

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JANUARY 5, 2023 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: KEVIN J. RITTER, PRESIDENT. JAMES W. BOOTH, VICE PRESIDENT. CHARLIE L. SCHILLING, 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
Rob Grant, Grant Department
Philip Schaffer, Grant Department
Diane Davis, HR Director
Rick Dostal, Chief Building Official
Karl Comstock, Maintenance Superintendent
Katie Warden, Marietta Police Chief
Jesse Roush, Port Authority
Jeff Jones, County Health Department
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee
Karen Doan
Nancy Taylor, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, January 5, 2023**

9:00 Business Meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution for Permissive Sales Tax Allocation
Additional Appropriation – Board of Elections
Additional Appropriation – Behavioral Health Board
Transfer – Job & Family Services
Then & Now
Travel – Children Services
Sheriff – Monthly Report on Care of Prisoners for December
Sheriff – Annual Report of Unpaid Fees
JFS – Allow JFS Director to approve inter-county transfers
JFS – Subgrant Agreement with Boys & Girls Club
JFS – Subgrant Agreement with Ely Chapman
HR – CEBCO Wellness Grant Agreement
Delinquent Sewer Accounts
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts

DATES TO REMEMBER

Courthouse closed Monday, January 16th for MLK Day

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Add: Resolution to designate CCAO representatives

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the December 29, 2022 regular meeting and the January 3, 2023 organizational meeting.

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

RE: RESOLUTION FOR PERMISSIVE SALES TAX ALLOCATION

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

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners have adopted a 1% Permissive Sales Tax in Washington County for the purpose of revenue for the county’s general fund; and

WHEREAS, the estimated total 1% Permissive Sales Tax revenue is \$10,000,000 for calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners will allocate 30% of the monthly Permissive Sales Tax receipts to the 1% Permissive Sales Tax Fund (100-0103) and 70% to the County General Fund.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Washington County Commissioners to allocate 30% of the monthly Permissive Sales Tax receipts, not to exceed \$2,800,000 for the year, to the 1% Permissive Sales Tax Fund (100-0103), and the remainder to the County General Fund (100-0100).

Commissioner Schilling said Washington County is one of only three counties in the state that shares its permissive sales tax with the townships and Engineer. Mr. Schilling said the Commissioners increased the shared portion from 26% to 30%.

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

RE: RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO IN 2023

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

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 6, of the Code of Regulations of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio requires each member county to, for the purpose of voting at any annual or special meeting of the Association, designate an Official Representative and Alternate; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the Official Representative and Alternate for a county organized under the statutory form of county government shall be by resolution of the board of county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in designating the Official Representative and Alternate only a member of the board of county commissioners is eligible to be designated as the Official Representative and Alternate.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Ritter is designated as the Official Voting Representative of Washington County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Booth is designated as the Alternate Voting Representative of Washington County.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. James Booth aye. Charlie Schilling 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> |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Board of Elections | 100-0160-53000 | \$ 147,282.03 |
| Behavioral Health Board | 210-0609-53000 | \$ 231,334.00 |

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

RE: TRANSFERS

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

| <u>Department</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Job & Family Services | 100-0104-57200 | 200-0720-49200 | \$ 500,000.00 |

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. James Booth aye. Charlie Schilling 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> |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jail | 100-0381-53030 | Super Laundry | \$ 372.44 |
| Commissioners | 100-0100-53202 | Verizon | \$ 122.46 |

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Kevin Ritter aye. James Booth aye. Charlie Schilling 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 the policies and in compliance with the annual appropriations for fiscal year 2023 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

Children Services

Mel Jenkins: Required monthly visit in Cambridge on January 6; Youngstown on January 9; Pleasant City on January 11; Caldwell on January 12; Columbus on January 20; Zanesville on January 24, 2023

Mel Jenkins & Tonya Kidder: Required monthly visit in Ironton on January 18, 2023

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

RE: SHERIFF – MONTHLY REPORT ON CARE OF PRISONERS FOR DECEMBER

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the monthly report on the care of prisoners at the Washington County Jail for the month of December 2022. The report shows a total prisoner count of 226. The Jail received \$9,063 for housing prisoners from other jurisdictions for the month.

RE: SHERIFF – ANNUAL REPORT OF UNCOLLECTED FEES

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the annual report from the Sheriff on uncollected fees. The report shows \$25,144 uncollected jail fees charged for booking prisoners, and \$96,346.96 uncollected warrant and civil service fees. The fees, owed to the Sheriff's Office, are unpaid for more than one year from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

RE: JFS – ALLOW JFS DIRECTOR TO APPROVE INTER-COUNTY TRANSFERS

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to allow the Director of Washington County Department of Job & Family Services the authority to approve and sign Inter-County Adjustment of Allocations through the end of the current calendar year, December 31, 2023. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said this will give him permission to receive unused funds from other counties.

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

RE: JFS – SUBGRANT AGREEMENT WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a subgrant agreement between Washington County Department of Job & Family Services and the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County. JFS will pay the Boys & Girls Club to operate a before/after school program for TANF eligible youth. The subgrant agreement will be in effect from January 9, 2023 through June 30, 2023. The total amount of the grant is \$78,000. JFS will pay the cost of eligible youths to attend the before/after school program at a weekly rate not to exceed \$75 or \$15 per day. The grant is funded by federal funds under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant.

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

RE: JFS – SUBGRANT AGREEMENT WITH ELY CHAPMAN

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a subgrant agreement between Washington County Department of Job & Family Services and Ely Chapman Education Foundation. JFS will pay Ely Chapman to operate a before/after school program for school aged children. The subgrant agreement will be in effect from January 9, 2023 through June 30, 2023. The total amount of the grant is \$47,250. JFS will pay the cost of eligible youths to attend the before/after school program at a weekly rate not to exceed \$75. The grant is federally funded under Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

(TANF) Block Grant fiscal year 2023.

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

RE: H.R. – CEBCO WELLNESS GRANT AGREEMENT

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the 2023 CEBCO Wellness Grant Agreement with the County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO). Washington County will receive grant funding up to \$11,650 (\$4,000 administrative and \$7,650 program) for the wellness program. The program funds must be used for wellness-related events, activities, and initiatives provided to CEBCO enrolled employees and spouses. The grant agreement is effective for calendar year 2023.

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

RE: CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling 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> |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 07-0024048-000 | \$ 341.10 | 07-0024061-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 07-0024066-000 | \$ 341.10 | 07-0023358-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 07-0024027-000 | \$ 356.40 | 07-0024031-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 07-0021440-000 | \$ 364.05 | 06-0016928-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 11-0045784-003 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0009272-000 | \$ 252.95 |
| 05-0009272-000 | \$ 252.95 | 05-0012280-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0013036-000 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0009476-001 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0009476-001 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0009476-001 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0012548-001 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0011716-002 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0011600-000 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0011148-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0012548-001 | \$ 341.10 | 05-0012684-000 | \$ 341.10 |
| 05-0013212-000 | \$ 341.10 | 26-0035168-000 | \$ 347.70 |
| 23-0085470-029 | \$ 429.25 | 23-0076412-013 | \$ 341.10 |
| 11-0047955-000 | \$ 341.10 | 11-0047967-000 | \$ 341.10 |

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

RE: COMMENTS

Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee, said the Cedar Ridge project will be finished in February. Mr. Doan thanked the County Engineer for his help with bidding the project.

Jesse Roush, Port Authority, said they have been approved for \$800,000 through the Brownfield Remediation Program.

Commissioner Schilling said the Commissioners are moving forward quickly with the WASCO Building renovation. Mr. Schilling said there is a meeting next week with the Ohio EPA regarding cleaner water for Matamoras. Mr. Schilling believes the EPA sees a need to help smaller communities.

Commissioner Booth said the Commissioners have met with the Cities of Marietta and Belpre on a strategic plan for the county. Mr. Booth said it is a plan for the entire county. Regarding the VA Hospital Initiative, Mr. Booth said he's received a response from 20% of counties in Ohio.

Commissioner Ritter read the following Board of Commissioners priorities for 2023:

1. Comprehensive 911 – Commissioner Schilling has led on this project from the beginning and he has made significant progress in bringing together a number of different interests to work toward a shared goal. I think it stands to reason, an enhanced 911 system will better serve the public and we will continue to pursue it for that reason.
2. Water Infrastructure – At the beginning of 2022 we asked our grant department to compile a list of needs from our 13 Washington County water companies. We called this the Safe Water Initiative. When it was complete, we presented the state a list of needs that exceeded \$60 million.

We have, of course, seen great progress on the most pressing of those needs...a new filtration system for the Village of Lowell. As we sit here today, the Ohio EPA is installing a new \$2.2 million system paid for entirely by the state. Next Tuesday we have a meeting with the EPA Assistant Director Mark Johnson about a similar need in the Village of New Matamoras. We will continue to aggressively compete for state and federal funds, we can match with local dollars, in an effort to ensure the residents of Washington County have safe and clean water wherever they choose to live.

3. Lift Station Project – The County sewer system has a total of 27 lift stations. Because of perennial budget constraints, many of these stations have not received needed upgrades or service since they were installed. Our Sewer Department is in the process of evaluating and servicing each of these locations. In some cases, we know aging infrastructure needs to be entirely replaced. To that end, the County Grant Department is already working to identify and pursue state monies available through House Bill 168, the H2Ohio Fund, and from other sources.
4. Wage Parity for the Prosecutor’s Office – According to state law, the wages for the Public Defender’s office are determined by the state while wages for the County Prosecutor’s office are set by the county itself. In less wealthy counties like ours, there is often a significant difference between what the state allocates (for one office) and what the County can afford (for the other office). This difference is made worse by the fact that the state can offer a more extensive benefit package than the county.

Justice is NOT served by such a difference. This Board’s desire is to address this discrepancy and create a level playing field when it comes to hiring and retention.

5. Route 821 Bridge Project – ODOT considered this project 15-20 years ago. Feasibility studies were done and plans were drawn. Ultimately the project was shelved when the state could not secure some of the land needed to move forward. Building a bridge that would allow trucks to bypass downtown Marietta is a safety issue. It’s a wear-and-tear issue. And it’s a convenience issue.

Commissioner Schilling scheduled a meeting for us with leaders at ODOT District 10 and we are going to revisit whether or not it makes sense to build this bridge.

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 9:27 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk