

SEPTEMBER 21 – MEETING 40

VOLUME 29

The Ross County Board of Commissioners met on this day, September 21, 2026, in regular session.

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

Commissioner Everson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES APPROVED

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, the minutes of the September 14, 2026 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. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, the following bills of the county be approved for payment:

DEPARTMENT	PAY TO NAME	TOTAL VALUE	DEPARTMENT	PAY TO NAME	TOTAL VALUE
Automatic Data Processing Board	CDW Government, Inc.	236.25	Sheriff	Friends Service Co. Inc	1.43
Automatic Data Processing Board	Amazon Capital Services	49.98	Sheriff	Aramark Services, Inc	9040.89
Commissioners	State Electric Supply, Inc.	99.98	Common Pleas Court #2	Clevenger, Leah	510
Common Pleas Court #1	Amazon Capital Services	83.82	Sheriff	KRISTIN ADAIR	101.48
Planning Commission	Village of Georgetown	197682.55	Sheriff	Tim's Tires & Accessories	317
Planning Commission	Montrose Group, LLC	5000	Sheriff	Sparkle Cleaners	82.9
Planning Commission	Belmont County Port Authority	10973	Sheriff	Scioto Shoe Mart	112.48
Planning Commission	DESIGNING LOCAL LTD	6974	Sheriff	Scioto Shoe Mart	607.46
Planning Commission	Schooley Caldwell Associates	21000	Sheriff	Penwell, Julia	702.95
Commissioners	Juvenile Detention Center	72582.17	Sheriff	Davis Tire of Chillicothe	847.6
Commissioners	DPS Media, Inc	157.3	Sheriff	Rumpke Of Ohio, Inc	1551.9
Commissioners	Ohio Federated Humane Soci	75	Sheriff	Glo Fiber	2123.71
Treasurer	Diebold, Inc.	1542.72	Sheriff	Purchase Power	180
Clerk of Courts	UPS	28.37	Sheriff	Purchase Power	39
Clerk of Courts	Friends Service Co. Inc	66.9	Sheriff	Purchase Power	69
Clerk of Courts	Government Forms and Suppl	2695.35	Sheriff	Purchase Power	12
Commissioners	Bud's Septic Tank Cleaning LL	295	Sheriff	Pitney Bowes	129.15
Automatic Data Processing Board	Axia Technology Partners, LLC	5000	Sheriff	Pitney Bowes	27.98
Commissioners	K&K Carpet Care of Chillicothe	8500.8	Sheriff	Pitney Bowes	49.51
Automatic Data Processing Board	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	678.66	Sheriff	Pitney Bowes	8.61
Commissioners	Iron City Implement	14.3	Sheriff	Modern Office Methods, Inc.	325.2
Building Department	Muffler Brothers	1147.19	Sheriff	Modern Office Methods, Inc.	130.06
Planning Commission	City of Logan	899712.52	Sheriff	Modern Office Methods, Inc.	260.16
Planning Commission	Ohio Historical Society, Inc	115766.29	Sheriff	Modern Office Methods, Inc.	65.03
Auditor	Jessica McDonald	262.5	Sheriff	P&R Communications Service	268.75
Planning Commission	City of Jackson	283267.71	Sheriff	Penwell, Julia	332.47
Automatic Data Processing Board	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	125.79	Sheriff	Premier Health Care Services,	45191.24
Engineer	Ace Truck Body, Inc.	272.97	Sheriff	Amazon Capital Services	54.27
Engineer	Advance Auto Parts	95.88	Sheriff	Adam H Buckler DDS, LLC	131.67
Engineer	Airgas Great Lakes	1886.04	Sheriff	Columbus Radiology Corp	568.13
Engineer	Amazon Capital Services	145.72	Sheriff	Allen's Pharmacy	1515.74
Engineer	B.E.T. Ltd	235	Sheriff	LINDA HUFF	114.84
Engineer	Coppel Coal & Supply Co.	39.5	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	97.5
Engineer	John Cutright	125	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	157.5
Engineer	Friends Service Co. Inc	81.99	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	112.5
Engineer	Hart, Linda	580	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	90
Engineer	Houser & Son Farm Equipmen	248	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	510
Engineer	JDA Insurance Agency LLC	125	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	180
Engineer	Kenworth Truck Co.	406.22	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	262.5
Engineer	Lightle Enterprises of Ohio LLC	448	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	142.5
Building Department	Verizon Wireless	198.58	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	157.5
Engineer	Modern Office Methods, Inc.	473.99	Auditor	Benson, Melinda J	120
Engineer	S & S Aggregates	5550.11	Auditor	Bivens, Hannah	562.5
Engineer	T-Mobile USA Inc	226.6	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	112.5
Coroner	US Bank Equipment Finance	96.74	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	82.5
Building Department	Hometown Apparel & Screen P	549.34	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	165
Coroner	Moccasin Creek Tactical	45	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	135
Coroner	Kent Harshbarger, M.D.	11850	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	90
Treasurer	BETH SPANGLER	5.61	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	202.5
Automatic Data Processing Board	Verizon Wireless	105.59	Auditor	Fried, Claire R. Attorney At Law	97.5
Automatic Data Processing Board	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	204.37	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	330
Automatic Data Processing Board	Glo Fiber	105.7	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Common Pleas Court #2	Office Depot Inc.	227.97	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	577.5
Jury Commission	USA TODAY MEDIA CORP	80.4	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	495
Coroner	MICHAEL R RATLIFF	139.41	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	322.5
Commissioners	Speer Mechanical	7357.26	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	675
Auditor	Reserve Account	15100	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	562.5
Planning Commission	Mount Zion Black Cultural Cen	249748.56	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Veterans Service Commission	Save-A-Lot	5404.96	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Automatic Data Processing Board	Axia Technology Partners, LLC	5000	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Automatic Data Processing Board	Glo Fiber	2215.95	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Commissioners	Brad Murray	1200	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Clerk of Courts	The Water Express	42.75	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Certificate of Title	US Bank Equipment Finance	106.58	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Probate Court	Hamilton County Probate Court	547	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	75
Juvenile Court	Lighthouse Youth Services	7551	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	480
Juvenile Court	Lighthouse Youth Services	2679	Commissioners	Michel Wilson	95
Juvenile Court	ANGIE STEWART	57.57	Veterans Service Commission	Sewards, Randy A.	472
Probate Court	Hill, Laura J.	1150	Veterans Service Commission	Nicole Charity	352.88
Juvenile Court	Verizon Wireless	419.54	Veterans Service Commission	Conn, Douglas	552
Juvenile Court	Paper City Coffee	60	Veterans Service Commission	McGee, Matt	280
Planning Commission	NEW RIVER ENGINEERS INC	13746.69	Veterans Service Commission	Finley , John	120
Juvenile Court	Amazon Capital Services	157.51	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	450
Juvenile Court	Amazon Capital Services	16.99	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	555
Planning Commission	American Structure Point, Inc	4800	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	315
Planning Commission	American Structure Point, Inc	101956.79	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	300
Planning Commission	American Structure Point, Inc	37995	Auditor	Rutherford, Chase Colin	915
Planning Commission	Goodhue Consulting, Inc	2383.75	Auditor	ANTHONY M SKOWRONEK	855
Commissioners	Integrated Protection Services	300	Auditor	ANTHONY M SKOWRONEK	45
Commissioners	State Electric Supply, Inc.	90.1	Law Library	West Group	1280.55
Commissioners	Jack A Everson	610.22	Auditor	First Communications, LLC	8.83
Commissioners	Fultz's Glass & Door, LLC	750			\$2,212,618.16
Commissioners	State Electric Supply, Inc.	506.08			
Law Library	Gordon Flesch Co., Inc.	21.01			
Ross County Court System	Compass Integration LLC	3283.41			
Ross County Court System	US Bank Equipment Finance	1514.46			
Sheriff	Escamilla, Vanessa	330			
Ross County Court System	Compass Integration LLC	5422.16			
Sheriff	Jonina Johnson	276			
Sheriff	Amazon Capital Services	329.99			
Sheriff	Amazon Capital Services	35.71			
Sheriff	C & D Monitoring Co.	104.85			
Sheriff	Friends Service Co. Inc	9.18			
Sheriff	Friends Service Co. Inc	9.79			

