

THE DULY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OHIO, MET IN REGULAR SESSION ON APRIL 30, 2015 IN ACCORDANCE WITH OHIO REVISED CODE 305.05, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT: DAVID A. WHITE, PRESIDENT, RICK G. WALTERS, VICE PRESIDENT, AND RONALD L. FEATHERS, MEMBER. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M. BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD. MR. WHITE LED THOSE ATTENDING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO OUR FLAG.

Also attending were Justin Bradley from WMOA Radio, Muskingum Township Trustee Gary Doan, Amanda Nicholson from *The Marietta Times*, Lisa and Nicole Robertson, and Clerk Rick Peoples.

**Washington County Commissioners
AGENDA
9:00 a.m., April 30, 2015**

9:00 Business Meeting
9:30 Quote Opening, CDBG Projects
10:00 Board of Elections – 2015 Budget
11:00 Common Pleas, Probate/Juvenile Courts – 2015 Budget
1:00 Belpre Bike Path Committee
1:30 Karen Pierson, OSU Extension – CARTEEN's Program
2:00 Darlene Lukshin, OSU Extension – Community Development

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agenda
Approval of previous meeting's minutes
Bills from various departments
Then & Now's
Travel – Family & Children First
Request to Use Courthouse Steps for National Day of Prayer Event on May 7
Final Performance Report, Highland Ridge CDBG Project
Request to Hire Management Information Technology Specialist, JFS
Recommendation from David Haught on Courthouse Windows Project
Engineer – Contract with Bob Lane's Welding for Landslip Repair (2)
Engineer – Change Order #1, CR 102 Landslip Repair
Sewer Rate Consideration

INFORMATION

Council of Governments, 10:00 a.m., **Friday**, May 1, Caldwell
Elected Officials & Department Heads Meeting, 9:00 a.m., **Wednesday**, May 6
Monthly County Home Meeting, 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday**, May 12, at County Home

President White welcomed Nicole Robertson and her mother, Lisa. Nicole said she is a student at Fort Frye High School, and is taking a government class. A part of her assignment, she said, is to attend a public meeting. Mr. White thanked her for her interest in local government.

RE: AGENDA

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to accept the agenda, with the following adjustments:

Add: Travel – Family & Children First (2)

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

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the minutes for April 23, 2015, and to dispense with the reading of them.

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

RE: PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

RE: THEN & NOW'S

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

Dept	Account	Vendor	Amount
County Home	200-0630-53000	Marietta Memorial Hospital	\$ 142.00
Sewer	400-0113-53500	Larry Lang Excavating	\$ 890.00
Commissioners	100-0101-53400	Jared Erb	\$ 232.50
Commissioners	100-0101-53400	Jared Erb	\$ 240.00
Commissioners	700-0114-56200	Huntington National Bank	\$ 2,625.00
Developmental Disabilities	210-0620-53000	MEORC	\$ 824.31
Capital	300-0599-55200	Ace Lock	\$ 270.00
Capital	300-0599-55200	Steve Heiss Services	\$ 830.32
Sewer	400-0113-54000	WV Electric Supply	\$ 125.00
Maintenance	100-0109-54000	Pen, Inc.(Discount Signs)	\$ 105.00
Sheriff	100-0384-53405	Wash. State Community College	\$ 2,853.80
Sewer	400-0113-54000	NAPA Auto Parts	\$ 152.77

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

RE: TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the following requests for reimbursement of expenses for training and travel pursuant to the policies and procedures and in compliance with the Annual Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2015 and any and all amendments subsequent thereto:

FCF

Elaine Corbitt: One-day trip to Columbus to visit youth in placement and FCF Service Coordination; April 27, 2015 (retroactive approval).

Elaine Corbitt: One-day trip to Athens to attend Southeast Ohio Trauma Informed Care Meeting; May 12, 2015.

Cindy Davis: One-day trip to Columbus to attend the Help Me Grow Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting; May 11, 2015.

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

RE: REQUEST TO USE COURTHOUSE STEPS FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER EVENT

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve a request from Pastor Rodney Lord to use the Courthouse steps from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2015, for activities involved in observing National Day of Prayer.

Commissioner Feathers said this event has been held from the Courthouse steps for several years, it will not prevent access to or egress from the Courthouse, and no County resources are provided for set-up or tear-down. He suggested President White prepare and present a Proclamation recognizing the event on May 7.

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

RE: FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT, HIGHLAND RIDGE CDBG PROJECT

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the Final Performance Report for the Highland Ridge Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project, Grant Number B-W-12-CY-1, and to allow Mr. White to sign the Report, as prepared and requested by Michelle Hyer, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District.

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

RE: REQUEST TO HIRE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, JFS

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve the hiring of Wesley Richards for the position of Management Information Technology Specialist for the Department of Job and Family Services, effective May 18, 2015, hourly rate \$18.45, as requested by Tom Ballengee, Department of Job and Family Services.

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

RE: COURTHOUSE WINDOWS PROJECT, RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSULTANT

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve a recommendation from Consulting Architect David Haught, DLH Design, LLC, to reject the two sealed bids opened on April 23, 2015 for the Courthouse Windows Project, for the following reasons:

American Plate Glass, \$199,100.00, more than 10% higher than project estimate of \$125,000.00

Murray Glass, \$45,835.00, failed to indicate on bid form the receipt of Addendum, and more than 10% lower than project estimate of \$125,000.00

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

President White said the Project Consultant will review the scope of the project with the low bidder, and return with a recommendation on how to further proceed.

RE: CONTRACT WITH BOB LANE'S WELDING FOR CR 333 LANDSLIP REPAIR

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve a contract with Bob Lane's Welding, Inc., in the amount of \$14,321.00, to repair a landslip on County Road 333 (Hills Bridge Road), as prepared and requested by County Engineer Roger Wright.

Commissioner Feathers commented he has been assured by Bob Lane that a recent fire at his facilities won't negatively impact his work on landslip projects.

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

RE: CONTRACT WITH BOB LANE'S WELDING FOR CR 9 LANDSLIP REPAIR

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve a contract with Bob Lane's Welding, Inc., in the amount of \$16,061.00, to repair a landslip on County Road 9, as prepared and requested by County Engineer Roger Wright.

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

RE: CHANGE ORDER #1, CR 102 LANDSLIP REPAIR PROJECT

Mr. Walters moved and Mr. Feathers seconded a motion to approve Change Order #1 for the County Road 102 Landslip Repair Project, contractor Bob Lane's Welding, Inc., adding \$2,767.75 to the original contract amount of \$18,914.00, for a new contract amount of \$21,681.75, due to additional materials required to address worsening landslip resulting from recent heavy and consistent rains, as prepared and requested by County Engineer Roger Wright.

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

RE: SEWER RATES

President White reported the Commissioners have been reviewing financial data relating specifically to the Sewer Fund. He said the Commissioners a year ago committed to reviewing the Fund annually, so as to avoid having to have a large change in monthly rates in any one year. Mr. White said the review this year reveals there is sufficient reserve in place to handle an emergency large expense, if needed, and projection for next year reveals the same. He said he would not favor an increase in monthly sewer rate at this time.

Mr. Feathers indicated last year's increase, from \$56.00 per month to \$62.00, was the first increase in about five years. He said he believes the current rate should remain in place for at least another year, with review in April 2016. Mr. Feathers reminded the Board that there are now 1,086 residential customers and 23 commercial customers in the County's sewer program.

Commissioner Walters noted the County is currently paying about \$220,000 in loan payments each year, and that will increase this year as additional debt is incurred to pay off the Devola Phase II Design loan. While the amount of that additional annual debt is not yet known, he said the County's budget projection for 2016 accounts for the obligation. He said he considers the Sewer Fund to currently be financially solvent.

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to continue the monthly residential sewer rate of \$62.00, and to assess the need for change in that rate in April of 2016.

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

Mr. Feathers said the Commissioners will continue to manage the County's sewer program in an efficient, responsible manner.

RE: QUOTE OPENING, CDBG PROJECTS

At 9:30 a.m. President White welcomed those attending the opening of quotes for 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Attending the quote opening were: Steve Weber, Don Dunfee, Donald Travis, Stan Lang, and Melissa Zoller from Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District.

Mr. White opened the following quotes for the City of Belpre Sidewalk Project:

T&M Construction	\$ 63,200.00
Double E Electric & Construction	\$ 26,950.00
Don Dunfee Excavating & Trucking	\$ 19,579.00

He then opened the following quote for the Little Muskingum Volunteer Fire Department Equipment Project:

American Airworks	\$ 13,448.79
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Mr. White opened three quotes for the Village of Lowell Playground Equipment Project:

Walnut Grove Playground Equipment	\$ 24,898.00
Snider Recreation	\$ 24,280.00
Service Supply, Ltd.	\$ 27,125.00, \$28,000.00, \$29,000.00 (three options)

The Commissioners asked Ms. Zoller to deliver the quotes to Michelle Hyer at Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District for her review, and for Ms. Hyer to make an appropriate recommendation to them at a later date.

One of the contractors said the specifications for the Belpre sidewalk project were very limited, which made it difficult for him to prepare his quote. He suggested more detail be provided in subsequent requests for bids or quotes. He said the large variance in quotes for this project is likely due to contractors having a different understanding of the project scope due to such lack of detail.

Ms. Zoller said she will pass that message along to Ms. Hyer.

RE: BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUDGET FOR 2015

President White referenced a letter dated April 8, 2015 from the Board of Elections pertaining to changes in compensation for several of its staff members. Mr. White said the Board of Elections is awarding an additional 3% pay increase to four members of its staff, effective May 1, 2015, and the Board is implementing a significant change in its vacation accumulation policy. Attending this discussion with the Board of Elections were:

Dennis Sipe, Board of Elections		Jim Huggins, Board of Elections	
Charlie Wentz, Board of Elections		Tom Cox, Board of Elections	
Mary Heppner	Jan Richardson	Carol Mancini	Rita Rosenlieb
William Fulton	Sharon Fulton	Lorena Feathers	Lucille Burgess
Coy Rosenlieb	Cathie Neuhart	Bonnie Arnold	Jim Neuhart
Larry Mincks	Bill McFarland	Brian Schuck	Mark Warden
Jon Eells	Anita White	Karl Reuther	Bill LaFollette
Ashley Karlen	Thomas Hendershot	Rodney Lord	Jack Moberg
Justin Bradley	Amanda Nicholson	Todd Baucher	Nicole Robertson
Lisa Robertson			

Mr. White expressed concern that this is a mid-year pay increase, not budgeted in the 2015 Appropriations for Washington County.

Mr. Sipe said his Board members have held several discussions about staffing at the Board of Elections Office, culminating in this action by them to reward and retain those employees. He said the Board considered:

- Four staff members are now doing the work of eight.
- An option to this action was to hire an additional four employees.
- Trained and proficient staff members have saved the County thousands of dollars over the years by avoiding the necessity of hiring outside consultants.
- Counties with comparable population to Washington County have more staff in their Boards of Elections offices.
- Staff members on average receive one to one-and-a-half advisories from the Secretary of State, most of which require action.
- Additional training is required of the Board of Elections staff members in order to maintain equipment.
- The Board determined a pay raise would encourage staff members to continue working for the County as a major election year nears.
- The pay raise and vacation policy change are by unanimous vote of the Board of Elections.
- In comparison to the private sector, this is a moderate increase in salary and benefits.

- The use of refurbished equipment, which requires staff training and expertise, in lieu of new equipment has saved the County an enormous sum of money.
- Staff calendars are filled with things to do throughout the year.

Mr. Huggins said the Board would have acted sooner on this change in pay and benefits, but it was difficult to get all four members together until April.

Mr. Sipe said there are currently funds available to provide this 3% pay increase.

Mr. Cox reported the Athens County Board of Elections has a staff of 8, while Washington County has a staff of 4.

Board of Elections members agreed this action was necessary to avoid loss of key personnel.

Mr. White asked if they didn't consider a current salary of \$52,215 sufficient to avoid such loss. Mr. Cox said they are especially concerned about the other two members of their staff, who earn much less. He said those employees are learning and training, and must also understand the many laws and regulations pertaining to elections.

President White said there may be excess funds in their department this year due to light elections activity, but that doesn't mean those funds should go toward pay increases. Those mid-year pay increases, he said, become both permanent and expensive in subsequent years.

Commissioner Feathers said this action has far-reaching impact. He said there is a labor group with a contract that contains a re-opener clause if this Board of Elections action moves forward. Mr. Feathers said this single action by the Board of Elections has the potential of costing the County more than \$200,000 in a one-year period. He said the Commissioners' responsibility is for the entire County government, not just the Board of Elections, and it is not fiscally prudent to award mid-year increases to one department.

Mr. Sipe noted the Washington County Board of Elections is one of the most modern digital-age offices throughout the State of Ohio and, as such, has been able to do "much more with less".

Commissioner Walters said he understands retention of good employees is critically important, but he is concerned with the awarding of 5% increases when most local taxpayers receive much less than that. He said private employers are not giving such excessive increases, and it presents a bad image if Washington County does. Mr. Walters commended the Board members for saving money, but said the domino effect this pay increase will have is going to be huge and unaffordable. He said he also has very serious concerns about the Board's change in vacation policy which, he says, is unlike any other County department and strays from the vacation policy for State employees, from which the County's policy is modeled.

Mr. White said we are entering the budget cycle for next year, and that provides an appropriate opportunity for the Board of Elections to propose pay increases.

Commissioner Feathers expressed his concern about the change in vacation policy, which he considers to be "radical". Mr. Feathers noted it has been said Board of Elections staff aren't able to take time off due to workload, but this change in policy actually allows for more time out of the office. He said that simply doesn't make sense.

Mr. Feathers said the Board of Elections should consider the County's contribution to the cost of an employee's health insurance, and the County's contribution to an employee's State of Ohio retirement plan, as part of an employee's compensation when comparing it to the private sector.

Commissioner Walters asked where the change in vacation policy originated.

Mr. Sipe said the Board looked at private sector vacation allowance and felt this was one way of encouraging staff retention. He noted the Board's staff are very competent, and only one error was identified in a recent audit. He said the level of their dedication is stellar, and needs to be recognized. Mr. Sipe the Washington County Board of Elections has a good track record, due to having good quality staff.

Mr. Sipe said the Board of Elections and Court of Common Pleas are able to dictate changes in their budgets, as they by law do not report to the Commissioners. He said his Board tries very hard to be a good steward of taxpayers' funds. Mr. Sipe said he and his Board didn't realize this action would "result in such a ruckus".

Mr. White said the funds needed for this mid-year pay raise were not originally appropriated, and suggested it would have been wise for the Board of Elections to consult with the Commissioners prior to taking such action. He said the Board of Elections apparently intends to request a transfer from another line item or an additional appropriation later in the year.

Mr. Sipe said there isn't much need for seasonal workers this year, so that will provide funds for this increase.

Commissioner Feathers thanked the members of the Board of Elections for talking with them about this very important issue. He reassured them this isn't an "us verses you" situation. He

said the Commissioners inherited a budget with a huge deficit and they are trying very hard to reduce that deficit. Unanticipated actions like this, he said, are roadblocks to that effort.

President White said he considers this mid-year pay change to be “unfathomable”. To Mr. Huggins’ question of what he expects of them, Mr. White said he hopes the Board will rescind its action calling for 3% increases and enhanced vacation allowance and, if they desire, present the notion during the budget discussions for fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Wentz said he does not approve of “merit” increases as they result in damage to employee morale. He said the Board of Elections needs to keep its tremendous employees.

Commissioner Walters said this mid-year change will have a huge negative morale impact on 500 other County employees. He said the Commissioners need to be concerned about all County employees, not simply a few.

Jon Eells said, although he doesn’t have all the facts, it appears to citizens the Board of Elections has made its decision outside of the purview of the Commissioners. He said the citizens perceive “something isn’t right here”.

Mr. Sipe reiterated the Board of Elections is by law not a department reporting to the Commissioners. He said his Board simply looked at its own budget when considering this pay raise, not thinking of the impact to others.

Noting its frugality, Mr. Huggins said the Board of Elections traditionally returns unused funds to the County. He said the Board must plan for next year’s busy election cycle, and its staff will more than earn their salaries next year.

Karl Reuther said if the Board’s interest is in providing reward for a busy presidential election year, then maybe the Board should consider a bonus in that year rather than a pay increase that will impact all future years.

Members of the Board of Elections invited the Commissioners to discuss this further at their regular meeting at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, at the offices of the Board of Elections on Davis Avenue.

RE: COURT OF COMMON PLEAS BUDGETS FOR 2015

At 11:00 a.m. President White proceeded into discussion of the Amended Budgets for fiscal year 2015 for Common Pleas Court, Probate-Juvenile Court, and the Juvenile Center. He noted these amended budgets were received on April 17, 2015 in the form of a Court Order.

With the exception of the members of the Board of Elections and Nicole and Lisa Robertson, this portion of the Commissioners’ meeting was attended by the same people attending the discussion with the Board of Elections. President White noted the absence of Judges Burnworth, Lane and Williams. He said while it would have been appropriate to discuss this Amended Budget with the judges, that obviously won’t happen and the Commissioners will continue to discuss it without them.

