

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: RONALD L. FEATHERS, PRESIDENT. KEVIN J. RITTER, VICE PRESIDENT. DAVID A. WHITE, 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, AND MR. RITTER OFFERED PRAYER.

Also attending:

Kathy Thieman, Human Resources
Denise Hinton, Child Support Enforcement Agency
Roger Wright, Engineer
Karl Comstock, Maintenance
Roger Coffman, Health Department
Flite Freimann, JFS
Donnie Rader, I.T.
Robert Fitzgerald, Veterans
James Booth
Charlie Schilling
David Browne, Behavioral Health Board
Tim Williams, Judge Probate/Juvenile
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Doug Parks, Watertown Township Trustee
Wayne Isner, Adams Township Trustee
Jeffrey Knowlton, Warren Township Trustee
Asa Boring, Belpre Township Trustee
Tim Rossiter, Waterford Township Trustee
Richard Best, Barlow Township Trustee
John Hannan, Barlow Township Trustee
Dan Mason, Belpre Township Trustee
Jedd Butler, Independence Township Trustee
Mike Dalrymple, Independence Township Trustee
Denver Hesson, Aurelius Township Trustee
Aaron Fleming, Dunham Township Trustee
Carolyn Brizendine, Dunham Township Fiscal Officer
Gary Marks
James Harper, Waterford Township Trustee
Darlene Lukshin, Engineer Office
Darrell Huck, Fairfield Township Trustee
Karen Pawloski, Board of Elections
Heather Allender, Marietta Community Foundation
Mason Beuhring, Marietta Community Foundation
Andy Parsons, CAS Cable
Chris Hildebrecht, CAS Cable
Chris Cooper, Intellwave Broadband
David Hannum, New Era Broadband
Brian Sampson, Megabea Communications
Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills
Mark Heitman
Michele Newbanks, *The Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

Washington County Commissioners

AGENDA

9:00 am, February 20, 2020

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Behavioral Health Board
10:00 Washington County Broadband Discussion

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution – Recognition of WCCC
Resolution – Veterans Identification Cards
Additional Appropriation – Treasurer
Additional Appropriation – 911 System
Additional Appropriation – Americorps
Additional Appropriation – Dog & Kennel
Additional Appropriation – CDBG

Additional Appropriation – CHIP Home
Then & Now
Travel – JFS, CSEA, FCF, SEOBD
Jail Contract with Morgan County
Jail Contract with Perry County
FCF – Contracts for Strengthening Families (4)
FCF – Contracts for Preschool Program (4)
Engineer – Contract Extension for Sherlock Oil
Engineer – Agreement for Road Improvements at Warren School
Devola Sewer Engineering Options

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monthly County Home Meeting, 8:30 am, Tuesday March 10 at County Home
Primary Election Voting on March 17

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:

Add: Frost Law Discussion with Trustees
Auditor – Request for New Fund
MOU between JFS & FCF
Lease Agreement between RSVP & O'Neill Center

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 regular meeting.

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

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

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

RE: RESOLUTION – RECOGNITION OF WCCC

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, *Washington County Career Center educates high school juniors and seniors in an array of technical careers, drawing its enrollment from all six school districts in Washington County.*

WHEREAS, *Washington County Career Center received an 'A' overall grade based on four factors: Achievement, Graduation Rate, Career, and Post-Program Outcomes, all of which were scored 'A', and Post-Secondary Readiness, which was scored 'B'.*

WHEREAS, *Washington County Career Center posted a four year graduation rate of 98.1 percent, and a five year graduation rate of 98.7 percent.*

WHEREAS, *more than 90 percent of Washington County Career Center students earned an industrially recognized credential.*

WHEREAS, *out of 91 such schools in the State of Ohio, Washington County Career Center is in a three way tie for first place.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED *that Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes the outstanding effort put forth and dedication exhibited by the faculty, staff, and students of Washington County Career Center.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED *the Washington County Board of Commissioners commends them all on a job well done and representing Washington County laudably.*

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

RE: RESOLUTION – VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the

Washington County Veterans Service Commission to issue Veteran Identification Cards. The Veteran Identification Cards can be used to prove veteran status in place of DD214 Forms. The cards will be provided without fee to veterans.

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

RE: RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NEW FUND FOR CHIP GRANT 2020

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to adopt the resolution to establish a fund in the financial system of Washington County for the CHIP Home Grant for 2020. The purpose of the new fund is to track funds received and expended of the Community Housing Improvement Program Home Grant for 2020. The fund established is 210-0808 CHIP Home 2020, and the former 210-0808 CHIP Home 2017 will be retired.

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Treasurer	100-0130-57100	\$ 46,100.00
911 System	200-0364-55200	\$ 10,000.00
Americorps	210-0475-53000	\$ 11,000.00
Dog & Kennel	200-0363-53002	\$ 1,500.00
CDBG	210-0807-51000	\$ 38,000.00
	210-0807-51001	\$156,700.00
	210-0807-52000	\$ 2,500.00
	210-0807-53000	\$ 20,500.00
CHIP Home	210-0808-51000	\$341,300.00
	210-0808-51001	\$ 22,000.00
	210-0808-53000	\$ 39,000.00

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

RE: THEN & NOW

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the following Then & Now Certificates:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commissioners	100-0109-53102	City of Marietta	\$ 201.09
JFS	200-0720-52000	Sabrina Buchanan	\$ 438.62
JFS	200-0720-53400	Par Mar	\$ 2,034.74
Sheriff	100-0384-54000	Evident	\$ 220.06
911	200-0364-55200	CDW Government	\$ 1,415.98
911	200-0364-55200	CDW Government	\$ 273.36
Commissioners	100-0870-53004	Buckeye Hills	\$ 500.00
JFS	200-0720-59000	Ely Chapman	\$ 3,139.50
JFS	200-0720-59000	Boys & Girls Club	\$ 1,295.00
Commissioners	100-0361-53000	Steelfusion	\$ 350.00
Sewer	400-0113-53000	Bricker & Eckler	\$ 2,625.00
Commissioners	100-0101-53000	Gov Deals	\$ 133.27
Sewer	400-0113-53000	Ohio Utilities Protection	\$ 2,885.99
Law Library	200-0520-54000	West Group	\$ 2,871.00

Judge Williams asked about a Then & Now Certificate for an invoice from Ohio State University in the amount of \$11,595.79.

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to table the Ohio State University Then & Now Certificate.

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

A calling of the roll to approve the above Then & Now Certificates resulted in the following vote: Ron Feathers aye. Kevin Ritter aye. David White aye. Motion passed.

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Ritter 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 2020 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

Job & Family Services

Alice Stewart: Peer Reviewer Training in Columbus on March 19, April 2 & 16, 2020
Mary Lou Griffin, Kerry Grimm: OCOWF Training in Columbus on March 26 & 27, 2020

Child Support Enforcement Agency

Kimberly Hinkle, Devin Courtney: UX Information Session in Cambridge on March 31, 2020

Family & Children First

Leann Welch: Testify in court in Buckcannon, WV on March 4, 2020

SEOBD

Chris Wilson: OFMA Training in Athens on February 20, 2020

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

RE: JAIL CONTRACTS WITH MORGAN & PERRY COUNTIES

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve contracts with Morgan and Perry Counties to house prisoners at the Washington County Jail. The contracts are effective from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 for \$68.00 per day for each person incarcerated. Commissioner White said he would like to see the dollar amount increased on the jail contracts.

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

RE: FCF – CONTRACTS FOR STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & PRESCHOOL

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve contracts on behalf of Washington County Family and Children First Council for the Strengthening Families and Preschool Programs. The contracts are effective from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

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

RE: MOU BETWEEN JFS & FCF

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Washington County Job and Family Services and Washington County Family and Children First regarding state funds for Multi-System Youth allocation. Job and Family Services will allocate an amount not to exceed \$5,719.10 to Family and Children First. The MOU is effective from February 20, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Family and Children First is required to provide Job and Family Services with a detailed report on how Family and Children First spent the Multi-System Youth allocation within fifteen days of spending the entire allocation.

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

RE: LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN RSVP & O'NEILL SENIOR CENTER

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a Lease Agreement between O'Neill Senior Center and RSVP. The term of the lease is from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. RSVP agrees to pay the O'Neill Center \$317.00 a month in rent.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH SHERLOCK OIL

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a contract time extension agreement with Sherlock Oil Company. The original contract term, expiring on March 31, 2020, will be extended to March 31, 2023.

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

RE: ENGINEER – AGREEMENT FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve an agreement between Washington County, Warren Local School District, and the Ohio Department of

Transportation for road improvements at Warren School. The improvements will include a new township road in Barlow, T-1520, on the south side of the school property, and Mary Avenue, T-1153, will require road widening and reconstruction. Warren Local School District will provide the estimated construction cost of \$104,266. Commissioner White said he has been approached by the public concerning the Warren School road issue and it could create other traffic problems. Roger Wright, County Engineer, provided a detailed explanation of how the road improvements will reduce traffic problems.

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

RE: DEVOLA SEWER ENGINEERING OPTIONS

Commissioner Ritter prepared and read the following statement:

Let me start by reminding everyone, we're here today for discussion rather than to make a final decision. I'd also like to point out that each of us on this Board of Commissioners has done research into the various systems available to sewer Devola.

Just recently, all three Commissioners took a trip to the Village of Rutland in Meigs County to look at their sewer system. From the local Sewer & Maintenance Director, Dave Davis, we learned the Rutland system is substantially different from any of the options we are considering.

Mr. Davis told us their system was outdated when it was put in, in 1990. As a result, it has been difficult to obtain parts and to maintain the system over the past thirty years. He also confirmed the pumps they are using are significantly different from anything we've considered.

In a separate conversation with Meigs County Commissioner Tim Ihle, I was informed that there has been no regular maintenance performed since the system was put in. Because they have limited funds, the Meigs Sewer Department has simply sought to piece together temporary fixes in order to keep the system functioning.

I came away from these conversations satisfied that the Rutland system was not a good comparison with anything we are considering.

In addition to this visit, the Board of Commissioners has had conversations with homeowners, municipalities, engineers, and manufacturers in order to gather information to make the most informed decision possible.

These comments may be premature, but with the EPA breathing down our necks I think I need to say publicly that I am leaning toward a pressurized sewer system in Devola for four simple reasons.

- 1. Cost – In the estimates we've received, the cost of a pressurized system has consistently been lower than a gravity system, in some cases by as much as fifty percent. We owe it to the citizens of Devola to install the best system possible and we owe it to ALL Washington County sewer customers, who will share in that cost, to do it as cost-effectively as possible.*
- 2. Smaller Footprint – With the pressurized system, you don't have to bury the lines as deeply. Understand, with the sandy and gravelly soil in much of Devola, in order to do a gravity system, you would likely have to open a hole twice as wide as it is deep. In other words, if you bury a line eight feet deep, you could be opening a trench at least sixteen feet wide through the middle of someone's backyard. I want to avoid that kind of intrusive footprint if at all possible.
*The other thing to think about when we talk about footprint is the flexibility of the pressurized system. This system allows the engineers to work around obstructions (100 year old trees, sheds, and other outbuildings) more easily than a gravity system would. This means less disruption and inconvenience to the homeowner.**
- 3. Ease of Maintenance – Because the lines are not buried as deeply with a pressurized system, it also means that maintenance would be less intrusive. Again, you're not opening a huge trench to get to a line buried far below the surface of the ground just for a simple repair.*
- 4. Infiltration & Inflow – Known as INI, infiltration and inflow is water that gets into the sewer system from the outside. Most commonly, this is rainwater. With a gravity system, no matter how tightly sealed, you still get INI. That means you get rainwater into the system that you must then pay to have treated. As a gravity system ages, the cost to treat that INI goes up and up. With a pressurized system, the threat of INI is virtually eliminated and that means annual savings to EVERY sewer customer throughout the county.*

I will continue to do my homework over the coming days but I am inclined to believe the pressured system would be the best option for Devola and the best option for Washington County.

Commissioner White said he concurs with Mr. Ritter and that every system has negative

and positive aspects. Mr. White said the positives of the pressurized system outweigh the negatives.

Commissioner Feathers said the commissioners have discussed the options with other counties and many people. Mr. Feathers said the reason the commissioners fought against sewerage of Devola was for the property rights of citizens.

RE: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

Hilles Hughes, Deputy Director Behavioral Health Board, thanked the Commissioners for writing letters of support for the Recovery-to-Work Learning Academy. Ms. Hughes informed the Commissioners that on February 7 their proposal was accepted. Ms. Hughes distributed copies of the Behavioral Health Board Annual Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 showing total revenues of \$1,968,514 and total expenditures of \$2,000,001.

RE: COMMENTS

Tim Williams, Probate/Juvenile Judge, said one of his duties as a probate judge is to appoint a township trustee in the event that a trustee dies in office and the remaining two trustees cannot agree on an appointment. Judge Williams said he needs to appoint a trustee for Decatur Township and, as he is not too familiar with the possible candidates, requested public input on the matter.

A visitor asked if there are any grants available for Devola Sewer. Commissioner Feathers said the county's legal team at Bricker & Eckler, the county's engineer firm WSP, local partner Buckeye Hills, and the Commissioners are all working on finding any grant available for the Devola Sewer Project. Mr. Feathers said they're doing an income survey in Devola and the intention is to leave nothing on the table in regards to financing. Mr. Feathers said the Devola Sewer Project is the largest infrastructure project ever done in Washington County under the Commissioners. Mr. Feathers said the total cost to the county to fight Devola Sewer was \$2,000, which included three mediations.

RE: TOWNSHIPS – FROST LAW

Wayne Isner, Adams Township Trustee, said he had the blessing of all twenty-two townships in the county to request a resolution for year-round Frost Law with enforceable bonding. Mr. Isner said there is currently no way to enforce the Frost Law and the townships cannot afford to fix the roads that are damaged by logging and construction activity. The Commissioners said they do not have the authority to enforce shutting down roads but they support the idea behind the resolution. Roger Wright, County Engineer, said he will direct companies to the appropriate townships and try to put something on the county website to help with the issue.

RE: WASHINGTON COUNTY BROADBAND DISCUSSION

The Commissioners hosted a discussion on the challenges of providing broadband internet to the entire county. Local companies and individuals with an interest in the topic were invited to participate. Commissioner Feathers began the discussion by saying the Commissioners want to hear about the struggles and challenges of providing internet throughout Washington County.

Chris Cooper, Intellwave Broadband, said one of the obstacles is obtaining permits with the various government bodies, such as county engineers. He also said that installing aerial fiber is cost prohibitive.

Roger Wright, County Engineer, explained that the county does not allow fiber to be buried in the right of way as this space is limited for utilities.

Keith, CAS Cable, said the company is working on aerial lines right now in the county. He mentioned the additional cost of aerial lines, such as paying rent on the poles.

Jeff, Washington Electric Cooperative, said the company provides electric service to low population density areas in the county and those members are asking for fiber internet. He said the company has right of way for electric service but not for communication. He said the existing right of ways would need to be redone to add communication for fiber internet.

Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills, met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ohio and said a single-easement policy is being discussed.

David Hannum, New Era Broadband, said wireless needs access to vertical assets, like water towers. Mr. Hannum said most grants require matching funds.

Heather Allender, Marietta Community Foundation, said MCF can help with grant applications for providers and possibly help to provide matching funds.

Commissioner White said the commissioners are here to help facilitate cooperation between everyone. Commissioner Feathers encouraged the participants to network with each other.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to adjourn. A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk