

**THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON OCTOBER 28, 2019 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVID A. WHITE, PRESIDENT. RONALD L. FEATHERS, VICE PRESIDENT. KEVIN J. RITTER, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS THE DEVOLA SEWER PROJECT.**

Also attending:

Roger Wright, Washington County Engineer  
Nicole Coil, Washington County Prosecutor  
Sean Lehman, Bricker & Eckler  
Howard Wood, WSP USA  
Naiel Hussein, WSP USA  
Michele Newbanks, *The Marietta Times*  
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager

Approximately 135 members of the public attended the meeting

**Washington County Commissioners  
7:00 pm, October 28, 2019**

**RE: SPECIAL MEETING**

Commissioner White welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He thanked George Broughton for providing the Broughton Community Building to use for the meeting. Commissioner White said the Devola Wastewater plans have been a contentious issue for several years. He stated that due process has been observed and the court has made its judgment. The project is moving forward under court order. Tonight's meeting is to provide transparency. This is the first of several meetings to keep the public informed.

Commissioner Feathers introduced Roger Wright, Nicole Coil, and Sean Lehman.

Sean Lehman, attorney at Bricker & Eckler, said his firm is communicating with the Ohio EPA on behalf of Washington County and working to ensure tax payer money is used as efficiently as possible.

Commissioner Feathers introduced Howard Wood and Naiel Hussein from WSP USA engineering firm.

Howard Wood said his company will follow a transparent process on this project. They have ballparked the cost to sewer Devola between fifteen and twenty million dollars. Their first goal is to minimize the cost through engineering. The second goal is to reuse the previous engineering work to the greatest extent possible. The third goal is to minimize property impacts and inconvenience. The fourth goal is to obtain grants and loans to reduce cost to individual homeowners.

Commissioner White opened the floor to questions from the public.

Richard Hanf asked for a broad overall timeline for the project.

Naiel Hussein said the timeline right now is a rough estimate. He hopes to have a general plan by November 29<sup>th</sup>. The entire time for design should take one year. Construction could take two years and three months.

Ken Schilling, Muskingum Township Trustee, expressed his hope that the project will minimize the stress to existing infrastructure.

Naiel Hussein said that is the goal. The plan is put the lines behind homes instead of under the roads.

Tom Howards asked about flexibility in the design and if homeowners would have any part in the decisions.

Naiel Hussein said the January meeting will ask for input from homeowners.

Larry Hizer asked for a breakdown of expenses for individual homeowners.

Commissioner Feathers said septic tanks will need pumped out and filled with aggregate. Then the homeowner will need to connect to the lateral. He said the commissioners are turning every stone to find financial relief for the citizens.

Rick Beaver asked about the price for homeowners to connect to the laterals.

Commissioner Feathers said it depends on each unique situation and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to connect to the lateral as that is outside the scope of the county's portion of the project.

Mark Bradley asked which areas are included in the project.

Commissioner Feathers gave a generic description of the area involved. The court order is to include every location in the original plan. Maps are available for inspection.

Kevin Gutberlet asked if there is a timeline of when the homeowner has to connect to the lateral.

Commissioner Feathers said, as of now there is no set timeline, but the public will be informed of when they will need to connect to the laterals. He said they will have plenty of time to connect to it.

Jeremy of Chamberlain Drive asked if homeowners could make the payment in full upfront instead of a thirty-year assessment.

Commissioner Feathers said that would be one of the possible options.

Guthrie Chamberlain asked if the monthly sewer bill would be metered.

Commissioner Feathers explained that all users of sewer in the county pay the same amount each month. It is currently \$70 a month and could increase to \$110 a month. He said there is no way to meter it because across the county are many different water associations.

Commissioner White thanked everyone and said the commissioners are available for comments and concerns.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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

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

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