



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MOUNT VERNON, OH

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

TO VIEW THE RECORDED MEETING VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/@knoxcountycommissioners1808>

10:00 AM Call to Order

Present: Commissioner, President Bill Pursel
Commissioner Barry Lester
Commissioner Drenda Keesee

Additional Staff

Jason Booth, County Administrator

Penny Doyle, Clerk/Executive Assistant

Andrew Champlin, I.T. Communications Coordinator

Public Attendance

Cheryl Splain

Tyler Mathias

Garry Cooper

Gary Keesee

Joel Stachler

Jillian Flowers

Mark Kelly

Joe Mazzari

Vicki Kauffman

Amy Henricksen

Martha Trese

10:00 AM CDBG Public Hearing #1 for PY2025 Programs

Commissioners conducted the Knox County FY 2025 Public Hearing #1 for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The following individuals were present for the hearing:

Bill Pursel, Commissioner	Barry Lester, Commissioner
Drenda Keese, Commissioner	Jason Booth, County Administrator
Penny Doyle, Clerk/Executive Assistant	Jillian Flowers, CDC of Ohio, Inc.
Cheryl Splain, Knox Pages	Andrew Champlin, I.T. Communications Coordinator
Joel Stachler, Village of Danville	Joe Mazzari, Village of Danville Mayor
Mark Kelly, Miller Township Resident	Gary Keese, Resident
Tyler Mathias, WMVO	Garry Cooper, WMVO

Jillian Flowers, Associate Planner from CDC of Ohio, Inc., distributed the agenda for the hearing and reviewed the following key points:

Discuss National and State Objectives

The Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Development (OCD) administers numerous CDBG, HOME, and related grants for small non-entitlement communities throughout Ohio. All funds must be used to benefit low-to-moderate income persons or eliminate slum and blight. At least 51% of all grants must benefit low-to-moderate income persons.

Amount of Funds Available

Ohio estimates it will receive approximately \$105 million in federal PY 2025 funds. Of this amount, about \$45 million will be CDBG and \$27 million in HOME funds.

Grants Available to Knox County in PY 2025

Residential Public Infrastructure Grant (RPIG) - up to \$750,000 to fund large-scale water and sanitary sewer programs. Requires 1:1 match and specific rate structures.

Critical Infrastructure Grant - up to \$500,000 to undertake 1 critical project.

Economic Development Grant - up to \$500,000 to provide on-site or infrastructure improvements to a business that commits jobs for low-to-moderate income persons.

Target of Opportunity Grant is for projects that don't fit into a normal grant, but are a priority for the state - up to \$250,000.

Application Dates

The first round for CDBG Critical Infrastructure Grants is due on June 11, 2025.

All other applications are open-cycle beginning on July 1, 2025, until funds run out.

All programs have a 26-month grant period.

Past Performance

CDBG Community Development funds have recently completed storm sewer and culvert improvements in Pike, Brown, and Butler Townships and street improvements in Berlin Township. The County has also completed street, storm sewer, sidewalk, and park improvements in Danville and the Parrott Street Bridge. Knox County completed the Martinsburg Water Improvements, Danville Mickley/Richards Street Water Improvements, and the Knox County Courthouse ADA. Knox County is currently under contract to complete the Martinsburg Water Improvements Phase II Project and is looking to bid out the Danville Park Improvement Project sometime in the Summer of 2025.

Second Public Hearing

While this hearing discusses all of the programs available, the County is also required to hold a public hearing that is specific to each grant it applies for. The hearing will explain exactly what the County will include in each application and enable public comments.

The second public hearing for the PY 2025 CDBG Critical Infrastructure grant will be Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Notice of all public hearings will be published in the Mount Vernon News and posted on the Knox County Public Notice website.

Public Comment/Discussion

Joel Stachler and Joe Mazzari reported the Village of Danville would like to apply for funds for a shovel ready water and sewer line infiltration project. The \$470,000 project would be 100% covered through the grant program. Commissioner Pursel asked if the Village of Danville has ever applied for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funds and if new water meters were installed in the village. Joe Mazzari stated they have applied for OPWC funds in the past but have not currently. Joe stated new meter installations are 75% complete along with mapping and camera work. Joe also discussed other projects in Danville that he would like to explore funding options for including neighborhood revitalizations, park restrooms and safety options for the bike trail crossing over Market Street.

Jillian Flowers stated based on new ACS Data, the Low to Moderate Income (LMI) areas include Martinsburg, Danville and Brinkhaven. Danville and Brinkhaven completed income surveys to verify LMI status. She reported the CDBG Allocation Program for PY 2026 is estimated to be \$156,000 (down from \$158,000). She also reported Brinkhaven is possibly working on submitting a funding application for 2026. Jillian stated there is ongoing conversations for projects for the Neighborhood Revitalization funds. If any village or townships in the LMI areas have questions or concerns, Jillian can be reached at CDC of Ohio, Inc., 1016 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43205, 614-445-8373 or jillian.flowers@att.net.

10:30 AM Public Meeting for Knox County Comprehensive Plan "Together Knox"

Commissioners conducted Public Meeting #2 to discuss "Together Knox", the Knox County Comprehensive Plan. The Public Meeting #1 was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room. The following individuals were present for Public Meeting #2:

Bill Pursel, Commissioner	Barry Lester, Commissioner
Drenda Keese, Commissioner	Jason Booth, County Administrator
Penny Doyle, Clerk/Executive Assistant	Andrew Champlin, I.T. Communications Coordinator
Cheryl Splain, Knox Pages	Tyler Mathias, WMVO
Garry Cooper, WMVO	Gary Keese, Resident
Martha Trese, Resident	Vicki Kauffman, Owl Creek Conservancy
Amy Henrickson, Philander Chase Conservancy	

Commissioner Pursel asked the attendees if there was any comments or suggestions regarding the Knox County Comprehensive Plan, "Together Knox". He stated the draft is available on the county website. The plan will be adopted by the County Commissioners next week. There was no comments from the attendees.

Resolutions to be Presented

RESOLUTION 2025-256--APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #2 FROM KN EXCAVATION FOR THE CDBG VILLAGE OF MARTINSBURG WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - PHASE II, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,553.50 (PRICING TO UPSIZE WATER SERVICE TO 1 1/2 ").

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Change Order #2 from KN Excavation for the CDBG Village of Martinsburg Water System Improvement Project - Phase II, in the amount of \$3,553.50 (pricing to upsize water service to 1 1/2 ").

A copy of the change order is attached to Journal No. 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Barry Lester
SECONDER:	Drenda Keese
AYES:	Pursel Lester Keese

RESOLUTION 2025-257--AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) ROAD SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2025.

WHEREAS, the Knox County Commissioners, Knox County (hereinafter referred to as the “Political Subdivision”) hereby submits this written agreement to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) annual road salt bid in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 5513.01(B) and hereby agrees to all of the following terms and conditions in its participation of the ODOT road salt contract:

- a. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions established by ODOT in the road salt contract and acknowledges that upon award of the contract by the Director of ODOT it shall be bound by all such terms and conditions included in the contract; and
- b. The Political Subdivision hereby acknowledges that upon the Director of ODOT’s signing of the road salt contract, it shall effectively form a contract between the awarded salt supplier and the Political Subdivision; and
- c. The Political Subdivision agrees to be solely responsible for resolving all claims or disputes arising out of its participation in the ODOT road salt contract and agrees that each party hereto shall be responsible for liability associated with that party’s own errors, actions, and failures to act; and
- d. The Political Subdivision’s electronic order for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) will be in the amount 5,000 tons, the Political Subdivision agrees to purchase from its awarded salt supplier at the delivered bid price per ton awarded by the Director of ODOT; and
- e. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to purchase a minimum of 85% of its electronically submitted salt quantities from its awarded salt supplier during the contract’s effective period; and
- f. The Political Subdivision hereby agrees to place orders with and directly pay the awarded salt supplier on a net 30 basis for all road salt it receives pursuant to ODOT salt contract; and
- g. The Political Subdivision acknowledges that should it wish to rescind this participation agreement it will do so by written, emailed request by no later than Friday, May 2, 2025, by 5:00 p.m. The written, emailed request to rescind this participation agreement must be received by the ODOT Office of Contract Sales, Purchasing Section email: Contracts.Purchasing@dot.ohio.gov by the deadline. The Department, upon receipt, will respond that it has received the request and that it has effectively removed the Political Subdivision’s participation request. Furthermore, it is the sole responsibility of the Political Subdivision to ensure ODOT has received this participation agreement as well as the receipt of any request to rescind this participation agreement. The Department shall not be held responsible or liable for failure to receive a Political Subdivision’s participation agreement and/or a Political Subdivision’s request to rescind its participation agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the following authorized person(s) that this participation agreement for the ODOT road salt contract is hereby approved, funding has been authorized, and the Political Subdivision agrees to the above terms and conditions regarding participation on the ODOT salt contract: Commissioner Keese, Commissioner Lester and Commissioner Pursel

A copy of the certified resolution is attached to Journal No. 2025.

RESULT: **APPROVED**
MOVER: Drenda Keese
SECONDER: Barry Lester
AYES: Pursel Lester Keese

RESOLUTION 2025-258--APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE KNOX COUNTY ENGINEER - PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$77,600.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the agreement with Terracon Consultants, Inc., for the Construction Inspection and Administration of the Knox County Engineer - Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Project, in the amount of \$77,600.00 (KNO-362-0.12 SFN 4235525 PID 117163).

A copy of the agreement is attached to Journal No. 2025.

RESULT: **APPROVED**
MOVER: Barry Lester
SECONDER: Drenda Keese
AYES: Pursel Lester Keese

RESOLUTION 2025-259--APPROVE BID AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR DANVILLE AMITY ROAD WITH LAW GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,082,501.70 (KNO-CR14-11.13 PID 115809).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bid and Contract Documents for Danville Amity Road with Law General Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$3,082,501.70 (KNO-CR14-11.13 PID 115809).

A copy of the bid and contract documents are attached to Journal No. 2025.

RESULT: **APPROVED**
MOVER: Drenda Keese
SECONDER: Barry Lester
AYES: Pursel Lester Keese

County Administrator Updates

County Administrator Jason Booth updated the Commissioners on the following items:

MG Energy is in the process of completing the heat pump upgrades at the Knox County Courthouse.

Jason reported he has met with Teri Wise, Village Administrator and Utilities Superintendent, from the Village of Centerburg. They are working on an agreement for services and will forward to the Prosecutor's Office for review.

Jason reported discussions continue with the architect for the Knox County Sheriff's Evidence Room Project. The plan and designs are being finalized by the architect.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Commissioner Pursel read a statement as follows:

The Board of Commissioners has been asked to comment on the pending proceedings against Commissioner Keesee's son. This situation is personal to her, and the Board will refrain from making any statements. Commissioner Keesee is an independently elected official and she alone can determine her ability to serve under these circumstances.

Commissioner Pursel reminded everyone to vote on Issue 2 on the May 6th ballot, which deals with Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding.

Approval of Transfer of Funds, Supplemental Appropriations and Bills

RESOLUTION 2025-260--APPROVE BILL LIST.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bill List dated April 22, 2025.

A copy of the Bill List is attached to Journal No. 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Drenda Keesee
SECONDER:	Barry Lester
AYES:	Pursel Lester Keesee

RESOLUTION 2025-261--APPROVE BILL LIST - THEN AND NOW.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Then and Now Bill List dated April 22, 2025.

A copy of the Then and Now Bill list is attached to Journal No. 2025.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Drenda Keesee
SECONDER:	Barry Lester
AYES:	Pursel Lester Keesee

Public Comment

Martha Trese, Howard, Ohio, resident, asked to have the alert system messages refined. She would like to see more details on the alert messages and used the recent fire on Lifer Road as an example. She received an alert from the Knox County Water and Wastewater Department stating water could be brown, but she stated there was no additional details such as if a boil advisory was needed, what the cause was, etc.

Commissioners will pass the information along to the proper departments.

Adjourn the Meeting

Commissioner, President

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Penny R. Doyle
Clerk/Executive Assistant