

**FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

The Gallia County Board of Commissioners met on this date for the purpose of approving the minutes of the previous meeting and current transfers, appropriations and bills. At 9:00 a.m. the meeting was called to order by President Leslie Henry. Roll Call: President Leslie Henry, present; Vice President Q. Jay Stapleton, present; Commissioner Jeremy Kroll, present.

The President entertained a motion for approval of the February 20, 2025 minutes. Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

2025 Canine Shelter Weekly Report														
Week Ending	Came in	Adopted	Reclaimed	Euthanized	Out to Rescue	MIA	Died (Natural or unknown Causes)	Destroyed (in field)	Total Out	Remaining at shelter	Out to County Foster	In from County Foster	Died in Foster (Natural or Unknown Causes)	Total in Foster
2/23	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	18	0	0	0	7

**LAW LIBRARY – CONTRACT**

County Administrator Brian Rutherford presented the Commissioners with a 3-year Contract for the Law Library with Lexus Nexus. President Henry entertained a motion that would allow her to sign the contract on behalf of the County. Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

**COMMISSIONERS – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:16 a.m. the president entertained a motion to enter into executive session with County Administrator Brian Rutherford and County Prosecutor Jason Holdren concerning legal matters and the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea. Returned to regular session at 9:52 a.m.; No action taken.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD**  
**2024 CDBG CHIP GRANT – HOUSING PROGRAM INCOME MATCH**  
**CERTIFICATION OF DETERMINATION OF A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION PROJECT**

Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with the paperwork for approval of the Environmental Review Record for the following project for which a certification of determination of a categorical exclusion project could be made:

- 2024 CHIP Grant – Housing Program Income Matching Funds

Ms. Henry entertained a motion to approve the form as presented noting no comments or complaints being received during the local comment period (notice published on 2/18/2025 with 7 day local comment period ending 2/25/2025). Q. Jay Stapleton made and Jeremy Kroll seconded that motion. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea. All forms were signed by Leslie R. Henry, as President of the Commission, and they are on file in the County's CDBG files.

**GREEN SEWER PHASE 2 PAYMENT RESOLUTION # 37**

GMCAA Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with Payment Resolution # 37 for the Green Sewer Phase 2 Project for the following items:

- Construction - \$98,011.91
- Legal Fees = \$4,909.06
- Engineering: \$51,186.35
- Administration: \$1,420.68
- Bond/Loan payments: \$0.00
- Other: \$0.00

· Total = \$155,528.00

Invoices to be paid as follows:

- Field Excavating Pay Application #16 = \$98,011.91 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410
- DLZ invoice 225023 = \$25,397.94 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410

CASTO & HARRIS, INC. — RE-ORDER NO. 25403-23

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- DLZ invoice 225270 = \$25,788.41 paid by Gallia County from USDA Grant Fund #372
- Bricker Graydon invoice 2056647 = \$4,909.06 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410
- GMCAA February 2025 Administration Billing = \$1,420.68 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410

Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded a motion to approve payment resolution # 37 as submitted. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

#### GREEN SEWER PHASE 2 SETTLEMENT FUND DISBURSEMENT #16

GMCAA Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with Settlement Fund Disbursement #16 for the Green Sewer Phase 2 Project for the following items:

- Field Excavating Pay Application #16 = \$98,011.91 of the pay application paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410
- DLZ Invoice 225023 = \$25,397.94 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410
- Bricker Graydon invoice 2056647 = \$4,909.06 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410
- GMCAA February 2025 Administration Billing = \$1,420.68 paid by Gallia County from Settlement Fund #410
- Total Settlement Fund Disbursement Request = \$129,739.59

Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded a motion to approve the Green Sewer 2 Settlement Fund Disbursement #16 as submitted. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

#### USDA - GREEN SEWER PHASE 2 DISBURSEMENT #30

GMCAA Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with USDA Disbursement #30 for the Green Sewer Phase 2 Project for the following items:

- DLZ invoice 225270 = \$25,788.41 paid by Gallia County from USDA Grant Fund #372
- Total USDA Disbursement Request = \$25,788.41

Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded a motion to approve and sign the USDA Disbursement #30 as submitted. Upon roll call votes were as follows: MS. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

#### CHANGE ORDER #3 – GREEN SEWER 2 PROJECT – FIELDS EXCAVATING CONTRACT

GMCAA Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with Change Order No. 3 paperwork for the Green Sewer 2 Project with Fields Excavating, Inc. The change order is being requested as follows:

- Item 2 2" Force Main = \$15,750.00
- Item 22 6" Crushed Limestone = \$269.25
- Item 34 Air Release Valve = \$11,000.00
- Item 37 Compacted Granular Backfill = \$231.40
- Item CO2A Concrete Escalation Price = \$11,349.72
- Item CO2D Switch to High Tide Dialers at LS & GP = \$60,208.25

Contract amount adjustments as follows:

- Original contract price = \$6,998,565.10
- Change order #1 = \$225,511.55
- Change order #2 = \$627,766.11
- Change Order #3 = \$98,808.62
- New contract total = \$7,950,651.38
- No change in contract time: substantial completion 10/21/2025 & final payment 11/20/2025

DLZ Project Engineer Gary Silcott is in agreement with this change order. Ms. Henry entertained a motion to approve the OWDA & EJCDC change order forms as requested. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded that motion. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea. Form was signed by Ms. Henry, as President of the Commission.

#### CROWN CITY SEWER PROJECT PAYMENT ESTIMATE #2 - FINAL

Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with Payment Estimate # 2 - Final for the Crown City Sewer Improvements Project for the following items:

- Construction - \$63,705.24
- Total= \$63,705.24

Invoices will be or have been paid as follows:

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• P&E Pumps & Services LLC Pay Estimate #2 - Final = \$63,705.24 to be paid by County from B-X-23-1AY-1 CDBG Grant in Fund #412

Ms. Henry entertained a motion to approve and sign the contractor's payment estimate #2 as submitted. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded a motion. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

**RESOLUTION – FY 2025 CDBG CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN UPDATE**

Grants Administrator Karen Sprague presented the Commission with an update to the CDBG Citizen Participation Plan as required by ODOT's Policy Notice CSD 23-02 that it must be updated every 6 years. Ms. Henry entertained a motion to approve and sign the updated CDBG Citizen Participation Plan as submitted. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded a motion. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – DJFS**

At 10:16 a.m. the president entertained a motion to enter into executive session with DJFS Director Dana Glassburn to discuss the employment, compensation of a public employee and complaint against a public employee. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea. Returned to regular session at 10:30 a.m.; no action taken.

**DJFS – PROMOTION**

President Henry entertained a motion upon the recommendation of Dana Glassburn, DJFS Director, to promote Robert Tom Starr to the non-bargaining unit position Employment Services Supervisor 1, Classification 73300, and Position Control #14201.0 with the effective date of the promotion to be March 10, 2025 and a starting pay rate of \$22.50. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

**DJFS – MOU WITH OSU**

Dana Glassburn, DJFS Director requested from the Commissioners permission to sign a Memo of Understanding with Ohio State University for the SNAP Education program. Jeremy Kroll moved to allow Mr. Glassburn to sign the MOU as requested, Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

**EMS – RETIREMENT**

Keith Wilson, EMS Director submitted the following letter:

*Dear Gallia County Commissioners*

*After nearly 34 years of dedicated service to the Citizens of Gallia County, I am writing to inform you of my decision to retire from my position as EMS Director and 911 Deputy Director effective July 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. It has been a wonderful journey working our talented employees and staff. I am grateful for the opportunities for professional and personal growth that I have been afforded during my service with Gallia County. Please accept my sincerest thanks for your guidance and support throughout the years.*

*Warmest Regards,  
Keith Wilson*

**COMMISSIONERS – BID OPENING  
CONLEY BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT**

At 10:45 a.m. President Henry opened the following bids for the Conley Building Roof Replacement:

Company	Total Bid
Bill Jackson Roofing Co.	\$115, 229.79
Amish Builders LLC.	\$ 58, 600.00

The bids were turned over to Special Projects Manager Tom White for review and recommendation.

**OSU – AGENCY UPDATE**

Erin Daily, Michelle Stumbo and Tracey Winters presented the Commission with an agency update for February of various activities and presented a copy of their newsletter and upcoming events. No action taken.

**NATIONAL FFA WEEK PROCLAMATION**

The following were in attendance to request approval of a Proclamation for National FFA Week in Gallia County: Gallia Academy FFA Advisor Katherine Dickson, FFA members Halli Angel, Shelby Greenlee and Maggie Davis; South Gallia FFA Advisor Trevor Baker and members Kennedy Shamblin and Tanner Sanders; River Valley FFA members Brendan Clagg and Wyatt McPherson. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion to approve the following proclamation. Roll calls: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea.

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**National FFA Week**  
February 15 – 22, 2025  
**PROCLAMATION**

**Whereas**, FFA and agricultural education provide a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of the food, fiber and natural resources systems; and  
**Whereas**, FFA promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members; and  
**Whereas**, agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business and technology of agriculture; and  
**Whereas**, the FFA motto— "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve"—gives direction and purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education; and  
**Whereas**, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation.  
**Therefore**, we, the Gallia County Commissioners do hereby designate the week of Feb. 15–22, 2025, as National FFA Week.

*s/ Leslie Henry*, President

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH - PROCLAMATION**

Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent Melinda Kingery presented the following proclamation for approval:

**Proclamation for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**  
**March 1-31, 2025**

**WHEREAS** Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities were established by the Ohio General Assembly on October 25, 1967; and

**WHEREAS** the mission and purpose of Ohio's county boards of DD remain as strong as ever, with county boards continuing to provide vital support and resources to Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families; and

**WHEREAS** the more than 250 people with developmental disabilities served by the Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities, their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers encourage everyone to focus on the abilities of all people; and

**WHEREAS** the most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone's active participation in community activities and the openness to lean and acknowledge each individual's contribution; and

**WHEREAS** policies must be developed, attitudes shaped, and opportunities offered that allow people with developmental disabilities to live as independently and productively as possible in our community; and

**WHEREAS** in recognition of this important goal, the county-wide theme for 2025 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is "In a world where you can be anything, be kind" and

**WHEREAS** we encourage all citizen to foster and support such opportunities that include full access to education, housing, employment, and recreational activities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, The Gallia County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

and offer full support to efforts that assist people with disabilities to make choices that enable them to live successful lives and realize their potential; and

**FURTHERMORE**, we urge all citizens to join in this celebration by spreading awareness of the many contributions offered by people with developmental disabilities in our community, and

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have hereunto set our hand and caused our seal this 27th day of February, Two-Thousand Twenty-Five.

*s/ Leslie Henry*, President

*s/ Q. Jay Stapleton*, Vice President

*s/ Jeremy Kroll*, Commissioner

The President entertained a motion to approve the proclamation. Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea. Also, in attendance: PALS Matthew Blackford, Victor Hockenhiemer and Mark Holtgreven.

**AUDITOR**

County Auditor Robert Jacks met with the Commissioners to inform them that he testified in opposition of House Bill 15 as written in front of the energy committee at the Ohio Statehouse. Mr. Jacks stated that the House Bill 15 would effect every taxpayer and essential service within the County. The Auditor's testimony was the following:

**Auditor Jacks Testimony:**

*My name is Robbie Jacks, and I serve as the Gallia County Auditor. Today, I am here to voice my strong opposition to HB15. I want to make it clear that I am representing Gallia County specifically and not the County Auditor's Association of Ohio.*

*Auditor P.D. Knipp has already provided a thorough explanation of the significant challenges that counties with generation plants will face if this legislation is passed in its current form. While I acknowledge the Legislature's proactive efforts to secure Ohio's future electricity generation needs, placing the burden on local governments is not the solution. The impact on Gallia County will be severe, and I am here to provide specific figures illustrating the harm this bill will cause to our county, schools, and essential services.*

*The generation facilities in Gallia County are located in Cheshire and Addison Townships, within the Gallia County Local Scholl District. The current Public Utility Personal Property (PUPP) value for these facilities is \$173,322,660. The total valuation of all transmission values would bring that figure to \$100,326,020, resulting in a total valuation loss of &479,996,640 for our County.*

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My office has prepared a Gallia County Tax Loss Spreadsheet, and I would like to present some key figures for the record:

- Gallia County General Fund: \$248,189
- Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities: \$204,391
- Gallia County Local School District (Operations): \$2,106,839
- Gallia County LSD (Permanent Improvement): \$105,342
- Gallia County LSD Debt: \$36,870
- Gallia County Joint Vocational School: \$145,933
- Cheshire Township General Fund: \$58,270
- Cheshire Township Road & Bridge Fund: \$32,372
- Addison Township General Fund: \$100,014
- Addison Township Road & Bridge Fund: \$50,007
- Addison Township Fire Fund: \$50,007
- Gallia County Health Department: \$72,997
- University of Rio Grande Operations: \$72,997
- Total Estimated Annual Revenue Loss: \$3,863,013

These losses will be devastating to our small rural county, which already faces economic challenges. One of the most alarming impacts will be on the Gallia County Local School District. If HB 156 is enacted, the remaining school debt will be forced onto local taxpayers. An estimated \$450,000 in annual tax payments will shift to taxpayers, significantly increasing their financial burden. This would cause the Gallia County Budget Commission to increase the property tax rate by just under one (1) mill on the remaining tax payers in the county.

I echo Auditor Knipp's concerns regarding the negative impact this bill will have on economic development, essential government services, and public safety. At a time when our residents are already struggling and awaiting real property tax reform, HB 15 will only add to their hardship. It is not just Gallia County that will suffer – every county with a generation plant will face similar consequences.

On behalf of the citizens of Gallia County, I urge you to take these concerns into serious consideration as this bill moves through committee. Thank you for your time and attention. I am honored to stand before you today and welcome any questions you may have.

#### MARSH MCLENNAN AGENCY

Michelle Hanna, Marsh McClennan Agency along with Cara Paxton and Tyson Marlowe with EMS met with the Commissioners to present them with a Dental proposal through Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield that would be effective April 2025. No action taken.

**\*12 pm the Commissioners attended the Board of DD Luncheon**

#### GREEN SEWER 2 CONSTRUCTION MEETING

At 1:30 p.m. the Commissioners, County Administrator Brian Rutherford, Grant Administrator Karen Sprague, and Assistant Clerk to the Board Janie Peck attended the Green Sewer 2 Construction monthly meeting in the Commissioners' office. Others in attendance were: DLZ Reps. Gary Silcott, Rob Snedden & Eli Walker and Tracy Shoults, Josh Fields and Bo Cox from Fields Excavating and Tommy Dillon, sewer department.

**\*2 pm the Commissioners attended the Monthly Planning Commission Meeting.**

**\*2:35 pm Commissioner Stapleton left the meeting.**

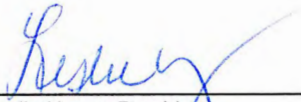
#### COMMISSIONERS – NEW HIRE


President Henry moved to hire Kristina Burns pursuant to the existing VOCA award with an annual salary of \$39,000.00, and insurance benefits made available effective immediately. Jeremy Kroll moved and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, absent; Mr. Kroll, yea.

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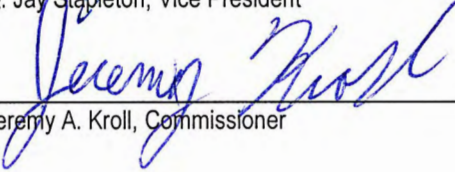
ADJOURN

At 3:00 p.m. the President entertained a motion for adjournment. Jeremy Kroll moved and Leslie Henry seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Stapleton, absent; Mr. Kroll, yea.

  
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Leslie Henry, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amanda Phillips, Clerk to the Board

  
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Q. Jay Stapleton, Vice President

  
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Jeremy A. Kroll, Commissioner