

**Regular Meeting #08-44
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
October 21, 2008**

9:00 a.m. Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 beginning at 9:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Mary Jane Gard, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody announced there would be one possible add-on resolution relative to a CDBG bid rejection request from the Violet Township Engineer. The resolution would be discussed during the Board's Review Session.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, October 14, 2008

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the meeting minutes for Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Board of Commissioners allocation to the Pickerington Senior Citizens - 2008

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an allocation to the Pickerington Senior Citizens, see resolution 08-10.21.a

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Request for payment and status of funds report – FY2007 CDBG Formula Program – Drawdown #176

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a request for payment and status of funds report for the FY2007 CDBG Formula Program, Drawdown #176, see resolution 08-10.21.b

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a contract amendment by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services and Fairfield Information Services & Associates

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a contract amendment by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services and Fairfield Information Services & Associates, see resolution 08-10.21.c

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of grant agreement for FY2008 Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Trust Fund Community Housing Improvement Program - Commissioners

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a grant agreement for FY2008 Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Trust Fund Community Housing Improvement Program, see resolution 08-10.21.d

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

Approval of grant agreement for FY2008 Home Investment Partnerships Program Community Housing Improvement Program

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a grant agreement for FY2008 Home Investment Partnerships Program Community Housing Improvement Program, see resolution 08-10.21.e

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

Approval of grant agreement for FY2008 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program – Community Housing Improvement Program

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a grant agreement for FY2008 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program – Community Housing Improvement Program, see resolution 08-10.21.f

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

Approval of Engineers Resolutions

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for the Engineer's Office as follows:

- 08-10.21.g Ratification of previous authorization by the Board of Commissioners - approval of emergency closure of the GRE-21 Bridge (Campground Road) - Engineer

- 08-10.21.h Approval of establishing, altering, and widening of Crumley Road, Hocking Township, Fairfield County, Ohio declaration of necessity and setting a Commissioner viewing date of November 18, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. and a final hearing date of November 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. - Engineer

- 08-10.21.i Approval of establishing, altering, and widening of Mt. Zwingli Road and Pleasantview Road, Rushcreek Township, Fairfield County, Ohio declaration of necessity and setting a Commissioner viewing date of November 25, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. and a final hearing date of November 25, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. – Engineer

- 08-10.21.j Approval of establishing, altering, and widening of Pleasantville Road, Greenfield Township, Fairfield County, Ohio declaration of necessity and setting a Commissioner viewing date of December 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. and a final hearing date of December 9, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. - Engineer

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

Approval of the Quarterly Report for the 2008 OCJS Grant Award for the Major Crimes Unit

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners

voted to approve a quarterly report for the 2008 OCJS Grant Award for the Major Crimes Unit, see resolution 08-10.21.k

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

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| 08-10.21.l | Approval of Memo Expenditure – Job & Family Services |
| 08-10.21.m | Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Prosecutor/Victims Assistance |
| 08-10.21.n | Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Commissioners/Human Resources |
| 08-10.21.o | Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Data Processing |
| 08-10.21.p | Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Maintenance |
| 08-10.21.q | Approval to Account to Account Transfer - Commissioners |
| 08-10.21.r | Approval to Account to Account Transfer – Sewer Fund |
| 08-10.21.s | Approval to Account to Account Transfer – Job & Family Services |
| 08-10.21.t | Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Engineer |
| 08-10.21.u | Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Auditor |
| 08-10.21.v | Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Engineer |
| 08-10.21.w | Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Commissioners |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Payment of Bills

On the motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills, October 21, 2008, check date October 24, 2008, see resolution 08-10.07.x

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:20 a.m. to review correspondence, legal issues, and pending and future action items. Commissioners present included Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Mary jane Gard, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Kiger stated that Mayor Smith was coming in this morning to meet with the Board to discuss his concerns relative to the future of Lancaster Public Transit. Ms. Gard stated the main concern is that Job & Family Services is no longer utilizing LPT for Medicaid patients, and they also lost a lot of business when Fairfield Medical Center completed its parking facility.

Commissioner Shupe stated that JFS Director Michael Orlando had met with LPT and the Mayor and was trying to explore some ways to help.

Mr. Zody provided an explanation of the Violet Township Engineer's request to reject all bids on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) due to an error in the original bid specification by the township.

Approval of Rejection of bids – CDBG FY2007 Fairfield County, Violet Township CDBG Multi-Path Project

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a rejection of bids for the CDBG FY2007 Fairfield County, Violet Township CDBG Multi-Path Project, see resolution 08-10.21.y

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review, cont.

Commissioner Kiger provided the Board with information relative to the Meals on Wheels programs efforts to work with the Pickerington Seniors, providing a letter from 2005 in which the MOW specifically provided \$1500 for the group to hire and train a grants coordinator so the group could pursue outside grant funding. Commissioner Kiger stated that, according MOW, the Pickerington Seniors never followed through and applied for any outside grants, and as a result, MOW had to reduce the grant funding they provide to Pickerington.

The Board discussed a proposal from Jay Shepherd in the Human Resources Office to redirect annual Bureau of Workers' Compensation premium refunds into a special revenue account and utilize the funding for safety training and equipment. Mr. Zody stated that according to Mr. Shepherd, the county currently receives a 2% refund (about \$10,000) each year, and if these safety measures are implemented, the county could potentially receive an additional 2% refund. The Board directed Mr. Zody to schedule a meeting involving Mr. Shepherd, Aunie Cordle, and Joe Spybey to discuss further.

11:00 a.m. Meeting with Mayor Dave Smith

The Board of Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. with Lancaster Mayor Dave Smith to discuss the future of the Lancaster Public Transit System (LPT). Commissioners present included Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mayor Smith stated that it has recently come to his attention that LPT is having issues with projected funding revenues for 2009, and discovered this when LPT filed a recent report with ODOT at the end of September. Last night, the issue was discussed extensively at Lancaster City Council, and there is grave concern over the future viability of the system.

Mayor Smith stated that there are two main components of LPT, the General Public ridership and the Contract Services ridership. It is the Contract piece that is in need, mainly due to the loss of business from the County Job & Family Service Agency (JFS).

The General Public can receive a \$1 one-way ride by calling ahead 24 hours, and the Commissioner's provided a \$10,000 grant to help expand the service area for the city earlier in the year. That has provided some relief, but the JFS Contract activity is down significantly from the previous year.

Mayor Smith Stated that the city is partly to blame for the situation, because the contract they put out was fairly restrictive in nature, due in part to ODOT regulations and rules of operation that LPT must follow but private vendors do not have to follow. The rules have resulted in reduced weekend hours and service areas, and put LPT at a competitive disadvantage. This resulted in LPT being unable to serve JFS client needs in some areas. In addition, Mayor Smith acknowledged there are relational difficulties between some of the LPT and JFS staff that have contributed to the problem.

The questions Mayor Smith now faces are can LPT survive, and how can it be saved. Mayor Smith stated that the system needs \$140,000 in order to meet it's obligations and provide the proper services to regain riders to keep it solvent.

Mayor Smith met with Michael Orlando and Laura Holton from JFS and stated that JFS is willing to help out in some ways, but cannot provide all of the necessary funding needed. Mayor Smith asked if the Board would consider helping LPT expand into a countywide system to provide a greater market and serve the needs of the northwest part of the county as well as several villages that have requested service.

Commissioner Shupe asked what ODOT rules are restricting LPT, and Mayor Smith stated that there are very strict rules relative to waiting time for vans, and requiring "extra" passengers be charged (i.e., a single mother needs a ride to the doctor, but has to bring her children along – LPT must charge for the children, where a private vendor can waive that). Mayor Smith stated the vans are only permitted to wait for 5 minutes, and he believes that is far too restrictive, especially when dealing with older clients or persons with medical or physical disabilities.

Commissioner Kiger agreed, stating that he had difficulty with that when he had to utilize LPT after an automobile accident a few years ago. Mayor Smith stated he wants to explore any opportunities to expand services outside of Lancaster.

Commissioner Myers asked if all the other vendors in the county were private, and Mayor Smith stated they were – the largest is the Fun Bus out of Perry County.

Commissioner Myers stated that Mr. Orlando informed the Board that the main issue for JFS is cost and operating efficiency. Mayor Smith agreed that cost is a driving factor, especially with the new contract, but he would like to try to redo the contract and insert some flexibility into the system.

Commissioner Myers asked if ODOT subsidized all riders on the system, and Mayor Smith stated that he was not sure. Commissioner Myers asked if it would be possible to negotiate a flat rate for JFS clients, and Mayor Smith stated the ODOT rules do not allow for that.

Commissioner Myers asked if the demand was there for expanding services countywide, and Mayor Smith stated they have received inquiries from Amanda, Baltimore, and Pickerington interested in receiving service, as well as individual contacts from folks living in other areas. Mayor Smith stated that such an expansion could have a huge impact for LPT, but the window is closing.

Commissioner Myers asked what happens if LPT goes away, and Mayor Smith stated the biggest impact would be the public being hurt – costs for individual riders would go from \$1-2 to over \$10 for a private vendor.

Commissioner Myers asked if the \$140,000 figure was a total amount needed, or just what the Mayor would request from the Board, and Mayor Smith stated the amount was a total amount needed for the system, and he would be happy if the Board and JFS could find a way to provide the funding.

Commissioner Myers asked if the system was working OK until the most recent contract, and Mayor Smith stated that it correct, and the new contract had to reflect ODOT's rules and that has impacted service.

Commissioner Myers asked how many vehicles LPT has, and Mayor Smith stated the system has 8-12 vans it uses, but ODOT will likely start taking some of those vehicles away unless the ridership increases.

Commissioner Shupe asked if LPT could do a countywide system without the additional \$140,000, and Mayor Smith stated it would be very unlikely. Commissioner Myers

asked if the \$140,000 would be an annual request, and Mayor Smith stated that it would.

Commissioner Myers asked if a meeting with all the interested parties would be helpful, and Mayor Smith stated that would like to meet with JFS one more time before taking that step. JFS can help with Medicare clients, but not enough to make the jump to a countywide system possible.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Scott A. Zody, Clerk/Manager

THE NEXT COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M.