

**Regular Meeting #9-2012
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 21, 2012**

Public Viewing- Petition to Vacate a Portion of Meister Road

At 9:04 a.m. the Commissioners held a viewing on the petition to vacate a portion of Meister Road. Commissioners present were Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe. Also present were Jeff Baird, Dave Levacy, and Branden Meyer.

The viewing ended at 9:09 a.m.

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:34 a.m. to review legal issues, pending and future action items and correspondence. Commissioners present were Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe. Also present were Jeff Barron, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, Staci Knisley, Dave Levacy and Branden Meyer.

Legal Questions Under Review and Prosecutor's Pending Items

▪ **Sales Tax Extension**

Mr. Dolin stated that he is still working on this.

▪ **Lease for Humane Society**

Mr. Dolin stated that this is pending with Stephen Brown.

▪ **Health Department Lease**

Mr. Dolin stated that the health department lease needs to be bid out by using an RFP.

Commissioner Kiger asked about the time length.

Mr. Dolin stated that the RFP could specify the location in general.

Pending Items

▪ **Public Safety Facility**

No update.

▪ **2012 State of the County**

Mr. Meyer stated that this is scheduled for March 27.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the topics need to be discussed and thought about.

▪ **Car for Litter Control**

Mr. Meyer stated that he is waiting on information from Deputy Hummel.

Items that Need New Action/Attention- Requests and Review

▪ None received.

Invitations

▪ None received.

Informational

▪ **Public Records Request received from Dean Irish, re: Clerk of Courts Information**

Mr. Meyer stated that he found legal bills for the Clerk of Courts office and a few letters pertaining to the information that Mr. Irish was requesting. Mr. Irish is looking for copies of anything associated with the county paying for Ms. Smalley's legal bills in her defense against a lawsuit by former employee Judy Irish.

Mr. Dolin stated that Mr. Meyer send the information to Mr. Irish.

Miscellaneous Items

▪ Bond Refinancing

Commissioner Davis stated that he spoke with David Conley. Mr. Conley provided an analysis showing that there would be a net savings of \$810,000 and an additional analysis that showed \$926,000 savings. There was not a huge difference between them. The real savings would be with the \$40 million for the public safety facility. The county would have to be rated again. He stated the Commissioners need to decide whether the presentation to Moody's needs to be in person or via teleconference.

Review Session ended at 9:52 a.m.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 beginning at 10:06 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe. Also present were Jeff Barron, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, Linda Kauffman, Dave Levacy, and Branden Meyer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis asked everyone to rise and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

No announcements made.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting for Thursday, February 9, 2012

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted on the approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting for Thursday, February 9, 2012.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, February 14, 2012

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to table the approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting for Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe

Approval of Engineer's Resolutions

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted on the approval of the following Engineer's Resolutions:

2012-02.21.a Approval of Purchasing a John Deere Mowing Tractor with Flail Mower [Fairfield County Engineer]

2012-02.21.b Approval of Contract Bid Award for the FAI-CR6-7.674 Cedar Hill Road Box Culvert & Installation Project [Fairfield County Engineer]

2012-02.21.c Approval of Change Order for the BER-30, FAI-CR50-3.755 Sugar Grove Road Bridge Replacement Project [Fairfield County Engineer]

Regular Meeting #9-2012- February 21, 2012

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Judith Shupe and Steven Davis

Approval of a Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee's Recommendation for Modifying an Existing Loan Agreement with Main Street Grinders, LLC- [Loan 58-01-01] [Fairfield County Economic Development]

On the motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted on the approval of a Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee's Recommendation for Modifying an Existing Loan Agreement with Main Street Grinders, LLC- [Loan 58-01-01] [Fairfield County Economic Development], see Resolution 2012-02.21.d.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

Approval of Financial Resolutions

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted on the approval of the following Financial Resolutions:

- 2012-02.21.e Approval of Payment of an Invoice without an Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order for the Sheriff's Office [Fairfield County Commissioners]
- 2012-02.21.f Approval of Payment of an Invoice without an Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order for the Commissioners' Office [Fairfield County Commissioners]
- 2012-02.21.g Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated for the Fairfield County ADAMH Board Fund 2066 [Fairfield County ADAMH Board]
- 2012-02.21.h Approval to Payment of Invoices without an Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order for the ADAMH Board [Fairfield County ADAMH Board]
- 2012-02.21.i Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated Money- 2022 REA [Fairfield County Auditor]
- 2012-02.21.j Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated Funds, Motor Vehicle Fund 2024, the County Engineer [Fairfield County Engineer]
- 2012-02.21.k Approval of Payment of a Voucher without an Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order for the FAFD Department #6000- Fund #7521 [Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2012-02.21.l Approval of Payment of a Voucher without an Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order for the FAFD Department #6000- Fund #7521 [Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2012-02.21.m Approval of Payment of a Voucher without an Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order for the FAFD Department #6000- Fund #7521 [Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2012-02.21.n Approval of Payment of a Voucher without an appropriate carryover Purchase Order for the Fairfield County Law Library Resources Board [Fairfield County Law Library]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Judith Shupe and Steven Davis

Approval of Authorization for Payment of Bills, February 21, 2012 [Fairfield County Commissioners]

On the motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted on the approval of Authorization for Payment of Bills, February 21, 2012 [Fairfield County Commissioners], see Resolution 2012-02.21.o.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Judith Shupe, Mike Kiger and Steven Davis.

The Regular Meeting ended at 10:11 a.m.

Review Session (continued)

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:23 a.m. to review legal issues, pending and future action items and correspondence. Commissioners present were Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe. Also present were Jeff Barron, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, David Fey, Staci Knisley, Dave Levacy, Branden Meyer, and Jon Slater.

Miscellaneous Items

• Historical Parks

Commissioner Davis stated that David Fey is concerned about gap funding between now and in April when the Historical Parks starts receiving the levy money.

Mr. Slater stated that he attended the last Parks' meeting and the Auditor's office is not originally inclined to advance them their money when he received the letter.

Commissioner Shupe stated that this is the same process that the schools go through.

Commissioner Davis called Mr. Fey and put him on speakerphone.

Mr. Slater told Mr. Fey that he follow up with Josh VanDyke regarding his concerns. He stated that they are able to advance him his requested money.

Review Session ended at 10:33 a.m.

Meeting with David Conley

The Commissioners met with David Conley and Michael Burns to discuss the bond rating upgrade. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. with the following Commissioners present: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe. Also present were Michael Burns, David Conley, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, Brian Kuhn, Dave Levacy, Branden Meyer, and Jon Slater.

Commissioner Davis stated that there would be a net savings of \$810,000 now and \$926,000 if the bonds were refunded.

Mr. Conley stated that a face to face presentation provides a better presentation. He stated that a rating increase is something that the Commissioners should want. He stated that this is an assessment of how the county is doing. He stated that the Commissioners must be prepared and present a well thought out case. He stated that a teleconference erodes the effect.

Commissioner Davis asked whether the presentation has been scheduled.

Mr. Conley stated no, but can have it scheduled anytime.

Commissioner Davis stated that he would like to get a thought on the format and a target date, and then schedule the presentation.

Commissioner Shupe stated that this would be not unlike the State of the County.

Mr. Conley stated that the county is in good financial shape. Moody's will ask questions and ask specific ones more than once. He stated that there needs to be "harmonious direction" to protect the strength of the county. He stated that the goal is to have a consistent message.

Commissioner Kiger stated that he is concerned with the numbers of transfers that he would have to go through.

Commissioner Davis suggested a video conference.

Mr. Conley stated that there will be three meetings of three hours each.

Commissioner Davis suggested 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on February 28. He asked about the time to do the bonding.

Mr. Conley stated that when the county receives the rating, Moody's requires that the refunding be done within 90 days.

Commissioner Kiger suggested that the voting session be at 9:30 a.m. and meet with the State Auditor at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Davis suggested that the Commissioners meet with Mr. Conley on February 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; on March 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and on March 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Conley agreed that these times work for his schedule.

Ms. Cordle stated that the JFS video conferencing equipment could be used.

Mr. Conley suggested that the following individuals be present at the presentation: the three Commissioners, Jon Slater, Ed Laramie, Brian Kuhn, David Conley and Michael Burns.

Commissioner Davis asked how long the presentation will last.

Mr. Conley stated that Moody's allows a for a two hour presentation.

The meeting concluded at 11:02 a.m.

Public Hearing- Meister Road

Commissioner Davis called the hearing to order at 11:03 a.m. Commissioners present were Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe. Also present were Jeff Baird, Gail Ellinger, Dave Levacy, Branden Meyer, and Gerald Sprague.

Mr. Meyer read the following: *"Pursuant to Resolution 2012-01.07.d the Fairfield County board of Commissioners will conduct a viewing and hearing on the petition to vacate 0.383 miles a section of Meister Road (TR 258) in Hocking Township and Madison Township. That the Board of Commissioners sets a date of Tuesday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m. for viewing the alley at the site further, that a hearing be held on the proposed vacation on Tuesday February 21 at 11:00 a.m."*

Mr. Baird stated that the existing road is not being used and the Township Trustees want the road vacated.

Ms. Ellinger stated that the Hocking Township Trustees support this.

Mr. Sprague also stated that he would like this to be vacated.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she thought that this was vacated in the past.

Mr. Baird stated yes, but stated that the vacation was done incorrectly and this should be redone in the correct manner.

Commissioner Kiger stated asked whether a sign will be installed.

Mr. Baird stated that there is no requirement to do this.

Commissioner Shupe asked whether Brian Hines concerns have been addressed.

Mr. Baird stated yes. He stated that the road extends 10 feet on his property.

Commissioner Davis asked whether there were any other comments.

Commissioner Kiger asked what would be done with the existing utilities.

Mr. Baird stated that utilities have an easement.

The hearing ended at 11:07 a.m.

Meeting with David Conley (continued)

The Commissioners continued the meeting with David Conley and Michael Burns. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. with the following Commissioners present: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe. Also present were Michael Burns, David Conley, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, Brian Kuhn, Dave Levacy, Branden Meyer, and Jon Slater.

Commissioner Davis stated that the preparation meetings are scheduled and the presentation will be on March 20 at 1:00 p.m. He asked what else needs to be discussed.

Mr. Conley stated that the rating agencies do not give upgrades lightly. He stated that worst result would be a rating of Aa2+.

Commissioner Shupe asked how the interest rate would be with this rate.

Mr. Conley stated that there would still be a savings, but not as much as there would be with a rating of Aa1.

Commissioner Shupe asked whether Moody's will let the county know what concerns they have.

Mr. Conley stated that the factors of concern will be listed and provided in writing. Investors in the past did not provide written comments.

Commissioner Kiger stated that if the tax is made permanent the chance of getting an increase from 65% to 75% to 99%.

Mr. Conley stated that the size of Fairfield County's tax base is smaller when compared to the other counties. He stated that economic development and the economic condition of the county needs to be a focus as well as the temporary nature of the sales tax and what happens if this money goes away.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the commitment moving from a temporary to permanent tax needs to be shown.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Commissioners have not seen this as a necessity before now.

Mr. Conley stated that the management of the county is larger now.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commissioners are deciding to have the bonds refunded as well as have the rating increased. This is seen as a necessity to get a savings.

Mr. Conley stated that the rating agencies see the county as a business. He stated that the most obvious change is to “firm up” the sales tax. He stated that the management of the county is “live and well.” Having a willingness to make tough decisions is absent from many government entities as well as being willing to make hard choices to do what is right.

Commissioner Davis asked that else needs to be discussed.

Mr. Conley stated that one Commissioner will be the economic development. He gave an example of a new business, that has stayed in the county and one that was here and has expanded and what keeps them here. He stated that the other Commissioner would focus on the fiscal management of the county, describing the budgetary process, what to cut, when to cut and when to make the sales tax permanent. Mr. Conley stated that another Commissioner will be the county spokesperson to discuss the quality of life, why the county has succeeded. He suggested a “Let me show you my home” approach to this portion of the presentation. He suggested describing the parks and why people live here. He stated that there should be many photographs and also suggested discussing the success of the bypass. This section should be at the beginning, and then give a 5 year forecast/projection, and then the Auditor could recap this.

Commissioner Davis stated that the General Fund is \$34 million. The undivided Local Government Fund is on the downward slope and the casino is projected to come online to help the Local Government Fund.

Mr. Conley stated that the casino data should be included, which will help. He stated the rating analysts would expect this information. He stated that there is a healthy General Fund balance and the casino money helps it. He stated that the object is to show a 5 year forecast to be at least where the county is today financially. Commissioner Davis asked whether this would be General Fund or other funds.

Mr. Conley stated General Fund only.

Mr. Conley stated that the presentation would be mostly scripted and planned with detail.

Commissioner Kiger stated whether the Commissioners will have notes available.

Mr. Conley stated yes. He stated that notes and guides will be used during the presentation.

The meeting concluded at 11:32 a.m.

Meeting with Carrie Woody

The Commissioners met with Carrie Woody and Toby Shamblin to discuss funding for the Lancaster Public Transit (LPT). Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. with the following Commissioners present: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe. Also present were Jeff Barron, Jason Dolin, Dave Levacy, Branden Meyer, Toby Shamblin, and Carrie Woody.

Commissioner Davis stated that LPT had requested \$10,000 for 2012. He stated that he would like “a flavor of how the Commissioners can be helpful.”

Ms. Woody stated that she didn’t receive information until December that LPT would be receiving their allocation. She stated that the money will go towards vehicles.

Ms. Woody stated that LPT has been a transit service since 2008, then expanded to Pickerington/Violet Township in 2009. She stated that last year was the first year that LPT was a countywide service. She stated that all local money is matched with federal and state dollars; a dollar for dollar match. She stated that they must receive a written commitment in order to receive the match. She stated that the Commissioners allocation will have more impact for next year.

Commissioner Kiger asked Ms. Woody when she needs to have a commitment by.

Ms. Woody stated September 1.

Commissioner Davis asked what happened that changed their revenue stream.

Ms. Woody stated that the city's allocation was the same, she stated that in 2011 some townships could not give any money, then others stepped to give extra in their place. She stated that the Local Government Fund was cut, so these entities decided to cut their funding to LPT. She stated that LPT cut their funding from \$100,000 to \$40,000. She stated that she is trying to see where they can receive local dollars from. She stated that most do want to give.

Commissioner Shupe stated that it is important to work on finding the lost dollars.

Ms. Woody stated that she wants to see an increase in funding and rides. She stated that they provided 45,000 rides in 2008 and 82,000 in 2011.

Mr. Shamblin stated that in 2011, there were 20,000 new riders.

Commissioner Davis asked how many families are served.

Mr. Shamblin stated that he can pull those numbers.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commissioners want to be supportive of the service and want to be helpful. He asked how the Commissioners can be helpful.

Mr. Shamblin stated that a year to year commitment is difficult to work with because the unknown about finding the local dollars. He stated that any support both verbal and financial is helpful.

Commissioner Davis asked what the budget for LPT is.

Ms. Woody stated \$1.8 million in 2012.

Commissioner Davis asked whether it is \$900,000 federal and \$900,000 local.

Ms. Woody stated 50% federal, 8% state, and 42% local.

Mr. Shamblin stated that this year they had contract amendments, so they had some carryover purchase orders from last year. He stated that the budget is typically \$1.2 million per year.

Ms. Woody stated that they have received funding from BDD, JFS, some districts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Commissioner Davis asked what year they went countywide.

Ms. Woody stated 2011.

Commissioner Davis stated that he would like to see a report of entities and dollar amounts. He stated that he thinks that the Commissioners can talk to the groups to help facilitate funding for LPT.

Ms. Woody stated that Commissioner Kiger has been very helpful getting financial support from the Veterans Service Commission.

Mr. Shamblin stated that Gary Weltlich helped the city/township

Commissioner Shupe asked whether the money from the City of Lancaster was in place.

Mr. Shamblin stated yes.

Commissioner Davis stated that he would like to see a list for 2011 and 2012 of the financial commitments. He stated that the Commissioners will give their commitment prior to September 1. He asked whether there was anything the Commissioners could do to be helpful.

Ms. Woody stated that she wants people to understand what LPT does. She suggested that the Commissioners schedule a ride.

Mr. Shamblin stated that LPT assisted with the Mayor's Conference.

Commissioner Shupe asked whether they pick up all over the entire county.

Ms. Woody stated yes, that LPT will pick up people from their home.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the drivers are very helpful.

Commissioner Davis asked whether service has had to be reduced.

Mr. Shamblin stated that 15 hours has been reduced to 10 hours and the hours of service have been cut down from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He stated that he wants to bring those hours back. He stated that the cost to run the service is \$29.46 per hour.

Commissioner Davis asked whether LPT has had to deny trips.

Mr. Shamblin stated yes.

Commissioner Kiger stated that when he rode LPT in January, they would re-route to other pick ups on route. He stated that they are "maxed" to the limit.

Ms. Woody stated that they denied over 400 trips.

Commissioner Shupe asked whether there has been any discussion regarding permanent funding.

Ms. Woody stated that Maryann Freel wants to discuss a permanent funding source with the Commissioners and the City of Lancaster.

Mr. Shamblin stated that planning year to year is a struggle.

Commissioner Davis stated that he wants Ms. Woody and Mr. Shamblin to leave the meeting feeling comforted that the Commissioners are trying to be helpful to them.

Mr. Shamblin stated that he appreciates the financial support from the Commissioners, but advocacy is also helpful.

Ms. Knisley stated the LPT funding has been pending. She stated that the resolutions have always been prepared in advance and then put on for approval when the requests come in.

Commissioner Davis asked how many are pending.

Ms. Knisley stated that the resolution for the Lancaster Festival allocation is pending.

Commissioner Shupe stated that a process needs to be put into place instead of waiting.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commissioners will take this process under advisement.

The meeting concluded at 12:12 p.m.

Adjournment

With no more business to discuss, on the motion of Mike Kiger and a second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 12:12 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Judith Shupe, and Steven Davis

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by: Mike Kiger

Seconded by: Judith Shupe

that the minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Steven Davis, Mike Kiger, and Judith Shupe

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on March 6, 2012.

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Branden C. Meyer, Clerk