

**Regular Meeting #09-12
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 24, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Meeting with Jon Kochis – Reverse 9-1-1

The Board of Commissioners met with County Emergency management Director Jo Kochis to discuss a potential reverse 9-1-1 system for Fairfield County. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Kochis explained that the countywide communications committee met last week and has recommended both a vendor and a program for a county reverse 9-1-1 system that both county and local government entities could utilize. Mr. Kochis stated that the City of Lancaster expressed concern relative to the recurring annual fee of \$7,000 on the system, but that cost would be apportioned among all of the users, and each individual entity would only need to contribute a few hundred dollars per year in order to have access to the system. Commissioner Shupe stated that the City should be able to provide a few hundred dollars each year if that is the fair share for everyone.

Mr. Kochis stated that the committee as a whole supports the plan, but would like the Commissioners to consider covering the local government share of the \$7,000 per year recurring cost for each of the first two years to help out the smaller entities such as rural fire departments and villages. Mr. Kochis estimated that cost to be in the \$3-4,000 range. Mr. Kochis is applying for a grant through Ohio EMA to cover the \$35,000 start-up costs for the system, and users would then pay based upon their utilization of the system. Commissioner Kiger asked if there was any difference in the service or systems between the two cost options presented, and Mr. Kochis stated both options utilized the same system,

Commissioner Myers asked what the system would be used for, and Mr. Kochis stated it would be utilized for severe weather alerts, acts of terrorism, evacuations, such as last year's propane leak in Lancaster, and even boil alerts for cities and villages. Mr. Kochis noted that it probably would not be used county-wide unless there would be a severe weather event, and whatever entity initiates the call would be responsible for paying for that call.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the committee is asking the Board to pay just the first two years of the recurring costs, and Mr. Kochis stated that is the proposal, adding that some of the costs would come out of the Sheriff's Office, Utilities, and EMA.

Commissioner Myers asked if the county Homeland Security Committee is supportive, and Mr. Kochis stated they are. Commissioner Shupe asked if funding would be taken out of the 2010 state EMA grant to cover the startup cost, and Mr. Kochis stated that was his plan, and that he anticipates receiving more than enough grant funding from the state to cover that.

Commissioner Kiger asked what the timeline for a call from the system is, and Mr. Kochis stated the system has been tested in Franklin County, and can make 50,000 calls in 4 minutes.

Commissioner Myers asked if the system can record and send a message, and Mr. Kochis stated you can do that or pre-record messages to send. Commissioner Shupe asked if the system would work during a power outage, and Mr. Kochis stated that he has the capability to send text messages through his laptop on the system. Commissioner Shupe asked if employees could be contacted at home, and Mr. Kochis stated they could, but many of the employee home phone numbers may have to be purchased via a listing from the phone company.

Commissioner Myers asked why the numbers would need to be purchased, and Mr. Kochis explained that the phone company will not provide that information freely, but the cost is not significant and EMA could cover that.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the Board needs to choose an option, and Mr. Kochis stated that he would like a direction to proceed, and that he prefers option #1, which is to pay more up front and less recurring costs in future years.

Commissioner Kiger asked who actually calls the system to initiate sending a message and Mr. Kochis replied that anyone with a user name and password can access and initiate the system, so it could be any one of the three Commissioners, Mr. Kochis, or any authorized person.

Commissioner Shupe asked how the system would work if the power was out, and Mr. Kochis stated that text messages can be sent via his laptop, and Joe Spybey is working on installing a backup generator to power the county phone and computer server, so getting a message out through the county system will be possible.

9:30 Law Library Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the Law Library. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Craig Vandervoort, Rick Snyder, Jason Dolin, Staci Knisley and Scott Zody.

Mr. Vandervoort explained that he is a current member of the Law Library Board, and they have been transitioning some issues with the Library and this were moving along smoothly until recently when Judge Martin came to one of their meetings and indicated that the judges would like to move the Library clerk, Kelly Starkey, out of the Library to work full time on jury duty functions, which is her main job.

In addition, by law, the Commissioners, County Prosecutor and the judges must appoint a new 5-member Law Library Board by July 1, 2009. The Commissioners have two appointments, and Mr. Vandervoort stated there are three candidates for those spots that have expressed an interest in serving – Christina McGill, Scott Wood, and Lisa Long.

Mr. Vandervoort stated the bigger changes for the Law Library are slated for 2010, when their billing system will change over to MUNIS for their fine funding instead of being deposited directly.

Commissioner Myers asked if Kelly is removed from the Library will it be necessary to hire a new Clerk, and Mr. Vandervoort stated there needs to at least be someone in there part-time to help the public who are doing legal research. Commissioner Myers asked how much is being spent each year on the Law Library, and Mr. Vandervoort stated it ranges from \$70,000-80,000. In addition, the old funding formula that was in place to phase out Commissioner's funding responsibility for the Board has been changed back so the Commissioners are once again responsible for fully funding the Law Library. Ms. Starkey currently only spends about 3-5 hours a week on Law Library duties, but she is physically located in the library and makes her jury calls from there, so removing her from the room will be a hardship.

Commissioner Shupe asked how the Board proposes to replace Ms. Starkey, and Mr. Vandervoort suggested there might be a current county employee in the Hall of Justice of Courthouse that could share time and perform the clerk's duties, but he would prefer to keep Ms. Starkey down there and try to work something out with Judge Martin. Commissioner Myers noted that the judges needed to be involved in the process of determining how to cover the library.

Mr. Snyder stated that the billing, filing and taking minutes of Board meetings are the main functions of the clerk, and much of the filing has been replaced with on-line legal resources.

Commissioner Myers asked who pays Ms. Starkey's salary now, and Ms. Knisley stated that it comes out of the Court of Common Pleas budget. Mr. Snyder stated that he would like to keep Ms. Starkey in the library in order to have someone present to direct the public. Commissioner Shupe recommended the Board approach Judge Martin to discuss their concerns.

Commissioner Kiger asked how much the court fines contribute to the library budget, and Mr. Vandervoort stated that last year the library received \$102,000 in total receipts.

Commissioner Myers asked how the money is spent, and Mr. Vandervoort stated most of the funding is used to pay for on-line legal resources such as Lexis (\$16,000) and Westlaw (\$62,000) each year.

Commissioner Myers stated that the Board is asking the Commissioners to appoint 2 Board members and help them find a solution to the clerk position, and Mr. Vandervoort concurred.

Commissioner Kiger asked what the Law Library hours are, and Mr. Snyder stated they are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Myers asked what happens if Ms. Starkey is not present, and Mr. Snyder stated the library is open, there just is no one to provide assistance or oversight.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jon Myers, Mike Kiger and Judith Shupe. Also present were Aundrea Cordle, Linda Kaufmann, Ritta Setiz, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody stated there would be three add-on resolutions, all financial at the request of the Auditor's Office.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday March 17, 2009

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, March 17, 2009.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of FY2009 Addendum to Community Based Corrections Act Program 407 Subsidy Grant Agreement – Adult Probation

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the FY2009 Addendum to Community Based Corrections Act Program 407 Subsidy Grant Agreement – Adult Probation, see resolution 09-03.24.a

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Creation of a New Fund – Pickerington Tief-6 Stonecreek Station

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Creation of a New Fund – Pickerington Tief-6 Stonecreek Station, see resolution 09-03.24.b

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

Approval of Ratification of previous authorization of Board of Commissioners – Approval to authorize the President of the Board, Judith Shupe to sign a real estate purchase contract and associated documents and to sign associated closing documents

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Ratification of previous authorization of Board of Commissioners – Approval to authorize the President of the Board, Judith Shupe to sign a real estate purchase contract and associated documents and to sign associated closing documents, see resolution 09-03.24.c

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

Approval of CDBG Request for Payment resolutions

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions relative to CDBG Request for payment resolutions as follows:

- 09-03.24.d Approval to Request for Payment and status of funds report – FY2008 CDBG Formula Grant – Drawdown #178 - Commissioners

- 09-03.24.e Approval of Request for Payment and status of funds report – FY2008 CSBG/OHTF Funds – Drawdown # 179 - Commissioners

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

Approval of resolutions for the Engineers Office

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

- 09-03.24.f Approval of hiring the legal firm of Downes, Hurst & Fishel to represent the Fairfield County Engineer's Office - Engineer

- 09-03.24.g Approval of Contract with the Shelly Company for the FAI-CR49-0.00 Marietta Road SE Rehabilitation Project - Engineer

- 09-03.24.h Approval of Authorizing consent to store overburden within county road right-of-way - Engineer

- 09-03.24.i Approval of Notice of Commencement – FAI-CR49-0.00 Marietta Road SE Rehabilitation Project - Engineer

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

Approval of Memo Expenditure resolutions

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

09-03.24.j Approval of Memo Expenditure – Job & Family Service

09-03.24.k Approval of Memo Expenditure – Job & Family Services

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 to financial resolutions as follows:

09-03.24.l Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Commissioners Revolving Loan Fund/CDBG

09-03.24.m Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Commissioners Revolving Loan Fund/EDA

09-03.24.n Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated & Fund to Fund Transfer – Flex Spending

09-03.24.o Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated Within the 5044 Sewer Fund and the 5046 Water Fund - Utilities

09-03.24.p Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Engineer

09-03.24.q Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Engineer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Payment of Bills

On motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills March 24, 2009, check date March 27, 2009, see resolution 09-03.24.r

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Amended Certificate in Fund 2686, Victims of Crime Act Grant Fund, Prosecutor's Office, Victim/Witness Assistance Division

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an Amended Certificate in Fund 2686, Victims of Crime Act Grant Fund, Prosecutor's Office, Victim/Witness Assistance Division, see resolution 09-03.24.s

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Amended Certificate and Request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo expenditure – 3434 OPWC Payments, Engineer

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

voted to approve an Amended Certificate and Request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo expenditure – 3434 OPWC Payments, Engineer, see resolution 09-03.24.t

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Road & Bridge Levy, Engineer

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Road & Bridge Levy, Engineer, see resolution 09-03.24.u

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

10:15 Meeting with Tony Furgiuele

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:15 a.m. with Tony Furgiuele to discuss potential change to solid waste fees in the county. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Shawn Anderson, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Anderson stated that he works for Republic Waste, and he and Mr. Furgiuele wanted to make the Board aware of a pending situation that could adversely affect the Pine Grove landfill. The concern is the increase to \$4 per ton on accepting out-of-district waste is hindering the landfill's ability to attract volume, which will reduce fees paid to the solid waste district.

Mr. Furgiuele stated that last year Pine Grove generated \$265,000 for the district, but ½ of that revenue could go elsewhere with the new fee. Republic recently purchased a facility in Logan County and is looking to take Columbus-area trash to it as the transport costs are roughly the same. Logan County has a \$2 per ton charge on out of district trash.

Mr. Furgiuele also expressed concern with the district recycling programs, stating that he doesn't want to stop recycling, but he believes some incentives or guidelines need to be put in place. He would also recommend the solid waste district implement a 2-2-2 fee structure instead of a 2-4-2 model that charges more for out of district trash.

Mr. Dolin asked how much capacity is left at Pine Grove, and Mr. Furgiuele stated he has 50 years capacity.

Mr. Dolin asked what kinds of changes to district revenue would occur, and Mr. Furgiuele stated that he would anticipate a loss of at least \$11,000 per month. Mr. Anderson stated that Republic also operates the Mount Vernon transfer station and if the out of district fees were comparable, that would generate an additional 200-400 tons of volume to Pine Grove.

Mr. Furgiuele added that the landfill provides approximately \$60,000 for the department of Health and \$265,000 for the solid waste district. He would like to see the district go to a \$2 per ton fee for out of district trash.

Commissioner Shupe asked what the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) recommendation was, and Mr. Furgiuele stated it was 2-4-2 but no one was looking at the programmatic impact, and the same thing happened 15 years ago when the rates went up, business decreased.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Furgiuele if he had voted in favor of the current plan, and Mr. Furgiuele stated that he had not. Commissioner Shupe asked if the full PAC

had voted on the recommendations, and Mr. Furgiuele stated they had not – only the sub-committee has voted.

Mr. Anderson stated this boils down to a business issue for the company, as ½ of the volume in Pine Grove comes from the Reynolds transfer station in Columbus.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the Finance Committee had discussed the changes, and Mr. Furgiuele stated they had and he told them that Republic has to look at the issue from a bottom line standpoint, but the Board of Directors make the final decision.

Mr. Furgiuele stated that he believes the counties in the district should be permitted to use their funds for whatever purpose they deem fit, including roads and law enforcement.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the state minimum is 1-2-1, and Mr. Furgiuele stated it is, but the districts can charge generation fees.

Commissioner Shupe asked if Mr. Furgiuele supported the commercial recycling program in the county, and Mr. Furgiuele stated that he does not, because he feels it is wrong to pick and choose which businesses to help, and views it as underwriting private business.

Mr. Anderson stated the company would like to work with the district but time is of the essence. Commissioner Shupe stated that the company's position is to keep all three fees consistent, and Mr. Furgiuele agreed.

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 Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Dolin stated that he had some concern with the funding and volume issues raised at the previous meeting and would look into a few items in that regard. Mr. Dolin provided an update on some legal issues, including the Carroll Sanitary Sewer project, which is still attempting to come to an agreement with the Indiana & Ohio railroad on an easement to cross their property. Mr. Dolin is in the process of coordinating a conference call with the railroad, and stated that the village should have done a better job of researching the issue beforehand. Fortunately, the sewer line has been installed, but it is still necessary to obtain a permanent easement.

Commissioner Myers asked if the track is active, and Mr. Dolin stated it is very active.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to prepare a resolution to re-appoint Margaret Quamme to the county Library Board.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to prepare a letter of support for the county Information & Referral Service to become a county 2-1-1 Call Center.

11:00 a.m. Meeting with Mary Wiard, Carol Phillips

The Board of Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. with Mary Wiard and Carol Phillips of the Coshocton, Perry, Fairfield, Licking County Joint Solid Waste District. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Patty Bratton, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Wiard stated that she is in the process of working with the district to update the District Plan, and they are a little behind schedule, but still on track to meet their deadlines with Ohio EPA. The next Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will consider

changes to recommend to the Joint Board of Commissioners. The potential changes include Program Descriptions, Implementation Schedules, Language for district siting of facilities, and language for rule changes.

The PAC would put together a final draft Plan and it will be important for each Board of Commissioners to be engaged at that point. Ms. Wiard believes the Plan will be ready for submittal to Ohio EPA approval in June, and OEPA will review and may send the Plan back for further consideration which would allow an opportunity for additional changes if desired.

Commissioner Myers asked what the major changes would be, and Ms. Wiard stated the PAC has been divided into 6 sub-committees to study the Plan and recommend changes. Commissioner Myers asked if there would be any attempt to curtail or halt the commercial recycling programs, and Ms. Wiard said that some have expressed an opinion that commercial recycling is inappropriate for private entities. Ms. Bratton stated that Perry County also has some commercial recycling activities, and Ms. Wiard stated that the issue arose with respect to residential drop-offs and the need to change drop-off facilities to accept that material in the drop-off containers. She stated it would be preferable for the businesses to bring cardboard to the drop-offs.

Ms. Bratton stated that would overload the Fairfield County locations, as they brought in over 745,000 pounds of cardboard last year, and with the impending closing of Sonoco, that volume will increase dramatically.

Ms. Wiard stated there is a concern about overlap with the private sector on this, and Ms. Bratton stated that they do not take any waste material from commercial entities, and work primarily with small businesses that other wise would not participate. Commissioner Shupe asked shouldn't the Plan be written so that counties could have commercial recycling as their own choice, and Ms. Wiard stated that it could, but that direction should come through the PAC. Commissioner Shupe asked who would vote on that, and Ms. Wiard stated the sub-committee of the PAC and the PAC, but the PAC has not yet voted on that issue.

Ms. Bratton stated a concern relative to ranking drop-off locations, as Fairfield County has several rural drop-offs that would not rank high for volume but are critical nonetheless. Ms. Wiard stated there is no hard and fast rule relative to drop-offs, and there are some urban locations that could have poor participation as well. The Plan just wants to ensure utilization is happening and the counties need to demonstrate the sites are being used effectively. Ms. Bratton asked if that means that not all counties have to do drop-offs the same way, and Ms. Wiard stated that she does not believe the language would have some per capita requirement, they just need to demonstrate that drop-off opportunities are being provided.

Commissioner Shupe stated she is concerned about the Plan being too rigid so that it would prevent, rather than encourage activities, for example the Fairfield County Dog Shelter would like to replace its incinerator using district funding, and wanted to know what the Plan says about that.

Ms. Wiard stated the language in the Plan states that incineration should not be used for waste reduction. Mr. Zody asked when the Plan was changed to reflect that, and Ms. Phillips stated that change was made in 2003-2004. Ms. Wiard stated that OEPA is looking at such activities more closely now and no matter how Plans are written there are certain activities that must occur first.

Commissioner Kiger asked if the incinerator was being addressed as part of the new Plan, and Ms. Wiard stated there has been no recommendation to change the current language. Commissioner Kiger stated that he is making that recommendation right now and would like to see it considered as part of the Plan – just because some activity doesn't work in one county doesn't mean it shouldn't be allowed in another county if they so choose.

Ms. Wiard stated that incineration was a fluke, and it would depend upon what is written into the Plan and allow counties to pursue that as an optional program. Ms. Wiard also suggested setting funds aside in a contingency fund that a county could utilize for their particular desires or special projects.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the host funding counties receive could be used for those purposes, and Ms. Wiard stated that could be part of the Plan. Commissioner Kiger asked if that could be done currently, and Ms. Wiard stated it would have to become part of the Plan.

Commissioner Shupe stated that is the purpose of host funds – to allow each respective county to make their own choices. Ms. Phillips stated there is language in the current Plan that restricts the use of funds for incineration. Ms. Bratton contended that part of the agreement with counties is to use the funds for their own ends, and Ms. Phillips stated that counties can only use the funds for mandatory and optional programs as listed, and incineration is not a listed use.

Commissioner Shupe stated this is not a funding issue, as we know the dollars are there – we just wish to use the funds where we know it is needed. Ms. Wiard stated that in OEPA's view, it is not allowed because it is not part of the budget, and she does not recommend having language in the Plan that would allow individual Boards to change course in the middle of plan implementation.

Ms. Bratton asked about education, and Ms. Wiard stated there is a change in emphasis on that, and the Plan would not do away with education. In the past ODNR recycling grants focused on school kids, but now the question is how effective that program has been. Ms. Bratton contended that it has been very effective, as you are now seeing more participation and focus on recycling among young adults, but questioned how that can be evaluated.

Ms. Wiard stated that every year education needs to be evaluated for effectiveness. Ms. Bratton asked how that would change current marketing practices, and Ms. Wiard stated that it would not be much different than current practices.

Ms. Wiard said the major rule changes in the Plan would focus on the elimination of the siting rule, as the power to do that rests with OEPA, and it is somewhat pointless for the districts to even be involved, so the Technical Advisory Committee would be abolished. Ms. Bratton asked what would happen if Pine Grove wished to expand, and Ms. Wiard stated the district could gather public comments and hold meetings to provide technical information but they have no official capacity in the process.

Commissioner Myers asked what about yard waste and composting, and Ms. Wiard stated there is only one publicly owned facility in the district currently.

Ms. Wiard stated the next PAC meeting is scheduled for April 3rd, and she is assuming the funding formula of 1-4-1 would be changed to 2-4-2 in 2011. With respect to the optional programs, the main concern is increased cost with slow growth in revenue, and that could deplete the district's current cash carry over balance.

Ms. Phillips provided an overview of the district funding and spending history and figures specific to Fairfield County.

2:00 p.m. Meeting with Michael Orlando

The Board of Commissioners met with Job & Family Services Director Michael Orlando at 2:00 p.m. for an update on the JFS budget situation. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Laura Holton, Rich Bowlen, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Orlando explained that there are two major issues affecting the JFS budget – Child Protective Services (CPS) placement costs and state budget cuts. The cuts proposed under Governor Strickland's budget would be devastating to the agency, as JFS relies on State funding for approximately 42% of its budget, and relies on Federal funds for another 42%. County funds make up the remaining 16%.

Mr. Orlando stated there are several issues affecting the budget, stating that county General Fund (GRF) support has declined since 2001, there is an \$800,000 building expense and related expenses since 2001, current state budget cuts, potential future state budget cuts, and the current economic downturn.

Commissioner Kiger stated that he disagrees with Mr. Orlando's statement the GRF funding support has declined, and shared a printout on GRF numbers from 2000-2009. Commissioner Kiger stated that GRF support has increased 34% , not the negative 4% depicted in Mr. Orlando's presentation. Mr. Orlando stated that 2001 was the year that JFS was merged, combining the Employment services with the Human Services aspect, and he believes that is a more accurate benchmark. Commissioner Kiger added that the Commissioners approved additional funding for JFS this year, including an \$84,000 supplement and a \$362,000 supplement that was intended as a one-time increase for 2008. Mr. Orlando asked if they could agree that GRF funding has been flat since 2001, and Commissioner Kiger stated he could not agree with that statement.

Mr. Orlando stated they could agree to disagree, and continued with his presentation, stating that JFS has building costs of approximately \$800,000 per year since 2001. Commissioner Myers asked what building expenses JFS had in their old location, and Mr. Orlando stated those were only a few thousand dollars per month.

Ms. Knisley stated that she was under the impression that JFS received a 100% reimbursement for their rent, and Mr. Orlando stated the recoupment is in the 90-95% range, and is based on growth in county and state funding each year.

Mr. Orlando stated that additionally, his budget does not fully cover the health insurance and salary costs for employees each year. The good news is that some aspects of JFS, such as Child Support Enforcement, Workforce Development, and Child Care are in good shape financially. The areas that are suffering are CPS, Adult Protective Services (APS) and Public Assistance (PA).

Mr. Orlando stated that his concern is that, even with the new levy funding that will begin to flow in January of 2010, CPS will likely be short on funding, due to increased placement costs and the elimination of TANF funding under Governor Strickland's budget.

For placement costs, recently there has been an increase in the number of children that cannot be placed into foster homes due to their behavioral issues, and must be placed in treatment centers, which are much more expensive. Placement numbers have not increased, it is mainly a cost issue, with the average monthly costs of placement increasing from \$117,000 per month to over \$155,000 per month.

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funding used to be very plentiful, but has been steadily decreasing in recent years.

Mr. Orlando stated that he has a short term problem and a long term problem. The short term problem is to get through 2009. The long term problem is to get through the next 2-3 years.

For the short term, Mr. Orlando proposes to utilize \$100,000 of the \$500,000 "levy advance" that the Commissioners added to his 2009 budget to cover placement cost shortfalls, utilize a Drug Court reimbursement of \$120,000, and negotiate some discounted costs from child placement treatment center to save approximately \$50,000.

For Fiscal Year 2010, JFS is facing a projected deficit of \$250,000, and will continue to pursue cost reduction measures, but Mr. Orlando believes they will still be approximately \$45,000 short.

Mr. Orlando intends to utilize the first half of the \$500,000 levy advance that was provided in March to get through operationally to the end of the State Fiscal Year (June 30, 2009), and move up the second half of the levy advance from September 1st to now.

Mr. Orlando stated that he may need to ask for an additional levy advance in 2010, depending upon the funding situation.

Mr. Bowlen stated that he met with Judge Williams to discuss pulling some of the current children in placement out, but he is reluctant to do so. There are currently 6 teens with severe problems that simply have no where else to go, and they are costing the county significant amounts for their treatment and placement.

Mr. Orlando stated that he would have to use the levy advance funding just to get through the state fiscal year and county fiscal year (December 31st) to cover any deficits.

Ms. Holton stated they plan to utilize the levy funding beginning in January of 2010 to address placement deficits if they continue.

Juvenile/Probate Judge Steve Williams joined the meeting, and stated that his concern is that there are children appearing before him that need to be placed, and are not getting placed due to a lack of resources. In addition, he believes there are cases that are not being filed by CPS that should be filed because they are afraid of the potential placement costs.

Judge Williams asserted that he must place children who commit crimes, and he is trying to find alternatives to placement for others as much as possible, such as counseling, but there are some children that he simply has no choice but to place.

He is concerned that there are children being removed from placement and being put back into marginal home environments that are not helpful to their rehabilitation.

Commissioner Myers asked what exactly is "placement", and Judge Williams stated it is placing an at-risk child in either a foster home or a treatment center. Ms. Holton added that treatment centers are very expensive.

Commissioner Myers asked if the situation for children is improving or growing worse, and Judge Williams stated that he is seeing more drug-related problems, and part of the problem has been the increasing population growth in Fairfield County.

Mr. Orlando continued his presentation, stating that Public Assistance funding has already been cut twice in the past year by the state, Medicaid recipients in Fairfield County has increased by 5,000 in the past 6 years, and he expects Public Assistance benefit requests to increase by 2,000 this year.

Commissioner Myers asked if JFS has made any rent payments for their building this year, and Mr. Orlando stated he has not made any payments. Ms. Knisley stated the payments are required as part of the lease between JFS and the Board, and Mr. Orlando stated the lease is designed mainly for JFS to draw down payments and reimbursements.

Commissioner Shupe asked if there are any concerns relative to fraudulent claims, and Mr. Orlando stated fraud cases are rare, but they do try to actively pursue them.

Mr. Orlando explained that the budget proposed by Governor Strickland makes several large and damaging statewide cuts, including \$50 million to Income Maintenance, \$30

million to the “regular” TANF, and \$62 million elimination of the Title XX TANF. Commissioner Myers asked what the Title XX funds are used for, and Mr. Bowlen stated those are used for CPS investigations and placement costs.

Mr. Orlando added that Governor Strickland’s budget would also totally eliminate the Kinship and Adoption programs, which are about \$6-10 million each.

The impacts of Governor Strickland’s budget to Fairfield County would include a \$675,000 cut to Income Maintenance and a \$1.1 million cut in the combined TANF funds.

What exacerbates the cuts is that for every dollar spent on Income Maintenance, another Federal matching dollar is produced, so the cut is in effect doubled. Mr. Orlando is trying to redirect some extra Child Support Enforcement funds into the IM line, but it will still be short. He would like the Commissioners to continue the \$362,000 “one-time” supplement for 2010, and possibly waive or assume the rent payments for the JFS building.

The potential impacts of the cuts would entail the elimination of 46 positions throughout JFS, including the loss of 13 out of 26 eligibility determination staff. The work week for all employees would be reduced from 40 hours to 36 hours, and additional furloughs/voluntary leave would be asked for. Most extra programs such as Reality House would be eliminated, and some transportation programs would be discontinued.

Mr. Zody asked what the breakdown would be for management positions laid off vs. line employees, and Mr. Orlando stated that he does not believe he can operate with less of a management team than he currently has – two management positions – the attorney supervisor and Finance Director, have already been eliminated through attrition, but some supervisor positions will likely be eliminated.

Commissioner Myers asked what was going to happen with Reality House, and Mr. Orlando stated that it would be eliminated, along with the Parental Education Unit, the Visitation Center, the CSEA drive-through, accreditation, and fraud and benefit recovery programs.

Ms. Holton stated one difficulty they will have is the staff bumping process, and trying to keep employees from bumping into positions that they may not be qualified for. Mr. Zody asked if JFS was on the state DAS personnel system, and Ms. Holton stated they were. Mr. Zody stated there is a process that must be followed with respect to bumping under the state process, and there is an opportunity to test employees who attempt to bump into positions for which they are not qualified.

Mr. Zody asked Mr. Orlando if such drastic measures should be delayed until the state budget is finalized, as the Governor’s proposed budget is always changed to some extent through the legislative process. Mr. Orlando stated that he needs to implement these changes are start the lay-off process by May 1st.

Commissioner Shupe asked if letter or phone calls to legislators might have any impact, and Mr. Orlando stated that he doubted the numbers would change very much. Ms. Holton stated that they have been actively seeking other funding sources or any other abilities to draw down additional Federal funds, but there does not appear to be any other options.

Commissioner Myers asked if the Senate, which is controlled by the Republicans, would take a different approach, and Ms. Holton stated they might on Public Assistance, but not on TANF. Commissioner Kiger stated that nothing will be finalized until June or July, yet the Board is being asked to make decisions now. Mr. Orlando stated his biggest problem is getting through the rest of the calendar year, from July 1st to December 31st.

Mr. Orlando added that overall, his management staff has been reduce from 16 positions in 2003 to 11 ½ in 2005, and with the reduction of two additional positions, now sits at 9 ½. Commissioner Myers asked what the advances would do to alleviate the situation, and Mr. Orlando stated they would help get him through until July with respect to the child placement costs, but would not help the Public Assistance or administrative problems.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she was not sure if the Auditor's Office would certify any additional revenue for the county to appropriate or not.

Ms. Holton stated that the transportation cuts would need to be made by May 1st.

Ms. Knisley asked what would occur with respect to the rent/debt service on the building, and Mr. Orlando stated that he did not see how JFS could pay that. He suggested relocating the agency if another suitable location could be made available.

Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer from the General Fund to Job & Family Services

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a fund to fund transfer from the General Fund to the Department of Job & Family Services, see resolution 09-03.24.v

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 Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jon Myers, 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 MARCH 31, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.