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

THEN & NOW CERTIFICATES APPROVED

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners approve "Then & Now" Certificates, dated September 7, 2026 through September 21, 2026, in the amount of \$4,625.88 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. Glass, yes; Mr. Everson, yes. Motion carried.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to transfer \$969.79 from account code 100-01-00-7150 Supplies, into account code 100-01-00-7550 Other Expense, per a request of September 21, 2026 from the Ross County Commissioners.

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 \$1.00 from account code 100-01-00-7100 Grants Other into account code 100-01-15-7550 Grants Other, per a request of September 21, 2026 from the Ross County Court Commissioner.

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

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to transfer \$60,707.50 from account code 420-20-18-7801 Reimburse General Fund into account codes 420-20-18-7550 Other Expenses (\$50,000.00) and account code 420-20-18-7014 Group Insurance (\$10,707.50). Appropriate \$2,882.17 from account code 420-20-18-7013 Workers Comp into account code 420-20-18-7014 Group Insurance and to appropriate \$1,410.33 from account code 420-20-18-7100 Travel into account code 420-20-18-7014 Group Insurance, per a request of September 21, 2026, from the Ross County Common Pleas 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 transfer \$2,500.00 from account code 420-18-13-7842 Ross County CASA into account code 420-18-13-7150 Ross County CASA Supplies, per a request of September 21, 2026, from the Ross County Juvenile Court.

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

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to appropriate \$41,600.00 from General Fund into account codes 100-08-22-7214 Equipment Purchase (\$38,000.00) and account code 100-08-00-7103 Contact Services (\$3,600.00), per a request of September 21, 2026, from the Ross County Data Processing Board.

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 \$1,280,000.00 from Courthouse Restoration Fund into account code 553-01-00-7103 Contract Services, per a request of September 21, 2026, from the Ross County Commissioners.

CRA AGREEMENTS ROSS COUNTY AND GATEWAY LOFTS (HALLMARK)

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to approve the Green Township Reinvestment Area Agreement with Gateway Lofts Chillicothe, Delano Road. The Developer intends to construct, or cause to be constructed, on the Project Site a Class A multifamily residential community consisting of approximately 230 dwelling units (primarily studios and one-bedrooms, with no more than sixty (60) two-bedroom units), together with surface parking, an outdoor swimming pool, and related site improvements. Zane Trace School District, pursuant to action of its Board of Education taken at its Special Board Meeting on May 27, 2026 (Motion 060526), approved the request for a 100%, fifteen-year tax abatement with an annual PILOT payment of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to the School District. The Developer has further agreed to provide an annual PILOT payment of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to the JVSD.

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

RESOLUTION 029-26
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND GATEWAY LOFTS CHILLICOTHE LLC; AND AUTHORIZING RELATED ACTIONS

Mr. Everson introduced the following resolution and moved its passage:

WHEREAS, the County of Ross, Ohio (the "County") has determined to encourage the development of real property and the acquisition and installation of personal property in the area comprised of the entirety of Green Township, Ross County and designated as the "Green Township Community Reinvestment Area" (the "CRA") by a resolution adopted March 27, 2023, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") Section 3735.66; and **WHEREAS**, Gateway Lofts Chillicothe LLC (the "Developer") submitted to the County a CRA agreement application regarding the construction of a Class A multifamily residential community consisting of approximately 230 dwelling units, together with related site improvements (collectively, the "Project"), and has represented to the County that the Developer is qualified by financial responsibility and business experience to create and preserve employment opportunities in the CRA and is therefore eligible for certain exemptions under the CRA Act; and **WHEREAS**, the Director of Development of the State of Ohio has determined that the CRA as designated contains the characteristics set forth in R.C. Section 3735.66 and confirmed that area as a "Community Reinvestment Area" pursuant to R.C. Section 3735.66, and the County, having the appropriate authority for the Project, is desirous of providing incentives available for the development of the Project in the CRA; and **WHEREAS**, pursuant to this Resolution and the CRA Act, the County and the Developer desire to execute a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement (the "CRA Agreement") substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference in connection with the development of parcel number 140-11-011-5000 (the "Project Site"), and the Developer intends to construct the Project on the Project Site, as described in the CRA Agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the incentives in the proposed CRA Agreement include a fifteen (15) year, one hundred percent (1 00%) real property tax exemption for the assessed value of certain new structures constructed at the Project Site, commencing the first year the real property improvement would first be taxable were that property not exempted from taxation and ending, at most, fifteen (15) years thereafter (the "CRA Exemption"); and **WHEREAS**, the Project Site is located in the Zane Trace Local School District (the "School District") and the County has delivered notice of the proposed approval of this Agreement to the Board of Education of the School District under R.C. Sections 3735.671 and 5709.83, and has provided copies of the CRA Agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the School District, at its Special Board Meeting on May 27, 2026 (Motion 060526), approved the request for the CRA Exemption, and on August 19, 2026 adopted Resolution No. 080126 approving the terms of the CRA Agreement, including the CRA Exemption, waiving the statutory forty-five (45) business-day and fourteen (14) day notices under R.C. Sections 3735.671 and 5709.83, and consenting to the CRA Exemption on the condition that the County, the Developer, and the School District enter into a compensation agreement (the "School District Compensation Agreement") and on the condition that Developer makes the payments to the Board of Education of the School District as set forth in the School District Compensation Agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the Project Site is also located in the Pickaway-Ross Career and Technical Center School District (the "JVSD") and the County has delivered notice of the proposed approval of this Agreement to the Board of Education of the JVSD under R.C. Sections 3735.671 and 5709.83, and has provided copies of the CRA Agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the JVSD on August 13, 2026, adopted a resolution consenting to the CRA Exemption on the condition that

the County, the Developer, and the JVSD enter into a compensation agreement (the "JVSD Compensation Agreement") and on the condition that Developer makes the payments to the Board of Education of the JVSD as set forth in the JVSD Compensation Agreement; and **WHEREAS**, the Developer and the County desire to execute the CRA Agreement to provide for the successful development of the Project Site, which development will create and preserve employment opportunities in the County and will benefit the citizens of the County. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ROSS, STATE OF OHIO, THAT:**

Section 1. The CRA Agreement, substantially in the form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A, is hereby approved and authorized, and the Board of Commissioners are hereby authorized to execute the CRA Agreement with changes or amendments thereto not inconsistent with this Resolution and not substantially adverse to the County as determined by the Commissioners executing the CRA Agreement on behalf of the County, all of which shall be evidenced conclusively by the execution of the CRA Agreement by the Board of Commissioners.

The exemption provided for in the CRA Agreement shall be with respect to the assessed value of the real property at the Project Site and shall apply for the structures constructed on the Project Site, commencing with the first year such real property improvement would first be taxable were that property not hereby exempted from taxation.

Section 2. The School District Compensation Agreement, substantially in the form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit B, is hereby approved and authorized, and the Board of Commissioners are hereby authorized to execute the School District Compensation Agreement with changes or amendments thereto not inconsistent with this Resolution and not substantially adverse to the County as determined by the Commissioners executing the School District Compensation Agreement on behalf of the County, all of which shall be evidenced conclusively by the execution of the School District Compensation Agreement by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 3. The JVSD Compensation Agreement, substantially in the form attached to this Resolution as Exhibit C, is hereby approved and authorized, and the Board of Commissioners are hereby authorized to execute the JVSD Compensation Agreement with changes or amendments thereto not inconsistent with this Resolution and not substantially adverse to the County as determined by the Commissioners executing the JVSD Compensation Agreement on behalf of the County, all of which shall be evidenced conclusively by the execution of the JVSD Compensation Agreement by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 4. The Clerk of this Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to deliver a copy of the CRA Agreement to the Director of the Ohio Department of Development by March 31, 2027 in accordance with R.C. Section 3735.672.

Section 5. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board of Commissioners concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of Commissioners, and that all deliberations of this Board of Commissioners and any decision making bodies of the County that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public and in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 6. This Resolution shall be effective from and after the earliest period provided by law.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to approve enter a contract between The Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio, and Robert Frizzell. The Community Service Contractor will supervise community service work for adult offenders placed on community control through the Ross County Court of Common Pleas General Division. The maximum amount payable pursuant to this Agreement is Forty-five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00) for services provided. However, it is understood that the actual amount paid may be less, based upon services provided and appropriately invoiced.

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

The following resolutions were passed at the regular meeting of the Ross County Board of Commissioners on September 14, 2026, with Jack A. Everson, James E. Lowe, and David Glass, in attendance:

RESOLUTION 030-26

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE MERGER OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP (AREA 20 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA) AND THE AREA 14 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA AND TO APPROVE A TRANSITION STRUCTURE LEADING TO FULL MERGER EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027

WHEREAS the Fairfield County Commissioners Economic and Workforce Development Department currently serves as the administrative entity and fiscal agent for the Area 20 Workforce Development Area, the Athens County Board of Commissioners currently serves as the administrative entity for the Area 14 Workforce Development Area, and the Perry County Job and Family Services currently serves as the fiscal agent for the Area 14 Workforce Development Area; and

WHEREAS the Chief Elected Officials and Workforce Development Boards of Area 20 and Area 14 have determined that the merger of the two local workforce development areas is in the best interest of the region and will strengthen coordination, regional planning, employer engagement, service delivery, administrative efficiency, and workforce development opportunities throughout the participating counties; and

WHEREAS, the participating counties intend to implement the merger through a planned transition period, with an Administrative Integration and Transition Effective Date of October 1, 2026, and a Full Merger and Redesignation Effective Date of July 1, 2027, subject to approval by the Governor and the State of Ohio and satisfaction of applicable federal and state requirements; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2027, Perry County Job and Family services will serve as the fiscal agent for the merged Workforce Development Board; and

WHEREAS, effective October 1, 2026, Fairfield County Commissioners Economic and Workforce Development Department will serve as the single administrative entity supporting both the Area 20 Workforce Development Board and the Area 14 Workforce Development Board during the transition period and will coordinate administrative functions and activities necessary to prepare for full regional integration; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a single administrative entity effective October 1, 2026, constitutes an administrative integration and transition action and does not constitute the full merger of the two local workforce development areas, Workforce Development Boards, or fiscal structures prior to July 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, during the transition period from October 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the Area 20 Workforce Development Board and Area 14 Workforce Development Board will remain separately constituted, with each Board continuing to exercise the governance, policy, oversight, approval, performance, and other responsibilities applicable to its respective local workforce development area; and

WHEREAS, during the transition period through June 30, 2027, the existing fiscal-agent structure for each local workforce development area will remain in place, with each fiscal agent continuing to maintain fiscal responsibility and accountability for the WIOA funds, grants, expenditures, accounting records, financial reporting, reconciliations, and other fiscal activities associated with its respective local workforce development area; and

WHEREAS, during the transition period, the single administrative entity may coordinate and administer common administrative functions for the two local workforce development areas, including, as applicable, staffing and administrative support, policy development and alignment, planning, performance management, monitoring coordination, contract administration, procurement administration, workforce system coordination, business services coordination, board support, reporting coordination, and other administrative and transition functions authorized by the respective Chief Elected Officials and Workforce Development Boards; and

WHEREAS, during the transition period, appropriate separation and accountability will be maintained for the governance, fiscal, programmatic, contractual, performance, and other responsibilities attributable to each respective local workforce development area, notwithstanding the use of a single administrative entity; and

WHEREAS, the transition period will be used to develop and implement the governance, administrative, fiscal, programmatic, contractual, policy, staffing, partner, and operational structures necessary for the newly merged local workforce development area to begin full operation on July 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS, effective July 1, 2027, and subject to required State and federal approvals, Area 20 and Area 14 will fully merge into one local workforce development area governed by one Workforce Development Board, serving Athens, Fairfield, Hocking, Meigs, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, and Vinton Counties; and

WHEREAS, prior to July 1, 2027, the participating Chief Elected Officials will establish and approve, through appropriate agreements and actions, the permanent governance structure, Chief Elected Official agreement, Workforce Development Board composition, fiscal-agent designation, administrative structure, bylaws, liability provisions, policies, and other arrangements necessary for operation of the newly merged local workforce development area; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio requires appropriate local approval from the counties comprising the affected local workforce development areas as part of the application and approval process for the proposed merger and redesignation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ROSS COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. Approval of Merger and Redesignation Application

The Ross County Board of Commissioners hereby approves and supports the application to the State of Ohio for the merger and redesignation of Area 20 and Area 14 into a single local workforce development area, with the Full Merger and Redesignation Effective Date of July 1, 2027, subject to approval by the Governor and the State of Ohio and satisfaction of all applicable federal and state requirements.

Section 2. Administrative Integration and Transition Effective October 1, 2026

Effective October 1, 2026, Fairfield County Commissioners Economic and Workforce Development Department is approved to serve as the single administrative entity supporting both the Area 20 Workforce Development Board and the Area 14 Workforce Development Board during the transition period.

The single administrative entity may coordinate and administer common administrative functions for both local workforce development areas, as authorized by the respective Chief Elected Officials and Workforce Development Boards, while maintaining appropriate accountability for each local workforce development area.

The establishment of the single administrative entity constitutes an administrative integration and transition action and does not constitute the full merger of the two local workforce development areas, Workforce Development Boards, or fiscal structures prior to July 1, 2027.

Section 3. Continuation of Two Workforce Development Boards

The Ross County Board of Commissioners acknowledges and approves that the Area 20 Workforce Development Board and Area 14 Workforce Development Board will remain separately constituted through June 30, 2027.

During the transition period, each Workforce Development Board will retain and exercise the governance, policy, oversight, approval, performance, and other responsibilities applicable to its respective local workforce development area. Further, each Workforce Development Board will retain its existing Director, consistent with each Area's Local Governance Agreement, through June 30, 2027, for the purposes of overseeing the day-to-day operations and maintaining appropriate accountability for each local workforce development area, and for assisting the single administrative entity in the performance of its duties, consistent with the terms of this Resolution. Each Director will perform their functions subject to oversight by Fairfield County Commissioners Economic and Workforce Development Department as the single administrative entity, and in collaboration with the respective Workforce Development Board and Chief Elected Officials.

The two Boards may engage in joint planning, policy alignment, strategic discussions, regional initiatives, and other transition activities in preparation for the merged workforce development area; however, each Board will continue to take any official action required for its respective local workforce development area until the full merger becomes effective.

Section 4. Continuation of Two Fiscal Agents

The Ross County Board of Commissioners acknowledges and approves that the existing fiscal agent structure for Area 20 and Area 14 will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

Each fiscal agent will retain fiscal responsibility and accountability for the WIOA funds, grants, expenditures, accounting records, financial reporting, reconciliations, and other fiscal activities associated with its respective local workforce development area.

Nothing in the designation of a single administrative entity effective October 1, 2026, shall be construed to transfer, consolidate, or otherwise alter the fiscal-agent responsibilities of the two existing local workforce development areas during the transition period unless separately authorized and approved in accordance with applicable requirements.

Section 5. Transition Responsibilities

During the period of October 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the single administrative entity will work in coordination with both Workforce Development Boards, both fiscal agents, the participating Chief Elected Officials, workforce system partners, and the State of Ohio to facilitate an orderly transition to the newly merged local workforce development area.

Transition activities may include the alignment and development of policies, administrative procedures, staffing structures, monitoring processes, performance management systems, board operations, partner agreements, contracts, procurement activities, business services strategies, planning activities, reporting processes, communications, and other operational functions necessary to support successful implementation of the merged workforce development area.

Section 6. Development of Permanent Governance and Operating Structure

Prior to July 1, 2027, the participating Chief Elected Officials and Workforce Development Boards will undertake the actions necessary to establish the permanent governance and operating structure for the newly merged local workforce development area, including, as applicable:

- Establishment and execution of a Chief Elected Official agreement for the new local workforce development area.
- Appointment and certification of the new Workforce Development Board.
- Adoption of bylaws for the new Workforce Development Board.
- Designation of the fiscal agent for the newly merged local workforce development area.
- Establishment of the permanent administrative structure.
- Development and adoption of regional policies and procedures.
- Alignment or establishment of contracts and service-delivery arrangements.
- Development or modification of required workforce plans, partner agreements, and resource-sharing arrangements.
- Establishment of procedures for the transition or closeout of existing grants, contracts, assets, records, participant files, and fiscal responsibilities; and
- Completion of other actions required by the State of Ohio or applicable federal requirements.

Further, it is agreed by the participating Chief Elected Officials that any permanent governance and operating structure for the newly merged local workforce development area shall include provisions for the continued service of the current Area 14 Workforce Development Board Director. This continued service shall be in a staff position for the newly merged local workforce development board and under the direction of the appointed administrative entity. The specific duties of the position shall be determined in accordance with Section 5 of this Resolution. The continued service shall be on substantially the same terms and conditions, subject to any agreed upon changes and the policies and procedures of the newly merged local workforce development board. The current Area 14 Workforce Development Board Director shall remain an employee of the Athens County Board of Commissioners and the provisions of this paragraph are subject to the Athens County Board of Commissioners agreeing to provide the current Area 14 Workforce Development Board Director's services to the newly merged local workforce development area on a full-time basis.

Section 7. Full Merger Effective July 1, 2027

Effective July 1, 2027, subject to approval by the Governor and the State of Ohio and completion of all applicable requirements, Area 20 and Area 14 will fully merge and operate as one local workforce development area governed by one Workforce Development Board serving Athens, Fairfield, Hocking, Meigs, Perry, Pickaway, Ross, and Vinton Counties.

Upon implementation of the full merger, the transitional two-board and two-fiscal-agent structure described in this Resolution will end, and the permanent governance, administrative, and fiscal structure approved for the newly merged local workforce development area will become effective.

Section 8. Authorization

The Ross County Board of Commissioners authorizes the execution of such agreements, documents, applications, and other actions as may be

necessary to implement the administrative transition and full merger in coordination with the participating counties, Chief Elected Officials, Workforce Development Boards, fiscal agents, administrative entity, and the State of Ohio.

**South Central Ohio Job & Family Services
Area 20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board Appointment
Resolution 031-26**

WHEREAS, the director of South-Central Ohio Job & Family Services (SCOJFS) has requested that the Hocking County Board of Commissioners appoint the following individual as a board member to the Area 20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board for a term effective; July 1, 2026 and expiring; June 30, 2029.
Rick Henson – Adena Health System
RESOLVED, that the Hocking County Board of Commissioners hereby appoint the following individual as a board member to the Area 20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board for a term effective; July1, 2026 and expiring; June 30, 2029.
Rick Henson – Adena Health System

**South Central Ohio Job & Family Services
Area 20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board Appointment
Resolution 32-26**

WHEREAS, the director of South-Central Ohio Job & Family Services (SCOJFS) has requested that the Hocking County Board of Commissioners appoint the following individual as a board member to the Area 20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board for a term effective; July 1, 2026 and expiring; June 30, 2029.
Carrie Fife – Pickaway Ross CTC
RESOLVED, that the Hocking County Board of Commissioners hereby appoint the following individual as a board member to the Area 20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Board for a term effective; July1, 2026 and expiring; June 30, 2029.
Carrie Fife – Pickaway Ross CTC

RESOLUTION 033-26

WHEREAS, the State Capital Improvement Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program both provide financial assistance to political subdivisions for capital improvements to public infrastructure; and
WHEREAS, the Ross County Board of Commissioners has elected to participate in the pursuit of funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission, and according to the provisions of State Issue 1, must name or authorize one or more individuals to prepare, sign and submit applications and execute contracts for the funding source; now, there, be it
RESOLVED, that the said Board of County Commissioners designates Charlie Ortman, Engineer of Ross County, Ohio, as the person empowered on its behalf to prepare and submit applications for Issue 1 funding, round 41/FY 2028, to the Ohio Public Works Commission, and further designates Jack A. Everson, president of the Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio as the person empowered on its behalf to execute all applications and contracts relative to Ohio Public Works Commission administered funding.
Adopted this 21 day of September, 2026
This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution passed by thy Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio on the 21 day of September 2026, which is recorded in the Journal of County Commissioners in Volume 29, Meeting 40, under date September 21, 2026.

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

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA DESIGNATION APPLICATION

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, to approve the addition of Perry County, Athens County and Meigs County into the Area 20 Workforce Development Area.

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

LIQUOR PERMIT NO HEARING

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to not request a hearing on the transfer of a liquor license from HEROES PUB LLC HEROES PUB 2254 BLAIN HWY WAVERLY OH 45690, Muni/Village/Twp: Huntington Twp to The Foothills, LLC The Foothills, 2254 Blain Highway Huntington Township, Waverly OH, Muni/Village/Twp: Huntington Twp

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

UNESCO CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANIAL COMPLETION

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass seconded, to sign the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the ACGP UNESCO/World Heritage project. This document declares the project is complete enough for its intended use.

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 Engineer for disposal of the following surplus property of the county as indicated:

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	TAG/SERIAL	METHOD OF DISPOSAL
1	Brother Printer	18059	Surplus Property

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

Mr. Lowe moved, Mr. Glass 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
2	Refrigerators	2917, 2689	Surplus Property

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED

Mr. Glass moved, Mr. Lowe seconded, the Ross County Board of Commissioners adjourn into executive session at 9:15am, to discuss matters to be kept confidential.

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

REGULAR SESSION RESUMED

The executive session called at 9:15am was adjourned, and the regular meeting resumed at 11:09 am. No action was taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

Employee Wellness Picnic

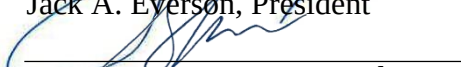
Landbank Strategic Planning Conference

ADJOURN

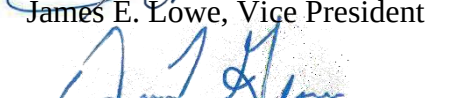
Mr. Jack A. Everson, President, adjourned the regular meeting of September 21, 2026, at 3:26 pm, Board of Commissioners of Ross County, Ohio



Jack A. Everson, President



James E. Lowe, Vice President



David Glass, Commissioner