

**Regular Meeting #09-22
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
May 28, 2009**

8:30 a.m. - Elected Official and Department Head Quarterly Roundtable

The Board of Commissioners met to conduct a Quarterly Meeting of the Fairfield County elected officials and department heads. Commissioners present were Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Absent was Judith Shupe. Also present were Engineer Frank Anderson, Jeff Camechis, Deborah Henderly, Susan Bloom, Ed Mohler, Aundrea Cordle, County Coroner Tom Vajen, Regional Planning Director Holly Mattei, Jon Kochis, Linda Kauffman, Prosecutor David Landefeld, Engineer Frank Anderson, Clerk of Courts Deborah Smalley, Judge Kathy Mowry, Jerry Perrigo, Sheriff Dave Phalen, Ed Laramée, Kelly Turben, Mike Miller, Treasurer Jon Slater, Lisa McKenzie, Tony Vogel, Nina Morgan, Christina Holt, Joe Spybey, Michelle George, John Pekar and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Kiger welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating that Commissioner Shupe could not be present today due to some family health issues. Commissioner Kiger added that County Economic Development Director Bill Arnett had recently announced that he was resigning to pursue a career opportunity in Florida.

County Human Resources Director Aundrea Cordle provided an overview of a proposed mandatory new employee health benefits orientation that she would like to implement to help new employees better understand their county health benefits. Currently, her office provides orientations on a request-only basis, but is finding that many new employees have questions 6-12 months after they are hired and it is much more efficient to try to educate them early on in their hiring process. Ms. Cordle stated that she is seeking feedback from the offices and departments outside of the Commissioners direct authority to see if they are receiving good service and if they are interested in receiving other services.

Commissioner Myers asked this survey was aimed towards new hires, and Ms. Cordle stated that the survey is aimed primarily towards current employees and programs and whether or not they desire assistance.

Emergency Management Director Jon Kochis provided an update on the County Continuity of Operations Plan, stating that all county agencies have now submitted completed plans. Mr. Kochis stated that the next step in the process is to identify alternate locations for county agencies to continue operation, and he, Joe Spybey, and Scott Zody have done most of that legwork. Mr. Kochis stated the next important is for elected officials to spell out their delegation of authority and line of succession in case of incapacitation.

Mr. Kochis stated that based upon his and Mr. Spybey & Mr. Zody's research, the courts would operate out of the Ag Center, Job & Family Services & Health would share the Department of Health facility, and most other functions would move to the Liberty Center.

Mr. Anderson stated that while Fairfield County did not receive any of the initial stimulus funding, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has approximately \$150,000 in stimulus funding that they are providing to the county to repave some roads in Bloom and/or Violet Township.

Mr. Anderson reported that his office continues to work with the Rockies Express (REX) pipeline on roadway permits for their construction, and despite the fact that the road and bridge levy was renewed, revenue to the Motor Vehicle Fund is stagnant and will likely remain so for the near future.

Mr. Landefeld stated that Judy Edwards and Rhonda Norris in his office will be retiring at the end of June, and he thanked Ms. Cordle for working with his office to utilize the Worknet site to help recruit replacements to fill those positions.

Ms. Cordle reported that she was providing updates on both Job & Family Services on behalf of Michael Orlando and the Human Resources Office.

Ms. Cordle provided a volunteer information sheet, stating that JFS is seeking volunteers to help staff the visitation center. In addition, the Workforce Development section is receiving some stimulus funding, but it must be utilized solely for helping displaced workers.

Commissioner Myers stated that the state biennial budget is still \$3 billion short, and looks for additional cuts to be forthcoming.

Ms. Cordle stated that some changes have been made at the Federal level to the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and her office is putting together a training session for later this summer for supervisors. In addition, Ms. Cordle is working with the John Glenn School at OSU to try to schedule some management training sometime this year, pending the availability of the instructor. Judge Mowry requested at least one month's notice for the dates of the training so they can plan the court docket accordingly.

Ms. Smalley reported that her efforts to consolidate her 3rd and 4th floor operations in the Hall of Justice is progressing, and she is looking forward to vacating the 3rd floor to provide space for Judge Williams. Ms. Smalley stated that the 5/3 building in Pickerington is back on the market, as the previous offer fell through, but the owner is asking for a minimum price of \$600,000, which is too high for her to afford. On the bright side, despite the huge slowdown in auto sales, business at the Pickerington Office is only off about 10%.

