

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON MAY 4, 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  
Philip Schaffer, Grant Department  
Gary Doan, Muskingum Township Trustee  
Karen Doan  
Katie Warden, Marietta Police Chief  
Emily Griffin, Engineer's Office  
Rick Dostal, Chief Building Official  
Karl Comstock, Maintenance Superintendent  
Diane Davis, HR Director  
Amanda Bohlen, OSU Extension  
Deana Clark, Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Nancy Taylor, *Marietta Times*  
Ben Cowdery, Fiscal Manager/Clerk

**Washington County Commissioners  
AGENDA  
9:00 am, May 4, 2023**

9:00 Business Meeting  
9:30 OSU Ext. – Update  
10:00 Bid Opening – Energy Aggregation  
10:05 CVB – Deana Clark

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Agenda  
Approval of previous meeting minutes  
Bills from various departments  
Resolution to establish new fund for Engineer  
Additional Appropriation – Belpre Outpost  
Additional Appropriation – Jail  
Additional Appropriation – Engineer (2)  
Transfer – Belpre Outpost  
Transfer – Auditor (2)  
Travel – Children Services, Family & Children First  
Common Pleas – T-CAP Grant Statement of Agreement  
FCF – ODJFS Affirmation and Disclosure Form  
Sheriff – Monthly Report on Care of Prisoners for April  
Delinquent Sewer Accounts  
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts  
Engineer – OPWC Grant/Loan Agreement for C-10 & C-16 Resurfacing  
Engineer – Contract for C-133 Emergency Landslip Repair  
Engineer – Request to purchase trailer  
Engineer – Annual Report for Roads and Bridges

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Commissioner Meeting, Wednesday, May 17 at 8 a.m. in Assembly Room  
Courthouse closed Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day

**RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Add: Travel – Job & Family Services

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 April 26, 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 ESTABLISH NEW FUND FOR ENGINEER**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to adopt a resolution to establish a new fund in the Auditor's bookkeeping system for the Hills Covered Bridge Project PID #109047. Federal funds have been made available through an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the project. ODOT will provide 95% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum of \$568,800 in federal funds from the Transportation Alternative Program. The purpose of the new fund is to track the revenue and expense of the awarded funds for the project. The number and name of the new fund in the Auditor's system is as follows:

300-0593 HILLS COVERED BRIDGE PID 109047

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>
Belpre Outpost	210-0556-57200	\$ 8,093.37
Jail	100-0381-54200	\$ 45,000.00
Engineer	300-0591-55000	\$ 281,983.23
Engineer	200-0540-55501	\$ 900,000.00
Engineer	200-0540-55502	\$ 400,000.00

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

**RE: TRANSFERS**

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

<u>Department</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Belpre Outpost	210-0556-57200	100-0104-49200	\$ 8,093.37
Auditor	100-0120-52001	100-0120-52000	\$ 350.00
Auditor REA	200-0122-53400	200-0122-54000	\$ 2,000.00

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

Tami Downs: Required monthly visits in Maysville, KY on May 4; Lancaster on May 8; Coshocton on May 22, 2023

Katy Biehl: Required monthly visits in Toledo on May 9; Zanesville on May 12 & 25; Newark on May 15 & 17; Millersburg on May 23; Cincinnati on May 26, 2023

Ashley Harris: Required monthly visits in Chandlersville on May 3; Caldwell on May 4 & 11; Cambridge on May 9; Newark/Pleasantville on May 19; Cincinnati on May 26, 2023

Rebecca Trent: Required monthly visits in Parkersburg, WV on May 9 & 22; Vienna, WV on May 19, 2023

Family & Children First

Elaine Corbitt & Joanne Beal: Trauma Informed Care Summit in Columbus on May 16 & 17, 2023

Job & Family Services

Jarrold Jenks & Curtis Jacobsen: IT Class at Salt Fork State Park in Guernsey County on May 12, 2023

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

**RE: COMMON PLEAS – T-CAP GRANT STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 T-CAP Grant Statement of Agreement pertaining to the grant requirements and county plan. The Washington County Court of Common Pleas plans to use T-CAP grant funds to expand pretrial and probation services. The Adult Probation Department staffing increase would result in referrals to community partners and reduce incarceration. The Court plans to reimburse the county jail for T-CAP offenders at the per diem rate of \$100, but not to exceed \$50,000 annually, which represents less than 50% of the grant allotment.

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

**RE: FCF – ODJFS AFFIRMATION AND DISCLOSURE FORM**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve, on behalf of Family & Children First, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Standard Affirmation and Disclosure Form for Executive Order 2022-02D.

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 APRIL**

The Commissioners acknowledged receipt of the monthly report on the care of prisoners at the Washington County Jail for the month of April 2023. The report shows a total prisoner count of 266. The Jail received \$15,800 for housing prisoners from other jurisdictions for the month.

**RE: DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth 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 approve certification of the following list of delinquent sewer accounts to the County Auditor. 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>
05-0009976-000	\$ 341.10	26-0037872-000	\$ 329.50
05-0010452-000	\$ 341.10	11-0047955-000	\$ 341.10
11-0045784-003	\$ 341.10	07-0024061-000	\$ 341.10
07-0024066-000	\$ 341.10	07-0023284-000	\$ 342.55
07-0024031-000	\$ 341.10	07-0023358-000	\$ 341.10
06-0018344-000	\$ 329.25		

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

**RE: ENGINEER – OPWC GRANT/LOAN AGREEMENT FOR C-10 & C-16 RESURFACING**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve the Ohio Public Works Commission Project Grant/Loan Agreement for the County Road 10 & 16 Resurfacing Project. OPWC will provide financial assistance in the form of a grant in the amount of \$381,000. OPWC will lend the amount of \$396,671 at a rate equal to 0% to be repaid in semi-annual installments over 10 years. The project will consist of asphalt resurfacing 7.8 miles with an average width of 21 feet. All roads will also receive centerline stripe.

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

**RE: ENGINEER – CONTRACT FOR C-133 EMERGENCY LANDSLIP REPAIR**

Mr. Schilling moved and Mr. Booth seconded a motion to approve a contract with Bob

Lane's Welding for the County Road 133 (Moss Run Road) Emergency Landslip Repair. Work will begin next week so the road can be reopened. The cost of the repair is \$30,983.

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

**RE: ENGINEER – REQUEST TO PURCHASE TRAILER**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve a request from the County Engineer to purchase a 2023 Eager Beaver 20XPT Trailer. The purchase price is \$30,768 and will be paid with Motor Vehicle Gas Tax funds.

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

**RE: ENGINEER – ANNUAL REPORT FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES**

Mr. Booth moved and Mr. Schilling seconded a motion to approve receipt of the Engineer's Annual Report for Roads and Bridges for calendar year 2022. The Engineer is responsible for maintaining 341 miles of county roads and 378 bridges. Roger Wright, Engineer, will discuss the report and answer any questions next week at the Commissioners Meeting.

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

**RE: COMMENTS**

Rick Dostal, Building Department, said he appreciates that the Commissioners open their meetings with the pledge and a prayer.

Flite Freimann, Director JFS, said there are over 3,000 suspended driver licenses in Washington County. Mr. Freimann said JFS is helping to pay fines to get licenses reinstated.

Mr. Schilling thanked the Council of Governments from Monroe, Morgan, Noble, and Washington Counties for utilizing federal funds for student and business outreach. Mr. Schilling said the collaboration with JFS and Building Bridges 2 Careers has a shared vision to build the workforce from within. Mr. Schilling attended an event in Columbus last night that discussed providing resources for mental health services for children.

Mr. Booth said that, in regards to the murder/suicide that occurred last week, help is available. Mr. Booth thanked the CCAO for lobbying for indigent defense and said the state would go back to 100% reimbursement.

Mr. Ritter read the following statement:

*I cannot let the opportunity pass without sharing a few thoughts on Marietta College's recent decision to rebrand. Here is a press release issued by the College earlier this week. The highlighted portion reads:*

*"The committee appointed to examine the College's standard athletics logo worked with an outside vendor, who confirmed that having a person represent athletics is NOT INCLUSIVE and does not reflect the College's mission."*

*The "person" the statement refers to is the familiar cartoonish image of an 18<sup>th</sup> century pioneer complete with a tri-corner hat.*

*That's what the College is canceling? Because it's not inclusive? Is inclusivity really the purpose of such an image?*

*Traditionally, colleges have chosen mascots to publicly project a certain message or set of virtues the institution believes are worthwhile. I have to ask again, what does the Pioneer represent that the College finds so offensive?*

*Maybe it's the courage of those who first came to the Ohio Valley? Or possibly the resourcefulness necessary to survive under challenging conditions? Or is maybe the devout Christian beliefs that so many of the pioneers carried with them into this area.*

*Of course, I am speaking somewhat tongue in cheek. I think most of us understand the reason for the change. Marietta College is not immune from the ideological "wokism" that has infected so many of our nation's colleges and universities.*

*This sort of radical ideology has infected our culture and because culture is to humans as water is to fish we are all in danger of being sickened by it.*

*I hold out hope that the College might realize how utterly out of step the reasoning for this decision is with the values of many of their alumni who have already weighed in on the change. As one of them recently commented, "Angering those who have generously supported the college over the years is hardly inclusive."*

**RE: OSU EXTENSION – UPDATE**

Amanda Bohlen, OSU Extension Office, provided the Commissioners with an update of the Family and Consumer Sciences Program. Ms. Bohlen continues to provide training in restaurants and is working with food service at the schools. Ms. Bohlen said the USDA is working on new school nutrition standards for 2025. Ms. Bohlen said the hospital is

seeking a grant for a prescription produce program.

**RE: BID OPENING – ENERGY AGGREGATION CONSULTANT**

Two sealed bids were received for consultant to manage the County’s opt-out natural gas and electricity aggregation program. Ben Cowdery, Clerk, opened the bids and announced the results. The Commissioners will fully review the proposals and award the contract at a later date. The bid tab is below.

Buckeye Energy	\$ 0.0005 kWh	\$ 0.05 Mcf
Palmer Energy	\$ 0.00045 kWh	\$ 0.05 Mcf

**RE: CVB – DEANA CLARK**

Deana Clark, Executive Director Marietta-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, provided the Commissioners with a presentation of the updated CVB website and played several promotional videos. Ms. Clark said the city and county bed tax is the main source of revenue for CVB. Ms. Clark said there quite a few Airbnb and Vrbo rentals operating throughout the county that are unaware of the bed tax. Ms. Clark suggesting sending letters out to inform the operators of their responsibility to remit that tax to the county. The Commissioners said it is the responsibility of the Auditor to notify of taxes owed.

**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 10:35 a.m.

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

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

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

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