Commissioner Walters reported the following changes to the Court’s previously submitted budget:

- Reduction of pay raises from 5% to 2%
- Merit raise of \$3,390.40 for one employee in Common Pleas Court, above the 2% increase
- Reduction of Performance Advancement Pay to \$2,500 in General Division, \$5,000 in Probate-Juvenile Division, and \$7,500 in Juvenile Center
- Longevity Pay to be paid from non-county general funds

Mr. Walters said the Amended Budget contains the previously-requested carpet allowance of \$6,178 and filling of a clerk vacancy in Probate-Juvenile at a salary of \$26,000.

President White said he appreciates the Judges reducing their original budget requests. He said he has a problem, though, with the Performance Pay and Longevity Pay being “institutionalized”. He said such institutionalization of Merit and other pay results in loss of meaning to recipients and others. Mr. White said he considers Longevity Pay to essentially be “paying someone for simply breathing”, and that is an inappropriate use of taxpayers’ funds.

Commissioner Feathers said he too appreciates the reduction in costs with this Amended Budget from the Courts. But, he said, apparently the 2% increase, a new clerk, and new carpet are not sufficient to the judges. He said he is not interested in providing funds for, or institutionalizing, additional compensation beyond the 2%. Mr. Feathers explained that the Commissioners annually appropriate funds to the Courts and other County departments to provide pay adjustments to staff. The amount of those adjustments, he said, is at the discretion of the elected official, but not to exceed the line item appropriation for salaries. Mr. Feathers said he considers the request for Performance Pay and Longevity Pay to be above-and-beyond what is provided in the appropriations for 2015, and he is not interested in funding them as that would set a dangerous precedent.

Mr. Feathers said it is interesting that Probate-Juvenile Court is asking for another clerk because current staff can't keep up with the workload, but through its departmental Wellness Program employees can earn time off simply by bringing in a healthy snack to fellow employees.

Commissioner Walters said it is admirable for the Courts to re-consider their budgets. He said he believes it is appropriate to award Performance Pay in the amount of \$0.50 per hour to specific staff members. Mr. Walters noted the Courts returned \$240,000 of unused funds to the County last fiscal year, and he considers them conscientious stewards of taxpayers' funds. He said he favors the installation of new carpet in Common Pleas Court, and he noted the movement of Longevity Pay from County General to Special Funds.

Reading aloud excerpts from the Ohio Revised Code, Commissioner Feathers said he doesn't yet have a clear understanding of what types of expenditures can be made from those Special Funds created by the Courts through the collection of court costs. Mr. Feathers said the Commissioners need authorization from a higher court to permit such expenditures from Special Funds. Mr. Feathers said the Judges' awarding of Performance Pay and Longevity Pay is not simply a matter for fiscal year 2015, but sets a precedent for awarding these two additional pay raises each year thereafter.

President White noted that while the Courts have indeed returned funds at the end of fiscal years, they have traditionally had the ability to create their own budgets. He said it is difficult to applaud the Judges for returning funds they apparently really didn't need in the first place.

Commissioner Feathers said the Ohio Supreme Court has a Commission on Dispute Resolution which may provide assistance in mediation with the judges. He said he is not in favor of accepting the Amended Budget from the Courts as court-ordered. Commissioner White said discussion with the judges is not yet at an impasse, and the Commissioners should hold off contacting this Commission on Dispute Resolution until they have the opportunity to discuss differences with the judges.

Commissioner Walters noted the Judges' ability to court order their budgets, and the anticipated costs if legal action is taken as a result of not appropriating what the judges request. He said he has spent several hours on several days in discussions with the judges, and he appreciates the concessions they have made.

President White asked if others had comments.

Elinor LaFollete said there apparently is much disparity even within the Courts. She said there is one lady in Probate-Juvenile with an annual salary of \$73,000 and she has use of a take-home County vehicle. Responding to her question of why this is so, Mr. Feathers said she would need to re-address this to the judges.

Commissioner Feathers said Probate-Juvenile staff salaries range from about \$34,000 to \$73,792, Juvenile Center salaries range from about \$23,000 to \$60,000, and Common Pleas salaries range from about \$32,000 to \$41,000.

President White asked for a motion.

Commissioner Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to revise the 2015 appropriations for Washington County to be in accordance with the Amended Budgets for Common Pleas Court, General Division and Probate-Juvenile Division, including Juvenile Center, delivered on April 17, 2015 to the Washington County Commissioners.

A calling of the roll resulted in the following vote: David White no, Rick Walters aye, Ronald Feathers no. Motion failed.

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to invite the Commission on Dispute Resolution to assist and mediate, as appropriate and necessary, in budget discussions between the Washington County Commissioners and the Washington County Common Pleas Court Judges.

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

Rodney Lord thanked the Commissioners for their due diligence in watching over Washington County taxpayers' funds, and for being open and honest to the public in their deliberations.

RE: ATHENS TO BELPRE RAIL TRAIL

Karen Waller and Kenyon Cox talked with the Commissioners about the developing Athens to Belpre Rail (multi-use) Trail.

Ms. Waller said she represents not only the Belpre Chamber of Commerce, but also the many biking enthusiasts who are promoting the development of a multi-use trail between Athens and Belpre/Parkersburg. She said this trail might be used by bikers, hikers, and equestrians.

Mr. Cox explained the proposed route, and the difficulties the Committee anticipates in securing right-of-ways and/or properties. Ms. Waller said while this is a long-term project,

there is an enthusiastic Athens to Belpre Multi-Use Trail Committee currently working diligently.

Commissioner Feathers expressed his concern that this project's securing of right-of-ways doesn't interfere with access to water, road and rail transport. If it does, he said, there would be negative impact on economic development and the Commissioners could not support that.

Ms. Waller said the City of Belpre might eventually be a hub for three major trails in this area, and there would be significant financial benefit for that.

Mr. Feathers commended Ms. Waller, Mr. Cox and others for having the vision of this Athens to Belpre Trail, and for proceeding to get it in place.

RE: CARTEEN'S PROGRAM

Karen Pierson from the OSU Extension Office talked with the Commissioners about the CARTEEN's Program in Washington County. Joining her were CARTEEN members Emma Doak, a junior from Marietta High School, and Emma Maddocks, a junior from Waterford High School.

Ms. Pierson introduced the two students, and said they participate in many activities, including:

CARTEEN's
Washington County Junior Fair Board
4-H Camp Counselors
School groups

Ms. Maddocks said the CARTEEN's Program features include:

- Court-mandated to teenage speeders or reckless operators of vehicles
- Two-hour sessions
- Cost of \$20.00
- Participant must be accompanied by parent or guardian
- Instruction in exercising caution and responsibility
- Six active members, but could be up to 12
- Program is actually a 4-H Club

Ms. Doak said as a participant in CARTEEN's she has learned a variety of skills. She said it has been a very worthwhile experience for both of them, and for those attending the programs.

Ms. Pierson shared with the Commissioners some challenges she has working with the Washington County Fair Board. She thanked the Commissioners for their continuing support of 4-H in Washington County.

RE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Darlene Lukshin from the OSU Extension Office talked with the Commissioners about community development efforts in Washington County. She said the County and other governmental entities throughout the County share in the cost for her services, with the County contributing \$55,000 and others adding about \$15,000 each year.

Mr. Feathers moved and Mr. Walters seconded a motion to approve the following memorandum requesting from Washington County townships, villages and cities their financial support of community development through the OSU Extension Office:

April 30, 2015

To: Washington County Townships, Cities and Villages

Date: April 30, 2015

Re: 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING REQUEST

Community Development impacts our County through transportation infrastructure projects, community park and playground upgrades, life-saving fire and rescue equipment, and other public enhancement endeavors. Assistance with these initiatives is provided by Ohio State University Extension Program Specialist Darlene Lukshin. The program also delivers information and education on various topics such as shale development and grant writing.

Along with funding we provide for these services, the support from our townships, villages and cities allows OSU Extension Community Development to continue advocating for all of us. Thank you for your past cooperation, which has been invaluable. We hope you will again this year contribute to this resource that benefits all citizens of Washington County.

We encourage you to collaborate with Community Development by contacting Darlene Lukshin at 740.376.7431, or e-mail lukshin.1@osu.edu. She welcomes your comments, questions, and ideas!

Thanks for supporting community development in your community and throughout Washington County.

/s/ WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Ms. Lukshin shared with the Commissioners a newsletter on Community Development throughout Washington County, and an outline of the Community Development Implementation Strategy. She said the month of May has been designated "Fair Housing Month" in Ohio, and posters and information pieces will be displayed and distributed during the month.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Feathers 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 2:18 p.m.

_____, President

_____, Vice President

_____, Member

_____, Clerk