

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON NOVEMBER 16, 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 Muskingum Township Trustee Gary Doan, Karen Doan, Glen Pawloski, Steve Hutchinson, Bob Dunbarger, County Engineer Roger Wright, Edith Newman, Dick Taylor, Health Commissioner Richard Wittberg, Erin O'Neill from *The Marietta Times*, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 a.m., November 16, 2017

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Dr. Richard Wittberg, Health Commissioner – Response to Ohio EPA
4:00 Senior Levy Advisory Committee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Proposal to Study Effectiveness of Courthouse Back-Up Generator

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution to Create New Fund
Additional Appropriation – Job and Family Services
Additional Appropriation – Family & Children First
Transfer – Family & Children First
Transfer - Sheriff
Then & Now's
Travel – Family & Children First (2)
Travel – Job and Family Services
Travel – County Home
Engineer – Change Order #1, Lowell T-Bridge Rehabilitation Project
Engineer – Contract with Bob Lane's Welding for Emergency Landslip Repair

DATES TO REMEMBER

Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, November 21
Change in Regular Meeting Date, from Thursday, November 23, to **Wednesday**,
November 22
Courthouse Closed, **Thursday** and **Friday**, November 23 & 24, Thanksgiving
Joint Solid Waste Meeting, 12:00 p.m., **Monday**, December 4, at Lori's in Caldwell
Monthly County Home Meeting, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, December 12, at County Home
Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, December 12

RE: AGENDA

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

Add: Travel – County Home
Transfer – County General, Maintenance

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. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the November 9, 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: CREATION OF NEW FUND

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a request from the County Auditor to create the following new fund for the Health Department:

602-2001 Capital Improvement Fund

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

Job and Family Services	200-0720-53400	\$	65,000.00
Family & Children First	602-2030-51001	\$	550.00
	602-2030-51102	\$	200.00
	602-2030-51104	\$	72.00

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

RE: TRANSFERS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Family & Children First	602-2033-53202		\$ 255.00
	602-2033-53203		\$ 168.25
	602-2033-57400		\$ 1,351.75
		602-2033-51001	\$ 525.00
		602-2033-52001	\$ 750.00
		602-2033-52003	\$ 500.00
Sheriff	100-0384-53010	100-0384-53000	\$ 5,000.00
County General	100-0109-53600	100-0109-53100	\$ 9,000.00
	100-0109-53600	100-0109-53200	\$ 1,000.00

Commissioner White shared his disappointment that Family & Children First is requesting transfer of funds into the travel line item. He noted, though, that this is a request for transfer rather than a request for additional appropriations.

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

Dept	Account	Vendor	Amount
I.T.	100-0190-53000	Miller Communications	\$ 320.00
Commissioners	100-0101-53400	John J. Petro	\$ 800.00

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. White moved and Mr. Walters 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:

Family & Children First

Cindy Davis: One-day trip to Columbus to attend Building Better Lives Conference; December 11, 2017.

Sheila Bates, Elaine Corbitt: Two-day trip to Columbus to attend Building Better Lives Conference; December 11-12, 2017.

JFS

Anita Vaughan: One-day trip to Fairfield County to attend OCAPS Regional Meeting; November 17, 2017.

County Home

Susie Arbaugh: One-day trip to Parkersburg, WV to accompany resident to doctor appointment; November 17, 2017.

Natasha Streight: One-day trip to Parkersburg, WV to purchase supplies for beauty shop; November 16, 2017.

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

RE: CHANGE ORDER #1, LOWELL T-BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1 for the Lowell T-Bridge Rehabilitation Project, adding \$28,579.31 to the original contract amount of \$495,590.00, for a revised contract amount of \$524,169.31, contractor Armstrong Steel Erectors, Inc., as 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: CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY LANDSLIP REPAIR

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a contract with Bob Lane's Welding, Inc., for emergency repair of a landslip on County Road 79 (Huck's Road), in the amount of \$16,020.00, as 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: COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Muskingum Township Trustee Gary Doan said he was appalled at the manner in which the Commissioners conducted their regular meeting on November 9, 2017. He said interaction, conversation, and joking with a visitor at the meeting about the recent Muskingum Township trustee election was disrespectful.

Responding to Mr. Doan, Glen Pawloski explained what had happened and apologized for his part in the situation. He said he meant no disrespect toward any candidate. Bob Dunbarger said he was a participant in the episode, and although he felt he was unwittingly involved, he apologized to the other candidate.

Mr. Doan said he has no argument with Mr. Dunbarger, but simply was upset over the conduct of two Commissioners at their meeting on November 9.

RE: DR. RICHARD WITTBERG, HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Health Commissioner Dr. Richard Wittberg said after subsequent review of prior communications between Assistant Prosecutor Nicole Coil and the Ohio EPA about the Devola sewer situation, he has determined that there is no real problem in Devola to correct.

His observations:

- The EPA's original thrust was to address contaminated ground water, and then it changed to contaminated surface water, and now it is back to contaminated ground water.
- The EPA focuses only on water quality at one particular site in Devola.

His critique:

- Dr. Wittberg said he is unable to find an Ohio EPA definition of "pollution". That is critical, he said, to this disagreement of whether the water is contaminated or not.
- The seriousness of the situation can be determined only by the level of possible harm to human health.
- The reverse osmosis system installed in the Devola community has been very effective in lowering the level of nitrates.
- The levels of nitrate are now in a downward trend, and are expected to continue as such.
- The longer the delay in action, the more data is available to help determine if action is necessary.
- Agricultural wells nearby likely have a significant impact on levels of detected nitrates.
- The EPA has determined a sizeable amount of nitrates is coming from both agriculture and households.
- The EPA cannot determine change in nitrate levels if all human activity is removed from the equation.

Dr. Wittberg said he doesn't understand how the Ohio EPA can pick this Devola community as a target.

Commissioner White noted at a recent meeting the Ohio EPA focused only on the fact that the

previous Commissioners signed Findings & Orders, and seemed to ignore scientific data and facts.

Dr. Wittberg said there appears to be a moving target for the EPA. He said he wonders what a judge might conclude after having heard all the viewpoints and evidence.

President Feathers said the more he learns about the Devola situation the more he believes the signing of the original Findings & Orders was in error. Dr. Wittberg agreed, noting the EPA has provided him with a wealth of documents but insufficient support for transitioning from septic to sewer. He said he believes the nitrate problem in Devola is correcting itself, largely due to installation of the reverse osmosis system.

RE: SENIOR LEVY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

President Feathers welcomed those attending the Senior Levy Advisory Committee meeting. Including the Commissioners, the Clerk, and representatives from RSVP, the O'Neill Center, and Washington-Morgan Community Action Program, there were 16 attending this meeting. President Feathers asked Chairman Bill McAfee to lead the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting were taken by Carrie McNamee. The following action was taken:

- Minutes of November 17, 2016 were approved.
- Senior club requests were reviewed and accepted as submitted.
- The Committee determined each club will receive \$500 for the purchase of supplies.
- The Committee approved a request from Lisa Valentine to distribute \$7,000 of senior club funds remaining unused at end of following year to RSVP, with any excess over \$7,000 to be distributed to RSVP, the O'Neill Center, and Washington-Morgan Community Action Program according to the established percentages.

The meeting of the Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:17 p.m. Mr. McAfee thanked attendees for their input.

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 4:17 p.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk