

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON JANUARY 13, 2014 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVID A. WHITE, PRESIDENT, RONALD L. FEATHERS, VICE PRESIDENT, AND TIMOTHY C. IRVINE, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.

Also attending were Attorney Tom Webster, Bruce Kelbaugh, Jamey Styer from WMOA Radio, County Administrator Paul Cunningham, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

AGENDA
2014 Organizational Meeting
January 13, 2014
9:00 a.m.

Election of Officers
Appointments of Personnel
Meeting Day and Time
Off-site Meetings
Office Hours
Assignments of Commissioners
2014 Projects & Initiatives

RE: AGENDA

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to accept the agenda

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: David White aye, Ronald Feathers aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Feathers as President of the Board of Commissioners of Washington County for the year 2014.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: David White aye, Ronald Feathers aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to appoint Mr. White as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners of Washington County for the year 2014.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: David White aye, Ronald Feathers aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

At this point in the meeting Commissioner Feathers assumed the position of President and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

RE: APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONNEL

Mr. White moved and Mr. Irvine seconded a motion to approve the following list of personnel to serve in the capacities indicated during 2014:

Commissioners' Clerk	Rick Peoples
Emergency Management Coordinator	Jeff Lauer
County Home Administrator	Ted Williams
Job & Family Services Director	Tom Ballengee
Child Support Enforcement Agency Director	Kim Hinkle
Apiary Inspector	Michael DeVaughn
I.T. Director	Gerry Lockhart
Director of Human Resources, Safety & Loss Control	Darla Miller

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Irvine said there has been a great deal of discussion of the County Administrator position. He said he has given much thought and consideration to the proposal to not fill the position. He noted has been a Commissioner for three years and has worked with four different Commissioners. Mr. Irvine said Commissioners come and go, but the Commissioners' Office responsibilities are everyday operations, and oversight of these functions needs to be consistent and stable. He indicated the Commissioners have discussed assuming some of the Administrator's responsibilities themselves, with the Clerk and Director of Human Resources assuming some as well, but those job functions have yet to be identified. In his opinion, Mr. Irvine said, the Commissioners need more time to review all office duties, prepare up-to-date

job descriptions, and invite input from staff. He noted additional software modules should come on-line in the next few months, and it would be appropriate to delay any decision to not fill the Administrator's job until the impact of this financial system enhancement is known. Commissioners Irvine said the Commissioners should step back, take a breath, and appropriately transition into any changes.

Commissioner White said change is needed within the Commissioners' Office and rather than postpone that change until later, it should be done now as the problem would still exist. He said the Commissioners need to make a decision and cannot move forward "status quo". He proposed setting a definite future date in deference to some members' reluctance, perhaps 30 days or so, allowing time to address uncertainties.

Mr. Feathers said the Administrator position is relatively new, having started on or about January 13, 2010. After careful review over the past year, he said he believes the job responsibilities to be redundant. He noted the Director of Human Resources will assume some of the job functions, and there may be a need for a Fiscal or Budget Clerk, rather than an Administrator. Mr. Feathers said the Commissioners are elected to oversee the County in an efficient, effective manner and, while they do not intend to change staff every two or three years, they may have the need to periodically reorganize. He said he believes it to be in the best interest of taxpayers to not have a County Administrator.

County Administrator Paul Cunningham noted that throughout Ohio 77% of counties the approximate size of Washington County have Administrators. He acknowledged this proposed action of the Commissioners, but said he respectfully disagrees with it. He said since he has been in the position he has saved the County over \$91,000, and his salary is not out of line considering his years of experience and in relation to other county administrators. He noted two weeks ago the Commissioners praised their entire staff for jobs well done, and yet now he is informed that he'll no longer be needed. Mr. Cunningham said with a new phone system and financial system improvements being considered, this is not a good time to eliminate his position. He said he works every day to save the taxpayers money.

Bruce Kelbaugh spoke in favor of not eliminating the County Administrator position. He said the Commissioners certainly have the right to take such action, but should take it only if it benefits the County. He said he believes elimination of the position will be detrimental to the County. Mr. Kelbaugh said the Commissioners shouldn't be taking on more of the role of administration in the office, as they should be out in the County and in the region promoting and developing the economy. He recalled when Mr. Cunningham was appointed to the newly-created position the office was in desperate need of his services, and he turned it around. He said he believes the Commissioners to be honest and responsible elected officials, but he noted he respectfully disagrees with the decision to eliminate the County Administrator position.

Commissioner Feathers said he believes the Commissioners are acting in the best interest of the citizens of Washington County, and that a county the size of this does not warrant an administrator. He noted this has been an extremely difficult decision.

Mr. Kelbaugh noted Mr. Cunningham makes decisions and recommendations based on data and fact, rather than politics. He said Paul is today defending the position rather than himself, and that he has carried that self-less attitude throughout his career.

Mr. Feathers said the Commissioners did not go looking for this issue, but "it found them". After personal observation and discussion, he believes the County needs to be more streamlined, effective, and transparent, with open lines of communication. He said he is not "out to get someone", but merely looking at ways to improve County operations.

To Mr. Cunningham's request to be informed of what the problems are with him, Mr. Feathers said that in this open meeting it is not appropriate to discuss.

Commissioner White said the need for a County Administrator simply no longer exists. The job instead calls for a clerk.

Tom Webster said the question of whether the County needs an Administrator is systematic. He said the position was created at a time when the office needed it. Day-to-day operations, according to Mr. Webster, should be administered by someone other than the Commissioners, and the Commissioners should be "out and about". He said he believes that elimination of the position will help to return the County to fiscal chaos. He noted today's decision will impact not only the current commissioners, but those in the future as well.

Commissioner Feathers informed those attending that the proposal to eliminate the County Administrator position was developed over a period of time, after much fact-finding. He said a job description for a Fiscal or Budget Clerk has yet to be developed, but he believes the County should move forward with the change as planned.

After Mr. Kelbaugh asked the Commissioners why they didn't inquire of Mr. Cunningham what his job responsibilities entailed, and then observe over the past year, Mr. Cunningham asked why he was given a 2% pay increase just two weeks ago.

Commissioner White responded the increase was across-the-board for Commissioners' office staff, and he was hopeful Mr. Cunningham would continue to serve the County for a short time to facilitate transition.

To Jamey Styer's question of whether the Commissioners considered re-writing job descriptions and re-assigning responsibilities, Mr. White said that's exactly what they are doing.

Mr. Irvine moved to appoint Paul Cunningham as County Administrator for 2014.

Mr. White seconded the motion and amended it to include an ending date of February 14, 2014 to the appointment of Mr. Cunningham as County Administrator.

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to accept the amendment to Mr. Irvine's motion.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine nay.

Mr. White moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to appoint Paul Cunningham as County Administrator through February 14, 2014.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine nay.

Mr. Cunningham told the Commissioners he considers this action taken by the Commissioners to be unfair to him. Commissioner Irvine thanked Mr. Cunningham for his many years of service to the citizens of Washington County, and especially the help and guidance he provided as Mr. Irvine assumed office.

RE: MEETING DAY AND TIME

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to set the day and time for Regular Meetings of the Commissioners at 9:00 a.m. each Thursday during 2014.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: OFF-SITE MEETINGS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Irvine seconded a motion to periodically schedule Regular Meetings of the Commissioners at off-site locations as follows:

Newport Township (Newport) – February
Belpre Township (Little Hocking) – May
Fearing Township (Stanleyville) – August
Wesley Township (Bartlett) – November

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: OFFICE HOURS

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to set the office hours for the Commissioners' Office to be 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, during 2014.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: ASSIGNMENTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to assign Commissioners to boards, commissions, and committees as follows:

Mr. Feathers

Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)
Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council (alternate)
Caring Connection
Law Library
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Sewer Department Operations
Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC)
Washington County Emergency Management Services
Washington County Resource Team
Integrating Committee (alternate)
Records Commission
Wood-Washington-Wirt (WWW) Interstate Planning Commission

Mr. Irvine

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District
Executive Committee
Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) Board of Directors
Integrating Committee/Issue II
Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
Family & Children First Council
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Airport Authority

Mr. White

Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council
Apiary Inspector
Buckeye Hills Resource Conservation & Development (RC & D) Council
Beverly-Waterford Chamber of Commerce
Duck Creek Partnership Association
Re-Entry Committee
Washington County Council on Aging
Washington County Resource Team
Prevailing Wage Coordinator

Shared

Budget
Buildings and Grounds
Community Development
County Home
Emergency Management Agency
Health and Property Insurance
Investment Committee
I.T. Department
Southeastern Ohio Port Authority (SEOPA) – rotate attendance
Joint Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors
Washington County Planning Commission
Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
Shale Development Committee

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR CCAO

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White 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 (CCAO) 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 Ronald L. Feathers is designated as the Official Voting Representative of Washington County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that David A. White is designated as the Alternate Voting Representative of Washington County.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: REPRESENTATIVES TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to appoint Commissioner Feathers as the representative to the Washington County Emergency Medical Association, and Commissioner White as the Alternate.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: Ronald Feathers aye, David White aye, Timothy Irvine aye. Motion passed.

RE: PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

The Commissioners shared a list of projects and initiatives they intend to pursue during 2014, as follows:

- Complete poultry & rabbit barn construction
- Complete SEOPA Ingenuity Center
- Continue build-out of county-wide broadband – Smart Networks
- Upgrade financial management system
- Upgrade/replace telephone system
- Upgrade utility billing system
- Pursue leasing County Home mineral rights
- Devola sanitary sewer system
- Continue preservation of historic records
- Replace HVAC system at JFS building
- Pave Muskingum Drive campus

It was noted this is a working document, and will change throughout the year.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Irvine moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to adjourn.

A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk