

**Regular Meeting #09-49
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 24, 2009**

9:00 a.m. Budget Meeting – Board of Elections

The Board of Commissioners met to review the proposed 2010 budget for the Board of Elections. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Susan Bloom, Debbie Henderly, Allan Reid, Dike Andrews, Michelle George, Jason Dolin, Staci Knisley and Scott Zody.

Ms. Bloom provided an overview of the BOE budget for 2009 and 2010, stating that the Board has returned several thousand dollars to the GRF in 2009 and plans to return additional funds by the end of the year. Ms. Bloom stated she expects to receive approximately \$90,000 in charge-backs for this year's elections.

Mr. Reid stated the Board recently attended a seminar on charge-backs and many schools don't realize they could evade charge-backs in even numbered years. Commissioner Shupe asked if the estimate was reflected in the numbers, and Ms. Bloom stated the charge-backs come directly back to the GRF, not to BOE. Ms. Bloom stated they are projecting \$93,000 to come back to the GRF over and above the funds they have already turned back.

Ms. Bloom stated she is very concerned with voting equipment that is coming out of warranty and is expecting maintenance costs to increase dramatically this year, noting that batteries for the voting machines cost \$50 per machine. The state requires one voting machine per 175 voters, and each machine can cost up to \$5,000. Mr. Reid added another problem is a lack of competition among voting machine manufacturers – currently, there is only one.

Ms. Bloom stated if ESS, the manufacturer, stops making the equipment they are currently using, they are not sure what they would do. Commissioner Myers noted that in some counties, such as Wood County, their annual costs are substantially less, and Ms. Bloom stated it depends on the type of contracts the other counties have, and in Wood County, the Commissioners hired a full time data specialist to do much of the work that is currently under the BOE budget in Fairfield County.

Mr. Reid added some counties do not provide postage, where Fairfield County does, and stated that the County Commissioners Association (CCAO) needs to be more engaged in legislation currently pending in the General Assembly relative to election changes. Mr. Reid stated many counties would like to eliminate special elections, but school districts want them retained. There is also a push to increase the number of early polling locations in counties, which would be a substantial cost and unnecessary in Fairfield County.

Commissioner Shupe stated that in order to balance the budget, the Commissioners are asking all agencies to reduce spending 9%, but the BOE is proposing to spend more than in 2009. Commissioner Shupe asked if there were any expenses or needs that could be reduced or deferred. Ms. Knisley stated that the budget notes a pending retirement, and asked who that would be, and Ms. Henderly stated it she is planning to retire in 2010.

Mr. Reid stated the Board could adjust its budget to remove the funds they were planning to appropriate in the event of an August Special Election, as they know there will not be a special election in February. In addition, how many agencies have returned \$200,000 from their 2009 budget? Ms. Knisley noted that most agency budgets are not as large as the BOE. Mr. Andrews stated there is also the issue of the Federal government dictating many of the requirements on local BOE's, and the Board has tried to consolidate as many polling locations as possible to save some funds.

Commissioner Shupe asked what number the BOE needs to get to to reduce 9%, and Ms. Knisley stated that based upon their 2009 budget, they should be at \$1.1 million, but they are requesting \$1.4 million. Ms. Bloom stated that by eliminating the August Special, they could reduce approximately \$100,000. Ms. Knisley asked if the BOE had budgeted for 27 pay periods for 2010, and Ms. Bloom stated she had.

Commissioner Myers asked if the \$93,000 included the Special Election, and Ms. Bloom stated the \$93,000 represents what they expect to receive in charge-backs, and does not include the Special Election elimination.

Ms. Knisley asked if the charge-back funds would be received by the end of 2009, and Ms. Henderly stated probably not, as those need to be certified by the state then billed to the schools and townships.

Commissioner Shupe stated that it sounds as if the BOE may be able to return or charge back approximately \$150,000. Mr., Reid asked if the judges were reducing their budget or mandating, and Commissioner Shupe stated the courts are reducing the budgets. Mr. Zody added that the judges have been very cooperative throughout this process.

Mr. Reid urged the Commissioners to directly contact their state and Federal elected representatives relative to elections reform legislation, particularly relative to any mandated postage costs, as each absentee ballot that is mailed costs \$1.35.

Ms. Knisley asked Ms. Bloom if she would try to rework her numbers, and Ms. Bloom stated she would, and also needed to check with Randy Carter relative to some funds she had set aside for printer and copier supplies such as toner.

Budget Meeting – Barbara Curtiss

The Board of Commissioners met to review the proposed 2010 budget with Auditor Barbara Curtiss. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Staci Knisley, Ed Laramee, Michelle George, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Board is asking all agencies and elected offices to reduce their GRF budgets by 9% in order to balance out the budget, and Commissioner Myers added this would still leave the General Fund with a much lower than normal cash carryover at the end of 2010.

Ms. Curtiss stated she has offered to reduce her GIS allocation by \$52,000, and transfer one position to the REA Fund, but cannot afford more. Commissioner Shupe asked what amount would equal 9% of the Auditor's GRF budget, and Ms. Curtiss stated that would be approximately \$90,000, and she has a senior staff member retiring at the end of the year that she would anticipate reaping some savings from, as her replacement would be a lower paid position, but can't commit to a specific number at this point.

Commissioner Shupe asked Ms. Curtiss if she participated in the 5% current year reduction all were asked to make, and Ms. Curtiss stated she expects to return at least 5% to the GRF at the end of the year, but asked whose check she is not supposed to write, as she is still down one position and has moved every employee she can to the REA Fund. Ms. Curtiss stated that over the past 15 years she has reduced her budget on numerous occasions and any time she has asked for extra funding, she has been refused. Ms. Curtiss stated that she feels she has not been treated fairly and cited the health insurance reimbursement as an example, stating that her staff saved the Board \$3 million but it took 6 months of effort to get the Board to allow her to receive the 2% administrative fee.

Mr. Laramee stated that the senior person they have retiring at the end of the year would be replaced with a lower paid position who is currently training to replace her, and

that position would then be filled as well. Mr. Zody stated then in reality Ms. Curtiss is actually fully staffed, and Ms. Curtiss stated she would actually be down ½ of a position, as the position would be replaced with something less than it currently is, but she is down a position in her payroll department.

Mr. Laramée stated that anything they would not spend, they would return to the GRF, but at this point he can't put a firm number to what that might be. The Auditor is also looking at what could be transferred from GIS and those changes would be permanent similar to 2005.

Ms. Curtiss stated payroll and finance are much more complicated operations than people believe them to be. Keeping track of the fixed assets and producing the CAFIR every year are a full time job. Mr. Laramée noted that one position in the Human Resources Office is funded entirely by the health insurance administrative assessment.

Commissioner Myers asked if the Commissioner's MUNIS obligation has been paid off, and Ms. Curtiss acknowledged that the Commissioners paid \$300,000, and Commissioner Myers stated that demonstrates the Commissioners have provided assistance to the Auditor.

Commissioner Myers asked how many employees were in GIS, and Ms. Curtiss stated there are 6 – 3 in GIS and 3 in the Map Room, and they are very busy checking 16,000 addresses for census purposes.

Commissioner Myers asked how much of a reduction to Ms. Curtiss request would equal 9%, and Ms. Knisley stated \$234,000. Ms. Curtiss disputed that figure, stating she only receives \$1 million in GRF. Ms. Knisley stated Ms. Curtiss office has 2 other GRF budget, including \$350,000 for assessing properties and \$3500 for auditing. Ms. Curtiss stated that she disagrees with those figures, stating her figures show a total GRF amount of \$1.143 million, and 9% would equal approximately 90%. Ms. Curtiss stated that with the \$52,000 she has already offered to reduce in the GIS office, she will experience additional savings when her senior employee retires at the end of the year.

Mr. Zody asked what the current salary of the employee was, and Ms. Curtiss stated it is approximately \$50,000 plus benefits.

Ms. Curtiss stated she did not wish to pick a fight or disagreement, but she simply cannot do her job if the finance and payroll positions are not funded. Ms. Knisley asked if the full \$2.8 million from the increased sales tax would be certified, and Mr. Laramée stated that is what is estimated to be collected, and that is what will be certified.

Commissioner Kiger asked Mr. Laramée if he had received a copy of the Meals of Wheels (MOW) letter he had sent, and Mr. Laramée stated he had, and to the question of how much the MOW levy would collect, usually the Auditor gives an estimate on receipts and the final rate comes after the state certifies based upon the new property values.

Commissioner Myers asked when the next 3-year revaluation process would begin, and Ms. Curtiss stated it will be conducted next year, and she expects values to fall in most areas of the county.

Commissioner Shupe asked Ms. Knisley to double-check the Auditor's budget figures and determine what a 9% reduction would be. Ms. Knisley noted that Ms. Curtiss figures may not include carry over purchase orders.

10:00 a.m. Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were

Mary Beth Lane, Michelle George, Aundrea Cordle, Ed Laramee, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Announcements

Mr. Zody announced there would be one add-on item for the ADAMH Board.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of minutes of Tuesday, November 17, 2009

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of amendment to Sanitary Services Agreement between the Village of Carroll and the Board of County Commissioners of Fairfield County, Ohio

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve an amendment to Sanitary Services Agreement between the Village of Carroll and the Board of County Commissioners of Fairfield County, Ohio, see resolution 09-11.24.a

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Purchase of Service Agreement by & between Fairfield County Job & Family Services and Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve a Purchase of Service Agreement by & between Fairfield County Job & Family Services and Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools, see resolution 09-11.24.b

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee's recommendation for approval of the EDA/RLF Semi-Annual Report

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee's recommendation for approval of the EDA/RLF Semi-Annual Report, see resolution 09-11.24.c

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Amendments to the Fairfield County Personnel Policy Manual for Fairfield County employees

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Amendments to the Fairfield County Personnel Policy Manual for Fairfield County employees, see resolution 09-11.24.d

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

Approval of County Engineer resolutions

On motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for the County Engineer as follows:

- 09-11.24.e Approval of Declaration of Necessity of Basil-Western/Allen Road profile improvement project - Engineer
- 09-11.24.f Approval of Hiring Lockwood, Lanier, Mathias & Noland, Inc. for General Engineering Services for Greenfield Township's Election House Road Improvement Project – Engineer

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

Approval of Emergency Management resolutions

On motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for the Emergency Management Agency as follows:

- 09-11.24.g Approval to Extend the Due Date for Advance Repayment for Fund 2723 State Homeland Security Grant FY2008 - EMA
- 09-11.24.h Approval to Extend the Due Date for Advance Repayment for Fund 2722 FY2008 Citizen Corps Fund
- 09-11.24.i Approval of an Advance from the General Fund to EMA Fund 2722 – FY2008 Citizens Corps Program Grant - EMA

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

Approval of Reduction in Appropriation resolutions

On the motion of Jon Myers and second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve reduction in appropriation resolutions as follows:

- 09-11.24.j Approval of Reduction in Appropriations and Estimated Receipts – Soil & Water Conservation
- 09-11.24.k Approval of Reduction in Appropriation 2009 Budget - Auditor

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

Approval of Amended Certificate resolutions

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Amended Certificate resolutions as follows:

- 09-11.24.l Approval to Amend Certificate, Update Receipts, and appropriate from unappropriated – Fund 2423 – Reese/Peters Hotel/Motel Tax
- 09-11.24.m Approval to Amend Certificate & request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo Expenditure – 3434 OPWC - Engineer

09-11.24.n Approval to Amend Certificate & request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo Expenditure – 3434 OPWC - Engineer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Major Crimes Unit Appropriation resolutions

On the motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve resolutions for the Major Crimes Unit as follows:

09-11.24.o Approval of Establishment of Revenue and Appropriation Budget for 2010 – Major Crimes Unit

09-11.24.p Approval of Establishment of Revenue and Appropriation Budget for 2010 – Major Crimes Unit – Drug Law Enforcement Grant

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Prior Year encumbrance (X-Mode) and appropriate from unappropriated – FCBDD Residential Services Fund

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioner voted to approve a Prior Year encumbrance (X-Mode) and appropriate from unappropriated – FCBDD Residential Services Fund, see resolution 09-11.24.q

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Financial Resolutions

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

09-11.24.r Approval of Fund to Fund Transfer – Insurance (General)

09-11.24.s Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Major Crimes Unit

09-11.24.t Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Sheriff/Concealed Carry Fund

09-11.24.u Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Board of Elections

09-11.24.v Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Board of Elections

09-11.24.w Approval of Account to Account Transfer – FACFC

09-11.24.x Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Sheriff

09-11.24.y Approval of Account to Account Transfer – Adult Probation

09-11.24.z Approval of Account to Account Transfer – FACFC

09-11.24.aa Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated & Fund to Fund Transfer – FCBDD Facilities Fund to 2060 FCBDD Fund

09-11.24.bb Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Bridge & Road levy fund – Engineer

09-11.24.cc Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Motor Vehicle Fund – Engineer

09-11.24.dd Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Motor Vehicle Fund – Engineer
09-11.23.ee Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Motor Vehicle Fund - Engineer
09-11.24.ff Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Juvenile Court/Alternative School
09-11.24.gg Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – FCBDD
09-11.24.hh Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Motor Vehicle Fund
09-11.24.ii Approval to Appropriate from unappropriated – Health Insurance
09-11.24.jj Approval of Authorization for payment of debt service, paid by wire December 1, 2009

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Authorization for Payment of Bills, November 24, 2009, check date November 25, 2009

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Jon Myers, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the authorization for payment of bills November 24, 2009, check date November 25, 2009, see resolution 09-11.24.kk

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review Session

The Board of Commissioners met to review legal issues, correspondence, and pending and future action items. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were County Treasurer Jon Slater, Ed Laramee, Mary Beth Lane, Michelle George, Aundrea Cordle, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Mr. Zody provided an overview of a conversation and memo he received from Raina Cornell relative to the pending MOW contract for the levy funding. Mr. Zody stated the MOW Board voted to retain legal counsel and possibly litigate the issue. Mr. Laramee stated the MOW Board cannot use levy funding for that purpose, and Mr. Zody stated the meeting minutes indicated that is exactly what the Board intends to do. Mr. Dolin stated the minutes appear to be from the Boards September meeting, which is prior to the meeting they had with the Commissioners.

Mr. Dolin stated that he is personally puzzled by this reaction, as there were very few substantive changes proposed to the contract, and the one issue they seem stuck on is wanting to require a unanimous vote of the Commissioners in order to overturn any grant. Commissioner Shupe stated the Commissioners rarely, if ever, inject themselves into the grant process, and Commissioner Kiger stated the only one he can recall is when the MOW Board proposed providing dog food for senior pets.

Mr. Dolin stated if the issue is not resolved, there could be a major problem come January when the new levy takes effect and there is no contract. He believes that ultimately, the funding and appropriation authority falls back on the Commissioners.

Commissioner Myers asked if the voting requirements had changed from the original contract, and Mr. Zody stated that he and Mr. Dolin reviewed the contract per the Commissioner's direction and made recommendations for changes to the Board, including changing the voting requirement from unanimous to a simple majority, which the Commissioners approved and sent on to MOW.

Mr. Dolin stated that his understanding of the language is that it was originally included as a "buffer" for the Commissioners to separate the MOW Board. Mr. Zody stated with all the concerns being raised by service providers and individual seniors relative to services levels from MOW, he felt this was a prudent move to assert the Commissioners authority relative to the taxpayers funding being used properly, and was really the only substantive change being proposed to the contract. Mr. Dolin suggested that the next time this levy is up for consideration, the Commissioners at that time should closely review the ballot language and consider establishing a new levy absent the requirement for the money to flow through MOW.

Commissioner Myers stated that he had spoken to Jack Roop recently and Mr. Roop was under the impression that the change came through Mr. Zody and Mr. Dolin had not been aware of it, and both Mr. Zody and Mr. Dolin stated they reviewed the language together, and made the joint recommendation to the Commissioners for the change, which the Commissioners then approved.

Mr. Zody asked Mr. Laramée when the Commissioner would approve the MOW budget for 2010, and Mr. Laramée stated it is usually part of the overall county operating budget, but it could be separated and voted upon separately or a temporary budget could be enacted. Mr. Zody asked if the budget could be amended or altered as submitted by MOW, and Mr. Laramée stated it could.

Commissioner Shupe stated that perhaps they should request another meeting with the contract committee, and Commissioner Kiger stated that Ms. Cornell stated she would not meet with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Shupe stated the Commissioners need to communicate to the MOW Board that the contract expires on December 31st, and a new contract needs to be approved. Mr. Laramée stated the original levy language was pushed by MOW as a way to distance themselves from the Commissioners. Mr. Dolin suggested having Mr. Zody send a letter to MOW indicating the contract will expire and the Commissioners would like to resolve the situation.

The Board discussed the Lancaster Public Transit request for \$10,000 to continue expanded service areas around Lancaster and into Violet Township and Pickerington. Commissioner Shupe stated it would be nice to help, but there is currently no funding available.

The Board discussed the need for a back-up power unit for the Courthouse for the telephone and computer servers, and Mr. Zody stated a temporary generator could be purchased and installed for approximately \$27,000, but a permanent power source to back up the entire Courthouse would cost over \$100,000. Ms. Knisley stated either way, the project would be funded out of Permanent Improvements, not operating, but felt at the least the temporary option should be pursued. Ms. Knisley stated she would confirm the quote with Randy Carter and Joe Spybey.

Regarding the Auditor's budget, Ms. Knisley stated she reviewed the budget figures and believes her figures are correct, and Ms. Curtiss was including encumbrances in her numbers. Ms. Knisley stated Ms. Curtiss should have reduced her numbers by approximately \$99,000, based upon 2009 appropriation levels and including a 27th pay for 2010, but she is still over budget by approximately \$196,000.

Mr. Slater stated he has been working with Mr. Laramée relative to the county purchasing the airport and sewer notes, and believes the county can purchase and hold the notes and save both the airport and Utilities offices funding, while earning a good return for the General Fund. Mr. Slater stated he still had some questions relative to the mechanics of the sale/purchase, and Mr. Zody stated he would contact bond counsel and ask Mr. Schwallie to advise.

10:45 a.m. Meeting with Holly Mattei

The Board of Commissioners met with Regional Planning Director Holly Mattei for an update on the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board activities. Commissioner s present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were County Treasurer Jon Slater, Ed Laramee, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Ms. Mattei stated the TID met in September and believes the Board is a viable entity and the members are interested in pursuing projects, but also do not wish to expend all of their funding at this time. The TID is interested in participating in the Election House Road relocation and the Eversole project to extend a road to Elections House.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the TID was requesting any funding for their continued operations, and Ms. Mattei stated not at this time, as their overhead is very low, since they are run through RPC and the TID understands the current budget situation, and would not ask for additional funding unless they would need to expend all of their remaining funding on projects.

Commissioner Myers asked how much match funding the airport would need, and Mr. Zody stated he believes they were asking for approximately \$70,000, and Ms. Mattei stated she thought they were asking for about \$100,000. Ms. Mattei stated the subdivision committee approved preliminary plans for both yesterday and the TID wants to help provide match for the airport and Eversole projects.

Commissioner Shupe asked if some of the funds could be used for the Lancaster Public Transit service expansion, and Mr. Zody stated he was of the understanding that the TID could only fund specific road improvement projects, not operational projects. Commissioner Myers stated he would like to know what the match requirements are for the airport.

Ms. Mattei informed the Commissioners that she intends to reopen her office 5 days a week beginning in December and retuning her staff to a normal work schedule, now that he budget situation has stabilized. Commissioner Shupe asked if the office was seeing increased activity, and Ms. Mattei stated it has been a steady increase, and she is seeing some encouraging signs.

1:30 p.m. Budget Meeting with Michael Orlando

The Board of Commissioner met with County Job & Family Service Director Michael Orlando to discuss the proposed 2010 General Fund allocation for JFS. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Mary Beth Lane, Ed Laramee, Michelle George, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Commissioner Shupe asked what the purpose of the meeting was for, and Mr. Zody explained that the Board determined last week that it could not afford to fully fund the JFS allocation request for 2010 and asked him to schedule this meeting with Mr. Orlando to explain and discuss.

Commissioner Kiger stated that last week the Board determined that due to the fiscal difficulties the county is facing, the maximum allocation for JFS would be \$1.83 million, and would require the \$100,000 of that allocation be applied to the Family, Adult & Children First Cluster funding, as it was previous to 2005. Ms. Knisley added that she would need to work with Mary Winstead to determine exactly how to direct the allocation to the various JFS programs, including Public Assistance, Child/Adult Protective Services, and Child Support Enforcement.

Commissioner Shupe stated that the Commissioner approved a Budget Reduction Plan for JFS earlier in the year, and it called for the Board to provide \$2.6 million in 2010, and she is concerned about the impacts of not providing that funding. Mr. Orlando stated

the plan was for 5 quarters, to get JFS through until July 1, 2010 in response to massive state funding cuts. The General Assembly complicated matters by attempting to appropriate tobacco settlement funds for human services, and those funds are now tied up in litigation. Mr. Orlando stated he thought the resolution approved by the Commissioners was a binding agreement and his concern is making it until June 30th.

Mr. Orlando asked what was reduced in the allocation, as the county allocation to Public Assistance is a mandated share, and for his internal funds, Workforce Development and Child Support are on target, but Child/Adult Protective Services are the problem, and any reduction in CPS would require accounting to the state.

Mr. Orlando stated part of the problem is the difference between state and county fiscal years and accounting for dollars and maintaining cash flow, and he believes he would need to direct most of his GRF allocation into the first 6 months of 2010 and utilize the levy funding and state funding in the 2nd half of the year.

Mr. Orlando stated that Mr. Zody has been attending the monthly budget meetings with himself and JFS Senior staff, and he is concerned that this will limit his ability to utilize the levy funding to enhance services as the voters were promised, at least not until 2011., and that will not meet the demands of the system. Mr. Orlando suggested the Commissioners ask Judge Williams about the demands they are receiving through the court. Even if the Commissioners funded JFS at a \$2.3 million level, the needs would not be met.

Mr. Orlando stated that it is really a state issue, not a county issue, but the state budget cuts are forcing the problem onto the counties, and Ohio has one of the lowest funding rates for CPS/APS services. Mr. Orlando stated he would do the best he can with whatever resources he receives and would carry out the policies the Commissioners dictate, but his agency is already down 50 positions.

Commissioner Kiger asked out of the \$1.8 million, how much would be allocated to CPS/APS, and Mr. Orlando stated he would likely try to add an investigator to APS(\$120,000), take out the PA mandated share (\$350,000), zero out Child Support Enforcement, and place the remainder (\$1.4 million) in CPS. Commissioner Kiger stated that if the levy funding (\$3.1 million) is added to that, then Mr. Orlando would have \$4.5 million just for CPS, which is significantly more than he said he needed last year (\$3.5 million). In addition, the Commissioner provided significant funding over and above the normal JFS allocation in 2009

Commissioner Shupe stated part of the problem is taking care of 2009 and the state cuts and lack of levy funding, and Mr. Orlando stated the 2009 funding included the \$500,000 advance that the Commissioner forgave and the \$362,000 CPS supplement. Commissioner Kiger stated the \$362,000 supplement is no longer being provided due to the levy funding.

Mr. Orlando stated he also had to account for the state budget cuts, and had hoped the levy funds would be available to enhance the system, and hoped to begin some of those enhancement in the 2nd half of 2010.

Commissioner Kiger stated that all county agencies are being asked to cut/reduce, and the Commissioner have no choice but to expect everyone to participate. Mr. Orlando stated he is concerned because the voters were asked to support the levy to enhance the system and it will struggle to get back to pre-state cut levels.

Commissioner Kiger stated he understands the concern but the Board must consider the county as a whole when making budget decisions, and warned Mr. Orlando to prepare to possibly receive less funding in 2011 if the county, state and national economies do not recover, and there will be no excess funding in 2010 if additional state cuts are made.

Mr. Orlando stated that is the Commissioner's policy call to make. Commissioner Kiger stated it is Mr. Orlando's call on the levy funding, but the Commissioners appropriate General Funds, and the meeting minutes he has reviewed clearly show that Mr. Orlando stated he only needed \$3.5 million for CPS. Mr. Orlando asked when those minutes were taken, and Commissioner Kiger stated November 2008, and Mr. Orlando stated that was before the state cuts, and Commissioner Kiger stated the Budget Reduction Plan was approved prior to the county being cut as well.

Commissioner Shupe stated that in order to move forward, the Board would need to reverse the Budget Reduction Plan that they approved, and Commissioner Kiger pointed out that he voted against that plan because he felt it was being rushed through. Mr. Orlando stated he had to respond to the state, and Commissioner Shupe stated that what was submitted to the state was expected to be followed.

Mr. Orlando stated that he would always have more demands for services that he would have resources to respond.

Mr. Zody asked Mr. Orlando if he intended to zero out Child Support GRF funding, how would CSEA make it through the year, and Mr. Orlando stated CSEA has incentive funds they earned from the state they could rely on to get through 2010. Mr. Zody asked what would happen in 2011 when the incentive funds were gone, and Mr. Orlando stated that staff would be reduced if no further incentive funds were earned or available.

Mr. Zody stated that in that case, Mr. Orlando was robbing Peter to pay Paul, and merely shuffling money around and would be back in 2011 asking the Commissioners for additional GRF to address CSEA, and Mr. Orlando stated his priority would be CPS/APS.

Mr. Zody stated that Mr. Orlando stated several times that the Commissioner set the priorities and he carries them out, but if he zeroes out CSEA, isn't he the one setting priorities?

Commissioner Shupe stated the children that need protection are a higher priority, and should not go unserved. Mr. Zody stated that Mr. Orlando had just said that he would always have more demands for service that he would have resources to serve them, and that has been and will continue to be the situation no matter how much funding is provided. Mr. Zody stated if there are single parents that count on Child Support payments to provide for their families that would now not be served or receive timely payments due to cuts at CSEA, what is the difference, and those kids would probably end up as CPS clients as a result.

Commissioner Myers stated that several counties have had to dramatically reduce funding across the state, and Fairfield County is actually in better shape than many others. Commissioner Myers added that in addition to the GRF support provided, they forgave the \$500,000 levy advance and have assumed the bulk of the debt service for the JFS building. He added that the state will be facing a \$6 billion deficit in 2011, and does not expect state funding to improve at all.

Mr. Orlando agreed and said that in bad times demands for JFS services always seem to increase, but he is not responsible for setting priorities.

Mr. Zody suggested that Mr. Orlando may want to consider appropriating more than \$2.4 million of the levy funding in 2010 to help get through the year, as the total revenue is estimated to be \$3.1 million. Mr. Orlando stated he may not have a choice.

Mr. Zody stated he is still concerned about Mr. Orlando's proposal to zero out CSEA, and believes that once the incentive funds are gone, demands for increased GRF support will be made for 2011. Mr. Orlando stated he knows the funds are there for

CSEA this year but acknowledges that it is an issue that may need to be revisited from year to year.

Ms. Knisley stated that relative to the Budget Reduction Plan, there is still approximately \$360,000 that was appropriated for the JFS relief that is available for 2009, but it will “go away” at the end of the year. Mr. Orlando stated he would like to be able to access those funds if they are needed – particularly if the state demands those funds to fill the deficits. Ms. Knisley stated under the Plan, JFS started with an additional \$619,000, and Mr. Orlando stated that he would like to draw down on those funds if possible.

Ms. Knisley stated she could place the funds in a transfer line and they would then be able to be carried over and would in effect provide extra funding for JFS in 2010. Commissioner Myers asked if Ms. Addington was including those funds as part of the year-end cash carry over, and Ms. Knisley stated she did not believe so.

Mr. Orlando stated that ODJFS is still trying to reconcile the 3rd quarter numbers, and so he does not expect to hear anything from them relative to the 4th quarter for quite some time, and there are several other counties with much bigger problems.

Regarding the Family, Adult & Children First allocation, Mr. Orlando stated that he understand the Commissioners position, and would prefer that the funds not come out of his budget, but it will help save funds elsewhere. Commissioner Myers stated the funds used to come out of the JFS budget prior to 2005, and Mr. Orlando agreed, stating that times were much better back then.

Mr. Orlando stated that he does not envy the Commissioners position and he would do the best he can with whatever he is provided, and the state has placed the county in a difficult position, but the does not stop clients from continuing to walk through the door.

Commissioner Shupe stated that to Mr. Orlando’s credit he saw the state cuts and impacts coming, and this would make three straight years of no pay raises for JFS and budget cuts. Mr. Orlando stated it is unfortunate, but it will save funds down the road.

Mr. Orlando stated he was and will try to be frugal with respect any funding provided by the Board. Commissioner Myers stated that he would like some clarification as to how much funding would be available for CPS, and Ms. Knisley stated there would be \$1.45 million GRF and \$2.4 million in levy funding.

2:00 Budget Meeting with Sheriff Dave Phalen

The Board of Commissioners met with Sheriff Dave Phalen regarding the proposed 2010 budget. Commissioners present were Judith Shupe, Jon Myers and Mike Kiger. Also present were Jerry Perrigo, Mary Beth Lane, Michelle George, Ed Laramée, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin and Scott Zody.

Sheriff Phalen stated he needs to get some direction from the Board relative to the budget, as he only has 6 days left to initiate layoff notices to his employees. Sheriff Phalen stated he would be turning back approximately \$200,000 this year, and that Commissioner Shupe had mentioned something about not needing to lay off employees if he is turning that much funding back. Sheriff Phalen asked if there would be funding available later in the year that they could possibly utilize.

Commissioner Shupe stated that unfortunately, there is no way around the 9% reduction and no wiggle room in the budget. Commissioner Shupe said the Board is willing to work with the Sheriff to move funding around within the parameters, and if there is some excess funding turned in the Board would be willing to explore options to help keep deputies on the road.

Mr. Zody explained that right now, with the information currently available to the Board, even with the 9% reduction and increased sales tax, there is only a \$41,000 margin between appropriations and available funds.

Sheriff Phalen stated he is concerned about losing law enforcement staff when clerks and other non-law enforcement personnel in other departments are not losing positions.

Ms. Knisley pointed out that several other offices are participating in voluntary furloughs and other budget reductions strategies in order to avoid layoffs, and Commissioner Myers pointed out that several offices have also instituted hiring freezes. Commissioner Kiger stated the Clerk of Courts instituted mandatory furloughs for all of her employees.

Commissioner Myers stated that the Board could monitor the finances and possibly revisit later in the year, but right now can offer no additional funding. Commissioner Shupe stated the Regional Planning Commission is starting to see increased activity, and Commissioner Kiger stated that the Board should keep in mind the county finances are usually about 18 months behind the curve of the economy.

Mr. Laramée stated the risk is holding off and doing nothing, only to find the situation is worse down the road. Ms. Knisley stated the big unknowns are encumbrances, and Mr. Laramée stated that if there are funds turned back by the Sheriff, the Board could consider increasing their appropriation somewhat.

Commissioner Shupe asked if Ms. Knisley had checked the Auditor's budget numbers, and Ms. Knisley stated he had spoken with Ms. Curtiss and she agrees with her numbers, but will not volunteer any further specific cuts.

Commissioner Shupe asked if the Auditor had implemented the Voluntary Cost Savings Program, and Mr. Laramée stated it is difficult enough for them already to schedule days off for vacations and to cover sick days without adding voluntary furlough days into the mix. Commissioner Shupe stated it could be difficult, especially with the extra days off that the Auditor awards employees. Mr. Laramée stated that piece has been difficult anyway, but the personal days are a carry over from the state and a side issue, and contract costs are in some ways fixed by the state and not negotiable.

Commissioner Myers asked what the correct 9% reduction number would be for the Auditor, and Ms. Knisley stated the base is \$1.1 million, and Barb's request is for \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Kiger asked what the extra funds are for, and Mr. Laramée stated they are for contract services and payroll. Commissioner Myers asked who funds GIS, and Ms. Knisley stated those funds come from the Commissioners and the Engineer. Mr. Laramée stated he cannot move any more employees from Finance to REA.

Commissioner Kiger stated the problem is everyone is making cuts and they need everyone to participate and Mr. Laramée stated he has no other employees to give up from GRF.

Ms. Knisley asked what the increase is for Contract Services, and Mr. Laramée stated he was not sure. Ms. Knisley noted that line increased from \$104,000 to \$190,000. Commissioner Myers asked if that would be for the real estate re-appraisal, and Mr. Laramée stated those expenses would come out of the REA Fund.

Ms. Knisley suggested that line could be reduced, as well as the Supply line item, as that was increasing about \$12,000. Mr. Laramée stated he could probably find some pieces here and there and try to put together some reduction scenarios.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, on the motion of Jon Myers and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Roll call vote on the motion resulted as follows:

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

Mike Kiger
Commissioner

Jon D. Myers
Commissioner

Judith K. Shupe
Commissioner

Scott Zody, Clerk/Manager

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS' IS SCHEDULED FOR
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**