

**Regular Meeting #08-30  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
July 29, 2008**

**9:00 a.m.- Meeting with Frank Hirsch, Health Department Loan**

The Board of Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. with Frank Hirsch, County Health Director, to discuss an outstanding loan made to the Department from the Board of Commissioners. Commissioners present included Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Larry Hanna, Paul Martin, Bob Cottrill and Scott Zody.

Mr. Hirsch provided an overview of the Department of Health budget, stating that in each of the last four years, a problem has arisen which has prevented the department from repaying any of the outstanding loan, such as the loss of tobacco funding.

The loan was originally provided to help the Department pay off approximately \$70,000 in nonreimbursable costs associated with a Federal 319 grant for the Clear Creek watershed.

Mr. Hirsch stated that his preference would be for the Board to forgive the loan. Mr. Martin stated that no payments have been made, and the Department had intended to utilize some of the revenue from the proposed Groundwater Protection Program to help pay off the loan, but since the GWPP has been tabled, that is not an option.

Mr. Hirsch stated that this concept had been discussed a few years ago with the District Advisory Council and at the time, it was believed that the GWPP would work. Mr. Martin stated that the Board is still exploring a 3-5 year inspection program, and believes that the state Department of Health will require Operation & Maintenance plans for all home sewage systems by 2014.

Commissioner Shupe asked what result will come out of the August 11 DAC meeting, and Mr. Hirsch stated that he did not know, as it was not their meeting, and all he knows is that the DAC wants to discuss fees.

Mr. Martin stated that they have discussed the issue with Roy Hart from the Prosecutor's Office, and Mr. Hart has advised them that the DAC cannot repeal existing fees, but could disapprove new fees. Mr. Martin stated the Board would like to maintain a healthy relationship with the DAC.

Commissioner Myers asked what other alternatives are under consideration, and Commissioner Kiger stated that the county is facing some potentially rough financial times – estimates are for up to \$3.5 million less in revenue for 2009 – he is concerned about forgiving any loan, and would prefer the Department at least get on some kind of payment schedule, even if it is only \$5-10,000 per year.

Mr. Hirsch stated that is one option the Department is willing to work towards. Mr. Hirsch stated they are trying to receive a Federal designation for their public health clinic, and if that is approved, that could free up some funding to help repay the debt.

Commissioner Myers asked when that decision might be made, and Mr. Hirsch stated that he hopes to hear something in August.

Commissioner Myers asked what other options were on the table, and Mr. Hirsch suggested allowing some offsets for some costs the Department incurs for the County such as housing the Coroner. Another option suggested would be for the county to take a portion of the current Construction & Demolition Debris tipping fee (\$.03/cubic yard or \$.06/ton) that is charged. By law, the county is entitled to a portion of that fee, and it could amount to \$5-6,000 per year.

Commissioner Myers asked what that funding is currently used for, and Mr. Hirsch stated the funds are deposited in an account that can only be used for testing and monitoring purposes of the C & D landfills, so it would not hurt the Department budget,

and there is sufficient funding being generated to more than cover the testing and monitoring costs. Commissioner Shupe asked how those funds could be accessed, and Mr. Hirsch stated that none of the monies in the account could be accessed, but future tipping fees could be transferred to the General Fund.

Commissioner Myers asked if the materials being deposited at the landfills is out-of-state, and Mr. Martine stated there are two C & D landfills currently operating in the county – M&B just south of Lancaster, and Pine Grove landfill has a C & D cell separate from its sanitary cells.

Commissioner Myers asked if the tipping fee would increase if the Commissioner's decided to tap into the portion they are allotted, and Mr. Hirsch stated it would not.

Commissioner Shupe asked what course Mr. Hirsch is advocating, and Mr. Hirsch stated the tipping fee could be an alternative and also serve as a continuing revenue stream for the county. Commissioner Myers asked if Mr. Hirsch had any kind of written proposal in that regard, and Mr. Hirsch provided a memo from the Ohio EPA that spelled out the tipping fee process.

Commissioner Shupe asked if there were any other landfills operating in the county, and Mr. Hirsch stated that years ago, some landowners allowed dumping of debris on an informal basis, but those are no longer permitted.

Commissioner Shupe state that the Board would have the prosecutor investigate the options, and Mr. Hirsch stated that one other option to consider would be to have the county piggyback on a new electronic records retention system the Department is hoping to implement and save the county funds on records storage. This option would be dependent upon the clinic receiving Federal designation and funding to go with it.

Commissioner Myers asked if these options had been run through Roy Hart, and Mr. Hirsch stated that had done so. Commissioner Shupe stated they could check with Mr. Landefeld as to who should conduct any further review.

Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Hirsch about the loss of tobacco funds, and Mr. Hirsch explained the loss of funding for the senior homestead exemption resulted in the loss of 2 ½ employees and numerous programming that was part of a multi-county tobacco reduction program. Mr. Martin stated they are currently pursuing other grant options to try to make up some of that funding.

Mr. Hirsch suggested one other option might be to try a combined safety and health services levy.

Commissioner Kiger asked how the new clinic is working, and Mr. Hirsch stated it is working well and there is a new doctor working in the clinic who is very aggressive and popular with their clients. The clinic receives a higher rate of reimbursement for Medicaid patients than the hospital does, so the hospital is happy they serve that population.

### **10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Mary Jane Gard, Tony Vogel and Scott Zody.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Zody announced there may be two possible add-on resolutions during the Commissioner's Review relative to the Lancaster public Transit system.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Approval of minutes of Tuesday July 22, 2008**

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

Commissioner Shupe stated that she would like some additional time to review the minutes prior to approving them.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Family, Adult and Children First Resolutions**

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

08-07.29.a                      Approval of a Contract for Services Between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, administrative agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council and Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Head Start

08-07.29.b                      Approval of a Contract for Services Between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, administrative agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult & Children First Council and Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Head Start

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of CDBG resolutions**

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

08-07.29.c                      Approval of a participation agreement between Violet Township and Fairfield County – FY2007 CDBG Formula Program

08-07.29.d                      Approval of Fairfield County Revolving Loan Administrator's recommendation for approval of the CDBG/RLF Semi-Annual Report

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Engineer's resolutions**

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

08-07.29.e                      Approval of a Contract with United Sealing, Inc., for the purchase of asphalt emulsion - Engineer

08-07.29.f                      Approval of a Notice of Commencement, Purchase of Asphalt Emulsion - Engineer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of Sheriff's Resolutions**

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

- 08-07.29.g Approval of the Buyout of a Purchase with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Village of Canal Winchester
- 08-07.29.h Approval of a Village Protection Agreement held with the Village of Pleasantville – Sheriff's Office

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

**Approval of Amended Certificate Resolutions**

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

- 08-07.29.i Approval of Amended Certificate & Reduction in Appropriations for fund #2689 – Adult Community Based Corrections
- 08-07.29.j Approval of Amended Certificate & Request for Appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts, fund #2689 – Adult Community Based Corrections
- 08-07.29.k Approval of Amended Certificate & Request for Appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts, fund #2689 – Adult Community Based Corrections

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:

- 08-07.29.l Approval of a Fund to Fund Transfer - Insurance
- 08-07.29.m Approval of a Fund to Fund Transfer – Fund 5044 – Sewer District
- 08-07.29.n Approval of a Fund to Fund Transfer – Insurance
- 08-07.29.o Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Commissioners/HR
- 08-07.29.p Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Fairfield County Airport
- 08-07.29.q Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Sheriff's Office
- 08-07.29.r Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Treasurer's Office
- 08-07.29.s Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Water Fund
- 08-07.29.t Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Sewer Fund
- 08-07.29.u Approval of Account to Account Transfer and Appropriate From Unappropriated – Commissioners/HR
- 08-07.29.v Approval of Account to Account Transfer – General
- 08-07.29.w Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Family, Adult & Children First Council
- 08-07.29.x Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Adult Community Based Corrections
- 08-07.29.y Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated – Sheriff's Office

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, July 29, 2008, check date August 1, 2008, see resolution 08-07.29.z.

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 10:15 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 Tony Vogel, Frank Anderson, Staci Knisley, and Scott Zody.

Mr. Anderson provided an update on the Campground Road bridge replacement project. Mr. Anderson stated that the project has been delayed pending a Section 401/404 environmental review by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). In addition, the bridge has been struck by a large truck again and Mr. Anderson believes if the structure is hit one more time he may have to close it until the replacement project can be completed.

Commissioner Kiger asked who is damaging the bridge, and Mr. Anderson stated there are large trucks using the road to access the Rock Mill industrial park from the back side, even though the companies have been instructed to keep trucks off of that road and bridge.

Mr. Anderson provided a copy of a letter he has prepared to send to Mr. Rauch relative to his fence obstruction. Mr. Anderson stated that he misunderstood one of Mr. Rauch's questions and Jeff Baird provided an incorrect answer to the question during the public comment period. Mr. Baird indicated the clear zone policy applies to fences, which it does not, and Mr. Anderson wanted to send the letter to be on record with the correct answer. Commissioner Myers suggested that Mr. Anderson clearly point out in the letter that the mistake was made.

Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Anderson about a centerline dispute that has arisen in Walnut Township involving the road between Old Millersport Road and Leib's Island State Park. Walnut Township would like to install a bike trail adjacent to the road, but there is some confusion as to where the right-of-way is, and Commissioner Shupe asked Mr. Anderson if his office could conduct a centerline survey to determine that.

Mr. Anderson stated that he would need to look into that, and would consider conducting a survey if needed.

Mr. Vogel informed the Board that the Village of Lithopolis has approached him about taking over the operation of the village water system. Apparently, the village had invested approximately \$3 million to expand their plant in anticipation of growth in housing in the village, and with the slowdown in the market, they are struggling to pay off their debt service.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the county took over the operation of the plant, would the rates need to be raised, and Mr. Vogel stated that the rates will need to be raised whether the village continues to operate the plant or the county takes over the plant, because the revenue is currently insufficient to make payments. The village payment structure is not consistent, and Mr. Vogel believes they need to charge a flat rate so all customers contribute more equally.

Commissioner Myers asked if the anticipated growth were to occur, would the problem fix itself, and Mr. Vogel stated that is possible, but he does not see any benefit in the county taking over the system.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the village would raise the rates prior to the county taking over the plant, would that be a possible solution, and Mr. Vogel stated that if the village would raise the rates, they should probably keep the plant and continue to operate it.

Mr. Vogel is concerned about taking over the plant because any water produced for the county would need to be pumped through the village system in order to reach county customers, and he is concerned with that scenario.

Commissioner Myers asked what the Village of Carroll residents currently pay for water, and Mr. Vogel stated their rate is \$6.15/1,000, which is in line with Lithopolis, but Lithopolis needs to charge theirs as a flat rate and have everyone contribute.

The board directed Mr. Zody to work with Jason Dolin to develop a letter of request or Request for Proposal to send to potential auctioneers to conduct the annual county surplus sale in October.

Commissioner Kiger will follow up with 90.9 FM and Jim George relative to the possibility of the Board doing a weekly or monthly radio program on the station.

The Board reviewed a request from Facilities Manager Joe Spybey relative to several renovation and repair projects he would like to implement. The Board directed Mr. Zody to work with Mr. Spybey to prioritize the projects with respect to current pending projects and available funding to complete the projects and report back to the Board. In addition, the Board requested a more detailed explanation for the projects Mr. Spybey would like to pursue.

### **11:00 a.m. – Executive Session**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter into Executive session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioners present included Jon Myers, Judith Shupe, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Human Resources Director Aunie Cordle and Scott Zody.

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

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn from Executive Session at 11:45 a.m.

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

No official actions were taken.

### **Approval of Lancaster Transit Resolutions**

Commissioner Kiger stated that he had been contacted by Mitch Nusser with the Lancaster Transit System relative to a prior year agreement by the Board to provide a \$10,000 subsidy to expand ride service into some unincorporated areas near Lancaster. While the Board and the city had exchanged letters of understanding, apparently the agreement was never finalized and the city did not receive any funding. Mr. Zody had researched prior meetings and stated that no funding resolution had been approved, and the Board would need to approve two resolutions, the first to appropriate the funding, and the second to authorize the allocation of the funds.

### **Approval to Appropriate from Unappropriated**

On the motion of Judith Shupe and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to appropriate from unappropriated funds, see resolution 08-07.29.aa

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Approval of \$10,000 Allocation to the Lancaster Transit System**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Judith Shupe, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a \$10,000 allocation the City of Lancaster Transit System, see resolution 08-07.29.bb.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **1:00 p.m. – Meeting – Health Insurance**

The Board of Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. with Scott Solsman and Robert Rodriguez to discuss the county health insurance program. Commissioners present included Jon Myers, Judith Shupe and Mike Kiger. Also present were Aunie Cordle and Scott Zody.

Mr. Solsman and Mr. Rodriguez provided a background information on themselves and their employees with the Franklin County Health Benefits program. Mr. Solsman stated that the entire staff is relatively new, but experienced and qualified.

Mr. Solsman explained that there have been some recent positive changes to the three-county consortium, one of which was a change in state law that now allows the various benefits contracts to be extended beyond three years. The 3-year limit was very burdensome to implement and operate – you would no sooner get a contract in place when you would need to begin preparing for a new bidding process. The consortium currently has 7 contracts with 5 different vendors for benefits.

Mr. Solsman and his staff have been concentrating efforts to improve services and reduce costs as much as possible the past two years, with an emphasis on wellness and prescription drugs.

With respect to the prescription drugs, the program is promoting employees to utilize generic drugs as much as possible, as they are much cheaper and just as effective as the brand-name drugs. One tool they are using to push employees to generics is the implementation of higher co-pays for brand-name drugs when an equivalent generic is available.

In addition, the staff has aggressively looked for similar drugs for conditions to find cheaper alternatives, such as recommending Zocor over Lipitor for cholesterol treatment.

The plan in place also requires new subscribers to utilize generic drugs if available over brand-name drugs. As a result, last year drug costs only increased 1.5% instead of the normal 10%.

With respect to wellness, Mr. Rodriguez is working on this full time. Mr. Rodriguez reviews claims data to identify areas to improve prevention, early detection, and early intervention.

For prevention, the program is offering zero-pay flu shots for not just employees but their family members as well. In addition, certain at-risk employees, such as deputies, engineer road crews and utility workers are receiving tetanus, diphtheria, and pneumonia shots.

The program is sponsoring a pilot blood-pressure monitoring program at Job & Family Services, and is finding one out of every four employees is pre-hypertensive or hypertensive.

There are also programs to provide mammogram screening for women and tuberculosis testing for caseworkers at JFS, as TB cases are on the increase across the country

The annual employee Health Fair will be in October, but a date has not been finalized.

On the intervention side, weight watchers and a Rite Bite nutrition program have been implemented, and a smoking cessation program offering medication to help smokers quit is also available. The program is actively pursuing obesity prevention programs as obesity leads to so many additional health-related complications such as diabetes, blood pressure, and cardio-pulmonary diseases.

From a funding standpoint, the program is in good shape. In 2005, the program was facing a \$1 million deficit, but since that time, the program has maintained a surplus that is currently in the \$8 million range.

### **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 2:00 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Mike Kiger  
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers  
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe  
Commissioner

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Scott A. Zody, Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 5, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M.**