

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON FEBRUARY 21, 2019 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVID A. WHITE, PRESIDENT, RONALD L. FEATHERS, VICE PRESIDENT, AND KEVIN J. RITTER, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. WHITE LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.

Also attending were:

Chris Wilson, Building Official
Flite Freimann, Director, Job and Family Services
Kathy Thieman, Director of Human Resources, Safety & Loss Control
Tim Marty, Buildings & Grounds Superintendent
Kim Hinkle, Child Support Enforcement Agency
Donnie Rader, I.T. Department
Alice Stewart, Children Services
Yvonne Garvey, Children Services
Rachel Pannell, Children Services
Lisa Ball, Children Services
Celeste Prince, Children Services
D. Robinson
B. Tucker
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Karen Doan
Glen Pawloski
Kathy Shively
Rick Walters
Rick Hindman, Buckeye Hills Regional Council
David Browne, Behavioral Health Board
Hilles Hughes, Behavioral Health Board
Court Witschey, Health Department
Richard Wittberg, Health Department
Michael Tatar, WTAP News
Chad Adkins, *The Marietta Times*
Rick Peoples, Clerk

President White opened the meeting with the following prepared statement:

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am extremely tired of coming in here week after week and trying to clean up the mess after yet one more exaggerated, flamboyant, hyperbolic, misleading, and irresponsible news headline by the discredited Marietta Times.

Today I read in Large Headline; Quote “ Board of Elections Presented with 2 new relocation options” end quote....

As if it is already a done deal that they are moving.... No mention of the fact that the most reasonable position is that they remain exactly where they are!

I wish to go on record ... for the public in saying that these urgent, manifest moves are NOT attainable. Although a long range plan for better placement of services and agencies IS warranted and even prudent... It is absolutely ludicrous to believe that we, the Washington County Taxpayers, can make these types of moves without tremendous cost and upheaval . I wish to put an end to this ridiculous chasing of nebulous goals that are NOT economically feasible.

It is prudent on the part of the commissioners and the JFS director to investigate every possibility, but at some point, we must understand, we must realize, we must establish that enough is enough.

It is ridiculous that I must spend hours every week cleaning up messes that are created by the Marietta Times writing alarmist and incendiary headlines.

As far as I am concerned.... This stops here and now. The funds for the multiple moves suggested by the shuffling of these locations simply are non-existent and could only take place over a protracted, multi year, and well planned operation.

I am calling for an end to this ridiculous pursuit of a short term goal that is unattainable and I am calling for a longer term plan that will place ALL county services in the most efficacious locations.

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 a.m., February 21, 2019**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Hilles Hughes, Behavioral Health – Program Update

10:00 Bonnie Walters, Humane Society – Program Update
10:30 Flite Freimann, JFS – Merger Update
11:00 Friends of Lower Muskingum River – Letter of Support for Purchase of Property
11:30 Kim Hinkle, Child Support Enforcement Agency – Cost Allocation Plan

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Application from Martins B & J Carryout, Newport Township, to Transfer Liquor Permit

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Additional Appropriation – Sheriff
Transfer – Family & Children First
Transfer – County General, Unexpected Emergencies
Transfer – County General, Jail
Then & Now's
Travel – Recorder
Notice of Office Closing – Recorder
Notice from Buckeye Hills Support Services of Application to Ohio Housing Finance Agency for Senior Community Housing Units near County Home
Letter of Support for National Church Residences Transportation Services
Letter to Veto Presbyterian Church
Application from Misty Blue, Ltd, in Fearing Township for Liquor Permit Transfer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Public Reception Celebrating the Retirement of County Auditor Bill McFarland,
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., **Thursday**, February 28, in Annex Conference Room A
Joint Solid Waste Committee, 12:00 p.m., **Monday**, March 4, at Lori's in Caldwell
County Home Monthly Meeting, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, March 12
Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., **Monday**, March 18
Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, March 19, in Annex Conference Room A

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the agenda, with the following addition:

Add: Letter in Response to CHIP Program Monitoring Report

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the February 14, 2019 Regular Meeting.

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

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Co. Gen., Jail	100-0381-51110	\$ 7,088.12

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

RE: TRANSFERS

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter 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	602-2033-51001	602-2033-51110	\$ 8,034.00
Co. Gen., Unexp. Emerg.	100-0102-57401	100-0109-57500	\$ 114.00
Co. Gen., Jail	100-0381-53405	100-0381-54400	\$ 2,350.00

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

RE: THEN & NOW'S

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

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commissioners	100-0109-54000	Carr Supply	\$ 103.19
Veterans	100-0700-57401	NE Ohio Nat. Gas	\$ 177.63
Commissioners	100-0109-53102	City of Marietta	\$ 252.30
Sewer	400-0113-52001	Fleetcor	\$ 459.30
Sewer	400-0113-53000	Ohio Utilities Prot.	\$ 2,085.27
Commissioners	100-0109-53000	Morrison, Inc.	\$ 484.75
Commissioners	100-060157401	Mtta. City Health	\$ 1,501.00
Commissioners	210-0830-53000	Downing Const.	\$ 14,333.27
Commissioners	210-0830-53005	Buckeye Hills	\$ 13,900.00
JFS	200-0720-59000	Thelk LLC	\$ 812.00
JFS	200-0720-57400	Rumpke	\$ 115.71
JFS	200-0720-57400	WASCO	\$ 2,999.00
JFS	200-0720-57400	City of Marietta	\$ 458.52
JFS	200-0720-59001	Daniel Franchino	\$ 909.16
Veterans	100-0700-57401	American Legion	\$ 168.33

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

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter 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 2019 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

Recorder

Tracey Wright: Trips to Columbus on the following dates for continuing education and conferences:

- April 9-10, 2019
- June 18-21, 2019
- September 18-19, 2019
- November 17-20, 2019

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

RE: NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSING

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of notice from County Recorder Tracey Wright that she intends to close her office on Friday, November 29, 2019, and at noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2019, with her staff using vacation time for these closings.

RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX CREDITS FROM OHIO HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of a letter from Rick Hindman, Executive Director, Buckeye Hills Support Services, Inc., expressing his intent to apply for Ohio Housing Finance Agency 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, to be used in developing a senior community on property adjacent to the Washington County Home. Mr. Hindman noted the community will include 72 one-bedroom housing units on an approximate 70-acre tract behind the County Home. Mr. Hindman requested comments on the proposed project's impact on the community be directed to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency within 45 days of the notice mailing date of February 14, 2019.

Building Official Chris Wilson noted the location of this project doesn't require residential inspections by his office. Commissioner Feathers said if the project moves forward he will request Mr. Wilson's office to provide appropriate inspections even though they may not be required.

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT TO PURCHASE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the following letter of support:

February 22, 2019

Blake Williams, 5310 Program Coordinator
Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Transit
1980 West Broad Street
Mail Stop 3110
Columbus, Ohio 43223

Re: Letter of Support for National Church Residences Transportation Services

Dear Mr. Williams:

We fully support the application from National Church Residences Transportation Services for a wheelchair accessible van. The new vehicle will help meet the increasing demand for accessible vehicles and decrease the overhead cost of leasing vehicles. We recognize the importance of transit, and we actively improve and maintain transit services in Washington County.

Washington County has an aging population. Over 25% of our total population is over the age of 60. Persons with disabilities account for 11% of the County's population. This justifies the need for accessible vehicles to enhance the mobility of seniors and persons with disabilities, allowing for travel to various activities including non-emergency medical transportation and transportation for other daily activities (banking, shopping, visits with friends and relatives, etc.). Providing access to these activities will improve the health and quality of life for these residents.

National Church Residences Transportation Services plans to purchase a modified minivan with wheelchair ramp. This vehicle is projected to serve more than 146 seniors and persons with disabilities and will be available 24 hours each day.

We strongly urge you to approve the application from National Church Residences Transportation Services, as this vehicle will improve the mobility and quality of life for seniors and disabled persons in Washington County.

Sincerely,

/s/ WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

RE: LETTER TO VETO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the following letter to Veto Presbyterian Church:

February 22, 2019

Clerk of Session
Veto Presbyterian Church
4574 State Route 339
Vincent, Ohio 45784

Dear Clerk:

On January 3, 2008 your church paid a Capacity Fee in the amount of \$2,875.00 to connect to a lift station then owned by Dave Burt. You opted to leave this pre-paid Capacity Fee with the Commissioners, with the understanding it would be forfeited in five years unless your church began paying a monthly service fee. As the County has not taken over this lift station from Mr. Burt, we will not ask you to make monthly service fee payments.

Please be advised the Capacity Fee you paid in 2008 is not refundable. If Veto Presbyterian Church opts to hook on to the County's sewer line in the future you will be required to pay a Capacity Fee that is in effect at that time.

Sincerely,

/s/ WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Feathers explained that about ten years ago Veto Presbyterian Church was asked if they would like to pay a Capacity Fee in the amount of \$2,875 to Washington County to connect to a lift station. The Church, he said, left those funds with the County even though no sewer connection was made. Mr. Feathers said the County at one time offered to refund the money to the church, but the church asked to leave it in place. This letter, Mr. Feathers said, is to officially notify the church that they have forfeited the \$2,875 and that they will have to pay another Capacity Fee in effect at the time of future connection. He noted the church will not need to pay a monthly sewer fee until that connection is made.

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

RE: LETTER IN RESPONSE TO CHIP PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the following letter:

February 21, 2019

*Matthew LaMantia, Deputy Chief
Office of Community Development
Ohio Development Services Agency
77 South High Street, Box 1001
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001*

Re: RESPONSE TO MONITORING REPORT

Dear Mr. LaMantia:

We are responding to the letter concerning the monitoring of the Washington County CHIP Programs B-C-16-1CY-1 and B-C-16-1CY-2.

I. Program Administration

- A. National Objective – no response required*
- B. Citizen Participation- no response required*
- C. Environmental Review - no response required*
- D. Procurement and Construction Management - no response required*
- E. Financial Management- no response required*
- F. Civil Rights/Fair Housing - no response required*

II. Performance

Finance Mechanism

Finding/Corrective Action

During the monitoring visit, the Owner Rehabilitation assistance mortgages were not recorded within 30 days.

County's Response

The County has worked with the contract administrator regarding the recording of mortgages. The contract administrator has revised the procedure for recording mortgages to ensure all are recorded within 30 days of contract execution. The County assures you that moving forward all projects requiring a mortgage will be in compliance with Program Policy Notice OCD 15-03.

Units Inspected

Terry Daugherty, 310 Maple Avenue, Belpre, Ohio
No Response Required

Martha Nicholson, 110 Mound Street, Marietta, Ohio
No Response Required

Mary Grosklos, 111 Ohio Blvd., Marietta, Ohio
No Response Required

Mary Stewart, 800 Talbot Street, Ohio
No Response Required

Terry Dickerson, 311 4th Street, Lowell Ohio
No Response Required

Tunisha Evans, 305 3rd Street, Beverly, Ohio
No Response Required

William Lee, 75 Center Street, Waterford, Ohio
No Response Required

Ashley Cochran, 115 Ohio Blvd. Marietta, Ohio
No Response Required

Juanita Snider, 1894 Laymen Road, Vincent, Ohio
No Response Required

Sandra Tucker, 511 Wirt Street, Belpre, Ohio
No Response Required

Tommy Radar, 3745 Highland Ridge Road, Lowell, Ohio
No Response Required

Angela Oliver, 184 Third Street, Lowell, Ohio
No Response Required

Please contact Dawn Rauch, Washington-Morgan Community Action Program, at drauch@wmcap.org if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/ WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

RE: APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR PERMIT TRANSFER, MISTY BLUE IN FEARING TOWNSHIP

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to table a request for liquor permit transfer from Arthur E. and Judith I. Reiser, doing business as Marietta Misty Blue Ltd, to "MRBARDEV", doing business as Mike's LLC, to allow sufficient time for public comment.

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

RE: WELLNESS PROGRAM INITIATIVE

Wellness Coordinator Court Witschey introduced to the Commissioners a proposal to offer gas gift cards to eligible participants in the County's CEBCO Wellness Program. He said requirements to receive a \$50 gas card are:

- Travel to a facility at least 25 miles away from Marietta.
- Projected savings of at least \$500.
- Proof of visit to physician/facility.
- Enrollment in the County's CEBCO health insurance plan.

Mr. Witschey said CEBCO Grant funds will be used to pay for these cards. He said the program encourages price comparison prior to having medical services provided.

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to table a request from Wellness Coordinator Court Witschey to initiate a Wellness Program offering gas gift cards to eligible participants during the period March 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, pending receipt of additional information and time for consideration.

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

RE: COURTHOUSE STAIRCASE CAPITAL PROJECT

Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Tim Marty informed the Commissioners the Courthouse outside staircase repair project will cost more than originally estimated. Due to the nature of the project, he recommended the hiring of an architect to prepare bid specification and notice, and to monitor the project through satisfactory completion.

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve securing the services of an architect to prepare bid specifications and notice for the Courthouse staircase repair project, and to oversee the project through completion, as recommended by Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Tim Marty.

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

RE: SERVER ROOM BACK-UP COOLING UNIT

I.T. Director Donnie Rader informed the Commissioners the cooling unit in the server room was down for a length of time, resulting in the temperature reaching 108 degrees. He said this would likely shorten the life of servers in the room. He noted several people worked on the system to get it operating properly. He asked the Commissioners to consider immediate installation of a back-up cooling system.

Commissioner Feathers noted there are six servers in the room, and the loss of one or more of them would severely impact the operations of the County.

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve installation of a back-up cooling system in the Courthouse Annex Server Room, with a cost of \$11,800.00 from Morrison, Inc.

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

RE: COMMENTS FROM VISITOR KATHY SHIVELY

Kathy Shively introduced herself as a resident on Rathbone Terrace. She said she has paid property taxes in this area for at least 47 years.

Ms. Shively expressed her concern over the notion that Job & Family Services (JFS) may move to the Children Services (CS) building on Davis Avenue. She said she believes there is plenty of space at JFS to house the CS staff. Ms. Shively noted she lives in a “walking” neighborhood, but without sidewalks along the streets. She said the high school at the end of the street produces a significant amount of vehicles on Davis Avenue, and high rate of speed of those vehicles is a continuing concern. She said there have been many accidents, and several people use the residential streets as shortcuts to and from Muskingum Drive.

Flite Freimann, Executive Director of JFS, informed Ms. Shively that:

- He has been directed by the Commissioners to conduct a study of several County departments, including JFS and CS.
- JFS has as few as 5 to 10 visitors on a “slow” day, and as many as 50 to 75 on a “busy” day.
- JFS currently has 49 employees.
- Cost of the contract with Pickering Associates to study space availability and needs is \$4,950.00.
- The Pickering study will be done by the end of this month, and he will present the report to the Commissioners on March 7.

President White informed Ms. Shively that the Commissioners asked Mr. Freimann to look at all a variety of options. He said the Commissioners have the responsibility to periodically consider changes that, while in the best interest of taxpayers, may not be agreeable to all.

Ms. Shively again said she is not in favor of moving JFS to Children Services due to a large increase of vehicles through a residential neighborhood.

President White thanked Ms. Shively for her comments.

Assistant Director of Children Services Alice Stewart noted the Children Services building was paid for with trust funds, rather than County funds, and was built specifically to accommodate the Children Services Agency. She offered to provide a tour of the facility to Ms. Shively.

RE: COMMENTS FROM VISITOR GLEN PAWLOSKI

Glen Pawloski defined for those attending the meaning of “writ of mandamus” as:

“The Writ of Mandate (Mandamus) is a court order to government agency or another court to correct its previous illegal behavior in order to comply with the law.” (Written by J. Hirby; Fact Checked by The Law Dictionary Staff)

RE: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UPDATE

Hilles Hughes, Deputy Director of Washington County Behavioral Health Board, updated the Commissioners on projects and initiatives of the Behavioral Health Board, including:

School-Based/Youth Programs, such as PAX, Trauma Informed Schools, and Hopewell Health’s Reach Center

Criminal Justice Related Programs, including COMPASS Drug Court, Jail Counseling, and Emergency Response and Crisis Intervention Teams

Opioid Hub, with subcommittees of Education/Prevention, Treatment, Workforce, and Housing

Local NAMI Chapter

Ms. Hughes said she recently met with State legislators to discuss:

Medicaid Expansion program evaluation
Behavioral Health re-design
Psychiatric programs
Acute care for children in need
Criminal justice reform

Former Commissioner Rick Walters thanked Ms. Hughes for her presentation, noting in it she

addressed several questions he had. He asked Executive Director David Browne if his Board of Directors has addressed his request for policy review. Mr. Browne said that review remains an agenda item.

Health Commissioner Dick Wittberg commented on the success of the PAX Good Behavior Games. He said hundreds of area kids have participated in the program, which will result in positive outcomes for them and their families.

RE: HUMANE SOCIETY UPDATE

Bonnie Walters, member of the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley Board of Directors, updated the Commissioners on the animal shelter and activities of the Society. She said she is pleased to report two veterinarians are now providing services to animals at the shelter. Ms. Walters specifically mentioned the services provided by Dr. Haught.

Ms. Walters said the Board is now searching for a new director. She noted the Shelter has been cleaned and painted, and there is a posted wish list of items needed. She said there is training each Sunday afternoon for new volunteers. Ms. Walters said the Shelter has received many donated pieces of equipment and furniture.

Ms. Walters said there are unfortunately a few individuals who are banned from adopting pets from the local shelter, and names of those individuals have also been shared with neighboring shelters.

Ms. Walters provided a report of veterinarian services having been paid for in February, and President White asked her to submit to the Commissioners an invoice for payment to the Humane Society.

RE: MERGER UPDATE

Flite Freimann, Executive Director of Washington County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS), updated the Commissioners on the merging of Children Services with Job and Family Services, and other initiatives at JFS.

Mr. Freimann reminded the Commissioners that due to the recent federal shutdown, eligible recipients of food assistance will receive an early distribution of half of their March allowance on February 22.

Mr. Freimann reported AFSCME has now been recognized as the union representing the staff of Children Services.

Mr. Freimann thanked Director Jamie Vuksic and Assistant Director Alice Stewart for their efforts in securing transfers of unused funds from other county agencies to Washington County. He said these receipts, along with Title IVE reimbursements, allow for current cash balance to be approximately \$408,190. Although bills have yet to be paid from that, Mr. Freimann said he believes the agency will end the month of February with cash in the bank and without the need for advance of funds. He did say, however, that cash flow prior to levy receipts will likely require an advance of funds in March.

Mr. Freimann said the number of children in placement has somewhat stabilized, thanks to the efforts of caseworkers and placement coordinators. Mr. Freimann noted he has received a resignation due to employee securing a position closer to her residence. He informed the Commissioners he'll need to hire two caseworkers to fill this and another vacancy.

Mr. Freimann said he continues to discuss with other county agencies their office space and needs. He said he is gathering as much information as possible in preparation for the report soon to be received from Pickering Associates. He said to date no cost analysis has been done.

On the proposed construction of a senior community, Mr. Freimann reported:

The community is planned on property of the Washington County Home.
JFS cannot be the lease holder.

Two 45-year terms are preferred over one 90-year term.

The lease will be "conditional", allowing the Commissioners to have approval at all phases of the project.

The project will likely not use all 65 acres allotted for it.

Lease Agreement will need to be approved, and partners will need to be identified, before investors can be sought.

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve entering into a Conditional Lease Agreement with Buckeye Fields, Ltd., for approximately 65 acres of Washington County property near the Washington County Home, for the period February 21, 2019 through January 31, 2064, renewable for another forty-five (45) year term if operations are ongoing, for the amount of \$10.00 per year, for the purpose of creating a senior community.

Mr. Ritter noted this Conditional Lease allows for termination by the County if sufficient tax-credit financing from the Ohio Housing Finance Authority is not received by September 1, 2019, or if Buckeye Fields does not begin construction by July 1, 2020.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: David White no, Ron Feathers aye, Kevin Ritter aye. Motion passed.

President White said he may approve of this project later once he knows more about it.

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE LOWER MUSKINGUM RIVER

Executive Director Tiffany Harvey and Board Members Elin Jones and Di Krivchenia, representing the Friends of the Lower Muskingum River, asked the Commissioners for a letter of support to apply for grant funds to purchase approximately 225 acres near Cutler, Ohio to be used for conservation initiatives. Ms. Harvey explained there are State of Ohio funds preserved for such use, and application for grants from those funds requires letters of support from the Commissioners and the township trustees. She noted the property is currently restricted for conservation use. She said if the property is acquired it would be used for educational and recreational purposes, and for pollination.

Ms. Krivchenia said the Friends of Lower Muskingum River are not against building and development, but they believe there is need to protect area rivers as a source for water for years to come.

Ms. Jones said this particular property is excellent bottom land, and could be of great use to their organization.

Ms. Harvey reported a recent appraisal of the property was approximately \$417,000.

Commissioner Feathers said the previous owner entered into a conservation easement, and that was her right, but in doing so she lowered the value of the property due to the restriction of use. He said he has no interest in using taxpayer funds to purchase private property, and therefore will not support this application for grant funds.

Commissioner Ritter agreed with Mr. Feathers, noting he could support the project if private funds were being used for the purchase.

Ms. Harvey noted state funds have already been earmarked to purchase such properties, and if those funds aren't used in Washington County then they will be used in other counties. She said this property has been on the market for at least six years, but apparently nobody else is interested in it.

President White said the property's value is low due to the number of restrictions on it. He recommended the Friends of Lower Muskingum River obtain a second appraisal, assuring that the appraiser knows the restrictions on the property.

Ms. Harvey expressed her concern that state officials are elected to make decisions, which they in turn make, but local elected officials have the ability to override those decisions. Mr. White said local officials do indeed have some say in the use of public funds in Washington County.

Commissioner Ritter applauded the efforts of the Friends of Lower Muskingum River, as long as private dollars are used for this purchase.

Commissioner Feathers encouraged the group to partner in some way with Wayne National Forest.

Ms. Krivchenia invited, and encouraged, the Commissioners to visit the property.

RE: COST ALLOCATION PLAN, CSEA

Kim Hinkle, Director of Washington County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), asked the Commissioners to consider reducing the amount of reimbursement noted in the Cost Allocation Plan to 66% of the total. She noted her agency has lost much of state matching funds, but she has been able to maintain financial independence through reduction in staff levels and office efficiencies. She said this reduction in amount payable to County General would allow her to continue her non-reliance upon County financial support in the form of payment from County General to CSEA.

The Commissioners took her request under advisement, and will continue discussion after a final revised Cost Allocation Plan is received from De Novo Consulting.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ritter 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 11:37 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk