

REGULAR MEETING #06-52  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE  
DECEMBER 19, 2006

**MEETING WITH BARBARA CURTISS - 2007 BUDGET**

The Board of Commissioners met with County Auditor Barbara Curtiss at 9:00 a.m. regarding her 2007 budget. Present at this meeting were Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Barbara Curtiss, Ed Laramie, Staci Knisley and Jackie Long. Ms. Curtiss explained that the GIS Department, once with four employees, now has only one employee remaining. With budget cuts in 2005, two positions were unfilled and a third staff member left recently, explained Mr. Laramie. The Auditor's Office is currently in the process of replacing that position and would like to hire another employee to fill one of the two positions left vacant since the budget cuts. Ms. Curtiss added that the department has a two-month backlog on entering addresses into the system, which impacts 9-1-1. The county was also able to save money by negotiating with the State of Ohio for the flyover, which cost \$900,000 when the GIS was first implemented. Mr. Laramie explained that the GIS has virtually eliminated the paper maps of the past and is a very successful, progressive program that is widely used throughout the county. In order for the mapping to be up-to-date, it is necessary to maintain the numerous "layers" of information, including utilities, emergency services, and the like. Leaving the positions unfilled was a temporary solution to the budget problem, Mr. Laramie stated, and the vacancies are now "eating into the meat" of the program. Commissioner Myers asked if the work can be contracted, rather than bringing in a county employee. Mr. Laramie explained that the work is highly technical and requires trained, full-time staff. The marketplace in which the search for employees must be conducted is expensive and is primarily 40 hours, he stated, adding that the Auditor's Office intends its staff to work 40 hours. Commissioner Kiger asked if the Auditor's Office would be following the same holiday and vacation policies as have been applied to 35 hour/week employees. Mr. Laramie responded that they would and that, since the policies pre-date the current administration, any changes would be altering the terms of employment and would not be in the best interests of efficient operation. Ms. Curtiss stated she was not surprised with this response. Discussion followed regarding the importance of the GIS system to obtaining an accurate census count, which ultimately impacts the county's grant eligibility. The bottom line is a need for an additional \$59,000 for the GIS, which has hundreds of direct users and ultimately benefits the entire county. Mr. Laramie expressed concern that the GIS program is being forced backward without funding for personnel and that part of the conveyance fee increase was meant to aid the GIS. The Commissioners will consider the request.

**REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Present at this meeting were Judith K. Shupe, Mike Kiger and Jon D. Myers. Also present were Bill Arnett, Steve Davis, Carri Brown, Aundrea Cordle, Joe Spybey, Mitch Nusser, Mary Beth Lane and Jackie Long.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes as presented for Thursday, December 14, 2006.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

## **APPROVAL OF PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET FOR 2007**

On motion of Jon Myers second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the permanent appropriations budget for 2007 (See Resolution 06-12.14.a)

### DISCUSSION

Commissioner Myers noted that the \$32 million General Fund budget is an increase of 5% over ending appropriations for 2006 and he thanked the department heads and elected officials for their conservatism that allowed the increase. Commissioner Shupe added that the Sheriff's Office was able to swear in several new officers this month and thanked the elected officials for their support. Commissioner Kiger echoed the statements of Commissioners Myers and Shupe

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

## **PETITION TO ANNEX 49.053 ACRES GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP INTO THE CITY OF LANCASTER - CRABBE, BROWN & JAMES, AGENT**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the petition to annex 49.053 acres of Greenfield Township into the City of Lancaster as presented by Agents Crabbe, Brown & James (See Resolution 06-12.19.b attached)

### DISCUSSION

Agent for the Petitioner Steve Davis noted that there has been full disclosure with this petition that the property petitioned for annexation is owned by the family of Lancaster Mayor David Smith.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

## **APPROVAL OF JONES, COCHENOUR & COMPANY CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL FISCAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a consulting contract with Jones, Cochenour & Company for professional fiscal management services. (See Resolution 06-12.19.c)

### DISCUSSION

Commissioner Shupe noted this is a "not to exceed" contract. Commissioner Myers added that the Commissioners have had a long-standing contract with Jones, Cochenour and this is a good thing for tracking and reporting county expenses.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

## **APPROVAL OF 2007 OCJS GRANT AWARD - FAIRFIELD-HOCKING MAJOR CRIMES UNIT**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the 2007 OCJS grant award for the Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit (See Resolution 06-12.19.d 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 OF 2007 CFLP RECYCLING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the 2007 CFLP Recycling Services Contract with Community Action (See Resolution 06-12.19.e attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

**APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF VEHICLE TO THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT - FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the transfer of a vehicle from the Sheriff's Department to the Maintenance Department (See Resolution 06-12.19.f attached)

**DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Kiger noted this is a good way to stretch county dollars. Mr. Spybey added that, while the vehicle has 100,000 miles, the Maintenance Department will only be driving it locally and it is a good vehicle.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED CERTIFICATE AND REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED RECEIPTS AND CASH TRANSFER - GENERAL FUND/PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS FUND**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an amended certificate and request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts and cash transfer for the General Fund Permanent Improvements Fund (See Resolution 06-12.19.g attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

**APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT TRANSFER - FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an account to account transfer for the Fairfield County Sheriff (See Resolution 06-12.19.h attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

**APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT TRANSFER - FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAMILY, ADULT & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an account to account transfer for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council (See Resolution 06-12.19.i 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 OF AMENDED CERTIFICATE, INCREASE RECEIPT ACCOUNT AND INCREASE THE APPROPRIATIONS - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an amended certificate, increase receipt account and increase appropriations for the Fairfield County Engineer (See Resolution 06-12.19.j attached)

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

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED CERTIFICATE, REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED RECEIPTS OF MEMO EXPENDITURE - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an amended certificate, request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo expenditure for the Fairfield County Engineer (See Resolution 06-12.19.k attached)

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

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED CERTIFICATE, INCREASE RECEIPT ACCOUNT AND INCREASE THE APPROPRIATIONS - FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an amended certificate, increase receipt account and increase appropriations for the Fairfield County Engineer (See Resolution 06-12.19.l attached)

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

**APPROVAL OF MEMO EXPENDITURE - FAIRFIELD COUNTY MENTAL RETARDATION & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a memo expenditure for Fairfield County Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (See Resolution 06-12.19.m attached)

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

**APPROVAL OF REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS - FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a reduction in appropriations for the Fairfield County Auditor (See Resolution 06-12.19.n 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 ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT TRANSFER AND FUND TO FUND TRANSFERS - GENERAL FUND TO FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT FUND/FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an account to account transfer and fund to fund transfer from the General Fund to the Flexible Spending Fund as requested by the Fairfield County Auditor (See

Resolution 06-12.19.o attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **APPROVAL OF REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS - FAIRFIELD COUNTY AUDITOR**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a reduction in appropriations for the Fairfield County Auditor (See Resolution 06-12.19.p attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS FOR FY2006 MAJOR CRIMES UNIT FUND**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an account to account transfer and appropriation reduction for FY2006 Major Crimes Unit Fund (See Resolution 06-12.19.q attached)

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

Commissioner Myers announced that the Board would likely be considering another resolution during the day's session to make an offer to an employee. This issue will be discussed during the review session, he added.

### **REVIEW SESSION**

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:45 a.m. to review correspondence and pending and future agenda items. Present at this review session were Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Bill Arnett, Mitch Nusser, Rose (?), Aunie Cordle, Carri Brown, Terre Vandervoort, Mary Beth Lane and Jackie Long.

### **PETITION TO ANNEX 2.05 ACRES GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP INTO THE VILLAGE OF CARROLL**

A petition to annex 2.05 acres of Greenfield Township into the Village of Carroll, filed with the Board of Commissioners on December 13, 2006, under the special proceedings of ORC 709.023 (Expedited Type 2) was presented to the Commissioners and entered into the journal.

### **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT**

The Commissioners met with Mitch Nusser and Rose (?) of the City of Lancaster's Transportation Department regarding an ODOT planning grant. Mr. Nusser had attended a meeting at ODOT last week regarding Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan grant funds. He provided a copy of the explanation and application to the Board. Reimbursement grants of \$35,000 are available to counties (or their designees) with which to develop a written transportation coordination plan either in-house or through a contract. Without a written plan in place,

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no entities within that county are eligible for future vehicle or transportation grants, he explained. All agencies that have vehicles, included MR/DD, churches, JFS and the like, should be involved in the process, he stated, and the deadline to apply for the planning funds is January 12, 2007. The January 12 deadline is not for the completed coordination plan, he stressed, but for the application to leverage the dollars to fund the planning process. Ms. (Rose) added that the plan can even be accomplished regionally, not just within a single county. Commissioner Shupe asked if the city would be willing to serve as the county's designee. Mr. Nusser recommended that it would be best to get all

the stakeholders together at a meeting to determine the willingness to act as the designee for the county; while the city has the ability to serve in that capacity, he was uncertain that this would be in the best interest of all the programs throughout the county and that he would like to see a county agency named designee. Mr. Nusser agreed to work with JFS Director and former FairCATS Board Member Michael Orlando to compile a list of stakeholders and to set a meeting date for early January to determine a lead agency which must be designated by Commissioners' resolution.

### **LANCASTER CITY LAW DIRECTOR PROSECUTION CONTRACT**

The Board discussed with Lancaster City Law Director Terre Vandervoort the pending prosecution contract with her office, which expires at the end of the calendar year. Ms. Vandervoort explained that she was notified last week that she would no longer be receiving Victim Service Coordinator grant funds of \$42,000, for which the city paid a 20% match. Some of the lost funding can be supplemented with courts costs from the Family Violence Fund, she stated, but she was also anticipating additional funds for 2007 from the Prosecution Contract with the county. She provided statistical information demonstrating a significant increase in caseload for the office since 2000, adding that the City of Pickerington now has an annual contract with her office for \$25,000 after conducting a search and finding that no private law firm could provide the services for less. She requested that the Commissioners consider entering into a three-year contract for \$125,000 annually to make up the loss of the grant, stabilize her budget and prevent re-negotiations from becoming an annual project. The county authorized \$76,000 for the contract in 2006. Ms. Vandervoort added that she has not approached the smaller municipalities for funding, as it could have large impacts to their budget. Commissioner Myers noted that the Commissioners have already adopted the budget for 2007 and asked if a compromise could be made at \$100,000. Ms. Vandervoort expressed reluctance to accept this figure and encouraged the Board to put the issue to rest with a commitment of \$125,000 annually for three years. Commissioner Myers asked if a five-year agreement would be sensible. Ms. Vandervoort expressed reluctance to go out that far and suggested that there may be ways to restructure the whole system in the future. Commissioner Myers noted that the county's sales tax has become flat. Commissioner Shupe suggested that the Commissioners allocate an additional \$30,000 after the first of the year to help offset the loss of the grant and then monitor the county's revenue and law director's expenditures throughout the year with the understanding that the allocation could be revisited if funds are short. Ms. Vandervoort agreed this was better than nothing but that her goal was to resolve the issue with a figure sufficient to hold the office to a figure for several years without having to approach the Commissioners so often. She agreed to this solution as long as the Commissioners understand she may be returning later in 2007 for more funding. Commissioner Kiger agreed this seemed a reasonable solution and asked for additional information on how court fines are divided among city and county agencies. Ms. Vandervoort agreed to provide that information.

### **CLERK/MANAGER POSITION**

Commissioner Myers opened the discussion on the Clerk/Manager position, noting that the Commissioners have held several discussions on the position and all agreed to upgrade the existing Clerk position to Clerk/Manager. He noted that fiscal oversight of departments such as the Utilities Department, which has such a high number of projects and funding sources, would be an asset for the Commissioners. While Commissioners come and go, this position needs stability and someone with

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experience. Historical perspective of county programs, knowledge of laws and fiscal experience are all critical to the position and were sought during the interview process as the Commissioners looked both within the county ranks and applicants through the WorkNet website, he explained. The Board reviewed numerous resumes and conducted several interviews and came up with a shining star and tremendous asset already within the county's ranks, he explained, and he is ready to make the nomination. Commissioner Kiger stated that he has already stated his position that he feels the salary is too high for the position and requested that his position paper be entered into the record (see attached). While he did agree to the pay range in the posting, it is not appropriate to start a new employee at the top of that range, he concluded. Commissioner Shupe stated that the range was set and the Commissioners found a

person with the level of experience that placed them at the top of the range. Commissioner Myers reviewed the qualification of the nominee, which include a Master's Degree in Business Administration, Certified Government Financial Manager, eighteen years government experience and numerous state and national awards and recognitions. The county would be remiss in not taking advantage of the abilities of this employee, he stated, adding that the move would be a lateral move at the current salary range. Commissioner Shupe added that the nominee was recently invited to serve on the Governor-elect's transition team. Commissioner Myers stressed that open discussions have been held and nothing done behind closed doors. Commissioners may not always agree on everything, he noted.

#### **APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF CLERK/MANAGER - CARRI BROWN**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to appoint Carri Brown, current Fairfield County Job and Family Services CSEA Director, as Clerk/Manager for Fairfield County effective January 16, 2007 (See Resolution 06-12.19.r attached)

#### **DISCUSSION**

Commissioners Myers noted that the county is fortunate to have a person with this type of background and experience joining the office and that, while Ms. Brown will not be expected to do the work of a Commissioner, she will be a contact person that anyone can reach.

Ms. Brown stated that, while she understands the controversy, she sees many opportunities and welcomes the challenge.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CLERK - STACI A. KNISLEY**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Staci A. Knisley as Interim Clerk for the period January 2, 2007 - January 15, 2007 (See Resolution 06-12.19.s attached)

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

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#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

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Mike Kiger

Jon D. Myers

Judith K. Shupe

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Jacqueline D. Long, Clerk

**REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007, AT  
10:00 A.M.**