

**Regular Meeting #09-46
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 5, 2009**

8:30 a.m. Quarterly Elected Official and Department Head Roundtable Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met with County elected officials and department heads for the 4th quarter 2009 Roundtable meeting. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Absent was Jon Myers. Also present were Linda Kaufmann, Jon Kochis, Lisa McKenzie, Dave Burgei, Holly Mattei, Perry Orndorff, Aundrea Cordle, Sheriff Dave Phalen, Domestic Relations Judge Kathy Mowry, John Pekar, Engineer Frank Anderson, Clerk of Courts Deborah Smalley, Auditor Barbara Curtiss, Tony Vogel, Becky Edwards, Bruce Simon, Cheri Shaw, Jerry Perrigo, Michelle George, Treasurer Jon Slater and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe welcomed everyone to the meeting, and provided a brief update on the budget, stating that the Board had approved a ¼% increase in the county sales tax, but would still be looking at 9% reductions for 2010, depending upon the year-end cash balance. Commissioner Shupe stated she is hopeful that by 2011, things will begin to turnaround for the state and the county revenues and investments.

Ms. Cordle provided an update on county health benefits and the open enrollment process, stating that everyone must stress to their employees the need to complete the mandatory online enrollment process, as several employees discarded the notices they received at home.

Ms. Cordle stated that while the county insurance rates will increase for 2010, the increase will only be 6.1% compared to the industry trend of 11%, but some benefit changes will occur to help keep that number down. Franklin County has stated its goal is to limit any annual increase to no more than 8%.

Ms. Cordle noted the changes will become effective in the December 4 paycheck, as premiums are paid one month in advance, and the January 1st paycheck will not be effective until Monday January 4th, due to the holiday.

Ms. Cordle stated some of the changes involve emergency room co-payments, which will increase dramatically to \$150 if a patient is not admitted, but urgent care co-pay will decrease from \$30 to \$20. Doctor's office visits will increase from \$10 to \$15, and some drug co-pays changes will occur as well.

Ms. Cordle also stated that Franklin County is initiating a Dependent Eligibility Audit for all participants in the program to verify that all dependents receiving benefits are eligible.

Ms. Cordle reminded all that supplemental life insurance coverage is available at a very reasonable cost to employees, and some drug formulary changes are also in the process of occurring.

Mr. Anderson asked if voided checks still needed to be submitted for the Flex Spending program, and Ms. Cordle stated not if the employee is utilizing direct deposit. Mr. Kochis asked what the average wait is for a reimbursement under the Flex program, and Ms. Cordle stated usually a week.

Ms. Kaufmann stated there seems to be some concern from local dentists relative to the dental plan, and asked how that works, and Ms. Cordle stated each program is specific, and the dentists in the Lancaster are do not like having to choose a specific plan and reimbursement, so many choose not to sign up. Ms. Kaufmann asked about the sub-levels, and Ms. Cordle stated UHC has a contract to provide certain service levels, and that is the big stumbling block for many of the local dentists.

Commissioner Shupe thanked Ms. Cordle, and noted that the Board of Developmental Disabilities will be joining the county health insurance benefits pool in 2010.

Mr. Kochis provided an update on H1N1 flu, distributing a Guidance document for all offices and departments to consider following with respect to flu prevention and response.

Mr. Kochis noted that once absenteeism levels reach 40% of employees in an office, that office should take steps to implement Continuity of Operations Plans and curb face-to-face contact with the general public and to some extent between co-workers, and encourage employees to stay home if they are ill.

Mr. Kochis provided a copy of a public notice for offices to post at points of public contact, stating that he has brought a supply of surgical masks for offices to provide to members of the public that enter facilities exhibiting signs of illness.

Ms. Curtiss asked what they should do in the case of an employee who is ill but is out of sick leave and wants to come to work, and Ms. Cordle stated that situation should be handled the same as it is any other time an employee is out of leave – either have them take vacation leave or have them take unpaid leave.

Ms. Smalley suggested leaving masks at the Hall of Justice entrance for the deputy to pass out before ill persons could enter the building and circulate. Mr. Simons stated his only concern would be that the masks might be overused by persons who were not ill, and Ms. Smalley stated that would be up to the Deputy's discretion. Mr. Zody noted the Hall of Justice and JFS buildings would see the most public traffic.

Ms. Curtiss noted the Hall of Justice needs the masks, and when the courts are in session, there are all sorts of people roaming the hallways. Mr. Kochis noted that a 75% absenteeism level is considered very attainable at this point by the CDC, and Ms. Smalley noted there could be issues with probationer who are ill believing they have to report, ill or not, and spreading sickness. Mr. Kochis stated that from what he has seen the public is for the most part trying to take precautions and not needlessly expose themselves, sick or not.

Sheriff Phalen reported that the county's first Opiate Summit will be held this evening at the Fairfield Medical Center, and encouraged everyone to attend and be educated on the heroin epidemic that is occurring in the county. In addition, there is a Freedom is Never Free event that will be taking place at the county airport on November 11th from 2-6 p.m. Sheriff Phalen noted that he is very concerned relative to the flu and the jail facilities, and they are taking every precaution to limit exposures.

Commissioner Shupe noted that Tom Moe, a local resident, will be inducted into the Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame tomorrow afternoon, and the Commissioners will be presenting Mr. Moe with a Proclamation of Recognition at their Regular Meeting next Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., and invited all to stop by and congratulate Mr. Moe.

Judge Mowry reported that the Domestic Relations Court opened or re-opened 1100 cases this year, and has closed 1054.

Mr. Pekar thanked the Commissioners for allowing BDD to access the county health and life insurance benefits consortium.

Mr. Anderson stated that most road projects are completed and winding down with the exception of three bridge replacement projects that are ongoing, and two of those are on schedule.

Mr. Anderson also provided an update on the condition of Paul Stolte, an employee of the Engineer who has suffered some severe health issues. Mr. Anderson noted his recovery continues, but it may be this summer before he is able to return to work, and

the employees are holding some fundraising events to assist Mr. Stolte with his bills. Ms. Curtiss asked if Mr. Stolte was out of sick leave, and Mr Anderson stated the biggest problem is that Mr. Stolte has not been a county employee for five years, and as such, does not qualify for disability benefits.

Ms. Smalley reported that the 4th floor renovation project has been completed and all of the Clerk's records are now organized and the Domestic Relations Court has moved up to the 4th floor as well. The Pickerington Office now has roadside signage to assist with visibility, and her office is working on a newsletter to send to area auto dealers.

Mr. Slater reported that his office is ramping up for end of the year activities and stated that some folks may have noticed the new cashiering stations being set up in certain offices. The stations should start going live in January.

Mr. Kochis stated he is preparing for the first Open Clinic for H1N1 this Saturday. Over 300 volunteers have been trained to assist. Ms. Curtiss asked if seasonal flu vaccine was still available, and Mr. Kochis stated the supplies have been depleted, and the government is asking the manufacturers to focus on producing H1N1 vaccine for now. Commissioner Shupe asked where the clinic would be held, and Mr. Kochis stated the River Valley Mall from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Curtiss asked if both the shot and nasal vaccine would be distributed, and Mr. Kochis stated they will have supplies of both.

Mr. Zody asked if the vaccine would still be distributed at schools in the county, and Mr. Kochis stated as far as he know, but the process has been delayed again. Mr. Zody stated his son had brought home a note from his school stating the vaccinations had been cancelled, and Mr. Kochis stated they had been postponed, not cancelled.

Ms. McKenzie stated the Recorder's Office is seeing fairly consistent business in line with 2008, which isn't great, but at least it is not down. Ms. Curtiss noted that the number of properties being transferred is about the same, but the values are down.

Ms. Mattei stated that RPC recently approved an update to the Thoroughfare Plan by including the proposed reconfiguration of Election House Road, and their office assisted Greenfield Township with drafting zoning regulations related to wind turbines. Lot splits remain low, but has been helped by some school and commercial activities.

Mr. Orndorff reported that he has been working on several drainage issues utilizing GPS equipment purchased in cooperation with the Utilities Department to identify some road drainage issues, and the Human Resources office has been assisting him to develop a policy to implement a 10-day mandatory furlough for 2010.

Ms. Cordle stated that Job & Family Services continues to experience long lines and delays in serving customers, and Governor Strickland recently approve an Executive Order declaring November "Hire a Veteran" month and is asking all counties to adopt similar measures.

Ms. Cordle reported that CORSA is looking at loss control efforts to improve ratings, and Fairfield County passed a recent CORSA audit and scored well enough to receive a discount, thanks to Jay Shepherd.

Ms. Cordle stated there is a Family & Medical Leave Act and Unlawful Harassment training that will be held the morning of November 20th, and encouraged offices to send representatives.

Mr. Vogel reported that he is continues to work on designs for a Northeast Lancaster treatment facility and new Utilities Office near Lockville, and the Village of Carroll is now tied in to the county sewer. Mr. Vogel stated he is working with the Health Department on stimulus grants to help private homes replace old septic systems, and Community

Action is providing the required 25% match for the homeowner, so if anyone knows of someone who is 200% of the poverty level or lower, they could qualify for the program.

Mr. Vogel asked Mr. Kochis what the status of the reverse 9-1-1 system was, and Mr. Kochis stated the Homeland Security Committee will meet on December 9th to discuss three possible vendors.

Ms. Shaw reported that Juvenile/Probate Court is in the process of moving into the newly vacated 3rd floor space and Findlay College will be conducting a training class on school terrorism incidents November 25th at the Alternative School, 320 East Locust Street, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, November 5, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Absent was Jon Myers. Also present were Carrie Woody and Scott Zody.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday, November 3, 2009

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

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

Approval of request for payment and status of funds report – FY2008 OHTF Funds – Drawdown #201

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a request for payment and status of funds report – FY2008 OHTF Funds – drawdown 201, see resolution 09-11.05.a

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

Approval of a new Grant Fund for the Emergency Management Agency for Special Revenue – EMPG Special Projects Fund – FY2009

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a new Grant Fund for the Emergency Management Agency for Special Revenue – EMPG Special Projects Fund – FY2009, see resolution 09-11.05.b

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

- 09-11.05.c Approval of a Fund to Fund Transfer – 7110 Undivided Tangible Tax to 7108 Undivided General
- 09-11.05.d Approval of Account to Account Transfer – General Fund #1001 - Commissioners
- 09-11.05.e Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Domestic Relations Court
- 09-11.05.f Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Probation Services Fund

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

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met to review legal issues, correspondence, and pending and future action items. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Absent was Jon Myers. Also present were Carrie Woody and Scott Zody.

Ms. Woody stated she was present to provide additional background information relative to the proposed continuation of an expanded service area initiated by Lancaster Public Transit (LPT) in 2007, and to brief the Board on a proposal to expand service to the Violet Township/Pickerington area.

Ms. Woody stated that approximately one year ago, the City approached the Commissioners with a request for \$150,000 to help balance the LPT budget, which was severely in debt. Ms. Woody stated that shortly after she started with LPT several months ago, she began investigating the contract held with MV Transport, who supplies the drivers for LPT, and discovered that Lancaster was paying more than \$200,000 per year more than other cities of similar size for transport services with MV Transport, and she is in the process of aggressively negotiating a new agreement for 2010, and plans to put the entire process up for competitive bid in 2011. Regardless, LPT is currently solvent and she expects to reduce costs with MV Transport significantly in 2010.

Ms. Woody stated she is in the process of meeting with stakeholders to discuss services on a countywide basis and implement the countywide human services transportation plan that was adopted in 2007. Recently, she met with Violet Township, Pickerington, and the Board of Developmental Disabilities and all have pledged financial support to expand services to the area as of 1/1/10. Ms. Woody stated that she expects to receive a funding cut in her stated subsidy from ODOT, and requested the Commissioners provide \$10,000 in 2010 to continue the expanded service area around Lancaster and implement the new expansion for Violet Township/Pickerington. Ms. Woody noted that rides have doubled for LPT this year to nearly 300 per day, and she has reconfigured routes and drivers to increase efficiency and the number of riders per bus.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the county is feeling the financial hardship of the economy and massive state budget cuts, and is reducing spending across the board, and asked Ms. Woody if \$9,000 would be sufficient, which would be reflective of the 9% cut all county agencies are being asked to make. Ms. Woody stated any support from the Commissioners would be appreciated and helpful, and stated she is also trying to obtain some funding support through Worknet, but that may be limited to advertising assistance. Ms. Woody stated she is also working with Sherry Orlando and United Way on a grant and is approaching some area employers for assistance to provide rides for their employees.

Commissioner Kiger asked how the Job & Family Services contracts are accounted in her budget, and Ms. Woody stated they are under her contract revenue, and JFS has agreed to provide up to \$125,000 for their client rides this year. Commissioner Shupe stated she does not dispute the funds would be put to good use, but the challenge for the Commissioners is finding the funds in the budget.

Ms. Woody stated that she believes LPT is improving its standing and if she can address the MV Transport issues, she believes LPT will be in very good financial standing.

Ms. Woody extended an invitation to the Board to attend a Public Transportation Focus Group meeting on November 13th, stating she would forward the details to Mr. Zody. Commissioner Shupe suggested approaching the townships around the county for some additional support, and Commissioner Kiger suggested contacted the various fraternal organizations as well, such as Rotary. Ms. Woody stated she has approached Kiwanis, and would be happy to contact others.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Scott Zody, Clerk/Manager

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