

**THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON APRIL 27, 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 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 Darlene Lukshin from OSU Extension, Muskingum Township Trustee Gary Doan, Karen Doan, Steve Hutchinson, Michael Snizik from Mobilitie, Glen Pawloski, Erin O'Neill from *The Marietta Times*, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

**Washington County Commissioners  
AGENDA  
9:00 a.m., April 27, 2017**

9:00 Business Meeting  
10:00 County Engineer Roger Wright – 2016 Annual Report on Condition of Roads & Bridges  
11:00 Pam Sullivan & Mark Warden, Sheriff's Office – Requests for Appropriations Changes  
1:00 Herman Carson, Director – Ohio Public Defender Fiscal Year 2018 Contract  
1:30 Jim Black, Southeastern Ohio Port Authority – Mid-Ohio River Valley Port District  
2:00 Alison Cauthorn, Assistant Prosecutor – MARCS Towers Sub-Lease Agreement

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Memorandum of Understanding with Dan Breece, D.O.  
Proposal to Study Effectiveness of Courthouse Back-Up Generator  
Additional Appropriation – Wireless 911  
Additional Appropriation – Wireless 911

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Agenda  
Approval of previous meeting's minutes  
Bills from various departments  
Auditor's Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue for Behavioral Health Levy  
Resolution Declaring Necessity for Behavioral Health Levy  
Resolution Declaring April of 2017 "*Fair Housing Month*"  
Additional Appropriation – Family & Children First  
Then & Now's  
Travel – Job and Family Services (3)  
Travel – Child Support Enforcement Agency  
Travel – Family & Children First (4)  
Jail Contract, City of Athens  
Mandated Share for Fiscal Year 2017–2018, Job and Family Services  
Revision to Prevention, Retention & Contingency Plan, JFS  
Community Development Funding Request Letter  
Delinquent Sewer Accounts  
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts to County Auditor  
Consideration of Sewer Rate Change  
Engineer – Emergency Landslip Repair on County Road 12 (Fifteen Mile Creek Road)  
Engineer – Request to Participate in ODOT's Cooperative Salt Bid for 2017-2018  
Engineer – Notice of Commencement, Hadley Bridge Deck Replacement Project

**INFORMATION**

"*National Day of Prayer*" on Courthouse Steps, 12:00 p.m., **Thursday**, May 4  
Monthly Meeting at County Home, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, May 9  
Monthly Finance Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, May 9  
CORSA Training on "*Social Media in the Workplace*", 1:30 p.m., **Thursday**, May 11, at JFS  
Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., **Monday**, May 15

**RE: AGENDA**

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

Add: 9:45 Kevin Rings, Prosecutor – Jail Contract Revision  
Resolution – Recognition of Waterford High School Lady Wildcats Basketball Team  
Travel - Auditor

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 April 20, 2017 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: AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED PROPERTY TAX REVENUE FOR LEVY**

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of a Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue from County Auditor Bill McFarland, requested by the Commissioners on April 20, 2017. The Certificate reveals total tax valuation of \$1,474,002,290, and total annual estimated Behavioral Health Levy revenues of \$737,001.

**RE: RESOLUTION DECLARING NECESSITY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEVY**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Behavioral Health Board has advised the Board of Commissioners of Washington County that the amount of taxes which may be raised within the ten mill limitation will be insufficient to provide an adequate amount for the necessary requirements of Washington County, Ohio to provide funds for the purpose of providing essential prevention, treatment, and recovery programs for children, adolescents, and adults at risk for mental illness and substance use disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington County Behavioral Health Board has therefore requested that the Washington County Commissioners request certification from the Washington County Auditor regarding the total current tax valuation of Washington County and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by a one-half (0.5) mill tax levy outside the ten-mill limitation; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to such request, the Washington County Auditor has certified that the total current tax valuation of Washington County is \$1,474,002,290.00 (**one billion four hundred seventy-four million two thousand two hundred ninety dollars and no cents**) and that he estimates that the above-referenced tax will generate \$737,001.00 (**seven hundred thirty-seven thousand and one dollars and no cents**) during each year of collection throughout the life of the levy, assuming the tax valuation of the subdivision remains constant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Washington County, Ohio, two-thirds of all members elected thereto concurring therein, that it is necessary to levy an additional tax in excess of the ten mill limitation pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03, 5705.19, 5705.25, and 5705.221, for the benefit of Washington County for the purpose of providing funds for Washington County's mental health programs and substance use programs, more specifically for the purpose of providing essential prevention, treatment and recovery programs for children, adolescents, and adults at risk for mental illness and substance use disorders.

**AND BE IT RESOLVED** that the question of such tax levy shall be submitted to the electors of Washington County at the general election to be held therein on November 7, 2017.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such levy shall be for five years at a rate not exceeding one-half (0.5) mill for each dollar of valuation, which amounts to five cents (\$0.05) for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such tax levy shall be placed upon the tax list and duplicate for the current tax year, beginning 2017, first due in calendar year 2018, if a majority of the electors voting thereon vote in favor thereof at the general election to be held on November 7, 2017.

**AND, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Washington County Board of Commissioners shall and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the Board of Elections of Washington County Ohio, immediately after its passage but not later than ninety (90) prior to the general election to be held on November 7, 2017, and to notify the said Board of Elections to cause notice on the question of levying such tax be given as required by law.

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

**RE: RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL "FAIR HOUSING MONTH"**

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

**WHEREAS**, in Washington County discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, religion, ancestry, familial status, military status, sex, national origin, handicap or disability is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the Ohio Civil Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the Washington County Fair Housing Office to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, military status, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or familial status (families with children).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio that the Washington County Fair Housing Office will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, ancestry, military status, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, or familial status (families with children) to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in the pursuit of the shared goal and responsibility of providing equal housing opportunities for all men and women, the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio does hereby join in the national celebration by proclaiming April 2017 as **FAIR HOUSING MONTH** and encourages all agencies, institutions, and individuals, public and private, in Washington County to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Fair Housing law.

Darlene Lukshin from OSU Extension said the purpose of this Resolution is to recognize and promote Fair Housing regulations in Washington County.

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

**RE: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WATERFORD HIGH SCHOOL LADY WILDCATS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Waterford High School Lady Wildcats earned their way to the Division IV State of Ohio Championship Basketball game for three consecutive years, 2015 through 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the Lady Wildcats became the first team in the history of Washington County to win the girls basketball state championship title; and

**WHEREAS**, Jerry Close has served as Head Coach for the Lady Wildcats for twelve years, achieving with them remarkable success both on and off the court.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio recognizes the outstanding achievements of the Waterford High School Lady Wildcats Basketball Team, having participated in the State of Ohio Division IV Girls Championship Game for three consecutive years, and having won the State Championship in 2016.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Board of Washington County Commissioners recognizes the leadership and success of Lady Wildcats Head Coach Jerry Close and his assistants.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Board of Washington County Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Washington County, congratulates the Waterford High School Lady Wildcats on their success, and acknowledges the team's fine representation of Waterford High School, the Waterford community, and Washington County.

Commissioner Walters said the achievements of the Lady Wildcats over the past three years are remarkable, and noted the outstanding community support for Waterford High School and its sports programs. He said this Resolution will be presented to Coach Close and the Lady Wildcats at the Muskingum Valley Beverly-Waterford Chamber of Commerce Dinner this evening.

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

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following request for Additional Appropriation:

Family & Children First	602-2032-53800	\$	66.91
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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:

Dept	Account	Vendor	Amount
Commissioners	100-0200-57400	Scioto Co. Auditor	\$ 17,721.26
Debt Service	700-0114-56200	U.S. Bank	\$ 8,867.50
Debt Service	700-0114-56200	U.S. Bank	\$ 3,250.00
Debt Service	700-0114-56200	U.S. Bank	\$ 17,625.00
911	200-0364-53000	Priority Dispatch	\$ 1,564.00
Commissioners	100-0100-53203	Marty's Print Shop	\$ 275.00
Commissioners	100-0240-51104	City of Marietta	\$ 1,511.83
Transit	200-0850-53000	The CAP of Wash.-Morgan Co.	\$ 23,125.00
Transit	215-0850-57401	The CAP of Wash.-Morgan Co.	\$ 8,501.00
Transit	215-0850-57400	The CAP of Wash.-Morgan Co.	\$ 5,147.00
Commissioners	100-0870-53007	OSU Extension	\$ 5,000.00

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:

JFS

Candy Nelson, Matthew Joy, Monica Kinnett, Jenna Williams, Sonya Crigger: Two-day trip to Columbus to attend OJFSDA Annual Training Conference; May 18-19-2017.

Tom Ballengee: Two-day trip to Columbus to attend OJFSCDA Annual Training Conference; May 18-19, 2017.

Tom Ballengee: One-day trip to Noble County to attend Program Operators' Meeting; April 25, 2017 (retroactive).

CSEA

Denise Hinton, Mindie Weber: One-day trip to McConnelsville to attend Training/Networking Workshop; May 11, 2017.

Family & Children First

Cindy Davis: One-day trip to Columbus to attend Trauma Informed Care Summit; May 1, 2017.

Cindy Davis: One-day trip to Athens to attend OCTF Regional Prevention Council Meeting; May 12, 2017.

Cindy Davis: Two-day trip to Columbus to attend Early Intervention Stakeholder Meeting and Building Better Lives Training; May 17-18, 2017.

Jon Higgins: One-day trip to Cambridge to attend AOP-20 Council Meeting; May 11, 2017.

Auditor

Bill McFarland, Teresa Stark: One-day trip to Columbus to attend CAAO training; May 10, 2017.

Bill McFarland: One-day trip to Columbus to attend Executive/Legislative Meeting and Reception; May 16, 2017.

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

**RE: JAIL CONTRACT, CITY OF ATHENS**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve a contract with the City of Athens to house inmates from the City of Athens in the Washington County Jail during the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, at the daily rate of \$60.00.

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

**RE: MANDATED SHARE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18, JFS**

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of notice from Ruth Burdette, Washington County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS), that mandated share from the County in support of JFS for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 is \$180,514.00, payable to JFS in monthly installments of approximately \$15,043.

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

**RE: REVISION TO PRC PLAN, JFS**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve revision to the Washington County Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Plan, adding the Ohio Youth Works Program, as requested by Tom Ballengee, Washington County Department of Job and Family Services.

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

**RE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING REQUEST LETTER**

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following letter:

April 27, 2017

To: Townships, Cities and Villages

Subject: **2017 Community Development Funding Request**

Community Development impacts our county through transportation infrastructure projects; community park and playground upgrades; life-saving fire and rescue equipment; and other public enhancement endeavors. Assistance with these initiatives is provided by Ohio State University Extension Program Specialist, Darlene Lukshin. The program also delivers information and education on various topics such as grant writing, effective decision making, and shale development.

Along with funding provided by Washington County Commissioners, the support from the townships, villages and cities allows OSU Extension Community Development to continue advocating for all of us. Thank you for your past cooperation, which has been invaluable. We hope you will again this year contribute to this resource that benefits all citizens of Washington County.

We encourage you to collaborate with Community Development by contacting Darlene Lukshin at 740.376.7431, or e-mail [lukshin.1@osu.edu](mailto:lukshin.1@osu.edu). She welcomes your comments, questions, and ideas!

Thanks for supporting community development in your community and throughout Washington County.

**/s/ WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Darlene Lukshin, OSU Extension, said she annually distributes this funding request letter from the Commissioners to the cities, villages and townships in Washington County. She said they have been very supportive and appreciative of her efforts, and last year she received funding from 100% of the entities.

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

**RE: DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to send notices to the following holders of delinquent sewer accounts, requesting them to immediately make payment on those accounts:

H. Clifton Spencer, II	Christopher Marshall	Ann Jacobs
Nancy Nida	Jerry Biehl	Mike and Ashley Matheny
Helen Jones	Tina McClung	Todd McDonald
Steve Rood	Kimberly Hammond	Linda Lorentz
Edward Pifer	Charles and Christy Hartman	Michelle Wiltse
Robert Strong	Bessie Yates	

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

**RE: CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to certify to County Auditor Bill McFarland the following seriously delinquent sewer accounts, requesting him to place delinquent amounts on property tax bills:

Jean Yost	Roger and Dianne Kern	Elizabeth Lehman
Anthony Hapney	Allen Fleming	Diana Funk
Theodore and Lisa Williams	Daniel Brown	Lucille Hupp
Brad Merritt		

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

**RE: CONSIDERATION OF SEWER RATE CHANGE**

The Clerk said the Commissioners reviewed the Sewer Fund financial condition and projected expenses over the next several years.

President Feathers reported major factors impacting the Sewer Fund, including:

- Repayment of approximately \$380,850 to the Capital Projects Fund
- Annual payment of approximately \$73,000 to City of Marietta
- Relocation of sewer line under State Route 339, at a cost of about \$25,000
- Estimate of \$100,000 to replace aging lift station
- Continuing loan payments of approximately \$215,000 per year
- Periodic increases in rates from the Cities of Belpre and Marietta

He recommended increasing the monthly sewer rates by \$1.50 to \$65.50.

Commissioner White said the rates were increased \$1.00 per month last year, and it has been the

practice of Commissioners to annually review the financial condition of the Sewer Fund. He said there are currently approximately 1,100 billing units for the County's sewer system. Mr. Feathers said annual revenues are approximately \$900,000.

Mr. White said this cost projection includes an approximate annual payment of the County's 11.7% share of \$25,000,000 investment in the City sewer plant upgrade, to be paid over a 40-year period.

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve an increase of \$1.50 in the monthly rates for Washington County sewer system customers, effective July 1, 2017, bringing the new monthly rate to \$65.50.

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

**RE: EMERGENCY LANDSLIP REPAIR, COUNTY ROAD 12**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve contracting with Bob Lane's Welding, Inc., for emergency landslip repair on County Road 12, Fifteen Mile Creek Road, for the amount of \$20,099.00, as recommended by County Engineer Roger Wright.

The Clerk noted the Engineer's estimate for this work was \$22,240.00.

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

**RE: RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN ODOT'S COOPERATIVE SALT BID FOR 2017-18**

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a resolution allowing the Washington County Engineer to participate in the 2017-18 Cooperative Salt Bid, during the period October 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018, 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: NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT, HADLEY BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve a Notice of Commencement for the Hadley Bridge Deck Replacement and Rehabilitation Project, contractor Ohio-West Virginia Excavating Company, and to allow Mr. Feathers to sign the Notice, as prepared and requested 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: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to return from Unfinished Business consideration of a request for Additional Appropriations for the Wireless 911 Fund.

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

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

Wireless 911	200-0369-51001	\$ 47,419.53
	200-0369-51102	\$ 8,350.42
	200-0369-51101	\$ 629.72

President Feathers said the Sheriff's Office has withdrawn this request and the following request for Minus Appropriation, with the understanding that expenses in year one of the 911 Levy Fund are earmarked for the purchase of equipment. He said consideration for payment of 911 Coordinator's salary will be considered in subsequent years of the levy.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers no, David White no, Rick Walters no. Motion failed.

**RE: MINUS APPROPRIATION**

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to return from Unfinished Business consideration of a request for Minus Appropriations for the Wireless 911 Fund.

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

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following request for Minus Appropriation from the Wireless 911 Fund:

Wireless 911	200-0369-51106	\$ (2,000.00)
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A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers no, David White no, Rick Walters no. Motion passed.

**RE: COMMENTS FROM VISITOR**

Devola resident Glen Pawloski provided to the Commissioners a copy of a letter dated April 25, 2017 he wrote to Ohio Governor John Kasich. He said this letter accompanied the two additional handbills he forwarded to the Governor objecting to sewer project(s) in Devola and Oak Grove. He noted the total of handbills opposing a project in Devola increased to 292, and the total opposing a project in Oak Grove increased to 96.

**RE: COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner White shared his concerns about an article in the April 27, 2017 edition of *The Marietta Times*. He said he has for some time extended a great measure of grace toward *The Marietta Times*. However, with an article in the April 27 paper, spread over two pages, the editors clearly show a total inability to distinguish between “news” and “op ed”. He said the newspaper editors have now unmistakably established themselves to be fake news mongers who no longer have any credibility. Mr. White said this is a very disappointing development, as their disregard for truth and accuracy is so blatant it is embarrassing.

Mr. Feathers said the article is “clearly designed to be a hit piece”.

**RE: 5G WIRELESS SERVICE**

Michael Snizik, representing Mobilitie, Inc., informed the Commissioners his company is in the process of installing 5G high-speed internet service through Washington County and the State of West Virginia. He said the proposed route is to lay fiber optic line up to Steubenville, and along State Route 50 through West Virginia. He noted this is next generation technology that will be of great benefit to area residents and businesses. He said he has been working with the Building Department to ensure compliance with local regulations, and reported most of the lines will be installed in public right-of-way.

The Commissioners encouraged Mr. Snizik to return with updates on this project.

**RE: JAIL CONTRACT REVISION**

Prosecutor Kevin Rings talked with the Commissioners about the jail contract that is in use to allow many entities to house prisoners in the Washington County Jail, for the daily rate of \$60.00. He said he received a letter from Attorney Tom Webster on behalf of the City of Belpre. He said Mr. Webster’s concern is that an arrest may be made in the City of Belpre for a violation in Belpre that does not warrant processing into the jail, but because there are outstanding charges on the individual from other locations the Belpre officer is required to place the individual in jail. Mr. Webster said Belpre is then charged for housing this person in the jail, even though placement in the jail isn’t a result of what the individual did in the City of Belpre. Mr. Rings suggested revisions to the contract to address Mr. Webster’s concerns.

Mr. Feathers said the county’s jail is to provide service to the County and to other entities, as space allows. He said the expense of operating the jail is somewhat offset by revenues of the jail, and he has no desire to lower revenues by allowing use of the jail with no (or less) payment.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Rings to prepare revision to the jail contract for possible use when the next contact begins, on or about April 1, 2018.

**RE: 2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON CONDITION OF ROADS AND BRIDGES**

County Engineer Roger Wright reviewed his 2016 Annual Report on Condition of Roads and Bridges. Accompanying him was his niece Olivia Lemley, participating in the annual “Take a Child to Work Day”.

Mr. Wright shared his concern of insufficient funds to address upcoming road and bridge needs. His review of recent use of 1% Sales Tax Funds revealed that, on average, townships receive \$2,430 per mile of roadway and the County Engineer receives \$1,087. He agreed with the Commissioners he in no way desires to reduce funding for townships or any other entities who are desperate for funds, but in his 5-Year Plan he suggests additional funds will be necessary. Mr. Wright noted several County roads can be maintained with federal funds, and they are usually in very good shape. Others, though, he funds through awards from the Ohio Public Works Commission, and that is a competitive process that isn’t an ongoing reliable source of funds. An option, Mr. Wright said, is to institute a \$5.00 per license registration fee, earmarking revenues to maintain roads and bridges. Commissioner White agreed it is not feasible to shift funds away from other entities. He said the Commissioners very much appreciate how Mr. Wright keeps his administrative costs low.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

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

Sheriff (Concealed Carry Permit)	200-0382-51001	\$ 4,327.82
	200-0382-51102	\$ 835.26
	200-0382-51101	\$ 62.51

Pam Sullivan, Sheriff's Department Fiscal Officer, and Chief Deputy Mark Warden said this request allows for payment of a portion of salary and benefits for Patrice Tornes from the Concealed Carry Permit Fund, as approximately 10% of her responsibilities is with concealed carry permits.

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

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

Sheriff (Dog & Kennel)	200-0363-51002	\$ 3,063.22
	200-0363-51102	\$ 3,256.19
	200-0363-51101	\$ 21.89

Ms. Sullivan explained this additional allocation of funds is a correction of the Appropriations Resolution for 2017, which did not include sufficient funds for payment of longevity, overtime, and retirement contribution for the Dog Warden. The Clerk agreed this was an error he had made in the original appropriations.

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

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

Sheriff (Security & Transport)	100-0385-51001	\$ 7,819.11
	100-0385-51102	\$ 3,526.28
	100-0385-51101	\$ 70.68

Ms. Sullivan and Chief Deputy Warden said these appropriations are requested to account for recent changes in responsibilities of Deputy Cody Huffer, and unanticipated payout of retirement benefits to Deputy John Underwood.

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

#### **RE: OHIO PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONTRACT**

Herman Carson, Andy Plagenz, Ray Smith, and Shawna Landaker from the Ohio Public Defenders Office met with the Commissioners to consider the Agreement to Participate in the Multi-County Branch of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender for the period July 1 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Mr. Carson said this new Agreement is predicated upon tracking of caseloads, number of attorneys, and types of claims. As a result, he said, the Agreement represents a more equitable manner of reimbursement for fees. Mr. Carson reasonable compensation and overhead are included in the Agreement, and the local office is reducing the use of contract attorneys and filling one full-time attorney position. He noted the State's reimbursement rate is lowered to 40%, down from the current 44%.

Commissioner White expressed his frustration and disappointment with the continuing increase in cost to Washington County for Public Defender services. He asked where the State's fair share is in this arrangement. Mr. Carson said he agrees that counties are unfortunately being asked to provide more and more financial support, but the legislature establishes the reimbursement rate. He said he is hopeful the State's reimbursement rate will increase to 45% in the final State budget yet to be adopted. He noted several options available to the Commissioners:

- Agree to the contract for 2017-18.
- Opt out of the agreement, and manage the caseloads with local staff and attorneys.
- Create a county public defender office.
- Form a non-profit corporation for public defenders.
- Create a joint-county public defender system.

Mr. Carson said the County could still be reimbursed for a portion of attorneys' fees if paperwork is filed accurately and in a timely manner even if one of these other options is pursued.

President Feathers noted this new Agreement represents a \$92,000 increase from current year, which the County simply does not have. He noted the contract includes significant pay increases for Public Defenders staff, while County employees received no increase this year. He said it is very frustrating to be asked to sign a contract with such a large increase without having had the opportunity to object to the content of it

Commissioner Walters noted the County's options are limited. He said he is not comfortable with the increasing unfunded mandates from the State of Ohio. He agreed the County does not have an additional \$92,000 next year to pay to the Ohio Public Defenders Office. This amount of money, Mr. Walters said, could cost the County two to three staff positions.

Mr. Carson and the Commissioners agreed that while there is constitutional obligation to fund public defenders, the State of Ohio is putting an extraordinary burden on counties.

Mr. White reluctantly moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the Agreement to Participate in the Multi-County Branch of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, for the amount of \$480,876.00, to be paid quarterly.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers no, David White aye, Rick Walters aye. Motion passed.

**RE: MID-OHIO RIVER VALLEY PORT DISTRICT**

Jim Black from the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority asked the Commissioners to consider a Resolution in support of creating the Mid-Ohio River Valley Port District. He provided to the Commissioners a map that reflects a gap in Port Districts along the Ohio River, extending from Meigs County to Columbiana County. He said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is pursuing establishment of this Mid-Ohio River Valley Port District for statistical purposes, and Buckeye Hills Regional Council is coordinating the project.

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

***WHEREAS**, the collection of waterborne commerce statistics pertaining to rivers, harbors, and waterways and the compilation and publication of such data by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are required by federal law; and*

***WHEREAS**, creation of a statistical boundaries of the Mid-Ohio River Valley Port District would more accurately reflect the local waterborne commerce activity and increase tonnage recorded by the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Navigation and Civil Works Decision Support Center, elevating the rank of the Port among the inland ports in the United States further supporting local economic development, and*

***WHEREAS**, the proposed creation of the statistical boundaries will provide significant marketing and may result in investment opportunities leading to job creation and economic growth for Washington County, Ohio.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Ohio supports the port boundary creation with recognized limits of the Ohio River mile \_\_\_\_\_ and river mile \_\_\_\_\_ to include the entire riverfront of Washington County from river mile \_\_\_\_\_ to river mile \_\_\_\_\_ on the Ohio River. Said support extends for statistical purposes only and not to any waterways organization or further control of the Ohio River nor does the created boundary impact any existing or future public port or economic development authorities.*

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

The Clerk said he will ask Buckeye Hills Regional Council representatives to provide information to complete the Resolution.

**RE: MARCS TOWERS SUBLEASE AGREEMENT**

Assistant Prosecutor Alison Cauthorn discussed with the Commissioners the proposed sublease of MARCS towers to Serenity Wireless. She said remaining issues to be resolved are:

- Sufficiency of bond
- Termination clause
- Term of lease
- Customer service satisfaction as a factor in agreement renewal consideration

The Commissioners agreed to allow Ms. Cauthorn to continue to work with the State of Ohio and Michael Johnson of Serenity Wireless to resolve these issues. The Clerk said he has forwarded an invoice in the amount of \$12,000 to Serenity for use of ten (10) MARCS towers during the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

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

A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

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

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

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

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

