Leadership Conference

The Commissioners met at 8:35 a.m. for the 2013 Leadership Conference. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Lynette Barnhart, Susan Bloom, David Burgei, Jeff Camechis, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, Elisa Dowdy, Cheryl Downour, Nancy Duffee, Becky Edwards, Susan Eyerman, Jane Hanely, Larry Hanna, Pat Harris, Theresa Haynes, Linda Kauffman, Dennis Keller, Staci Knisley, Jon Kochis, Brian Kuhn, Ed Laramee, Ursula LaVeck, Lora Lovas, Mary Beth Lane, Jeanette Addington, Jeff Barron, Kent Staker, Bob Clark, Darren Meade, Holly Mattei, Todd McCullough, Kelly Messerly, David Miller, Chuck Keller, Lisa Notestone, Michael Orlando, Perry Orndorff, John Pekar, Jerry Perrigo, Sheriff Phalen, Amy Presnell, Lisa McKenzie, Gene Wood, Don Sherman, Jon Slater, Judge Laura Smith, Wes Spencer, Judge Terre Vandervoort, Josh VanDyke, Tony Vogel, Nina West, Jeff Porter, David Uhl, John Bosser, Judge Berens, and Michael Burns.

See attached slideshow and material for the Leadership Conference.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 beginning at 11:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Lynette Barnhart, Susan Bloom, David Burgei, Jeff Camechis, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, Elisa Dowdy, Cheryl Downour, Nancy Duffee, Becky Edwards, Susan Eyerman, Jane Hanely, Larry Hanna, Pat Harris, Theresa Haynes, Linda Kauffman, Dennis Keller, Staci Knisley, Jon Kochis, Brian Kuhn, Ed Laramee, Ursula LaVeck, Lora Lovas, Mary Beth Lane, Jeanette Addington, Jeff Barron, Kent Staker, Bob Clark, Darren Meade, Holly Mattei, Todd McCullough, Kelly Messerly, David Miller, Chuck Keller, Lisa Notestone, Michael Orlando, Perry Orndorff, John Pekar, Jerry Perrigo, Sheriff Phalen, Amy Presnell, Lisa McKenzie, Gene Wood, Don Sherman, Jon Slater, Judge Laura Smith, Wes Spencer, Judge Terre Vandervoort, Josh VanDyke, Tony Vogel, Nina West, Jeff Porter, David Uhl, John Bosser, Judge Berens, and Michael Burns.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements
Commissioner Davis asked Ms. Elsea if there were any announcements. Ms. Elsea stated that due to the reopening of the federal government, the line "in the context of the current federal government shutdown" in the fifth whereas would be removed.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments. No public comments were made.

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, October 15, 2013.**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Dave Levacy, and Steve Davis

**Approval of the Commissioners Office Resolution**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution approving the "go forward decision" to build a Fairfield County Public Safety Facility, a jail; see resolution 2013-10.17.a.

Discussion: Sheriff Phalen stood up and said this had been an issue for him since he first took office in 2001 when the inmate count was 100 prisoners. They now average 270 inmates and have gotten as high as 320 inmates. The maximum occupancy for the three facilities is 133 inmates. The county has not been in compliance with the state jail standards for many years. The overcrowding creates safety concerns for all those involved (prisoners and employees). Sheriff Phalen concluded by saying he hoped the Commissioners moved forward and that he supported the building of a new facility.

Mr. Davis thanked the members of the judiciary for coming.

Judge Berens stated he joined the many in support of the new jail. The state has mandated that in some cases incarcerated individuals must be housed in the county facilities instead of state facilities and that this mandate and increased the number of individuals incarcerated in county facilities. A new facility would need enhanced meeting space so that treatment can be further rendered to those in jail. Physical space for counseling would be great. Mr. Berens concluded by saying he supported the Commissioners and the others who also supported the project.

Mr. Kiger stated he spent the last six weeks meeting with constituents and hearing the pros and cons of each location. The public hearings were very informative as most of
the participants (judiciary, attorneys, and law enforcement) supported the downtown location. This will all be taken into consideration.

Mr. Levacy stated that the community, judges, and law enforcement need this new facility and that he is proud to be part of the process.

Mr. Davis stated it is important to appreciate the work of the predecessors and all they did to prepare for this decision. The information has been very helpful in providing a foundation to making the decision. He thanked the staff for their help in gathering information to help make the decision.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

Mr. Davis stated that the other issue at hand was to address the location of the jail. A formal resolution would not be presented as the location of the jail was infinitely less important than the decision to proceed in building a new jail. The location was less consequential to solving the problem. The location of the jail is a decision that some members of the public are very concerned about and that is the reason the Commissioners are elevating it to a motion.

Motion to provide specific direction to the team assigned to the jail construction project by establishing the current site of the minimum security jail on Wheeling Street, known as the downtown or the downtown adjacent location, as the site for the new county jail facility.

On the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to provide specific direction to the team assigned to the jail construction project by establishing the current site of the minimum security jail on Wheeling Street, known as the downtown or the downtown adjacent location, as the site for the new county jail facility.

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated that the Kimble Report from 1999 provided a county wide facilities plan that relocated most of the facilities to the Liberty Center. Mr. Davis opposed this at the time not just because of the jail moving but because the Sheriff and courts would move as well. This would move the judicial system several miles from the law firms who invested to be near the courts. Over the last several months Mr. Davis was willing to listen and learn and left room for the possibility that something had changed in 14 years. While information was updated it was not powerful enough to change. Wheeling Street may be more expensive to build on, but the operating costs would be much lower (primarily due to prisoner transportation). Mr. Davis added that if they were to leave that block on Wheeling Street he didn’t think anyone would ever want to build on it. He supported the motion.

Mr. Levacy stated he struggled most with this decision. He looked at the costs
associated with building at both sited and spoke to former Commissioners as well. He
drove the routes from both sites to the court house and took the traffic into
consideration. He did not want a situation to arise where an officer would be in danger
due to the increased trip time. This factor alone was enough for him to support the
Wheeling Street location.

Mr. Kiger stated that the Sheriff would be more visible in the city and that visibility would
help deter crime if the jail were on Wheeling Street. He added that if the emergency
vehicles had to respond to at the Liberty Center no one would be left to respond to
emergencies in town.

Judge Berens encouraged the downtown location. He stated that Delaware, Newark,
and Circleville all have their jails in close proximity to their downtown court houses and
that that was not by accident. If the jail were at the Liberty Center that would tie up
attorneys’ time and increase transportation costs. He concluded by saying there were
many practical factors in keeping the jail on Wheeling Street.

Judge Smith agreed with Judge Berens and added that having the jail at the Liberty
Center would also increase the time for the court employees as they would have to wait
with the inmates as they waited for their rides.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Mike Kiger, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Dave Levacy and a second of Mike Kiger the
Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn 11:30 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis

The Leadership Conference continued after adjournment and concluded at 12:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday,
October 22, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. with Review scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by:                Seconded by:

that the October 17, 2013, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:                                NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None