Public Hearing- Sales and Use Tax

The Commissioners held a public hearing at 10:02 a.m. to consider amending the existing permissive sales and use taxes so as to make them permanent. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steven Davis and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Tony Vogel, Timothy Sachs, and Isaac McFarland.

Mr. Davis called the hearing to order and stated that this was the first of two opportunities to allow for the public to comment in favor of or in opposition to the proposal to amend the existing sales and use taxes so as to make them permanent. Mr. Davis said that the Commission has not taken any action other than holding the hearings. He said they would allow for favorable comments followed by comments in opposition of the proposal.

Mr. Timothy Sachs of 266 East Hocking Street in Canal Winchester stood up and stated that he expressed concern for this amendment four years ago. He suggested the Commissioners let the existing tax expire and enact it again as another four year temporary tax. He stated that the county’s revenue increased by $4,100,000 after the tax was enacted. The increase shows improvement in the economy. He also said he believes the state’s budget proposal is too controversial to pass. He encouraged the Commission to enact the sales tax temporarily again. He also said that there are two new Commissioners since the temporary increase was enacted and mentioned they both campaigned on not raising taxes. The tax may not be necessary in the future so it should be temporary.

Mr. Isaac McFarland of 8275 Bowers Road in Amanda stood up and thanked Mr. Sachs for his well composed presentation. He said his statement would be more philosophical. When he and his wife first got married roughly 12.5% of their income went to taxes. That amount has now increased to 24% of their total income. He said that the government will eventually squeeze everyone out and that the government needs to get under control. He asked that the Commissioners make sure that the continuance of the tax is really needed before they make it permanent. He added that the forefathers fought for freedom so that everyone was not taxes as much.

Mr. Davis stated that if the tax was amended to be made permanent it would remain at its current level. There was no proposal for an increase. The debate will be whether to make it permanent or temporary. He said that the general fund was about $36,000,000 a year and that $3,500,000 of that was from the temporary tax and pointed out that it is a substantial revenue stream. One concern the Commissioners have, and the reason why they are discussing this now, is the possible moratorium that has been proposed for the new biennium.

Mr. Sachs said that the temporary tax would bypass the moratorium.
Mr. Davis said that was correct.

Mr. Sachs said moving the discussions up was the wise thing to do. He also stated that if the Commissioners enact the temporary tax again they can always re-enact it in another 4 years.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Sachs and Mr. McFarland for their comments and asked if there were any more comments.

No additional comments were made.

Mr. Davis closed the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Motion by: ______________________ Seconded by: ______________________

that the March 26, 2013, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: ______________________ NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on April 2, 2013

______________________________  ________________________________  ______________________
Steven A. Davis                  Dave Levacy                      Mike Kiger
Commissioner                    Commissioner                    Commissioner

______________________________
Rachel Elsea, Clerk

Regular Meeting #15-2013- March 29, 2013 - 2 -
Regular Meeting #15- 2013
Fairfield County Commissioners’ Office
March 29, 2013

Public Hearing- Sales and Use Tax

The Commissioners held a public hearing at 10:02 a.m. to consider amending the existing permissive sales and use taxes so as to make them permanent. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steven Davis and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Tony Vogel, Timothy Sachs, and Isaac McFarland.

Mr. Davis called the hearing to order and stated that this was the first of two opportunities to allow for the public to comment in favor of or in opposition to the proposal to amend the existing sales and use taxes so as to make them permanent. Mr. Davis said that the Commission has not taken any action other than holding the hearings. He said they would allow for favorable comments followed by comments in opposition of the proposal.

Mr. Timothy Sachs of 266 East Hocking Street in Canal Winchester stood up and stated that he expressed concern for this amendment four years ago. He suggested the Commissioners let the existing tax expire and enact it again as another four year temporary tax. He stated that the county’s revenue increased by $4,100,000 after the tax was enacted. The increase shows improvement in the economy. He also said he believes the state’s budget proposal is too controversial to pass. He encouraged the Commission to enact the sales tax temporarily again. He also said that there are two new Commissioners since the temporary increase was enacted and mentioned they both campaigned on not raising taxes. The tax may not be necessary in the future so it should be temporary.

Mr. Isaac McFarland of 8275 Bowers Road in Amanda stood up and thanked Mr. Sachs for his well composed presentation. He said his statement would be more philosophical. When he and his wife first got married roughly 12.5% of their income went to taxes. That amount has now increased to 24% of their total income. He said that the government will eventually squeeze everyone out and that the government needs to get under control. He asked that the Commissioners make sure that the continuance of the tax is really needed before they make it permanent. He added that the forefathers fought for freedom so that everyone was not taxes as much.

Mr. Davis stated that if the tax was amended to be made permanent it would remain at its current level. There was no proposal for an increase. The debate will be whether to make it permanent or temporary. He said that the general fund was about $36,000,000 a year and that $3,500,000 of that was from the temporary tax and pointed out that it is a substantial revenue stream. One concern the Commissioners have, and the reason why they are discussing this now, is the possible moratorium that has been proposed for the new biennium.

Mr. Sachs said that the temporary tax would bypass the moratorium.
Mr. Davis said that was correct.

Mr. Sachs said moving the discussions up was the wise thing to do. He also stated that if the Commissioners enact the temporary tax again they can always re-enact it in another 4 years.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Sachs and Mr. McFarland for their comments and asked if there were any more comments.

No additional comments were made.

Mr. Davis closed the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Motion by: Seconded by:

that the March 26, 2013, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: NAYS: None

ABSTENTION: None

*Approved on April 2, 2013

Steven A. Davis  Dave Levacy  Mike Kiger
Commissioner  Commissioner  Commissioner

Rachel Elsea, Clerk