Ms. Smalley stated that she has been aggressively meeting with auto dealers and working in a new software system to make it easier for the dealers to get the titles transferred and use less "runners" from the dealerships.

Ms. Henderly stated that there will be an August special election involving 6 precincts in the county that are within the City of Columbus, and her office is going through the process of checking mailing addresses on registered voters countywide.

Judge Mowry stated that the remodeling project for Domestic Relations Court is progressing well, and Joyce Strawn will be retiring and will be coming back in a part-time job-share arrangement.

Judge Mowry added that the Domestic Relations Court and Common Pleas Court are sharing JFS tech support person Mark Conrad for tech issues, and are paying 25% of Mr. Conrad's costs.

Judge Mowry stated that her court is experiencing an increase in court filings involving children, due in part to the recent JFS cutbacks that forced the closing of the visitation center, and she is planning to participate in a meeting involving Judge Williams and Child Protection Services Director Rich Bowlen.

Judge Mowry announced that her office is working towards a paperless system and will be meeting with Data Processing Chief Randy Carter to look at some options. Mr. Landefeld stated that he would like to have a representative of his office at the meeting with Judge Williams and Mr. Bowlen.

Ms. Mattei stated that her office has been working with MORPC to complete the Fairfield County Open Space and Active Transportation Plan, and will present the Plan to the Regional Planning Commission next Tuesday. In addition, Ms. Mattei met with

the complete count census committee, and the Census Bureau is in the process of hiring one-year temporary managers right now.

Ms. Mattei provided information and brochures relative to the Fair Housing program that RPC administers, including a pamphlet on landlord/tenant rights.

Dr. Vajen stated that he attended the State Coroners Conference, and learned that drug overdose deaths are now greater than automobile deaths in Ohio, particularly those related to heroin.

Mr. Slater reported that 2nd half property tax bills are getting ready to be mailed out, and the Board of Revision has been busy this year with numerous appeals of appraised value. Of particular concern are the number of commercial properties that have filed for review, but Fairfield County is in better shape than most other counties and areas of the country.

Mr. Spybey reported that the Hall of Justice roof project is nearly completed, and the Drew Shoe building is nearly ready to begin accepting records for storage and Mr. Dolin is reviewing the lease for final approval.

Commissioner Kiger asked everyone that might have an improvement or renovation project to run their plans by Mr. Spybey for review to ensure compliance with building codes or other regulations to prevent any problems from arising. Ms. Cordle stated that her office is making plans to schedule the annual safety walk-through with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

Mr. Mohler asked who is responsible for remarking county parking lots, and Mr. Spybey stated that the maintenance office is, and the Pearl Street lot is scheduled for marking, but he is not sure how quickly that will be completed. Ms. Smalley expressed her appreciation for the Drew Shoe/Records Storage project, and asked if there was a timeline to move into the facility. Mr. Spybey stated that Mr. Dolin is finalizing the lease and is not sure exactly when the owner would be able to sign and have the Commissioners give their final approval, but it should not take more than a few weeks.

Sheriff Phalen thanked Ms. Cordle for her assistance on several recent issues, and reported that Chief Deputy Perrigo recently obtained a grant to replace 22 laptop computers to replace computers in cruisers, and his office is working with Project Lifesaver to provide bracelets with GPS chips in them for people with Alzheimer's or other mental concerns to make them easier to locate in case they become lost.

Sheriff Phalen stated that heroin is becoming a very significant problem, and approximately 40% of all jail inmates are addicts, and drug addiction is the cause of approximately 85% of all crimes in the county.

Sheriff Phalen stated that he is concerned with the status of his budget, stating that, due to equipment and overtime costs, he is worried about his ability to make ends meet for the remainder of the calendar year, and has implemented a hiring freeze.

Mr. Landefeld stated that the heroin problem is in part the result of prescription medication abuse, such as Oxycontin and other pain-killers, and heroin is a cheaper alternative for those addicts. Dr. Vajen added that a new drug to treat heroin addicts, Suboxone, has proven to be very effective if prescribed correctly. Mr. Zody noted that the Commissioners just this week approved a grant application for the Drug Courts to obtain funding for a Suboxone treatment program.

Mr. Laramée stated that the county is beginning to see some trickle-down of Federal stimulus dollars, and reminded all that the stimulus funds come with some rather stringent tracking and reporting requirements – the State Auditor recently issued a new bulletin relative to reporting requirements that all should pay close attention to.

Mr. Kochis stated that he is working on 2 major issues relative to the county Emergency Operations Center. The first is text-message dispatching, so EOC participants can be reached through a text-message instead of a phone call, and the second involves certain sections of the Emergency Operations Plan that have been deemed sensitive by the State EMA that all should delete from their plans.

Mr. Kochis stated that he is continuing to work towards a reverse 9-1-1 system for the county, and has narrowed the options down to three vendors for consideration.

The next Emergency Planning Committee exercise will be held on Tuesday, June 16th, at Rising Park.

Mr. Laramée asked if the reverse 9-1-1 system would include both land-line and cell phones, and Mr. Kochis stated that cell phones can only be voluntarily registered through web sites, and as a result, not many are being captured, but he is hopeful that will change in the future.

Ms. Kauffman stated that while the economy is tough, they are seeing signs of improvement, particularly in the Revolving Loan Fund. Last year, there was only 1 loan closed, and in 2009, 4 loans have already been closed, with a 5th in the works. The county unemployment rate is 8.1%, but is still better than most counties in the state. The Route 33 Development Alliance has attended 3 business trade shows this year to market the corridor, and has gained a lot of exposure with companies, particularly site-selection companies, to raise awareness of the area.

Mr. Slater asked if the banks restricting lending have had anything to do with the increased RLF activity, and Ms. Kauffman stated that local banks must participate in the RLF loans, so the local banks have been very good.

Mr. Mohler stated that the Veterans' Service Commission has been very busy over the past two weeks ensuring graves at cemeteries are decorated, and thanked Commissioner Kiger for attending their meetings. Mr. Mohler added that the new GI bill passed by Congress provides more funding for veterans' education than any bill since the original GI bill passed after World War II.

Commissioner Myers noted to all that the 2010 budget is looking very tight, and the state may have to cut an additional \$3 billion out of its biennial budget proposal, and may have to adopt an interim budget.

Commissioner Kiger added that everyone should do everything they can to reduce spending and keep the county cash balance healthy.

Ms. Cordle stated that the state budget may include language to allow mandatory public worker furloughs, which has not been done in the past. Commissioner Myers noted there are a couple of radical ideas being discussed, such as closing some state parks and mandatory furloughs, but it is not sure what if any proposals will be in the final budget. Mr. Kochis asked if converting to 4 10-hour days might be a possibility, and Ms. Cordle stated that is another idea being discussed.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Absent was Judith Shupe. Also present were County Engineer Frank Anderson, Jeff Camechis, Michelle George, Alan Fore, Chris Basista, John Snider, Bill Rodgers, Mark Totman, Ritta Seitz, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody announced that there would be one add-on resolution relative to the County Job & Family Services agency needing to transfer funds to balance their books for the end of the month.

Public Comment

John Snider, an attorney representing the Rockies Express (REX) pipeline project, spoke, stating that he has been working with Assistant Prosecutor Jason Dolin on a road usage agreement for the Engineer, and the company would like to offer a \$500,000 bond instead of the \$2.3 million requested by the Engineer. Mr. Snider stated that thus far in the construction of the line, there have been no bond claims filed, and the company is confident they can comply with and be governed by their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permit. Mr. Snider stated the FERC permit gives the company eminent domain authority. REX would like to obtain a permit from the Engineer this week and believes it is acting in a reasonable way.

Commissioner Myers asked the Engineer if a \$500,000 bond is reasonable, and Mr. Camechis stated that the document sent by REX to the Engineer only addressed road crossings, and the issue that needs addressed is hauling of “super-sized” load on county and township roads and the potential for damage to those roads.

Alan Fore, with Kinder-Morgan, spoke, stating that REX is offering a bond of \$250,000 for the road crossings and an additional \$250,000 for the haul permit, essentially doubling their bond amount, which is significantly more than any bond the company has posted. In addition, Mr. Fore stated that their FERC permit requires all road damage be repaired. Commissioner Kiger asked if there would be any supersized loads on county roads, and Bill Rodgers stated that the super load term is only used in Ohio, and that the company can run loads up to 132,000 pounds with a permit, but there are larger loads that will require larger loads than that, because of the size of the equipment, but even the heaviest loads will pass the load limits of any bridge they cross in Fairfield County.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the FERC permit references compliance with load limits, and asked if the loads are overweight, how is that compliance? Mr. Fore stated that REX must follow county requirement for load limits, which is why they are applying for the permit with the Engineer.

Mr. Camechis stated that there are numerous issues outstanding with REX besides the haul permit, such as agreeing where to litigate any claims, issues that Mr. Dolin inserted into the agreement that REX deleted, and the amount of bond required.

Mr. Snider stated that any litigation would remain within the local jurisdiction, i.e. Fairfield County. Commissioner Kiger stated that the court issue appears resolved, and the Board does not wish to hold up the project, but the interests of the county and the taxpayers must be protected, and asked if an agreement could be reached, would Tuesday be acceptable for approval. Mr. Fore stated that would be acceptable, but any further delays would cause workers to be laid off. Commissioner Myers asked if Mr. Dolin would be available tomorrow to discuss the issues with REX, and Mr. Zody stated he would contact Mr. Dolin to check.

Mr. Anderson stated revenues are down for the Engineer, even with the recent levy renewal, and he does not want to spend funds fixing problems caused by others, and he is very concerned about the township roads and culvert abilities to withstand the super loads.

Commissioner Myers asked how much of the project is complete, and Mr. Fore stated the project is totally complete and operational from Mexico to Missouri (1400 miles). Commissioner Myers asked if there had been any legal issues with the line to date, and Mr. Fore stated that there have been no legal claims, and the line has passed through

63 counties with no issues – in fact – most counties had not even asked for special permits or bonds.

Mr. Camechis stated that the Engineer's Office became concerned when Muskingum County sent a message out stating that they had had some issues with REX. Mr. Fore stated that was not true, and Mr. Camechis offered to share the email that was sent by Muskingum County with Mr. Fore. Commissioner Kiger suggested the parties meet and begin discussion to resolve any outstanding issues immediately, and the Board would await the results of those negotiations.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday May 26, 2009

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

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

Approval for the Fairfield County Common Pleas and Fairfield County Municipal Court Drug Courts to apply for a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Request for Fairfield County Common Pleas and Fairfield County Municipal Court Drug Courts to apply for a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), see resolution 09-05.28.a

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

Approval to Update the Policing Protection Agreement held with the Village of Bremen - Sheriff

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Update the Policing Protection Agreement held with the Village of Bremen – Sheriff, see resolution 09-05.28.b

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

Approval of Subsidy Agreement – Fairfield County Juvenile Court

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a subsidy agreement for the Fairfield County Juvenile Court, see resolution 09-05.28.c

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

Approval of Request for payment and status of funds report – FY2006 CDBG Formula Program – Drawdown #184

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Request for payment and status of funds report – FY2006 CDBG Formula Program – Drawdown #184, see resolution 09-05.28.d

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

Approval of Job & Family Services resolutions

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for the Fairfield County Job & Family Services agency as follows:

09-05.28.e Approval of Grant Agreement with Ohio Department of Job & Family Services – Job & Family Services

09-05.28.f Approval of a Purchase of Service Agreement by & between Fairfield County Job & Family Services and Functional Training Services, Inc.

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

Approval of Appointments to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for Appointments to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board as follows:

09-05.28.g Approval of appointment of Tim Claypool to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board

09-05.28.h Approval of appointment of Raymond Albert to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board

09-05.28.i Approval of appointment of Kelvyn Moyer to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board

09-05.28.j Approval of appointment of Lyle Diley to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board

09-05.28.k Approval of appointment of Holly Mattei to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

09-05.28.l Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – General Fund (Insurance) - Commissioners

09-05.28.m Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fund #2093 – Special Operations of Fairfield County

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

Approval of Payment of Debt Service

On motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of Debt Service, paid by wire dated June 1, 2009, see resolution 09-05.28.n

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

Approval of Memo Expenditure – Job & Family Services

On motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a memo expenditure for the Fairfield County Job & Family Services, see resolution 09-05.28.o

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

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:45 a.m.

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

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 JUNE 2, 2009 AT 11:00 A.M.