

**THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION AT WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL ON MARCH 30, 2016 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: RICK G. WALTERS, PRESIDENT, RONALD L. FEATHERS, VICE PRESIDENT, AND DAVID A. WHITE, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:00 P.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. WALTERS LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.**

Also attending were Waterford Township Trustees Tim Rossiter and Randy Harper, Wolf Creek Superintendent (incoming) Doug Baldwin, Waterford High School Principal Suellen Coleman, Waterford High School Teacher Tom Simms, Brittany Landers from *The Marietta Times*, Hannah Chenetski from WTAP News, Clerk Rick Peoples, and the following Waterford High School students:

Abby Huffman	Kaylee Lang	Regan Porter	Alex Branham
Valerie Adams	Tess Teters	Lydia Beardsley	Janice Whalin
Derek Huck	Dani Drayer	Kyle Schrader	Isaac Trader
Cameron Bosner	Rachel Miller	Michael Shilling	Sylvia Norton
Jocelynn Semon	Teri Leay	Garrett Lemasters	Dalton Shriver
Derron Farley	Emma Maddocks	Gabbi Tornes	Brittany Blind
Paige McCutcheon	Katie Wagner		

A few other students from Mr. Simms's Government/Economics Class attended as well.

President Walters welcomed those attending this off-site meeting at Waterford High School, and introduced the Commissioners and Township Trustees.

**Washington County Commissioners  
AGENDA  
12:00 p.m., March 30, 2016  
Waterford High School**

12:00 Business Meeting

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Agenda  
Approval of previous meeting's minutes  
Bills from various departments  
Resolution – Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service  
Resolution – Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month  
Additional Appropriation – EMA  
Additional Appropriation - Engineer  
Transfer – Child Support Enforcement Agency  
Then & Now's  
Travel – Auditor  
Corporate Resolution Form – County Home  
Lease Agreement between O'Neill Center and RSVP  
Sheriff – Contract for Housing Prisoners (6)  
Agreement for Community Control and Probation Services, Adult Parole  
Law and Drug Enforcement Funds Annual Report from Prosecutor  
Engineer – Request to Purchase Tractor  
Engineer – Annual Township Trustees Meeting  
Engineer – McVey Bridge Replacement Project Bid Recommendation  
Engineer – Bridge Load Limits Postings  
Delinquent Sewer Accounts  
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts to County Auditor

**INFORMATION**

Public Hearing to Consider Vacating Nellie Carruthers Road, 10:00 a.m., **Thursday**, March 31  
RSVP Open House, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., **Tuesday**, April 5, at O'Neill Senior Center  
Benefits & Wellness Fair, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., **Wednesday**, April 6, at Juvenile Center  
Opening of Sealed Bids for Courthouse Roof Project, 10:00 a.m., **Thursday**, April 7  
1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing on Transit Bus Route Change, 2:00 p.m., **Thursday**, April 7  
Annual CEBCO Meeting, 10:00 a.m., **Friday**, April 8, in Columbus  
Monthly County Home Meeting, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, April 12, at County Home  
Public Viewing of Unnamed Alley in Vincent, 11:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, April 12

**RE: AGENDA**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to accept the agenda.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

For the benefit of the students and others attending this meeting, President Walters said the Commissioners will briefly explain each item on the agenda as it is considered.

**RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the March 24, 2016 meeting.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the list of bills from various departments for payment, as prepared by the County Auditor.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NATIONAL SERVICE DAY**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

***WHEREAS**, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and*

***WHEREAS**, the nation's counties are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet their needs; and*

***WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants address the most pressing challenges facing our communities, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and*

***WHEREAS**, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and*

***WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants serve in more than 50,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and*

***WHEREAS**, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and by managing millions of additional volunteers; and*

***WHEREAS**, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and*

***WHEREAS**, national service participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with county officials and mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and mayors and county officials across the country for the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service on April 5, 2016.*

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio does hereby proclaim April 5, 2016, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourages residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our county; to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.*

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: RESOLUTION DESIGNATING CHILD ABUSE AND AWARENESS MONTH**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

***WHEREAS**, our nation recognizes each April as Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month, and Washington County agencies and organizations work together to heighten awareness and draw attention to the need for preventing child abuse in our communities; and*

***WHEREAS**, this child abuse public awareness campaign is being implemented by Prevent Child Abuse Ohio throughout counties in Ohio, and Washington County Children Services is co-leading the campaign in Washington County; and*

***WHEREAS**, Wear Blue to Work Day was designed as a visual way to demonstrate the real fact that child maltreatment is prevalent in every community and that we each need to do our part to assist in breaking the vicious cycle; and*

***WHEREAS**, Washington County will engage the community by supplying notices that April 13, 2016 is Wear Blue to Work Day; and*

***WHEREAS**, Washington County Children Services recognizes that preventing child abuse is critically important for the sake of the children and the health of our community, and brings attention to child abuse and neglect in communities throughout Ohio.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, we, the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio, do hereby designate the month of April in the year 2016 as*

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AWARENESS MONTH**

*In Washington County, on behalf of all the citizens of Washington County, we extend our sincere thanks to Washington County Children Services and Prevent Child Abuse Ohio for collaborating to raise awareness about child maltreatment in Washington County. We hope these organizations will continue to serve the community in such an outstanding manner and we offer our wholehearted support to the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.*

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following requests for Additional Appropriations:

EMA	200-0315-53000	\$ 15,000.00
Engineer	200-0540-54301	\$ 350,000.00
	200-0540-55202	\$ 50,000.00
	200-0540-55501	\$ 300,000.00
	200-0540-55502	\$ 300,000.00

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: TRANSFER**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the following request for Transfer of funds:

<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CSEA	200-0730-53503	200-0730-53501	\$ 4,000.00

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: THEN & NOW'S**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following Then & Now's:

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CSEA	200-0730-53502	Clerk of Courts	\$ 498.95
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	DMG Auto Repair	\$ 859.19
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	Mahone Tire Service	\$ 337.85
Commissioners	100-0101-53400	Steven H. Eckstein	\$ 1,540.05

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the following requests for reimbursement of expenses for training and travel pursuant to the policies and procedures and in compliance with the Annual Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

Auditor

Bill McFarland: One-day trip to Columbus to attend CAAO Legislative/Executive meeting; April 13, 2016.

Bill McFarland: One-day trip to Columbus to attend CAAO Constitution Review Committee; April 20, 2016 (re-scheduled from March 28).

Bill McFarland: One-day trip to Columbus to attend Board of Tax Appeals hearing; April 27, 2016 (re-scheduled from March 16).

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: CORPORATE RESOLUTION FORM FOR COUNTY HOME**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a Corporate Resolution Form prepared by Elizabeth Schaad of Edward Jones, LLC, designating and authorizing Washington County Treasurer Dorothy K. Peppel and Washington County Home Administrator Jeff Campbell to act on behalf of Washington County, specifically to accept funds bequeathed to the County Home, and to allow Mr. Walters to sign the Resolution.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: LEASE OF SPACE FOR RSVP**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve an Agreement between Washington County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the O'Neill Senior Center (the Center), allowing RSVP to lease 484 square feet of space in the Center during the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, at the rate of \$7.86 per square foot per year, payable in monthly installments of \$317.00.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: CONTRACTS FOR CARE OF PRISONERS AT WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the following contracts for housing prisoners in the Washington County Jail, during the period April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017, at the daily rate of \$60.00:

Village of Beverly	Hocking County	Gallia County
Village of New Matamoras	Athens County	Jackson County

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL AND PROBATION SERVICES**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve an Agreement for Community Control and Probation Services for Adult Probation in the Washington County Courthouse, for the two-year period beginning January 1, 2016, with the County providing interpreter services, specialized assessments as requested by the Court, office space, utilities and phone service, and the State of Ohio providing salaries and benefits to employees, and to allow Mr. White to sign the Agreement.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: LAW AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT FROM PROSECUTOR**

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of an annual report for 2015 detailing use of \$3,185.50 in Law Enforcement Funds and \$638.72 in Drug Enforcement Funds by the County Prosecutor's Office.

**RE: REQUEST TO PURCHASE TRACTOR FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the purchase of a 2016 John Deere X758 Tractor with mower, snow blower and front blade from Bridgeport Equipment for the net price of \$8,806.13 after trade-in, utilizing the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, as requested by County Engineer Roger Wright.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: ANNUAL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES MEETING**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve County Engineer Roger Wright's request to hold the Annual Township Trustees Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at Out Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Lowell, preceded by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: MCVEY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT BIDS**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to award contract to Ohio-West Virginia Excavating Company, for the McVey Bridge Replacement Project, in the amount of \$89,345.40, the lowest of four sealed bids received and opened on March 22, 2016.

The Clerk noted the following bids were received:

Ohio-WV Excavating Company	\$ 89,345.40
Tom Mayle & Sons	\$ 95,900.00
R.C. Construction	\$ 100,731.00
Alan Stone Company	\$ 125,223.00

He said the County Engineer's estimate for the project was \$109,024.85.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: BRIDGE LOAD LIMITS POSTINGS**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve designation of load limits and vertical clearance restrictions on several county and township bridges, as determined and requested by County

Engineer Roger Wright.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve sending letters to the following holders of sewer accounts, notifying them their accounts are delinquent and requesting them to make payment on their accounts: Mike and Ashley Matheny, Julie Maze, Darren Cox, Jeremy and Michelle Wiltse, Jane Cunningham, Brad Merritt, Sheila Riffey, Charles Randolph, John Church, Katie Dickson, Tina McClung, James and Brittany Brannon, Brian and Sherry Ogden, Richard and Karen Best, Dawn Rachell Yost, Cynthia McClay, James Rhodes.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve certification of the following delinquent sewer accounts to County Auditor Bill McFarland, requesting him to add the delinquent amounts to property tax bills: Gale Righter, Angela Rhodes, Chad and Jennifer Rowley, Dave Carpenter, John Raber, Richard A. Rohr, Jr., Theresa Hescht, John Tate, Patricia Eagle, Steve Rood, Evelyn and Leonard Callihan, Steven and Donna Richards, Dave Burt (apartments), Dave Burt (10850), Dave Burt (405 Warrior Drive), Dave Burt (10860), Dave Burt (4855), Dave Burt (419 Warrier Drive), Drenda and Donald Trembly, Donald Tallman, Sarah Carpenter, Sherry Fulton, Kenny Fortney.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye. Motion passed.

**RE: COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

Mr. Baldwin, Ms. Coleman, and Trustees Rossiter and Harper thanked the Commissioners for conducting their meeting in Waterford.

President Walters invited questions and/or comments. Questions from students included:

*How has closing of the AEP facility impacted Washington County?*

Commissioner White said the closing of AEP is indeed significant to the area, but the financial ramifications to the County, the Township, and the school aren't yet felt because taxes are paid in the year following the year they are owed.

Mr. Feathers noted area schools, including Wolf Creek, Fort Frye and Morgan, will be hardest hit, as approximately 65% of taxes paid go to schools.

Mr. Walters said the 1,400 acre AEP property has been sold and is intended to be developed for future use. He said it is great news the property will again be put to good use, but there will still be loss of tax revenues for the schools and township.

*How has funding from the federal government and the State of Ohio affected our school?*

Mr. White said education does not fall under any control from the County Commissioners, and school administrators address their concerns to other elected officials such as area Representatives and Senators.

Mr. Walters said he is pleased to see more collaboration between area colleges and high schools, and greater participation in college level programs by students at those high schools.

*There is a large amount of bills being approved by you for payment this week. Is this unusual?*

Commissioner Feathers said the approval of over \$860,000 in bills in one week is indeed high. He noted, though, that approximately \$675,000 of that is disbursement of taxes to the twenty-two townships in Washington County. He said the Commissioners are pleased to have allocated over \$2,000,000 to the townships this year, payment of which is made in three installments. These funds, he said, are used by townships to maintain roads and bridges, and the Commissioners have been able to increase the amounts going to townships over the past few years.

*What are the primary sources of revenues for the County?*

Mr. White said property taxes and sales taxes are the largest sources of revenues for the County. He said it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to ensure these tax dollars are efficiently and effectively used. Mr. Walters noted there are also specific levies that provide funds for specific departments, including Developmental Disabilities, Senior Citizens, the Sheriff's Department, and the County Home.

*Does the proposed closing of the Beverly pool impact the County in any way?*

President Walters said if the pool does close, it won't directly affect the County. He noted, however,

such closing of a recreational facility will have a larger effect on the communities of Beverly and Waterford in a variety of ways, including the loss of summer jobs for area youth. Mr. White said there would be residual loss to area businesses, and prospective home-buyers look for community amenities such as pools before relocating to those communities.

*How much of an impact does oil and gas have on the County?*

Mr. Walters said the impact of recent oil and gas activity in Washington County has been significant. He noted the decline in unemployment rate, the increase in sales tax revenues, and the bonuses paid to property owners. Mr. Feathers informed the students that sales taxes revenues are typically about \$6.5 million, but in the past two years have averaged about \$9.0 million. The County, he said, has budgeted for an appropriate decline in tax revenues because there is currently a downturn in oil and gas activity throughout the County. Mr. White said at times like this it is very important for elected officials to be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars at all levels of government.

*Why do taxes for farmers seem to be increasing?*

Mr. Walters said with the recent boom in oil and gas, the value of large pieces of property has increased. With those elevated property values, he said, comes higher taxes being assessed and paid. Mr. White said the State of Ohio periodically adjusts the Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV). This CAUV, he noted, allows for an adjusted property tax value if the property is strictly used for agriculture. He said it is of great concern to area farmers when the adjustment of CAUV is not in their favor.

*What is the County's fiscal year?*

Commissioner White said the fiscal year is from January 1 through December 31, unlike the federal government which is October 1 through September 30, and the state government which is July 1 through June 30.

*Shouldn't someone other than the County have to pay for replacement of McVey Bridge?*

Mr. White said the County or Township is responsible for maintenance, repair and/or replacement of bridges throughout the County, other than those bridges on state routes, which are the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Transportation. He said it is interesting that this particular bridge leads to only one house. Mr. White said the County Engineer approached the homeowner to sell his property to the County, but he did not offer to do so. As a result, the County Engineer determined the bridge needs to be replaced.

*Is anything being done for the more than 580 homeless people in Washington County?*

Commissioner Feathers said the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Director is currently considering ways to help these folks, possibly creating a day center or providing what are commonly known as "tiny homes". Mr. White said he doesn't believe there are that many homeless people in Washington County, and if the number was taken from census reporting it is likely not accurate because that is a "self-reporting" system. Mr. Walters commented there is currently space available at the County Home, which is a very nice facility and campus. Responding to concern of HVAC issues at the County Home, Commissioner Feathers said windows are now being replaced and new boilers were installed last year. Mr. White added that it is very difficult to maintain temperature control of the basement level of the County Home.

**RE: CLOSING COMMENTS**

President Walters again thanked the students for their participation in this public meeting, for their interest in local government, and for the respect and courtesy they displayed. He also thanked the school administrators and Mr. Simms for inviting the Commissioners to conduct their meeting at Waterford High School.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to adjourn.

A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_, President

\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_, Member

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

