

**Regular Meeting #09-35  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
August 25, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. Meeting with County Engineer Frank Anderson**

The Board of Commissioners met with County Engineer Frank Anderson to discuss county roadway obstructions. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Deputy Engineer Jeff Baird, Jeff Camechis, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Anderson stated that he is most concerned with fences in road rights of way. There are 5 pending fences issues involving landowners that he would like to address, and have resolved 10 other fence issues through the letter writing system developed in cooperation with the County Prosecutor. Mr. Anderson stated the biggest outstanding fence issue involves the Rauch property on BIS Road, and Mr. Rauch passed away earlier this year, so Mr. Anderson wanted to hold off any action in respect to the family.

In addition, Mr. Anderson informed the Board that several hundred feet of fence obstructions have been removed in the course of county road project improvements, where the Engineer has relocated several fences during the construction process. Mr. Anderson stated that the Ohio Revised Code grandfathered in any fence constructed prior to 1925 when the law was enacted, but any installed or improved since that time must technically be addressed.

Commissioner Myers asked about the Clear Creek Metro Park fence on the list, and Mr. Anderson stated that the parks had removed the fence in question, and is in the process of addressing a building currently in the right of way.

Mr. Anderson asked if the Commissioners were prepared to adopt a resolution ordering the removal of Mr. Rauch's fence, and Commissioner Shupe asked what Mr. Anderson was doing with respect to non-fence obstructions such as agricultural access drives. Mr. Anderson stated that agricultural access drives are not exempt, and they are aggressively working with farmers to get those under the Engineer's permit system.

Mr. Camechis provided the Board with a recent court case from Jefferson County where the Appeals Court ruled in favor of the county removing a fence constructed despite the objections of the county engineer. Commissioner Shupe noted that one of the fences on the list notes that a permit was received for it, and Mr. Anderson clarified that meant that the property owner obtained a permit to remove the fence.

Commissioner Shupe stated the five fence owners in question are McElroy, Noland, Rauch and Tanner, and asked if all had received letters ordering the removal of their fences. Mr. Anderson stated that all have received at least two letter, and Mr. Noland had just received his second letter. Mr. Baird added that all should have received two letters if they are on that list.

Commissioner Shupe noted that there is no date on McElroy for a second letter, and suggested the engineer might want to confirm that, and stated that the Rauch situation is somewhat unique.

Mr. Camechis stated that there are other fences out there that the Engineer is aware of, noting that their office was recently contacted by a landowner on Lake Road relative to a fence that needs removed. Mr. Anderson stated that his office is even more liberal than the Revised Code, because they exempt any fence constructed prior to 1981 when the Engineer adopted the permit system.

Commissioner Kiger asked what Mr. Anderson wished the Board to do with respect to Rauch, and Mr. Anderson stated that he is willing to remove the fence without charge to the Rauch's if they are willing, but because the fence is vinyl/plastic, it may not be

salvageable. Mr. Rauch had previously removed the top rail but the fence is still an obstruction.

Commissioner Myers stated that any letters that still need to be sent should be sent and the Board should address Rauch. Mr. Dolin noted that the Engineer may want to check the property records on Rauch to see if it has transferred to any other party besides Mrs. Rauch.

Mr. Anderson stated that he has been working on a mailbox issues involving a Gordon Shuler, who is an attorney and is fighting the Engineer with respect to the replacement of the mailbox post. Mr. Anderson explained that Mr. Shuler installed an oversized post against Engineer's regulations, and has ignored the letters sent to him. Mr. Zody noted that Mr. Shuler replied to Mr. Dolin following the most recent letter and is threatening litigation.

Mr. Dolin noted that Mr. Shuler is an attorney in Columbus and is reading the Revised Code in his own way – Mr. Dolin disagrees with his opinion, but believes Mr. Shuler is willing to litigate the issue.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the fences, and Mr. Anderson stated that is correct, and he would confirm that all the necessary letter have been sent and would send another letter to Mrs. Rauch and go form there. Mr. Anderson added that he has sent an inquiry to the County Engineers Association attorney regarding Mr. Shuler but has not received any response to date.

Commissioner Myers asked about the Sheridan Drive project and how that is being administered. Mr. Anderson stated that his office is providing the local match, and is doing the project as a joint project with the City of Lancaster, as the city is also doing some work on Tiki Lane. Mr. Camechis added that the county provided the plans and is administering the construction, and the Federal government is providing 80% of the cost.

Commissioner Kiger asked about Mr. Anderson's recent letter relative to Access Management, and Mr. Anderson explained that the sub-committee met recently to discuss, and his office has been inquiring with other counties as to how many are doing access management. Mr. Anderson stated that he and Eric McCrady had attended and met with all the various townships and have concluded that the current plan would not be an acceptable consensus as requested. Mr. Anderson believes the best course of action would be for the Commissioners to hold a hearing and vote the current plan down so that Mr. Anderson could restart the process and work towards an acceptable alternative.

Commissioner Kiger stated that he does not have a problem voting down the plan, but believes that some sort of hearing must be held prior to a vote. Commissioner Myers stated a brief hearing could be held prior to a Regular Commissioner's meeting and a vote could subsequently be taken. Mr. Anderson concurred, stating that a hearing had not yet been held on the current version of the Plan, as it had been changed to some extent in the sub-committee.

Mr. Anderson stated that he would like to establish a permit system for driveway access similar to the right of way permit system, as most counties have a system in place and charge a nominal fee. Mr. Anderson stated he was considering something in the range of \$30-40 for the driveway permits, which he believes is reasonable. Commissioner Myers asked if the Engineer currently provides permits and conducts inspections, and Mr. Anderson stated that he does, and the permit fee would help recover some, but not all of the costs of his staff.

Mr. Dolin stated that he would review the Revised Code to see if Mr. Anderson has the authority to adopt a permit fee without approval of the Commissioners. Mr. Camechis suggested Mr. Dolin also check the language of the 1981 resolution establishing the

permit system to see what that resolution authorized. Mr. Anderson noted that Delaware County charges several fees and issues various permits, and some charges are as high as \$300.

### **10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Ritta Seitz, Aundrea Cordle, Holly Mattei, Linda Kaufmann, Tony Vogel, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Zody announced that there would be one add-on resolution for the Sheriff's Office.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. George Hilliard, 1375 Cincinnati-Zanesville Road, Lancaster, Ohio, provided public comment relative to a dispute involving his neighbor. Mr. Hilliard stated that he had appeared before the Board approximately three weeks previously to comment, and his problems was still unresolved. Mr. Hilliard stated that the tree limb is still on his power pole guide wire, and Commissioner Myers had contacted the Hocking Township trustees to come out a look over the situation, which tow of the three did, but no action has been taken to date.

Commissioner Shupe asked if Mr. Hilliard had contacted AEP, and Mr. Hilliard stated he had, and AEP had looked at the situation and declared it is a dispute between neighbors and not their responsibility. Commissioner Myers asked if Mr. Hilliard had spoken to his neighbor regarding the problem, and Mr. Hilliard stated that his neighbor refuses to do anything. Commissioner Shupe asked Ms. Mattei if there were any zoning issues involved, and Ms. Mattei stated that trees are not included in zoning regulations. Commissioner Kiger stated that he was acquainted with Mr. Hilliard's neighbor and he would try to make contact with him to resolve the issue.

### **Approval of minutes of Tuesday August 18, 2009**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, August 18, 2009.

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

### **Approval of Adoption of the Fairfield County Active Transportation & Open Space Plan**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Adoption of the Fairfield County Active Transportation & Open Space Plan, see resolution 09-08.25.a

Commissioner Shupe stated that the majority of the comments received by the Board at the recent public hearing were positive. Commissioner Kiger stated that he hoped that the concerns raised by the citizens from Canal Winchester were addressed by the village, and Ms. Mattei stated the village had removed the reference to the trail in question from their plans. Commissioner Kiger noted that the plan does not include any use of eminent domain by the county for any new trails.

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

### **Approval of Community Action Recycling grant application**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to table the approval Community Action recycling grant application resolutions as follows:

09-08.25.b                      Approval of 2010 CFLP Recycling Services 2010 grant application

09-08.25.c                      Approval of 2010 CFLP Recycling and Litter Prevention Program grant application

Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like to discuss the applications based upon the Policy Committee meeting last week relative to not allowing any salary increases for 2010 grant applications.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee's recommendation for funding proposal for Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund financing**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee's recommendation for funding proposal for Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund financing, see resolution 09-08.25.d

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Updating Current Membership of the Fairfield County Citizens Corps Council**

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Updating Current Membership of the Fairfield County Citizens Corps Council, see resolution 09-08.25.e

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Water & Sewer Delinquencies**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Water & Sewer Delinquencies for the Fairfield County Utilities Department, see resolution 09-08.25.f

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Contract Bid Award for the GRE-41 North Columbus Street over a Tributary of the Hocking River City of Lancaster Bridge Replacement project - Engineer**

On motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Contract Bid Award for the GRE-41 North Columbus Street over a Tributary of the Hocking River City of Lancaster Bridge Replacement project, see resolution 09-08.25.g

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Engineer resolutions**

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

- 09-08.25.h Approval of Declaration of Necessity of the Refugee Road CR7 Sycamore Creek Stabilization Project - Engineer
- 09-08.25.i Approval of Authorizing Frank Anderson, County Engineer, to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program and to execute contracts as required - Engineer

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

### **Approval of new Special Revenue Fund, revenue and expenditure accounts for the Board of Elections Federal grant**

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a new Special Revenue Fund, revenue and expenditure accounts for the Board of Elections Federal grant, see resolution 09-08.25.j

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

### **Approval to Amend Certificate, Update revenue accounts, Grant Fund #301 and appropriate from unappropriated, Airport Federal Funds – FY 2009 FA grant**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Amend Certificate, Update revenue accounts, Grant Fund #301 and appropriate from unappropriated, Airport Federal Funds – FY 2009 FA grant, see resolution 09-08.25.k

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

### **Approval to Amend Certificate, Update receipts and appropriate from unappropriated – FY2006 CDBG Formula Fund #2703 - Commissioners**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Amend Certificate, Update receipts and appropriate from unappropriated – FY2006 CDBG Formula Fund #2703 – Commissioners, see resolution 09-08.25.l

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

### **Approval of Financial resolutions**

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

- 09-08.25.m Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Clerk of Courts
- 09-08.25.n Approval of Account to Account Transfer – General
- 09-08.25.o Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Commissioners
- 09-08.25.p Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – EMA – Emergency Planning Fund

09-08.25.q

Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated - Youth Services Fund – Juvenile Court

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of Authorization for Payment of Bills, August 18, 2009, check date August 21, 2009**

On the motion of Jon Myers, and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills August 25, 2009, check date August 28, 2009, see resolution 09-08.25.r

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, 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 Tony Vogel, Ed Laramée, Aundrea Cordle, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Vogel stated that he wanted to check in with the Board relative to Mr. Cherryholmes. Commissioner Shupe suggested having Mr. Dolin review the draft letter Mr. Vogel prepared to respond to Mr. Cherryholmes. Commissioner Myers asked if Mr. Vogel planned to bond the project, and Mr. Vogel stated he did, and he would like to proceed with design as soon as possible.

Mr. Dolin provided the Board with a copy of some information from the Ohio Air Quality Authority relative to some bonding opportunities that may be worthwhile exploring.

Scott Rawdon of the Buckeye Beacon joined the meeting in progress to ask the Board about a recent meeting on Kicsi Lane, a private road in Liberty Township. Commissioner Kiger stated that he attended the meeting held at the Engineer's Office. The issue is that because Kicsi Lane is a private road, the mailing address numbers assigned to the houses are on Saylor Road, and they are out of sequence, so it can make it difficult to ensure proper mail delivery and emergency services.

Commissioner Kiger stated the homeowners will need to renumber their homes, but everyone seemed to be satisfied with the outcome – the residents are going to consider upgrading the road and have it established as a public road.

Ms. Cordle informed the Board that the MRDD actuarial study is still ongoing, but to this point it appears that it would not have a negative impact on the county experience to include the agency under the health insurance collective.

Ms. Cordle reported that the Franklin County Commissioners recently adopted a resolution that extended health care benefits to domestic partners, both opposite sex and same sex. Commissioner Myers asked if that would increase Fairfield County's costs, and Ms. Cordle stated it would not, that Franklin County would bear the cost of that expansion of benefits, and the estimate is the cost would be approximately \$500,000 per year.

Commissioner Myers asked if any requests for such coverage had been received from Fairfield County employees, and Ms. Cordle stated she had received one inquiry. Commissioner Kiger stated he is not in favor of expanding the coverage, and Commissioner Shupe stated she would not be in favor of expanding the coverage as well.

Commissioner Kiger asked if there are any criteria on how a domestic partner is defined, and Ms. Cordle stated there are several criteria, including joint tenancy or ownership of property, joint ownership of a vehicle, joint bank accounts, or a joint will naming the partner as a beneficiary. Ms. Cordle stated that she believes such a program would be difficult to manage. Commissioner Myers stated that based upon those issues and the potential costs of expanding the coverage, he does not believe it would be prudent for Fairfield County to adopt such a change.

Ms. Cordle reported that Jeff Wright with Consceco Insurance has been contacted relative to his desire to offer disability insurance to county employees. Currently there are only 5 existing policies with Consceco that are several years old.

Commissioner Myers asked how far back the policies go, and Ms. Cordle stated they pre-date her time as HR Director, and the county currently uses Colonial and AFLAC. Commissioner Shupe asked if this would require some additional work on the part of the Finance Office, and Commissioner Kiger stated that Ed Laramée told him it would, and the Finance Office is not very interested. Commissioner Myers asked if Colonial and AFLAC sell the same items, and Ms. Cordle stated they are similar, and stated her preference would be to wait until the county health benefits fair to bring any vendors in to discuss policies.

Commissioner Myers asked if all vendors should be shut out and let the individual employees make these decisions relative to supplemental insurance, rather than the Board picking and choosing vendors. Ms. Cordle stated one possibility could be to shut off new vendors and grandfather in any existing vendors. Commissioner Myers suggested Ms. Cordle discuss the issue at the next Quarterly Roundtable meeting.

Ms. Cordle stated she has also had some inquiries regarding the College Advantage savings program from employees, but the Auditor is balking at adding any additional payroll deduction lines.

Ms. Cordle informed the Board that she had been contacted by Chip Clark inquiring about insurance coverage for the airport and the Mr. Clark was concerned about whether or not the county was specifically named as an additional insured party under the Airport Board's coverage. Mr. Zody stated that the county was named in the skydivers policy, because it was an issue they insisted upon, but wasn't sure about other policies that the airport might have.

Ms. Cordle provided the Board with a draft Voluntary Cost Savings Plan policy and voluntary leave form for their review. Commissioner Myers asked if any other agencies were adopting VCSPs, and Ms. Cordle stated that she has received interest from the Prosecutor, Clerk of Courts and Regional Planning Commission. Commissioner Shupe stated that some of the Commissioner's employees have already volunteered and scheduled days off, and Ms. Cordle stated the Board should get a policy in place to finalize that before it is implemented. Ms. Cordle stated employees cannot take leave without pay the day before or after a holiday, because they must be in "paid status" in order to receive holiday pay.

Mr. Dolin asked about county health insurance and how that could be affected, and Ms. Cordle stated the hours worked or in paid status must be monitored so as not to affect those benefits. One option could be to reduce hours and retain insurance, but that would also require close monitoring.

Ms. Cordle cautioned that based upon the level of cuts that are required, voluntary furloughs will not have much of an impact, and drastic staffing reductions would be required to attain \$5 million in cuts.

Commissioner Myers asked about the Child Care funding for Job & Family Services, and if those are for the working poor, and Ms. Cordle stated that those funds are pass-through dollars for mostly minimum wage workers. Mr. Zody stated that he thought the

eligibility for those funds was reduced under the Governor's budget, and Ms. Cordle stated the eligibility was reduced from 200% of the poverty level to 150% of the poverty level. Mr. Dolin stated that liability is a concern as well, and you don't want this to be a surprise to employees.

Ms. Cordle stated that if any layoffs would occur, she would need as much lead time as possible, because it would take a minimum of 30 days to implement, and approximately 50% of each employee's salary could potentially be spent just on unemployment. Commissioner Myers asked how many weeks of unemployment a worker could be eligible for, and Ms. Cordle stated the first 26 weeks are on the county, then 33 additional weeks would be covered by the Federal government under the stimulus bill, then an additional 22 weeks could be the county's liability, so the county could be on the hook for 46 total weeks of unemployment.

Commissioner Myers asked if the Sheriff's deputies contract had been approved, and Ms. Cordle stated it has not been officially approved yet, but she believes the officers will vote to adopt it.

The Board discussed the pending contract with Meals on Wheels and the proposal to expand the Advisory Board to include providers. Mr. Zody stated that the Board needed to provide him with some specific recommendations if anything needed to be added to the contract. Commissioner Kiger stated he would contact Ritta Seitz for a copy of the by-laws on the Advisory Board.

The Board discussed the issue of requiring the Board of Elections members to contribute some or all of the costs of their health insurance, and Commissioner Kiger stated he believes the Board members should pay 100% of the cost. Commissioner Shupe stated they could at least pay the normal employee share of 15%, which is better than nothing, which is the current case.

Mr. Zody stated that he is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Michael Orlando to discuss the building rental, and would ask Mr. Orlando to also update the Board on levy implementation activities and his budget. Mr. Laramée noted that a new fund would need to be established by JFS to deposit, appropriate and track expenditures for levy purposes.

Patty Bratton with Fairfield Community Action joined the meeting to discuss two pending recycling grant applications with the Coshocton-Fairfield-Licking-Perry Joint Solid Waste District. Commissioner Shupe stated that the Policy Committee for CFLP had met last week and Carol Phillips was issuing guidance to all applicants to not request any salary increases for 2010. Ms. Bratton stated her applications do not contain any salary increases.

### **Approval of Community Action CFLP grant applications**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to remove from the table resolutions approving CFLP 2010 grant applications as follows:

09-08.25.b                      Approval of 2010 CFLP Recycling Services 2010 grant application

09-08.25.c                      Approval of 2010 CFLP Recycling and Litter Prevention Program grant application

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions approving the Community Action 2010 Recycling grant applications as follows:

09-08.25.b Approval of 2010 CFLP Recycling Services 2010 grant application

09-08.25.c Approval of 2010 CFLP Recycling and Litter Prevention Program grant application

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Ms. Bratton informed the Board of another grant application that she is preparing for their review and approval to purchase equipment – two trucks and lift forks for the recycling bins. Ms. Bratton noted that materials collected this year had increased by more than 900,000 pounds. Commissioner Shupe asked if the funding for the equipment would come from the “host” funds, and Ms. Bratton stated she is not certain, and stated she is having a difficult time obtaining quotes for the trucks with all the turmoil in the automotive industry. Commissioner Shupe asked if a letter of support would be needed, and Ms. Bratton stated she would prepare on once she obtains the quotes on the vehicles.

Commissioner Shupe noted that Commissioner Bubb from Licking County raised the issue of finances and revenue splits at the Policy Committee again. In addition, Ms. Phillips had informed the committee that the 2010 grants might not be approved until November of this year.

The Board discussed a request by Jeff Eversole to utilize the Waterworks Hill radio tower for a Lancaster High School Criminal Justice class. The Board directed Mr. Zody to contact 9-1-1 Coordinator Mell Meloy to discuss.

### **Executive Session**

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter into Executive Session at 11:27 a.m. to discuss candidates for the County Economic Development Director. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Human Resources Director Aundrea Cordle and Scott Zody.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn from Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

No official actions were taken.

### **1:30 p.m. Meeting with Dave Fey**

The Board of Commissioners met with Historical Parks Director Dave Fey to discuss finances. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Fey informed the Board that with the pending budget cuts, he may be forced to close the parks or even dissolve the entire district. Mr. Fey stated that he would have liked to try to place a parks levy on the November ballot, but the timing is terrible and he has no funds to run a levy campaign.

Mr. Fey also lamented the recent articles in the newspaper that touted the economic activity of the Rockies Express pipeline project, stating that project is temporary in nature, but his parks are a year-round economic draw and impact. Mr. Fey stated that he spoke to the Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, and is hoping that his

message is taking hold. Commissioner Shupe stated that travel and tourism brings economic activity and funding to the region, and Mr. Fey stated that every dollar spent on travel and tourism generates an additional \$10 in related economic activity.

Mr. Fey stated that he wanted to inform the Board that he simply cannot continue to operate the parks at the current levels of support, and if the district would dissolve, the properties would have to be offered to the Department of natural resources first, and he is unsure if they would accept any or not. Mr. Zody stated ODNR would likely accept the Clear Creek properties, since they helped purchase them.

Commissioner Myers asked what would be needed to finish Rock Mill, and Mr. Fey stated that he hopes that the current grant funding will be enough to finish the building, but he would need an additional \$300,000-400,000 to complete the water wheel, gears, and innards to make the mill operational.

Mr. Fey stated that he has had problems with vandals breaking windows at the mill and it has become a "party" location and is out on the internet as such. Mr. Fey reported that one evening he had to chase away a group of young adults that had driven up from Ironton.

Commissioner Shupe asked if Mr. Fey would be able to move out of the house on Main Street that serves as his office, and Mr. Fey stated that he likes it there, as it serves as a good central location to conduct business, but he understands the need to divest liabilities. Commissioner Myers stated the Board would need to look hard at the numbers and evaluate options.

Mr. Fey stated that he has pretty much shut down his operation and is only conducting bare-bones maintenance. Mr. Fey stated that a ½ mill levy would provide adequate funding support to properly operate the system and bring in visitors and tourism. Mr. Fey stated that he already has out-of-state visitors that stop in or inquire about the parks, but without adequate amenities to service the customers, they will not visit.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she is working on a column for the Eagle Gazette and would focus on the parks for her subject matter. Commissioner Myers suggested having the column focus on the potential dissolution of the system. Mr. Fey suggested connecting the message to the sales tax, as he believes that an increase would not be necessary if travel and tourism to the parks would be capitalized.

Commissioner Shupe asked if Mr. Fey would consider a May levy, and Mr. Fey stated that he is meeting with various business interests to solicit donations for a campaign.

### **Review, cont.**

The Board met to continue discussion relative to the 2010 county budget. Commissioner Myers stated that reviewing the surrounding counties sales tax rates, Fairfield County is lower than all of them and even if a ¼% increase were enacted, Fairfield County would still remain below the rates of all except Perry, which would be equivalent. Commissioner Shupe noted that Licking County has a 7% rate and is still having financial difficulty. Commissioner Myers noted that the last time Licking County increased their sales tax, they reduced their real estate taxes as a partial offset. Commissioner Kiger stated Barb Curtiss is advocating similar actions for Fairfield County.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board needs to keep in mind the needs for a new public safety facility and how to finance that. Commissioner Myers pointed out the cuts will need to be made regardless of whether revenues are increased or not. Mr. Zody stated that even with a sales tax increase, a minimum of \$1.5 million in additional cuts would be required to balance the budget.

Commissioner Myers stated that the other county elected officials must make some sacrifices and contribute to the budget reductions, and the Board should acknowledge that they have successfully held down the rate for several years. Commissioner Shupe stated that if a sales tax would be temporary, what time frame should be considered – 1 year, 2 years, or longer?

Commissioner Kiger stated that he does not see how a tax increase could be approved with out cuts and participation from all offices. Commissioner Myers noted that services and personnel will need to be reviewed for what is essential, and consider what the judges, Prosecutor and Board of Elections would do relative to mandating a budget for their offices.

Mr. Dolin stated the deficit is projected to be \$5.2 million, and he does not see how the Board could cut their way out of it without substantial impacts to services. Commissioner Myers asked if the Board has the authority to enact a temporary increase, and Mr. Dolin stated the Board could implement an increase for whatever period they deem necessary. Mr. Dolin asked what a ¼% increase would produce, and Commissioner Kiger stated it would raise approximately \$3.8 million per year. Mr. Zody reiterated that even with an increase, at least \$1.5 million in additional cuts would be required.

Commissioner Myers stated that once the elected officials submit the 17% cut scenarios, a press conference or presentation could be conducted to demonstrate the impacts, as the 33 Development Alliance members seemed open to the idea.

Commissioner Kiger stated that he strongly believes that elected officials should standardize benefits, as the public perception is that abuse and corruption are rampant. Mr. Zody stated that he is in the process of receiving information form the elected officials relative to the impacts. Ms. Knisley stated that the county spends approximately \$1.2 million every 2-week payroll, and the total sales tax revenue is not covering that expense over the course of the year. Mr. Zody noted that expenses have increased and revenues have decreased significantly.

Commissioner Myers asked if the phone contract should move forward or be deferred, and Ms. Knisley stated that under the current system, the county is paying AT&T \$15,000 per month, a cost that would be eliminated if the new system is approved. Mr. Zody noted some cash would be saved up front by leasing the system instead of purchasing it, and the county would not be stuck with the system at the end of it's contract/lease. Ms. Knisley noted the new system would also decrease the county maintenance budget.

Commissioner Myers asked what the next steps would be, and Ms. Knisley stated the budget process is in Level 3, which is the last opportunity for department heads and elected officials to make changes, and she and Ms. Addington typically begin their review in September.

### **Executive Session**

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter into Executive Session at 2:45 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing candidates for the County Economic Development Director position. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present was Scott Zody.

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

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn from Executive Session at 2:55 p.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

No official actions were taken.

**Approval of Financial resolutions**

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

09-08.25.t Account to Account Transfer – Juvenile Court

09-08.25.u Account to Account Transfer – JFS/CSEA

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Mike Kiger  
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers  
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe  
Commissioner

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Scott Zody, Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**