

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON DECEMBER 4, 2014 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: RONALD L. FEATHERS, PRESIDENT, DAVID A. WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT, AND RICK WALTERS, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. FEATHERS LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.

Also attending were County Engineer Roger Wright, Muskingum Township Trustee Gary Doan, Amanda Nicholson from *The Marietta Times*, Justin Bradley from WMOA Radio, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 a.m., December 4, 2014**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:15 County Auditor Bill McFarland – DTE Energy Services Project
9:30 Dog Warden Kelly McGilton – Animal Claim
10:00 County Treasurer Dorothy Peppel – Investment Committee
10:30 Rick Venham, ODOT – Construction Update

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution – DTE Energy Services Project

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Additional Appropriation – Building Permits
Transfer – Veterans
Transfer – Maintenance
Transfer – Soil & Water Conservation
Transfer – Sheriff (4)
Transfer – Child Support Enforcement Agency
Then & Now's
Request for Senior Levy Funds
Engineer – ODOT Agreement for Traffic Safety Study
Delinquent Sewer Accounts
Certification of Delinquent Sewer Accounts to County Auditor

INFORMATION

Monthly Meeting at Washington County Home, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, December 9
Joint Solid Waste Committee Meeting, 12:00 p.m., **Monday**, December 15, Lori's
Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., **Monday**, December 15
Finance Committee, 10:00 a.m., **Tuesday**, December 16

RE: AGENDA

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to accept the agenda.

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2014 meeting, and to dispense with the reading of them.

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

RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the payment of bills from various departments.

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

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the following request for additional appropriation:

Building Permits	100-0170-55200	\$ 668.99
------------------	----------------	-----------

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

RE: TRANSFERS

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

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Veterans 700.00	100-0700-54400	100-0700-54000	\$
1,000.00	100-0701-57401	100-0700-54000	\$
Maintenance 15,000.00	100-0109-55200	100-0109-53000	\$
Building Permits 667.59	200-2040-53000	200-2040-51102	\$
Sheriff 532.08	100-0381-51104	100-0392-57400	\$
2,000.00	100-0384-54404	100-0384-54000	\$
3,000.00	100-0384-54404	100-0384-53500	\$
1,050.00	100-0381-51104	100-0380-51102	\$
5,000.00	100-0381-51104	100-0381-53000	\$
Child Support 821.91	200-0730-53400	200-0730-51102	\$

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

RE: THEN & NOW

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. White seconded a motion to approve the following Then & Now:

Dept	Account	Vendor	Amount
Sheriff Department	100-0384-53000	Creative Microsystems	\$ 9,372.00
Sheriff Department	100-0384-57400	Gary's Towing	\$ 110.00

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

RE: REQUEST FOR SENIOR LEVY FUNDS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve a request from Independence Township Senior Citizens for Senior Levy Funds in the amount of \$458.00 to purchase two sets of indoor flagpoles for use at their Center.

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

Mr. White explained the Independence Township Senior Citizens did not participate in the recent Senior Levy Committee meeting because they were unaware of it, due to the mailing of notification to a former address of the treasurer for that organization. He noted Independence Township Seniors were scheduled to receive the \$500.00 allocated to each of the ten centers around the County, and now they will be provided this additional \$458.00.

President Feathers said after this allocation the remaining balance in Senior Levy funds available in 2015 for emergency use by centers is \$18,893.46.

RE: ODOT AGREEMENT FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY STUDY

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve an Agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the 2015 Safety Study for Washington County, with 90% of the project cost to be paid by federal highway funds and approximately \$1,024.80 to be paid by the County, and to allow Mr. Feathers to sign the Agreement, as requested by County Engineer Roger Wright.

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

RE: DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve sending letters to the following holders of delinquent sewer accounts, requesting them to immediately pay on those accounts: Jack Lane, Marcella Haddox Collins, Brad Merritt, Kathy McKittrick, Kevin Reeder (for 10 Mill and 20 Mill Street), Charles Randolph, Steve Rood, Kimberly Hammond, Sheila Riffey, Douglas Young, Burton Brown, John Albrecht, Mike and Ashley Matheny, Pat Ross, Scott Tallman, Joseph and Desiree Sigman, Laiana Kerns, Arron Howell, Carla Rasmussen, Tammy Gearhart, James and Brittany Brannon, Kareem Wright, David Carpenter, ODNR Division of Forestry.

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

RE: CERTIFICATION OF DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to certify the following delinquent sewer accounts to County Auditor Bill McFarland, requesting him to add the delinquent amounts to property tax bills: Michael Lee, Dan Turner (3), Heather Mannix/Bretthauer, John and Joann Edwards, William and Brigitte Ebert, Sarah Carpenter, Natalie Snyder, Theresa Hescht, Curt and Amber Welch, Jerry Biehl.

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

RE: DTE ENERGY SERVICES PROJECT

County Auditor Bill McFarland talked with the Commissioners about the application of DTE Marietta, LLC to participate in the State of Ohio Qualified Energy Program.

The Clerk explained he had received a call approximately two weeks ago from DTE Marietta, LLC, notifying the Commissioners that DTE is applying to participate in the State's Qualified Energy Program, and asking the Commissioners to lend their support to their application. Subsequent to that conversation, the Clerk and County Auditor talked with a representative from the Development Services Agency (DSA), which administers the Qualified Energy Program. That representative said DTE Energy is in the process of applying to participate in the program, and a step in the application process is for the County Commissioners to express their support for their application. It was noted there are currently about thirty businesses participating in this State of Ohio tax relief program.

Mr. McFarland shared his disappointment that the Commissioners are just now learning of DTE's desire to receive tax relief, as construction on the project actually began in April of 2014. He said tax relief is sometimes offered to a business or company that is considering locating in the County, and that might be the incentive needed to bring them into Washington County. That, he said, is obviously not the case here because (1) the project is tied directly into an existing business in Washington County, and (2) construction has proceeded to near completion without an approved program application.

Mr. McFarland said, based on DTE's estimation of \$4,400,000 real property value for the project and his assumption that tax rates won't change much next year, the taxes would be approximately \$69,240 each year. These taxes would be shared by Warren Local School, the Washington County Career Center, and Warren Township. Participation in this Qualified Energy Program will allow DTE to pay about \$13,000 less each year. This payment in lieu of taxes would be made directly to Washington County and no taxes would be payable to Warren Local School, the Career Center, or Warren Township.

President Feathers shared his concern that not approving the application might suggest the Commissioners are not supportive of local economic development and business expansion.

Mr. White recognized that approval of the application is not actually taking away funds from the three entities, as they are not currently receiving those taxes. They would, however, not receive what they otherwise would be paid in the form of taxes. He said application by DTE to participate so late in the facility construction phase of the project puts the Commissioners in an awkward position.

Mr. McFarland said he believes the tax relief to DTE to be unending, as long as they annually demonstrate to DSA their compliance with program guidelines. He said he considers this to be a decision the Commissioners must make on behalf of the citizens of Washington County, and in their best interest. Unfortunately, he said, not everyone will be pleased with the outcome.

The Commissioners decided to leave this matter in Unfinished Business until they have opportunity to talk with representatives of Warren Local Schools, Washington County Career Center, and Warren Township.

RE: ANIMAL CLAIM

Dog Warden Kelly McGilton presented to the Commissioners a claim for livestock damage. She said John Buegel notified her on November 22, 2014 that his 775 pound Black Angus calf had recently been destroyed by dog(s). As a result, he has filed with Washington County a

claim for \$500.00 in damages.

Ms. McGilton said her investigation revealed that damage to the calf did in fact appear to be caused by a dog, and not by coyote, bobcat, or other animal. She said Game Warden Eric Bear agreed with her that the extent and areas of damage on the calf suggested the damage was done by a dog.

Ms. McGilton said if a coyote had done the damage, application for damage relief would be made to the State of Ohio. The Ohio Revised Code allows for damages made by a dog to be paid the County in which the damage occurred. She noted the current market value of beef is \$2.50 per pound. ORC allows the Commissioners to pay fair market value, not to exceed \$500.00 per claim.

Mr. White moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve payment of \$500.00 from the Dog & Kennel Fund to claimant John Buegel, 1500 Fairview Ridge Road, New Matamoras, Ohio, for damages to his calf on or about November 22, 2014.

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

RE: INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

County Treasurer reported the following to the Commissioners:

Interest earned through 11/30/14	\$112,576.81
Interest earned through 11/30/13	\$209,862.86
Interest rate 11/30/14	0.035%
Interest rate 11/30/13	1.150%

Ms. Peppel said this is the final interest earnings report for 2014.

RE: ODOT CONSTRUCTION AND PROJECT UPDATE

Rick Venham and Ryan Mayle updated the Commissioners on projects the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has completed and those it intends to begin. They noted:

- This year has been a banner year for road repair/replacement in District 10, as 4,160 tons of bad asphalt were removed. That is nearly four times the average annual amount.
- District 10 recently purchased a new \$500,000 asphalt grinder, allowing for complex repair. They noted the machine will be shared among nine counties, and offered it for use on County projects as well.
- Salt bins are filled for the winter season.
- ODOT District 10 provided assistance to Beverly, Belpre, Marietta, New Matamoras and other entities throughout the year.
- ODOT is in the process of purchasing property at 2633 Waterford Road (west side of Marietta, near Oak Grove) to relocate several of its Washington County facilities. Eventually, ODOT facilities on Colegate Drive and State Route 26 will be relocated, but the office building on Muskingum Drive will remain with ODOT.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

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

A calling of the roll resulted in a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a .m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk