



**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

MOUNT VERNON, OH

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 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

**Absent:** Commissioner Drenda Keesee

**Additional Staff**

Jason Booth, County Administrator

Penny Doyle, Clerk/Executive Assistant

Andrew Champlin, I.T. Communications Coordinator

**Public Attendance**

Cheryl Splain

Darcey Highley

### **10:00 AM Bid Opening for Knox County Engineer - Annual Resurfacing 2025**

Commissioners held a bid opening regarding the Knox County Engineer Annual Resurfacing 2025. The Engineer's Estimate is \$2,376,259.75. The following bids were received:

1. Mid Ohio Paving, Inc. - no bid submitted
2. Small's Asphalt Paving, Inc. - \$2,298,273.95
3. McB Paving - no bid submitted

The bid will be reviewed and an award made at a later date.

### **10:05 AM Bid Opening for Knox County Engineer - Mishey Road Resurfacing OPWC 2025**

Commissioners held a bid opening regarding the Knox County Engineer Mishey Road Resurfacing OPWC 2025. The Engineer's Estimate is \$865,080.00. The following bids were received:

1. Small's Asphalt Paving, Inc. - \$783,191.65
2. McB Paving - no bid submitted

The bid will be reviewed and an award made at a later date.

### **10:10 AM Bid Opening for Knox County Engineer - Asphalt Patching Material 2025**

Commissioners held a bid opening regarding the Knox County Engineer Asphalt Patching Material 2025. The Engineer's Estimate is \$325,000.00. The following bids were received:

1. Mid Ohio Paving, Inc. - \$318,862.00
2. Small's Asphalt Paving, Inc. - \$307,697.50
3. Kokosing Materials, Inc. - \$418,000.00

The bids will be reviewed and an award made at a later date.

## **10:30 AM Departmental Update - Knox County Transit**

Commissioners met with Bethany Celmar, Transit Director of Knox County Transit (KCT) in a regular departmental update. Bethany answered questions from the Commissioners and discussed the following items:

Bethany reported there are some really, really, great things going on and wants to share the excitement. She reported there is a lot of work that has been done and a lot of time that has been spent on the re-branding process and it is very rewarding to start to see the hard work paying off. The new website (knoxcountytransit.com) went live with the new name (Knox County Transit) and the vehicle wraps showcasing the new name, logo and color schemes are getting done. Bethany stated the three core values of Knox County Transit is compassion, connection and community.

Bethany and County Administrator Jason Booth shared their stories of the past two years since Bethany came on board as the new Transit Director. They explained the history of past names of the agency (Mid Ohio Transit Authority known as MOTA and Knox Area Transit known as KAT) and the agencies that governed over the transit facility. Bethany met with Jason and the Commissioners and discussed the desired vision for the transit department. They wanted a professionally run organization that would run smoothly with good operations. Bethany stated when she came on board, there were a lot of complaints about transit and the common word used for the way it was running at that time was "chaos." Bethany stated it was overwhelming to walk into; with late arrivals, missed communication pick-up times, no rides, overbooking, and a lot of finger pointing. It was a culture with sarcasm, bashing, and insults with an abundance of tension and turmoil. Bethany stated she stuck with it and is really proud of the turn around; it is not the same organization from two years ago. She believes it is a much better environment and a professional running operation. The rides are 97% on time, pickup time ranges are clearly communicated, and phone dispatchers and drivers are kind, courteous, and professional. She stated it has been a long journey and appreciates the support she has received. Jason stated he is proud of what Bethany has done over the past two years. She has fought hard to get things implemented; molding and learning the transit world. She has done an exceptional job. Commissioner Pursel stated he appreciates the direction she has taken the transit agency and looks forward to the new, exciting changes.

Bethany reviewed the new website and demonstrated the interactive "live" route maps showing the scheduled stop locations and times. The new system is mobile friendly and has taken the routing system to the next level. The new website contains a lot of valuable information for first time riders, history, rider rules and guidelines, route maps, scheduling/cancellation capabilities, discounts, feedback form, and a contact us section.

Bethany reported work continues for the Flex Routes that will be introduced in June. The work involves finalizing the final draft of route stops and testing the routes to make any necessary adjustments. Bethany reported fare free rides in May for in county rides and pricing of \$1, \$3 and \$5 rides (depending on zones) starting in June.

Bethany reported discussions continue on new transit locations and the layout and designs for a new facility. She is excited for the milestones and continued improvements.

## **11:00 AM Departmental Update - Knox County Human Resources**

Commissioners met with Courtney Lower, Director of Knox County Human Resources, in a regular departmental update. Courtney answered questions from the Commissioners and discussed the following items:

- \*County Employee Benefit Consortium of Ohio (CEBCO) Annual Meeting on April 4th
- \*Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) Safety Congress on April 16th/17th
- \*Updating the Human Resources webpage
- \*Human Resources Partnership Meeting on May 1st
- \*Labor Arbitration Institute on May 6th
- \*Opportunity Knox Employment Center Job Fair on May 6th

### **Wellness**

- \*CEBCO Wellness Contact Meeting on April 11th - Wellness Program is staying the same for the new year
- \*Current Wellness Program Year 08/15/2024 - 06/30/2025

### **Safety**

- \*Andrea Sellers and Emergency Management Agency Director/Assistant Director have meetings set up with Service Center offices to ensure departments have a fire/tornado plan and follow up on Continuity of Operations Plan

### **Staffing Levels/Job Postings**

\*Open Positions - JFS Eligibility Referral Specialist 1, Ohio START Caseworker, Social Service Worker 1 - Childcare Eligibility/Licensing and Case Aide, Summer Job Coach, Sheriff's Office Patrol Deputies, Knox County Transit Part-Time Drivers, Knox County Highway Workers, Mechanic, Seasonal Help - Road Assistance and Engineer's Office Internship, Knox County 911 Full-Time Dispatcher, Board of Elections Technology Specialist, and Board of Elections Administrator

\*Completed 5 Interviews for Knox County Transit Part-Time Driver (1) and Elections Administration (4)

\*Onboarded 9 new employees - Offboarded 3 employees

\*FMLA Cases Processed by Human Resources

2025 - April - 15 cases being monitored

2024 - April - 30 cases being monitored

## **Resolutions to be Presented**

### **RESOLUTION 2025-265--APPOINT JASON BOOTH, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AS THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DESIGNEE FOR THE KNOX COUNTY AREA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION BOARD (ADF).**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners appoint Jason Booth, County Administrator, as the Knox County Board of Commissioners Designee for the Knox County Area Development Foundation Board (ADF).

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Barry Lester
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Pursel
<b>AYES:</b>	Pursel Lester
<b>Absent:</b>	Keese

### **RESOLUTION 2025-266--APPROVE KNOX COUNTY ENGINEER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Knox County Engineer's Annual Report for 2024.

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Barry Lester
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Pursel
<b>AYES:</b>	Pursel Lester
<b>Absent:</b>	Keese

### **RESOLUTION 2025-267--APPROVE ROOFING CONTRACT BETWEEN KNOX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES OHIO MEANS JOBS - OPPORTUNITY KNOX EMPLOYMENT CENTER AND MASTER CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$151,650.00.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Roofing Contract between Knox County Department of Job and Family Services Ohio Means Jobs - Opportunity Knox Employment Center and Master Construction Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$151,650.00.

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Barry Lester
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Pursel
<b>AYES:</b>	Pursel Lester
<b>Absent:</b>	Keese

### **County Administrator Updates**

County Administrator Jason Booth did not have any new updates.

### **Commissioner Committee Updates**

Commissioner Bill Pursel reported the Board of Revision members visited twenty properties to do evaluations. Property owners will receive letters of the evaluation results/findings.

Commissioner Lester did not have any new updates.

Commissioner Keesee was absent.

### **Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from Tuesday, March 25, 2025, Thursday, March 27, 2025, Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and Thursday, April 24, 2025, were presented and approved by the Board of Knox County Commissioners.

### **Approval of Transfer of Funds, Supplemental Appropriations and Bills**

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-268--APPROVE BILL LIST.**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bill List dated April 29, 2025.

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Pursel
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Barry Lester
<b>AYES:</b>	Pursel Lester
<b>Absent:</b>	Keesee

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-269--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 29, 2025.

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

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Pursel
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Barry Lester
<b>AYES:</b>	Pursel Lester
<b>Absent:</b>	Keesee

### **Public Comment**

Darcey Highley from Centerburg, Ohio, asked if Commissioner Keesee emailed, phoned, or text, that she would not be at today's meeting? Commissioner Pursel stated there was no email, phone call, or text, because she had already scheduled to be off today.

### **Adjourn the Meeting**

### **1:30 PM Knox County Historical Society Museum Tour**

Commissioner Pursel, Commissioner Lester, and County Administrator Jason Booth, visited the Knox County Historical Society Museum located at 999 Harcourt Road, Mount Vernon, Ohio. Director Jim Gibson and several Board Members were present for the guided tour. Jim Gibson provided the 2024 Annual Report for the Knox County Historical Society Museum.

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

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Commissioner, President

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Penny R. Doyle  
Clerk/Executive Assistant