

**AUGUST 19 – MEETING 34
VOLUME 27**

The Ross County Board of Commissioners met on this day, August 19, 2024, in regular session.

Commissioner Dwight Garrett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with Commissioners James E. Lowe and Jack A. Everson, in attendance.

Commissioner Garrett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, the minutes of the August 12, 2024, meeting be approved as submitted. On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the following bills of the county be approved for payment:

DEPARTMENT	PURCHASE ORDER	TOTAL VALUE	DEPARTMENT	PURCHASE ORDER	TOTAL VALUE
Adult Probation	2024001638	88.46	Planning Commission	2024000245	180
Adult Probation	2024001639	187.01	Probate Court	2024000561	25
Adult Probation	2024001656	56.12	Probate Court	2024000560	90.8
Adult Probation	2024001659	270.4	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000370	24
Auditor	2024000172	180	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000370	378.5
Auditor	2024000171	705	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000370	106.3
Auditor	2024001134	1752	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000306	177
Auditor	2024000179	19046.25	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000355	416.
Auditor	2024000434	41070.46	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000357	34.
Auditor	2024000170	697.5	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000356	68
Auditor	2024000170	375	Prosecuting Attorney	2024000370	0.0
Auditor	2024000232	35.75	Recorder	2024000739	282
Auditor	2024000170	375	Ross County Court System	2024001655	329.3
Auditor	2024000170	540	Ross County Court System	2024001658	5
Auditor	2024001666	381.88	Ross County Court System	2024001661	228.9
Auditor	2024001241	249	Sheriff	2024000130	500
Auditor	2024000184	79.57	Sheriff	2024000501	936.1
Auditor	2024000193	97.3	Sheriff	2024000483	179.0
Board of Elections	2024001643	59.29	Sheriff	2024000481	344.4
Board of Elections	2024001642	191.6	Sheriff	2024000300	57.6
Board of Elections	2024001644	90	Sheriff	2024001632	8050.8
Board of Elections	2024001650	49.2	Sheriff	2024000510	24
Board of Elections	2024001665	330	Sheriff	2024000496	316.1
Board of Elections	2024001664	90	Sheriff	2024000313	52
Board of Elections	2024001663	182.13	Sheriff	2024000482	1651.2
Building Department	2024000263	80.22	Sheriff	2024000496	2823.7
Clerk of Courts	2024000346	8.75	Sheriff	2024001166	3253.6
Clerk of Courts	2024001635	309.47	Sheriff	2024000496	476.4
Clerk of Courts	2024000578	143.15	Sheriff	2024000482	688.
Commissioners	2024000469	448.54	Sheriff	2024000654	116.9
Commissioners	2024000635	559.54	Sheriff	2024000501	1675.1
Commissioners	2024001004	27125	Sheriff	2024000497	268.7
Commissioners	2024001386	113.57	Sheriff	2024000498	107.
Commissioners	2024000736	19.98	Sheriff	2024000499	21
Commissioners	2024001013	36	Sheriff	2024000500	53.7
Commissioners	2024000485	16003.38	Sheriff	2024000501	199
Commissioners	2024001388	48792.5	Sheriff	2024001166	15
Commissioners	2024001564	733.75	Sheriff	2024001166	5
Commissioners	2024000646	179.54	Sheriff	2024001166	54.7
Common Pleas Court #1	2024001400	60.99	Sheriff	2024000509	1205.1
Common Pleas Court #1	2024001580	239.82	Sheriff	2024000510	85
Common Pleas Court #2	2024000379	375	Sheriff	2024000496	7
Coroner	2024001662	550	Sheriff	2024000496	67.9
Deq Warden	2024000118	127.16	Sheriff	2024000496	768.
Deq Warden	2024000117	124.25	Sheriff	2024000496	128.5
Emergency Management	2024000746	84	Sheriff	2024000496	24.4
Engineer	2024001338	1406.82	Sheriff	2024000496	145.3
Engineer	2024000114	150	Sheriff	2024000495	97.3
Engineer	2024001338	990.34	Sheriff	2024000501	10
Engineer	2024001338	1780	Sheriff	2024000483	10
Engineer	2024001338	101	Sheriff	2024000481	10
Engineer	2024000106	426.94	Sheriff	2024000494	100.4
Engineer	2024001431	329.83	Sheriff	2024000697	107.1
Engineer	2024001431	216.85	Sheriff	2024000495	15.6
Engineer	2024000107	447.65	Sheriff	2024000494	27.6
Engineer	2024001338	124	Sheriff	2024000697	29.5
Engineer	2024001338	33	Sheriff	2024000495	4.
Engineer	2024001338	496	Sheriff	2024000258	1640.5
Engineer	2024001653	1300	Sheriff	2024000549	43709.0
Engineer	2024000109	193.52	Sheriff	2024000258	188.4
Engineer	2024001338	607.5	Sheriff	2024000258	23.
Engineer	2024001431	184.8	Sheriff	2024000258	611.3
Engineer	2024000759	25265.29	Sheriff	2024000548	136.
Engineer	2024000996	2505.54	Sheriff	2024000482	381.0
Juvenile Court	2024000557	2500	Sheriff	2024000482	789.9
Juvenile Court	2024000570	41	Sheriff	2024000551	5766.8
Juvenile Court	2024000558	23.5	Sheriff	2024000552	6296.
Juvenile Court	2024000558	375	Treasurer	2024001660	34
Juvenile Court	2024000527	357.34	Treasurer	2024000463	8.7
Juvenile Court	2024000527	700	Veterans Service Commisri	2024000277	481.2
Juvenile Court	2024001613	1024.42	Veterans Service Commisri	2024001129	254.3
Planning Commission	2024001229	222.2	Veterans Service Commisri	2024001543	378.1
Planning Commission	2024000253	217	Veterans Service Commisri	2024000276	206.2
Planning Commission	2024001229	37.47	Veterans Service Commisri	2024000700	68.7
Planning Commission	2024000254	39.97	Veterans Service Commisri	2024001667	212
Planning Commission	2024001229	145.1	Veterans Service Commisri	2024000206	100
			VOCA	2024001561	27.1
					\$312,848.74

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

THEN & NOW CERTIFICATES APPROVED

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve "Then & Now" Certificates, dated August 5 through August 19, 2024, in the amount of \$11,125.12 prepared by the Office of the Ross County Auditor and certified by the auditor as to the appropriation of funds for the purpose of encumbering the sum of the contract(s) or order(s) outlined therein, or the imminent collection of funds for credit to the appropriated fund(s) of the county, and as to the availability of funds for transfer within the appropriate department(s).

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, to appropriate \$13,568.00 into account code 420-07-33-7219 Program Income HOME, per a request of August 19, 2024, from the Ross County Planning Department.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, to transfer \$16,627.33 from account code 81F-00-00-4560 4th District Court of Appeals, into account code 81F 4th District Court of Appeals, per a request June 19, 2024 from the Ross County Auditor.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to transfer \$17,289.50 from account code 100-00-00-0010 General, into account code 420-99-39-5901 VOCA//SVAA, per a request of June 19, 20224 from the Ross County Auditor.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, to transfer \$8,200.00 from account code 100-30-24-7001 Salaries Employees ARPA, into account code 100-30-24-7103 Contract Services, per a request June 19, 2024 from the Ross County Recorder.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

ASSET DISPOSAL

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve an Asset Disposal form submitted by the Ross County Board of DD for disposal of the following surplus property of the county as indicated:

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	TAG/ SERIAL	METHOD OF DISPOSAL
1	Table and Milk Cooler	02194, 02720	Surplus Property
3	Desks	15009, 15101, 15008	Surplus Property

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve an Asset Disposal form submitted by the Ross County Board of DD for disposal of the following surplus property of the county as indicated:

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	TAG/ SERIAL	METHOD OF DISPOSAL
3	Dell Desktop & Monitor	2954, 2956, 2957	Trash
1	Dell Optiplex	15849	Trash

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

The following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners, August 19, 2024, with Dwight A. Garrett, James E. Lowe, and Jack A. Everson in attendance.

RESOLUTION 033-24

REDUCING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ROSS COUNTY GENERAL FUND CURRENT EXPENSES TAX RATE MILLAGE FROM 3.1 MILLS TO 2.4 MILLS WITHIN THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND RESERVING THE 0.7 MILL PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 5705.313

The following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners, August 19, 2024, with Dwight A. Garrett, James E. Lowe, and Jack A. Everson in attendance.

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners has previously adopted a resolution pursuant to section 5739.021 or 5739.026 of the Revised Code to levy or increase the rate of the sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners has for the past several years been levying a 3.1 mill tax for current expenses for the General Fund, said 3.1 mill being inside the ten-mill limitation for Ross County; and

WHEREAS, Section 5705.313(A)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code permits the Ross County Board of Commissioners to adopt another resolution reducing the rate of any property tax the county currently is levying for current expenses within the ten-mill limitation; and

WHEREAS, Section 5705.313(A)(2) further permits the Ross County Board of Commissioners to reserve the rate of reduction of any property tax for a specified period of time so that amount of millage reduced by the Ross County Board of Commissioners may not be used by another political subdivision unless permitted under the same statute; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Ross County Board of Commissioners, that the 3.1 mill that has previously been levied in Ross County, for current expenses within the ten-mill limitation, be reduced to 2.4 mill for the calendar year 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 0.7 mill difference will not be levied against the citizens of Ross County for the calendar year 2025, and the same 0.7 mill is being reserved by the Ross County Board of Commissioners so as not to be used by another political subdivision for the calendar year 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 0.7 mill property tax rate reduction will be for a period of one year, being calendar year 2025, and may be reconsidered by the Ross County Board of Commissioners for future years beyond calendar year 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall rescind and supersede Resolution 032-24 adopted by the Ross County Board of Commissioners on August 12, 2024.

YELLOWBUD SOLAR ROAD USE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT CONSTRUCTION BOND

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, that Pursuant to the Agreement, Yellowbud completed its repairs and/or payments for use of the County and Township roads. Yellowbud confirmed completion of repairs and/or payments with the County last year which included a final road inspection. The County acknowledges Yellowbud has satisfied its obligation under Section 9(a).

