

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission
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December 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was held on Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in the Knox Services building, 117 E. High St., Mount Vernon.

Chairman Roger Yarman called the meeting to order. Darrel Severns, Secretary for the Commission, called the roll.

The following voting representatives were present:

James DeChant	Berlin Township	Tim Smith	Morris Township
Steve Bratton	Brown Township	Brayden Freeman*	Pike Township
Chodd Armfelt	Clay Township	Darryl Frazier	Union Township
Roger Yarman	College Township	Juston Streby*	Wayne Township
Greg Lawson*	Howard Township	Ray Brewer	Fredericktown
Monica Severns	Jefferson Township	Andy Fox	Fredericktown
Marta Hill	Liberty Township	Barry Lester	Commissioner
Dave Marietta	Monroe Township		

Others present:

Darrel Severns	Knox RPC	Ed O'Connell*	College Township
Rob Clendening	KSWCD	Cheryl Splain	Knox Pages
Kathy Yarman	Guest, College Township		

**Alternate*

A quorum was present with 15 voting representatives.

Approval of Minutes – Roger Yarman

Ms. Severns moved to approve the October 2025 minutes. Mr. Lawson seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Marta Hill

Ms. Hill presented the Financial Report for October 2025. The expenses were \$3,186.81. Income for the month was \$1,387.23. The month began with \$102,715.53 and ended with \$100,915.95.

Ms. Hill presented the Financial Report for November 2025. The expenses were \$2,691.07. Income for the month was \$2,890.50. The month began with \$100,915.95 and ended with \$101,115.38.

Mr. Bratton moved to approve the October and November 2025 financial report as presented. Mr. Fox seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Old Business

Payment of Knox Soil and Water Conservation District Invoice – Darrel Severns

Payment of invoice for contractual agreement with Knox Soil and Water Conservation District of \$18,532.00 for reimbursement for the Executive Secretary position for 2025. It has been the same for the last several years.

Mr. Marietta moved to approve the payment. Ms. Severns seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

New Business

Executive Committee Report – Roger Yarman

Null

Secretary's Report —Darrel Severns

Mr. Severns stated that we have been working on the Subdivision Regulations update with Wendy Moeller, Compass Point. We are making progress. We should have, after the first of the year, a draft set of regulations to start reviewing with the Land Use Committee. Once it gets to the RPC, we will have public hearings, then it will be recommended to the County Commissioners for approval and hearings. There will be ample time to voice any comments or suggestions. The RPC has to have two (2) public hearings and the Commissioners have to have two (2) public hearings. So far, we are condensing it and making it a lot more user friendly. It contained a lot of duplication and some contradictions. We are fixing this and coming up with a format that is easily read. We are having developers coming into Knox County and want to be able to steer them in the right direction so they can know what they need to do to satisfy our regulations. In the last meeting we had discussing the cost of doing this, which is not to exceed \$8,100. Wendy has put in a lot of time, and it is still within that cost. We are getting close on completing it. The Commissioners and everyone here will be able to look at it before too long.

The last quarter of this year has slowed down quite a bit on the storm water permits. Usually in the early fall we get a lot of permit applications because contractors want to get things under roof so they can work on it during the winter, but not this year. This is the first year that Mr. Severns can remember that we have had a month without any storm water permits.

Lot splits have slowed down a little bit. We are about ten (10) or so behind what we did last year at this time. If you were a part of the Comprehensive Plan Update, you heard a lot about that we are splitting up too many lots in Knox County. We are not sure how to combat that. It has slowed down this year.

We have had eleven (11) townships that have sent in their membership dues, of which two (2) of those still need to send in their resolutions. As always, the membership dues and resolutions need to be received by March 1st. If it hasn't been paid, you will not have any voting privileges on the RPC after March 1st. until they are paid. It is nice to see on the Financial Report that we get a little bump at the end of the year because we send out the invitations to join the RPC.

Nominating Committee – Roger Yarman

Steve Bratton is head of the Nominating Committee with the other two members, Monica Severns and Greg Lawson.

Land Use – Steve Bratton

Null

Social Improvement and Economic Development Committee – Darrel Severns

Null

Education and Outreach Committee – Darrel Severns

We do have a speaker tonight, John Bartolucci, next month, January 15th is our annual Orientation Dinner. We will be sending out invitations to that. It will be in the Memorial Building in the basement. We will be having food. Mark Hiner, our State Representative from the eastern part of the county is lined up to be the speaker. He was asked to give his ideas, or views on proposed property tax elimination idea. We will also have a regular meeting at 7:30, after the Orientation and dinner. We are going to start a little bit earlier at 5:30 instead of 6:00 for the Orientation. This way we will have time to eat and go through the orientation and not be pushing against time for the regular meeting.

Transportation Committee – Jim Hughes

Null

Knox County Commissioner – Barry Lester

Null

Knox Public Health – Landon Magers

Null

Knox Area Development (ADF) – Sam Filkins

Null

Knox Soil and Water Report – Rob Clendening

Null

County, City and Village Reports

Brinkhaven/Gann – Christopher Wyant

Null

Centerburg – Daniel Hardwick

Null

Danville – Jeff Furay

Null

Fredericktown – Ray Brewer

All quiet in Fredericktown

Gambier – Elizabeth Bonaudi

Null

Martinsburg – Robert Collins

Null

Speaker – John Bartolucci, Special Investigator, Digital Forensics Expert

Daniel Weckesser, Knox County Sheriff introduced John Bartolucci to the group. He stated that Knox County Sheriff's office plans to be more proactive with programs with more resource officers in the schools, more canines on the street, possibly a canine in the jail to help with some of the drug issues and having Mr. Bartolucci come on board with us, hopefully, eventually full-time. He has a lot of specialties. Currently he is working with Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce, a Special Deputy with Franklin County and Knox County. He has a wealth of information on how people can protect themselves against cybercrimes, fraud, etc. He has ten (10) jobs.

Mr. Bartolucci works with the Ohio Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce. It is based out of Cuyahoga County in Cleveland, and he is assigned as the only Southern Ohio agent for Ohio. It covers 46 counties of the southern federal districts of Ohio. He is FBI certified as a cyber investigator and teaches at the United States Secret Services National Computer Forensic Institute. He is credentialed as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer by both the United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations (primary Federal credential) with jurisdiction over the entire United States for federal crimes, as well as the United States Secret Service. The Secret Service is the arm of the federal government that allows him to speak on the topics tonight because it is the fraud prevention agency. Mr. Bartolucci is recognized as the digital forensics in cybercrime expert at the state and federal level.

We are going to cover the specifics of why scammers target older adults, six (6) common fraud schemes, red flags, and warning signs, what to do or how to prevent becoming a victim of one of these schemes and what to do if you think you've become a victim. Fraud against senior citizens is rising every year, along with internet crimes against children. Senior fraud is one of the fastest growing types of crime and is correlated to the increase of recent technology, the internet, and technology being in everything we do. Seniors tend to have more wealth, are more trusting, know less about technology, have cognitive health changes, and some scams are really difficult to detect. The six common fraud schemes covered were:

- Tech support (computer infected with virus, ask for remote access; ask for transfer of money for repair)
- Impersonation (using AI to mimic person)
- Emergency (grandparent scam, need of help, in jail, accident, need money, Venmo, etc., keep secret)
- Romance (emotional manipulation, long term, asking for money, different time zone/country)
- Sweepstakes (oldest scam, online, pay to receive prize, stolen/fraudulent checks in the mail)
- Identity theft/account takeovers (new accounts, phishing emails, fake banks/loans, card skimmers-gas/ATM, data breaches, stolen mail, passwords, wire transfers/crypto)

Things to do:

- Contact local authorities, it can go through the Knox County Sheriff's Office.
- Enable Authenticate, change passwords.
- Call Sheriff and report transfer of money theft/bank within 12-24 hours to stop transfer, IC3 Reports from division of the FBI.
- Facebook Marketplace, pick-up or deliver in a public place where there are cameras, preferably in parking lot of Knox County Sheriff's office/jail or one of the other police department parking lots.
- Information protection, private server, encryption software, hosting companies with security software

Others from the floor

Invitation to Orientation in January will be going out to everyone via hard copy or email.

Mr. Bratton moved to adjourn; Ms. Hill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission will be January 15, 2026, in the Knox County Memorial Building, 112-114 E. High St., Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrel Severns
Executive Secretary

Attachments: