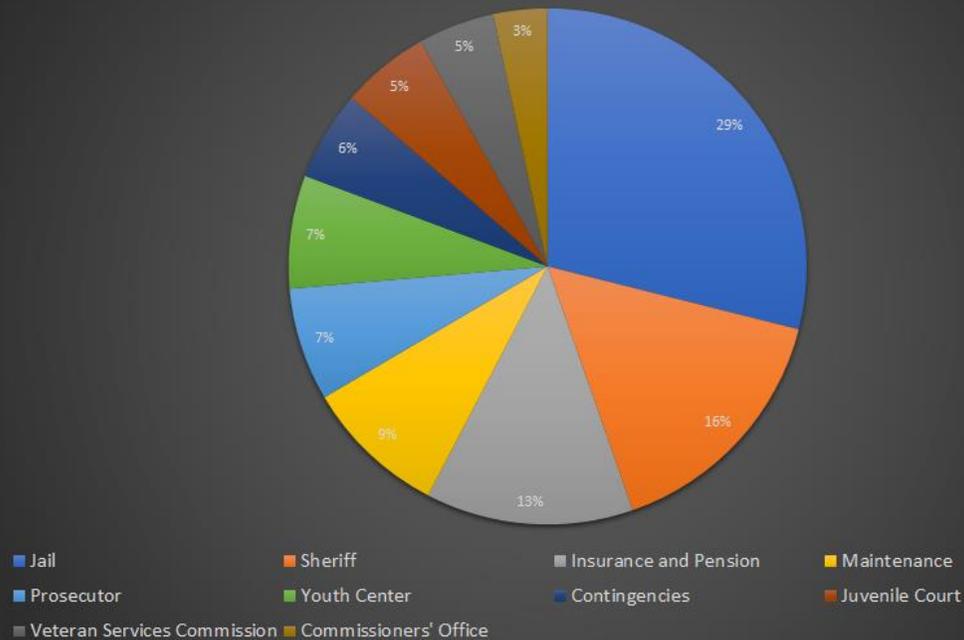
**PLANNING**



**SUPPORTING PEOPLE  
AND INSTITUTIONS IN  
OUR COMMUNITY**

# Fiscal Responsibility

2020 General Fund Budgeted Expenses



- General Fund revenue hits second-highest mark since 2008 at more than \$18 million
- Continued commitment to Budget Stabilization Fund (\$625,000)
- Remained in support of successful Land Bank program
- Sold former Carnegie Library building for \$90,000. Funds used for building maintenance and repairs.

# Personnel changes

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- Board thanks and says farewell to Commissioner Holly Stacy (July)
- Board welcomes Commissioner Tony Paradiso (August)
- Former treasurer Damon Alt becomes magistrate for Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Kelbley
- Paul Harrison welcomed as new treasurer
- John Spahr named new Seneca County EMA Administrator



# Capital purchases and infrastructure upgrades



- New voting machines purchased in January
- “Flipped the switch” on the county’s fiber-ring network
- New roof at the Seneca County Opportunity Center
- Taxiway improvements at the Seneca County Airport
- Enhanced security system at the Public Safety Building
- Completed concept drawings for the Seneca County General Health District entrance renovation

# Renewed commitment to economic development

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Board doubled down on its commitment to economic development by investing more money into Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership and Fostoria Economic Development Corp.

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Led to the hiring of a specialist at T-SEP to bring larger focus to rural economic development

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Commissioner Mike Kerschner joins other dignitaries for business trip to Tokyo, Japan





# Transparency and accessibility

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- Continued the tradition of hosting off-site meetings at various times (Bloom Township, Pleasant Township and Tiffin University)
- Launched the Coffee with a Commissioner event series
- Commissioner Thomas presented the county's media relations/communications strategies at CCAO conference
- Clean audit for 2018 was announced

# Cooperation and collaboration in and out of the county

- Worked with many community partners to submit state capital budget requests for several projects
- Projects include the health department entrance renovation and upgrades at Opportunity Park
- Great communication with local, state and federal elected officials
- Spent time with Senator Rob Portman, Congressman Jim Jordan, State Supreme Court Justice Sharon Kennedy, State Auditor Keith Faber and state representatives Bill Reineke, Riordain McClain and Craig Riedel.



# Planning

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- “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will get you there.”
- The county is currently in varying stages of several plans including a Facilities Master Plan, a countywide comprehensive plan and a countywide active transportation plan.
- In 2019, did most of the work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was approved in early 2020
- CDBG Funding helped with \$9,400 for the Tiffin-Seneca United Way and Fostoria United Way for homelessness prevention and \$43,100 for park improvements in Melmore.



# Individual achievements



- Seneca County Auditor Julie Adkins named president of the County Auditors Association of Ohio
- Seneca County EMS Director Ken Majors recognized for 30 consecutive years of National EMS Paramedic Certification.
- EMS volunteers Denny Hanlon and Jennifer Hill also were recognized for their ability as healthcare workers.
- In April, all county volunteers recognized for their contributions
- Teresa Roessner celebrated 30 years working in the Seneca County Clerk of Courts department in July
- Seneca County Museum Director Tonia Hoffert celebrated 20 years of involvement with the museum
- Ron Lutz, the county's weights and measures inspector, and Brendan Cullen, the county's GIS Programmer, received recognition for their training and abilities.

# Supporting people and institutions in the community

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- Justice Center cupola light used to mark many occasions
- Approved proclamations and letters for several causes
- The commissioners were honored to take part in celebrations for the state champion Tiffin Calvert Girls volleyball team and the Clyde Fliers football team
- Featured several women who are business leaders through the Women in Business web series
- Sent condolences after the passing of the late Mark Hayes and Jim Roberts, two Tiffin City Council members and distinguished members of the community





# 2020 outlook

- “The Three C’s”
  - Continuity
    - Don’t re-invent the wheel, the people and systems are in place.
  - Collaboration
    - We may not have a direct policy lever, but we can work together to find a solution to issues brought before us.
  - Communication
    - Acting as a bridge between institutions, agencies and individuals.
    - A major focus on teamwork and communication.
    - Remaining committed to being transparent and accessible to our constituents.