

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON JANUARY 26, 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
Cindy Davis, Family & Children First
Kathy Thieman, Probate/Juvenile Court Administrator
Jesse Roush, Port Authority
Brenda Robinson, OhioMeansJobs
Jenn Westfall, Civil Air Patrol
David Brown, Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative
Michelle Hyer, Buckeye Hills
Jada Riley, Buckeye Hills
Amanda Bohlen, OSU Extension
Alexus Masterson, OSU Extension
Samantha Farnsworth, OSU Extension Intern
Nancy Taylor, *Marietta Times*
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 am, January 26, 2023**

9:00 Business Meeting
10:00 Bid Opening – CDBG Lower Salem/Matamoras
10:30 OSU Ext – Update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting minutes
Bills from various departments
Resolution to reimburse Highland Ridge Water with ARPA Funds
Additional Appropriation – Building Department
Additional Appropriation – Engineer
Additional Appropriation – County Home
Additional Appropriation – Sheriff
Transfer – Engineer
Transfer – Belpre Outpost
Then & Now
Travel – JFS
Sheriff – Increase daily jail rate
Lease Agreement with Civil Air Patrol
Courthouse Elevators – Align Elevator Consulting (Service Proposal)
OGAP Membership
Engineer – Devola Sewer Project, Invoice #3
Engineer – Change Order #1, Devola Sewer Project
Engineer – USDA Loan Closing Documents for tractor
CCAO Energy Aggregation Program

DATES TO REMEMBER

Finance Meeting, March 21 at 10 a.m. in the Commissioners Assembly Room
Investment Meeting, March 21 at 10:15 a.m. in Commissioners Assembly Room

RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Add: Additional Appropriation – Treasurer Admin
Veregy Invoice #6
FCF – ECSI Grant Application Attachment

Letter of Support for City of Marietta TAP Application
Broadband Cooperative – Update

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 January 19, 2023 regular 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 TO REIMBURSE HIGHLAND RIDGE WATER

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

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF HIGHLAND RIDGE WATER ASSOCIATION WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ARPA WATER GRANT

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners desires to promote safe water within the County; and

WHEREAS, Highland Ridge Water Association has expended funds in order to improve access to safe water within the County by completing necessary legal and engineering work and material acquisition for the 821 waterline relocation project; and

WHEREAS, Highland Ridge Water Association requests reimbursement from the Washington County ARPA Grant in the amount of \$20,002.29 and has submitted the necessary documentation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Commissioners to approve the reimbursement of Highland Ridge Water Association for \$20,002.29 from the Washington County ARPA Water Grant.

Commissioner Ritter said the expenses occurred in 2022 and this is the final reimbursement from the Washington County ARPA Water Program.

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>
Building Department	100-0170-51110	\$ 5,642.00
Engineer	200-0540-55202	\$ 80,000.00
County Home	200-0630-51110	\$ 5,890.00
Sheriff	100-0384-57401	\$ 15,100.00
Treasurer Admin	200-0132-54000	\$ 5,000.00

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>
Engineer	210-0541-57100	200-0540-49100	\$ 31,780.62
Belpre Outpost	210-0556-57200	100-0104-49200	\$ 2,997.00

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>
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Job & Family Services	200-0721-57401	Workingman Store	\$	173.94
Sheriff	100-0384-53406	OH Task Force	\$	550.00
Job & Family Services	200-0720-57400	Commissioners	\$	163.32
Job & Family Services	200-0721-57402	OV Truck Driver	\$	4,622.75
Job & Family Services	200-0721-57402	Jillian Hersman	\$	125.00
Jail	100-0381-54150	Statewide Service	\$	1,283.44
Sheriff	100-0384-53120	AEP	\$	293.19
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	Amerigas	\$	159.81
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	MOV Employment	\$	1,289.60
Maintenance	100-0109-53000	Promanco	\$	3,800.00
Dog & Kennel	200-0363-57400	Holland & Muirden	\$	241.00
Maintenance	100-0109-54000	Donellon McCarthy	\$	223.00
Sewer	400-0113-53000	Environmental Des	\$	13,562.97

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:

Job & Family Services

Flite Freimann: OJFSDA March General Session in Lewis Center on March 10, 2023

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

RE: SHERIFF – INCREASE DAILY JAIL RATE

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the Sheriff's increase of the daily rate to house prisoners at the Washington County Jail. The daily rate will increase from \$83 to \$100, effective immediately. An analysis of fiscal year 2022 determined the cost to care for an inmate was \$98.31 per day. The Sheriff submitted a report of the cost to house prisoners for the years 2017 – 2022.

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

RE: LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CIVIL AIR PATROL

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve a Lease Agreement with the Civil Air Patrol, Parkersburg Composite Squadron. The Commissioners will lease a space within the WASCO Building to Civil Air Patrol. The lease has an initial term of four months with a \$100 per month rent. Jenn Westfall, Deputy Director of Civil Air Patrol, said they need a temporary meeting location while repairs are made to their roof.

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

RE: COURTHOUSE ELEVATORS – ALIGN ELEVATOR CONSULTING

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve a service proposal from Align Elevator Consulting for the Courthouse elevators. Align will assist in publishing an RFP for elevator maintenance of four elevators, jack replacement on Sheriff elevator, and modernization on the traction elevator. Once the bid is awarded, Align will provide ongoing project management. The service proposal term is from March 2023 through May 2024 with a total cost of \$47,960. Mr. Booth said the Courthouse has maintenance issues with the elevators, and this proposal is a third of the cost of the current provider.

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

RE: OGAP MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve membership at the \$5,000 patron level to the Ohio Gas Access Partnership. OGAP is a coalition seeking long term solutions to Ohio's future energy needs. Mr. Ritter said Washington County is demonstrating to the State that we are serious about local development. Jesse Roush, Port Authority, agreed that OGAP membership will support development in the area.

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

RE: ENGINEER – DEVOLA SEWER PROJECT, INVOICE #3

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve payment to RDR Utility Services Group for Devola Sewer Project Phase 2 – Invoice #3. The total amount of the invoice is \$908,858.67 with \$72,708.69 of that amount being retainage held.

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

RE: ENGINEER – CHANGE ORDER #1, DEVOLA SEWER PROJECT

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1 for the Devola Sewer Project Phase 2. The change order revises the completion dates for all work, excluding the final completion date of October 1, 2025. Roger Wright, County Engineer, said the availability of materials changed the milestone dates of the project.

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

RE: ENGINEER – USDA LOAN CLOSING DOCUMENTS FOR TRACTOR

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the closing documents for the USDA Equipment Bond, Series 2023 in the sum of \$175,000 for the purchase of a mowing tractor for the County Engineer. Washington County will make principal and interest payments annually for 10 years with an interest rate of 2.125% per annum, commencing February 1, 2024.

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

RE: VEREGY – PHASE 2 ENERGY PROJECT, INVOICE #6

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve payment to Veregy for the Phase 2 Energy Project – Invoice #6. The total amount of the invoice is \$879,997.47. Of the total project cost of \$14,188,034, the total billed to date is \$3,498,104.66. The majority of the invoice is for HVAC and roofing work.

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

RE: FCF – EARLY CHILDHOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE GRANT, ATTACHMENT A

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve the Early Childhood Safety Initiative Grant Application Attachment 'A' for Family & Children First. The attachment includes Executive Order 2022-02D, a disclosure of lobbying activities, and a certification regarding lobbying. Cindy Davis, FCF, said the attachment is for the ECSI Grant for fiscal year 2024.

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

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF MARIETTA ODOT TAP APPLICATION

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a Letter of Support for the City of Marietta's application for ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds to benefit transportation infrastructure in the vicinity of East Muskingum Park. The proposed project constitutes the second phase of improvements for pedestrian and cyclist safety and accessibility in that area. Mr. Booth said he appreciates what the City is doing for the nation's 250th anniversary celebration.

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

RE: CCAO ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve placing Natural Gas and Electric Aggregation Programs on the May 2, 2023 ballot, provided there are other issues that will be on the ballot. John Leutz, CCAO Assistant Director, said placing these two issues on the ballot will allow residents to vote on an aggregation program for unincorporated areas of the county. Mr. Leutz said eleven thousand households would benefit from the program. Mr. Leutz said aggregation would save the average household \$100 a year on energy costs.

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

RE: COMMENTS

Commissioner Schilling read the following statement:

I feel over the last two years this Board of Commissioners has raised the bar when

it comes to gaining access to resources that will provide better infrastructure for our residents. We have engaged with Sunday Creek Horizons to advocate for us and provide a better footprint for accessing funding. We have also been able to provide resources for Washington County entities through our Grant Department.

The access to natural gas in parts of Washington County has been a road block in the past for securing economic growth. There has been millions of dollars that have been attained for water and sewer projects, most notably the Devola Sewer and Lowell Water.

Now I believe it's our time to provide support in areas here in Washington County when accessing natural gas. Access to natural gas is a "game changer" especially at the Muskingum River Industrial Park. I feel right now is the best time to support OGAP and the Energize Ohio bill. This bill will provide many resources for our SeOPA.

Jesse Roush and the Port Authority have obviously been trying to fill the gaps when talking about natural gas and how that would impact MRIP along with other areas on the Route 7 corridor between Marietta and Belpre. Understanding the limited resources he has I believe as a Commissioner this is a way for us to impact economic growth here in Washington County.

Commissioner Booth said safe water in Matamoras has seen big movement and thanked the Ohio EPA for being a partner with the County.

RE: SOUTHEAST OHIO BROADBAND COOPERATIVE – UPDATE

David Brown, Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative, provided an update to the Commissioners. Mr. Brown said SEOBC is active on 9 MARCS towers, 3 non MARCS towers, and 7 repeater towers. Mr. Brown said the COOP has 400 subscribers and provides wifi at three school buildings and to local VFD at no cost. Mr. Brown said there are supply chain issues with fiber optic cable. The COOP currently has two employees and four volunteers. Mr. Booth asked how much Mr. Brown is paid by the COOP. Mr. Brown said that he and the other board members get paid nothing.

RE: BID OPENING – CDBG LOWER SALEM / MATAMORAS

At 10 a.m. the Commissioners opened sealed bids received for the Lower Salem Park Improvement, a CDBG funded project. Michelle Hyer and Jada Riley, Buckeye Hills, were present for the bid opening. One bid was received for the project.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Snider Recreation	\$ 105,655.00

No bids were received for the Matamoras project.

RE: OSU EXT – UPDATE

Amanda Bohlen, Alexis Masterson, and Samantha Farnsworth from OSU Extension gave the Commissioners a brief update on their work. Ms. Masterson was recently hired as Program Assistant for family and consumer sciences. Ms. Farnsworth is working as an intern. Ms. Bohlen said there will be a panel discussion at the Barlow Fairgrounds on March 25 on the topic of mental health with community partners. Ms. Bohlen said depression is an issue on farms, with the long hours, isolation, and increasing costs.

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 10:49 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk