

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 1, 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
Shannon Schott, County Engineer Office
Diane Davis, HR Director
Brenda Robinson, OhioMeansJobs
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Karen Doan
Rick Dostal, Chief Building Official
Philip Schaffer, Special Projects Administrator
Karl Comstock, Maintenance Superintendent
John Jackson, County Health Department
Richard Hays, 911/EMA Director
Jon Higgins, Family & Children First
Jesse Roush, Port Authority
Kimberly Lowers, Child Support Enforcement Agency
Bill Standish
Dee Standish
Susan Boyer
Nancy Taylor, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, September 1, 2022**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:45 Wasco Trail Discussion

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution for Washington County 911 Planning Committee
Additional Appropriation – Children Services
Additional Appropriation – WV Americorps
Additional Appropriation – Engineer
Additional Appropriation – Family & Children First (3)
Additional Appropriation – CHIP CDBG
Transfer – Family & Children First
Then & Now
Travel – Children Services
Health Insurance Consulting Agreement
EODA – Board Appointment
Letter of Support for AEP Ohio – NTIA Middle Mile Grant Application
Delinquent Sewer Accounts
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts
Engineer – Devola Electric Project, Invoice #8 & #9
Engineer – Bid Specs for 2022 Centerline Striping
Engineer – Contract with Smart Services for C-111 Bridge surveying
Engineer – Contract with ADR & Associates for C-111 Bridge engineering
Engineer – Change Order #1-Final for C-4, 102 & 340 Paving
Engineer – Change Order #1-Final for C-3, 30 & 446 Paving
Engineer – Change Order #1-Final for C-32 & 102 Paving

DATES TO REMEMBER

Courthouse closed on Monday, September 5th for Labor Day
County Home Meeting, September 13th, 11 a.m. at the County Home
Finance Meeting, 10 a.m. September 20th in Commissioner Assembly Room
Investment Committee Meeting, 10:15 a.m. September 20th in Assembly Room

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Add: Additional Appropriation – Job & Family Services
- Additional Appropriation – County General
- JFS – Work Experience Contract

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 August 25, 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. 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: Charlie Schilling aye. James Booth aye. Kevin Ritter aye. Motion passed.

RE: RESOLUTION FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY 911 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE AND FUNCTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY 911 PLANNING COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code 128.06 established a 9-1-1 Planning Committee, which shall serve without compensation and shall consist of three voting members, in order to develop and then amend a final plan for a countywide 9-1-1 system; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code 128.06 states that the 9-1-1 Planning Committee shall consist of the president of the board of county commissioners, the chief executive of the most populous municipal corporation, and the executive officer of the second most populous municipal corporation; and

WHEREAS, Charles Schilling is the President of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, Joshua Schlicher is the Mayor of the City of Marietta, the most populous municipal corporation in the County, and Michael Lorentz is the Mayor of the City of Belpre, the second most populous municipal corporation in the County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED by Washington County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1: The Washington County 9-1-1 Planning Committee exists in order to amend the final plan for a countywide 9-1-1 system.

Section 2: The Washington County 9-1-1 Planning Committee shall meet regularly in order to explore amending the final plan for a countywide 9-1-1 system to centralize the public safety answering points within the County.

Commissioner Schilling said the committee is preparing to hire a Director for the countywide 911 system. Mr. Schilling said the Director’s salary will be paid out of the 911 Levy fund. Mr. Schilling thanked Philip Schaffer for his work on the project. Mr. Schilling said public safety is of the utmost importance and a centralized 911 system will eliminate delays.

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

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Children Services | 200-0740-52000 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| WV Americorps | 210-0475-51001 | \$ 31,000.00 |
| WV Americorps | 210-0475-52000 | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Engineer | 300-0559-55000 | \$ 150,187.05 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2030-51001 | \$ 3,600.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2030-51101 | \$ 50.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2030-51102 | \$ 1,200.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2030-51104 | \$ 541.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2031-51104 | \$ 1,057.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2033-51001 | \$ 21,950.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2033-51101 | \$ 241.00 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Family & Children First | 602-2033-51102 | \$ 646.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2033-51105 | \$ 8.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2033-51120 | \$ 119.00 |
| Family & Children First | 602-2033-52001 | \$ 2,625.00 |
| CHIP CDBG | 210-0807-51001 | \$ 35,000.00 |
| Job & Family Services | 200-0720-53400 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| County General | 100-0870-53004 | \$ 500,000.00 |

Mr. Booth said the \$500,000 appropriation for Buckeye Hills is for low-income senior housing. Mr. Booth has asked the City of Marietta to contribute half of that amount and said it would be a great partnership. Roughly half of the current County Home residents are from the City. Mr. Schilling said there is a shortage of senior housing. Mr. Schilling said there is an open meeting with the City of Marietta on September 12th to discuss partnership and progress.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Charlie Schilling aye. 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> |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Family & Children First | 602-2031-51001 | 602-2031-53400 | \$ 8,000.00 |

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. Booth 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 | 100-0101-53301 | MOV P Theater | \$ 600.00 |

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:

Children Services

Tami Downs: Required child visit in Newark on September 6; Lancaster on September 12, 2022

Sabrina Buchanan: Required child visit in Columbus on September 12; Youngstown on September 13; Bedford on September 15; Racine & New Marshfield on September 19; Frazesburg on September 20, 2022

Mr. Ritter asked where Children Services employees purchase gas. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said they purchase gas at the Speedway in town. Mr. Freimann said the agency budgeted for \$2.50 gallon gas this year and the price has doubled.

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

RE: JFS – WORK EXPERIENCE CONTRACT

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a work experience contract with Washington County Department of Job & Family Services to employ Mathew McGoye. The terms of the contract are for up to 40 hours per week from September 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023, contingent upon funding. The position of employment is custodial and maintenance. Funding for the position may be paid by CCMEP or WIOA, at JFS discretion. The purpose of this contract is a successful work experience. Brenda Robinson, OhioMeansJobs, said they need maintenance help at the JFS building and this is a win-win situation that will provide work experience.

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

RE: HEALTH INSURANCE CONSULTING AGREEMENT

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve an agreement with Dietz

Futrell & Walters Insurance, Inc. to provide consulting services on the Washington County Group Medical Insurance plan. The agreement is effective September 1, 2022 and will end upon completion of services. The County will pay the consultant a fee of \$8 per month per insured employee. Mr. Ritter said the County is facing a 13% increase in premiums next year with CEBCO. Mr. Walters will consult with the County as it shops renewal plans. Mr. Schilling said the County will issue a Request for Proposal to find the most cost effective benefit for employees.

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

RE: EODA – BOARD APPOINTMENT

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the nomination of Jesse Roush, Executive Director Southeastern Ohio Port Authority, for an appointment to the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance Board of Directors. Mr. Roush is nominated for reappointment to the EODA Board for the term beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024.

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 AEP OHIO – NTIA MIDDLE MILE GRANT APPLICATION

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the following Letter of Support for AEP Ohio:

Dear NTIA Grant Team,

I would like to voice support for AEP Ohio's grant application for funding through the Middle Mile Broadband infrastructure Program – funding opportunity number: NTIA-MMG-2022. Middle mile expansion into rural areas by AEP Ohio will have wide reaching benefits for the state. We believe that investment in this infrastructure project will create significant opportunities to expand affordable access to high-speed internet, support economic development, and social equity.

Much of our community still suffers from the complete inability to access broadband at the FCC's mandated minimum speeds of 25/3 Mbps. Further, many of the households and business owners that do have access to FCC minimum service levels still struggle with unreliable, poor quality connections and still qualify as underserved based on the FCC program standard of 100/20 Mbps. Additionally, many locations do not have wireless access, and therefore rely on high-cost, satellite services. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to affordable, reliable and high-speed internet is a necessity for all. AEP Ohio will provide affordable open access middle mile infrastructure and will ultimately reduce the costs to end users, while providing a far more robust service offering with higher standards of reliability.

In our efforts to stimulate economic development throughout Ohio, I regularly see the impacts of inadequate or non-existent broadband services on the lives of our citizens; students cannot study, businesses cannot grow, and people lack the connectivity necessary to get ahead financially. We believe that good communities are defined by the opportunities and support that they provide for their citizens. AEP Ohio's network implementation and its efforts to connect the underserved will provide both long-term support and opportunity for the rural areas that it serves.

I am confident that AEP Ohio can effectively implement transformative middle mile broadband. The company's over 100 years of history shows a proven ability to build world-class infrastructure, coordinate community-wide efforts, and collaborate with local stakeholders. I wholly support AEP Ohio's middle mile application and hope that the Grant Committee will fulfill this important infrastructure funding request.

Sincerely,

Washington County Commissioners

Mr. Booth said broadband remains a focus of the Board and this program would provide the backbone for broadband. Mr. Schilling commended the Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative for what it has accomplished with such limited resources. Mr. Schilling said other counties in Ohio have noticed the progress Washington County has made with broadband and have asked for advice.

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> |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 05-0011148-000 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0012280-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 11-0046188-000 | \$ 494.39 | 05-0011716-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0011716-002 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0009272-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0009272-000 | \$ 341.10 | 07-0023358-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 07-0024061-000 | \$ 341.10 | 07-0024048-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 11-0045784-003 | \$ 341.10 | 11-0047967-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 26-0034076-000 | \$ 341.10 | 07-0024031-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0011828-000 | \$ 372.75 | 05-0012548-001 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0012684-000 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0013212-000 | \$ 252.95 |
| 05-0012548-001 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0011600-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 26-0038620-000 | \$ 357.10 | 23-0076412-013 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0013036-000 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0009476-001 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0009476-001 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0009476-001 | \$ 341.10 |
| 06-0016928-000 | \$ 341.10 | 07-0022512-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 06-0016400-000 | \$ 341.10 | | |

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

RE: ENGINEER – DEVOLA ELECTRIC PROJECT, INVOICE #8 & #9

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve payment to Davis Pickering & Company for Devola Electric Project – Invoice #8 & #9. The total amount of Invoice #8 is \$67,759.10. The total amount of Invoice #9 is \$33,620. Prevailing wage and invoice quantities were verified and approved by the County Engineer.

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

RE: ENGINEER – BID SPECS FOR 2022 CENTERLINE STRIPING

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve the bid specs, as submitted by the Engineer, for the 2022 Centerline Striping project. The bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 9:30 a.m. at the office of the Engineer. The estimated cost of the project is \$133,694 and the project cannot be awarded if the bid price exceeds the estimate by 10%. The striping project will be paid for out of the Motor Vehicle Gas Tax fund. Shannon Schott, Engineer’s Office, said the project is eighty miles of striping this year.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CONTRACT WITH SMART SERVICES FOR C-111 BRIDGE

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a contract with Smart Services for the County Road 111 (Welch Road) Bridge Replacement. Smart Services will provide control and topographic survey and right-of-way survey for the project. The total amount of the contract is \$26,994 and will be paid out of the Motor Vehicle Gas Tax fund.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CONTRACT WITH ADR & ASSOCIATES FOR C-111 BRIDGE

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Ritter seconded a motion to approve a contract with ADR & Associates to provide engineering services for the County Road 111 (Welch Road) Bridge Replacement. The total amount of the contract is \$36,550 and will be paid out of the Motor Vehicle Gas Tax fund.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CHANGE ORDER #1-FINAL FOR C-4, 102 & 340 PAVING

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1-Final for County Road 4, 102 & 340 Paving. The change order is an increase of \$39,639.29 to the original contract amount, for a new total cost of \$431,644.34. Shelly & Sands Inc. is the contractor for the project.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CHANGE ORDER #1-FINAL FOR C-3, 30 & 446 PAVING

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1-Final for County Road 3, 30 & 446 Paving. The change order is an increase of \$22,046.73 to the original contract amount, for a new total cost of \$765,480.03. Shelly & Sands Inc. is the contractor for the project.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CHANGE ORDER #1-FINAL FOR C-32 & 102 PAVING

Mr. Ritter moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1-Final for County Road 32 & 102 Paving. The change order is an increase of \$36,264.48 to the original contract amount, for a new total cost of \$1,309,146.58. Shelly & Sands Inc. is the contractor for the project.

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

RE: COMMENTS

Rick Dostal, Chief Building Official, said he attended the Ohio Statewide Floodplain Management Conference and it was very informative.

Jesse Roush, Port Authority, thanked the Engineer for maintaining County Road 32 to the industrial park.

Commissioner Ritter read the following email he sent on August 28th to the Office of the Ohio Attorney General:

Thank you for responding to the inquiries I made through redacted regarding the ongoing high gas prices in Marietta, OH. As of this morning Marietta continues to be 50 cents more than Caldwell (OH) and 66 cents more than Cambridge (OH). I have not checked Columbus but I have little doubt there is at least \$1 difference per gallon.

You must understand \$4+ gasoline means something different in our part of the state where the median household income is roughly 70% of what it is in Franklin County. Since I moved here 20+ years ago, gas prices in Marietta have often been slightly higher than the surrounding communities, but we are now talking about a prolonged (since early July) and broad (15% - 30%) difference in pricing. Also, this time around, the stations seem to be in lock-step.

Admittedly, I am disappointed with your response to my inquiry redacted. Specifically, I am making reference to the following...“if Commissioner Ritter or anyone in his area has evidence that retailers are discussing prices, agreeing on prices, meeting about prices, etc., I would strongly encourage them to bring that evidence to my attention.”

Respectfully, that seems like the Sheriff telling a crime victim to conduct their own private investigation and let him know if any evidence turns up. I am left to wonder exactly the purpose of the Antitrust Section if not to investigate just this sort of issue?

I contacted the corporate offices of 7-11, Speedway, and ParMar weeks ago. Each of them assured me that someone would be in touch and so far, nothing. I am getting hammered with calls from angry citizens wanting to know why prices are so high specifically in this community. I have publicly condemned calls for a boycott. I have publicly supported station owners’ rights to set prices at whatever the market will bear. And I have pointed out that “price-gouging” does not exist where consumers still have a choice.

In the meantime, because of the comparatively high cost of fuel in our community, it is less attractive as a tourist destination or as a permanent home for business. Working class people (the vast majority of our population) are spending the waning days of summer close to home because they cannot afford a short trip with family. Schools are open and they are spending a disproportionate amount of their budget on fuel costs. Finally, the County and the City governments are trying to deliver essential services but we are having to divert more and more of the monies allocated for these purposes to cover the cost of fuel.

With the Governor’s current focus on Southeast Ohio, I would hope your office might be willing to give this issue a second look. I fully understand that collusion is difficult to prove but a simple phone call to owners from your office might break the log jam and encourage station owners to set pricing that is more in line with surrounding communities. I simply refuse to believe there is some sort of atmospheric anomaly that exists within Marietta city limits that makes pricing so much more of a challenge than just down the road.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this issue.

Respectfully Yours,

Mr. Ritter said he is losing patience with the Attorney General’s office and will be following up on the issue.

Mr. Booth said that with everything from 911 to sewer, the Commissioners are working together with other agencies, including the state, to succeed for the residents of Washington County.

Mr. Schilling said he spoke with the President of Marietta College about a comprehensive plan for the County. Mr. Schilling said the decision is to have a plan to benefit residents. Mr. Schilling encouraged support for the Washington County Fair this weekend.

RE: WASCO TRAIL DISCUSSION

Local residents Bill Standish, Dee Standish, and Susan Boyer expressed their concern to the Commissioners regarding a rumor that the Wasco Trail will be paved over for a parking lot. Ms. Boyer said that in the 1990's, the area behind the Wasco building was a muddy pit. Ms. Boyer said residents invested time and assets to turn the area into a green space. Mr. Ritter said he appreciated hearing the history of the park. Mr. Ritter said the County Maintenance Department will be mowing the park. Mr. Ritter said the Commissioners have never discussed turning the space into a parking lot. Mr. Schilling said the park enhances the health and wellness of the community.

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 9:58 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk