

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON AUGUST 16, 2018 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: RICK G. WALTERS, PRESIDENT, DAVID A. WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT, AND RONALD L. FEATHERS, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. WALTERS LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.

Also attending were Muskingum Township Trustee Gary Doan, Building Official Chris Wilson, County Engineer Roger Wright, Erin O'Neill from *The Marietta Times*, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00a.m., August 16, 2018**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Attorney Ethan Vessels – Litigation Update
10:30 Discussion with Children Services Board of Directors about Agency Funding and Related Issues

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Addendum to Labor Agreement, Developmental Disabilities

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution to Create New Fund
Additional Appropriation – Auditor
Additional Appropriation – Board of Elections
Additional Appropriation – Critical Infrastructure CDBG Grant
Additional Appropriation – Family & Children First
Additional Appropriation – 2017 CDBG
Minus Appropriations – 2017 CDBG
Transfer – Auditor (4)
Transfer - Sheriff
Then & Now's
Travel – Director of Human Resources
Travel – Family & Children First
Travel – County Home
Drawdown of CDBG Funds
Change to Washington County Prevention, Retention & Contingency Plan
Notices of Office Closings during Holidays
Contract for Language Interpreter Services, Family & Children First
Request to Hire New Employee, Family & Children First
Liquor Permit Application, Grizer Castle, Whipple
Engineer – Change Order #1, 2018 Asphalt Paving Program
Engineer – Request to Apply for OPWC Funds for CR-9, 20 & 333 Resurfacing Project
Engineer – Request to Apply for OPWC Funds for CR-9 Base Stabilization Project
Engineer – Contracts with Bob Lane's Excavating for Emergency Landslip Repair (4)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monthly County Home Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, August 21, at County Home
Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 21, in Annex Conference Room A
Port Authority Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, August 28, at Waterford High School
Council of Governments, 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 28, at Lori's in Caldwell
Courthouse Closed, Monday, September 3, Labor Day

RE: AGENDA

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

Add: Minus Appropriation – Developmental Disabilities

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the August 7, 2018 Regular Meeting.

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

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White 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, David White aye, Ron Feathers aye. Motion passed.

RE: RESOLUTION TO CREATE NEW FUND

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to create the following new fund, as requested by the County Auditor

210-0830 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, VILLAGE OF BEVERLY

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

Auditor (Unclaimed Funds)	200-0106-57400	\$ 1,367.85
Bd. of Elections	215-0162-54400	\$ 6,599.00
Critical Infrastructure	210-0830-53000	\$125,800.00
	210-0830-53005	\$ 13,900.00
Family & Children First	602-2030-53201	\$ 500.00
2017 CDBG	210-0829-53005	\$ 20,000.00
	210-0829-57400	\$ 10,000.00
	210-0829-57401	\$ 14,800.00
	210-0829-57402	\$ 24,800.00
	210-0829-57403	\$117,400.00

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

RE: MINUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the following request for minus appropriations:

2017 CDBG	210-0829-51000	\$(14,800.00)
	210-0829-52000	\$(24,800.00)
	210-0829-53000	\$(117,400.00)
	210-0829-54000	\$(10,000.00)
	210-0829-55000	\$(20,000.00)
Pathways II Grant	210-0621-57100	\$(113,187.48)

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

RE: TRANSFERS

Mr. Feathers 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>
Auditor	100-0120-51006	100-0120-51001	\$ 3,315.00
	100-0510-51006	100-0510-51001	\$ 605.00
	200-0122-51006	200-0122-51001	\$ 4,526.00
	200-0363-51006	200-0363-51001	\$ 1,910.00
Sheriff	100-0384-57800	100-0384-53020	\$ 1,000.00

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

RE: THEN & NOW'S

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

Department	Account	Vendor	Amount
Job & Family Services	200-0720-59000	Eve, Inc.	\$ 3,150.00
Children Service	200-0743-57400	Once Upon a Child	\$ 150.00
Children Service	200-0743-53000	Once Upon a Child	\$ 100.00
Children Service	200-0743-53000	Once Upon a Child	\$ 100.00
Children Service	200-0743-53000	Once Upon a Child	\$ 100.00

Commissioners	100-0361-53000	Franklin County Coroner	\$ 1,300.00
Commissioners	100-0109-54000	Discount Signs (Pen, Inc.)	\$ 426.00

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

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Feathers 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 2018 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

HR

Kathy Thieman: One-day trip to Columbus to attend CEBCO Annual Renewal Meeting; September 7, 2018.

Family & Children First

Elaine Corbitt: One-day trip to Columbus to attend assessment appointment with client; August 31, 2018.

County Home

Diana Hall: One-day trips as follows for resident lunch outings:

August 16, 2018 Mineral Wells, WV
August 23, 2018 Williamstown, WV

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

RE: DRAWDOWN OF CDBG FUNDS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve a request for drawdown of 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, as follows, and to allow Mr. Walters and Mr. White to sign the request, as prepared by Michelle Hyer, Buckeye Hills Regional Council:

Grant B-F-17-1CY-1 \$ 14,807.06

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

RE: CHANGE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY PRC PLAN

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a change in the Washington County Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Plan as follows, requested by Flite Freimann, Washington County Department of Job and Family Services:

Remove

Summer Youth Employment Program
Job Recruitment Assistance and Employment Outreach
Career Pathways Exploration Program
Summer Reading Program

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

RE: NOTICES OF OFFICE CLOSINGS DURING UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of notices from the County Auditor, the County Treasurer, and the County Prosecutor informing the Commissioners their offices will be closed on Friday, November 23, 2018, and Monday, December 24, 2018.

Commissioner White asked the Clerk to request additional information from the County Treasurer and County Prosecutor. Specifically, he said, he wants to know how their departmental staff will be charging their absences on those days. Mr. White noted the County Auditor in his notice explained his employees will need to use vacation or comp time on the two days.

Building Official Chris Wilson said the County's policy at one time allowed for the use of up to three (3) sick leave days as personal leave. He asked if the Commissioners might again consider that, as it could be that his office is one of few in the Courthouse that will be open on November 23 and December 24.

President Walters said he believes employees should use either vacation or comp time for these

two days. He said use of personal leave would require change in policy, and he didn't believe that would happen.

RE: CONTRACT FOR LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SERVICES

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a contract with Susan Barengo to provide language interpreter services during the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, at the hourly rate of \$40.00, as prepared and requested by Cindy Davis, Washington County Family & Children First.

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

RE: REQUEST TO HIRE NEW EMPLOYEE AT FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a request from Cindy Davis, Washington County Family & Children First Council, to hire Regina Duff to fill the vacancy of Help Me Grow Home Visiting Supervisor/Program Manager, starting September 4, 2018.

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

RE: LIQUOR PERMIT APPLICATION

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to table consideration of a hearing on a request for class B liquor license for Grizer Castle in Whipple, Liberty Township, received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control.

Commissioner White said response to this request is not required until August 30, 2018, and waiting until that date to respond should allow for comments to be received and considered.

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

RE: CHANGE ORDER #1, 2018 ASPHALT PAVING PROGRAM

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1 for the 2018 Asphalt Paving Program, contractor Shelly & Sands, Inc., adding \$28,319.75 to the original contract amount of \$294,499.50, for a revised contract amount of \$322,819.25, to account for additional quantities of materials used in the project, as prepared and requested by County Engineer Roger Wright.

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

RE: APPLICATION FOR OPWC FUNDS, ROUND 33, FOR RESURFACING PROJECT

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve a request from County Engineer Roger Wright to apply for grant and loan funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), Round 33, for the CR-9, CR-20 and CR-333 Resurfacing Project, and to adopt a Resolution authorizing Commissioner Ron Feathers to sign the application.

Mr. Wright said there is local match for this project, a large portion of which will be in-kind service by his department. He asked the Commissioners to consider helping with the remainder of the local funds for both this project and the Base Stabilization project.

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

RE: APPLICATION FOR OPWC FUNDS, ROUND 33, FOR BASE STABILIZATION PROJECT

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve a request from County Engineer Roger Wright to apply for grant and loan funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), Round 33, for the CR-9 Base Stabilization and CR-9 and CR 46 Resurfacing Project, and to adopt a Resolution authorizing Commissioner Ron Feathers to sign the application.

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

RE: CONTRACTS WITH BOB LANE'S WELDING FOR EMERGENCY LANDSLIP REPAIR

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following contracts with Bob Lane's Welding, Inc., for emergency landslip repair, as prepared and requested by County Engineer Roger Wright:

CR-21 (Leith Run Road), \$13,220.00
CR-138 (Rinard Mills Road), \$9,032.00 and \$22,734.00

CR-9, \$16,920.50

Mr. Wright explained these are not FEMA-eligible projects, and cost and project proximity factored into his decision to contract with Bob Lane's Welding for the four projects.

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

RE: FEMA FUNDING FOR LANDSLIPS

County Engineer Roger Wright said the paperwork for FEMA funding for landslips throughout the County has been completed and sent to Texas for review. He noted there are fifteen levels of review, so it could be some time before outcome is known.

RE: OPIOID LITIGATION UPDATE

Attorney Ethan Vessels updated the Commissioners on the opioid litigation pursuit. He said he has been attending conferences and gathering valuable insight and information to make a good case on behalf of the County.

He said:

He believes it to be in the best interest of the County to not be a member of the Cleveland multi-district litigation, as expenses might be greater, there would be loss of local input and control, and the outcome may not be as good as other avenues.

He would like to work with Attorney Marc Bern from New York City as co-counsel, as he has expertise in mass tort cases, and he is representing several counties in West Virginia.

He is representing other entities as well as Washington County.

Working with Attorney Bern will not cost Washington County any more, as attorneys are paid only from settlements and court orders.

He intends to file suit in Washington County Court of Common Pleas, as it does not have to be filed in federal court.

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the request for Attorney Ethan Vessels to utilize Attorney Marc Bern as co-counsel to represent Washington County in opioid litigation, and to move forward with lawsuit outside of the combined federal multi-district litigation in Cleveland, and instead filing the suit in Washington County Court of Common Pleas.

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

RE: DISCUSSION WITH CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Walters welcomed members of the Washington County Children Services Board, including Tim Loughry, Doug Mallett, Mark Weihl, Beth Miller, and Mary Barnas. Also attending were Flite Freimann, Director of Washington County Department of Job and Family Services, and Erin O'Neill from *The Marietta Times*.

Mr. Walters invited Mr. Freimann to proceed with his presentation to the Boards.

Mr. Freimann said there are options for Job and Family Services (JFS) to work with Children Services to develop innovative ways to fund Children Services. He said due to continuing cash flow and budgeting issues at Children Services, it is time to be creative and thoughtful in pursuing other avenues. He noted Children Services and JFS both provide high quality services which cannot be lessened.

He noted:

- There are JFS departments in 85 of the 88 Ohio counties.
- 63 of those counties have combined JFS and Children Services.
- 22 of the 85 counties are stand alone.
- 6 Ohio counties have separate departments for JFS, Children Services, and Child Support.

Mr. Freimann said there is no "silver bullet" to reduce costs at Children Services, and there is no guarantee that combining agencies will save money. However, he said combining agencies might result in better service to families and children. He said he believes the local agencies don't currently do a good job of collaborating, and that service-oriented integration is necessary. Mr. Freimann said providing services to families should be coordinated effort under one umbrella.

Mr. Freimann reviewed with the Boards costs of administration for a quarter of the year, and year-to-date placement costs. He noted JFS currently has available for use by Children Services Title XX, Title XX Transfer (TANF) and Community Protective Services funds, but the TANF funds cannot be used for placement costs. He said Children Services could collect more reimbursement funds if staff members completed and filed paperwork in a different manner. He said completing of a PRC Application and using proper codes should allow for significant new revenue to the agency.

Mr. Weihl said he is not interested in Children Services administration and/or staff members “working the system” or “cheating” in filing reports to the state or to the federal government. Mr. Freimann said he does not, and will not, advocate either working the system or cheating. He said he is merely suggesting being accurate in reporting all activities of Children Services staff, so as to be reimbursed as eligible and appropriate. He noted having PRC Applications completed may allow JFS to pay Children Services up to \$125,000 each quarter. He agreed with Mr. Weihl that he suggesting completion of PRC Applications should be standard business practice.

Mr. Freimann said he is frustrated that his offer earlier this year to pay to Children Services up to \$40,000 to provide parenting classes to JFS clients was not accepted. He noted he is working very well with the Executive Director of Children Services, though, and believes Mr. Vuksic is willing and able to accept his recommendations to change practices and procedures for the benefit of the agency, as long as services to children and families aren’t negatively impacted. Mr. Weihl said this change in culture needs to be accomplished by open communication, will require change in mindset, and will be considered “out of the box”.

Offering to provide assistance to Children Services, Mr. Freimann said he is willing to talk at greater length with the Children Services Board and agency administration and staff. He said to be effective this will require review, tracking, correction, and filing of reports in a different way than now done.

Ms. Barnas said she agrees there needs to be some change in process and culture, but cautioned that agency staff often have emergency needs and aren’t always available for training. Mr. Freimann said he will work with agency staff as much as possible, but it may require them to work with him when he is available.

Mr. Mallett said he appreciates having received this good information, and hopes all can be positive in moving forward to implement new procedures that will allow for greater reimbursements to the agency. He said this will alleviate financial pressure from not only the agency, but also the Commissioners and the County.

Mr. Freimann identified ways to reduce placement costs:

- Prevention
- Financial aid packages for kinship families
- Recruit new foster families
- Utilize residential treatment centers

To begin the process now, Mr. Freimann said the following must be done:

- Update PRC (Prevention, Retention and Contingency) Plan
- Enter into Memorandum of Understanding between JFS and Children Services
- Train Children Services staff on appropriate RMS hits
- Develop financial aid package for kinship placement
- Recruit foster families
- Visit treatment facilities

Mr. Mallett said he believes the first three items on the list should be undertaken immediately, with discussion of the other items as appropriate in the near future. He said he believes this might help in determining if it is feasible to merge organizations at a future date. He said he’d like to allow the staff to “buy-in” to this culture and process change.

Commissioner White noted the Commissioners received a request for additional appropriations in the amount of \$800,000, but the Commissioners simply don’t have the funds available. He said he talked with the Assistant Director of Children Services about the request, and her recommendation was to take funds from other County departments to allow for transfer of those funds to Children Services. Mr. White said this is not realistic, and expressed his disappointment that Children Services leadership hasn’t taken appropriate action to reduce expenses in light of reduced funding from the County. Mr. Mallett noted the Commissioners appropriated about \$1.4 million less than requested, and the current request is only for \$800,000 so there must have been some reduction in year-to-date expenses.

Commissioner Feather said he’s been studying the option of merging agencies over the past two years, and suggested such action might be considered a “lifeline” to Children Services. He said he does not believe the Children Services Board should be dissolved.

President Feathers said he truly appreciates the dedication and commitment of the members of the Children Services Board, and thanked them for taking the time to hear this presentation from Mr. Freimann and discussing financial issues with the Commissioners. Mr. Weihl suggested training for the Children Services Board would be invaluable, as he learned a great deal from hearing this particular presentation.

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 12:17 p.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk