

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JANUARY 26, 2017 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: RONALD L. FEATHERS, PRESIDENT, DAVID A. WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT, AND RICK G. WALTERS, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. FEATHERS LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.

Also attending were Glen Pawloski, Anthony Touschner, Sam Shawver from *The Marietta Times*, Building Official Chris Wilson, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 a.m., January 26, 2017**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Craig Barker, Sanitary Sewer Operator – Department Updates
10:00 Mark Wile and Volunteer Fire Department Chiefs – EMA Director Transition

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Additional Appropriation – Sheriff (2)
Additional Appropriation – Children Services
Additional Appropriation - Engineer
Transfer – Veterans (2)
Then & Now's (2)
Travel – County Home
Travel – Job and Family Services
Travel – Family & Children First
Travel – Building Department
Designation of Administrative Agent – Family & Children First
Engineer – 2016 County Highway System Mileage Certification
Engineer – 2017 Fracture Critical Bridge Inspection Agreement

INFORMATION

EnerGov Module Demonstration, 10:30 a.m., **Today**
Council of Governments, 12:00 p.m., **Monday**, January 30, at Lori's Restaurant
Family Services Planning Committee, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, January 31, at JFS

RE: AGENDA

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to accept the agenda, with the following adjustments:

Change: Travel for Building Department to Request to Hire Backup Building Inspector
Add: CHIP Program Extension Agreement

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the January 19 meeting.

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

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters 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: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Rick Walters aye. Motion passed.

RE: APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following requests for Additional

Appropriations:

Sheriff	100-0385-52000	\$ 8,000.00
	100-0384-54406	\$ 21,043.41
Children Services	200-0741-53000	\$ 60,000.00
MVGT	200-0540-51010	\$ 1,400.00
	200-0540-55202	\$ 150,000.00
	200-0540-55502	\$ 400,000.00
	200-0540-56100	\$ 10,743.56

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

RE: TRANSFERS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the following requests for transfers of funds:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Veterans	100-0700-57401	100-0700-54400	\$ 11,000.00
	100-0700-57401	100-0700-57402	\$ 1,000.00

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

RE: THEN & NOW'S

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

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commissioners	200-2050-53000	Langs Flooring	\$ 945.66
Commissioners	200-2050-53000	Troy Cook	\$ 410.66
Commissioners	200-2050-53000	Troy Cook	\$ 274.34
Commissioners	100-0109-53000	Cam Refrigeration	\$ 409.23
Commissioners	100-0109-53101	Dominion	\$ 332.24
Commissioners	100-0109-53100	AEP	\$ 7,215.76
Engineer	200-0540-53504	Carver's Electric	\$ 929.35
Children Services	200-0740-53000	K-Mart #7477	\$ 193.35
Children Services	200-0743-57400	K-Mart # 3218	\$ 150.00
Board of Development Disabilities	200-0620-53000	Wash. Co. Health Dept.	\$ 118.00
Board of Development Disabilities	215-0620-53420	Crystal Sanders	\$ 112.65
Sheriff Department	200-0363-52001	Speedway	\$ 140.57
Sheriff Department	200-0382-53000	3M Cogent	\$ 845.00
Sheriff Department	100-0381-53040	3M Cogent	\$ 2,433.00
Commissioners	100-0361-57501	Ohio State Coroners	\$ 2,792.00
Commissioners	100-0109-53000	Berdine's Auto Service	\$ 424.00

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

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White 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 2017 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

County Home

Ted Williams: One-day trip to Akron to attend Ohio Commercial Pesticide Licensing Conference; February 15, 2017.

JFS

Candy Nelson, Chris Buchanan: One-day trip to Tuscarawas County to attend WAVE 2 Shared Services meeting; February 2, 2017.

Family & Children First

Liz VanPelt: One-day trip to Athens to attend Help Me Grow Early Intervention Battelle Training; January 26, 2017.

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

RE: REQUEST TO HIRE BACK-UP BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve hiring of Daniel McDermott as Back-up Building Inspector, effective immediately, at the hourly rate of \$22.00, with a 3% increase upon passing the permanent certification exam, as requested by Building Official Chris Wilson.

Commissioner Walters said Mr. McDermott has excellent credentials for the position. Commissioner

White noted the Building Department has always had a Back-up Building Inspector, but now there is a vacancy in that position. Building Official Chris Wilson said this position is needed to perform appropriate duties on days when the Building Inspector is at conferences or is otherwise unavailable.

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

RE: DESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FOR FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to designate the Washington County Commissioners as Administrative Agent for Washington County Family & Children First Council during SFY 2018, and to allow Mr. Feathers to sign the designation form.

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

RE: CHIP GRANT AGREEMENT EXTENSION

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to acknowledge approval by the Ohio Development Services Agency of a request to extend the contract period of the following Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) grants, from an ending date of December 31, 2016 to April 30, 2017, and to allow Mr. White to sign the contract extension documents.

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

RE: 2016 COUNTY HIGHWAY SYSTEM MILEAGE CERTIFICATION

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve a 2016 County Highway System Mileage Certification, reflecting a total of 339.080 miles of Washington County roads as of December 31, 2016, as prepared by County Engineer Roger Wright.

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

RE: 2017 FRACTURE CRITICAL BRIDGE INSPECTION AGREEMENT

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve an agreement with Popa Consulting LLC for the inspection services of ten (10) fracture critical bridges and eleven (11) structures for QA/QC inspection, for a fee of \$18,000.00, as prepared and recommended by County Engineer Roger Wright.

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

RE: SEWER DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Sanitary Sewer Operator Craig Barker updated the Commissioners on projects. He said his end-of-year reporting to the EPA has been completed and submitted. Mr. Barker said the Napoli's lift station rehabilitation project in Vincent is finished, noting it took longer than expected primarily due to workload of contractor and weather conditions. He said he is now working with County Engineer Roger Wright to identify the exact location of a sewer line along State Route 339 to determine if relocation is necessary.

RE: FINANCIAL HEALTH INDICATORS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

County Auditor Bill McFarland shared a newly-released report from the Auditor of State revealing what he considers to be Financial Health Indicators. Mr. McFarland noted the ultimate goal of this report is to recognize early-on what financial weaknesses an entity has, so as to avoid going into fiscal emergency or distress. He noted there has been much concern expressed by many entities throughout the State of Ohio about the content of these reports. Mr. McFarland said these reports have been compiled only for Ohio cities and counties.

Mr. McFarland said he is very pleased to report Washington County is fiscally "healthy", as confirmed by this report from the Auditor of State. He noted the County received no "critical outlook" indicators, and only one "cautionary outlook". Mr. McFarland questioned the validity of the one cautionary, as it relates to capital assets. He said many of those assets considered in this report are simply irreplaceable, and many have not been depreciated for very good reasons. Mr. McFarland noted this concern has been expressed to the Auditor of State by many county representatives from across the State. Otherwise, Mr. McFarland said this report reflects what he considers to be a very positive sign that Washington County's financial condition is healthy.

RE: EMA TRANSITION

Several representatives from Washington County volunteer fire departments met with the Commissioners to discuss the Emergency Management Authority (EMA) department, including:

Randal Treadway, Salem VFD
Donald E. Forshey, Watertown VFD
Clyde Hall, Fearing VFD
Todd Meeks, Reno VFD

Bryan Pracht, Oak Grove VFD
Jay Handschumacher, Salem VFD
Phil Lowe, Beverly VFD
Mike Chevalier, Little Hocking VFD
Bob Kubota, L-A VFD
Josh Harris, L-A VFD
Mark Wile, Warren Twp VFD
Dan Kilmer, Devola VFD

Also attending were:

Major Brian Schuck, Washington County Sheriff's Department
Chief C.W. Durham, Marietta City Fire Department
Seth Deem, Washington County E.M.S.
Todd Baucher, WTAP News
Sam Shawver, *The Marietta Times*
Susan Burkhart

President Feathers welcomed those attending the meeting, and invited all to introduce themselves.

As President of the Washington County Fire Chiefs Association, Mark Wile shared some concerns about the Washington County EMA department and the transition of leadership in that department. He noted:

The volunteer fire departments routinely work very closely with the EMA.
Recent "forced resignation" of the EMA Director was quite a surprise to the Fire Chiefs Association.
The EMA Advisory Committee was not recently advised of concerns with EMA department operations.

Chief Wile specifically identified the following issues:

- The air truck is currently operated, housed, and maintained by the EMA Department.

Not just anyone can operate the vehicle, due to weight and content of equipment transported.
Proper training of individual maintaining air tanks is required.
Issues of insurance and Bureau of Workers' Compensation need to be addressed.
Although 3 individuals are currently trained to operate the vehicle and/or maintain the tanks, only one of them is willing to perform these duties until insurance issues are resolved.

- The EMA Department has regularly arranged for maintenance and upkeep of towers used for emergency communications.

The VFD's were advised not to contact Miller Communications in regard to towers.
There are propane tanks, generators, and communication lines that need to be maintained.
The power has been turned down on the low-band transmitter for the Fearing Township tower, resulting in poor radio communication.

- About two years ago an older truck was sold, but proceeds from that sale stayed in the County General Fund.

- The EMA Advisory Committee has been inactive for an extended length of time, with no conversation about evaluation of Director, weaknesses in the department, concerns about readiness, etc.

Commissioner White said the function of the EMA is under the oversight of the Board of County Commissioners, and the Advisory Committee was implemented to assist the Board. He noted performance evaluations for employees of the County are always done by the appointing authority.

Chief Wile commented that the Sheriff's Office has consistently been "in the loop", but not the fire chiefs. Major Schuck said EMA Director Jeff Lauer had asked for help in hiring his assistant, and the Sheriff's Department was able to help him. Mr. Wile noted the Advisory Committee was not even informed when the Assistant to the EMA Director resigned.

President Feathers said the Commissioners were asked by the Sheriff several years ago to transfer oversight of the EMA Department to the Sheriff. He said the Commissioners took no action at that time, and administration oversight of the EMA Department continued to be a responsibility of the Commissioners. Commissioner White reiterated administration oversight of the EMA Department has been, and will be, the responsibility of the Commissioners.

Mr. Wile referenced a newspaper article that suggested the former EMA Director was "capable" in his job responsibilities. He said this doesn't support the recent decision of the Commissioners to ask him to resign.

At this point, Commissioner Walters offered to serve on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Wile said he appreciates that offer, but it would serve no useful purpose since the Committee doesn't meet.

President Feathers said there appears to be a significant trust issue between the fire chiefs and the Commissioners. He informed those attending there isn't now, and never has been, a conspiracy to neglect the Fire Chiefs Association. He also said there will be no turnover of EMA administrative oversight to the Sheriff. Mr. Feathers said interviews for the Director position are scheduled for the

week of January 30, and it is expected the new Director will have experience in grant writing, safety and emergency procedures, and maintaining written guidelines to use in emergency situations.

Mr. Wile informed the Commissioners the fire chiefs have no issue with Sheriff Mincks and the Sheriff's Department, but it appears the Sheriff's Department and Major Schuck are assuming some level of control over the EMA Department.

President Feathers said the Commissioners have determined, in conversations with the State and Regional EMA Directors, that it is not the norm for EMA Departments to have and operate an air truck. As a result, he said, the air truck may be transferred to the volunteer fire departments. He also said it was never the intent for the Fire Chiefs Association to be left out of the loop on any issues with EMA.

Chief Wile said the fire departments don't have space to house the air truck. He noted the truck is not a luxury item, but instead it is a necessity. He reminded the Commissioners the truck cannot be stored outdoors in cold weather.

Chief Chevalier said the EMA Director is a very important function, with many responsibilities, and it is critical the right individual is selected for the position. Mr. White noted the former EMA Director was also a first responder, and some of the duties performed by him may not be expected of the new Director. Mr. Wile said it was a great value to have had an EMA Director with experience as a first responder.

Major Schuck, noting he is aware the Sheriff's Department has at times been considered a hindrance, shared his concern that no fire chief has expressed dissatisfaction to him. He said it is vitally important that everyone agrees to work together – the EMA, emergency responders, and the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Treadway said review of the County's website indicates the EMA Department's mission is to serve the citizens of Washington County, with the goal of saving lives and protecting property and the environment through coordination and effective planning. He said he believes the new Director of the department should have appropriate experience to assume such an important position.

In conclusion, Mr. Wile said he hopes the Commissioners, as they search for a new Director, will consider it a high priority to find someone with experience in emergency management, not simply grants writing. On behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association, he said he is not only willing, but also anxious to work with the Board of County Commissioners and the Sheriff's Department.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

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

A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk