

Regular Meeting #10-19
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
May 4, 2010

11:00 a.m. Viewing – Alteration and Vacation of Election House Road

The Board of Commissioners met to view a proposed alteration and partial vacation of a portion of Election House Road in Greenfield Township. Commissioners present were Mike Kiger, Judith Shupe and Jon Myers. Also present were Corey Clark, Nancy Newhouse, Oran Hoover, Bill McNeer, Larry Kemmerer, Dave Scheffler, Martin Lohne, Greg Heaton, Frank Anderson, Jeff Baird, Dave Smith, Kerry Hogan, Todd May, Eric McCrady, Albert Gallis, Angie Gallis, Holly Mattei, Joe Giessler, Doug Diehl, Cynthia Moyer, Sean Harrington, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Anderson provided a brief overview of the project, stating the project is being proposed by the Fairfield County Airport Authority (FCAA), and the stakes and ribbons show where the original new road would be and where it is being proposed to be moved further to the West away from the subdivision houses.

Mr. Heaton explained that in response to concerns raised by residents of River Valley Highlands, the FCAA is proposing to move the edge of pavement approximately 40 feet West to reduce the impact and allow for earthen berms and tree plantings to reduce the visual impact. The earthen berm will be 6 feet high, and the berm and trees will be located outside of the roadway "clear zone".

Commissioner Kiger stated the public hearing on the project will be held at 11:30 in the Courthouse, and anyone wishing to make a statement for the record is encouraged to attend.

11:30 a.m. Public Hearing – Alteration and Vacation of Election House Road

The Board of Commissioners met to hold a public hearing on the proposed alteration and partial vacation of a portion of Election House Road in Greenfield Township. Commissioners present were Mike Kiger, Judith Shupe and Jon Myers. Also present were County Engineer Frank Anderson, Craig Donnelly, Pat Ferguson, Paul Arnett, Joey Zamarrelli, Susan Paulus, Lonnie Rush, Victor Kull, Bill McNeer, Albert Gallis, Angie Gallis, Oran Hoover, Greenfield Fire Department Chief Terry Morris, Scott Marshall, Jeff Gerken, Lancaster Mayor David Smith, Shane Farnsworth, Larry Kemmerer, Martin Lohne, Cynthia Moyer, Holly Mattei, Corey Clark, Greg Heaton, Kerry Hogan, David Scheffler, Eric McCrady, Todd May, Joe Giessler, Abigail Fisher, Mike Smejkal, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Kiger called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk/Manager to read the title of the resolution on the subject.

County Engineer Frank Anderson provided an overview of the project, stating the revised design proposes moving the edge of pavement further to the West to benefit residents in the River Valley Highlands (RVH). Mr. Anderson stated that he has submitted a memo to the Commissioners outlining several concerns that he has raised relative to the project that he would discuss in his comments.

Mr. Anderson expressed concern over the South "alternative" merge, stating that could possibly cause some access issues for the Eversole and Carr properties. Mr. Anderson stated he would find the proposed alteration acceptable if the proposed Eversole road is constructed in a timely fashion. Mr. Anderson stated he would like both projects to move forward as that would help alleviate traffic issues at the 33A/Election House/ North Columbus Street intersection.

Mr. Anderson stated while the proposed design is workable, he has a question relative to the changes on the North end that require the acquisition of some additional right-of-

way from the Kull property, and whether or not the Prosecutor believes an additional viewing and hearing may be required. In addition, the City of Lancaster will need to review the project, as a portion of the new road will fall within the city limits. The city may wish to consider de-annexation of that area to clear up any jurisdictional issues relative to future maintenance of the road.

Craig Donnelly, 1730 Cloverdale Drive, Lancaster, asked if the airport runway would be altered as a result of the project, and Commissioner Kiger stated he would ask the representatives of the Fairfield County Airport Authority (FCAA) who are present to respond to that when they testify.

