



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MOUNT VERNON, OH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 - absent

Penny Doyle, Clerk/Executive Assistant

Andrew Champlin, I.T. Communications Coordinator

Public Attendance

Cheryl Splain, Knox Pages Reporter

10:00 AM Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau Annual Impact Report

Commissioners met with Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Olivia Toth, Board Members Victoria Preston and Beth Durbin, Marketing and Development Specialist Natalia Roth, and Intern Zoe. Olivia distributed the 2025 Annual Impact Report and discussed the following highlights:

*Vision - Mission - Responsibility of the Convention and Visitors Bureau - lots of behind the scenes activities with marketing, advertising, and building strong partnerships with local and state businesses, agencies, organizations, and associations

*Economic Impact Methodology - direct, indirect, and induced equals total impact of sales, jobs, taxes, and income

*State Key Findings - 241.9 million visitors to Ohio - \$43.7 billion visitor spending - \$71.9 billion total economic impact - \$19.1 billion total personal income - 532K total jobs supported - \$4.7 billion state and local taxes

*Overnight Tourism Impact & Facts - 250k overnight trips - 650k Visit Nights - \$54.4 million total visitors' spend

*State Partners - Ohio-The Heart of It All, Ohio Travel Association, Ohio Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus, Ohio To Erie Trail, Great American Rail-Trail, and Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission

*Local Partners - Knox County Chamber of Commerce, Knox County Area Development Foundation, Knox County Park District, Experience Mount Vernon, City of Mount Vernon, Village of Danville, Village of Fredericktown, Village of Gambier, Mount Vernon Arts Consortium, MTV Arts, Ariel Foundation Park, Kokosing Gap Trail, Heart of Ohio Trail, Mohican Valley Trail, plus many others

*Partner Impact Project - Experience Mount Vernon - Arts Partners Guide - Ohio Magazine
Digital Results: 105 Individual QR Scans - 40K Central Ohio Guides Distributed - 1K Individual Guides Distributed - 32 Businesses and Partners Highlighted
2025 Downtown Summary: 1.1M Downtown Visits - 5.13 Visitor Frequency - Friday Peak Visitation Day - 109 minute Downtown Visitor Average Dwell Time

*Partner Impact Project - A Middle-Earth March Through Mount Vernon
Event Overview: 5.25K Total Daily Downtown Visitation on September 20, 2025 - 706 Individual Digital Pass Check-Ins - 62 Individual Digital Pass Users - 8 a.m. earliest digital pass check-in - 7 p.m. latest digital pass check-in - 2.9K Middle-Earth March peak visitation at 12 p.m. - 98 minute downtown average dwell time - 50 targeted emails to bookstores across Ohio - 44.6K Facebook Views on blog on Knox CVB

*Partner Impact Project - HappySpokes - Cycling Without Age - Branding and Program Planning - Partners include: United Way, Knox Public Health, Mobility Management, Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Get Healthy Knox County, and YNOT Cycling

*Partner Impact Project - Knox County Biketoberfest - Coordination and Collaboration

Weekend Impact: 298 Cycling Registrants - \$1.1K Beer Vouchers Redeemed - \$1.8K Food Vouchers Redeemed - 68% two-day registrants - 44% trail routes - 15% out-of-state registrants - 58% age 60+ registrants - 40+ local hotel rooms

*Partner Impact Project for 2026 - America 250 Knox County Planning Committee - Branding and Storytelling

*2026 Initiatives

Align with Statewide Efforts and Promotions

Plan, Market and Execute Ohio Goes to the Movies Event

Enhance History/Art Storytelling

Reapply for State Historical Marker

Enhance Historic Related Events and Provide Marketing Support

*Marketing Strategy Results - Advertisements (QR Codes) - Blog - Distribution - Events - Social Platforms - Visitor Guide - Website

*Investments

Website - mobile friendly - improved navigation - community pages - editorial features - itineraries - county event calendar - analytics dashboard - lead development

Visitor Insights - total visitors - unique visitors - benchmarking - visitor demographics - targeted marketing - informed strategies - partner education - partner insights

Visitor Guide - community pages - featured amenities - improved storytelling - guided itineraries - photo library

Partnerships (Community and Organizations) - blog content - focused campaigns - co-branding - plans and strategies - community signage - coordinated messages

Strategic Planning - 2025-30 Strategy - staffing needs - stakeholder feedback - goal alignment - focus groups

Branding - cohesive branding - community signage - co-branding - communications plans - coordinated messages

*Awards and Recognition - Ohio Travel Association 2025 Ruby Awards - Midwestern Traveler Magazine 2025 Best In Ohio Award

11:00 AM Knox Public Health Quarterly Update

Commissioners met with Zach Green, Health Commissioner for Knox Public Health, in a regular quarterly update. Zach answered questions from the Commissioners and discussed the following highlights:

Zach reported 187 cases of Lyme Disease has been reported this year and 119 cases were reported in 2024. There are different hot spots in Knox County. Zach stated there is no way to treat or control the tick population. The deer population is very high, which results in a high number of ticks. The cold temperatures will kill ticks, but it has to be a long period of continuous cold temperatures.

Zach reported in the past weeks that Norovirus, head colds and GI issues have increased. RSV/Influenza is on its way. The key factor is constant hand washing.

Zach reported the Health Center in Danville is piloting a data logger program with medicines/vaccines using Sensaphone. This allows remote monitoring systems that provide 24/7 protection and notifies you about temperature changes, equipment status and other critical conditions. So far, it is working well.

Zach reported Knox Public Health was awarded a change in scope for the Centerburg Schools in regards to the Behavioral Health Counselor. The Licensed Social Worker started on December 2 and fifteen students are already scheduled for appointments. Zach stated it is a small step forward and every bit helps the students.

Zach thanked the Commissioners and the local OneOhio Grant Program to help assist with the pilot project for Biofeedback focusing on Post Traumatic Stress with First Responders. The program will also allow up to 20 participants that are involved in extensive outpatient behavioral substance use disorders. Zach is hoping to see some positive results from this project.

Zach reported there will be two employees retiring from Knox Public Health in the next two months. Darr Butts is leaving with 35 years of service and Judy Miller is leaving with 20+ years of service.

Commissioner Keesee expressed her concern with AI and the effects on students. Zach stated from the Emotional Health Forum held in October, it is his vision to offer a health forum specifically for AI and they would rely on the Teen Peer group to be included. The key is to bring awareness and educate the community and youth on the good and bad of the technology tools available.

Resolutions to be Presented

RESOLUTION 2025-754--APPROVE THE GENERAL WARRANTY DEED TO THE KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR PART OF PARCEL NO. 66-00814.000 - 8.139 ACRES.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the General Warranty Deed to the Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities for Part of Parcel No. 66-00814.000 - 8.139 acres.

A copy of the general warranty deed is attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-755--APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR LEGAL NOTICE - INVITATION TO BID FOR THE KNOX COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICT NO. 1 WELL #7 DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Advertisement for Legal Notice - Invitation to Bid for the Knox County Water and Wastewater District No. 1 Well #7 Development.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-756--APPROVE ADVERTISEMENT FOR PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING AND PUBLIC HEARING, TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF UNION TOWNSHIP, TO VACATE A PORTION OF AN ABANDONED ROAD (PORTION OF BAT NEST ROAD CONTAINED WITHIN PARCEL NO. 61-00239.000 AND 61-00193.000), OWNED BY JAMES AND LISA MILLER.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Advertisement for Public Notice for Public Viewing and Public Hearing, to consider the request of Union Township, to vacate a portion of an abandoned road (portion of Bat Nest Road contained within Parcel No. 61-00239.000 and 61-00193.000), owned by James and Lisa Miller.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-757--APPROVE UPDATE TO THE KNOX COUNTY SECTION 125 CAFETERIA PLAN WITH AFLAC.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Update to the Knox County Section 125 Cafeteria Plan with Aflac.

A copy of the updates are attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-758--ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, NOTICE OF THE INTENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE GRANTING AN EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXATION PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 3735.67 - COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, AND FOUNDERS GROVE, LLC.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio, Notice of the Intent of the City Council of Mount Vernon, Ohio, to adopt an ordinance granting an exemption from real property taxation pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 3735.67 - Community Reinvestment Area Agreement between the City of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and Founders Grove, LLC.

A copy of the acknowledgement and supporting documentation are attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-759--APPROVE THE CUSTOMER SERVICE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN VASU COMMUNICATIONS, INC., AND KNOX COUNTY 911.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Customer Service Maintenance Agreement between VASU Communications, Inc., and Knox County 911. The term of the agreement is for one year in the amount of \$21,817.00.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-760--APPROVE KNOX COUNTY TREASURER DELINQUENT TAX AND ASSESSMENT COLLECTION (DETAC) FUND REPORT.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Knox County Treasurer Delinquent Tax and Assessment Collection (DETAC) Fund Report through November 28, 2025.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-761--APPROVE BED RENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN KNOX COUNTY JUVENILE COURT AND MUSKINGUM COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE DETENTION OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bed Rental Agreement between Knox County Juvenile Court and Muskingum County, Ohio, for the Detention of Juvenile Offenders. The effective date of the contract is from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. The agreement allows for three bed spaces each day of the contract and two floating beds, in the amount of \$80.00 per bed/per day.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-762--APPROVE KNOX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES PROCUREMENT PLAN REVISED NOVEMBER 18, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Knox County Department of Job and Family Services Procurement Plan revised November 18, 2025.

A copy of the revised plan is attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-763--APPROVE THE OPIOID REMEDIATION GRANT APPLICATION FOR IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR SUBSTANCE-ADDICTED INMATES IN OHIO JAILS FOR THE KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Opioid Remediation Grant Application for Improving Outcomes for Substance-Addicted Inmates in Ohio Jails for the Knox County Sheriff's Office. The total grant amount requested is \$104,675.38, for an Addiction Services Coordinator position, medication and medical supplies.

A copy of the grant application is attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-764--APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FROM MCCONNELL CONTRACTING, INC., FOR THE PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (PID 117163) (INCREASE OF \$69,900 FOR REMOVAL OF UNFORESEEN CONCRETE BRIDGE ABUTMENT AND BRIDGE PILING).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve Change Order No. 1 from McConnell Contracting, Inc., for the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement (PID 117163) (increase of \$69,900 for removal of unforeseen concrete bridge abutment and bridge piling). The new contract price incorporating this change order is \$938,740.95.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-765--APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 8 FINAL FROM LAW GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC., FOR THE DANVILLE AMITY ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (KNO-CR 14-14.40 PID 113863) (INCREASE OF \$106,723.37 FOR FINAL BALANCING OF NON-PERFORMED, NOT USED AND FIELD ADJUSTED ITEMS).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve Change Order No. 8 Final from Law General Contracting, Inc., for the Danville Amity Road Safety Improvement Project (KNO-CR 14-14.40 PID 113863) (increase of \$106,723.37 for final balancing of non-performed, not used and field adjusted items). The new contract price incorporating this change order is \$3,002,249.31.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-766--APPROVE CONTRACTOR'S APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 3 FROM MCCONNELL CONTRACTING, INC., FOR PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (KNO-TR362-0.12 PID 117163), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,002.01.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve Contractor's Application for Payment No. 3 from McConnell Contracting, Inc., for Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement (KNO-TR362-0.12 PID 117163), in the amount of \$125,002.01.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-767--APPROVE CONTRACTOR'S APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 5 FROM LAW GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC., FOR THE DANVILLE AMITY ROAD PROJECT (KNO-CR 14-11.13 PID 115809), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,008,274.89.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve Contractor's Application for Payment No. 5 from Law General Contracting, Inc., for the Danville Amity Road Project (KNO-CR 14-11.13 PID 115809), in the amount of \$1,008,274.89.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-768--APPROVE CONTRACTOR'S APPLICATION FOR PAYMENT NO. 7 FINAL FROM LAW GENERAL CONTRACTING, INC., FOR THE DANVILLE AMITY ROAD PROJECT (KNO-CR 14-14.40 PID 113863), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,594.84.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve Contractor's Application for Payment No. 7 Final from Law General Contracting, Inc., for the Danville Amity Road Project (KNO-CR 14-14.40 PID 113863), in the amount of \$18,594.84.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-769--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR NUNDA ROAD IN BROWN TOWNSHIP (5.130' AERIAL FIBER OPTIC AND 2.112' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Nunda Road in Brown Township (5.130' aerial fiber optic and 2.112' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 60 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-770--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR SAPPS RUN ROAD IN BROWN TOWNSHIP (2.239' AERIAL FIBER OPTIC AND 1.263' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Sapps Run Road in Brown Township (2.239' aerial fiber optic and 1.263' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 30 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-771--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR SNIVELY ROAD IN BROWN TOWNSHIP (13.226' AERIAL FIBER OPTIC AND 191' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Snively Road in Brown Township (13.226' aerial fiber optic and 191' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 30/40/60 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-772--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR MISHEY ROAD IN PIKE TOWNSHIP (3.465' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Mishey Road in Pike Township (3.465' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 60 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-773--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR RAVIN ROAD IN BROWN TOWNSHIP (1.496' AERIAL FIBER OPTIC AND 780' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Ravin Road in Brown Township (1.496' aerial fiber optic and 780' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 60 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-774--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR LOWER FREDERICKTOWN AMITY ROAD IN PIKE TOWNSHIP (6.400' AERIAL FIBER OPTIC AND 6' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Lower Fredericktown Amity Road in Pike Township (6.400' aerial fiber optic and 6' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 40 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-775--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR MISHEY ROAD IN PIKE TOWNSHIP (4.699' AERIAL FIBER OPTIC AND 54' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Mishey Road in Pike Township (4.699' aerial fiber optic and 54' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 40 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-776--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR MISHEY ROAD IN PIKE TOWNSHIP (9567' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Mishey Road in Pike Township (9567' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Directional Bore - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 40 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-777--APPROVE UTILITY PERMIT FROM MERCURY BROADBAND FOR SEVENTY ROAD IN BROWN TOWNSHIP (351' UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Utility Permit from Mercury Broadband for Seventy Road in Brown Township (351' underground fiber optic) - Multiple Service of Telecommunications Utility - Overhead/Aerial - Blacktop Road Surface - Right of Way Width of 40 feet - Bond required of \$1,000,000.

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

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

Approval of Transfer of Funds, Supplemental Appropriations and Bills

RESOLUTION 2025-778--APPROVE FUND TRANSFER.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Fund Transfer and that the following fund transfer be made:

Amount: \$37,618.34
From: 236.1540.50601 - Transfers Out
To: 306.1540.41100 - Transfers In

A copy of the Fund Transfer is attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-779--APPROVE BILL LIST.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bill List dated December 4, 2025.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-780--APPROVE BILL LIST - THEN AND NOW.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Then and Now Bill List dated December 4, 2025.

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

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

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes from Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Thursday, June 12, 2025, Tuesday, June 17, 2025, Thursday, November 20, 2025, and Tuesday, November 25, 2025, were presented and approved by the Board of Knox County Commissioners.

Items Received

Commissioners received the monthly update report for November 2025, from Courtney Lower, Director of Knox County Human Resources. The report included the following information:

Human Resources Engagements, Events and Activities

Quarterly Human Resources Partnership Meeting - 11/06/2025

Last Orientation of 2025 - 11/19/2025

Digitizing Personnel Files

Employee Wellness and Benefits

Open Enrollment ended November 14, 2025 - benefits effective January 1, 2026

Leadership Change at CEBCO

Workplace Safety

PERRP Report - Reminder to Department Heads and Elected Officials

Active Recruitment

Knox County Department of Job and Family Services - Child Protective Services Intake Worker

Knox County Transit - Part-Time and Full-Time Drivers (CDL and Non-CDL)

Knox County Juvenile/Probate Court - Juvenile Case Manager/Service Coordinator

Knox County Engineer - Highway Workers and Mechanics

Knox County Sheriff's Office - Patrol Deputies and Jail Cook

Knox County Veterans Services - Part-Time and Full-Time Drivers (Non-CDL)

Knox County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Help Me Grow Home Visitor

Application Sources by Engagement (October 1 - 27):

1. Ohio Means Jobs - 14
2. County Website - 10
3. Indeed - 6
4. Word of Mouth - 6
5. Social Media - 3
6. Other - 3
7. Professional Association Website - 1

November Interviews Completed - 0

November Onboarded - 5 employees

November Offboarded - 8 employees

FMLA Cases Processed by Human Resources

November 2025 - 17 cases monitored

October 2025 - 24 cases monitored

Commissioners received the update report for November 2025, from JT DeChant, Director of the Knox County Emergency Management Agency. The report included the following information:

Presentations

School Reunification Presentation with Rick Shaffer at Campus Safety/Ed Space-National Conference
School Reunification Poster Presentation at International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Conference
Amish Health and Safety - EMAO (December 4)

Exercises

School Reunification Activation
Public Information Officer Tabletop Exercise with 20 in attendance
Evaluated Ashland County LEPC Exercise at Bostik
Assisted Board of Elections with Voter Onsite Tech Emergency Response Project

Planning

EMAO Education Committee
Board of Elections
Working with the Safety Committee and Human Resources in reference to Multi Hazard Emergency Operations Plans and Continuity of Operations Planning
Behavioral Health Disaster Steering Committee - Knox and Licking Counties
Updating Annex P - Prevention and Protection
Submitted the HazMat Plan to SERC for annual approval

Grants

Applied for funding through the FY25 State Homeland Security Grant to purchase barriers for outdoor events (Not awarded yet)

Continuing Education - JT

Flood Inundation Mapping for EMs with National Weather Service
Grain Bin Rescue Operations at Mount Vernon Fire Department
Active Shooter Symposium
Ohio School Threat Assessment Course

Continuing Education - Amy

Participate in monthly IAEM K-12 Caucus General Membership Meeting
MGT 416-V: Continuity of Government Operations Planning for Rural Communities
MGT-448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agriculture, and Food Related Disasters
Attended 73rd Annual IAEM Annual Conference

Other Activities

Knox County ENC Meetings
Law Enforcement Chiefs meetings
Knox County Fire/EMS Chiefs meeting
Numerous weather briefings with National Weather Service - Cleveland
Monthly Safety Council - Knox County Chamber of Commerce
Knox County Healthcare Coalition Quarterly Meeting
LEPC Quarterly Meeting
Mobility Management Quarterly TAC Meeting

Commissioners received a notice from the Ohio Department of Commerce - Division of Liquor Control for a change in a Liquor Permit Class D5 from Wyandot Golf and Dining, LLC, 3032 Columbus Road, Centerburg, Ohio 43011, Hilliar Township, to Wyandot Golf Club OPS LLC, Wyandot Golf Club, 3032 Columbus Road, Centerburg, Ohio 43011, Hilliar Township.

A hearing was not requested and the application was signed and returned to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control via U.S. Mail.

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

County Administrator Updates

County Administrator Jason Booth was absent.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Commissioner Lester stated he attended the Knox County Fair Board meeting last night and board members are starting to plan their budget for the fair this year. He also attended the Knox County Veterans Board meeting yesterday and stated they are having good conversations that will continue.

Commissioner Pursel stated he will be visiting the Knox County Sheriff's Office to see the progress on the Maintenance Building - Evidence Room Project. He stated County Administrator Jason Booth will be meeting with the architect for an update on the design work for the new transit facility. He stated the back entrance is complete and the public and employees are using that entrance. Commissioner Pursel stated the Commissioners will be talking about the budget in the next week or two.

Commissioner Keese reported she attended the CCAO Winter Conference yesterday and there was a lot of discussions about taxes, tax abolishment, and controversies concerning local government. She reported she attended meetings for first year Commissioners and stated it was interesting to hear everybody's perspective on their first year as a Commissioner. Commissioner Keese stated she will attend CCAO Conference meetings this afternoon discussing AI and Property Taxes.

Adjourn the Meeting

Commissioner, President

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Penny R. Doyle
Clerk/Executive Assistant