

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON NOVEMBER 15, 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, Karen Doan, Glen Pawloski, Deanna Robinson, Betty Tucker, Caroline Fouss, Karlee Hill, Brookane Dixon, Juliane Beckett, Rachel Pannell, Allison Hutchings, Patty Renner, Timothy Beardsley, Linda Beardsley, Laken Camino, Doug Mallett, Kyle Boker, Chad Adkins from *The Marietta Times*, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 a.m., November 15, 2018**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Public Hearing – Highland Ridge Infrastructure Grant
10:00 Bid Opening – Public Defenders Office Renovation

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Addendum to Labor Agreement, Developmental Disabilities

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Additional Appropriation – County General, Jail (2)
Additional Appropriation – Sheriff's Sales Tax
Additional Appropriation – Family & Children First
Transfer – Children Services (2)
Transfer – County General, Building Department
Transfer – County General, Common Pleas
Transfer – County General, Jail (2)
Transfer – County General, Veterans (5)
Then & Now's
Travel – Building Department
Request from Children Services to Re-appoint Board Member

DATES TO REMEMBER

Pre-Bid Meeting, Terri Lane Lift Station Project, 11:00 a.m., **Monday**,
November 19
Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, November 20, in Conf. Room A
Regular Weekly Meeting, 9:00 a.m. **Wednesday**, November 21
Courthouse Closed, **Thursday**, November 22, Thanksgiving Day
Senior Levy Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m., **Thursday**, November 29

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, David White aye, Ron Feathers aye. Motion passed.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the November 8, 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. 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, David White aye, Ron Feathers aye. Motion passed.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Co. Gen., Jail	100-0381-54150	\$ 2,800.00
	100-0381-53700	\$ 716.78
Sheriff's Sales Tax	100-0384-53600	\$ 5,000.00
Family & Children First	602-2031-53100	\$ 4,040.00

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

RE: TRANSFERS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Children Services	200-0741-52000	200-0741-53000	\$ 1,450.00
	200-0743-57400	200-0743-53000	\$ 1,200.00
Co. Gen., Bldg. Dept.	100-0170-53203	100-0170-52001	\$ 70.54
Co. Gen., Common Pleas	100-0201-57400	100-0201-53400	\$ 300.00
Co. Gen., Jail	100-0381-53405	100-0381-54200	\$ 15,000.00
	100-0381-53405	100-0381-54002	\$ 200.00
Co. Gen., Veterans	100-0700-51104	100-0700-51001	\$ 5,284.58
	100-0700-51104	100-0700-57403	\$ 10,000.00
	100-0700-51104	100-0700-57406	\$ 2,000.00
	100-0700-51104	100-0700-57400	\$ 5,000.00
	100-0700-52000	100-0700-55200	\$ 5,000.00

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. 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>
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	Treas., State of Ohio	\$ 271.25
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	Treas., State of Ohio	\$ 259.25
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	Treas., State of Ohio	\$ 271.25
Commissioners	400-0113-57401	Wash. Co. Commissioners	\$ 100,000.00
Perm Sales Tax	100-0103-53700	Marietta Times	\$ 262.22
I.T.	100-0190-53000	IFax Solutions	\$ 559.65
Sewer	400-0113-54000	Darla Wilson, Inc.	\$ 492.08
Sewer	400-0113-53000	L. Alan Goldsberry	\$ 625.00

Finance Charge

Veterans	100-0700-57400	Lowe's	\$ 2.77
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A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Rick Walters aye, David White aye, Ron Feathers aye. Motion passed.

RE: TRAVEL

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

Building Department

Chris Wilson, Russ Metz, Rick Dostal, Dan McDermott, Larry Richcreek, Jennifer Casey:
One-day trip to Worthington to attend Koorsen 2018 AHJ Training Seminar; November 20, 2018.

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

RE: RE-APPOINTMENT TO CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to table a request to re-appoint Mary Barnas to the Washington County Children Services Board of Directors for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2019.

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

RE: COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

Referencing a recent article in *The Marietta Times* and *The Parkersburg News*, Glen Pawloski expressed his concern the former Commissioners took action that seems non-transparent in relation to the Devola sewer issue. He said a contract had been signed by Commissioners (in May 2011) before USGS revealed their report dated June 2011, apparently before it was made available to the public, and he believes that didn't allow time for public comment or input. Mr. Pawloski said it seems dubious to him to not allow the public to be aware and to offer comments prior to agreements being made. He said he considers this to be taking advantage of property owners. Commissioner White said the current Commissioners were not on the Board at that time and he isn't able to comment on actions taken by them.

Caroline Fouss said she served as a member of the Children Services Board of Directors for thirty years. She said during that time her Board considered a merger comparable to that now being considered by the Commissioners. Ms. Fouss said her Board determined it would not be feasible or responsible for merger. She said she believes merging Children Services with Job and Family Services will not be beneficial to the children of Washington County or to the staff of Children Services. Ms. Fouss noted "much blood, sweat and tears" went into the Children Services building project, with local donations earmarked for construction. She said it would simply be wrong to convert the building to any other use, as it was designed with Children Services operations in mind.

Brookane Dixon said she attended a meeting of Children Services staff and Flite Freimann from JFS. She noted the following options were presented by Mr. Freimann relative to physical program space:

- Relocate JFS to Children Services
- Relocate Children Services to JFS
- Continue functioning in current locations, with some adjustments

Ms. Dixon said employees of Children Services are concerned about their salaries. She asked the Commissioners about the status of a public records request submitted by Tim Loughry, Chair of the Children Services Board of Directors.

President Walters said he responded to the public records request from Mr. Loughry on November 9. Commissioner White said although the Commissioners will make the final decision on physical location of operations, they will first receive recommendation(s) from agency directors.

Allison Hutchings said the Children Services staff were told they'll need to follow rules and regulations of collective bargaining when the agencies merge, but their salaries would likely not be changed as a result of the merge. She said their schedules may change, but not their pay. Ms. Hutchings said it appears the staff at Children Services will lose some privileges provided to them by their administration. She said it would have been appropriate for the Commissioners to have worked some of these issues out before announcing the merger.

Mr. Walters said the Commissioners cannot respond to questions about the recent meeting of Children Services staff with Mr. Freimann, as they were not there.

Brookane Dixon said the staff meeting with Mr. Freimann did not go well, as the staff felt offended by what he said. She expressed her disappointment the Commissioners didn't stay for the remainder of the Children Services Board meeting held on November 8, 2018, as they would have heard many people speak very highly of the good work being done by the staff of Children Services.

Comments offered by others attending the meeting:

"There is a huge lack of communication here."

"I am very disappointed by the way we've been disrespected."

"Open communication, honesty and transparency are lacking."

"We've been told this merging will not improve financial condition, so why do it?"

"I was told my job would be the first to be cut. How do you think I feel about that?"

Commissioner White reiterated his door is always open to allow for discussion of concerns. He said he will always be willing to talk with anyone about this merging of Children Services and JFS.

Caroline Fouss said she doesn't believe this merger has been thought through. She said the Children Services building was built specifically for use by Children Services, and with funds donated only for construction of a building to be used by Children Services.

President Walters noted expenses of Children Services have increased dramatically over a period of several years. He said the Commissioners are charged with monitoring County expenses, and that can best be done with oversight from JFS.

Tim Beardsley said he has been following the progress of the proposed merger in the newspaper. He asked if the Commissioners could temporarily halt the proceedings and go back and do further studies. He said there are now "bruised egos", but also legitimate financial concerns. Mr. Beardsley said it doesn't seem appropriate to move Children Services

to the JFS facility, as the Children Services building was built specifically with Children Services in mind. He said he doesn't believe transition on December 27 allows sufficient time to consider ramifications and options that might be available. He encouraged the Commissioners to "take a step back", and consider the problems this merger may create.

Mr. Walters said the Commissioners are the appropriating authority for the County. He said over the past four years he's been in office he has seen County revenues decline and expenses increase. He asked: "How deep can you dig a hole and still be able to get out of that hole?" He said the Commissioners have sought input on this merger from directors of both Children Services and JFS.

Commissioner White said December 27 is the date only for the transfer of administrative functions from Children Services to JFS. He said other issues will be resolved after that date. Mr. White said this merger will allow for better leveraging of funds, which in turn will secure more federal and state reimbursements to the County. He noted the Commissioners have diverted funds "to the max" from other County agencies to Children Services. Mr. White agreed there needs to be better communication between Mr. Freimann and the staff of Children Services.

Commissioner Feathers said the notion of "merging" needs to be better defined. He said the Commissioners have not yet acted upon merging the agencies, but did agree to transfer administrative functions from Children Services to JFS. He said the Children Services Advisory Committee will create strategy, provide leadership, communicate, and "think out of the box" on how best to serve the children of Washington County.

President Walters said the Commissioners have been working to ensure nobody loses their job as a result of this merging between Children Services and JFS. He said the ultimate goal is to improve finances of the Agency without negatively impacting the needs of the children and the staff of the Agency.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING, HIGHLAND RIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

Michelle Hyer, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, facilitated for the Commissioners a Public Hearing on the Highland Ridge Critical Infrastructure Grant application. She said this is a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund administered by the Ohio Development Services Agency. Ms. Hyer said Highland Ridge Water Association intends to install a 150,000 gallon water storage tank for a total project cost of \$961,800. She said the Association has received \$462,000 from the EPA and is applying for \$500,000 in this grant. She noted a permit to install has been issued for the project, and application is due on November 16, 2018.

There were no comments from those attending the Hearing.

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve an Environmental Review Documentation and Certification Form and a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the Highland Ridge Water Association Critical Infrastructure Grant application to the Ohio Development Services Agency, and to allow Mr. Walters to sign the forms.

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

RE: BID OPENING, PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE RENOVATION

At 10:30 a.m. the Commissioners welcomed those attending the sealed bid opening for the Public Defenders Office Renovation Project. Attending were the Commissioners, the Clerk, Architect David Haught from DLH Design, Randal Walker, Tim Coffman, Rob Lowther, Patty Renner, and Washington County Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Tim Marty.

President Walters invited Mr. Haught to proceed with opening of the bids. Mr. Haught said his estimate for the project is \$74,500. He said there were about eight contractors who picked up drawings for the project, but only two submitted bids. He opened the following sealed bids:

Phoenix Associates	\$ 74,990.00
Wolf Creek Contracting	\$ 128,007.00

Mr. Haught noted both contractors included cost of performance bond in their bids, and provided required certificates and acknowledgements. The Commissioners asked him to review the bids and to return at a later date with a recommendation.

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 10:15 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk