

Regular Meeting #10-06
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2010

8:30 a.m. Elected Official & Department Head Quarterly Roundtable Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met to conduct a Quarterly Roundtable meeting with county elected officials and department heads. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jon Kochis, Susie Bloom, Holly Mattei, Dave Fey, Frank Anderson, Perry Orndorff, Aundrea Cordle, Jerry Perrigo, Shane Farnsworth, John Pekar, Deborah Smalley, Staci Knisley, Randy Carter, Gregg Marx, Frank Hirsch, Mike Miller, Nina West, Eric Coakley, Gene Wood, Chris Martin, Kathy Mowry, Dave Burgei, Tony Vogel and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Kiger welcomed all and stated that Lou Varga with Varga Communications was present to take some background video of the meeting in preparation for the annual State of the County address.

Commissioner Kiger reminded all present to please submit resolutions for approval to the Commissioners Office no later than noon on Mondays, and for financial resolutions, submit to the Auditor's Finance Office no later than noon on Fridays.

Mr. Kochis provided the group with an overview of the Reverse 911 system he is working to bring to the county. The Homeland Security Committee has provided funding to cover the first 2 years operation of the system, which will be purchased through 21st Century Communications. The main purpose of the system will be to alert the citizens of the county in the event of a widespread emergency or disaster, and can call land lines and cell phones, or send an email or text message.

The system can be customized to specific call lists and has the capability to contact every home and business in Fairfield County (51,000) within 30 minutes. The system can also be programmed for internal county use, such as calling county employees in the event of a facility closure. Mr. Kochis stated the Commissioners will need to determine usage of the system, as the county will be allocated 50,000 usage minutes per year, and if they exceed that amount, would have to pay for that use a la carte.

Mr. Kochis invited all interested parties to attend a webinar the following Tuesday at his office where the system will be demonstrated and discussed. Commissioner Myers asked if interested parties could also log in remotely and Mr. Kochis stated they could. Area police and fire chiefs and staff from Fairfield Medical Center will also be participating. Mr. Pekar asked if the system could be utilized for transportation or weather issues, and Mr. Kochis stated the system could be used for all weather alerts with the exception of tornados, but cautioned the system only has 50,000 minutes per year, and they are partnering with 211 to tag messages to residents urging them to contact that number for additional information.

Mr. Vogel asked if the local school districts would be involved in the process, and Mr. Kochis stated that he has invited them to participate, but they would have to tap into the external minutes on the system which would impact the county's ability for usage. Commissioner Shupe stated most school districts already have their own systems they utilize.

Ms. Smalley asked about the pricing for the system, and Mr. Kochis stated there is an a la carte pricing menu which ranges from \$.04 per minute to \$.25 per minute, and emails are free.

Mr. Vogel stated he would like to use the system for boil alerts or other alerts for Utility customers but was under the impression their systems were free. Mr. Kochis stated their systems are "free" but they are also not as fast or efficient as 21st Century – some schools have experienced delays in the calls of up to 30 minutes.

Ms. Cordle provided an overview of changes to the county Workers' Compensation coverage, stating that in 2011 the county will no longer be eligible for the Group Rating Program, and has opted to enter a new Group Retrospective Rating Program (Group Retro). The Group Retro consists of county governments like Fairfield that no longer qualify for the Group Rating Program. The Program is incentive-based, so the more the county does to decrease claims and manage costs, the lower the premiums will be.

In addition, premiums charged to county agencies will be based upon claims experience and not just payroll, which will impact some agencies negatively, but most will see a reduction in premium. Mr. Pekar asked when this change would take effect, and Ms. Cordle stated it would be implemented in 2011 in conjunction with the Group Retro Program, so there will be significant incentives to reduce claims and costs.

Ms. Knisley asked if the premiums would be based upon 2010 payroll, or 2011 payroll, and Ms. Cordle stated it would be paid in 2011, so she believes it would be based upon 2010 payroll. Mr. Zody stated in that case, agencies should start focusing cost-control efforts now in order to lessen impacts next year. Ms. Cordle stated the agencies should always focus on safety and reminded the agencies that claims experience goes back 4 years.

Ms. Mattei stated that her understanding would be that all would pay some minimal amount plus additional based upon claims experience, and Ms. Cordle stated that is correct, and the overall impact would be a savings to the General Fund of approximately \$30,000.

Mr. Carter provided the group with an update on the county telephony system, stating that he is hoping to be ready to roll out the system in April – there was an unanticipated delay with the Federal Communications Commission relative to getting new phone numbers approved.

Mr. Carter stated that once the installation is complete, training on the use of the system will begin. Mr. Carter provided "cut sheets" for the various offices and agencies with current and new numbers and the type of device that will be installed. The list also has which phones are labeled for disconnection. Mr. Carter stated his intent is to keep all agency and office main numbers intact through 2010 to allow for any transition to new numbers, and asked the group to review their cut sheet and mark up any changes so the list can be finalized. Mr. Carter also asked that any changes to voice mail or after hours messages be noted so Cincinnati Bell can program the phones appropriately.

Mr. Vogel asked the group to please keep his office informed of any plans to move or relocate employees to ensure the proper telephone and data connections are in place to accommodate such moves.

Mr. Marx provided an update for the Prosecutor's Office, stating that Prosecutor Landefeld was in a jury trial this morning. Mr. Marx stated the office has been very busy with some recent increases in drug cases and the condition of the economy.. The Juvenile Court will have a jury trial beginning next week, and their office recently assisted law enforcement investigators from Texas with a case.

Mr. Marx stated the other courts have been very busy with many jury trials that have generated a great deal of media interest, and the prosecutor is hoping to obtain some summer law student interns from Ohio State to provide some assistance.

Mr. Anderson provided an update on the Engineer's Office, stating that they recently posted 2010 projects on their web site and are working on finalizing their 2009 annual report. Reduced weight restrictions on county and township roads are now in place for the freeze/thaw cycle, and the office is preparing a new county road map for publication this year. Mr. Anderson noted the annual meeting with all township trustees is scheduled for March 1, 2010.

Mr. Hirsch reported that the Health Clinic is in the process of splitting off from the Department, and has a new CEO and Head Physician. The Clinic is doing well and has increased its capacity for the number of people it can serve. The Department is also initiating a process to conduct a comprehensive assessment of community health, and the H1N1 clinics are ramping down, but the Department will retain approximately 11,000 doses of vaccine. Nearly 22,000, or 17% of the county population, received the H1N1 vaccine.

Mr. Hirsch stated they are in the process of ordering seasonal flu vaccine for 2010, and thanked the Emergency Management Agency for all their assistance with distributing flu vaccines last year.

Commissioner Myers asked if there was much impact from the H1N1 flu, and Mr. Kochis stated most folks that contracted H1N1 had fairly mild cases, and Mr. Hirsch stated they stopped testing for H1N1 in all but seriously ill cases because the outbreak was mild.

Ms. Cordle informed the group to please communicate with employees relative to the new Specialist co-pay and that employees need to check prior to paying any co-pay to ensure the Specialist is part of the preferred network, which pays a lesser co-pay. Some doctors offices are automatically charging employees the higher co-pay by mistake. Ms. Cordle encouraged employees to check on the United Health Care web site or take a copy of her recently emailed memo with them to Specialist appointments. Ms. Cordle also suggested employees exercise discretion relative to the new co-pays for Urgent Care and Emergency Room treatment.

Judge Martin reported the Common Pleas Court has been busy, similar to the Prosecutor's Office, with drug related cases. Judge Martin stated he is seeing a lot of substance abuse cases for both prescription drugs as well as illegal drugs. Judge Martin stated the Supervised Release Program is working well, and on the civil side, he is still seeing numerous foreclosure cases. The foreclosure cases are very paper intensive and there is also an increase of defendants representing themselves, which provides another set of challenges.

Ms. Cordle stated she had one additional item to call attention to, that being the Dependent Audit that the Franklin County Health Benefits is sending out. It is critically important to fill out this paperwork and return to Franklin County, as failure to do so will result in the loss of coverage for dependents.

Commissioner Shupe asked when this information would be sent, and Ms. Cordle stated the forms should be mailed starting Friday.

Mr. Anderson noted that he has informed his staff of the pending audit, and asked if there would be any benefits, under the county dental plan, to having two separate procedures if more than one tooth required repair work. Ms. Cordle stated it might depend on how the work is billed.

Mr. Slater asked if the changes in the insurance program are economically driven, and Ms. Cordle stated that she believes they are and there is a definite push towards increasing the quality of care.

Ms. Bloom reported that Debbie Henderly's mother has been ill for several days and is currently in the hospital, and the candidate filing deadline is February 18th.

Mr. Slater reported his office is busy with property tax collections, and foreclosure activity still remains high. Mr. Slater thanked the commissioners for filling the Economic Development position, stating now is the time to be aggressive in pursuing businesses to establish themselves in the county.

Mr. Wood stated that his receipts for 2009 were above those in 2008, which he takes as an encouraging sign, and has loaned one of his employees to the Auditor's office to assist with dog tag sales. Mr. Wood reported there is no hot water in the first floor men's room.

Mr. Orndorff stated that the SWCD recently held a workshop on black vulture and coyotes that was well attended (55 attendees from 6 counties). In addition, the USDA is sizing down their system and is attempting to place a \$3,100 per computer charge on the SWCD, so they are exploring a new self-contained system.

Commissioner Myers asked if the vultures could be shot, and Mr. Orndorff stated it requires a permit, but the permits are much easier to obtain than in the past, due to the amount of predation occurring and lobbying by farm groups.

Mr. Fey reported that the Historical Parks will be going to the ballot in May to ask voters to approve a .5 mill levy, and Rock Mill's exterior renovation is finally complete. Commissioner Shupe stated she wrote 4 articles about the parks last year, and received very positive feedback, and the articles are posted on the county web site.

Ms. Mattei stated that her office has completed several zoning updates for Liberty Township and is working on Walnut Township and Lithopolis. The CDBG grant applications have been mailed out, and the public hearing is scheduled for March 16th. A Zoning Training session is scheduled for March 30th at the Ag Center.

The Department of Natural Resources is in the process of updating the Fairfield County floodplain maps, which will require several public meetings and the Commissioner's eventual approval. She anticipates some changes in county floodplains, which will place some owners into floodplains, and in some cases, remove others from floodplains.

Mr. Farnsworth reported the Enterprise Zone has been active with Westerman's taking advantage of the program, and Revolving Loan Fund activity is up as well. Mr. Farnsworth is assuming the lead role once again with the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, and site selection searches are up. The Smithsonian Institute has a traveling display that will be in Bremen this weekend.

Mr. Pekar reported he has 2 items – the 2nd annual Celebration of Possibilities will be held on March 31st, with Tom Moe as the featured speaker, and BDD plans to purchase the Art & Clay on Main building and move Blue Shoe Arts into it as a training and business incubator for developmentally disabled persons.

Mr. Kochis reported that he is looking forward to starting his Emergency Operations Center construction soon, and several exercises are planned for this year.

Ms. Smalley reported her legal caseload is up, but January numbers appear to be declining somewhat, and Certificates of Judgment are up 3%. Ms. Smalley would like to update her computer systems, and recently secured an agreement with the Midwest Auto Group to service the titles for all 23 of their dealerships in Central Ohio. Ms. Smalley thanked the Commissioners for getting the records storage facility up and running.

Judge Mowry stated her office will take 10 unpaid furlough days in 2010, with 5 of those days being holidays. On the positive side, she is receiving inquiries from several other counties asking to copy some of her Court's processes for cases.

Mr. Carter asked all to communicate with their employees relative to internet usage, as several employees have inadvertently downloaded viruses to their computers recently. Mr. Slater asked when the new Exchange Server would be installed, and Mr. Carter stated it should begin in another week or two.

Mr. Miller thanked the Auditor's Office for their assistance in selling dog tags.

Mr. Vogel reported that he is in design for the new Utility Office in Lockville and a new wastewater treatment facility on the Northeast side of Lancaster. Under maintenance, safety inspections are underway and thus far are finding many housekeeping issues.

Mr. Burgei stated that there is a training course schedule for February 10 on the GIS system for county employees if anyone is interested.

Commissioner Myers thanked everyone for their assistance and cooperation on last year's budget.

Commissioner Shupe announced the annual State of the County event would be held on March 2nd at the Liberty Center.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 4, 2010 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Mary Beth Lane, Aundrea Cordle, Shane Farmsworth, Frank Anderson and Scott Zody.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday, February 2, 2010

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Proclamation of Recognition – Rule 3, Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Proclamation of Recognition – Rule 3, Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce New Business of the Year, see resolution 10-02.04.a

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Proclamation of Recognition – Pickerington/Violet Township Historical Society, Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Proclamation of Recognition – Pickerington/Violet Township Historical Society, Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, see resolution 10-02.04.b

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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