

**Regular Meeting #09-15
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
April 14, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Meeting with Mike Miller

The Board of Commissioners met with County Dog Warden Mike Miller to discuss the agency's annual budget. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Nina Morgan, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to be able to offer pay raises for his employees next year. He understands that the General Fund budget guidance is asking for no increases to be approved, but since he is not funded by the General Fund and generates his own funding, he believes that his budget is sufficiently sound to be able to provide modest increases, provided the employees receive positive evaluations.

Commissioner Shupe asked if Mr. Miller had enough funding in his salary line item to cover an increase, and Mr. Miller stated that he did. Commissioner Kiger asked if the salary line would be the only increase for the Shelter's budget, and Mr. Miller stated that would be the only increase he planned.

Commissioner Shupe asked what the range of current salaries are for the employees, and Mr. Miller stated his employees currently are paid between just under \$8.00 per hour to about \$11.00 per hour. Mr. Miller added that any salary increases would be based upon evaluations and available funding.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she did not see any concerns with the request, but would like to afford Commissioner Myers an opportunity to review and comment on the request before moving forward. Commissioner Kiger added that he believes the request is reasonable as well.

Mr. Miller stated that he would follow whatever recommendations the Board would have for him. Commissioner Kiger asked how many employees the Shelter had, and Mr. Miller stated there are 6 employees.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board would discuss the proposal at next week's Review Session.

Mr. Miller provided an update on Deputy Bobbie Glass, stating that she had planned to be off for some minor surgery, but some new conditions had been discovered by her doctor and she may be off longer than first expected.

Regarding the proposed Violet Township Dog Park, Ms. Morgan stated that they had been made aware of the project, and were seeking more details. Mr. Zody provided Ms. Morgan and Mr. Miller with a copy of an e-mail the Board received from one of the committee members working on the project, and stated that on the direction of the Board he was seeking additional details that he would share when received.

Commissioner Shupe asked how the incinerator was holding up, and if it could last another year or so until the county could apply for funding through the Solid Waste District to replace it, and Mr. Miller stated that he is not sure if the equipment will last much longer. Mr. Miller added that he is working on some contingency plans in the event the incinerator fails, and Commissioner Kiger stated that he is working with Paul Martin and the City of Lancaster on a disposal option.

Mr. Miller stated that he is seeing an increase in the number of pet owners coming to the shelter asking him to cremate their deceased pets, which is actually providing some unanticipated revenue for him. Mr. Zody asked what the charge is for that service, and Ms. Morgan stated that it depends on the size of the animal, any where from \$50-100.

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met to review legal issues, correspondence, and pending and future action items. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Holly Mattei, Ed Laramée, Michael Orlando, Aundrea Cordle, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Mattei stated that the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is pushing local governments to establish Complete Count Committee's for the decennial census. The drawback is that so far, no funding assistance is being offered for such efforts. MORPC is suggesting the Board approach local businesses for donation, but in this economy she doubts they would have much success.

Mr. Zody asked if the Federal Census folks were making any grant funds available, as he was seeing news reports of Community Organizer groups receiving funding, and Ms. Mattei stated that she could check with the local census office in Detroit to see if any funding is available.

Commissioner Kiger asked what was done in the 2000 census, and Ms. Mattei and Mr. Laramée stated there was not much involvement from the county in that effort. Commissioner Shupe stated that she recalled that there were some smaller communities in the county that were undercounted.

Ms. Mattei stated that MORPC is also trying to include Lancaster and Pickerington in the effort. Commissioner Shupe asked what role these committees would assume, and Ms. Mattei stated it would mainly be spreading information and educational efforts, not doing any of the actual counting.

Commissioner Kiger stated the Board could interface with the public at several events and he would talk to the Family, Adult & Children First Council as well. Commissioner Shupe stated the Board could raise the issue at the Senior lunches and chamber events.

Commissioner Kiger noted that questionnaires will need to be returned by April 1, 2010 by the citizens, so this does not leave much time to get started. Ms. Mattei noted that she had just been contacted herself, and was surprised that the effort had not started sooner. Commissioner Shupe stated Fairfield Medical Center might be a good partner in the effort, and Mr. Dolin stated that pay stub stuffers could be used for employees as well.

Commissioner Kiger asked what the census forms are like, and Ms. Mattei stated they are several pages long, but the census has done away with the old "long form" that was very intensive.

Mr. Orlando stated that he and Ms. Cordle were present to answer any questions relative to the resolution on the agenda for the abolishment of Job & Family Services positions with the state Department of Administrative Services.

Commissioner Kiger asked why the number of positions had been reduced from 42 to 38, and Mr. Orlando stated that 6 employees are taking voluntary lay-offs, which has reduced the number of positions that need to be abolished through the DAS process.

Commissioner Shupe asked for clarification, and that the employees had volunteered to leave, and Mr. Orlando stated the employees were willing to leave voluntarily in order to preserve a job for another employee, and have been very gracious. Ms. Cordle added that there are a few employees that are pursuing disability retirement as well.

Mr. Orlando stated that all of the employees and positions are on the Table of Organization, and he would produce a new Table showing the changes to the agency.

The new Table would also show what positions Mr. Orlando hopes to restore in the future once the financial situation stabilizes.

Mr. Orlando stated there are approximately 10 position in the Adult and Child Protective Services area that he would like to refill once the levy funding starts in 2010, and approximately 6 position in the Public Assistance area that he would like to refill once all the unemployment costs have run their course.

Commissioner Shupe stated there is still a lot of work to do in order to bring positions back. Mr. Orlando stated that is tricky, because it will be based upon the unemployment compensation costs and looking at available state and Federal funds.

Commissioner Kiger asked if it is necessary to vote on the resolution today, and Mr. Orlando stated that delaying the vote would throw their numbers off, as everything is based upon the abolishments moving forward today. Ms. Cordle stated the resolution and letter to DAS are necessary to officially start the process. Mr. Orlando stated the numbers are also based on Governor Strickland's proposed budget cuts.

Mr. Zody asked what funding sources would be relied upon to refill positions within the Public Assistance area, and Mr. Orlando stated he would use state and Federal funds, as the General Fund only provides about 3% of the funding for that section.

Ms. Cordle added that another unknown cost at this point is the amount of vacation and sick leave payout that would be necessary to displaced workers.

Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Orlando if he was satisfied with the level of funding he is receiving through the Meals on Wheels levy, and Mr. Orlando stated that he is receiving a grant of approximately \$50,000 from MOW, and Phyllis Saylor has offered to try to provide some additional funding this year to help the Adult Protective Services unit.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe. Also present were Aundrea Cordle, Michael Orlando, Jon Kochis, Donnie Blatt, Ritta Seitz, Billy Boyce, Ed Laramée, Mary Beth Lane, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

Donnie Blatt, representing the United Steel Workers, provided public comments relative to a request by the USW to support a Buy American resolution. Mr. Blatt stated the Ohio State Senate is considering a resolution, and they are asking local government jurisdictions to approve resolutions as well. The resolutions would support using the recently approved Federal "stimulus" funding to Buy American made material and products first in the building of infrastructure. Mr. Blatt stated the Alliance for American Manufacturing is also supporting this effort with the goal of having the stimulus funding go to American jobs.

Mr. Blatt stated there is a 25% threshold as part of the resolution to allow for projects that must utilize foreign materials, for example steel for a bridge might come to 25% or more of the cost of a project. In that case, there would be a mechanism to put those materials out for a nationwide bid to find the cheapest domestic price.

Commissioner Shupe asked if this would add additional costs on to projects, and if Mr. Blatt had any statistics on that. Mr. Blatt stated that he did not have any information relevant to that issue.

Billy Boyce, also with the USW, stated that Ohio ranks third in the nation in lost jobs over the past year, and the stimulus funding could create as many as 130,000 jobs.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the Board would consider the request.

Dan Starkey with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War provided comment and invitations for the Commissioners to attend a Flag Retreat Ceremony on Sunday, May 31st at Rock Mill Park.

Don Grant, also with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, made a request to the Board to provide some office space for the local chapter to hold meetings and store some of their equipment. Mr. Grant estimated that he would only need a couple of hundred square feet. Commissioner Shupe stated the Board would consider the request.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday April 7, 2009

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

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

Approval of a Proclamation of Recognition – Keep the Promise Conference

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Proclamation of Recognition for the Keep the Promise Conference, see resolution 09-04.14.a

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

Approval of job abolishments for the Fairfield County Job & Family Services

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve job abolishments for the Fairfield County Job & Family Services, see resolution 09-04.14.b

Commissioner Kiger stated that he would like to clarify his position relative to the reorganization of the agency, and that he voted against the overall plan last week, but understands the need to move forward with these abolishments this week. Commissioner Shupe stated that there have been 5-6 employees who have volunteered to take a layoff to help the agency, and she has written a note to the Governor asking him to reconsider the cuts he is proposing.

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

Approval of Resolution of Support for property for the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Program

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a resolution of support for property for the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Program, see resolution 09-04.14.c

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe

Approval of Contract Bid Award for the GRE-21 FAI-C54-1.03 City of Lancaster Campground Road over the Hocking River Bridge Replacement Project

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Contract Bid Award for the GRE-21 FAI-C54-1.03 City of Lancaster Campground Road over the Hocking River Bridge Replacement Project, see resolution 09-04.14.d

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

Approval of Request for Payment and status of funds report – FY2007 CDBG Formula Program – Drawdown #181

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Request for Payment and status of funds report – FY2007 CDBG Formula Program – Drawdown #181, see resolution 09-04.14.e

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

Approval of Acceptance of Ohio Department of Health Subsidy Agreement – Help Me Grow Subsidy Agreement #7521 - FACFC

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Acceptance of Ohio Department of Health Subsidy Agreement – Help Me Grow Subsidy Agreement #7521 – FACFC, see resolution 09-04.14.f

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

Approval to create New Sub-fund for Fund 2050 – Ditch Maintenance Fund – Winding Creek Subdivision Section 5, Part 1A

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to create New Sub-fund for Fund 2050 – Ditch Maintenance Fund – Winding Creek Subdivision Section 5, Part 1A, see resolution 09-04.14.g

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve financial resolutions as follows:

- 09-04.14.h Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Clerk of Courts
- 09-04.14.i Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Job & Family Services
- 09-04.14.j Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Older Adult Services Levy
- 09-04.14.k Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Older Adult Services Levy
- 09-04.14.l Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Commissioners Sanction Costs
- 09-04.14.m Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Commissioners

09-04.14.n Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Job & Family Services (WIA)

09-04.14.o Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated - Engineer

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

Approval of Payment of Bills

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills April 14, 2009, check date April 17, 2009, see resolution 09-04.14.p

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

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met to review legal issues, correspondence, and pending and future action items. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Ed Laramee, Mary Beth Lane, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Dolin reported that he has reviewed the Revised Code relative to Transportation Improvement Districts and it does not appear possible to return the funding in that account to the General Fund due to the vagaries of the law. Commissioner Shupe stated that in that case, the TID should be kept active in case other transportation project opportunities arise.

Regarding the Meals on Meals annual budget and new levy agreement, Mr. Zody reported that he has contacted MOW to obtain a list on organizations that have received grants to provide services, and Commissioner Kiger stated that he is contacting the Family, Adult & Children First Council for additional information.

Commissioner Kiger informed the Board that he received a letter from Greg Eyerman today tendering his resignation from the Visitor and Convention Bureau, and the Board will need to explore replacement possibilities.

Commissioner Kiger stated that he had received a response from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) relative to Federal stimulus funds for public safety facilities, and believes there may be some grant funding available. Mr. Zody stated he would check into the possibility. Commissioner Shupe stated they needed to keep in touch with Representative Stebelton and Senator Schaffer relative to funding opportunities.

Regarding the Sons of Union Veterans request for office, meeting and storage space, Mr. Dolin stated he would check to see if there are any legal issues.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the United Steelworkers request for a resolution would have any impact on the county bidding requirements, and Mr. Dolin stated he would research that issue as well. Mr. Laramee stated that his concern would be that protectionism policies such as that could lead to less trade, not more.

Jon Kochis joined the meeting in progress, stating that he is seeking a timeline on potentially relocating his office to the JFS building, as he may have a window of opportunity to apply for some state grant funds for office equipment and furniture to help with the move. In addition, Mr. Kochis stated that while he cannot pay rent for his space, he can contribute to his share of utilities, maintenance and housekeeping costs.

Commissioner Kiger asked how much square footage EMA required, and Mr. Kochis stated that he would need approximately 5,000 square feet. Commissioner Shupe asked where the Historical Parks would go, and Mr. Kochis stated that he could make room for Dave, but he believes that he has plans to move out to one of the park facilities, such as Mambourg.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Scott Zody, Clerk/Manager

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.