

REGULAR MEETING #06-23
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
MAY 30, 2006

MEETING WITH AUNDREA CORDLE

The Board of Commissioners met with Human Resources Director Aundrea Cordle at 9:20 a.m. regarding personnel. Present at this meeting were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Aunie Cordle and Jackie Long.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to go into executive session at 9:20 a.m. regarding personnel.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

Present at this executive session were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Aunie Cordle and Jackie Long.

Commissioner Jon Myers joined the executive session at 9:25 a.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to open session at 9:45 a.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

The Board instructed the Clerk to prepare a resolution approving the hiring of Jay Shepherd as Human Resources Support Specialist for consideration at the 10:00 a.m. meeting.

MEETING WITH PERRY ORNDORFF

The Board of Commissioners met with Perry Orndorff and other representatives of the Fairfield County Soil & Water Conservation District at 9:45 a.m. for an annual update. Present at this meeting were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Perry Orndorff, Dr. Steve Miller, Brad Tolbert, Melissa Horton and Jackie Long. Mr. Orndorff provided the Board with a report demonstrating the dollars leveraged by NRCS and SWCD staff with the budget allocated to the agency by the Commissioners. With an original allocation of \$276,922 from the General Fund, agency programs leveraged just over \$2,570,000, a 929% return on investment, he stated. Additionally, Fairfield County landowners have been selected for agricultural easement dollars three of the four years of the program. State funding was down about \$8,000 for this fiscal year, with the ratio of state match to local dollars down to 75% from a high of 92%. Discussion followed regarding the various programs managed through NRCS and SWCD. Ms. Horton explained the Conservation Security Program, which pays landowners for good conservation practices. Mr. Orndorff expressed appreciation for the additional \$6,000 allocation from the Commissioners, which made possible a 2% staff bonus in 2006. He added that there was a substantial increase in the Wildlife Specialist Grant, from \$7,500 to \$16,296. Within this program are deer damage permits, which brings people in the door of the agency who then become aware of the other programs offered. Discussion followed regarding the deer population. Commissioner Myers asked if any population control measures are being explored in light of a rise in deer/car accidents. Mr. Orndorff stated that Fairfield County is still a two-deer county, but the Division of Wildlife is considering a "bonus weekend" between bow and gun season. The herd size is as high as it's ever been, he stated. Commissioner Myers asked if

there are any special budget requests on the horizon for next year. Mr. Ordnorff stated he did not foresee any, but added that, with the upcoming retirement of long-time Soil Scientist Joe Steiger, the SWCD Board needs to make a decision on how to fill the vacancy. Farmland Preservation funding is scheduled to end in 2007 unless the legislature identifies funds with which to renew the program, he concluded. Mr. Tolbert noted that Fairfield County landowner Howard Smith received funding through the program this year.

REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 30, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Judith K. Shupe, Mike Kiger and Jon D. Myers. Also present were Julia Hilty, Lynette Leach, Deborah Smalley, Kelly Turben, Heather Winchell and Jackie Long.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2006

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes as presented for Friday, May 19, 2006.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes as presented for Tuesday, May 23, 2006.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

PROCLAMATION OF DECLARATION - STAND FOR CHILDREN DAY - JUNE 1, 2006

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a proclamation declaring June 1, 2006, as Stand for Children Day in Fairfield County (See Resolution 06-05.30.a)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH THE SHELLY COMPANY - 2006 CHIP AND SEAL PROJECT - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a contract with The Shelly Company for the 2006 Chip and Seal Project as submitted by the Fairfield County Engineer (See Resolution 06-05.30.b)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT - 2006 CHIP AND SEAL PROJECT - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Notice of Commencement for the 2006 Chip and Seal Project as recommended by the Fairfield County Engineer (See Resolution 06-05.30.c attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

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APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH THE SHELLY COMPANY - 2006 RESURFACING PROJECT - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a contract with The Shelly Company for the 2006 Resurfacing Project as recommended by the Fairfield County Engineer (Resolution 06-05.30.d attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT - 2006 RESURFACING PROJECT - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Notice of Commencement for the 2006 Resurfacing Project as recommended by the Fairfield County Engineer (See Resolution 06-05.30.e attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JUVENILE COURT AND THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an agreement between Fairfield County Juvenile Court and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (See Resolution 06-05.30.f attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION OF AREA 7 SUBGRANT - FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to authorize approval of the Area 7 Subgrant as submitted for Fairfield County Job and Family Services Workforce Investment (See Resolution 06-05.30.g attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF PROVIDER CONTRACT BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES AND MAXIMUS, INC.

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a provider contract between Fairfield County Job and Family Services and Maximus, Inc. (See Resolution 06-05.30.h attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF FY2006 CDBG/RLF PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RECORD - CHILD'S PLAY LEARNING CENTER

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to accept the FY2006 CDBG/RLF Program Environmental Review Record for the Child's Play Learning Center (See Resolution 06-05.30.i attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

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APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF COUNTY PROPERTY/GRANVILLE PIKE RADIO TOWER SITE BY THE LANCASTER FAIRFIELD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of commissioners voted to

approve authorization for the Lancaster Fairfield County Amateur Radio Club to use the county property at the Granville Pike radio site (See Resolution 06-05.30.j attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION OF LOAN TO THE COMBINED FAIRFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT - FEDERAL EPA GRANT EXPENSES

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve authorization of a loan not to exceed \$100,000 to the Combined Fairfield County Health District for expenses related to a federal EPA grant (See Resolution 06-05.30.k attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATION FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ADAMH OUR PLACE II

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an appropriation from unappropriated funds for the Fairfield County ADAMH Our Place II (See Resolution 06-05.30.l attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF REPAYMENT OF ADVANCE FROM GENERAL FUND TO THE PROSECUTOR'S FY2005 BYRNE MEMORIAL GRANT FUND

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to accept repayment of advance made from the General Fund to the Fairfield County Prosecutor's FY2005 Byrne Memorial Grant Fund (See Resolution 06-05.30.m attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF VOUCHER WITHOUT AN APPROPRIATE CARRYOVER PURCHASE ORDER - FAIRFIELD COUNTY MR/DD

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve payment of a voucher without an appropriate carryover purchase order for Fairfield County MR/DD (See Resolution 06-05.30.n attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

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APPROVAL TO RATIFY PREVIOUS APPROVAL OF VOUCHER - FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/FAIRFIELD-HOCKING MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to ratify previous approval of a voucher for the Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit (See Resolution 06-05.30.o attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR MAY 30, 2006

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve authorization for payment of bills as presented for May 30, 2006 (See Resolution 06-05.30.p attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

APPROVAL TO HIRE HUMAN RESOURCES SUPPORT SPECIALIST - JAY SHEPHERD

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the hiring of Jay Shepherd as Human Resources Support Specialist as recommended by Human Resources Director Aundrea Cordle (See Resolution 06-05.30.q attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

REVIEW SESSION

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:00 a.m. to review correspondence and pending and future agenda items. Present at this review session were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Julia Hilty, Ed Laramee and Jackie Long.

The Commissioners discussed the pending request for additional funds from the Clerk of Courts. Commissioner Kiger noted that the Commissioners' Office has a copy of a Prosecutor's opinion written in 2005 to then-Clerk of Courts Ron Balsler that seems to indicate that the computer fund could be utilized to pay for expense of retrieving documents from a hard drive, which would reduce the allocation request by \$2,500. He added that Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Julia Hilty could not verify this assumption. Commissioner Myers suggested that Commissioner Kiger verify this assumption with the Prosecutor's Office. Commissioner Kiger noted that Commissioners' records indicate the department should have some excess funds in the insurance line item with which to reduce the request. Commissioner Myers stated he was not in favor of "nit-picking" every line item. Commissioner Shupe added that she met with Clerk of Courts Deborah Smalley last week and feels that Ms. Smalley now has a clearer understanding of the Commissioners' viewpoint and seems to be more open to discussion. Mr. Laramee added that the figures he presented at last week's meeting were calculated to the penny.

The Commissioners discussed the objection filed by the Greenfield Township Trustees last week against the petition to annex 24.5 acres into the City of Lancaster along Ety Road. A "review" will be scheduled for June 13 and vote for June 30 in order to comply with statutory deadlines.

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Mr. Laramee reviewed with the Board a proposal by which to eliminate the insurance reserve that has been accumulated by the county. The intent of the reserves was to cover an existing deficit in the self-funded insurance plan as well as run-out claims with the change to the partnership with Franklin and Pickaway counties, he explained. Fairfield County has reached the point at which the deficit has been eliminated and run-out claims covered and has no need to further fund the reserve. Additionally, Fairfield County will most likely no longer have to pay the 7% higher premium beginning in 2007 with our improved claims history. He recommended that employee insurance premiums be reduced by \$9/month for single and family and departmental premiums by \$51 and \$53 for single and family, respectively, effective July 1. This action would reduce the

reserve and avoid any potential concerns of the State Auditor's Office. Commissioner Myers asked when negotiations for a new insurance provider would begin. Mr. Laramée indicated the negotiations are proceeding now and there is uncertainty as to whether United Healthcare will continue to be the provider. He projected the costs would increase, as UHC's rates were the result of a long-term contract period. Commissioner Myers expressed concern that, with unknown provider rates and only an assumption that the 7% premium will be reduced, it might be premature to reduce rates now. He also expressed concern that a reduction now might hasten the need for another rate increase next year that could be poorly perceived by county employees. He noted that much of the cost savings in insurance was the result of intensive program management undertaken by the Auditor's Office and HR Department. Mr. Laramée added that Fairfield County's employees are better disciplined and exceed the other counties in judicious use of health insurance programs. Commissioner Shupe asked how much reserve the insurance fund should have. Mr. Laramée responded that the amount the county currently has is where it should be and suggested that the Commissioners act to reduce rates effective July 1, which would be reflected in the first payroll of June. This new rate can easily be sustained through 2007, he added. Discussion followed regarding the Auditor's Office finance department's request to hire an additional employee, funded through the administrative expenses paid to the General Fund from the insurance account. These reductions would not impact the fund's ability to cover the administrative fee, Mr. Laramée responded. At Commissioner Myers' request, Mr. Laramée clarified that he would add a staff member should the funding be approved. There is no specific job description for the new position, as the new employee would not be solely responsible for insurance; cross-training and workload re-arrangement is intended. Workload re-arrangement could result in some salary adjustments for existing staff as well, he added; however, most of the requested \$50,000 would fund the new employee's salary and benefits, as it is not intended to be an entry-level position. Discussion followed regarding the Auditor's Office closing daily from noon to 1:00 p.m. and the additional days off given to Auditor's Office staff. Mr. Laramée indicated that the finance department has little one-on-one contact with the public, so an additional employee there would not enable the Auditor's Office to re-open at lunch. Additionally, the inter-dependency of the Auditor's Office with the Treasurer's Office, which closes at lunch for security reasons, would make re-opening the office ineffective for many customers. The additional days off were policies set by a previous County Auditor for which employees would have to be compensated if they are taken away, he noted. Commissioner Myers stated that he would like to get this issue behind the Board and suggested that a resolution to add the employee be considered at the June 7 Commissioners' meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to go into executive session at 1:45 p.m. regarding pending litigation.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

Present at this executive session were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Staci Knisley and Jackie Long.

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RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to open session at 2:45 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

No official action was taken.

At 3:00 p.m., the Commissioners asked that Deputy EMA Director Matt Keefe come for a brief meeting.

MEETING WITH MATT KEEFE

The Board of Commissioners met briefly with Deputy EMA Director Matt Keefe at 3:15 p.m. Present at this meeting were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Matt Keefe and Jackie Long. Commissioner Shupe stated that the Commissioners had internally posted the position of EMA Director. Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Keefe to outline for the Board his qualifications for the position. Mr. Keefe explained that he had received a degree with a dual major in fire protection technology and Emergency Management. Additionally, he has completed his FEMA certification necessary to be an EMA Director. He added that he is very familiar with local programs and people. Commissioner Myers discussed the future funding of EMA. While the Commissioners are aware of efforts through the state legislature to provide new funding sources for EMA, the Commissioners do not understand all the mechanics of the funding. While the Board is open to discussions, there are too many unknowns at this time to plan on those funds. Mr. Keefe responded that he has met with County Treasurer Jon Slater and Chief Deputy Auditor Ed Laramée and understands that, even if the funding is pursued, it could be 2007 or 2008 before funds are available. Commissioner Myers asked if Mr. Keefe intends to remain with Fairfield County. Mr. Keefe indicated he had established relationships locally and intends to remain. The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Mr. Keefe for the job he does and offered him the position of Director at a pay rate of \$21/hour. Mr. Keefe accepted the position and stated he would continue to work toward achieving recognition for Fairfield County as the best EMA in the state and intends to exceed the Board's expectations.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF MATT KEEFE AS FAIRFIELD COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the appointment of Matt Keefe as Fairfield County Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, effective May 20, 2006 (See Resolution 06-05.30.r attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH ED LARAMEE

The Board of Commissioners invited Chief Deputy Auditor Ed Laramée to continue discussions regarding the proposal to reduce insurance premiums at 3:30 p.m. Present at this meeting were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Ed Laramée and Jackie Long. Commissioner Myers asked if the idea of an insurance "holiday", in which insurance premiums are waived for one or more months, had been explored. Mr. Laramée indicated that the county has done this before and this is an acceptable tool for a one-time waiver when the county wants to maintain the continuity of the rates. In this case, a holiday would not be advisable as it would not achieve the desired result

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of getting rid of the excessive reserves. He stressed that there are sufficient reserves to cover any 2007 rate increases without impacting employees or departments and there is no reason to continue to build a reserve. He indicated that a holiday might be considered very late in the year, depending on claims and rate projections, but now is not the time. The county needs to stop accumulating the reserve, he reiterated. Commissioner Shupe stated that she would prefer a holiday rather than a rate reduction. Mr. Laramée repeated that this would not stop the accumulation of the reserve.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe

Mike Kiger

Jon D. Myers

Judith K. Shupe

Jacqueline D. Long, Clerk

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2006, AT 9:00
A.M.**