Pat Ferguson, 4595 Kauffman Road, Lancaster, spoke, stating he represents the Fairfield County Historical Air Squadron. During the past few years he has worked with Fairfield Air Ventures and the FCAA and feels the airport is a very good airport, and the project would improve safety for pilots and vehicles, especially at the east end of the runway. Many commercial business planes use the airport, and recently the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division, which is based at Fort Drum, New York overnighted several Blackhawk helicopters at the airport, and were so impressed they said they would make the airport their preferred stopping point on trips East and West. Mr. Ferguson also noted that for Central Ohio servicemen making that last trip, those flights come into the Fairfield County airport.

Mr. Ferguson stated the Squadron has organized several air shows that have been well received locally and help bring economic activity to the county, and the larger military jets that come in use Rickenbacker because the Fairfield County airport cannot accommodate them.

Paul Arnett, 1676 Tecumseh Lane, Lancaster asked if the road is moved, does the work need to be completed this year and what is the construction timeline or guarantee of completion.

Joey Zamarelli, 1747 Cloverdale Drive, Lancaster, stated he was aware of the 10th Mountain Division stop, since they flew their Blackhawks very low over the River Valley Highlands and literally shook items off the walls in houses. Mr. Zamarelli stated there is no accountability for the military aircraft. Mr. Zamarelli stated that the public is being told by FCAA this will not affect the runway or extend the runway, but the Eagle Gazette reported the project would allow larger planes to land there and extend the runway. Mr. Zamarelli stated he has also been told the new road will allow the flight paths of planes to be closer to the homes in RVH, which has many RVH residents concerned.

Susan Paulus 1241 Rainbow Drive NW, Lancaster stated she echoes the concerns being raised. Ms. Paulus stated she lives on rainbow Drive and has been dealing with the airport for 25 years. The airport staff has been unfriendly to deal with when she has called to complain, and she stated several years previously, she had been told by the airport some of her land was needed for new landing instrument equipment, yet here they are 12-15 years later talking about the same issue. Ms. Paulus stated the airport threatened her with eminent domain, and she and her husband sold some of their property for the River Valley Highlands development. Ms. Paulus stated she would like to know if there is a conflict of interest between the businesses and the private hangars. Ms. Paulus stated she would like to know if the airport is regulated.

Lonnie Rush, 314 Florence Avenue, Lancaster, stated he owns a small business, Ruch Automotive Specialties, and also is a business pilot, and the location of the airport is important for his business.. Mr. Rush stated he uses his plane for business flights and the airport has been around for a very long time, and the RVH development should not have been built knowing the airport was there. Mr. Rush stated the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls the airport, not the Commissioners, and the funding for much of the airport operation comes from a tax on aviation fuel. Mr. Rush stated he believes the airport is a good airport, and the hangar space and infrastructure are suitable for its current uses. He also questioned whether or not the county could be

forced to repay funds to the FAA if the project is not constructed and the airport is downgraded.

Victor Kull, 2251 Election House Road, stated he lives next to the airport and his family has farmed the property since 1882. Mr. Kull stated he recently met with the engineer for the airport and is working with them regarding the right-of way on his property but he is concerned with the safety of the road and believes the new road would cause more auto crashes – he only recalls 3 plane crashes himself over the past 30 years, and does not believe the project is a good one.

Bill McNeer, 10605 Heimberger Road, Baltimore, stated he is a member of the Fairfield County Airport Authority (FCAA) and is a retired military and civilian aviator. He is concerned about safety for both pilots and vehicles, and noted that most aviation accidents occur during landings, so the new instrument approach system is important to obtain. Mr. McNeer also noted that Election House Road is approximately 7 feet higher than the airport runway, and stated Mr. Rush is correct in that the airport is funded through FAA fuel taxes. Mr. McNeer stated he is very concerned for both pilot and vehicle safety, and they are too close right now.

Albert Gallis, 2731 Cross Creek Avenue, Lancaster, presented the Board with a packet of information relative to the project and stated the big issue the Commissioners are missing is the proximity of the new road to the houses in RVH. Mr. Gallis stated some changes have been made but the road is still too close to the homes, and even with the earthen berm and tree plantings, the residents feel frustrated and are not satisfied.

Mr. Gallis stated the residents are concerned with the safety of the road and worry about cars flying off the road and into back yards where children are playing, and the residents have signed a petition that is contained in the information packets he gave the Commissioners.

Oran Hoover, 279 Lockville Road, Pickerington, stated he is a retired airline captain who used to fly large jets and has rented a hangar at the airport for 10 years. Mr. Hoover stated he lives in Pickerington, and one day he woke up to find stakes in his back yard for a new high school – he did not like it, but had to learn to live with it.

Mr. Hoover stated big jets will never come to the Fairfield County airport – the runway is too short, not wide enough, nor is it strong enough for large planes. Mr. Hoover stated if the new guidance system is not installed the FAA could order the runway to be shortened due to the proximity of Election House Road. Mr. Hoover stated the project is all about safety.

Terry Morris, Greenfield Township Fire Department Chief, stated safety concerns on all sides need to be weighed, and he has a lot of concern for vehicles and planes both.

Chief Morris stated the Greenfield FD has 200-250 runs per year on Election House Road, many down to the Colonial Estates trailer park on the other side of 33A. The loop proposed for Election House would lengthen their trip and extend the run time, but if the Eversole property is developed at the same time Election House is moved, that would help. Chief Morris stated the Board must weigh the safety of planes and the public both.

Scott Marshall, 2651 Election House Road, stated his concerns are peripheral, such as what happens when the anticipated commercial development around the airport occurs – won't traffic on Election House and Coonpath increase, as well as commercial truck traffic? Mr. Marshall stated he has been informed the FAA will not pay for issues outside of the airport, and most people are not in favor of the project.

Jeff Gerken, 1603 Stone Glen Drive, Lancaster stated he is a pilot and flight instructor and retired Deputy Police Chief. Mr. Gerken stated he believes the current approach for the airport in bad weather is too long, too low, and potentially dangerous for both pilots and folks on the ground. Currently, pilots are unable to utilize nearly 300 feet of the

existing runway due to Election House Road, and they need the new approach system to allow for a slower, more consistent approach and landing. In addition, moving the road would create a larger safe landing zone in the event an approach falls short or a take-off goes wrong. Mr. Gerken stated he has witnessed traffic on Election House road stop to observe landings and take-offs, which is a danger to the traveling public.

Mr. Gerken stated as a retire Deputy Police Chief, he recognizes the need to alleviate the traffic dangers with the 33A/Election House/ North Columbus Street intersection.

Mayor Dave Smith of Lancaster stated he is involved as a part owner of one of the affected properties but also as Mayor, and is present to try to respond to any issues or questions relative to the city.

Shane Farnsworth, Fairfield County Economic Development Director, stated that he encourages the engineers to continue to work on improving safety for both the road and the airport. Mr. Farnsworth stated the airport is an asset to Fairfield County, especially for businesses. Mr. Farnsworth stated many businesses use aviation as a business tool, and the airport is an excellent tool for attracting and retaining businesses.

Larry Kemmerer, 2660 Setter Court, Lancaster stated he is a property owner on Setter Court and is concerned because instead of the road having a super curve and tying into the Eversole property via an extension of Victor Road, the road should run further south and tie into Kull Road.

Martin Lohne, 445 Baltimore-Somerset Road NE, Baltimore, stated he is a member of the FCAA and used to live one block from the local fire station in Pickerington and had to get used to being woken up at night by lights and sirens, but the positive side of that was he was close to the station if he ever had an emergency and needed help. Mr. Lohne stated the airport provides a great deal of flight training for central Ohio, and is the location where Columbus Police helicopter pilots come to train. Mr. Lohne stated Fairfield County is considered one of the nicest small airports in the country, and the county needs a modern and useful airport.

Cynthia Moyer, 2776 Cross Creek Avenue, Lancaster stated she knew the airport was there when she purchased her home, and stated the minutes from the previous meeting referred to the airport “qualifying” for the GPS system, and this project seems to be spending a lot of money in order to qualify for a system. Ms. Moyer stated it appears to be an extreme solution for one issue. Ms. Moyer stated there seems to be a lot of concern being raised about the safety of the pilots, but at this morning’s viewing, she asked the engineer how many crashes and injuries had occurred, and he could not answer.

Holly Mattei, Fairfield County Regional Planning Executive Director, stated both the Election House Road and Eversole development are going through the Regional Planning Commission approval process, and the subdivision committee has recommended the full commission approve the plans for both.

Corey Clark, 2733 Cross Creek Avenue, Lancaster, stated he wished to clarify that he does not oppose the airport or the project, but is very concerned with the proximity of his back yard to the road, and is concerns about how fast cars may travel the road and the closeness of the vehicles to kids in the back yard.

Greg Heaton, Fairfield County Airport Engineer, stated the FCAA has been working on the project since 2007 to obtain a grant through the FAA. The grant will provide 95% of the funding for the project. Mr. Heaton acknowledged the FCAA is under a timeline to complete the project but they have been working on this since 2007. The FAA has informed the FCAA they want to issue a grant in August and they need to have the project ready to build or they could lose their funding.

Kerry Hogan, FCAA Board member, stated the project has been under consideration for 10-15 years, and the FCAA has met with the County Engineer several times. The project started as a road relocation but has morphed into looking at 33A/Election House, and the Eversole development. Mr. Hogan stated this is not just an airport issue, it ties in several road safety issues as well.

Mr. Hogan stated the FCAA has worked closely with the Regional Planning Commission, other agencies and the gas companies, and are willing to relocate the road as much as the FAA would allow and incorporate the berm and trees to reduce impacts.

Dave Scheffler, FCAA Board member, stated there are two main reasons for the relocation of Election House Road – first is safety per the concerns raised by the FAA about the current location of Election House Road. The FAA was making a site visit to the airport during the skydiving issue and drove down Election House Road and immediately raised concerns about and informed the FCAA that the road needs to be moved. The second reason is the need for the new approach system and the airport having a precision approach vs. and non-precision approach. Mr. Scheffler stated the precision approach provides both left-right and up-down guidance, and if such a system had been in place, the Anchor Hocking plane crash probably would not have happened.

Mr. Scheffler stated he wanted to make it clear that the project will not change the type of planes that use the airport. Mr. Scheffler provided the Board with an Economic Impact Study that was conducted several years ago that estimated the Fairfield County Airport contributes approximately \$5 million per year to the county economy.

Mr. Scheffler stated that without the new approach system, Fairfield County will be relegated to having a 2nd-class airport. The Fairfield County Airport is a known economic catalyst, and the project will benefit all – pilots, vehicles, 33A intersection, etc.

Commissioner Myers asked what the time table for completing the project is, and Mr. Scheffler stated they have been told by the FAA they need to be going to bid by July 1st.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Scheffler to clarify the concerns relative to zoning changes and Mr. Scheffler stated there was an effort years ago for a safety area to be established around the airport but the necessary zoning was never adopted.

Commissioner Myers asked about the approach zone and if planes would be flying closer to the RVH houses or not, and Mr. Scheffler stated in cases of bad weather where the pilots would be using the new system, the planes would not be closer to the homes. Under VFR, or Visual Flight rules in clear weather, the distance is more of a pilot's judgment decision.

Commissioner Myers asked Mayor Smith what the impact of Mr. Kemmerer's suggested reroute of the road through his family's property would be, and if he would be interested in donating the necessary right-of-way for that, and Mayor Smith Stated the airport does not have the funding to construct the longer road, and he doubts the FAA would provide any additional funding for that. Mr. Anderson stated that route or similar routes were discussed early on, but his office was looking to tie into North Columbus Street, not Kull Road. Mr. Anderson stated he agreed that the Victor Road extension is good, and Victor Road is and is not designed for commercial traffic.

Commissioner Myers asked how the project would help 33A, and Mr. Anderson stated if both projects are completed it would reduce the amount of traffic coming all the way South to the Election House/33A intersection.

Commissioner Shupe asked what the likelihood is that both projects would be completed, and Ms. Mattei stated that Mr. Eversole has his plans on tonight's Regional Planning Commission agenda for approval and he is planning to bring in his construction documents for review as well.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the FCAA had the required matching funds for the project, and Mr. Scheffler stated they have identified the necessary funding. Commissioner Shupe asked if the money had been identified or if the FCAA had the funding, and Mr. Scheffler stated they have the funding. Commissioner Shupe asked how any cost overruns would be addressed, or how the Kull property would be acquired, and Mr. Scheffler stated the FCAA is pursuing a land trade with Mr. Kull for his right-of-way.

Commissioner Shupe asked what about the potential impacts to the South end if the alternate connection is used, and Mr. Scheffler stated that was a contingency put in only if Mr. Eversole's project is not pursued, and if Mr. Eversole does not move forward, it is unlikely the airport would either.

Commissioner Shupe stated Chief Morris made a good point relative to weighing safety, and there is also the concern relative to the loss of senior rights on the gas lines. Mr. Anderson stated that although the loss of senior rights is a concern, he recently spoke with a representative for one of the lines who informed him that the gas companies intend to do directional boring to replace any lines under the road rather than an open cut.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board would need to look over all of the information provided today prior to making any decision.

Commissioner Myers asked what the length of the new road would be, and Mr. Heaton stated it is 3800 feet. Commissioner Myers asked Chief Morris how much additional time would he estimate it would take to travel that distance, and Chief Morris stated 30-45 seconds, but if the Eversole property is not developed, his equipment would be forced to stop or significantly slow to make the left hand turn, so it could possibly add some additional time.

Commissioner Shupe stated she has heard testimony stating that if the project is not completed nothing will change but planes will leave and economic development will be hurt – this does not seem consistent. Mr. Scheffler stated that doing the project and obtaining the directional approach equipment will improve the airport. Without it, businesses will locate their activities where they can get to them, and that won't be in Fairfield County.

Commissioner Myers asked about the safety of the road and specifically the curve/loop, and Mr. Anderson stated his concern was that the ODOT standards be followed, which they have been to an acceptable point, and to keep the earthen berm and tree plantings out of the 30 foot clear zone.

Mr. Heaton stated they believe the road is safe and exceeds ODOT standards.

Commissioner Kiger asked Mr. Scheffler how the Fairfield County Airport would be considered 2nd class without the navigational equipment, and Mr. Scheffler stated that currently the Fairfield County airport is considered a very good facility, but without the precision landing equipment it would not qualify as an all-weather facility and that would impact usage.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the status would be officially changed somewhere or if that is more of a perception as Mr. Scheffler stated in an earlier meeting. Mr. Scheffler stated the result of not having the equipment would place Fairfield County at a lower status than other airports that do have such equipment.

Commissioner Kiger asked Mr. Scheffler to clarify the zoning issue, and Mr. Scheffler stated the initial effort was to implement local zoning for height restrictions, which occurred several years ago.

Commissioner Kiger asked if there were any plans to lengthen the runway, and Mr. Scheffler stated there are no plans to lengthen the runway or bring in larger planes – the length and width of the runway dictate that, and weight of the plane is the other variable.

Mr. Rush stated the instrument approach is based on starting at the outer marker and making a slow controlled descent to the landing zone, so the planes would be higher and coming in safely.

Mr. Hoover stated he once witnessed a business plane attempt three approaches and finally have to fly off and land elsewhere because it was not able to make a precision landing due to the lack of equipment at the airport.

Mr. Donnelly stated he lived in RVH and is worried about the runway and the possibility of it being lengthened. He is also concerned about the landing approach by airplanes and how they always seem to be flying over the subdivision. Mr. Donnelly stated the planes come in lower than 650 feet.

Aaron Kull stated he does not believe the proposed road relocation looks correct.

Mayor Smith stated in response to Mr. Kemmerer's suggested re-route that would require additional distance to keep out of the runway influence and would still have to pass very close to even more homes in the RVH subdivision than the current proposed road.

Mr. Scheffler stated that he wanted to be clear that the precision approach equipment would only be used in bad weather, and under clear conditions pilots would still utilize VFR to land.

Commissioner Myers asked if the FCCAA Board has seen the Engineer's letter, and Mr. Scheffler stated they had not, and Commissioner Myers asked the Engineer to provide a copy so the FCCAA can read and respond to it.

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to close the hearing.

Roll call votes of the motion resulted as follows:

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

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 beginning at 1:30 p.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were David Solt, David Steele, Carri Brown, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody announced there would be 4 add-on resolutions for the Major Crimes Unit.

Public Comment

David Steele, 11920 Lancaster-Cincinnati Road, stated he was here to comment relative to a driveway he is in conflict with the Engineer's Office on, but did not see it on the agenda. However, he would request that the Commissioners come to his home and meet at the site to discuss the situation.

Dale Solt, 3805 Cedar Hill Road, stated he is Mr. Steele's father-in-law, and sold him the lot on which the drive in question is located. Mr. Solt stated the need for the deed restriction on the driveway was misrepresented to him by the Engineer's Office relative to stopping distances that they were led to believe were the law and not just guidelines,

10-05.04.f Approval of Contract with The Dalton's Inc. for the 2010 Spraying for Weed Control Project - Engineer

10-05.04.g Approval of Notice of Commencement – 2010 Spraying for Weed Control Project - Engineer

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

10-05.04.h Approval of Payment of a voucher without an appropriate carry over purchase order - ADAMH

10-05.04.i Approval of Payment of a voucher without an appropriate carry over purchase order - FCBDD

10-05.04.j Approval of Payment of a voucher without an appropriate carry over purchase order - JFS

10-05.04.k Approval of Payment of a voucher without an appropriate carry over purchase order - JFS

10-05.04.l Approval of Memo Expenditure – 2580 (Engineer Subdivision Inspection Fee)

10-05.04.m Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer – Motor Vehicle Fund

10-05.04.n Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Public Assistance Fund - JFS

10-05.04.o Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Commissioners – RLFEDA

10-05.04.p Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – JFS – Child Protective Services

10-05.04.q Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – JFS – Workforce Development WIA

10-05.04.r Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – JFS – Child Support Enforcement Fund

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

Approval of Authorization for Payment of Bills, May 4, 2010, check date May 7, 2010

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Authorization for Payment of bills, May 4, 2010, check date May 7, 2010, see resolution 10-05.04.s

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

Approval of Major Crimes Unit resolutions

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for the Major Crimes Unit as follows:

10-05.04.t Approval of Acceptance of the Quarterly Report for the 2010 Drug Law Enforcement OCJS Grant Award for the Major Crimes Unit

10-05.04.u Approval of Acceptance of the Quarterly Report for the 2010 JAG OCJS Grant Award of the Major Crimes Unit

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

Approval of Major Crimes Unit financial resolutions

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve financial resolutions for the Major Crimes Unit as follows:

10-05.04.v Approval of Account to Account Transfer – MCU Fund 2764

10-05.04.w Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated Fund 7594 – MCU Project Income

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met to review legal issues, pending and future action items and correspondence. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Ed Laramée, Doug Ballou, Linda Kauffman, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Dolin reported that he is working on the Steele driveway issue with the Engineer's Office, and that the Steele's attorney drafted the deed restriction that was referenced in the Regular Meeting. Mr. Zody reported the Steele's had sent an email to the Commissioners late last night that he received this morning asking the Board to intervene in the matter.

Commissioner Kiger informed the Board that the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club has requested the Board submit a letter of support for a grant they are pursuing through the Fairfield Foundation. Mr. Zody provided a draft letter for the Board to approve and sign.

Linda Kauffman and Doug Ballou requested the Commissioner's advice and guidance relative to the Connect Ohio initiative that has recently become nearly dormant with activity. Ms. Kauffman stated she and Mr. Ballou had been attending meetings but there seemed to be no direction or activity from the group and they are not sure what if anything is going to happen. Sage Cutler, who was leading the effort, is longer there and there has been a leadership vacuum lately. Mr. Ballou stated there seems to be a renewed push for broadband expansion from the Federal government and believes there is a possibility that additional funding for broadband projects may become available.

Commissioner Myers asked how politicized the process might be to secure such funding, as Fairfield County has not fared all that well obtaining stimulus funding through the state or Federal governments, and Ms. Kauffman stated the common belief among the local participants in the Connect Ohio initiative was that Connect Ohio would provide guidance and assistance with application, but they did not and now no one is sure how to proceed.

In addition, Ms. Kauffman stated Violet Township and others are pursuing their own projects, so there is some disconnect and lack of leadership on the initiative.

Commissioner Myers stated he has not really heard much from the public or any participants about any funding or specific efforts for broadband, except for Fairfield Medical Center, which applied for funding through a Southeast Ohio hospital consortium but was not funded. Ms. Kauffman stated the disconnect is with who is supposed to be doing what, and if there is no push from local businesses or the public, then the need may not be as great.

Commissioner Shupe stated she has received no contact relative to the issue either, and Commissioner Myers advised Ms. Kauffman and Mr. Ballou to attend the next meeting of the group and try to seek some answers.

Mr. Zody provided the Board with an overview of a support request from the Heart of Ohio RC&D relative to a grant being pursued by the Ohio Environmental Council to establish a voluntary database for farmers to submit information regarding the amount of nutrients they apply to their fields. Mr. Zody expressed stated that while the program may be voluntary, he is concerned with who would control and access the data and how it would be manipulated or used relative to environmental concerns. Commissioner Shupe stated she could not see farmers voluntarily submitting such information for fear of regulatory intervention in their operations.

Dennis Schwallie with Peck, Schaffer and Williams joined the meeting to request the Board sign paperwork relative to the recent refinancing of county General Obligation bonds that were issued for the Job & Family Services building. Mr. Schwallie stated the county had done well in the market, securing a 3.9% savings over the life of the bonds.

2:00 p.m. Meeting with Lisa Notestone

The Board of Commissioners met with Deputy Auditor Lisa Notestone to discuss GAAP Conversion costs. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Ed Laramee, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Notestone stated the Auditor of State recently issued an advisory regarding GAAP Conversion costs, and she has prepared a summary of the county agencies that could have the costs allocated to them, some of which are minor and others that could cost thousands of dollars.

Ms. Notestone stated that the annual audit costs to the county are \$146,000, and of that amount, \$54,000 could be allocated to the General Fund and the remainder allocated to various county agencies. Mr. Laramee stated there is a presumption that the total costs would not change significantly from year to year.

Commissioner Myers asked if the General Fund would pick up the savings, and Ms. Knisley stated that is correct – the General Fund would save approximately \$80,000. Ms. Notestone stated that would include the cost of producing the CAFIR as well, and Ms. Knisley noted that would be a savings for the Auditor's GRF.

Commissioner Kiger asked how this was related to the MAXIMUS cost allocation that is done for the county each year, and Mr. Laramee stated the MAXIMUS formula is used as the accepted methodology for cost allocations. Ms. Knisley noted the only agency billed for MAXIMUS is the Utilities Department. Commissioner Shupe stated that the Engineer used to be charged under that, and Ms. Knisley stated that is correct, but the Board has chosen not to charge them the past few years.

Mr. Laramee stated one of the challenges with allocating the GAAP Conversion costs is that some of the smaller agencies with smaller budget could be categorically exempted, but that would not include Job & Family Services. Commissioner Myers asked if this would be effective for the 2011 budget year, and Ms. Notestone stated that is correct.

2:30 Meeting with Holly Mattei, James Mako

The Board of Commissioners met with Regional Planning Executive Director Holly Mattei and James Mako to discuss 2010 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications and allocations. Commissioners present were Mike Kiger, Judith Shupe and Jon Myers. Also present were Staci Krisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Mattei stated the good news is the county received additional funding this year (\$274,000 vs. \$243,000 in 2009) under the CDBG Formula grant.

Mr. Mako stated there is a new aspect to CDBG this year, a statewide competitive grant for Neighborhood Revitalization Funds for distressed communities. In Fairfield County, the Village of Pleasantville and Village of Thurston qualify, but only one can be submitted to the state. Mr. Mako recommends submitting Thurston, as they are in a little better position to provide matching funds for the grant, and then providing some CDBG Formula funding for Pleasantville, as they have a streetscape project they would like to fund. Commissioner Myers asked if there is a guarantee of funding for the one submitted, and Mr. Mako stated there is not.

Mr. Zody asked what is the maximum grant a community could receive through the Neighborhood Revitalization grant, and Mr. Mako stated \$300,000. Ms. Mattei stated the grant looks for local involvement, impact and leverage of other sources of funding, and Thurston should compete well.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the state makes the decision regarding grant awards, and Ms. Mattei stated that is correct, and she needs the Board's input regarding which village to submit – she would recommend Thurston as well.

Ms. Mattei stated that Mr. Mako prepared several funding scenarios for the formula grants if Thurston is submitted for the NRP grant, including funding the Pleasantville project. Ms. Mattei noted they had received two grant requests from Lancaster Public Transit and Fairfield 2-1-1 that she is not sure are fundable. The LPT grant would be too difficult to track, and the 2-1-1 grant is proposing to replace another grant they are losing, but CDBG grants are meant to be for one-time project, not continuing programs.

Ms. Mattei stated out of the scenarios they have worked up, they would recommend funding the Walnut Sewer District project, as that could be used for match on the Thurston NRP grant. Commissioner Myers asked what the Walnut Township parking lot project is, and Ms. Mattei stated that is to rehab township park parking lots.

Ms. Mattei stated she is recommending funding Thurston under the NRP program and fund Pleasantville, Pickerington, Walnut Sewer District and the Amanda projects.

Ms. Mattei stated she has a floodplain issue to discuss with the Board – ODNR is recommending the county send a letter to each potentially affect landowner that could move into or be removed from the floodplains, but that would mean sending 12,000 letter at a cost of at least \$5,600. Ms. Mattei stated the RPC budget could not afford that, and unless the Commissioners wished to pay those costs, she believes they have done an adequate job of trying to notify the public relative to the coming changes.

Commissioner Shupe stated RPC held public meetings and she recalled seeing articles in the newspaper on the issue, and Ms. Mattei stated she had spoken to every newspaper that is published in the county relative to that issue.

Mr. Laramee suggested placing a banner on the county website that could link the public to maps or other information on the subject. Commissioner Shupe asked if this would include all affected parcels, and Ms. Mattei stated it would include all parcels affected – both negative and positive. Commissioner Myers stated he would personally prefer to pursue other outreach methods rather than spend that much money on a mailing.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Judith Shupe and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Scott Zody, Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' IS
SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010 AT 10:00 A.M.**