Review

The Commissioners met at 9:03 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. 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, Jason Dolin, Todd McCullough, Ray Stemen, David Miller, Mary Beth Lane, Lisa Notestone, Jeff Barron, Ursula Laveck, Dennis Keller, Bob Clark, Ed Laramee, and Tony Vogel.

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order.

- **Legal Update**
  
  a. **Lease Review for USDA**

     Mr. Dolin reported that he has reviewed the USDA lease and there was a provision allowing them to decrease space. It does not, however, address the proration of rent. This will have to be addressed.

     Mr. Dolin added that he met with Ms. Brown regarding the coffee cart issue and that it would be a matter of policy and was not codified.

     Mr. Davis stated that the idea of a cart remains in the issue bin and seems to have received much more attention from the public than the Commissioners have even given it yet. They will look at this in more detail in the upcoming months.

  - **Administrative and Budget Review/Carri’s List**
    
    a. **FAA Complaint**

     Ms. Brown stated that a complaint was filed with the FAA last night by Sky Dive Columbus. She brought this up just for awareness. The complaint was regarding a lease agreement which was approved by the Airport board last night but not signed by Sky Dive Columbus.

     Ms. Knisley added that Dr. Burns would be meeting with the FAA in the near future and would discuss this.

    b. **Land Bank**

     Ms. Brown stated that the articles of incorporation were in the review packet. The resolution was modeled after the information presented by Mr. Rokakis previously. This resolution will give Mr. Kuhn the authority to file
the appropriate papers with the Secretary of State. This is the first step of for the creation of the Land Bank.

Mr. Davis asked if Mr. Kuhn or Mr. Porter would be at the meeting.

Mr. Dolin stated they were both unable to attend.

Mr. Davis said he had an unrelated question regarding the tax lien sales and wanted to make sure he understood the process.

Mr. Dolin stated that generally the taxees review the delinquencies and agree to take on certain liens. Those they do not take on would go to the land bank.

Mr. Davis asked if there was a threshold level of tax balance required before the lien was offered for sale.

Mr. Dolin stated he did not believe so but that the taxees probably wouldn’t take properties that had really low balances as it would not be worth their time and money. He added that he would have Mr. Porter look into it.

c. CFLP Grant

Ms. Brown stated today there was a proposed resolution for an amendment reducing the grant application for the recycling amount with the expectation that in March Community Action can access the funds that come available. She noted appreciation for Community Action in cooperating with this adjustment so that the other departments are not required to make adjustments. This is a more efficient way to handle the amendment to the applications.

Mr. Davis added that he appreciated Carol Phillips with CFLP and her help on the matter.

d. Planning for Leadership Conference

Ms. Brown stated that Ms. Dulaney was unable to attend the Leadership Conference and be the first speaker due to a prior CCAO commitment. She asked if the Commissioners wanted to proceed without a speaker at the Leadership Conference or wanted to find a replacement.

Mr. Kiger stated that in the past the CCAO Director has presented an update.
Mr. Davis suggested looking for another opportunity to receive the CCAO update (perhaps the December Elected Officials/Department Heads Roundtable) and added that he didn’t think they should have a speaker at the Leadership Conference just to have a speaker.

Mr. Brown stated that was fine and that there were several agenda items already presented for the leadership conference.

Mr. Davis asked that the Leadership Conference be a special meeting so that the Commissioners can conduct official business if needed.

Mr. Dolin asked what the date was for the Leadership Conference.

Ms. Brown replied that it was October 17th.

e. BRAVOs – collaborative training

Ms. Brown thanked Ms. Knisley and Ms. Caito for their collaborative MUNIS training efforts for all financial officers. She added that the Commissioners have already seen improvements to the bill list. Mr. Brown stated that she appreciated the efforts of Ms. Knisley and Ms. Caito and the efforts of the team members who have supported them in the collaborative training.

- Old Business

a. DD partnerships, follow on

Ms. Brown reported that DD is continuing to do research, especially for potential vending opportunities, and will be back in October for a meeting (as a conflict arose for the original September date).

Mr. Davis stated that he has spoken to several restaurants in the downtown Lancaster area and he doesn’t think there will be too much trouble to have a coffee cart at the Government Services Building.

b. Public meetings to receive input about the jail location, Sept 10th at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Mr. Davis stated that the 11:00 a.m. hearing would be informal with stations for everyone to visit (each Commissioner, architects, Sheriff, Facilities, and Ms. Brown) as well as a place to complete the survey cards. He estimated this would last an hour but stated he would be there until the last person left. He added that the 6:00 p.m. hearing would be a more traditional hearing. They will give all those wishing to comment a time
guideline until everyone is able to address the Commissioners. Once everyone has had the opportunity to speak they will circle back around to those who would need more timed. Mr. Davis added that the two meetings are not the only input the public has provided and referenced the August 2011 committee report which recommended three sites: Wheeling Street, Liberty Center, and Wagenbrenner, respectively. Wagenbrenner was recommended last due to the county not owning the property. The Committee consisted of a dynamic group (law enforcement, judges, attorneys, members of the community). There are 14 years of studies, drawings, and input. Mr. Davis asked Ms. Brown how the on-line survey was going.

