

**THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON APRIL 12, 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. BOOTH OFFERED PRAYER.**

Also attending:

Flite Freimann, Director JFS  
Rick Dostal, Chief Building Official  
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee  
Karen Doan  
Rob Grant, Grant Department  
Philip Schaffer, Grant Department  
Roger Wright, County Engineer  
Dawn Freeland, Job & Family Services  
Jarrod Jenks, Job & Family Services  
Kimberly Lowers, Child Support Enforcement Agency  
David Brown, Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative  
Karl Comstock, Maintenance Superintendent  
Diane Davis, HR Director  
John Ferragonio, ABM Infrastructure Solutions  
Nancy Taylor, *Marietta Times*  
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners  
AGENDA  
9:00 am, April 12, 2023**

9:00 Business Meeting  
9:30 JFS – PRC Plan  
10:00 Bid Opening – JFS Copiers

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

MOU with ABM Infrastructure Solutions

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Agenda  
Approval of previous meeting minutes  
Bills from various departments  
Resolution to recognize Nathan Russel  
Resolution to recognize J.J. Bichard  
Additional Appropriation – Building Demolition Grant  
Additional Appropriation – Sheriff  
Additional Appropriation – FCF  
Transfer – Common Pleas  
Then & Now  
Travel – Children Services, Family & Children First  
Commissioners – RFP for Energy Aggregation Consultant  
Transit – 2022 Project Closeout  
ODOD – OCEAN User Approval for Brad Peoples (Buckeye Hills)  
Engineer – Storage Agreement with Masonic Park Corporation  
Engineer – SR 555 & C-111 Intersection Relocation  
BWC Safety Grant – Discussion  
Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative – Discussion

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Finance Meeting, April 18 at 10 a.m. in the Commissioner Assembly Room  
Local Community Corrections Planning Board Meeting, April 19 at noon, Marietta  
Municipal Court, Courtroom A  
Commissioner Meeting, Wednesday, April 26 at 9 a.m. in Assembly Room

**RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Add: JFS – 311 Third Street Building Occupancy

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. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the April 6, 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. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling 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 RECOGNIZE NATHAN RUSSEL**

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

*WHEREAS*, Nathan Russel is a volunteer with the Devola Volunteer Fire Department with 30 years of service; and  
*WHEREAS*, Mr. Russel has held multiple offices throughout his years of service including Chief.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Board of Washington County Commissioners acknowledges and commends Nathan Russel for 30 years of service and dedication as a volunteer firefighter.

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

**RE: RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE J.J. BICHARD**

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

*WHEREAS*, J.J. Bichard is a volunteer with the Devola Volunteer Fire Department with 30 years of service; and  
*WHEREAS*, Mr. Bichard has held multiple offices throughout his years of service including Chief.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Board of Washington County Commissioners acknowledges and commends J.J. Bichard for 30 years of service and dedication as a volunteer firefighter.

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 Demolition Grant	215-0809-53000	\$ 450,000.00
Building Demolition Grant	215-0809-57500	\$ 50,000.00
Sheriff Security & Transport	100-0385-54400	\$ 8,679.04
Family & Children First	602-2031-53000	\$ 152,204.64
Family & Children First	602-2031-53003	\$ 39,811.99
Family & Children First	602-2031-53006	\$ 32,313.34

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 requests for the following transfer of funds:

<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Common Pleas	100-0201-54000	100-0201-54400	\$ 3,000.00

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>
Prosecutor	200-0311-57400	Matrix Pointe	\$ 16,035.17

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. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling 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

Dawn Freeland & Michelle Brown: County Finance Information System Conference in Lewis Center on October 2-3. Due to distance and time, overnight lodging is requested for October 2, 2023.

Family & Children First

Cindy Davis, LeAnn Welch, Sybille Saxton, Megan Tredway, Christina Coulter: Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow Home Visiting Conference in Columbus on April 25-26, 2023.

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

**RE: COMMISSIONERS – RFP FOR ENERGY AGGREGATION CONSULTANT**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve a Request for Proposal for a consultant to manage the County's opt-out natural gas and electricity aggregation program. The aggregation program is contingent upon the approval by a majority of the electors voting at the May 2, 2023 primary election. The consultant will perform all services related to administering the County's aggregation program. Sealed proposals must be received by 10 a.m. on May 4, 2023 in the office of the Commissioners.

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

**RE: TRANSIT – 2022 PROJECT CLOSEOUT**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the ODOT 5311 Rural Transit Program Project Closeout for the project period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. The final operating budget statement shows the actual total project cost as \$437,195.

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

**RE: ODOD – OCEAN USER APPROVAL FOR BRAD PEOPLES (BUCKEYE HILLS)**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a request from Buckeye Hills to allow Brad Peoples user access to the Ohio Department of Development OCEAN Information System. Buckeye Hills serves as the administrator for various grants received by Washington County.

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

**RE: ENGINEER – STORAGE AGREEMENT WITH MASONIC PARK CORPORATION**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve an agreement with Masonic Park Corporation for storage of materials needed for the Devola Sewer Project. The storage area is adjacent to County property on Masonic Park Lane. The agreement shall remain in effect until completion of the project, approximately December 31, 2025. Mr. Booth said Masonic Park is not charging the County for storing materials on the property, it is just a hold harmless agreement.

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

**RE: ENGINEER – SR 555 & C-111 INTERSECTION RELOCATION**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a request from the Engineer to begin the process of relocating County Road 111 at the intersection of State Route 555. The intersection is dangerous due to limited sight distance when looking northward and attempting to turn onto the state route. Multiple accidents and a fatality have occurred at this intersection. The County would need to purchase 2.938 acres for \$25,000 from the Clifford F. Layner Trust to complete the relocation project. The Engineer proposes using Motor Vehicle Gas Tax funds to complete the acquisition of the Trust property. A public viewing and hearing will be scheduled at a later date. Mr. Ritter said the

public has the opportunity to comment on this issue.

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

**RE: BWC SAFETY GRANT – DISCUSSION**

The Commissioners briefly discussed a safety intervention grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation. Diane Davis, HR Director, said the grant provides \$40,000 to purchase safety equipment. The grant requires a 25% match. Ms. Davis said the Sewer Department and Jail are considering equipment such as lift gates and a chest compression machine. Mr. Booth asked if the purchases would need to be bid. Rob Grant, Grant Department, said if the total is over \$50,000 it would need to be bid.

**RE: SOUTHEAST OHIO BROADBAND COOPERATIVE – DISCUSSION**

David Brown, SEOBC, said the recent wind storms damaged equipment and one site, a repeater station, was completely destroyed. Mr. Booth said he received a call from a customer that needs internet for medical equipment and their repeater was blown off the roof. Mr. Booth suggested the Cooperative put up a more permanent repeater station at that location. Mr. Ritter asked if the Cooperative has put money aside for maintenance. Mr. Brown said the Cooperative will discuss rates at their upcoming meeting. Mr. Schilling said funding for the Cooperative has been discussed in the past and that ARPA funds were previously earmarked for the Cooperative. Mr. Brown said he would like someone to do a financial audit of the Cooperative to show the public how the money is spent.

**RE: JFS – 311 THIRD STREET BUILDING OCCUPANCY**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve Washington County Department of Job & Family Services to occupy 311 Third Street in Marietta for the next 20 years.

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

**RE: MOU WITH ABM INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to return to the table the MOU with ABM Infrastructure Solutions. A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor.

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with ABM Infrastructure Solutions. Mr. Booth said ADR & Associates is about 95% complete with the lift station design project. Mr. Booth is not in favor of another agreement. Mr. Ritter said it is not likely the County would follow through with ABM and does not want to waste the company's time. Mr. Schilling thanked ABM for their interest in the project.

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

**RE: JFS – PRC PLAN**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve a request from JFS to offer additional utility assistance under the contingency benefit of the current PRC Plan. To be eligible for the one-time assistance, households will have to have a minor child and income below 200% of the federal poverty level. Having prior PRC will not make the household ineligible, however, every adult in the household must sign a repayment agreement. Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said the sewer bills would have to be in arrears for assistance. Mr. Ritter said he is interested in helping the elderly that are on fixed incomes that need assistance. Mr. Freimann said help is available for Medicaid recipients, but TANF dollars can only help families with children. Mr. Schilling asked if this is creating unnecessary work. Mr. Schilling said JFS already has assistance in place. Mr. Freimann said this is another opportunity to help those hurt by inflation.

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

**RE: BID OPENING – JFS COPIERS**

At 10:00 a.m. the Commissioners opened sealed bids that were received for JFS Copiers. Flite Freimann, Dawn Freeland, and Jarrod Jenks from Job & Family Services were also present. Three bids were received. The following companies submitted bids: Poynters, CWS Office Solutions, and iTech. JFS will review the bids and compile a bid tabulation in the next few days.

**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 10:03 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_, President

\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_, Member

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk