

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MAY 21, 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. FEATHERS OFFERED PRAYER.

Also attending:

Flite Freimann, JFS
Kim Hinkle, CSEA
Karl Comstock, Maintenance
Kathy Thieman, HR
James Booth
Cora Marshall
Richard Hays, EMA
Chris Wilson, SEOBD
D Robinson
Asa Boring, Belpre Township Trustee
Tara Plaugher, WCBHB
Dawn Rauch, WMCAP
Mike Montgomery, Humane Society
Jim Raney, Humane Society
Karissa Reynolds, Humane Society
Michele Newbanks, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, May 21, 2020**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Grandview Township Quote Opening
9:45 WMCAP Transit Grant
10:00 Humane Society Update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CSEA – Collective Bargaining Agreement

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution to renew Public Library Tax Levy
Additional Appropriation – Auditor
Additional Appropriation – Dog & Kennel
Additional Appropriation – County General
Additional Appropriation – JFS
Additional Appropriation – FCF
Transfer – Law Library
Then & Now
Travel – Children Services
ODOT – Bus & Facilities Grant Award
Human Resources – Temp Emergency Sick Leave Policy Update
JFS – Invitation to Bid, Nonemergency Transportation Services
Sewer Rate 2020/2021 Discussion

DATES TO REMEMBER

Courthouse closed for Memorial Day, Monday May 25, 2020

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Add: Minus Appropriation – Sheriff
Transfer – County General
Sheriff – Request to donate vehicle

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. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the May 14, 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 TO RENEW PUBLIC LIBRARY TAX LEVY

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a resolution to submit to the electors a renewal of a 1 mill tax levy for a period of five years to provide funds for the Washington County Public Library. The levy will be voted on in the November 3, 2020 general election.

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

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>
Auditor	200-0122-53400	\$ 575,000.00
Dog & Kennel	200-0363-53002	\$ 3,000.00
County General	100-0109-51110	\$ 990.00
Job & Family Services	200-0720-51110	\$ 10,000.00
Family & Children First	602-2030-53403	\$ 5,000.00
	602-2030-54001	\$ 6,000.00
	602-2030-54400	\$ 4,000.00

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

RE: MINUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following minus appropriations:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sheriff Sales Tax	100-0384-52100	\$ - 4,000.00
	100-0384-52200	\$ - 4,000.00
	100-0384-53130	\$ -15,000.00
	100-0384-53404	\$ -11,000.00
	100-0384-53405	\$ - 2,300.00
	100-0384-53406	\$ - 2,300.00
	100-0384-43408	\$ - 2,800.00
	100-0384-53800	\$ -15,000.00
	100-0384-54300	\$ - 5,000.00
	100-0384-54403	\$ - 3,000.00
	100-0384-54405	\$ -18,162.00
	100-0384-54407	\$ -12,650.00

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

RE: TRANSFERS

Mr. White 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>
Law Library	200-0520-54000	200-0520-55100	\$ 0.11
County General	100-0109-53100	100-0200-57400	\$ 8,639.76

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commissioners	700-0114-56200	US Bank	\$ 10,975.00
Commissioners	700-0720-56200	US Bank	\$ 6,923.75
Sheriff	100-0381-54200	Prairie Farms	\$ 158.10

A calling of the roll 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:

Children Services

Karlee Hill: Required visits in Amanda on May 18; Toledo on May 20; Mansfield on May 21; Lancaster on May 22, 2020

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

RE: ODOT – BUS & FACILITIES GRANT AWARD

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve an ODOT Bus and Bus Facilities grant. The grant is for \$64,142 in federal funds for eligible capital expenses funded for the period until December 31, 2021.

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

RE: HUMAN RESOURCES – TEMP EMERGENCY SICK LEAVE POLICY UPDATE

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve an amendment to the 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act paid sick leave policy. The policy is updated to exclude eligibility if an employee travels out of state for vacation and is exposed to COVID-19. If the employee is required to self-quarantine for two weeks, they will need to use their vacation or comp time during quarantine.

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

RE: JFS – INVITATION TO BID, NONEMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve an invitation to bid for non-emergency transportation services for Job and Family Services.

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

RE: SEWER RATE 2020/2021 DISCUSSION

Commissioner Feathers said the Commissioners review the account balances in the sewer fund every year to determine the need to adjust the monthly sewer fee. Mr. Feathers suggested a \$2 monthly increase is needed, based on the sewer fund balance.

Commissioner Ritter said that for the past seven years, Commissioner Feathers and Commissioner White have stressed that, if the Devola Sewer Project happens, there will be a significant increase in sewer rates. Mr. Ritter said the discussion today is only in regards to current costs and there will be increases in the future because of Devola and they will be significant.

Commissioner White agrees with Commissioner Feathers, but questions if \$2 is enough of an increase to cover current upgrades. Mr. White mentioned a new lift station, new meter in Belpre, and other necessary upgrades needed this year. In Mr. White's opinion, a \$3 monthly fee increase is needed.

Commissioner Feathers stated the increase is necessary and he believes government should run as trim as possible and not hoard the people's money.

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to increase the monthly sewer rate by \$3. The current rate of \$70 a month will increase to \$73 a month beginning July 1, 2020.

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

RE: SHERIFF – REQUEST TO DONATE VEHICLE

Mr. White moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a request from the Sheriff to donate a vehicle to the County Home. The vehicle was approved for sale in the May 7, 2020 meeting. It was determined the County Home has use for the vehicle. The donated vehicle is a 1997 Suburban (VIN – 3GNGK26J9VG189455) with 107,422 miles.

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

RE: COMMENTS

Rich Hays, EMA Director, mentioned flooding in the area from recent rain but no major flooding is expected.

Chris Wilson, Building Official, would like the Southeast Ohio Building Department to provide services and oversight to the newly approved senior housing at the County Home site.

Josh Harris read the following statement from the Washington County Fire Chiefs Association:

Dear Commissioners,

Recently you sent out an invoice to all the Washington County Fire Departments for the repairs/maintenance of the radio towers for the year 2019. The total amount was \$8,339.31 which divided up equally per department comes to \$397.16 each. It is understood that there was an agreement with the fire chiefs and past commissioners to assume this responsibility.

As you are aware of, the COVID-19 pandemic has crippled much of the nation and our economy. This has affected the local fire departments as well. Many of the fund raisers we hold this year have been cancelled due to the pandemic and for most it is the only fundraiser of the year. Dunham, Little Muskingum, Little Hocking, Warren, Fearing, Salem, Oak Grove, Newport are just a few of the emergency services that will not be having their annual fundraiser in 2020.

The county commissioners have been quoted in the newspaper and in local interviews that by combining the Job and Family Services and Children Services they have been able to save the taxpayers of the county over \$400,000.

This brings us to our request that with the small amount of maintenance to the radio towers combined with the large savings to the taxpayers quoted by the commissioners, we ask that the commissioners rescind the invoices and cover the cost of the radio towers for year 2019. We feel this is a reasonable request due to the circumstances of the pandemic and the fact that our budgets are severely impacted this year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Wile – President

Flite Freimann, Director JFS, is excited about the \$9 million tax credit approved for low-income senior housing at the County Home site. Mr. Freimann said it is a great opportunity for the county and will not cost the county any money.

RE: GRANDVIEW TOWNSHIP QUOTE OPENING

No quotes were received.

RE: WMCAP TRANSIT GRANT

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve applications for calendar year 2021 Transit Grants. The Section 5311 application is for a total amount of \$863,535. The Section 5339 application is for a total of \$272,378.

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

RE: HUMANE SOCIETY UPDATE

Mike Montgomery and Karissa Reynolds of the Humane Society of the Ohio Valley provided an update on finances and animal numbers at the shelter. Mr. Montgomery said costs are down. Ms. Reynolds said the shelter has seen a decrease in animal intakes and hopes the trend continues. Jim Raney provided feline and canine intake and disposition charts to the Commissioners. Commissioner White said he does not know what revenue will look like going forward but it will likely drop.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

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

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk