

**Regular Meeting #09-47
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 10, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Viewing – Waterloo Road Bridge Replacement Project

The Board of Commissioners met to view a proposed bridge replacement project on Waterloo Road in Violet Township. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jeff Baird, Ed Haughn, Barbara Haughn, Bill Yaple, Greg Butcher, Cindy Moses, Tonda Koontz, Shawn Haughn, Joe Messerly and Scott Zody.

Mr. Baird provided an overview of the project stating that the Violet Township Trustees requested the project, and the approach and grade of the road would not change much and the project would be mainly to widen the bridge per modern standards, and Violet Township is planning to apply for Public Works funding to finance the project.

Some of the public present raised questions relative to a sharp curve approximately ¼ mile from the bridge, and Mr. Baird stated the road is a township road under the jurisdiction of the trustees, and he is only aware of the bridge replacement. Concerns were raised relative to the number of accidents and vehicles running off the road at the curve, as well as excessive speed. Mr. Baird stated a speed study could be requested, but only ODOT can approve such a final change. Questions were raised relative to placement of reflectors or directional arrows at the curve, and Mr. Butcher stated that he, as Township Engineer, would be willing to explore such options.

Mr. Butcher stated the intent is to apply for a grant in 2010 to secure funding in 2011 to construct the project, but if the grant is unsuccessful, it would delay the project by another year at least.

Other neighbors raised concerns about flooding that could result from the project, and Mr. Baird stated hydraulic studies would be undertaken as part of the project design to ensure that no less water would be passed under the new bridge.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Prosecutor David Landefeld, Sheriff Dave Phalen, Mary Austin, Ed Mohler, Linda Kaufmann, County Engineer Frank Anderson, Mary Beth Lane, Morgan Day, Ritta Seitz, Jerry Perrigo, Tom Moe, Chris Moe, Aundrea Cordle, Recorder Gene Wood, Tony Vogel, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody announced there would be add-on items during the Review session relative to the County Economic Development Director position and Domestic Relations Court.

Public Comment

Commissioner Shupe recognized County Recorder Gene Wood for his recent recognition as "Recorder of the Year" by the Ohio County Recorders Association. Mr. Wood has served in the Recorder's Office since 1975 and has been Recorder since 1984.

Sheriff Dave Phalen announced that there is a Freedom Isn't Free event being held at the Fairfield County Airport this Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the public is encouraged to attend.

Commissioner Shupe stated the annual Veterans' Day parade will be held tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. in Lancaster.

Approval of minutes of Thursday, November 5, 2009

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Thursday, November 5, 2009.

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

Approval of a Proclamation of Recognition – November 2009 – Hire a Veteran Month

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Proclamation of Recognition designating November, 2009 as "Hire a Veteran Month",, see resolution 09-11.10.a

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

Approval of Water Line Right-of-Way Easement – Village of Millersport

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a water line right-of-way easement for the Village of Millersport, see resolution 09-11.10.b

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

Approval to vacate a portion of a public road, Busey Road in Violet Township, and establishing a viewing and hearing date

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to vacate a portion of a public road, Busey Road in Violet Township, and establishing a viewing and hearing date, see resolution 09-11.10.c

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

Approval of appointment of Dr. Margaret Quamme to the Fairfield County District Library Board

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the appointment of Dr. Margaret Quamme to the Fairfield County District Library Board, see resolution 09-11.10.d

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

Approval to rescind resolution 09-10.27.u, Approval to Amend the Certificate, Update Receipts and Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fund 2563 – FCBDD Residential Services Fund

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to rescind resolution 09-10.27.u, Approval to Amend the Certificate, Update Receipts and Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fund 2563 – FCBDD Residential Services Fund, see resolution 09-11.10.e

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

Approval to rescind resolution 09-11.03.s, Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated Building Department Fund (Utilities)

On motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to rescind resolution 09-11.03.s, Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated Building Department Fund (Utilities), see resolution 09-11.10.f

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

Approval to rescind resolution 09-11.05.c, Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer, 7110 Undivided Tangible Tax to 7108 Undivided General

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to rescind resolution 09-11.05.c, Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer, 7110 Undivided Tangible Tax to 7108 Undivided General, see resolution 09-11.10.g

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

Approval of Engineers resolutions

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

- 09-11.10.h Approval of an Agreement between Fairfield County and American Structurepoint, Inc., to provide engineering services for the Pleasantville Road Rehabilitation Project Phase 2 - Engineer
- 09-11.10.i Approval of a Change Order for the 2009 Resurfacing Phase 2 Project - Engineer
- 09-11.10.j Approval to Purchase a 2006 Chevrolet Truck Model C5500 - Engineer

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

Approval to Reduce Appropriations in the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance Fund 7710

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Reduce Appropriations in the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance Fund 7710, see resolution 09-11.10.k

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

Approval of Amended Certificate resolutions

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

- 09-11.10.l Approval to Amend Certificate, Update Receipts, and Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fund 2748 – Commissioners NSP1 Funds
- 09-11.10.m Approval to Amend Certificate, Update Receipts, and Appropriate from Unappropriated – Fund 2763 – Fairfield County Emergency Management – EMA Renovations 2009 Fund – General Fund match transfer

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

- 09-11.10.n Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Major Crimes Unit
- 09-11.10.o Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Family, Adult & Children First Council
- 09-11.10.p Approval to Appropriate form Unappropriated – Emergency Management General Fund

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, November 10, 2009, check date November 13, 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 November 10, 2009, check date November 13, 2009, see resolution 09-11.10.q

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

Presentation of Proclamation of Recognition to Tom Moe

The Board of Commissioners presented a Proclamation of Recognition to Tom Moe on the occasion of his induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. Commissioner Shupe read the Proclamation and presented the Proclamation, thanking Mr. Moe for his service.

Mr. Moe stated it is a special honor for him to be recognized by hometown friends and neighbors. Mr. Moe stated that recognition as a veteran is special, but anyone who serves the public deserves recognition.

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 Aundrea Cordle, Sheriff Dave Phalen, Linda Kaufmann, Ed Laramée, Morgan Day, Jerry Perrigo, Mary Beth Lane, Treasurer Jon Slater, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Regarding the county Economic Development Director position, Mr. Zody noted that a letter had been hand-delivered late last week and signed by several local business owners relative to urging the Board to fill the position. Commissioner Shupe stated she believes the Board need to move forward and fill the position, as there is a lot of work coming up relative to tax incentives and the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has been very active this year. Commissioner Myers stated the Board would need to enter into Executive Session to discuss specifics prior to taking any formal actions, but he also agreed that the Board should move forward with filling the position, but noted that cuts will need to be made elsewhere to accommodate the action. Commissioner Shupe stated the departments have already cut 9%.

Commissioner Kiger stated that he would prefer to wait to fill the position, especially with potential cuts to the county safety forces. Commissioner Shupe stated that agencies have already cut 5% this year and will cut 9% in 2010, including the Economic Development office, and the position cannot be left vacant. Commissioner Kiger stated some of the work could be done by other, such as Joy Davis in Violet Township. Commissioner Shupe stated the Ms. Kaufmann is having difficulty keeping up with everything now, and needs a director to help. Commissioner Myers noted that the 33 Development Alliance needs leadership as well, and Linda Can't provide that.

Commissioner Kiger stated he is concerned about the lack of quantifiable jobs that the position supposedly brings into the county. Commissioner Shupe stated the Board needs to fill the position, as it would generate revenue for the county. Commissioner Kiger asked how much revenue the position would generate, and Commissioner Shupe stated no one knows the exact amount, but it cannot be compared to cutting a deputy position. Commissioner Kiger stated if the Board spends money to fill the Economic Development position, it would be less money to hire a deputy.

Commissioner Myers suggested cutting elsewhere to provide the funds for the position, such as eliminating health care coverage for the Board of Elections members. Commissioner Kiger stated he believes additional cuts need to be made, such as the Job & Family Services allocation. Commissioner Shupe stated the Board needs to look at the big picture, and Commissioner Myers stated the members of the 33 Development Alliance want the position filled. Commissioner Shupe stated the RLF numbers are up significantly in 2009, with 9 loans already approved.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Dolin if the Board would need to enter into Executive Session to discuss the specific details and candidate offer, and Mr. Dolin suggested that would be prudent, and Commissioner Myers suggested holding off until later in the day.

Approval of Account to Account Transfer- Fairfield County Domestic Relations Court

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an account to account transfer for the Domestic Relations Court, see resolution 09-11.10.s

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Sheriff Phalen stated that he wanted to discuss the proposed 9% budget reduction with the Board, stating that a 9% cut would amount to \$917,000 for his operations. In order to comply with that cut, he would eliminate purchasing any replacement cruisers, provide no training, and try to eliminate or severely limit overtime. Even so, he believes he would need to lay off 5 deputies in January and possibly more.

Sheriff Phalen stated that back in 2005, he had approximately 130 employees paid out of the General Fund – today there are 111. In addition, the challenges of the jail continue to grow – as of today, there are 223 inmates in the county jail facilities, which is the normal head count during the busier summer months. Commissioner Myers asked if most of the inmates were incarcerated for drug offenses, and Sheriff Phalen stated that is correct.

Sheriff Phalen stated he would like the Board to restore approximately \$300,000 of the cuts in order to retain the deputy positions, as he believes those positions should be the last cut. Unfortunately, his operations no longer have any flexibility to cut “non-mandated” areas or programs.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board would incorporate the request into their budget meeting this afternoon. Commissioner Myers asked if the deputies utilized the GIS system, and Mr. Perrigo stated they have 10 cruisers with Mobile Data Terminals

(MDTs) that have county GIS information loaded into them to assist the deputies with responding to calls. Commissioner Myers asked if the GIS system is more valuable than the deputies, and Mr. Perrigo stated he would rather have the deputy to respond.

Commissioner Shupe stated that 2010 will be tough, but in 2011 the county would receive a full year's collection from the sales tax increase and should be in better shape financially. Sheriff Phalen stated he would still have reductions everywhere else and overtime will be a real challenge. Commissioner Myers asked where overtime would be incurred, and Sheriff Phalen stated under the contract, holidays, call outs, accident responses, and homicides call all lead to overtime situations.

Commissioner Myers asked if the Community Watch Program is continuing to provide good assistance, and Sheriff Phalen stated it is doing a very good job, especially with the county fair and the area festivals. Commissioner Myers asked if there has been any resultant reduction crime through the program, and Sheriff Phalen stated it is difficult to quantify.

Ms. Cordle reported that she is in the process of update the county Policy & Personnel manual to reflect some changes for the Family & Medical Leave Act and for some Data Processing changes, and should have it ready for the Board to approve late this year.

11:00 a.m. Public Hearing – Waterloo Road Bridge Replacement Project

The Board of Commissioner met to conduct a public hearing on a proposed bridge replacement project on Waterloo Road in Violet Township. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jeff Baird, Shawn Haughn, Barbara Haughn, Ed Haughn, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Baird provided an overview of the project, stating it is a cooperative project between the county and Violet Township, and Violet Township will be applying for Public Works funding for the construction. The bridge would be widened and replaced, and be brought up to modern standards.

Shawn Haughn, 6976 Waterloo Road, spoke, stating that he has met with Mr. Baird following the viewing at 9:00 a.m. to discuss flooding concerns, and he stated that he would like to ensure that the roadway would not be raised to altered in such a way that it would effect the drainage on his property. Mr. Haughn also stated that he would like encroachments on private property to be kept to a minimum as well.

Joe Messerly, 255 E. Waterloo Street, spoke, stating that he was present to speak on behalf of the Moses', and would like to be involved in the planning and design process as the project evolves.

Barbara Haughn 6900 Waterloo Road, spoke, stating that her property would be significantly impacted by the project, and she would like to see the project done safely.

Mr. Baird stated that FEMA requires the Engineer to conduct hydraulic studies for these types of replacement projects, up to a 100-year event.

Mr. Haughn stated the neighbors would like the project to be aesthetically pleasing as well. Commissioner Myers stated the Engineer does good work, and the sight lines for the residents driveways should be much improved.

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

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review, cont.

Executive Session

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter into Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the candidate for the county Economic Development Director position. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Aundrea Cordle, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn from Executive Session as 11:25 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

No formal actions were taken.

Review, cont.

Commissioner Shupe asked relative to the Sheriff's budget if the deputies could voluntarily forego their pay raise in 2010 to save funding, and Commissioner Myers stated that they would have to volunteer, and Mr. Dolin agreed, stating that is a contractual issue.

11:30 a.m. Meeting with Becky Edwards

The Board of Commissioners met with Family, Adult & Children First Council Executive Director Becky Edwards to discuss the FACFC funding allocation. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Tessie Swain, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Edwards stated that the Executive Committee discussed the \$100,000 allocation at their October meeting and understand the Commissioners plan to eliminate it. The concern from the Council is the impact to the children that are currently served under this funding. Ms. Edwards provided an overview of the budget for the Out of Home Placement program, stating there are 8 children currently in placement now. These are children that are considered to be a danger either to themselves or to the public due to behavioral problems.

Ms. Edwards stated if these children would go through the normal processes such as JFS or the Courts, they would cost the county even more. Under the Program, the children are placed out of their homes and worked with individually and "stepped down" from there with the goal of returning to home. Ms. Edwards stated that if the children would not receive this treatment, in all likelihood they would end up in the custody of JFS/CPS and/or the Juvenile system.

Ms. Edwards stated they are requesting the Board to reinstate the funding allocation and apply the 9% reduction, or provide ½ (\$50,000) and JFS has committed to trying to cover the other ½.

Commissioner Myers noted that the meeting minutes from the Council indicate the Commissioners have voted to eliminate the subsidy, which is not accurate. Commissioner Kiger stated that he noticed that as well, and he said that he had informed the Council that the Commissioners had discussed the allocation, and he had been instructed to inform the Council that the allocation was to be eliminated, but he had never stated the Commissioners had voted on it.

Commissioner Myers asked how parents can relinquish custody of their children, and Ms. Edwards stated that legally they cannot, but if a child is in a treatment or placement

program and the parents refuse to come pick them up once they are released, then JFS has to file neglect charges against the parents and pursue them, while assuming responsibility for the children in the meantime.

Ms. Edwards stated that the out of home placement program has been a model and the Council has been working with the State of Ohio to share it with other counties.

Commissioner Kiger asked if all the children would fall under CPS, and Ms. Edwards stated not necessarily, as some would have mental issues, and some might have criminal issues.

Commissioner Myers asked what the total Council budget is, and Ms. Edwards stated \$1.4 million, with about \$500,000 of that allocated for the Help Me Grow program.

Commissioner Myers asked what would happen to the children, and Ms. Edwards stated most would end up in another program or fund to be taken care of. Commissioner Shupe asked what facilities are being used, and Ms. Edwards stated they are using residential facilities such as Osterland and the Center for Child & Family Development. The cluster funds are supposed to include funding from the Commissioners, ADAMH, Juvenile Court and BDD.

Review, cont.

Mr. Laramée stated that he wanted to visit with the Board relative to an email that was sent out last week by David Miller that should not have gone out without review and approval of the Commissioners and review by Aunie Cordle. Commissioner Shupe stated it was unfortunate, as the Board could have discussed the issue at the Roundtable with the other elected officials.

Mr. Laramée provided some background on the issue, stating that there are still some excess funds in the Health Insurance Reserve that must be divested, and the thought was to provide a partial rate holiday for the second pay period in November – the rate adjustment would be shown as a negative item on employee paycheck stubs, and employees would receive some additional take-home pay, depending upon the type of coverage they have (single or family).

Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like to clarify for Mr. Laramée that Ms. Cordle is the Commissioner's representative for health insurance benefits and everything should be coordinated through her. Mr. Laramée stated this has nothing to do with the benefits, it is actuarial and the Auditor should be involved with that process and should be involved in the numbers. Commissioner Shupe stated the email was sent without the Commissioners knowing anything about it, and Mr. Laramée stated that was a mistake and he is addressing that with Mr. Miller.

Mr. Laramée stated the Commissioners need to approve a resolution in order to finalize the "holiday" and provided the Board with a draft resolution. Commissioner Myers asked if the resolution needed to be adopted today, and Mr. Laramée stated it could wait until the following week if the Board wished.

Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated for the 7679 Insurance Investment Reserve Fund, Fund to Fund Transfer from 7679 to 7671 Benefits Fund and authorization of partial health care insurance premium "holiday" for Fairfield County departments and employees

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve to Appropriate from Unappropriated for the 7679 Insurance Investment Reserve Fund, Fund to Fund Transfer from 7679 to 7671 Benefits Fund and authorization of partial health care insurance premium "holiday" for Fairfield County departments and employees, see resolution 09-11.10.t.

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

1:00 p.m. Meeting with Dave Conley

The Board of Commissioners met with Dave Conley of Baird & Associates to discuss renewing a note for the Fairfield County Airport and a note for the County Utilities Department. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Ed Laramée, Tony Vogel, Dave Scheffler, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Conley stated that interest rates increased recently nearly as quickly as they had fallen during September, but still remain low (around 3.3%). Mr. Conley stated he is not sure if the recent stock market run-up will keep rates up or if they will fall back a bit, but the savings relative to any refinancing of bonds at this point is not worthwhile. However, Mr. Conley suggested the Board have him prepare a statement and other information necessary for a refinancing in the event rates dip lower and the opportunity would not be missed.

Commissioner Myers asked if there would be any cost to preparing that information, and Mr. Conley stated there would not be a cost to the county, those are costs Baird would incur and hold based upon a future refinancing. Commissioner Myers asked how long the statement would be good for, and Mr. Conley stated 12 months.

Mr. Laramée stated there is a lot of speculation on the dollar and that may result in a reflection in the stocks as the rates can't go much lower. Mr. Conley stated the Board can't take advantage if they are not ready, and Mr. Laramée agreed, stating the savings that would have occurred in September are probably the best deal the Commissioners could have received.

Mr. Conley stated that relative to the note renewal, they are both due in January. The recently passed stimulus bill contained some language changing bonds from being subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) to being tax-exempt, but there was a very narrow window encompassing the period between January 2009 and February of 2009 that was not included, and that is when the Fairfield County note was issued, so the airport note does not qualify. The other down side is that there is currently no market for AMT bonds, and Mr. Conley has no idea what if any offers he might receive and at what interest rate.

Mr. Scheffler asked what the current interest rates are, and Mr. Conley stated that he believes they are around 3%. Commissioner Myers asked if the payback is based upon the rates, and Mr. Scheffler stated it is, and it could skew his payment schedule. Mr. Conley stated the historical trend is down with respect to the rates, and the airport note is currently at 3.1%.

Mr. Conley asked if the airport planned to pay down any principal, as December 14th would be the target date for pricing. Mr. Scheffler stated he does not plan on paying down any principal this year, as they are ahead of schedule and with the slow economy, hangar rentals are down.

Mr. Laramée stated there are only 2 notes, and asked if the county could self-finance them. Mr. Conley stated that is a possibility, but the down side is that it takes cash to do so, and could have Dennis Schwallie prepare the proper language in the Commissioner's resolutions to allow for that. The only other caution would be that the IRS would require market rates to be paid.

Commissioner Myers asked if there are any arbitrage issues, and Mr. Conley stated there would not be as long as the proceeds are spent. Mr. Scheffler stated the airport is already under its projected principal balance, and Mr. Laramée stated the numbers are comparable. Mr. Scheffler asked if there is any chance of fixing the window in the

stimulus language, and Mr. Conley stated that as far as he can determine, Fairfield County is the only instance in the nation that fell under this window.

Mr. Laramée stated that he does not see a problem self-financing the notes, and Mr. Conley stated as long as there is no cash flow issue it should work.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Vogel if his note would only be \$250,000, and Mr. Vogel stated he intends to pay half of the \$500,000 original note when it matures and pay the remainder next year. Mr. Zody noted that if any cash needs to be transferred in order to make the transaction, Mr. Vogel should do so by December 15th, which will be the last meeting of the Board.

Mr. Laramée stated doing the notes internally is very possible, and would only require a small amount of the cash that will be available at the end of December when investments mature.

Mr. Conley stated that in relation to any possible future refinancing, the OMAC statement and some of the legal work may require upfront payment, but that should only amount to a few thousand dollars. Mr. Conley stated the Board can approve a resolution authorizing the renewal of the notes and look at the market in December to explore rates.

Mr. Laramée stated he would like to discuss the issue with Mr. Slater and see if there are any issues. Mr. Scheffler asked whether or not there is a break point for the county for self-financing, and Mr. Conley stated it depends on the tax-exempt rates, which are usually ½-¾% less than AMT notes. Mr. Conley stated one positive is that the county has a very good AA3 rating from Moody's, as opposed to the state.

Commissioner Myers asked how much principal the airport plans to pay in 2010, and Mr. Scheffler stated none, with the hangar rents down and the fact that they are about \$50-60,000 ahead of projections. Mr. Laramée asked what the life expectancy of the hangars are, and Mr. Scheffler stated 20 years. Commissioner Myers asked what the current vacancy rate is, and Mr. Scheffler stated there are about 14-15, and one year ago there was a waiting list for hangars.

2:00 p.m. Meeting with Jeanette Addington

The Board of Commissioners met with Financial Consultant Jeanette Addington to review the 2010 budget. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Staci Knisley, Ed Laramée, Morgan Day, Mary Beth Lane, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Knisley stated that she is still waiting for the Auditor's budget. Regarding Commissioner's allocations, Commissioner Shupe noted the Humane Society has submitted a request for an increase from \$7500 to \$10,000, but she would be comfortable keeping the allocation at \$7500 minus 9%. Commissioner Kiger stated he would be comfortable reducing the allocation to \$5,000. The Board agreed to make the allocation \$7500 minus 9%, and agreed to apply the same to the Visitor & Convention Bureau \$10,000 allocation.

Mr. Zody suggested the Board go through the list of allocations from top to bottom, and fund the ones that are mandated or contractual, and discuss the "optional" allocations and if there is agreement, fund them, and if there is disagreement, move those items to the "parking lot" for further discussion.

The Board agreed to provide their required allocations for the Lancaster Law Director contract, the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center contract and Agricultural Society, which is mandated by law.

The Board agreed to provide normal allocations, minus 9% for the Regional Planning Commission, Engineer, Soil & Water Conservation and Emergency Management.

Regarding the Historical Parks allocation, Commissioner Kiger stated that he believes the Board should reduce that allocation by \$100,000, as that was the understanding if the money was not available. Commissioner Shupe stated the Historical Parks generate revenue by bringing in visitors. Commissioner Myers stated that allocation requires more discussion.

Regarding the 33 Development Alliance allocation, Commissioner Shupe stated that was a 5-year commitment to provide \$30,000 per year, and this is only the second year. Commissioner Kiger stated it should be reduced, and Mr. Zody suggested if the Alliance is still considering helping to pay for the Economic Development Office's assistance, the allocation should not be reduced, and Commissioner Shupe stated the Alliance is not willing to do that. Mr. Zody stated that in that case, the Board would be justified in reducing the allocation 9%.

Regarding the Child Protective Services allocation, Commissioner Shupe stated the Board agreed to provide \$1.8 million, and Commissioner Kiger stated that JFS is requesting \$2.6 million in allocations, on top of the \$3.1 million in new revenue they will be receiving from the levy, which means JFS would be receiving 3 times it's normal allocation.

Mr. Zody noted that JFS was in line to receive \$2.2 million in allocations prior to the factoring in the \$500,000 levy advance and the JFS Budget Reduction Plan. He suggested the Board consider allocating \$2.2 million minus 9% as the 2010 allocation as a compromise.

Regarding the GIS allocation, Mr. Laramée stated that looking at the Auditor's Finance department, they cannot sustain a 9% GRF cut, but could reduce the GIS allocation in exchange. Commissioner Shupe asked if the GIS reduction would be equivalent to 9%, and Mr. Laramée stated it is what the Auditor can accommodate.

Regarding OSU Extension, Ms. Knisley stated they can accommodate 9% as they were expecting a 17% reduction. Mr. Laramée stated why not take the 17% if that is what they thought, and Commissioner Kiger stated a 17% reduction would have significant impacts on their operations.

Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Laramée if the Auditor would certify the \$2.8 million in sales tax revenue, and Mr. Laramée stated she would. Ms. Knisley asked if they would be permitted to appropriate and encumber that amount, and Mr. Laramée stated they would.

Ms. Addington provided the Board with projected revenue and expenditure projections for 2010-2014, noting that her revenue projections for 2009 are still in line with actuals.

Ms. Addington stated he projections assume ½% growth in revenue for 2010-2012, and 1% growth in 2013. She added that she has built in the added sales tax revenue for each of those years as well, but is assuming that Local Government Fund support from the state will continue to decline.

Ms. Addington strongly advised the Board to remain conservative in their projections for revenue for the next few years. Commissioner Kiger asked if the casino revenue was included in the projections, and Ms. Addington stated that she had not included any of that, since it is so uncertain. Mr. Zody noted that several legislators have already made statements about trading off casino revenue for reduction or elimination of the Local Government Fund, and Ms. Addington stated it would be best to assume no increase at this point.

Regarding spending, Ms. Addington stated she is focused on 2009/2010, and hopes to receive a little more returned appropriations than she planned, but believes the year-end cash balance should be in the \$6.1-6.5 million range, including encumbrances.

Ms. Addington stated for 2010, her goal is to keep spending down to \$33.07 million, but has already added in \$700,000 for “unknowns” including increasing the JFS allocation. The problem is, at that level of spending, the county cash carry over balance will continually decrease each year over the next 4 years and by 2014, the county will be in a deficit situation.

Commissioner Myers asked if these projections assume flat budgets, and Ms. Addington stated they do, and if the Commissioners wished to increase spending in one area, they would have to decrease spending in another area to compensate. Ms. Addington added that the problem is one of revenue with the state cuts and the economic downturn, as the Commissioners have done fairly well keeping spending in check.

Ms. Knisley noted that spending requests came in at \$35 million, and the Board needs to reduce that down to at least \$33.7 million, and she needs to get 2010 budget figures from the Auditor, Common Pleas Court, Board of Elections and Coroner. Commissioner Kiger stated if worse came to worse, they could all be reduced 9%. Commissioner Shupe agreed, stating that the Coroner is the only one that would likely require additional funding due to the increase in autopsies.

Commissioner Shupe asked what the projected carry over for 2010 would be, and Ms. Addington stated she is projecting a carry over of only \$5.078 million, or 15%. Mr. Laramee noted that still does not “balance” the budget, and Mr. Zody noted that is based upon spending \$33.7 million, not \$35 million, and Ms. Addington noted that also does not include encumbrances. Mr. Zody stated if a 15% carry over figure is followed, that leaves absolutely no wiggle room if additional revenue reductions or state cuts are made.

Commissioner Shupe stated the county can still make it, and Ms. Knisley stated that is also funding JFS at the \$2.3 million level. Mr. Zody noted that does not include the Sheriff’s request for a \$300,000 restoration nor does it include the \$100,000 request for Family, Adult & Children First.

Commissioner Shupe stated that funding levels for JFS have remained essentially flat since 2001, and Ms. Knisley noted that in 2000 JFS received a significant increase in funding, but that is never included in their historical figures.

Mr. Zody noted that funding needs for JFS have changed dramatically over the years as well – 8 years ago, Child Support Enforcement was driving the need to GRF \$\$, now it is Child Protective Services – the total funding level has remained the same, but funding priorities have changed, as have state and Federal funding sources and amounts. It is disingenuous to compare the numbers with other county agencies.

Mr. Dolin noted that the CPS question of what level of funding is adequate is a significant legal question – what is normal, and is a question that he would prefer not to answer. Commissioner Myers asked what is mandated and what is not, and Mr. Zody stated that depends who you talk to.

Commissioner Kiger stated the bottom line is JFS stands to receive twice as much funding in 2010 when the levy funding is included. Ms. Addington asked why, stating that it was her understanding that the levy would reduce the need for so much General Fund support.

Mr. Laramee stated initially that was suggested by JFS, and part of the reason for their requesting a \$500,000 advance in 2009 on anticipated levy receipts thereafter. Then the state made drastic cuts that no one expected, and it is now “Katie bar the door” with

respect to requesting GRF support. Mr. Laramee stated that JFS was planning to utilize the levy funding to expand/enhance services, and now is facing a situation of doing what it can just to maintain services.

Commissioner Shupe stated that numbers need to be plugged in a compared between agencies. Mr. Slater asked if Ms. Addington had included state revenue trends for JFS as well.

Commissioner Kiger stated the 85% of JFS funding is from state and Federal sources and Commissioner Shupe stated that just taking the Sheriff's Office for example, their funding has increased significantly over the years.

Mr. Zody noted that the Sheriff is almost 100% GRF funded, and it is not a fair comparison to JFS, who only receives 15% GRF. Ms. Knisley agreed, stating those two agency budget are not comparable.

Commissioner Shupe noted that there have been some changes to the Sheriff budget over the years, with some items such as vehicles sometimes being included in the Sheriff's budget and sometimes being included in the Commissioners budget.

Commissioner Shupe asked if everyone reduces their budget 9%, where would that put expenditures, and Ms. Knisley stated \$33.8 million. Commissioner Myers asked if that budgets every available dollar, and Ms. Knisley stated it does. Mr. Laramee asked if the "unknown" line item of \$700,000 assumes that is all going to JFS, and Ms. Knisley stated that is correct.

Commissioner Shupe noted the Board had approved a plan that forgave the \$500,000 advance and also committed to funding JFS at a higher level. Mr. Zody noted that does not account to the additional debt service payments the GRF had to assume for 2009 either.

Ms. Addington stated that the Board should take the JFS funding level down to at least \$2.3 million minus 9%, and Ms. Knisley noted she needs to get budget number from the 4 missing departments as well, and suggested the Commissioners contact those offices to request their assistance.

Commissioner Kiger asked what numbers the Board needs to reach to make Ms. Addington's goal, and Ms. Knisley stated it can be no more than \$33.8 million, and Mr. Laramee stated the Board needs to understand there will be no additional revenue to "find" – every penny will be spent.

Ms. Addington asked what base figure she needs to use for JFS - \$2.3 million or \$1.8 million?

Commissioner Shupe stated the issue would not have been such a problem if JFS had received levy funding starting in 2009 as originally planned, and Commissioner Kiger stated that is not accurate and he wanted to make it clear that Mr. Zody was not at fault for that, and asked Mr. Laramee to provide his insight.

Mr. Laramee stated that he understood that the original language was for the levy to be collected in 2010 and he raised the issue to Mr. Zody and believed the language could be changed, and Mr. Zody called Mr. Orlando while he was standing there and the understanding he received from the conversation was that it was not an issue, although he would have preferred to try to change the language.

Commissioner Shupe stated that regardless, she believes concessions should be made for that. Mr. Laramee stated he knows the conversations took place, and he would have thought that it would have been addressed.

Ms. Knisley asked if she and Ms. Addington should use the \$2.3 million figure, and Commissioner Myers stated he would like to review the JFS Budget Reduction Plan, and asked how much GRF has been provided to JFS in 2009, and Ms. Knisley stated approximately \$3.6 million or more.

Review, cont.

The Board discussed the County Economic Development Director position. Commissioner Shupe stated that this is a needed position that would help generate jobs and revenue and help the county bottom line. Commissioner Kiger stated he cannot support filling the position at this time due to the state of county finances.

Approval of Appointment of Shane Farnsworth, Economic Development Director – Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the appointment of Shane Farnsworth as Fairfield County Economic Development Director, see resolution 09-11-10.r

Commissioner Myers stated that this will be a revenue producing position and the county needs to not only create jobs but to fight to retain jobs as well, and he would hate to see any opportunities missed because the position was vacant.

Commissioner Kiger stated the Board just approved a sales tax increase due to the financial conditions of the county, and he cannot support filling the position at this time.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Commissioners have the responsibility to administer the TIRC and the RLF, and this position is vital to ensuring mandates are met for those programs. Commissioner Myers stated that this is an existing position, and if it were a new position he would not support filling it. Commissioner Shupe stated the viability of the 33 Development Alliance also hinges on the filling of the position.

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

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 3:00 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, NOVEMBER 17, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**