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

GRANT AGREEMENT VILLAGE OF OAK HILL WELSH MUSEUM

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, to authorize Commissioner Garrett, to sign on the Commissioners behalf, an agreement by and between the Ross County Board of Commissioners and Welsh American History Museum, Inc. to use federal stimulus awarded by the Appalachian Community Grant Program for the Village of Oak Hill Welsh Museum, in the amount not to exceed \$307,630.00 with a completion date of October 31, 2026.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

GRANT AGREEMENT CITY OF ATHENS

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to authorize Commissioner Garrett, to sign on the Commissioners behalf, an agreement by and between the Ross County Board of Commissioners and the City Of Athens, to use federal stimulus awarded by the Appalachian Community Grant Program for the City of Athens Central Business District Beautification Project, in the amount not to exceed \$6,564,071.00 with a completion date of October 31, 2026.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

GRANT AGREEMENT ADAMS COUNTY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, to authorize Commissioner Garrett, to sign on the Commissioners behalf, an agreement by and between the Ross County Board of Commissioners and Adams County Regional Medical Center, to use federal stimulus awarded by the Appalachian Community Grant Program for the Mt. Orab Healthcare Services Revitalization Project, in the amount not to exceed \$5,006,180.00 with a completion date of October 31, 2026.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

The following resolutions were passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners, August 19, 2024, with Dwight A. Garrett, James E. Lowe, and Jack A. Everson in attendance.

RESOLUTION 034-24

WHEREAS, Ross County will be required to fund a portion of the construction of the Charleston Pike Bridge Replacement over the CSX Railroad, (ODOT PID#106544) in Springfield Township, Ross County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners finds the project to be of benefit to Ross County for the safe movement of traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners previously designated Ross County Engineer Charlie Ortman, as the Project Manager Contact; and authorized Commissioner Dwight A. Garrett to execute the Ohio Department of Transportation, State Infrastructure Bank, Initial Project Application, in the amount of \$804,000.00 for a term of twenty (15) years, to be repaid from vehicle registration fee and/or gasoline tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, Ross County’s application has been approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Ross County Board of Commissioners enter into a Promissory Note, that promises to pay to the order of the Director of Transportation of the State of Ohio, the principal sum of Eight Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$840,000.00), with interest at a rate as set forth in the Promissory Note; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Ross County Board of Commissioners enter into a Loan Agreement by and between the Director of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), providing for loan financing, in the amount of \$840,000.00, for the Ross County Charleston Pike Bridge Replacement over the CSX Railroad; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners payment of the Note and all interest thereon shall be secured by the County’s pledge of its Motor Vehicle License Registration Fee Fund and/or Gasoline Tax Revenue, as set forth in the Loan Agreement; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners may take any action necessary to finalize and borrow said amount of \$804,000.00, as set forth in the Promissory Note and Loan Agreement.

RESOLUTION 035-24

WHEREAS, Ross County will be required to fund Engineering Costs for the Musgrove Road Bridge Replacement Project over the CSX Railroad (ODOT PID#115500), in Liberty Township, Ross County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners finds the project to be of benefit to Ross County for the safe movement of traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners previously designated Ross County Engineer Charlie Ortman, as the Project Manager Contact; and authorized Commissioner Dwight A. Garrett to execute the Ohio Department of Transportation, State Infrastructure Bank, Initial Project Application, in the amount of \$502,000.00 for a term of twenty (15) years, to be repaid from vehicle registration fee and/or gasoline tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, Ross County’s application has been approved by the Ohio Department of Transportation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Ross County Board of Commissioners enter into a Promissory Note, that promises to pay to the order of the Director of Transportation of the State of Ohio, the principal sum of Five Hundred Two Thousand Dollars (\$502,000.00), with interest at a rate as set forth in the Promissory Note; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Ross County Board of Commissioners enter into a Loan Agreement by and between the Director of Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), providing for loan financing, in the amount of \$502,000.00, for the Musgrove Road Bridge Replacement Project over the CSX Railroad; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners payment of the Note and all interest thereon shall be secured by the County’s pledge of its Motor Vehicle License Registration Fee Fund and/or Gasoline Tax Revenue, as set forth in the Loan Agreement; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners may take any action necessary to finalize and borrow said amount of \$502,000.00, as set forth in the Promissory Note and Loan Agreement.

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Garrett, yes. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trillium Piketon - Wiley Rhodes, CEO of Newpoint Gas spoke about Trillium H2 Power, in Piketon which is a U.S. first-of-a-kind that integrates an air separation unit, a partial oxidation reformer to produce hydrogen an ammonia and silicon plant and a hydrogen power plant, with carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technology for permanent CO2 geologic storage.

Washington National Insurance – Donna Markley, Benefits Advisor gave a brief overview of the supplemental and life insurance benefits they can provide for county employees.

Tax Incentive Review Board meeting was held

ADJOURN

Mr. Dwight A. Garrett, President, adjourned the regular meeting of August 19, 2024, at 12:00 a.m. Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio



Dwight A. Garrett, President



James E. Lowe, Vice President



Jack A. Everson, Commissioner