

DECEMBER 26 – MEETING 52  
VOLUME 26

The Ross County Board of Commissioners met on this day, December 26, 2023, 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. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the minutes of the December 18, 2023, meeting, be approved as submitted.

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

**BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT**  
Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, the following bills of the county be approved for payment:

PURCHASE ORDER	PAY TO NAME	TOTAL VALUE
2023000180	Newman, Steven C.	125
2023000179	Berry, Jennifer	252
2023000180	Benson, Melinda J	125
2023000912	Treasurer, State of Ohio	13769.92
2023000076	Litter Quality Propane Gas	337.54
2023000069	South Central Power Company	1191
2023002491	Software Solutions, Inc.	9000
2023001724	Appraisal Research Corp.	38917.8
2023000486	Office of the Ohio Public Defender	1017.98
2023000178	Clark, John K. Jr.	1012.5
2023000070	First Communications, LLC	32.85
2023000068	Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.	1672.85
2023000074	American Electric Power	451.61
2023000074	American Electric Power	1078.98
2023002589	Printex Printing	3890
2023000652	Modern Leasing	90.86
2023002462	MMSOFT Design Ltd	7941.13
2023002461	Vasion	13644
2023002174	Randy Deering	19.76
2023000260	US Bank NA	69.14
2023000649	Axia Technology Partners, LLC	29.99
2023000536	Office City Express	48.06
2023000272	Glacier Mountain Bottled Water	15.5
2023001897	Freedom Path-Chillicothe	500
2023000296	Sewards, Randy A.	735.64
2023000298	Price, Harold S.	818.15
2023001121	Ed Secrest	302.51
		\$97,089.77

On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Everson, yes; Mr. Lowe, 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 December 11 through December 25, 2023, in the amount of \$103,789.59 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.

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**  
Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, \$4,000.00 be transferred from account code 100-02-00-7014 GRP Ins. Auditor, into account code 100-02-00-7150 Supplies, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, \$5,000.00 be transferred from account code 100-20-00-7001 Salaries, into account code 100-20-00-7150 Supplies, per a request of December 26, 2023 from the Ross County Clerk of Courts.

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, \$303.33 be transferred from account code 233-46-05-7001 Salaries Help Me Grow, into account code 433-46-90-7001 Salaries Service & Support, \$114.78 be transferred from account code 233-46-05-7017 Medicare Help Me Grow, into account code 233-46-90-7017 Medicare Service &Support Admin., and \$40,000.00 be transferred from account code 233-46-90-7014 Insurance Service & Support Admin., into account code 233-46-85-7103 Contract Services, per a request of December 26, 2023 from the Ross County Board of DD.

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

**ADVANCE OF FUNDS**  
Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, \$16,736.94 be advanced from account code 100-00-00-7842 General Fund into account code 420-29-11-5804 Recovery Ohio Grand Fund, per a request of December 26, 2023 from the Ross County Auditor.

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

**DE-APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**  
Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, (\$93,180.91) be de-appropriated from account code 420-99-39-7001 Salaries Employees, (\$14,677.95) be de-appropriated from account code 420-99-39-7012 PERS, (\$2,503.97) be de-appropriated from account code 420-99-39-7013 Worker’s Comp., and (\$23,637.17) be de-appropriated from account code 420-99-39-7014 Group Insurance, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$5,000.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-20-18-7001 Salaries Employees, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$167,928.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-07-31-7133 CHIP HOME and (\$65,372.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-07-31-7132 CHIP CDBG, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$1,200.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-29-07-7103 Contract Services, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$69,100.00)) be de-appropriated from account code 420-07-30-7102 WPCLF Contract Repair, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$59,500.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-46-35-7103 Contract Services Residential, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$1,110.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-29-11-7100 Travel, (\$15,000.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-11-7104 Confidential Funds, (\$811.12) be de-appropriated from account code 420-29-11-7150 Supplies and (\$27,777.15) be de-appropriated from account code 420-29-11-7200 Equipment, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$1,200.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-18-39-7550 Other Expenses, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$9,405.00)) be de-appropriated from account code 095-00-00-7103 Contract Services, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$94,000.00) be de-appropriated from account code 212-29-01-7001 Salaries Employees, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$564.51) be de-appropriated from account code 231-51-00-7103 Contract Services and (\$1,479.29) be de-appropriated from account code 231-51-00-7409 Auditor & Treasurer Fees, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$11,300.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-18-01-7550 Other Expenses, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$700.00) be de-appropriated from account code 420-19-01-7550 Other Expenses, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$402,745.00) be de-appropriated from account code 510-10-00-7204 Contract Projects OPWC, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$64,151.58) be de-appropriated from account code 420-18-39-7801 Reimb-General, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$37,796.96) be de-appropriated from account code 420-18-13-7107 Lighthouse Community Juv and (\$22,803.04) be de-appropriated from account code 420-18-13-7106 Integrated Services, per a request of December 26, 2023 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, (\$140,000.00) be de-appropriated from account code 223-29-00-7812 Reimb o CLE Dispatch, per a request of December 26, 2023 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 de-appropriate the following:

Salaries - Employees	229-03-00-7001	(\$ 4,561.67)
PERS	229-03-00-7012	(\$ 1,272.36)
Workers Comp	229-03-00-7013	(\$ 1,003.22)
Group Insurance	229-03-00-7014	(\$ 445.51)
Medicare	229-03-00-7017	(\$ 223.28)
Travel	229-03-00-7100	(\$ 465.38)
Advertising & Printing	229-03-00-7101	(\$ 11,687.35)
Contract Services	229-03-00-7103	(\$ 1,000.00)
Supplies	229-03-00-7150	(\$ 2,280.00)
Court Costs	229-03-00-7179	(\$ 461.23)

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

**REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 1 RESCHEDULED**

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners, of January 1, 2024, be rescheduled to January 2, 2024.

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

**GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve the General Fund Budget Summary for 2024 in the amount of \$35,277,292.76.

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

**ALL FUNDS BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve the All Funds Budget Summary for 2024 in the amount of \$107,822,366.68

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

**PAY REQUEST BRICKER GRAYDON**

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to approve pay request 2019061 from Bricker Graydon for Construction/Ross County Jail Renovation Project in the amount of \$2,575.00 for Legal Services Rendered through November 30, 2023.

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 approve pay request 2019062 from Bricker Graydon for Construction/General Construction in the amount of \$212.50, for Legal Services Rendered through November 30, 2023.

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

**FAYETTE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR JAIL SERVICES**

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to approve the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office Memorandum of Agreement. Ross County agrees to pay Fayette County the sum of Seventy-two dollars and fifty cents (\$72.50) per day, as full compensation for receiving, supervising, confining & boarding each prisoner. Provided, however, should the actual cost to Fayette exceed Seventy-two dollars and fifty cents (\$72.50) per day by reason of having to confine such prisoner under the provisions of one of the collateral contractual agreements of Fayette County, then Ross County agrees to pay Fayette County the actual cost incurred by Fayette County under its contractual arrangements. Ross County agrees they are responsible for any ambulance/life squad fees as well as Forty-Five dollars (\$45.00) per hour fee payable to Fayette County for the personnel to provide the medical escort to and/or from the emergency room and/or until such time as Ross County has relieved Fayette County from the medical escort for all Ross County prisoners. (Minimum 2 hour charge)

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED**

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners adjourn into executive session at 10:32 am, to discuss Personnel matters.

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

**REGULAR SESSION RESUMED**

The executive session called at 10:32 am was adjourned, and the regular meeting resumed at 10:59 am. No action was taken.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED**

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners adjourn into executive session at 11:33 am, to discuss Personnel matters.

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

**REGULAR SESSION RESUMED**

The executive session called at 11:33 am was adjourned, and the regular meeting resumed at 11:35 am. No action was taken.

**PAY INCREASE IT DIRECTOR**

Mr. Everson moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to increase the salary of IT Director, Andy Wettersten, to \$77,500.00 effective with the first payroll in January 2024.

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

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ACCEPTED**

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Everson seconded, to accept the Request for Proposal provided by Schooly Caldwell for the Courthouse Restoration, Repairs and Improvement Project Design.

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


**OTHER BUSINESS**

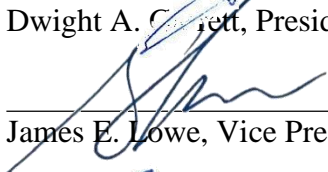
The Commissioners conducted a phone conference with MS Consultants regarding the 104 Sewer Project.

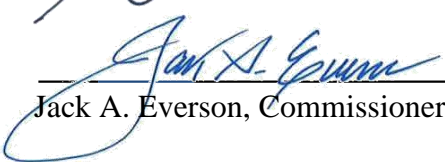
**ADJOURN**

Mr. Dwight A. Garrett, President, adjourned the regular meeting of December 26, 2023, at 11:45 a.m.

Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dwight A. Garrett, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James E. Lowe, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack A. Everson, Commissioner