

**Regular Meeting #07-35  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
August 14, 2007**

**9:00 a.m. Meeting with Sheriff Phalen re: Citizen Patrol update**

The Board of Commissioners met with Sheriff David Phalen an update on the Citizen Patrol Program with the following members present: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe. Present also were: Roberty Schlicher (Washington County retired Sheriff), Douglas McLoughlin, Al Hildinger (former deputy/detective for Fairfield County Sheriff's office), John Kochis, Lt. Tim Voris, Sgt. Jared Collins, Darrel Ball (former Lieutenant of the Fairfield County Sheriff's office), Lt. Gary Kennedy, Detective Scott Jones (union chairman), Carl Burnett and Staci Knisley. Lt. Voris reported that the workers compensation costs are \$4500 for the initial start up costs for 15 volunteers and \$300 per volunteer there afterwards. Lt. Voris reported that the small pilot program would be an investment to the citizens. It is a reasonable cost for the volunteers to donate their time and protecting neighborhoods. Lt. Voris reported that the county continues to grow and David Fey, the Director of the Fairfield County Historical Parks was concerned with the lights being broken at the parks. Lt. Voris reported that the Citizen Patrol Volunteers could be watching the parks which would save on deputy costs. Lt. Voris stated that the Community Watch is a neighborhood watch on wheels. Lt. Voris reported that the Fairfield County Dealerships are willing to donate vehicles and Nextel is willing to donate a couple of cellular phones. Lt. Voris reported that their deputies are 60% full time busy with workload. In a neighborhood in Pickerington, there are 430 people with 11-12 vacation watches. There are 3-5 felonies the deputy is working on. Commissioner Shupe asked how an increase of 1-2 deputies would help the Sheriff Department. Sheriff Phalen responded that it would be wonderful. Sheriff Phalen reported that Sgt. Collins has looked at 6 citizen patrol volunteer programs around that are successful. Sheriff Phalen reported that he would like the Pilot Program to start with 3 donated vehicles from the dealerships and order shirts for the volunteers that are also being donated. Commissioner Myers asked how many volunteers there were. Sheriff Phalen responded 97 of them. Sheriff Phalen reported that they would narrow down the search to 10-15 people and interview and reported that 2 more deputies would be appreciated. Sheriff Phalen reported that he would like to start the program and come back to the board in 6 months for a review. Mr. Schlicher reported that he spent 25 years in law enforcement with the last 12 years as Sheriff of Washington County. Mr. Schlicher reported that Washington County is 641 square miles and that in the early 80's the county was plagued with burglaries and has a population of 64,000. Mr. Schlicher reported that sales tax was passed to help fund their volunteer program, the Crime Watch Group. Mr. Schlicher reported that the volunteers had no intervention with the crime, only made calls and crime was reduced in the area. Mr. Schlicher reported that the group was still active. Mr. Schlicher reported that counties need eyes and ears to report suspicious activity. Commissioner Myers asked if old cruisers were used for the group. Mr. Schlicher reported that the volunteer used their own vehicles and the county provided radios. Commissioner Kiger asked Mr. Schlicher had any communication gaps. Mr. Schlicher responded that in Southeastern Ohio there are gaps. Commissioner Myers asked if the county purchased gas for volunteers. Mr. Schlicher responded no, that the county purchased gas. Mr. Schlicher reported that the group made good ties with the community and the deputies had no negative experience. Mr. McLoughlin reported that the Community Watch concept has been going on for a long time. The volunteers would be dedicated eyes and ears looking for suspicious doings and will make a better place to live. Commissioner Shupe asked if the Sheriff's union was okay with program. Mr. Jones reported that the union was just brought in on the project and had a few concerns but could not give an opinion yet. Commissioner Kiger reported if every neighborhood in the County was patrolled by the volunteers, we would not have enough. Lt. Voris responded that he has spoken with township trustees, Presidents of Civic Associations of Subdivisions, a 32 year old Veteran of the bomb squad and the Former Sheriff of Washington County all support

the program. Lt. Voris reported that Lyn Hajost would like to volunteer. Lt. Voris reported that every day the Sheriff's office receives calls of interest. Lt. Voris stated that "We can only be as good as our citizens can allow us to be". Commissioner Shupe agreed that Lt. Voris's concept is good but would rather give the Sheriff's office 2 deputies. Sheriff Phalen reported that he is going to start the program and come back to the Board in 6 months. Commissioner Shupe reported that she would prefer the support of the community civilians and businesses rather than tax payers making the payment. Sheriff Phalen reported that the Sheriff's office needs an additional person after 4:00 for security at the Hall of Justice. Commissioner Kiger suggested that the Sheriff bring his request for additional deputies to the Budget Retreat. Commissioner Shupe agreed that the request would be good to bring to the retreat, but the Commissioners have the final say. Commissioner Shupe reported that interest income is up per Jon Slater, Jr. County Treasurer. Mr. Hildinger added that the Citizen Patrol Program is a plus to the county with good supervision. Commissioner Myers asked Commissioner Kiger if he was supportive of Pilot Program. Commissioner Kiger responded that he still has concerns with the costs of workers compensation and if the volunteers do anything outside their duties they will not be covered by CORSA, the county's insurer. Commissioner Kiger reported that he still has issues with training hours, 32 hours are not enough. Commissioner Kiger reported that as a former Captain of the Lancaster Fire Department people act different in an emergency situation and without training, the volunteers may not know how to react in a professional and safe manner. Commissioner Kiger reported that with reception gaps in communication, he doesn't want anyone in danger and allow a repeat of what has happened in the past. Sheriff Phalen reported that he would not be putting volunteers in communication gap areas. Commissioner Shupe asked the Sheriff if he felt he had enough outside donations to start the program other than Workers Compensation costs. Sheriff Phalen reported that the gasoline expense would have to be expended through the county. Commissioner Shupe reported that the minimum charge with Workers Compensation is \$4500 for the first 15 volunteers and asked if the Sheriff had sufficient funds. Sheriff Phalen responded yes, according to his Chief Jerry Perrigo. Commissioner Shupe asked if the only other cost would be gasoline expenses. Sheriff Phalen reported that he will be talking to more car dealerships. Commissioner Shupe asked if there would be a limit to mileage with the donated vehicles. Sheriff Phalen responded that he would be conservative. Lt. Voris added that there would be minimum mileage and that there would be a lot of walking in the neighborhoods. Commissioner Myers asked what the vehicles would say on them. Sheriff Phalen responded that they would say "Community Watch Volunteer" on the side. Sheriff Phalen reported that the program would be another layer to help the county. Mr. Hildinger added that as a resident he would feel comfortable with the Community Watch Volunteers in neighborhoods if a Sheriff Deputy is busy. Sheriff Phalen reported that he would put deputies in busy call areas and use the volunteers in smaller call areas. Sheriff Phalen reported that he understood the Board's concerns and it is appreciated. He would like to start small and feels we owe the citizens to start program. Sheriff Phalen added that he would be at peace if program did not work out. Lt. Kennedy reported on behalf of the Sergeants and Lieutenants union that they did not have a lot of information for their members to support or not to support the program. Commissioner Shupe asked if Lt. Kennedy could make an opinion based on today's information. Lt. Kennedy responded that there wasn't anything that couldn't be worked out with the union if there was no additional responsibility on the Sergeants and Lieutenants. Mr. Ball added that 2 area newspapers reported that the volunteers would be taking reports and checking houses. Sheriff Phalen responded that an informal report would be sent to the Sheriff's office, the volunteers would not be directing traffic and no accident reports would be taken. Sheriff Phalen reported that the Block Watch program in Pickerington in 3 subdivisions had already successfully started. Mr. McLoughlin reported that he lived in Huntington Hills subdivision and feels certain that they would support. Mr. Ball reported that he was concerned with the volunteers getting free gasoline and is concerned with liability and asked if volunteers would be all over the county. Sheriff Phalen responded that the volunteers would be all over the county. Sheriff Phalen reported that he would look into the Lancaster Police Department partnering up with the program. Sgt. Collins reported that the vast majority of people all over the county are all good with the program and is

sure that some programs haven't worked out but still supports trying the Pilot Program. Commissioner Kiger asked if there were any other Sheriff's office with the same program. Sgt. Collins responded yes, but Fairfield County would be a more organized program than Washington County. Sheriff Phalen added that he would like Fairfield County to be the first in the State of Ohio to start the program and feels it would be a positive thing for the county. Sheriff Phalen reported that the Major Crimes Unit and the Pickerington Satellite office had concerns and they have been worked out with the union. Mr. Burnett asked the Board if they were approving 2 deputies for the Sheriff's department. Commissioner Shupe responded that the issue would be considered in the near future.

**9:30 Meeting with Joseph Spybey, Facilities Manager re: personnel -Executive Session**

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to go into executive session at 9:45 a.m., regarding personnel.

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

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to go out of executive session at 10:02 a.m. No official action was taken.

Roll call vote 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, August 14, beginning at 10:02 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers and Judith Shupe. Also present was: Joseph Spybey, Bill Arnett and Staci Knisley.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of minutes of Tuesday, August 7, 2007**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, August 7, 2007.

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

**Approval of change order for the Winchester Road over Tributary of Little Walnut Creek Bridge Replacement Project – Fairfield County Engineer**

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the change order for the Winchester Road over Tributary of Little Walnut Creek Bridge Replacement Project for the Fairfield County Engineer the Fairfield County Utilities; see resolution 07-08.14.a

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

**Approval of an Semi-Annual Reports for CDBG projects**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following semi-annual reports for CDBG projects.

07-08.14.b                      Approval of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Administrator's recommendation for the approval of the CDBG/RLF Semi-Annual Report

07-08.14.c                      Approval of Fairfield County CDBG HOME Housing Semi-Annual Program Income Report

Bill Arnett reported that the Revolving Loan report was due twice a year, they currently have 7 loans outstanding with 1 paid off last month. All payments are current. There is \$65,000 in program income and administration costs brought to the county are 20% of grant.

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

**Approval of the Environmental Review Record for the Fairfield County's FY2006 CDBG Formula program – Village of Rushville's Water and Sewer Facilities Project**

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Environmental Review Record for the Fairfield County's FY2006 CDBG Formula program – Village of Rushville's Water and Sewer Facilities Project ; see resolution 07-08.14.d

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

**Approval of amendment to the FY2006 Fairfield County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) agreement for administrative services**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board voted to approve the amendment of the agreement for administrative services with CDC of Ohio for the FY2006 CDBG program ; see resolution 07-08.14.e

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

**Approval of contract with Claypool Electric, Inc for the Site Lighting Renovations at the Liberty Center**

On Motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board voted to approve the contract with Claypool Electric, Inc for the site lighting renovations at the Liberty Center ; see resolution 07-08.14.f

Joseph Spybey reported that the poles would be ordered and will get mobilization date after contract is signed. He added that by doing the site lighting and the fiber project together at the same time that the county would see a cost savings. He added that he was hopeful that project would be completed by the end of fall. Commissioner Kiger asked if the renovation including lighting on the building. Mr. Spybey responded yes, the main building and the guard building at the front of the entrance.

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

**Petition to vacate and realign a portion of Tollgate Road, Violet Township – establishment of viewing and hearing date**

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to accept the petition to vacate and realign a portion of Tollgate Road in Violet Township and to establish a viewing and hearing date; see resolution 07-08.14.h

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of an order of suspension for an employee of Fairfield County Job & Family Services**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the order of suspension for an employee of Fairfield County Job & Family Services ;see resolution 07-08.14.i

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval to purchase a van for the Fairfield County Veteran Services Commission**

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the purchase of a van for the Fairfield County Veteran Services Commission ;see resolution 07-08.14.j

Staci Knisley reported that van was advertised for bid and no bids were received. The Department decided to explore options and found a van through state contract.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the following financial resolutions**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following financial resolutions, see below:

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 07-08.14.k | Approval of account to account transfer – Fairfield County Commissioners Office                        |
| 07-08.14.l | Approval to appropriate from unappropriated – Fairfield County Airport                                 |
| 07-08.14.m | Approval of account to account transfer – Fairfield County Auditor                                     |
| 07-08.14.n | Approval of advance from the General Fund to the Fairfield County EMA Citizen Corps (CERT) Fund # 2092 |
| 07-08.14.o | Approval to appropriate from unappropriated – Fairfield County Engineer                                |
| 07-08.14.p | Approval to appropriate from unappropriated – Fairfield County Engineer                                |
| 07-08.14.q | Approval to appropriate from unappropriated – Fairfield County Engineer                                |
| 07-08.14.r | Approval to appropriate from unappropriated – Fairfield County Utilities                               |
| 07-08.14.s | Approval of account to account transfer – Fairfield County Juvenile Court                              |

- 07-08.14.t Approval of account to account transfer – Fairfield County Clerk of Courts/Title
- 07-08.14.u Approval of account to account transfer – Fairfield County Clerk of Courts/Title
- 07-08.14.v Approval to appropriate from unappropriated – Fairfield County Undivided Heritage Fund # 7115 – Fairfield County Auditor

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

**Approval of authorization for payment of bills, August 14, 2007 – check date August 17, 2007**

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills, August 14, 2007, check date August 17, 2007; see resolution 07-08.14.w

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

**Review Session**

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:10 a.m. to review correspondence, pending items, and future action items. Present at the review session were Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, Bill Arnett, Joseph Spybey and Staci Knisley. Mr. Arnett reported that Kevin Stalter is still interested in purchasing the Recycling Center, 242 W. Mulberry Street. Mr. Arnett reported that he would call Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Roy Hart to proceed with appraisal of property.

**10:30 a.m. Meeting with Joseph Spybey, Facilities Manager**

The Board of Commissioners met with Joseph Spybey regarding restructuring and adding personnel to the Janitorial Staff. Present at this meeting were: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Staci Knisley. Mr. Spybey reported that he would like to start having his staff increase and add additional services to the offices by adding one full time employee at 40 hours and one part time employee at 25 hours. Mrs. Knisley reported that she would update his salary spreadsheet to make sure there is enough appropriations in Mr. Spybey's budget. Commissioner Myers stated for Mrs. Knisley to proceed and that the Board would get back with Mr. Spybey after the budget was reviewed.

**11:00 a.m. Meeting with Community Action re: CHIP program**

The Board of Commissioners met with Kelly Ailes and Courtney Green with Community Action regarding the CHIP program. Present at this meeting were: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Staci Knisley. Mrs. Ailes reported that Community Action, on behalf of Fairfield County did not receive the new CHIP grant. Mrs. Ailes reported that there were over 70 applications. Mrs. Ailes reported that the county has received the CHIP grant 3 out of the 5 years applied. Mrs. Ailes and Mrs. Green would like to meet with the Ohio Housing & Community Partnerships with the Board of Commissioners blessing and go over the application point by point for future grants. Mrs. Ailes reported that Fairfield County loses points right from the top for not having distress points in the county. Commissioner Myers asked Mrs. Ailes if she knew the reasons why the county did not receive the grant. Mrs. Ailes responded that counties do not know, unless you schedule an appointment to review. Commissioner Myers asked how much the grant was. Mrs. Ailes responded that the grant was \$500,000 for a 2 year period. Mrs. Ailes

reported that Community Action has been able to attach other funding with the CHIP projects. Mrs. Ailes reported that they would like to extend the Downpayment Payment Assistance (DPA) program. They have one client that has lost her job and may not close on their house. Mrs. Green spoke with the Ohio Housing & Community Program department and she reported that the county looks better as an extension rather than a penalty if grant monies are not spent on time. Mrs. Green reported that she will draft a letter for an extension and forward to Mrs. Knisley to put on Commissioner's letterhead. Mrs. Green reported that Community Action works with families and wraps other services for them or refers them to other agencies. Commissioner Myers asked if losing the administrative costs would affect the agency. Mrs. Ailes responded that other projects are on-going and still have other monies. Mrs. Ailes reported that the agency would like to apply for the HTAP grant for \$750,000 and the City's portion of the CHIP grant to rehabilitate their old building. Mrs. Ailes reported that an architect is drafting a plan for the building. There could be 9 units in 3 floors for housing and the common area would be on the top floor. Mrs. Ailes reported that if the agency preserves the White House building they would still receive a tax credit. Mrs. Ailes reported that there are discretionary funds from the Ohio Housing & Community Partnerships that could support housing project. Mrs. Ailes summarized that Community Action would like an extension on the Down Payment Assistance program and would like to have permission to apply in spring for more CHIP monies. Commissioner Myers asked if the agency had plans for costs for their projects. Mrs. Ailes responded that there are floor plans, site surveys and environmental reviews. Mrs. Green responded that project may cost 2.5 -3 million dollars. Mrs. Ailes reported that the agency would be applying for the OHFA grant for the full \$750,000. Mrs. Ailes reported that if grant is awarded, there has to be an occupancy permit in 30 months. Commissioner Myers asked if Fairfield County would be obligated. Mrs. Ailes responded that the grant was the agency's grant. Mrs. Ailes reported that the Ohio Department of Development grant did not have a timeline. Commissioner Myers asked if the county would have any expense. Mrs. Ailes reported that in 40 years only 1 grant was disallowed and the City of Lancaster took a hit. The agency did not want the city to take a hit and reimbursed them for the costs. Commissioner Myers asked what the guidelines and obligations were. Mrs. Green responded that Community Action would be applying in January for the OHFA grant and then applying for the Ohio Department of Development grant. Commissioner Myers reported that on behalf of the board, they were interested in the projects. Commissioner Shupe asked that Mrs. Ailes and Mrs. Green gather information and report back to the board at a later date.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Jon Myers and on the second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:05 p.m. Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows: Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger.

---

Mike Kiger  
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers  
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe  
Commissioner

---

Staci A. Knisley, Interim Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING IS SCHEDULED TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007 AT 10:15 A.M.**