



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MOUNT VERNON, OH

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 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, Knox Pages Reporter

10:00 AM Public Hearing for Regular Annexation Petition from Jeremy Abrams, Agent, for Kevin and Kathy Byers, 103 Richards Street, Danville, Ohio

Commissioners conducted a Public Hearing, pursuant to ORC 709.03(A), to discuss the Regular Annexation Petition, on behalf of Jeremy Abrams, Attorney at Law, Kidwell & Cunningham, Ltd., Agent for Kevin and Kathy Byers - 103 Richards Street, Danville, Ohio 43014. Parcel #60-00637.000 and Parcel #60-00789.001.

Present for the Public Hearing included Commissioner Pursel, Commissioner Lester, Commissioner Keesee, County Administrator Jason Booth, Clerk/Executive Assistant Penny Doyle, Communications Coordinator Andrew Champlin, Knox Pages Reporter Cheryl Splain, Attorney Jeremy Abrams, Danville Mayor Joe Mazzari, Danville Zoning Officer Todd Bender, and Attorney Noel Alden.

Attorney Jeremy Abrams, Agent, for Kevin and Kathy Byers, reviewed all the guidelines and requirements for the Regular Petition and that all guidelines have been followed and all requirements have been met for this petition.

Danville Mayor Joe Mazzari and Attorney Noel Alden confirmed the public services and utility services that are offered to the residents of the Village of Danville.

There were no objections to the Regular Annexation Petition for both parcels.

10:15 AM Departmental Update - Knox County 911

Commissioners met with Laura Webster, Operations Director of Knox County 911, in a regular departmental update. Laura provided a report of call information for the 911 Dispatch Center for the month of July.

CAD Calls for the month of July 2025 - 4,333

911 Calls - 1,765	Non-Emergency Calls - 6,317	Outgoing Calls - 3,656
Burglary - 7	Disturbance - 119	Domestic Violence - 31
Drug Overdose - 4	Drug-Related - 7	Mental - 16
Suicide - 2	Attempt/Threat Suicide - 19	

Peak Day 911 - Tuesday Peak Day Non-Emergency - Wednesday

Peak Hour 911- 4:00 p.m. Peak Hour Non-Emergency - 2:00 p.m.

Laura reported the Knox County 911 Dispatch Center passed the LEADS (Law Enforcement Automated Data System) Audit that was completed in June. She reported Dispatch had 100 percent on entries without errors. The LEADS Technical and Security Audit was completed last week and it went well. The results should be returned within the next month.

Laura reported a booth was set up at First Friday and National Night Out with Dispatchers handing out material to children. She reported they plan on attending the next First Friday event.

Laura reported staffing levels are at twenty dispatchers with two in training.

10:25 AM Recognize Laura Webster, Knox County 911 Operations Director, for Years of Service

Commissioners met with Laura Webster, Operations Director of the Knox County 911 Dispatch Center, to present her an official resolution and a Knox County commemorative coin for her years of service. The Commissioners thanked Laura for her loyalty and dedication to the employees and citizens of Knox County.

10:30 AM Departmental Update - Knox County Emergency Management Agency

Commissioners met with JT DeChant, Director, of the Knox County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), in a regular departmental update. Amy Seward, Assistant Director, was not able to attend the meeting. JT answered questions from the Commissioners and discussed the following items from the report:

Presentations

Emergency Management Agency of Ohio Spring Conference - Doing A Lot With A Little in School Reunification

Emergency Management Agency talk with Mount Vernon Nazarene University Emergency Management students

Ohio Center of School Safety Summit - Doing A Lot With A Little in School Reunification

Danville Amish Health and Safety Event (130 participants)

Knox County Fair Booth

National Night Out Booth

Exercises

Knox County Fair Workshop and Exercise (15 participants)

Experience Mount Vernon Tabletop Exercise (20 participants)

Evaluated DelCo's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Tabletop Exercise

Planning

Emergency Management Agency of Ohio Education Committee

P-20 Meeting - 20 in attendance

Knox County School Districts Active Threat Planning Group - working through updates

Law Enforcement Site Support Plan for Parents/Student Reunification

Pipeline Incident Plans for Fire Departments - Capability Assessments

IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert & Warning System) Certificate Renewal is complete

Worked with Holmes County on their Hazard Mitigation Plan

All Hazards discussion with county offices - Continuity of Operations planning continues

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - HazMat Plan to State Emergency Response Committee (SERC) for Annual Review

Grants

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant - Phase 2 is complete and second cash draw has been requested and paid to the consultant.

Strategy Status worksheets and Mitigation Strategy "Wish Lists" have been sent out and responses are being received.

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) - Q7 Cash Request has been submitted.

Continuing Education - JT

Ohio Tactical Officers Association - Rescue Task Force Instructor

Ohio Tactical Officers Association - Critical Incident Debriefs

Continuing Education - Amy

Met with United Way to discuss being the agency to hold and distribute monetary donations during a disaster

Emergency Operations Center - Operations and Planning Course through Ohio EMA

Leadership Knox - Steering Committee - Co-Facilitator for Government Day in July

Emergency Management Agency of Ohio - Amish Health and Safety Caucus - Co-Chair

Public Information Officer Training

Artificial Intelligence Training through the Healthcare Coalition

Other Activities

Service Center Walk Through and Continuity of Operations Planning

Knox County Emergency Needs Coalition Meetings

Community Partner Meetings

Knox County Fair Board

Experience Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon Arts and Music Festival

Mount Vernon Fire Department

School Safety Discussions with County School Districts and Superintendents

Law Enforcement Chiefs Meetings - Rescue Task Force Training Input

Knox County Fire/EMS Chiefs Meeting

Numerous Weather Briefings with National Weather Service - Cleveland

Monthly Safety Council - Knox County Chamber

Quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee

Quarterly Healthcare Coalition

Attended Central Sector Meeting - Knox County Host

Mobility Management Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Other

JT reported the RV/Trailer project is underway and all I.T. equipment has been removed and is being stored in the Dispatch Center. EMA is in possession of the cargo trailer from the Fredericktown EMS and they are putting together a list of what is needed to get fully operational.

Resolutions to be Presented

RESOLUTION 2025-487--HONOR THE RETIREMENT OF SHELLEY COON, TREASURER OF KNOX COUNTY, OHIO.

WHEREAS, Shelley Coon began her career in Knox County public service on December 16, 1996, in the Knox County Auditor’s Office, where she served with diligence and professionalism until December 8, 2000; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2000, Shelley joined the Knox County Treasurer’s Office, continuing her steadfast commitment to serving the citizens of Knox County; and

WHEREAS, Shelley was appointed Knox County Treasurer on August 1, 2013, a position in which she has provided trusted financial stewardship, transparent management of public funds, and an unwavering dedication to fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure, Shelley has demonstrated a strong work ethic, integrity, and a deep commitment to public service, earning the respect and admiration of her colleagues, local officials, and the community she served; and

WHEREAS, after nearly twenty-nine years of service to Knox County, Shelley will retire as Knox County Treasurer on August 31, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of excellence, professionalism, and dedication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knox County Board of Commissioners does hereby formally recognize and honor Shelley Coon for her many years of exemplary service to Knox County and its citizens, expresses sincere gratitude for her leadership and dedication, and extends best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be made a part of the official records of Knox County and that a copy be presented to Shelley Coon as a lasting expression of appreciation from the Board and the community.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-488--APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR THE KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MAINTENANCE BUILDING PROJECT TO MODERN BUILDERS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$267,880.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the bid award for the Knox County Sheriff's Office Maintenance Building Project to Modern Builders, Inc., in the amount of \$267,880.00. The Engineer's Estimate is \$425,000.00.

A copy of the recommendation letter is attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-489--APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR THE KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE JAIL SECURITY SYSTEM RETROFIT PROJECT TO SECURITY AUTOMATED SYSTEMS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156,000.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the bid award for the Knox County Sheriff's Office Jail Security System Retrofit Project to Security Automated Systems, in the amount of \$156,000.00. The Estimate is \$150,000.00.

A copy of the recommendation letter is attached to Journal No. 2025.

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

RESOLUTION 2025-490--APPROVE THE SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE NORTH OF VERNON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Support Letter for the North of Vernon Housing Development.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-491--APPROVE THE LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (LEPC) APPLICATION OF LEPC MEMBER APPOINTMENTS FOR MULTIPLE MEMBERS.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Application of LEPC Member Appointments for Multiple Members.

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

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

RESOLUTION 2025-492--ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A CARGO TRAILER FROM THE FREDERICKTOWN EMS FOR THE KNOX COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners accept the Donation of a Cargo Trailer from the Fredericktown EMS for the Knox County Emergency Management Agency.

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

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

Approval of Transfer of Funds, Supplemental Appropriations and Bills

RESOLUTION 2025-493--APPROVE BILL LIST.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Bill List dated August 14, 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 2025-494--APPROVE BILL LIST - THEN AND NOW.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Knox County Commissioners approve the Then and Now Bill List dated August 14, 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

County Administrator Updates

County Administrator Jason Booth did not have any new updates.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Commissioner Pursel reminded everyone that the football players would be selling donuts tomorrow for their fundraiser.

Commissioner Lester and Commissioner Keesee did not have any new committee updates.

Adjourn the Meeting

Commissioner, President

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Penny R. Doyle
Clerk/Executive Assistant