

Regular Meeting #08-17
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
April 29, 2008

9:00 a.m. Meeting with Michael Orlando

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with Job & Family Services Director Michael Orlando for a quarterly update. Commissioners present were Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Orlando informed the Board that the levy committee was finalizing its outstanding campaign bills and is in the process of shutting down operations and will be converting into a foundation to provide a mechanism to raise funds to set aside for future renewal campaigns. Commissioner Myers asked how the foundation would work, and Mr. Orlando stated the foundation could raise funds that could be set aside for future renewal campaigns or donate to private non-profit support organizations such as the Child Advocacy Center.

Mr. Orlando provided an update on the pending Ohio Department of Job & Family Services sub-grant agreement. ODJFS wants to get out of being the middleman between the Federal government and local governments, and the agreement will help define those lines, but most counties are still opposed to doing so. Commissioner Myers asked if it would be better to have one less step in the process, and Mr. Orlando stated that normally that is true, but since the state has more influence with the Federal government than a collection of individual counties, they fear a loss of leverage. Mr. Orlando stated that he should have the agreement for the Board's approval at the next Regular Meeting.

Mr. Orlando reported that he had participated in a field trip with several local public and private human service agencies to Pickerington to explore available office space and opportunities to share space to open a Northwest satellite office. Mr. Orlando stated that approximately 40% of JFS customers live in that region of the county, and there is a need to better serve them. He would like to find a suitable space and have an office opened by the end of 2008. Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like to be involved in that process. Mr. Orlando stated that New Horizons is interested in building somewhere along Diley Road, but the rental costs would be very expensive.

Mr. Orlando stated that poverty levels continue to be a problem in Fairfield County, and JFS is seeing an increase in the number of "working poor" that are seeking assistance. Commissioner Shupe asked if people are exhausting their resources, and Mr. Orlando stated that TANF reserves at the state level have been depleted, and all human service funds are facing cutbacks. Commissioner Shupe stated that rising fuel costs will only make the situation worse.

Regarding budgetary matters, Mr. Orlando presented a plan to request approximately \$700,000 additional General Fund assistance in FY2009 that would be "paid back" by offsetting the JFS GRF allocation in 2010, when the levy funding begins to become available. This would allow Mr. Orlando to begin implementing some of the improvements promised to the voters during the levy campaign. The \$700,000 would be split - \$262,000 to replace a grant for Adult Protective Services that is expiring, the remainder would be for Child Protective Services to begin increasing investigations and intervention.

Mr. Orlando stated that the costs of caring for troubled youth are becoming very expensive – citing the youth who stole the rental truck and crashed it, causing the deaths of two people. His case alone is costing JFS 10's of 1,000's of dollars. Mr. Orlando stated that he would have preferred that that particular juvenile have been placed in the Juvenile Court's custody, rather than foster care, so the court could receive Federal reimbursement funding. Commissioner Shupe stated that she would

advise Mr. Orlando to ask for the \$700,000 in additional funds, then see if there are any other needs out there.

Mr. Orlando stated that his foster care stipend is long overdue for an increase. It is currently only \$15 per day per child, and needs to go up to at least \$20. Commissioner Shupe stated that she is very concerned about foster child networks – each school year, Amanda picks up 20-30 foster kids through networks.

Mr. Orlando stated that the Sojourners Youthbuild is seriously considering relocating its operation to Fairfield County – in fact, he has seen flyers in area restaurants recruiting for foster parents for the Sojourners network. Mr. Orlando stated that he is concerned that this will lead to a loss of foster parents in his program, and the Juvenile Court may start remanding children directly to Sojourners for placement, rather than leaving that decision with JFS/Child Protective Services.

Mr. Orlando reported that Fairfield County has been recognized for having the most improved error rate for food stamp certification, and will be receiving an award in Indianapolis soon.

Mr. Orlando reported that the state (ODJFS) is threatening to turn the county over to the Attorney General's Office for collection relative to an error the state made in over-funding Public Assistance about four years ago. Mr. Orlando stated he should find out this week if the threat is carried out.

Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Orlando about the upcoming dinner theater event, and Mr. Orlando explained the event is put on by JFS employees as a way to thank county foster parents and is a dinner and mystery theater show.

9:30 a.m. Meeting with Frank Anderson

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:30 a.m. with Fairfield County Engineer Frank Anderson to discuss a bridge replacement project. Commissioners present were Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Paul Stolte, Jeff Baird, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Anderson explained that a bridge on the road to a local privately operated landfill is in need of replacement, as the structure is too narrow to allow safe passage of the garbage trucks and is constantly being hit and repaired. Because the project involves trash disposal, Mr. Anderson would like to explore submitting a grant with the local Solid Waste District to apply for funding assistance. Mr. Anderson stated he would like to obtain \$20,000 to obtain a survey of the property and also fix some site distance problems at a nearby intersection that is heavily impacted by the truck traffic.

Commissioner Myers asked Mr. Anderson to clarify his request regarding the survey, and Mr. Baird stated that the funding would be used to hire a third-party surveyor who could accomplish the work more quickly. Commissioner Shupe asked if there had been any contact made with Carol Phillips of the Solid Waste District, as this would be an unusual request. Mr. Stolte stated the engineer's office has been working with Ms. Phillips on the details of a grant application. Commissioner Myers asked about the total cost of the project, which is \$750,000, and where the Engineer would obtain the funding. Mr. Baird stated they are applying for Ohio Public Works Commission funding for the bulk of the project.

Commissioner Myers asked if the project would alleviate the issues with the truck traffic, and Mr. Baird stated that the bridge would be wider, so trucks would not hit it, and the trucks would be able to stay in their own lane and not pose a danger to other vehicles traveling the road.

Mr. Baird explained that the Engineer's Office would prepare the design and construction plans in-house, and Mr. Anderson stated the bridge needs to be replaced

soon. Commissioner Myers asked if the landfill manager had any concerns with the project, and Commissioner Shupe stated that the landfill has provided some funding to assist with roadway maintenance costs in the past.

Commissioner Myers asked the Board if they were comfortable with the proposal, and Commissioner Shupe stated that if the Solid Waste District recommends funding the project, she would support it. Commissioner Shupe suggested Mr. Anderson submit the request soon so it could be considered at the next meeting of the District Board on May 23rd.

Commissioner Myers stated that he understands that the Engineer is responsible for bridge replacement and maintenance inside city limits, but were they also responsible for culverts, and Mr. Baird stated that the Engineer is not responsible for culverts, only bridges.

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:45 a.m. to review correspondence, pending items, and future action items. Commissioners present at the review session were Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Present also were Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Dolin provided a brief update on some pending legal issues he is working on, specifically an opinion relative to non-public utility use of county road rights-of-way, such as cable companies. Mr. Dolin stated that Time Warner is fighting the county on the issue, and he does not believe the county can require a cable company to obtain permission from the landowner prior to installing lines and equipment in the right-of-way.

Mr. Dolin stated that the Engineer would be happy to be rid of the process, which has been in place since the late 1990's from the Marathon pipeline installation. Mr. Dolin also stated that the county may be in a position to receive franchising fees from the cable companies, similar to those that the City of Lancaster receives. Mr. Dolin is researching that possibility.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to send another letter to Frank Hirsch, Director of the Health Department, relative to the repayment of a \$70,000 loan that was given to his agency and should have been repaid in 2007.

Commissioner Myers agreed to serve on a committee relative to the creation of a Medical Reserve Corps in Fairfield County to respond to emergencies and disasters.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 29, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Tony Vogel, Kellie Ailes, George Hallarn, Donna Fox-Moore, Jason Dolin, and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody announced there would be one add-on resolution, involving the establishment of a viewing and hearing for a road vacation.

Public Comment

George Hallarn spoke, expressing concern relative to the county airport requesting mowing assistance from the Engineer's Office and the Engineer refusing to help. Commissioner Kiger stated that if the area in question is not within any county road right-of-way, then the Engineer can't help. Commissioner Shupe asked where the ditches were located that the airport is trying to mow, and Mr. Hallarn stated that he believes the ditches are on the airport property, not the roads.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday April 22, 2008

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday April 22, 2008.

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

Approval of Proclamation of Recognition for National Day of Prayer

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Proclamation of Recognition for the National Day of Prayer, see resolution 08-04.29.a

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

Approval of authorization to adopt the FY2008 CHIP Grant Application to the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Housing & Community Partnerships for the Program Year 2008

On motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization to adopt the FY2008 CHIP grant application to the Ohio Department of Development, see resolution 08-04.29.b

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

Approval of Engineering Services for the Design of a new Wastewater Reclamation Facility

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Engineering Services for the Design of a new Wastewater Reclamation Facility, see resolution 08-04.29.c

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 the motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Quarterly Report for the 2008 OCJS Grant Award for the Major Crimes Unit, see resolution 08-04.29.d

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

Approval of Utilities Resolutions

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

08-04.29.e Approval of Amended Certificate and Update Receipt Line Item in BR-Sewer Consolidation Bond 2003 Fund - Utilities

08-04.29.f Approval of Lowering Appropriations within Utilities Fund

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

- 08-04.29.g Approval of Payment of a Voucher Without Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order – Job & Family Services
- 08-04.29.h Approval of Payment of a Voucher Without Appropriate Carryover Purchase Order – Job & Family Services
- 08-04.29.i Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer – Motor Vehicle Fund
- 08-04.29.j Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer - Insurance
- 08-04.29.k Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer - Historical Parks
- 08-04.29.l Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer – Auditor
- 08-04.29.m Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Clerk of Courts
- 08-04.29.n Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Job & Family Services
- 08-04.29.o Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Probation Services Fund
- 08-04.29.p Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Probation Services Fund
- 08-04.29.q Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Insurance

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

Payment of Bills

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills, April 29, 2008, check date May 2, 2008, see resolution 08-04.29.r.

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

Approval of Petition to Vacate a Part of a Public Road, Champlain Drive in Pleasant Township

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the petition to vacate a portion of a public road, Champlain Drive in Pleasant Township, and to set a viewing a hearing on the proposal, see resolution 08-04.29.s

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

Review Session, cont.

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 Jon

Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Present also were Tony Vogel, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to conduct a 6-month evaluation of Mail Clerk Theresa Haynes and provide a recommendation back to the Board.

Commissioner Kiger reported that he has been in contact with Betty Greves relative to the flooding problems along Mt. Zion Road, and she has been unable to obtain any assistance to help alleviate the problem.

The Board directed Mr. Zody to prepare thank you letters for the Delaware and Richland County representatives that participated in the public safety facility tours the previous day.

Meeting with Tony Vogel

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:30 with Utilities Director Tony Vogel to discuss several items of concern. Commissioners present were Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, and Mike Kiger. Present also were Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Vogel presented some research results to answer several questions the Board had asked relative to issuing county credit cards for the Utilities Department and the EMA. Mr. Vogel reported that the Auditor's Office, Juvenile Court, and the Soil & Water Conservation District Office all have cards, with credit limits of \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$2,500, respectively. Mr. Vogel had been unable to obtain any policy governing the issuance or use of the cards, but is supposed to be receiving a copy of the Auditor's Office policy.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the Auditor's Office is supposed to keep all policies, so whatever the have should be applicable to all or could be used by all county offices.

Commissioner Kiger stated that one item that needs to be clear in any policy is that any rewards or points cannot be used by any employee for personal items or gain. Commissioner Myers suggested sending a letter to the Auditor requesting a copy of the policy and what the policy entails, and Mr. Vogel stated that he expected to obtain a copy of the policy very soon.

Commissioner Kiger asked if the Sheriff's Office had any credit cards, and Mr. Vogel stated that the Sheriff's Office indicated that they did not have any cards.

Mr. Vogel briefed the Board on a proposed recreational trail that Columbus and Franklin Metroparks wishes to construct adjacent to the Tussing Road Water Treatment Plant. Metroparks is proposing to build the trail under the Blacklick Creek bridge at I-70 and run the trail next to the stream past the plant. Commissioner Myers asked if there were any legal ramifications to the proposal, and Mr. Vogel stated the parks wanted to develop an agreement that would address those issues. Mr. Dolin stated that an agreement would be required to spell out all the legal issues, as well as the easement for the trail and determination of maintenance and law enforcement needs.

Commissioner Myers asked how close to the plant would the trail be, and Mr. Vogel said at one point the trail would be 40 feet from the plant, but believes the trail would be manageable.

Mr. Vogel inquired if the Board had made a decision about the allocation of interest earnings from his fund and how they would be split between his funds and the General Fund. Currently, Mr. Vogel retains all of his interest earnings, but pays a portion of the Maximus statement costs each year. Ms. Knisley stated that she only receives reports on a portion of the Utilities revenues, but does not receive all the reports. Mr. Vogel stated that he would check with the Treasurer's Office and obtain a full report.

Commissioner Myers suggested checking with the Auditor's Office to ensure there are no arbitrage or other accounting issues.

Mr. Vogel provided the Board with an update on his water storage tanks, following the recent news story that alleged problems with some Central Ohio community tanks. While none of the County Utilities tanks were a subject of the story, Mr. Vogel is proceeding to have checks run on his tanks so if a question arises, they can respond to media or public inquiries. Mr. Vogel stated that he is in the process of securing a maintenance agreement with a company to periodically inspect and clean the tanks.

11:00 Meeting with Brooks Davis

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:30 with Regional Planning Director Brooks Davis to discuss applications for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). Commissioners present were Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, and Mike Kiger. Present also were James Mako, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Davis provided an overview and list of communities that applied for grants, along with several potential funding scenarios based upon need, quality of the project, and recent funding history.

Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like to be able to try to provide some funding for Tarlton to assist low and moderate income households with soon to be assessed hookup charges via the new sewer system that is currently being constructed. Mr. Davis stated that would be consistent with the assistance that was provided to Stoutsville in the past. Commissioner Kiger stated that if that were to be the case, there needed to be assurances that the funding would only be provided to Fairfield County residents.

Relative to a request for funding from the Olivedale Senior Center, Commissioner Shupe stated that she has heard from several senior citizens that they would like to see Olivedale receive some assistance, and they are upset that none of the Older Adult Services levy funding is put into that facility through the Meals-on-Wheels Program. Commissioner Myers asked where the levy funds could be reduced elsewhere in order to provide funding for Olivedale, and stated that the levy funding can only go so far. Commissioner Kiger stated that this has been a topic of discussion at the MOW Advisory Board meetings, and they are struggling to find an answer as well.

Commissioner Myers asked about the request from the Walnut Creek Sewer District, and Mr. Davis stated that the District is under OEPA findings and orders to conduct some significant repairs and upgrades to its system.

Mr. Davis stated there is also a request from the Village of Baltimore to extend/upgrade a water line that would serve mostly resident, but would also potentially fund some development facilities as well.

Commissioner Shupe asked if there were any repeat applicants from past years that did not receive funding, and Mr. Davis stated that the Pickerington, Olivedale, and Clear Creek Township requests were all repeat applicants.

Mr. Davis said there were some projects that were depending on other sources of funds, such as Public Works grants, in order to move forward. The Board directed Mr. Davis to conduct some additional research into those projects, and agreed to meet again the following week to discuss.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Judith Shupe and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon Myers
Commissioner

Judith Shupe
Commissioner

Scott A. Zody, Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED TUESDAY
MAY 6, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M.**