

**Regular Meeting #09-32
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Meeting with Aundrea Cordle

The Board of Commissioners met with County Human Resources Director Aundrea Cordle to review application for the County Economic Development Director position. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Executive Session

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:08 a.m. for the purpose of discussing applicants for the Economic Development Director position. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger.

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 adjourned from Executive Session at 9:40 a.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.

The Board directed Ms. Cordle to schedule interviews with 5 candidates.

9:30 a.m. Meeting with Carrie Woody

The Board of Commissioners met with Carrie Woody of the Lancaster Public Transit (LPT) system for an update on LPT activities. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Woody stated that she wanted to meet with the board to provide an update on activities of LPT, specifically how the \$10,000 allocation provided by the Board in 2008 was being utilized to expand LPT service outside the Lancaster city limits.

Commissioner Myers asked how LPT has managed to remain viable, as Mayor Smith had informed the Board late in 2008 and early in 2009 that the system was ready to close down operations. Ms. Woody stated that she has been actively seeking partnerships and service contracts since she was hired several months ago, and has been very successful securing agreements and increasing rides for the system. In addition, the city received approximately \$350,000 in Federal stimulus funding for capital improvements and took their city General Fund allocation up front in the first quarter of the year to invest in marketing, and those efforts are paying off. Ms. Woody stated that she has sold advertising space on the buses, secured contracts with some school districts for supplemental transport, and cut costs in other areas.

Commissioner Myers asked if the reworked agreements with Job & Family Services to utilize LPT have helped, and Ms. Woody stated those are providing an additional \$6,000-9,000 per month, and have been very helpful. In addition, she has agreements with the Developmental Disabilities Agency and Fairfield Medical Center for rides, and is working on an agreement with Meals on Wheels.

Commissioner Shupe stated that JFS is considering eliminating its gas voucher program and going to a focus on public transit, which should also help increase

ridership. Ms. Woody stated that rides are up by more than 6,000 trips in 2009, and the JFS policy change should provide additional support. She stated that in 2008, rides in the expanded service area totaled 4,093, and through July of 2009, that total was 2,577. Ms. Woody stated that of the initial \$10,000 provided by the Board, about \$7,000 has been expended, and she intends to utilize the balance to continue the expanded service area as long as she can, but estimates she would need an additional \$6,600 to cover expenses for the remainder of 2009. She requested the Board to provide some additional funding if possible, understanding the financial condition of the county.

Commissioner Shupe asked if funding would be required for 2010, and Ms. Woody stated that she would like the Board to provide an additional \$10,000 for 2010 to continue the program. Ms. Woody stated she would like to continue to actively market the program to the expanded service area to attract additional riders, particularly seniors and disabled customers, as there are state subsidies available for those riders.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board could not provide an answer today, but it is highly unlikely that any additional funding could be provided in 2009. Commissioner Myers stated that the Board might have a better idea of the county financial condition following the budget retreat August 20th.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the city had previously asked for an additional \$10,000 when it appeared the program was in danger of closing down, and yet, now Ms. Woody is demonstrating there are carryover funds remaining from the original \$10,000 – how could this be – was it poor management, poor accounting or something else?

Ms. Woody stated that she is not certain, as the records left by her predecessor were not the best and she is still struggling to sort everything out. Commissioner Shupe asked if Older Adult levy funding could be used to support senior transportation, and Ms. Woody stated that Ms. Saylor has told her that is not possible. Commissioner Shupe stated that the Commissioners should have the final say on that. Ms. Woody stated that she would like to see some levy funding put towards senior transportation, and there are Federal funds available through a grant program that would allow LPT to provide county wide service. Ms. Woody stated she has been working with Mike Miller at JFS to identify private businesses that rely on public transportation for some of their employees to contribute, as the Federal program requires a 50% match.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Ritta Seitz, Michelle George, Greg Torre, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

Greg Torre, 4005 Mud House Road, spoke in opposition to the proposed wastewater treatment facility near Mud House Road. Mr. Torre stated that he believes the facility would provide no benefit to the residents of Mud House Road, and is supportive of Mr. Cherryholmes, who would be directly affected by the facility. Mr. Torre stated that he felt compelled to be present and express his views on the matter, and thanked Mr. Vogel and Mr. Zody for responding to his inquiries on the facility.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday July 28, 2009

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

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

Approval of Proclamation of Recognition for South Central Power Company for emergency siren installation

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Proclamation of Recognition for South Central Power Company for their assistance with installation of 24 emergency warning sirens throughout the county, see resolution 09-08.04.a

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

Approval of an Order of Suspension for an employee of the Fairfield County Utility Department

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an Order of Suspension for an employee of the Fairfield County Utility Department, see resolution 09-08.04.b.

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

Approval of an amendment to and extension of a lease agreement for office space between the Fairfield County Clerk of Common Pleas Court and Pickerington Run Shopping Center

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an amendment to and extension of a lease agreement for office space between the Fairfield County Clerk of Common Pleas Court and Pickerington Run Shopping Center, see resolution 09-08.04.c

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

Approval to amend an agreement for the administration and implementation for the Fairfield County Fiscal Year 2008 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP)

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to amend an agreement for the administration and implementation for the Fairfield County Fiscal Year 2008 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), see resolution 09-08.04.d

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

Approval of request for payment and status of funds report – FY2008 HOME – drawdown #192

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a request for payment and status of funds report – FY2008 HOME – drawdown #192, see resolution 09-08.04.e

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

Approval of a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services, and Fairfield Information Services & Associates

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services, and Fairfield Information Services & Associates, see resolution 09-08.04.f

Commissioner Kiger stated that he had spoken to JFS Director Michael Orlando relative to the contract, and Mr. Orlando informed him that levy funds would be used to pay this contract after January 1st.

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

Approval of advertising 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 second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve advertising for the GRE-41, North Columbus Street over a tributary of the Hocking River, City of Lancaster bridge replacement project – Engineer, see resolution 09-08.04.g

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

Approval of contracts for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Childrens First Council

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve contracts for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council as follows:

- 09-08.04.h Approval of a Contract for Services between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, administrative agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council and the Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency
- 09-08.04.i Approval of a Contract for Services between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, administrative agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council and the Lancaster Fairfield Community Action
- 09-08.04.j Approval of a Contract for Services between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, administrative agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council and the Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency
- 09-08.04.k Approval of a Contract for Services between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, administrative agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council and the Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency

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

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:

- 09-08.04.l Approval of payment of a voucher without an appropriate carryover purchase order - ADAMH

09-08.04.m	Approval of Reduction in appropriations in the General Fund #1001 – GRF transfer/capital improvement
09-08.04.n	Approval of Amended Certificate & request for Appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo Expenditure – OPWC Payments - Engineer
09-08.04.o	Approval Fund to Fund Transfer - Auditor
09-08.04.p	Approval Fund to Fund Transfer - Insurance
09-08.04.q	Approval Fund to Fund Transfer – JFS building Debt
09-08.04.r	Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – ADAMH
09-08.04.s	Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Youth Services Fund
09-08.04.t	Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – JFS Workforce WIA
09-08.04.u	Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Ditch Maintenance Fund - Engineer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Authorization for Payment of Bills, August 4, 2009, check date August 7, 2009

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills August 4, 2009, check date August 7, 2009, see resolution 09-08.04.v

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Jon Myers 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 Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she is concerned about the time it has taken to complete the Phase 1 process for the proposed Public Safety Facility, and asked what is holding the process up. Mr. Zody stated the committee is waiting on the City of Lancaster to report on the Phase 2 Environmental Assessment that is being conducted on the former Lancaster Glass site. Commissioner Shupe stated the Board should set a timeline for the city to provide the information, or move on to the Liberty Center site or file the plans with the Bureau of Adult Detention and complete the White Paper in order to be eligible to receive stimulus funding.

Mr. Zody stated that to this point there has been no stimulus funding made available for such facilities, and in fact, only about 5% of the \$787 billion approved by Congress has been spent, but only a very small percentage, perhaps 5%, is even relegated towards infrastructure projects. Most of the stimulus funding provided to the states has been used by Governors to balance state budget, and therefore will not be available for any grant projects.

Commissioner Myers stated there are a lot of issues pending for the downtown site, and suggested sending a letter to the Mayor to express the Board's concerns with the delay. Commissioner Shupe stated the Mayor had sent a letter a few weeks ago proposing a

joint levy for the Public Safety facility and new Municipal Court Building, which she believes would not be approved by the voters. Commissioner Myers agreed, stating that he believes the voters in the northern portion of the county would have difficulty approving a levy that would benefit downtown Lancaster. Mr. Zody stated that the challenge would be to educate the voters on the costs involved with housing prisoners out of the county, or worse, a court order closing the jail, which could cost the county taxpayers millions.

The Board discussed sending a letter to Mayor Smith, and Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like to see a timeline as part of that letter. Commissioner Myers suggested a deadline of October 1st, and Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like to see a deadline of September 1st. Commissioner Shupe stated that she has heard from a downtown business owner that is opposed to having the public safety facility located downtown.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to draft a letter to Mayor Smith and reference the need to provide the Phase 2 Environmental Assessment information to the committee and the county needs to move forward in order to have any possibility of receiving stimulus funding. The Board requests a response by September 1st.

Regarding the Meals on Wheels (MOW) contract, Mr. Zody stated that he and Mr. Dolin had met last week with the MOW Board sub-committee and provided them with a copy of the draft contract. Mr. Zody stated that he and Mr. Dolin informed the committee that the Commissioners were considering additional changes and the committee would review the proposed changes with their full Board.

Commissioner Shupe stated there is a need for services that are not receiving support, and transportation for seniors is a big concern. Commissioner Myers asked where the funding would come from to provide those services, and Commissioner Shupe stated the services need to be enhanced, and according to Sherry Orlando, MOW used to apply for grant funding for programs, but since the levy passed, they have not asked for any funding.

Commissioner Kiger stated that Lancaster Public Transit could possibly apply for funding from United Way for their expansion plans, and stated that he is not sure what the answer is for MOW, and suggested the Commissioners should be more involved in those decisions. Mr. Zody asked if the Commissioners wish to review and approve all applications for grants and services, and Commissioner Shupe stated that she does not wish to micro-manage MOW, but the Commissioners need to review and MOW should not be permitted to contract with themselves for services.

Mr. Dolin stated that the Commissioners could request MOW expand their Board to provide more input in the process from the groups expressing concerns, but MOW is an independent entity, and the Commissioners cannot dictate any action relative to changing the MOW Board. However, they might be willing to make voluntary changes rather than have the Commissioners micro-manage the levy activities.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like the decision makers to be more involved and broader based. Mr. Zody stated that he and Mr. Dolin suggested the sub-committee contact Becky Edwards to seek her input relative to the concerns being raised by service agencies, but as of now, there are no major policy changes on the table with MOW.

Commissioner Kiger asked if Commissioner Shupe wanted to create an additional board that would be between the MOW Board and the Commissioners, and this new board would decide what would be presented to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Shupe that the MOW Board prepares the budget, and she believes there is a need for an independent board to review the levy funding disbursements for meals, grants and services.

Mr. Dolin stated that he and Mr. Zody suggested that MOW discontinue contracting with themselves, and stated that MOW may need to change or alter their makeup, but cautioned that could not be forced.

Commissioner Kiger asked if that would mean that MOW would have to submit everything for approval, and how would that work? Mr. Dolin stated that greater transparency would help, as would not purchasing goods or services on both sides of the transaction, which is what MOW is doing by contracting with themselves.

Mr. Zody stated there is already an Advisory Board that Commissioner Kiger is a member of and the Commissioners make at least on appointment to. Commissioner Shupe stated the MOW Board refuses to make use of the Advisory Board. Commissioner Kiger agreed to a point, stating that he sits on the Advisory Board, but he was appointed by the MOW Board, which doesn't make sense.

Mr. Dolin stated he and Mr. Zody left the contract as a open document subject to additional changes, and Commissioner Myers stated the Commissioners approve the MOW budget, and have the final say. Commissioner Shupe stated the Commissioners do not see the funding decisions and how they are made by the MOW Board. Commissioner Myers asked who creates this new board, and Commissioner Shupe stated the Commissioners would do that. Mr. Dolin suggested the new board could be created through the contract for greater oversight. Now is the time to make any such changes, as the Commissioners have the bargaining power to do so. Mr. Zody asked if MOW could spend levy funding without a contract, and Mr. Dolin stated he was not sure how that would work.

Commissioner Myers asked if a board was needed to oversee the new JFS levy if one is going to be created for MOW, and commissioner Shupe stated that she hasn't received any complaints or concerns relative to that. Mr. Zody asked if the Commissioners wanted to ask for specific complaints or concerns from the service providers to take to MOW for resolution, and Commissioner Myers stated that he thought most of the problem employees at MOW had been let go or left.

Mr. Dolin provided an overview on legal issues that he is addressing, stating that he is reviewing the telephony contract, and the main decision that needs to be made is whether the Board wishes to purchase or lease the new system. Commissioner Myers asked how much the system would cost, and Ms. Knisley stated the bulk of the funding would come from the Capital Improvements fund, but she would need to take an additional \$300,000 from the cash balance to cover the difference, because she had to take \$120,000 to cover the additional debt service on the JFS building due to the budget reduction plan.

Ms. Knisley added that the Auditor recently reduced the Certificate of Revenue by \$262,000 for 2009, and as a result, she had to reduce appropriations to the Capital Improvements Fund by \$40,000 so they would not be over appropriated. She stated that Ed Laramee is considering lowering the certificate for Interest Income as well.

Commissioner Myers asked if funds appropriated to the Capital Improvements Fund stays there once appropriated, and Ms. Knisley stated it does, and that is where she had to take the \$120,000 for the JFS debt service from, since there was no unappropriated cash to take it from.

11:30 a.m. Meeting with Eric Cherryholmes

The Board of Commissioners met at the residence of Eric Cherryholmes on Mud House Road to discuss a proposed wastewater treatment facility. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Tony Vogel and Scott Zody.

Mr. Vogel stated that Mr. Cherryholmes had called earlier in the morning and would not be able to be present due to a conflict, but his wife was supposed to be present. Mr. Vogel and Commissioner Myers had met with Mr. Cherryholmes the previous day to discuss the project.

Mr. Vogel provided an overview of the project with respect to the lay of the land, describing and pointing out to the commissioners where the proposed access road and facility would be located, stating that he is willing to move the facility in order to screen it from direct view of the Cherryholmes house. Mr. Vogel also explained this site is preferred over the other two primary sites for utility access.

2:00 p.m. Meeting with Jeanette Addington

The Board of Commissioner's met with Jeanette Addington to plan the annual budget retreat. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Absent was Jon Myers. Also present were Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Zody explained that the retreat would consist of two portions – the morning would focus on working with the elected officials and department heads to try to identify cost cutting measures for the remainder of 2009, and the afternoon would focus on the 2010 budget. Ms. Addington asked what would be needed for the morning session, and Mr. Zody stated that he is planning to speak with Maggie Lewis, who will be the meeting facilitator, to discuss process, but his understanding is the Commissioners wants to try to get everyone to buy into a 5% reduction.

Commissioner Shupe asked if a 5% reduction would get the county where it needs to be, and Ms. Knisley stated that it would not, but it would certainly help reduce the cuts that would need to be made. Commissioner Kiger asked what the 5% would get the county, and Ms. Knisley stated the 5% probably won't apply to everyone, because some line items are already spent. Ms. Addington added the allocations are also gone, because those are disbursed in the 1st quarter. Ms. Knisley stated that even with the 5% cut, she estimates that spending will need to be reduced in 2010 by \$4-6 million, as the Auditor is only certifying \$25 million in revenue.

Ms. Addington stated that she would suggest the county closely look at any services that are not mandatory to reduce or eliminate. For example the Sheriff's Office and Job & Family Services may be providing services that are not required by law, and those should be looked at.

Ms. Knisley stated another area is the allocations – the county provides \$6.6 million in allocations every year. Some are mandatory, such as the Engineer and Soil & Water Conservation, but most are not. Commissioner Shupe stated they should invite someone from the Extension Office to participate in the retreat if the allocations are going to be discussed.

Ms. Addington asked about the Law Library allocation, and Mr. Zody stated that his understanding is that funding is a pass-through, in that court fines are deposited in the General Fund, that are intended for the Law Library, then an appropriation is made out of the General Fund to the Law Library. Ms. Knisley stated she would prefer the fines be deposited directly into a fund for the Law Library, and keep those funds segregated from the General Fund.

Commissioner Kiger stated the allocation for the Family, Adult & Children First Council should be taken out of the General Fund and paid out of the JFS levy. Commissioner Shupe stated the concern is whether or not that would cost the county in other ways. Commissioner Kiger stated there is also the issue of the Lancaster Law Director contract and the Health Department. Mr. Zody stated the Law Director contract can't be opened for at least two years, and the Health Department split will likely cost the county for the maintenance of the building.

Ms. Addington stated the Commissioners need to consider the JFS allocations as well, as the \$362,000 CPS allocation is supposed to be eliminated, and others are supposed to be reduced. Ms. Addington noted that in 2009 alone, allocation to JFS total over \$3.6 million.

Commissioner Shupe stated the indigent defense reimbursement is still low, and Mr. Zody stated the legislature enacted a bill earlier in the year to improve the reimbursement rate, but Governor Strickland reduced it in his budget, so for 2010, it will increase slightly, but not nearly as much as intended.

Ms. Addington stated she would like to see the discussion initiated at the last budget meeting be continued at the Retreat.

Regarding furloughs, Mr. Dolin stated the furloughs are up to each elected official or appointing authority with respect to implementation. The Commissioners can ask the other elected officials to consider implementing as part of their 5% reduction, but cannot order it. Mr. Dolin suggested setting a date certain for implementation, so those who intend to participate can have a target to aim for.

Ms. Knisley stated that some counties are making certain days mandatory furlough days, such as the day after Thanksgiving. Mr. Dolin added the state simply reduced everyone's pay by 3.8% and gave the offices the flexibility to determine when to take the days off, so no one's pay would be drastically impacted.

Ms. Addington asked if any calculations had been done to see what kind of cost savings would be generated by increasing the employee share of health insurance. Ms. Knisley stated employees currently pay 15%. Commissioner Shupe stated that she thought that insurance currently costs about \$100,000 per pay period, so a 5% increase would save significant funding.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board should revisit the issue of having the Board of Election members pay their fair share for health insurance. Commissioner Kiger stated that he believes the Board of Election members should be required to pay 100% of their coverage.

Mr. Zody stated he would follow up with Ms. Addington once he speaks with Ms. Lewis on the process ideas for the retreat.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 2:45 p.m.

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Scott Zody, Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' IS SCHEDULED FOR
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**