

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JUNE 16, 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES W. BOOTH, VICE PRESIDENT. KEVIN J. RITTER, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE VICE 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
Kathy Thieman, Probate/Juvenile Court Administrator
Roger Wright, County Engineer
Diane Davis, HR Director
Richard Hays, EMA Director
Brenda Robinson, OhioMeansJobs
Larry Mincks, Sheriff
Mark Warden, Sheriff's Office
Lloyd Booth, Fort Frye Local Schools
Diana Booth
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Karen Doan
Stephanie Starcher, Fort Frye Local Schools
Justin Grant, CEBCO
Michele Newbanks, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, June 16, 2022**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 CEBCO – Q1 Review

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOU with Ohio University Voinovich School

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Additional Appropriation – Devola Sewer Fund
Additional Appropriation – Family & Children First (2)
Additional Appropriation – Behavioral Health Board (3)
Additional Appropriation – Sheriff
Transfer – County General (2)
Transfer – Common Pleas
Then & Now
JFS – Bid Award for Nonemergency Transportation
Sheriff – Motorola Service Agreement
Contract with OPD for Public Defense Services
Children Services – Request for Budget Increase
RFP for Bonding for proposed Veregy contract
Contract with Veregy for County Buildings HVAC
Engineer – City of Marietta request for Permissive Tax Distribution
Engineer – Contract for Sanitary Sewer Office Manager

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Add: Additional Appropriation – Sewer Capital Projects
Remove: Additional Appropriation – Devola Sewer Fund

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: 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 June 9, 2022 regular meeting.

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

RE: BILLS FOR PAYMENT

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sewer Capital Projects	300-0113-55600	\$ 400,000.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-51001	\$ 27,040.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-51101	\$ 392.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-51102	\$ 3,786.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-51105	\$ 24.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-51120	\$ 298.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-52001	\$ 3,500.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-54000	\$ 250.00
Family & Children First	602-2033-57400	\$ 3,529.00
Family & Children First	602-2031-53005	\$ 12,420.00
Behavioral Health Board	200-0610-53000	\$ 328,479.00
Behavioral Health Board	210-0616-53000	\$ 10,545.83
Behavioral Health Board	210-0618-53000	\$ 9,247.89
Sheriff	100-0384-57401	\$ 21,426.00

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

RE: TRANSFERS

Mr. Ritter 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>
County General	100-0870-53091	100-0101-57100	\$ 468,246.20
County General	100-0101-57100	300-0118-49100	\$ 468,246.20
Common Pleas	100-0201-51001	100-0100-53500	\$ 5,000.00

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: 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>
Family & Children First	602-2030-53401	OH Auditor of State	\$ 3,218.50
Maintenance	100-0109-54000	Tractor Supply	\$ 404.98
Sewer	400-0113-57400	Commissioners	\$ 529.53

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

RE: JFS – BID AWARD FOR NONEMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the bid award, as recommended by Job & Family Services, for nonemergency transportation. Two bids were received. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said both bidders, 1st Choice Home Care & Transport and WMCAP are qualified candidates. JFS recommended awarding the bid to both vendors. Due to the volume of trips each month, it is in the best interest of JFS clients to have multiple choices.

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

RE: SHERIFF – MOTOROLA SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a service agreement with Motorola Solutions. Rich Hays, EMA/911 Director, said the agreement is for 911 equipment and services. The agreement is effective from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 at an annual cost of \$5,568.11.

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

RE: CONTRACT WITH OPD FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a contract for Public Defense Services with the Office of the Ohio Public Defender. The term of the contract shall be July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The county will pay quarterly installments of \$32,524 for a total annual amount of \$130,096. The contract amount is based on an estimated statewide reimbursement rate of 90% of county level indigent defense for Fiscal Year 2023. The contract amount is subject to change based on funding level and reimbursement rate.

Commissioner Ritter said the Washington County Public Defender office is overwhelmed and needs additional staff. OPD is requesting to hire two more attorneys for the office. Mr. Ritter said the Commissioners spoke with all three judges and they are in favor of additional staff for Public Defenders.

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

RE: CHILDREN SERVICES – REQUEST FOR BUDGET INCREASE

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a request to increase the Children Services budget in the amount of \$300,000. The increase is needed to pay foster care placement costs due to an increase in placement rates and the number of children in care. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said several agencies, which include Family & Children First, Behavioral Health Board, and Children Services, are working together to start a prevention program to reduce the number of children in custody.

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

RE: RFP FOR BONDING FOR PROPOSED VEREGY CONTRACT

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a Request for Proposal from Washington County Department of Job & Family Services for a \$10 million single issue bond to be paid back over 20 years. Proposals will be received by JFS at 1115 Gilman Avenue in Marietta until 4 p.m. June 27, 2022. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said Veregy has proposed to upgrade the HVAC and energy efficiency for several buildings. Mr. Freimann said that with rapid inflation and rising interest rates they are hoping to move forward with a bond to lock in the lowest interest rate.

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

RE: CONTRACT WITH VEREGY FOR COUNTY BUILDINGS HVAC

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a contract with Veregy.

Mr. Ritter read the following statement:

Because I am going to be on vacation next week and time is of the essence because of rising material costs and inflation, I'd like to make just a couple comments in case this issue is brought to a vote in my absence.

The total dollar figure that we are considering for this series of projects is large but we are seeking to upgrade buildings that have not seen similar renovation in decades.

For instance, we are considering replacing a 47-year old roof on the County Home as well as the original HVAC system at the Children Services building.

For a variety of reasons, these sorts of maintenance have been deferred. That means we have several County buildings that are both energy inefficient and in almost constant need of repair.

Our monthly maintenance costs currently run the County in excess of \$7,000.

In my view, we can no longer defer this maintenance and continue to "band-aid" problems as they arise. We have to stop being reactive and become proactive. That requires an initial outlay...but savings in the long run.

You may recall the Board of Commissioners convened a roundtable in early 2022 with financial advisors from several area banks. From each of those individuals we heard the same thing, "If you have significant projects you are looking to do, the time is now. Inflation and construction costs are rising and interest rates will rise as well."

My fear is that if we do not act in the near term these sorts of improvements will

simply be beyond our reach.

My other fear is this...if we put off these improvements to a future date and, for instance, the HVAC in the Courthouse stops working and cannot be repaired, those repairs will simply be court-ordered (and rightly so) because the courts must continue to function...and, if that happens, we will pay whatever costs are at that time.

If we act now, we can control those numbers...we can upgrade our buildings...we can save on energy costs...and save on maintenance...and we can pay it back in depreciated dollars down the road.

I have not made a final decision but I wanted this board and the public to know I am leaning strongly in the direction of making these improvements.

Commissioner Booth said the County has had success working with Veregy in the past.

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to table the contract with Veregy.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CITY OF MARIETTA REQUEST FOR PERMISSIVE TAX DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a request from the City of Marietta for a distribution of municipal permissive tax funds in the amount of \$25,000. The request is for the 2022 Citywide Asphalt Paving and ADA Curb Ramps project. The total estimated cost of the project is \$610,000. The City of Marietta has a current balance of \$144,585.43 in the municipal permissive tax fund and the streets to be paved are on the approved list, per the County Engineer.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CONTRACT FOR SANITARY SEWER OFFICE MANAGER

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a supplemental certified limited contract for Emily Griffin to be the Office Manager for the Washington County Sanitary Engineer. The position will pay \$8,000 per year with yearly cost of living increase in accordance with ORC 325.18. The contract is for one year only and shall automatically renew each calendar year for a period of 4 years, expiring December 2026. The Board of Commissioners, through a majority vote in the affirmative, may terminate the supplemental contract at any time. Mr. Ritter said the County is saving \$20,000 a year with this contract by not paying outside contractors for sanitary engineering.

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

RE: COMMENTS

Brenda Robinson, OhioMeansJobs, said Career Camp at the Career Center was a success and provided hands-on vocational training.

Commissioner Booth said he worked with the Judges and Behavioral Health Board to provide funding for the Sheriff to acquire two therapy dogs for School Resource Officers. Mr. Booth commended everyone for stepping up and working together.

Sheriff Larry Mincks said the department has three School Resource Officers and would like to have one at every school. Sheriff Mincks said having dogs in the schools bridges the gap between the officer at the school and students, and are a tremendous resource. Sheriff Mincks thanked the various county agencies for their help.

Mr. Booth read the following statement from Tony Huffman, Superintendent of WCCC:

Washington County Career Center really likes having both Deputy Harlow as SRO and canine Brody. Students have responded to both very positively. I am convinced that both student behavior and student perception of law enforcement have benefitted from our experience. I am encouraged to hear that Warren and Fort Frye are receiving therapy dogs. Students will respond very positively.

Stephanie Starcher, Superintendent Fort Frye Local Schools, believes a therapeutic dog will help with de-escalation.

Kyle Newton, Superintendent Warren Local Schools, applauds the SRO for taking on a dog and thanked the Sheriff's Department.

David Browne, Behavioral Health Board, said he appreciates the teamwork of combining resources and county agencies working together more.

Lloyd Booth, Fort Frye School Board, thanked the County for providing the school with a therapy dog and believes it will be helpful.

Mr. Booth said it is Elder Abuse Awareness Month and encouraged people to check on their neighbors.

RE: CEBCO – Q1 REVIEW

Justin Grant, CEBCO, provided the Commissioners with an update regarding the County's health insurance data. Washington County had an overall rolling 12 month loss ratio of 118%, which was adjusted down to 106%. Mr. Grant said the County's pharmacy expenses are down. There was a discussion about the possibility of the County having an HSA policy. Mr. Grant suggested conducting a survey of employees to gain insight into the level of interest for an HSA policy.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to adjourn. A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk