

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JUNE 2, 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: CHARLIE L. SCHILLING, PRESIDENT. JAMES W. BOOTH, VICE PRESIDENT. KEVIN J. RITTER, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. THE COMMISSIONERS LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG, AND MR. RITTER OFFERED PRAYER.

Also attending:

Flite Freimann, Director JFS
Philip Schaffer, Special Projects Administrator
Karl Comstock, Maintenance Superintendent
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Karen Doan
Rick Dostal, Chief Building Official
Diane Davis, HR Director
Jesse Roush, Port Authority
Kim Lowers, Child Support Enforcement Agency
Jana Crock, Ohio Public Defender
Joe Medici, Ohio Public Defender
Ray Smith, Ohio Public Defender
Michele Newbanks, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, June 2, 2022**

9:00 Business Meeting
10:00 Ohio Public Defender

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOU with Ohio University Voinovich School
Liquor Permit Notice for 50A Carry Out

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Additional Appropriation – Sewer
Additional Appropriation – Engineer
Then & Now
Travel – Clerk of Courts
Letter of Support for Reliable One Resources
Devola Sewer Phase 2 – Notice of Award
Devola Sewer Phase 2 – Contract
Delinquent Sewer Accounts
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts

DATES TO REMEMBER

Proposed Class II Injection Well – ODNR Public Meeting, June 2nd at 6 p.m., at the St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Little Hocking
Courthouse closed Monday, June 20th for Juneteenth Day
Finance Meeting, June 21st at 10 a.m. in the Commissioner Assembly Room
Courthouse closed Monday, July 4th for Independence Day

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Add: Additional Appropriation – Engineer

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 regular meeting.

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

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sewer	400-0113-53202	\$ 1,000.00
Engineer	210-0553-57600	\$ 12,548.83
Engineer	200-0540-55202	\$ 10,000.00

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

RE: THEN & NOW

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sewer	300-0113-53000	WSP USA	\$ 24,491.04

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

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the following requests for reimbursement of expenses for training and travel, pursuant to the policies and in compliance with the annual appropriations for fiscal year 2022 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

Clerk of Courts

Brenda Wolfe: OCCA Summer Conference in Hamilton on June 14-17, 2022

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

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RELIABLE ONE RESOURCES

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the following Letter of Support for Reliable One Resources:

Kristopher O. Justice
THEISEN BROCK
424 Second Street
Marietta, Ohio

RE: Reliable Enterprises Ohio, Inc. Variance Request for Water Disposal and Recycling Facility

Dear Kris:

You brought to the Washington County Commissioners' attention the desire for Reliable Enterprises Ohio, Inc.'s ("Reliable Enterprises") to open and operate a water disposal and recycling facility off of Route 7 in New Matamoras, Ohio. This letter is written to express the Washington County Board of County Commissioner's support for this project.

From our conversation with you, it is our understanding that Reliable Enterprises is seeking a variance from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) that would allow trucks to access the proposed facility via Route 7, and that the variance is necessary due to the ODOT's plan sheet limiting the point of access for use as either a "township road" or a "field drive."

The Washington County Commissioners are in support of ODOT granting the variance to Reliable Enterprises. This project will bring a \$1,500,000 investment and eight jobs to a part of Washington County where investments and jobs are needed. This project is not receiving any tax abatement or other economic development benefits, so this project will be a benefit to the Frontier Local School District. Without granting this variance, this investment will not take place. After review of the proposed water disposal and recycling facility's activities, we support ODOT granting a variance in order to promote job creation and economic benefit for Washington County.

Sincerely,
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

RE: DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

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

RE: CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to certify with the County Auditor the following list of delinquent sewer accounts. The Board of Commissioners requests the Auditor to collect the delinquent amounts with the taxes due for the property.

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Amount</u>
05-0096020-000	\$ 341.10	11-0044543-000	\$ 341.10
07-0024205-000	\$ 229.60	07-0023148-000	\$ 326.60
07-0023348-000	\$ 341.10	07-0023252-000	\$ 341.10
07-0023640-000	\$ 341.10	26-0042157-000	\$ 429.25
05-0009964-000	\$ 341.10	05-0011720-000	\$ 429.25
05-0013212-000	\$ 341.10	05-0009616-000	\$ 429.25

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

RE: DEVOLA SEWER PHASE 2 – NOTICE OF AWARD

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to award the Devola Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Phase 2 Project to the low bidder, RDR Utility Services Group, with the total bid amount of \$14,586,246.20. The project will construct sanitary sewer mains and home connections utilizing a step system. The engineer's estimate was \$13,503,046. On May 12, 2022 bids were received and opened. Three bidders submitted bids for the project. The bid tab is below:

RDR Utility Services Group	\$14,586,246.20
TAM Construction	\$14,689,987.00
Bear Contracting	\$17,950,497.54

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

RE: DEVOLA SEWER PHASE 2 – CONTRACT

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a contract with RDR Utility Services Group for the Devola Sanitary Sewer Improvements – Phase 2 project. The contract amount is \$14,586,246.20.

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

RE: COMMENTS

Commissioner Schilling read the following statement:

Today Washington County took another step toward completing the EPA mandated Devola Sanitary Sewer Phase II project. The Board of Commissioners, with assistance from the County Engineer and the JFS Director, has worked tirelessly to secure grant funding for this project. To date over \$17 million in funding has been earmarked for the Devola project, all garnered within the last year.

Today, the Board of Commissioners voted to award the Devola Sanitary Sewer Phase II project to RDR Utility Services Group for a little over \$14.8 million. The contract documents contain milestone dates, with installation of all sanitary sewer mains completed within 260 working days of the Notice to Proceed, along with requiring completion of 280 homes by the end of 2023. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by mid-year 2024.

Moving forward RDR Utility Services will begin purchasing materials, and complete final planning to begin the project. It is anticipated that work will begin by RDR Utility Services within the next few months.

Additionally, the Board of Commissioners awarded the Devola Electric Phase 2 project to Davis Pickering (DPC) in May. DPC and subcontractor Rivertown Electric anticipate contacting homeowners within the project boundary and provided the following statement to be shared with all homes within the project boundary:

DPC Contractors (Davis Pickering) will be making contact with homeowners in

Priority 1 beginning June 2, 2022. DPC will schedule an evaluation of the residence's current electrical status and configuration. DPC expects priority one contacts and evaluations to take a week and a half. We will move to the next priority when complete. The evaluations will begin June 6, 2022. The project requires an evaluation of electrical equipment outside and inside of the residence. Photos will be taken of electrical equipment during evaluations and after work is complete. DPC will order required materials from the evaluations. Priority 1 work will begin when materials are received and residence are scheduled. Material lead times will determine the electrical upgrade execution dates. DPC plans to begin Priority 1 work mid-June 2022.

DPC Contractors Mobile 740-525-9698

DPC Contractors Office 740-373-5896

Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee, asked when the blighted properties program will begin. Mr. Schilling said Washington-Morgan Community Action is still working on it.

Flite Freimann, Director JFS, commended Children Services on being one of twenty-five counties in Ohio recognized for excellence. Mr. Freimann said Children Services received \$110,000 incentive for the award.

Philip Schaffer, Grant Department, said a grant application was submitted for the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Schilling introduced Leah O'Donnell, student at Hillsdale College, and said that she is an intern at the Commissioners' Office this summer.

Commissioner Ritter read the following statement:

Last week I spoke about a piece of legislation – HB61 (Save Women's Sports Act) – and my efforts to obtain an update on its progress. The day after I made that public statement I received a call from Speaker Bob Cupp's office. I was informed by one of the Speaker's staff the bill was "in the Senate."

Later I found out that was not correct. The bill was stalled in the same House committee where I had testified a year ago. At that point I contact both of our state representatives – Jay Edwards and Don Jones. I am pleased to report, they acted immediately.

Representative Edwards contacted Speaker Cupp's office to express his unhappiness that I had been given incorrect information. Within 24 hours I had an apology and the correct information.

Yesterday morning, I spoke with Don Jones and asked about the likelihood of the bill getting a vote before the end of the legislative session. (Yesterday was the final day before their summer break). Don was not optimistic but said he would speak with Committee Chair Gayle Manning about releasing the bill.

Don called me later in the day to tell me he was able to get the bill out of committee by attaching it to one of his bills.

Understand what he did. He put his own bill in jeopardy in order to ensure HB61 didn't simply die in committee.

Thanks to Don's efforts, the Save Women's Sports Act has made it to the Senate where it will be considered during the "lame duck" session this fall.

Still, ensuring women a level playing field will be an uphill battle. Despite the fact that 62% of all Americans favor this sort of legislation, and 16 states have already passed it, many Ohio legislators are reluctant to take up any sort of controversial issue during an election year.

I personally intend to lobby members of the Senate and the Governor who has signaled a reluctance to sign the final bill.

I just want to say on the record how much I appreciate the efforts of our two state representatives. With so many things broken at the federal level, Washington County is well-represented in Columbus.

Commissioner Booth said the Courthouse Annex HVAC upgrade is going well and will be more efficient. Mr. Booth then read the following statement:

This week I met with Judges Halliday, Kerenyi, and Williams. I also spoke with David Browne of Behavioral Health about the possibility of teaming up for an initiative of two therapy dogs for the Sheriff's Department. I am happy to report that all parties mentioned are willing partners in providing support, not only to the schools involved, but for any need that these dogs could provide.

Let me make one thing clear, everyone that I just mentioned used their budgeted funds to support this. And, it would have been easier for the Commissioners to just appropriate money to move this forward, but it is my belief that government works better when everyone involved works together. This is a great example of the cooperation that Washington County officials practice, almost on a daily basis.

I thank everyone involved and look forward in moving this to reality in the next few weeks.

RE: OHIO PUBLIC DEFENDER

Joseph Medici, Office of the Ohio Public Defender, joined by Ray Smith and Jana Crock, Washington County Public Defender Office, were present to discuss the fiscal year 2023 contract with the Commissioners. Nicole Coil, Washington County Prosecutor, was also present. The Public Defender Office hopes to hire two more attorneys for Washington

County. There was a discussion regarding how to count cases when counsel has to withdraw for a conflict of interest. Mr. Ritter said it would be helpful if the Public Defender Office could quantify that data for the County to consider. Mr. Medici believes the reimbursement rate from the state will be 90%. Mr. Ritter said he appreciates that the Public Defender Office keeps the County informed of the expected reimbursement rates.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Booth 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 10:25 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk