

**Regular Meeting #09-11  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 17, 2009**

**9:00 a.m. Solid Waste Formula Meeting**

The Board of Commissioners met to review the various recycling and solid waste programs and funding formulas affecting Fairfield County. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Patty Bratton (Community Action), Elissa Dowdy and Gary Hummel (Sheriff's Office) Jennifer Valentine (Health Department, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Paul Martin (City of Lancaster), Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the purpose of the meeting is to ensure that all parties are on the same page with respect to the solid waste district funding formula to maintain the current programs funded in Fairfield County. Ms. Bratton added that she, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Vogel all sit on the district Policy Committee and need to support each program. The solid waste district plan is due for a 5-year update, and Ms. Bratton is concerned that the district may reduce or eliminate funding for "optional" program, such as the commercial recycling program.

Commissioner Myers asked if the final approval on any changes would be up to the Solid Waste District Board, and Ms. Bratton stated that it was, but she would prefer to stop any adverse changes at the committee level, particularly with respect to optional programs that should be left up to the individual counties to decide.

Ms. Bratton stated that the policy sub-committee has recommended that the commercial recycling program and the yard waste/composting program in Fairfield County be eliminated. Mr. Martin disagreed, stating that it was his understanding that the optional programs would be funded, provided the revenue is available. Ms. Bratton stated it is also contingent upon approval of a fee increase for the district, which Fairfield County has traditionally opposed.

Commissioner Shupe asked what gets cut if the fees aren't approved, and Ms. Bratton stated that would be a question to put to Mary Wiard at the meeting next week.

Mr. Martin stated the fee would be increased beginning in 2011, and the two legitimate concerns are the commercial recycling and composting programs. Ms. Bratton stated those are approved by the Policy Advisory Committee. Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Martin what his position was on the commercial program, and Mr. Martin stated that he believes they are beneficial and would like to see them continue, but he also understands the district's point in forcing folks to use the service. Ms. Bratton stated part of that is because the other counties don't have commercial programs and don't understand how it works.

Mr. Martin noted those programs are costly to maintain, and Commissioner Shupe stated that should be a decision made by the individual counties. Ms. Bratton added the program only costs about \$20,000.

Mr. Martin stated that he believed that the sub-committee voted to support the activities but Carol thinks the Policy Committee did not and Mary may have a different opinion as well.

Ms. Bratton stated that Community Action specifically asked for a packer truck to support the commercial program to make it more cost effective. Commissioner Shupe stated that there is \$5 million in the district account for the programs, and it should not just be left to sit there. Mr. Martin stated that each county has its own priorities, and that the Policy Committee did not discuss formulas, and the consensus was the current formula is working.

Commissioner Shupe stated that when they meet with Mary next week she will want to change the structure to get what she wants, and Ms. Bratton agreed. Mr. Martin stated that he spoke with Commissioner Bubb and he feels the formula is fair, which surprised him. Ms. Bratton stated the formula was not discussed, but Licking County wants more funding and can't get more without changes to the formula.

Mr. Martin stated that Licking County is pushing recycling, but doesn't have programs such as law enforcement (litter deputy).

Commissioner Myers stated that it would seem appropriate to bring Carol and Mary in and ask them questions next week, and Ms. Bratton added that she would like to raise these issues at the next Policy Committee meeting in April.

Mr. Martin stated that if there are any private sector companies complaining about the Fairfield County commercial program he is not hearing about them. Ms. Bratton concurred, stating that the program started with Cristy's Pizza for cardboard and has grown to more than 100 customers.

Mr. Martin stated that the April meeting of the Policy Committee is when funding and programs will be voted on. Mr. Vogel asked how much of the optional programs funding was in question, and Ms. Bratton stated the ones she feels are targeted are about \$40,000. Mr. Vogel asked how much it would take to include the others, and Ms. Bratton stated she believes the district wants to take away approximately \$20,000, which would take away any expansion capabilities for the commercial program and force the program to cut out some customers, but not others.

Commissioner Myers stated that if the other counties want Fairfield County to support the proposed fee increase, it would be reasonable to believe that they should support Fairfield County's desire to determine its own programming. Mr. Martin stated that he believes these issues can be resolved before the matter goes to the District Board for final approval.

### **9:30 a.m. Meeting – Drug Court Update**

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:30 a.m. for an update on the county Drug Court programs. Commissioners present included Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Judge Steve Williams, Sheriff Dave Phalen, ADAMH Director Orman Hall, Municipal Court Administrator Jackie Long, Drug Court Coordinator Tamara Bartek, Larry Mekosky, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Hall stated the purpose of the meeting of the meeting is to provide an update to the Board, and not to ask for any funding.

Mr. Hall explained that over the past 7-8 years, heroin and opiate use in Fairfield County has increased dramatically, both in the form of raw heroin and prescription drug abuse with products such as Vicodin and Oxycontin.

Judge Williams added that the Family & Juvenile Drug Court has seen heroin and opiate addicts skyrocket and replace cocaine as the main illegal drug prosecution in the courts. In addition, there is an increase in the number of heroin addicted babies being born in the county.

Commissioner Myers asked if any particular area of the county is being affected, and Mr. Hall stated it is all over the county. Commissioner Shupe stated she had recently spoken to a local doctor who informed her that 26 addicted babies had been born since December. Judge Williams asserted that if that is the case, then the Child Protective Services people are not doing their jobs, because he has only had 2 actions filed with his court in cases such as this.

There are not enough caseworkers and funding for beds, and if they do not file charges, then he is powerless to take action.

Commissioner Myers asked where the drugs are coming from, and Sheriff Phalen stated the heroin comes from Afghanistan, and is routed through Columbus and other major cities. The drugs are cheap (\$20) and 85% of the thefts in Fairfield County are drug-related, and most of the female inmates in the jail are drug-addicted.

Mr. Hall stated that people becoming addicted to prescription drugs from doctors and emergency room treatment, then shift to heroin because it is cheaper. Mr. Hall asserted that doctors and pain specialists have created a pain crisis that doesn't really exist. The Recovery Center went from 0.7% opiate addicts to more than 30%, and the treatment is costing huge amounts of money. Over the last 2 years, the Drug Court has suspended 13,009 jail days for drug offenses.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the county is about to lose the Federal grant for the Drug Court, and Mr. Hall stated that 2 of the 3 grants are due to expire, but they are pursuing Byrne grants through the Federal government to replace those funds, but long-term funding needs to be identified. The suspended jail days saved the county over \$850,000.

Commissioner Myers asked how difficult it is to get addicts cured, and Mr. Hall stated that with counseling alone, 19 of 20 addicts fail. With counseling and drug therapy, that success rate increases to 62%. Drug therapy involves giving the addicts a drug called Suboxone, which inhibits the part of the brain function that addicts people to opiates, and eliminates their craving for the drug.

Commissioner Myers asked if this was affecting a certain segment of the population, and Mr. Hall stated it is all over, but he is seeing a lot of males in their 20's, and Judge Williams added he is seeing a lot of young women affected.

Commissioner Kiger asked how relapse is prevented, and Mr. Hall stated that is not certain, but the Suboxone really seems to be key right now. Ms. Bartek stated that participants are volunteers in the program currently, and volunteer to avoid going to jail and are motivated to quit.

Commissioner Myers asked what the cost of the program is, and Ms. Bartek stated it is approximately \$300,000 per year for both courts.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Hall to clarify the statement that doctors and hospitals are causing the problem, and Mr. Hall stated that doctors are being pushed to aggressively treat pain and black market drugs from Kentucky are contributing to the problem. Urban centers are still primarily facing a cocaine problem, but the suburban and rural areas are seeing more and more heroin.

Fairfield County is considered a national example with its program. Commissioner Shupe asked if the jail time would be served locally, and Ms. Bartek stated the average sentence for these types of offenses is 300 days, and many of those sentenced end up serving the time out of county due to the overcrowding of the existing jail, which costs more.

Mr. Hall stated a plan need to be developed between the Lancaster and the County to address this problem. Commissioner Kiger noted that financial conditions in the county are not good right now and now is not the time to be asking for any funding for the program.

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

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners

present: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe. Also present were Mary Beth Lane, Michelle George, Ritta Setiz, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Zody stated there would be one add-on resolution for the Engineer dealing with an emergency bridge closure.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Approval of minutes of Tuesday March 10, 2009**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Setting Connection Fees and User Charges for Fire Department Operated Remote Connection - Utilities**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Setting of Connection Fees and User Charges for Fire Department Operated Remote Connection – Utilities, see resolution 09-03.17.a

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of a Service Agreement by & between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and the New Horizons Care Network**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Service Agreement by & between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and the New Horizons Care Network, see resolution 09-03.17.b

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Development Agreement for Pickerington Road South of US Route 33 - Utilities**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Development Agreement for Pickerington Road South of US Route 33, see resolution 09-03.17.c

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval to Vacate a portion of Public Road, Arter Road in Madison Township**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Vacate a portion of Public Road, Arter Road in Madison Township, see resolution 09-03.17.d

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of Amended Certificate, update receipts & appropriate from unappropriated – FEMA grant, Commissioners**

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an Amended Certificate, update receipts & appropriate from unappropriated – FEMA grant, Commissioners, see resolution 09-03.17.e

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

**Approval of Amended Certificate, update revenue accounts appropriate from unappropriated & advance from General Fund OCJS grant – Sheriff**

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Amended Certificate, update revenue accounts appropriate from unappropriated & advance from General Fund OCJS grant – Sheriff, see resolution 09-03.17.f

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 to financial resolutions as follows:

- 09-03.17.g Approval of payment of a voucher without appropriate carry-over purchase order - Commissioners
- 09-03.17.h Approval of payment of a voucher without appropriate carry-over purchase order – Engineer
- 09-03.17.i Approval of payments of vouchers without appropriate carry-over purchase orders – Job & Family Services
- 09-03.17.j Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Fairfield County Airport
- 09-03.17.k Approval of Account to Account Transfer - Commissioners
- 09-03.17.l Approval of Account to Account transfer – Domestic Relations Court
- 09-03.17.m Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – EMA
- 09-03.17.n Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Major Crimes Unit
- 09-03.17.o Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Bridge & Road Levy Fund - Engineer
- 09-03.17.p Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fairfield County Job & Family Services
- 09-03.17.q Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fairfield County Prosecutor – Victims Assistance Program

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

**Approval of Payment of Bills**

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners

voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills March 17, 2009, check date March 20, 2009, see resolution 09-03.17.r

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Emergency Closure of GRE-21 Bridge over the Hocking River on Campground Road – Engineer**

On motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Emergency Closure of GRE-21 Bridge over the Hocking River on Campground Road – Engineer, see resolution 09-03.17.s

Deputy Engineer Jeff Baird explained that this bridge has been due for replacement for some time as a result of numerous strikes by semi trucks utilizing Campground Road to access the Rock Mill Industrial Park, and approval for the plans has been held up by the Ohio EPA relative to the river crossing.

Commissioner Shupe asked when the project would be completed, and Mr. Baird stated he hopes to have the new bridge open in October. Commissioner Shupe asked if the City of Lancaster has completed an improvement project on the other end of Campground Road, and Mr. Baird stated that he believed they were finished.

Commissioner Myers asked the bridge would be widened, and Mr. Baird stated the bridge is being designed to accommodate trucks and will be wider for a future expansion of the road to three lanes. Commissioner Myers asked if there is an alternate route for traffic, and Mr. Baird stated that traffic could detour down Collins Road to Fair Avenue, which is what the semis should be following already.

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 at 10:20 a.m. to review correspondence, pending items, and future action items. Commissioners present at the review session were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Auditor Barbara Curtiss, Facilities Director Joe Spybey, Staci Knisley, Mary Beth Lane, Clerk of Courts Deborah Smalley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Spybey stated that he and Ms. Curtiss were there to present the Board with the results of the recent records storage Request for Proposals (RFP) and make a recommendation. There were two bids submitted, and one was rejected as non responsive as it was from Grove City and the bid specified the Lancaster area.

Mr. Spybey explained the remaining bid was submitted in both a year to year format as well as a five year term with a five-year renewal. Commissioner Myers asked how much of the storage issue would this proposal resolve, and Mr. Spybey stated that all General Fund agencies, the Hall of Justice, Job & Family Services, and the Board of Elections would be able to store their materials at this facility.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the bidder was the former Drew Shoe facility, and Mr. Spybey stated that it was, and the proposal would utilize the second floor of the building. Ms. Knisley asked who would pay for the agreement, and Ms. Curtiss stated that the Storage Committee Fund would pay for the improvements needed to the facility and any leftover funds would be returned to the General Fund. Improvements would include purchasing a copier to be placed at the site, shelving, security, and moving costs, and the total would likely run around \$100,000.

Commissioner Myers asked if there would be public access to the facility, and Ms. Curtiss stated probably not, due to the sensitive nature of many of the records. Some records would need to be segregated and kept secure, such as case files from the courts and Job & Family Services.

Commissioner Myers asked if this would solve the Board of Elections storage problems, and Ms. Curtiss stated that it should eliminate their high cost storage they currently utilize. Commissioner Kiger asked if the intent was to sign a five year deal instead of a year to year deal, and Ms. Curtiss stated that would save a little money, and the county would still maintain a 30-day "escape clause".

The Board approved the request and directed Mr. Spybey to proceed with arranging a five-year storage agreement.

Ms. Smalley stated that she was in attendance to present a proposal to the Board to purchase a former bank building on Hill Road in Pickerington to convert into an office for her Pickerington staff and also share space with Fairfield County United Way and possibly other county offices. The lease on her current strip mall office located behind the bank building expires in July, and she would like to move to a more visible location.

The building was constructed in 1992, and has sat vacant for nearly two years. Ms. Smalley stated that there is some minor water damage in one location due to a leak in the roof that has been repaired, and the parking lot and roof require some work, but other than that the building is in good shape and can be converted for her use with little improvement. The location is ideal, and she could also make use of the drive-through facility.

Commissioner Myers asked what Ms. Smalley's current rent was, and she stated it is \$1,025, which is paid out of the Facilities budget. Ms. Smalley stated that she has obtained bond estimates based on a purchase and renovation price and believes she can easily afford the payments over a 20 year term. She stated the purchase price could be in the \$425,000-450,000 range.

Ms. Smalley stated that she could add \$1,000 per month to the current rental payment, plus obtain an additional \$1,000 per month from United Way for their space. Other possible tenants could include the Treasurer or Juvenile Court. In addition, if the State Bureau of Motor Vehicles would relocate to this location when their current lease expires, the building could actually provide a return on investment to the General Fund.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Spybey if the building was in good shape, and Mr. Spybey stated that he believes there are a couple of issues that need to be addressed, such as replacing the roof and possibly some foundation repair, but otherwise the building is in good shape. Ms. Knisley asked if the United Way would pay for their own phones and equipment, and Ms. Smalley stated that she believes they would.

Ms. Smalley stated that while the building would eventually require a new roof, she would prefer to patch it for now and wait a few years to do a full replacement. Commissioner Shupe asked if the offer that is currently in front of the building's owner would be rejected in order to give the county a chance to offer a price on the facility, and Ms. Smalley stated she was not sure if there would be an opportunity to counter offer or not.

Mr. Spybey stated that he estimates the renovation and repair costs would run about \$100,000. Ms. Knisley asked if any of the current title fees are deposited in the General Fund, and Ms. Smalley stated that she believes some are. Mr. Zody asked Ms. Smalley if she was aware that there is a title fee increase pending as part of the state's biennial budget, and Ms. Smalley stated that she was aware of it, and thought that would add even more revenue to her operation.

Ms. Knisley asked how much of the title fees were deposited in the General Fund, and Ms. Smalley stated she would have to check those figures. Ms. Smalley added that she could check with the City Prosecutor to see if there is any interest in housing an Assistant Prosecutor at the site. Commissioner Kiger asked if there is any guarantee that the Untied Way would be a long-term tenant, and Commissioner Myers stated any agreement could only be five years in length.

The Board asked Ms. Smalley to solidify her figures and they would like more time to consider the request before approving any action to offer a purchase price.

Mr. Spybey stated that he had a few projects that he would like to brief the Board on, and has determined that the DACO wall is continuing to deteriorate and needs full repair. He would like the Board's approval to secure the services of VPL Architects to draw up repair plans – they have offered their services for \$12,000 to design the project. The Board approved moving forward with that request.

Regarding the old boiler smokestack behind the old Courthouse, Mr. Spybey stated that Pat Henry, a local contractor, has agreed to do the work for \$23,000, which is under the minimum threshold for seeking bids, and Mr. Spybey would like to initiate that project as well. The Board approved moving forward with the project.

Mr. Spybey stated that he has received a quote of approximately \$17,000 to purchase and install a large standby generator for the Courthouse that would be sufficient to power the county computer server and phone system located in the old Courthouse, and provide some emergency lighting as well. The Board approved the request.

Mr. Spybey stated that he would like to purchase some new chairs for the large conference room at the Liberty Center, which are badly needed. Commissioner Shupe suggested he also purchase some additional coats racks as well.

### **11:00 a.m. Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant Annual Hearing**

The Board of Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. to convene the annual public hearing on the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Dr. Edwin Payne, John Cleek, Regional Planning Executive Director Holly Mattei, James Mako, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe read an opening statement describing the CDBG program and the requirements of the program, along with a summary of activities undertaken with the 2008 grant funds. She stated that there is approximately \$200,000 available for grants to local entities for 2009.

Commissioner Shupe asked if anyone wished to make a public comment on the program, and there were no comments.

James Mako with the Regional Planning Commission provided a statement relative to the Fair Housing portion of the CDBG program, stating that the RPC serves as the "landlord" for Fair Housing projects in the county, and read a required non-discrimination statement.

Commissioner Shupe asked if there were any questions, and stated that applications for 2009 grant funds were due to the RPC Office by April 17, 2009.

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

Roll Call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **11:30 a.m. Meeting with Holly Mattei, Doug Ingram**

The Board of Commissioners met at 11:30 a.m. with Regional Planning Director Holly Mattei and RPC Board member Doug Ingram to discuss the RPC budget. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Mattei stated that going into 2009, she knew the RPC budget would be tight,, but due to the lack of development activity, the budget could be in a negative situation by the end of the year. There have been almost no subdivision activities, and very few lots splits, which comprise the bulk of the RPC funding outside of membership dues.

Commissioner Myers asked what sources of funds comprised the RPC revenue stream, and Ms. Mattei stated the major sources were membership dues, Subdivision Review and Permit fees, fees for services, and administrative funding for the CDBG and Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP program).

Ms. Mattei stated that, based on no increase in activity for the remainder of the year, her expenditures would outpace her revenues by approximately \$85,000, spending the RPC cash reserve into a negative \$15,000 balance.

Commissioner Myers asked if it would be possible for Ms. Mattei to share some of her employees time with another county office to save some funding, and Ms. Mattei stated that could be possible, and she would look into the possibility and keep the Board informed of the situation.

### **1:30 p.m. Meeting – Public Safety Facility Request for Qualifications Evaluations**

The Board of Commissioners met at 1:30 p.m. to evaluate proposed Public Safety Facility Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from perspective architectural vendors. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Prosecutor David Landefeld, Deputy Auditor Ed Laramee, Chief Deputy Jerry Perrigo, Facilities Director Joe Spybey, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she had reviewed the submissions from the perspective vendors and felt the responses were very different, with some being very detailed.

Mr. Laramee stated he has reviewed the clarification responses requested by the Board of Commissioners to the four finalists, and he believes they were very helpful in clarifying what each vendor would provide as part of a “White Paper” and Phase I submittal to the Bureau of Adult Detention.

Commissioner Shupe stated that, based on the advice from David Conley with Robert Baird and Associates, the Board needed to select a vendor and have the White Paper prepared and submitted very quickly if there was any chance of obtaining Federal stimulus funding for the project through the state, and the White Paper would not need to be too detailed.

Mr. Laramee stated that he disagreed with that concept, as there has been little or no guidance issued from the Department of Development, the Governor’s Office or the Department of Corrections relative to submitting requests for public safety facility funding. Mr. Laramee stated that the Governor’s Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) may well get involved in that process, and the Federal government is distributing public safety funding as well.

Mr. Laramee stated that the more the county has on the table, the more “shovel-ready” the project would appear and be likely to qualify for funding. The more creative the county can be, the better the chances for approval. Commissioner Shupe stated that if the county wants to receive funding from the state there is a process that will need to be

followed. Mr. Zody stated that he agreed, except that no process has been defined as yet, or what entity would be in charge of that process.

Commissioner Kiger stated that the county needs to have something with some details, particularly with respect to staffing and the number of jobs created and retained by the project.

Commissioner Myers stated that one vendor proposed having a White Paper ready in a few days, while some stated that it could take 4-6 weeks to complete. Commissioner Shupe stated not only that, but it would take an additional 4 weeks to complete a Phase I submittal.

Mr. Laramée asked if the group should consider asking for less than the full cost of the project, perhaps one-half, in order to make the project more attractive, which would assist the Board if they needed to go to the voters for approval for a local funding match source. Chief Perrigo stated that one of the perspective vendors referenced a May 18<sup>th</sup> deadline to apply for funds, but wasn't sure why.

Mr. Laramée stated that a complete Phase I submittal is required in order to move the project forward, and the county needs to get that done sooner rather than later and can always have that "in the pocket" when funding opportunities arise. Mr. Laramée added that the four proposals were all over the board, with some vendors addressing the questions asked by the Board of Commissioners, and some not addressing the question at all.

Commissioner Myers suggested the group rank and evaluate the four proposals through a "straw poll" process, and the Board could make a final decision from there.

The group discussed the various proposals and took a straw poll, ranking the vendors from first to fourth as follows: Wachtel & McAnally, MKC, Kimball & Associates, and Shremshock.

Commissioner Myers stated that he would prefer to select a site prior to a selected vendor conducting too much work, and asked the group how it felt about the downtown location.

Mr. Landefeld stated that the downtown area would be preferable, in that it would help keep jobs there, and the judges and city would like the reduced transportation costs, especially if a Municipal Court facility could be included in the site. The Liberty Center site would dramatically increase transport costs, even with video arraignment, and a holding facility would need to be maintained or constructed downtown.

Mr. Landefeld noted that the current jail facilities are nearing the point of having to release inmate before their sentences are completed, due to the overcrowded conditions, and although the out-of-county confinement and electronic monitoring have helped, there is only so much of that the county can afford.

Commissioner Myers asked if the downtown interests, including the city, could help fund the project, as it would cost more to build it downtown, and Mr. Landefeld stated he did not know what assistance could be offered.

Commissioner Shupe stated there would likely be increased operating costs for a downtown location as well. Mr. Landefeld stated that he has had conversations with the city, and expect the city to contact the Commissioners soon relative to some funding proposals. The city definitely needs a new Municipal Court facility.

Mr. Laramée stated it is imperative to have sufficient information early on in order to make an informed decision relative to the downtown location. Once that is accomplished, the rest of the process could move along rather quickly, but we need numbers to figure that out.

Commissioner Myers asked if the Board should rank the vendors in order, and Mr. Landefeld suggested that would be the best approach, in case the Board fails to come to terms with the preferred vendor. He suggested ranking them vendors from 1-4 and establish the order.

The Board ranked their individual preferences and Mr. Landefeld compiled the scores and the Board ranked the vendors as follows: Wachtel & McAnally, Shremshock, Kimball & Associates, MKC.

Commissioner Myers asked what the next steps should be, and Mr. Dolin suggested sending the preferred vendor a letter asking them to submit a timeline and price and negotiate from there until an agreement is reached. Mr. Laramée asked if any other information is needed and Mr. Landefeld stated that the city needs to bring any resources to the table very quickly. Mr. Laramée stated that he would like to see parking addressed, and Commissioner Myers noted that Wachtel & McAnally stated in their letter that is an issue they would address.

Mr. Dolin suggested to Mr. Zody that the price and timeline be based upon the vendors response letter of March 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Review, cont. (2:25 p.m.)**

Treasurer Jon Slater joined the Commissioner's continuing Review Session in progress to update the Board on investment strategies. Mr. Slater stated that he has been approached by the Royal Bank of Scotland to invest a portion of the county's finances with that entity, and wanted to have the support of the Board to do so, since the vast majority of the county's investments are through banks that do business in Fairfield County, and RBS does not currently have any branches in the area.

Mr. Slater stated that he would like to try RBS, as they are offering significantly better interest rates than Star Ohio, and he is maxed out with local banks such as Fairfield National Bank and Standing Stone. Commissioner Myers asked if the county had investments through the Bremen Bank and Peoples Bank, and Mr. Slater stated that he is maxed out with Peoples, and Bremen is not offering rates as he would like to have.

The Board stated that they would be supportive of exploring investment through RBS, as long as the initial investments are limited, and Mr. Slater concurred with that approach.

The Board approved transferring responsibility for oversight of farming leases at the county airport back to the Airport Board, since they are entitled to the revenues generated by any such activities.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to schedule a meeting in the near future to discuss the 2010 Meal-on-Wheels proposed budget and discuss any possible changes to the overarching agreement between MOW and the Board relative to the levy funding.

The Board denied a request from the Prosecutor's Office for additional matching funds to convert a part-time employee in the Victim/Witness Assistance Program to full-time. Commissioner Myers stated that the funding is based upon a grant, and if the grant would be discontinued, the county would be faced with assuming full cost for the position or laying the employee off.

### **Executive Session**

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter into Executive Session at 2:50 p.m. for the purpose of personnel matters. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Staci Knisley, Theresa Haynes 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 Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn from Executive Session at 3:05 p.m.

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

**Review, cont.**

Mr. Dolin provided an update of legal issues, stating that a problem has cropped up with the Village of Carroll Sanitary Sewer project involving the crossing of the Indiana & Ohio Railroad property. The County Utilities Department requires a permanent easement to cross under the railroad, and the railroad company is not being cooperative, and the county cannot utilize quick take mechanism since this is not a road project.

Commissioner Kiger reported that he had met with Dr. Vajen regarding his request for an increased stipend for inmate medical care at the jail, and Dr. Vajen has agreed to resubmit his request in a more acceptable format.

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger 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 MARCH 24, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**