

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JULY 1, 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: KEVIN J. RITTER, PRESIDENT. CHARLIE L. SCHILLING, VICE PRESIDENT. JAMES W. BOOTH, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. RITTER LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG, AND MR. RITTER OFFERED PRAYER.

Also attending:

Flite Freimann, Director of Job & Family Services
Jesse Roush, Port Authority
Diane Davis, HR Director
Roger Wright, County Engineer
Karl Comstock, Maintenance Superintendent
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Karen Doan
Richard Hays, EMA Director
Rick Dostal, Building Department Official
Cody Pettit, State Treasurer Liaison
Michele Newbanks, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, July 1, 2021**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:45 Tax Budget Hearing

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution for Auditor to certify revenue of 911 Levy Renewal
Additional Appropriation – County General (3)
Additional Appropriation – Dog & Kennel
Transfer – County General
Then & Now
Travel – Children Services
Auditor – PILT Distribution
RSVP – MOU with Buckeye Hills
Covid Taskforce – Request #2021-18
Delinquent Sewer Accounts
Children Services – Amendment to Collective Bargaining Agreement
JFS – Request for CARES funds for broadband contract
JFS – Contract for broadband with SEOBC

DATES TO REMEMBER

Courthouse closed for Independence Day, Monday, July 5
Investment Committee-Quarterly Meeting, 9:30 am July 8 at 1115 Gilman Ave
Public Hearing for Transit Fares, 10 am July 8 at 1115 Gilman Ave

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:

Add: Engineer – Contract for C-25 Guardrail Replacement

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021 regular meeting.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth 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: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: RESOLUTION FOR AUDITOR TO CERTIFY REVENUE OF 911 LEVY RENEWAL

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to adopt a resolution requesting that the Auditor certify the amount of revenue that would be generated by renewal of 0.35 mill of tax for the 911 Levy. The date of the election at which the question of the tax shall appear on the ballot is November 2, 2021.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commissioners	100-0100-51000	\$ 13,185.00
Commissioners	100-0100-51101	\$ 400.00
Commissioners	100-0100-51102	\$ 8,000.00
Commissioners	100-0100-51104	\$ 20,055.00
Maintenance	100-0109-51001	\$ 24,000.00
Maintenance	100-0109-51101	\$ 120.00
Maintenance	100-0109-51102	\$ 2,800.00
Building Department	100-0170-51001	\$ 14,000.00
Building Department	100-0170-51102	\$ 1,000.00
Building Department	100-0170-51104	\$ 15,518.00
Dog & Kennel	200-0363-54400	\$ 8,691.50

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: TRANSFERS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commissioners	100-0100-51006	100-0100-51001	\$ 1,720.00
Maintenance	100-0109-51006	100-0109-51001	\$ 3,228.00
Building Department	100-0170-51006	100-0170-51001	\$ 5,000.00
I.T.	100-0190-51006	100-0190-51001	\$ 3,363.00

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: THEN & NOW

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sewer	400-0113-53000	Haas Septic	\$ 1,150.00

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the following requests for reimbursement of expenses for training and travel, pursuant to county policy and in compliance with the annual appropriations for fiscal year 2021 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

Children Services

Sabrina Buchanan: Required child visit in Coshocton on July 6; Byesville on July 8; Tiffin on July 12; Glouster on July 14; Vinton & Thurman on July 15; Frazeyburg on July 20; St. Clairsville on July 21, 2021

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: AUDITOR – PILT DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve requests from the County Auditor to distribute payments received on behalf of the Wayne National Forest. For the period of January to May 2021, Washington County received \$10,109.50 for the sale of national forest products, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The payment for the sale of national forest products will be distributed according to the following formula:

50% to the local school district and 50% to be divided between those with responsibilities of the county highway and bridge system within the Wayne National Forest area.

Washington County received \$59,593 of Payment in Lieu of Taxes on behalf of Wayne National Forest, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The PILT will be distributed based on prorating the effective millage for Class II property. Frontier Local will receive 78.95%. Washington County will receive 8.55%. The related townships will split the remaining 12.5%.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: RSVP – MOU WITH BUCKEYE HILLS

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a memorandum of understanding with Buckeye Hills Regional Council on behalf of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Buckeye Hills will notify RSVP of funding amount when they receive the Notice of Funding Award by the Ohio Department of Aging. The MOU is for services provided by RSVP for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. RSVP agrees to use the funds in conformance with current Ohio Department of Aging policies.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: COVID TASKFORCE – REQUEST #2021-18

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the Washington County COVID-19 Taskforce Request #2021-18. The taskforce reviewed ongoing COVID related expenses and requests a total of \$6,675 for payment from the CARES Act funds received by the county.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve sending letters to the holders of delinquent sewer accounts, requesting immediate payment on those accounts.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: CHILDREN SERVICES – AMENDMENT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve an amendment to Article 18.7 of the Children Services Collective Bargaining Agreement. The amendment allows for the designation of team leaders. Any employee designated as a team leader shall receive an additional \$.75 an hour. The employee returns to regular pay upon completion of the team leader designation period of one year.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: JFS – CONTRACT FOR BROADBAND WITH SEOBC

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a contract between Job & Family Services and Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative for broadband service. The SEOBC submitted a proposal to the JFS Request for Proposal for broadband service issued on May 6, 2021. The total contract project cost is \$105,223.77. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said there are portions of Washington County that are completely unserved by internet access and this contract is a step in providing broadband to those citizens. Mr. Freimann said the Cooperative is a local entity that is willing to work with the needs of the local communities it serves.

Commissioner Booth said he believes that if Washington County is to be prosperous in the future, all of the county will need to have access to reliable and dependable broadband. Mr. Booth said the approach he believes to be effective is a step program with benchmarks, a process that involves checks and balances. Mr. Booth said as

organizations are awarded monies, benchmarks for performance and execution should be verified. Mr. Booth believes that the time for studies is over and now is the time for boots on the ground. Mr. Booth supports the proposal but is abstaining from voting on the issue due to his previous relationship with the cooperative.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. Motion passed.

RE: JFS – REQUEST FOR CARES FUNDS FOR BROADBAND CONTRACT

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a request from Job & Family Services to use CARES Act funds to pay the broadband contract with Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative. The project total cost is \$105,223.77. Mr. Freimann said the Washington County COVID Taskforce denied the request to use CARES Act funds for the broadband project for consistency, as the Taskforce has previously denied such requests. Mr. Freimann said the Taskforce has no concern about the contract, the bid, or the Request for Proposal, and only wished to remain consistent in their methodology. The Taskforce recommended using American Rescue Plan funds for the project. Mr. Freimann believes the broadband project falls within the scope of CARES Act funding and that those funds should be spent prior to ARP funds. Commissioner Schilling said that using benchmarks is effective to ensure that money is spent appropriately. Mr. Schilling said the Board has been using benchmarks for broadband in the county and has shared this strategy with the State.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. Motion passed.

RE: ENGINEER – CONTRACT FOR C-25 GUARDRAIL PROJECT PID #104862

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a contract with PDK Construction for the County Road 25 Guardrail Replacement Project. The Engineer's estimate for the project was \$320,633.50 and PDK Construction was the Apparent Low Bidder at \$313,101.50. The project will be paid with 80% federal funds and 20% local funds. The bid tab for the project is as follows:

PDK Construction	\$313,101.50
Lake Erie Construction	\$342,175.00
MP Dory Company	\$352,182.50

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: COMMENTS

Roger Wright, County Engineer, said the County Road 20 bridge project is delayed because they are waiting on steel beams due to a supply shortage. Mr. Wright said the delay is outside of the county's control.

Ari Gold, local resident, said he has lived in the area for seven years. Mr. Gold is concerned about the county losing its population. Mr. Gold would like to see the county prosper and asked if the Commissioners would form a taskforce to keep residents in Washington County and attract new people to the area. Commissioner Ritter said this is a topic the Commissioners speak about often. Mr. Ritter invited Jesse Roush of the Port Authority to comment. Mr. Roush said there is a lot of work being done on keeping and attracting people to the area. Mr. Roush mentioned a high-tech jobs initiative and broadband improvements. Mr. Roush said the acquisition in Beverly of an industrial park is an important step to creating high-skill labor jobs.

Cody Pettit, State Treasury Liaison, said there are short-term infrastructure loans available.

Commissioner Booth said he will be escorting a display tonight in honor of National Guard soldiers that lost their lives in Iraq.

Commissioner Schilling said economic development is a high priority and he is working with the Port Authority on the issue. Mr. Schilling relayed a message from Tammy Bates, County Treasurer, that second-half real estate taxes are due Friday, August 13, 2021.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – TAX BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the 2022 Tax Budget for Washington County. The budget was on public display in the Auditor's office for two weeks in June and a certified copy will be submitted for consideration to the Washington County Budget Commission.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Motion passed.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to adjourn. A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk