

Three men, identified as Seneca County Commissioners, are standing in front of a large window. The window has a large green graphic of the Seneca County seal and the word "SENECA" printed on it. The man on the left is wearing a blue button-down shirt with "Seneca County Commissioner" embroidered on it. The man in the middle is wearing a white button-down shirt with a "Seneca County" logo. The man on the right is wearing a white button-down shirt with "Commissioner Anthony Paradisi" embroidered on it. The background shows a brick wall on the right and a window with vertical blinds on the left.

Seneca County Commissioners

2021 Year in Review Report
"People, Places and Things"

People:

"You win with people."

-Woody Hayes



New faces



Collaboration with outside agencies



Sharing our platform

New Faces

- **Commissioner Tyler Shuff joins the board of Commissioners**
- Seneca County Sheriff Fred Stevens is sworn in
- Theresa Sullivan is named Seneca County Museum Director
- Jaime Wolfe hired to head newly-created Human Resources Department
- Sarah Mutchler hired as Juvenile and Probate Court Administrator



Collaboration with outside agencies

- Marisa Stephens joins the Seneca Regional Chamber of Commerce and Destination Seneca County team
- Adam Gillmor joins Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership staff
- Congressman Jim Jordan visits Tiffin to learn more about Seneca County EMS
- Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted spends some time at the commissioners' office
- **Secretary of State Frank LaRose spends time with Seneca County Board of Elections staff as they prepare for the November election.**
- Closely work with State Senator Bill Reineke and State Representative Gary Click to support Ohio Senate Bill 52



Sharing our platform to recognize others



- The commissioners thanked former Health Commissioner Beth Schweitzer with a tribute video after her retirement. She worked for nearly 30 years in public health.
- **Congressman Jim Jordan visits (now two-time) state champion Brody Conley to congratulate him on his season**
- Local student Drew Steinmetz is awarded a proclamation for heroic actions during a fire
- Proclamation was given to Paul Shoemaker recognizing “Paul Shoemaker Little League Football Weekend.”
- Commissioners honor the late Dale Stacy with a proclamation for his legacy as a commissioner
- Michael Nye was celebrated as Seneca County Veteran of the Year
- Teresa Copp is thanked for her service to the county as she retires
- 101-year-old Alice Marie Miller receives a proclamation for her service in the US Navy during WWII
- County Airport Operator Brad Newman receives proclamation for 50 years with Tiffin Aire at the Seneca County Airport

Places:

*“Oh, the
places that
you’ll go.”*

-Dr. Seuss



Where we’ve been



Where we are



Where we plan to go

Where we've been

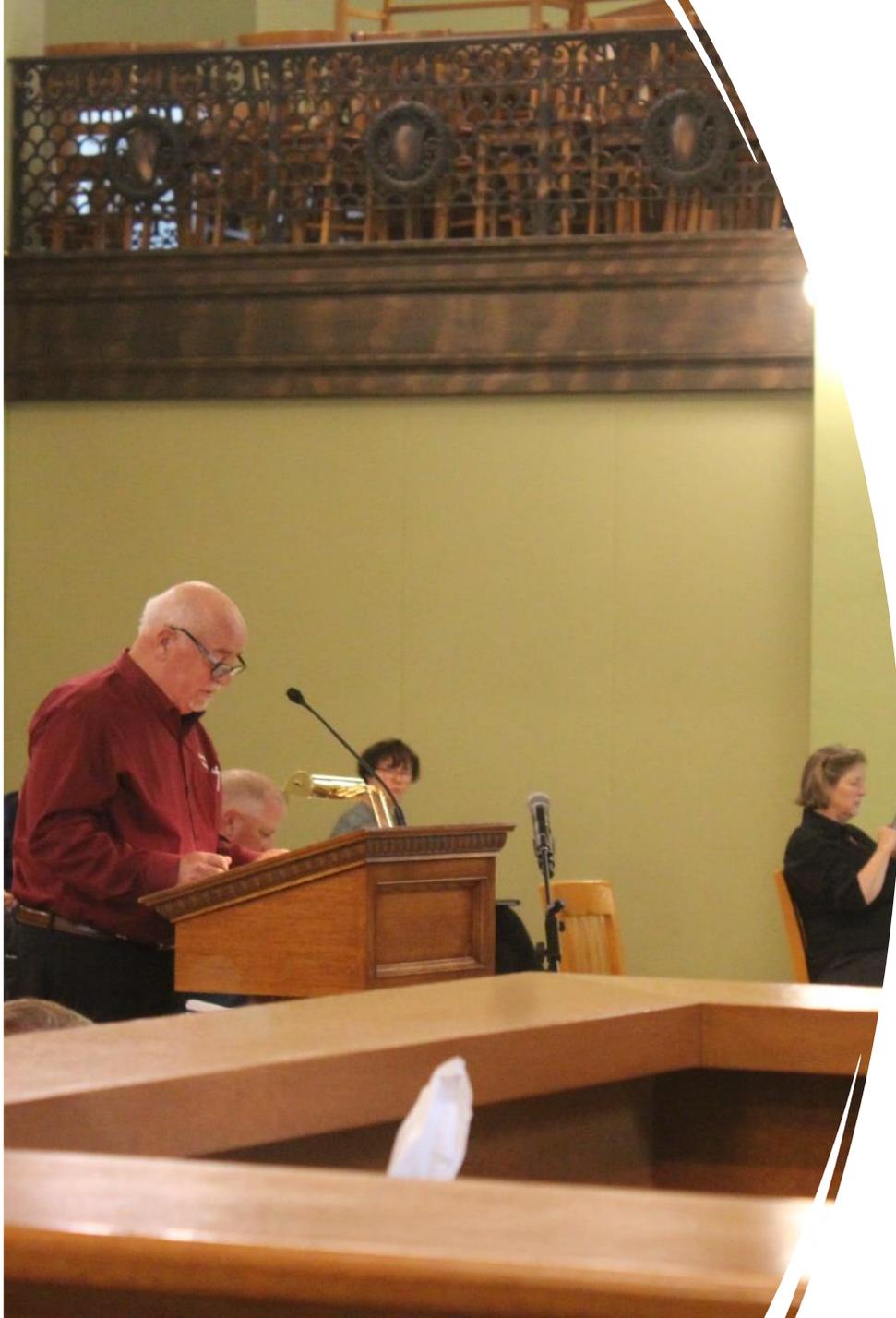
- Seneca County Board of Elections Deputy Director Lori Ritzler is named election official of the year. Ritzler joined Director Jim Ehrman in being given the honor, as Ehrman won the honor in 2017.
- Commissioner Mike Kerschner and Board of Elections Chair Jim Fruth speak during the Ohio Secretary of State Conference about the high level of cooperation and collaboration between the commissioners and the elections panel
- The commissioners testify in support of Ohio SB 52, which aimed to amplify the voices of local residents concerning large, industrial alternative energy projects
- Hosting a visit from Splash of Love from Home founder, Carrie Duncan. The organization sends care packages to deployed troops overseas
- **Met with Tiffin Calvert High School 9th graders in the Skills for Life Class to discuss analytical thinking. The commissioners met with the class again this semester and plan to continue the program**



Where we are today

- **Launched the Seneca County Sweep Program, in which Commissioner Tyler Shuff partners with Oriana House, local villages and volunteers from across the county to beautify the downtown areas across the community**
- Continued support of the Launch Fostoria Business Competition, which is in its second iteration this year
- Museum Director Theresa Sullivan launches monthly speaker series, which continues in April 2022





Where we plan to go

- In 2021, a significant amount of work was done to solidify the future of ambulance services in the rural areas of Seneca County
 - The commissioners set aside funds to build a 24/7 EMS station on the east side of the county
 - A full-time EMS crew worked its first 12-hour shift on the road on April 7, 2021
 - Several meetings were held with stakeholders to plan a future in which paid staff supplements volunteer EMS personnel to provide quick, highly professional care to anyone who needs it
- The commissioners invested funds for a rural broadband study, making high-speed internet access for all a major priority
- **The board restricted large alternative energy projects through the powers of SB 52 without local voices being heard. We will continue making it a top priority to represent the voices of our residents.**

Things:

*“Great things
are done by a
series of small
things brought
together.”*

-Vincent Van
Gogh



Capital investment



Accomplishments



Things that we value

Capital investment

- **The Seneca County Airport received a \$1.2 million grant for the airport drainage/erosion control taxiway rehabilitation project**
- Seneca County EMS receives Training and Equipment Grant
- The shingle roof at the Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services is replaced





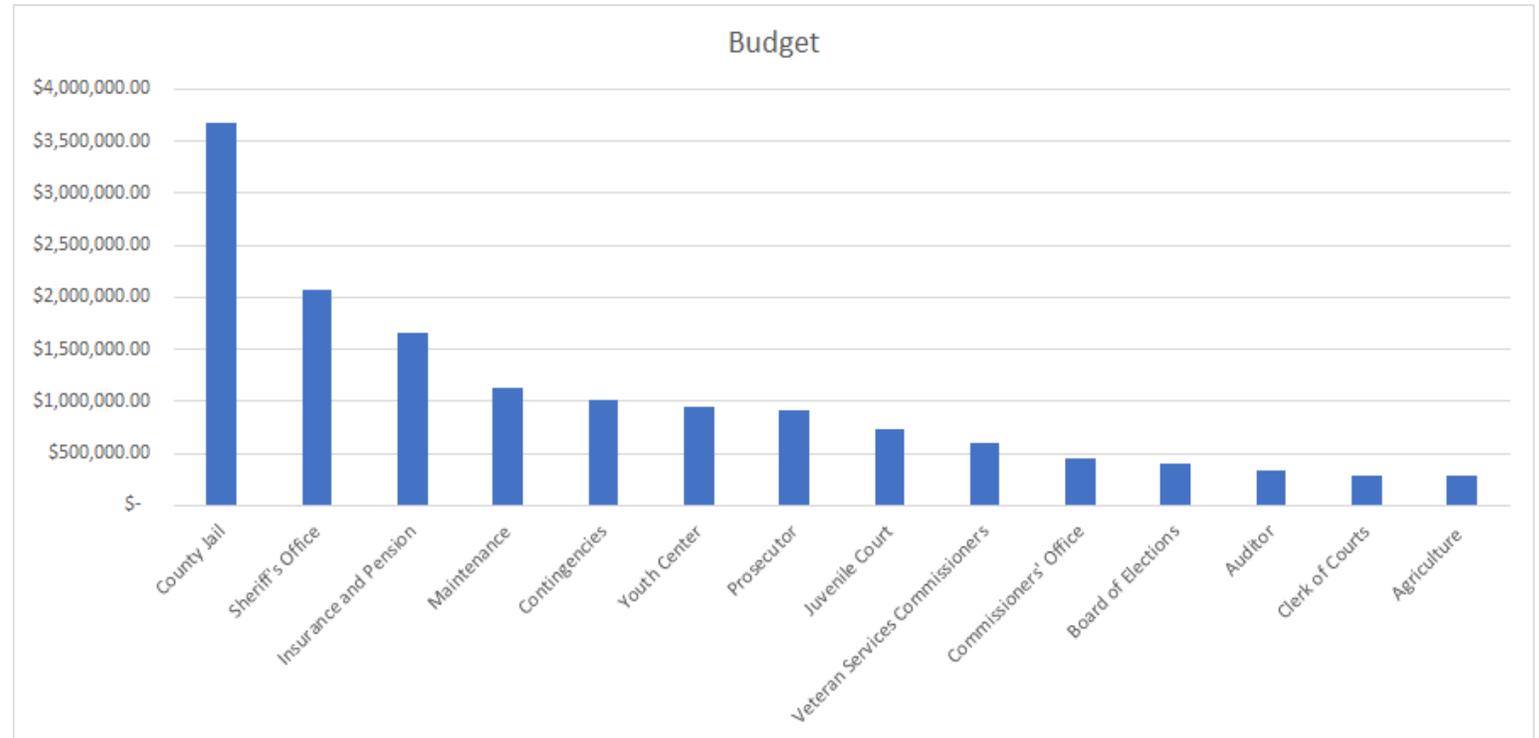
Some accomplishments from 2021

- Seneca County Veterans Services Office announced that for every dollar spent to provide service to local veterans, about \$50 in outside funding was brought into the community
- The commissioners approved a resolution restricting large alternative energy projects in the county
- **Seneca County EMS hired two crews to assist volunteers in responding to ambulance calls**
- The commissioners hosted their first in-person board session in more than a year on July 8th, further committing to transparency and accessibility by launching a hybrid model via online streams

Things that we value

- At the end of 2021, the commissioners approved a balanced budget for 2022, showing a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility
- The board also added \$375,000 to its “Rainy-Day Fund,” bringing the total to \$1 million
 - “We are doing the opposite of what other government entities do,” Commissioner Mike Kerschner said. “Instead of spending our grandchildren’s money, we can put it in a savings account.”
- Began work on long-term capital project priorities
 - In 2021 the board began prioritizing after receiving 114 project requests. Of the 114, 68 had price estimates totaling more than \$15 million.
 - The board plans to invest in long-term fixes to become more efficient and to lower the economic footprint of maintenance
 - Avoiding problems created by deferred maintenance is a priority of the commissioners

This chart shows the 2021 General Fund budget’s top 14 lines



The commissioners approved an \$18.9 million General Fund budget of about \$18.9 million, with revenue certified at about \$19.2 million

Conclusion

- **We will continue our focus on transparency and accessibility. You can view all our meetings live on our Facebook page, and you can view a recording of any past meeting on the county's YouTube page.**
- "People, places and things" were the different lenses we used to evaluate a successful 2021
- As we recount the past, we also look forward to the future
- Many things were achieved, but we are looking forward to an even better 2022. Strong planning efforts display a clear path forward next year.



Looking Ahead – Three Major Priorities

1. Capital projects and getting ahead of deferred maintenance
2. Solidifying the future of ambulance service for our rural areas
3. Supporting an environment in which high-speed internet access is available to all county residents

