

SEPTEMBER 29 – MEETING 39
VOLUME 28

The Ross County Board of Commissioners met on this day, September 29, 2025, in regular session.

Commissioner Jack Everson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with Commissioner James Lowe and David Glass in attendance.

Commissioner Everson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, the minutes of the September 22, 2025 meeting, be approved as submitted. On call of the roll, the vote was: Mr. Glass, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes. Motion carried.

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

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

DEPARTMENT	PAY TO NAME	TOTAL VALUE	DEPARTMENT	PAY TO NAME	TOTAL VALUE
Wellness	Hanson Excavating, Inc.	100	Emergency Management	AT&T Mobility	142.5
Veterans Service Commission	T-Mobile USA Inc	74.31	Emergency Management	GFC Leasing-OH	121.65
Veterans Service Commission	Amazon Capital Services	44.95	Coroner	AT&T Mobility	108.6
Treasurer	Gannett Ohio LocalIQ	1506	Coroner	Printex Printing	190
Sheriff	South Central Power Company	49	Coroner	Amazon Capital Services	22.08
Sheriff	Ohio NARCO	1050	Common Pleas Court #1	Printex Printing	450
Sheriff	MATTHEW FRANTZ	65.54	Common Pleas Court #1	Office Depot Inc.	296.71
Sheriff	DANA HUTTON	33	Commissioners	Wex Bank	734.95
Sheriff	Ross County Sheriff's Dept.	5000	Commissioners	Stantec Consulting Services	83488.82
Sheriff	APCO, AFC, Inc.	485	Commissioners	Stantec Consulting Services	100.33
Sheriff	Penwell, Julia	214.85	Commissioners	CCAO	275
Sheriff	Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.	1073.78	Commissioners	Sargents Sales & Rentals	45
Sheriff	American Electric Power	250.24	Commissioners	Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc	219.55
Sheriff	American Electric Power	17891.74	Commissioners	South Central Power Company	87.05
Sheriff	ZACHARY RAY	210	Commissioners	American Electric Power	2171.7
Sheriff	Southside Bancshares, Inc	48173.3	Commissioners	RJ Wright and Sons LTD	1045.32
Sheriff	Krace Gill	1340	Commissioners	Worly Plumbing Supply, Inc.	22.18
Sheriff	PAUL HAWK	555	Commissioners	Dynotec, Inc	3230
Sheriff	Adena Medical Group, LLC	224.89	Commissioners	Grigsby Environmental Consulting	1600
Sheriff	Adena Health System	25.46	Commissioners	MS Consultants	34989.16
Sheriff	Aramark Services, Inc	8040.91	Commissioners	American Electric Power	449.81
Ross County Court System	CDW Government, Inc.	16628.25	Commissioners	Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc	228.76
Ross County Court System	Gordon Flesch Co, Inc.	504.38	Commissioners	DTB Distributors, Inc.	416.51
Prosecuting Attorney	Gordon Flesch Co, Inc.	60	Commissioners	General Sales Company	831.1
Probate Court	Franklin County Probate Court	376	Commissioners	Ohio Dept. of Agriculture	150
Planning Commission	Bricker Graydon LLP	4850	Commissioners	Detillion Landscape Materials	222
Planning Commission	Bricker Graydon LLP	1552.1	Clerk of Courts	FedEx	35.54
Planning Commission	American Structure Point, Inc	58694.55	Clerk of Courts	NINA KILGOUR	62.3
Planning Commission	Ohio Regional Development Authority	11900	Clerk of Courts	WES HAMMAN	52.5
Planning Commission	Ohio Regional Development Authority	14280	Board of Elections	The Ohio Legal Blank Co., Inc	450.11
Planning Commission	Belmont County Port Authority	18835.48	Board of Elections	The Ohio Legal Blank Co., Inc	426.59
Planning Commission	ORCHARD, HILTZ & MCCLURE	17464.68	Board of Elections	Amazon Capital Services	26.94
Planning Commission	C.T. CONSULTANTS INC	1440	Board of Elections	The Water Express	10
Planning Commission	Mount Zion Black Cultural Center	97189.74	Board of Elections	US Bank Equipment Finance	276.3
Planning Commission	City of Jackson	352380.8	Automatic Data Processing	Amazon Capital Services	123.69
Planning Commission	Goodhue Consulting, Inc	542.5	Automatic Data Processing	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	201.37
Planning Commission	American Structure Point, Inc	26700	Automatic Data Processing	Gordon Flesch Co, Inc.	99.43
Law Library	West Group	1130	Automatic Data Processing	Modern Office Methods, Inc	1191.45
Law Library	Gordon Flesch Co, Inc.	3.71	Automatic Data Processing	VC3 INC	2444
Juvenile Court	King, Kristen	1080	Automatic Data Processing	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	94.81
Juvenile Court	Build a Home Inc	1500	Automatic Data Processing	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	871.48
Juvenile Court	Intrinsic Interventions, Inc	25	Auditor	First Communications, LLC	45.58
Juvenile Court	Ohio Bar Liability Insurance Company	180	Auditor	Glo Fiber	68.79
Juvenile Court	ASHLEY TOOPS	77.39	Auditor	American Electric Power	3950.85
Juvenile Court	King, Kristen	284	Auditor	Department of Veterans Affairs	584
Engineer	Jones Farm	350	Auditor	Department of Veterans Affairs	584
Engineer	Nourse Family of Dealerships	46659	Auditor	Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.	501.42
Engineer	Rush Truck Centers of Ohio	5370.85	Auditor	South Central Power Company	801
Engineer	Softworks, Inc	1195	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	300
Engineer	Old Canal Stop	41.25	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	300
Engineer	S & S Aggregates	1718.7	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	300
Engineer	Lightle Enterprises of Ohio LLC	237.52	Auditor	Printex Printing	750
Engineer	Kleem, Inc.	48.55	Auditor	Printex Printing	1800
Engineer	Kenworth Truck Co.	100.44	Adult Probation	The Water Express	53.19
Engineer	G&J Asphalt & Materials, Inc	330	Adult Probation	Brandon Puckett	506.95
Engineer	Cintas Corporation # 530	385.14			\$919,612.47
Engineer	Amazon Capital Services	26.89			
Engineer	Airgas Great Lakes	511.51			

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

THEN & NOW CERTIFICATES APPROVED

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve "Then & Now" Certificates, dated September 15, 2025 through September 29, 2025, in the amount of \$6,609.08 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. Glass, yes; Mr. Lowe, yes; Mr. Everson, yes. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to transfer \$85,000.00 account code 100-00-00-0010 General, into account code 203-02-00-5901 Dog & Kennel Fund, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Auditor.

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

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to transfer \$10,000.00 from account code 100-14-00-7121 Foreign Judges into account code 100-14-00-7014 Group Insurance, \$6,000.00 from account code 100-14-00-7001 Salaries into account code 100-14-00-7014 Group Insurance, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Common Pleas Court Admin.

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

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to transfer \$40.00 account code 410-29-10-7200 Equipment, into account code 410-29-10-7104 Confidential Funds, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Major Crimes Task Force.

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

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to transfer \$900,000.00 from account code 100-00-00-0010 Geneal into account code 088-31-01-4825 SCOJFS Children Services, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Auditor.

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

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to appropriate \$25,000.00 from General Fund into account code 100-01-00-7123 Legal Counsel, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Commissioners.

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

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to appropriate \$61,300.00 from Dog & Kennel Fund, account codes 203-32-00-7001 Salaries, account code 203-32-00-7012 PERS, and account code 203-32-00-7017 Medicare, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Auditor.

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

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to appropriate \$5,500.00 from General Fund into account code 100-14-00-7014 Group Insurance, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Court Administrator.

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

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to appropriate \$52,000.00 from Real Estate Assessment Fund, account code 208-02-00-7103 Contract Services, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Auditor.

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

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to appropriate \$25.00 from CLE Fund into account code 212-29-56-7550 Other Expenses, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Court Sheriff.

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

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to appropriate \$900,000.00 from General Fund, account code 100-01-12-7451 Grant JFS Children Services, per a request of September 29, 2025 from the Ross County Commissioners.

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

ASSET DISPOSAL

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve an Asset Disposal Form submitted by the Ross County Adult Probation for disposal of the following surplus property of the county as indicated:

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	TAG/SERIAL #	METHOD OF DISPOSAL
7	Firearms	18178, 18179, 18189, 18193	Trade in for upgrade

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

The following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners of September 29, 2025, with Commissioners Jack Everson, James E. Lowe, and David Glass, in attendance.

REDUCING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026 ROSS COUNTY GENERAL FUND CURRENT EXPENSES TAX RATE MILLAGE FROM 2.4 MILLS TO 1.68 MILLS WITHIN THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION AND RESERVING A TOTAL OF 1.42 MILLS PURSUANT TO O.R.C. 5705.313

The following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners, September 29, 2025, with David A. Glass II, 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 12, 2024, the Ross County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 032-24 wherein they reduced the 2025 Ross County General Fund current expenses tax millage rate from 3.1 mill to 2.4 mill, and reserved the reduced 0.7 mill for future use pursuant to Section 5705.313 of the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Section 5705.313 of the Ohio Revised Code, now desires to make an additional reduction of the Ross County General Fund current expenses tax rate millage from the current millage of 2.4 mill, down to 1.68 mill for the upcoming tax year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Ross County Board of Commissioners, that the 2.4 mill that has been levied in Ross County for the calendar year 2025, for current expenses within the ten-mill limitation, be reduced to 1.68 mill for the calendar year 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 0.72 mill difference will not be levied against the citizens of Ross County for the calendar year 2026, and the same 0.72 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 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 0.72 mill property tax rate reduction will be for a period of one year, being calendar year 2026, and may be reconsidered by the Ross County Board of Commissioners for future years beyond calendar year 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 0.7 mill reduction authorized by Resolution 032-24 will continue to not be levied against the citizens of Ross County for the calendar year 2026, and the Ross County Board of Commissioners will continue to reserve this 0.7 mill so as not to be used by another political subdivision for the calendar year 2026, which brings the total millage reserved by the Ross County Board of Commissioners to 1.42 mill.

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

APPLICATION FOR APPROPRIATION TO ATTEND MEETING

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to approve a request from Andy Wettersten, IT Coordinator, to attend the CyberOhio Summit, November 19, at the Ohio State University Fawcett Center for a cost of \$206.00.

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ROSS COUNTY FACILITIES AND SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to approve the request for qualifications document and legal notice, for the Ross County Facilities Space Needs Assessment.

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

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to accept the recommendation of J. Jeffrey Benson, duly elected and qualified Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Ross County, Ohio and in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided, do hereby appoint NICOLETTE JOHNSON to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem in the Juvenile Division of the Ross County Court of Common Pleas, Ross, Ohio. Said NICOLETTE JOHNSON shall serve as such CASA/Guardian ad Litem without compensation commencing September 19, 2025.

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

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to accept the recommendation J. Jeffrey Benson, duly elected and qualified Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Ross County, Ohio and in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided, do hereby appoint CURTIS MINNEY to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem in the Juvenile Division of the Ross County Court of Common Pleas, Ross, Ohio Said CURTIS MINNEY shall serve as such CASA/Guardian ad Litem without compensation commencing September 19, 2025.

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

PAY APPLICATION 6 SETTERLIN BUILDING COMPANY

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to approve pay application 6 for Setterlin Building Supply Company for work done on the Ross County Jail Cell Alteration project, totaling \$159,773.45.

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

ADDENDUM TO COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS SUSIDY GRANT AGREEMENT

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to approve the addendum to the Community Based Corrections Subsidy Grant for an increase of \$21,614.00.

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

BID OPENING AIRPORT CONSULTING & PLANNING SERVICES

No bids were received.

BID OPENING STATE ROUTE 104 SEWER PROJECT

Bids were opened as advertised at 10:00am in the Commissioners conference room. Four (4) bids were received; Majors Enterprises, Inc., Monroe Ohio - \$11,468,190.00, TAM Construction Inc., Athens Ohio - \$8,900,948.00, Southern Ohio Trenching & Excavating - \$10,178,990.50 and Fields Excavating Inc., \$9,789,960.00. Bids were given to MS Consultants for review.

ROSS COUNTY SHERIFF FIREARMS PURCHASE

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to support the decision of the Sheriff’s Department to purchase Glock pistols, holsters and flash lights, to replace the Sig Sauer they are currently using. These Sigs will be traded in for a credit to apply to the new purchase of \$71,980.00.

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

The following resolution was passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners of September 29, 2025, with Commissioners Jack Everson, James E. Lowe, and David Glass, in attendance.

**AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF 12 DAYS OF BACK PAY
ROSS COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT TEAMSTERS LOCAL 284
041-25**

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Ross County Board of Commissioners that members of the Ross County Sheriff’s Department did not receive proper compensation for work performed during the period of July 1 to July 12; and

WHEREAS, the unpaid period totals **twelve (12) working days** and was due to an error in the communication from Union Representatives regarding the first full pay of July; and

WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners recognizes the legal and ethical obligation to ensure timely and accurate payment for services rendered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Employees of the Ross County Sheriff’s Department belonging to the Teamsters Local 284 Blue and Gold unit, shall be compensated for twelve (12) days of back pay covering the period from July 1 to July 12.
2. The Finance/Payroll Department is hereby authorized and directed to process and release the back pay in the next payroll cycle or as soon as administratively possible.
3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon approval.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners adjourn into executive session at 1:00 pm, to discuss matters to be kept confidential regarding Pixelle.

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

REGULAR SESSION RESUMED

The executive session called at 1:00 pm was adjourned, and the regular meeting resumed at 2:00 p.m. No action was taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Terressa Reep, America250 – discussed the many events and activities America250 is planning over the next year.

Jody Walker, Executive Director at South Central Ohio Job and Family Services – Discussed how Federal Legislation (H.R.1) will change SNAP Program finances

Julie Bolen, Executive Director Community Action – provided an update on the Ross County Community Resource Center and the implementation of a Homelessness Taskforce Committee.

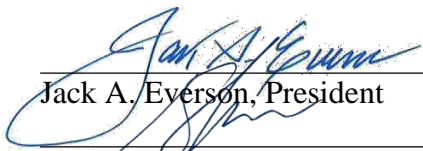
Ohio Erie Development Company – Franklin Conaway, Dwight McCabe and David Poe, the McCabe Companies – presented their plan for design and funding for the Old Canal building on the corner of Main Street and Mulberry St. They are asking for a letter of support from the County Commissioners and to allow the Port Authority to search for grants to make up for a one million dollar short fall for the project.

Vandermark Lane Vacation – County Engineer Charlie Ortman and County Prosecutor Jeff Marks discussed the request from the Scioto Township Trustees to vacate the farthest most section of Vandermark Road located adjacent to Auditor Parcel Number 26-1609003.000. Mr. Ortman will find out if Scioto Township is still collecting auto registration distribution funds on Vandermark Road. This plays a role in whether the road can legally be vacated. Once this information is collected the parties will reconvene.

ADJOURN

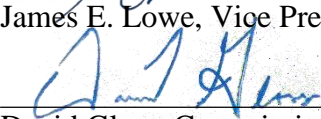
Mr. Jack A. Everson, President, adjourned the regular meeting of September 29, 2025 at 11:50 a.m.

Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio



Jack A. Everson, President

James E. Lowe, Vice President



David Glass, Commissioner