Ms. Brown stated that we received 237 responses as of that morning. 62% favored one location while 38% favored the other location.

Mr. Davis stated he appreciated everyone’s’ work and asked if the architects would be at both meetings.

Ms. Brown stated they would be.

- New Business
  
  a. Request for endorsement for Road, Bridge, and Culvert Renewal Levy,

  Mr. Davis asked if this was a renewal or continuance levy.

  Mr. Dolin stated that for these purposes it was a renewal.

  Mr. Davis asked if the letter was just endorsing the levy and didn’t have to do with putting it on the ballot.

  Ms. Brown stated that was correct.

Motion to endorse the Road, Bridge, and Culvert Replacement Levy.

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to endorse the Road, Bridge, and Culvert Replacement Levy.

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

- General Correspondence Received

Ms. Brown stated this was follow up from the inspection and that some actions will be taken or have already been taken in response. Mr. Keller has a plan to address concerns.

Mr. Keller stated he was present during the walkthrough and that most of the problems have been addressed already. They are currently working on the cracks in the walls (not structural problems).

Mr. Davis asked which location this was.

Mr. Keller stated it was the facility on Lincoln Avenue and this was the area that had some bad soil issues to address. He added this was not as severe as it appears, but they are making the corrections nonetheless.

b. Prosecutor's Annual Report as to Criminal Prosecutions

c. Prosecutor's Annual Report pursuant to ORC 309.16

d. Conveyance Fee Summary

Mr. Davis stated this was keeping its pace and is 15% ahead from prior years.

Ms. Brown pointed out that the Casino Revenue summary was also in the packet, but not on review as they came in after the packets had been prepared.

Mr. Davis stated he had reviewed the August numbers and they were on par. The numbers were slightly down from July and slightly up from June. There is no powerful pattern detected yet. By and large the numbers are slightly down, but we cannot read too much into it yet as there is not any history to reference.

e. Survey Permission #1 Confirmation from Mr. Aumaugher.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received
  
a. Pickerington Chamber Lunch – Thursday, September 19th
     i. Mr. Davis and Mr. Levacy will attend.

b. Ohio Historical Marker Dedication – Friday, September 20th
     i. Mr. Levacy will attend.
Mr. Kiger stated he spoke with Terry Morris regarding the Vietnam Memorial Wall and would be speaking at the event on November 1st.

c. Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow Meeting  
i. Mr. Levacy will attend

d. CCAO Budget Briefing  
i. Mr. Kiger will attend Oct. 9th meeting.

• FYI


    Mr. Davis stated that there may be a potential conflict of interest for him for this notice and the one below.

  c. Notice of Class 3 Permit Notification for “Retriev Technologies”

  d. COAAA Advisory Council Agenda and Minutes from June 6th Meeting

• Issues Bin

  a. Storage Space

  b. Vending Machines & Square 7 (eom October)

  c. AED Machines (all employees)

  d. CEM Building and other small buildings or properties.

Mr. Davis stated the Commission would remain in session through the end of the day and asked if there was any other business to discuss.

Mr. Kiger stated he attended a CCAO meeting this past Friday and asked Ms. Knisley to scan the information to the Commissioners and to Ms. Brown.

Mr. McCullough stated that he attended training in Atlanta last week. He made valuable contacts and has a few more training sessions in the upcoming months. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to grow in these areas.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. McCullough if he was enjoying the job so far.

Mr. McCullough stated that he was and that it was an exciting process.
Mr. Kiger added that Mr. McCullough handled a situation in Pickerington very well.

Mr. Davis stated a brief executive session for pending litigation would be needed later in the day.

Commissioner Davis stated at 9:41 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting.

**Commissioners’ Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Jason Dolin, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin, Tony Vogel, Michael Orlando, Ursula Laveck, Dennis Keller, Bob Clark, David Miller, Mike Miller, Paul Kemmerer, Ray Stemen, Aunie Cordle, Ritta Seitz, Jeff Barron, Jon Kochis, Mary Beth Lane, Ed Laramee, Branden Meyer, and Kathleen Young.

**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 there were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

Mr. Paul Kemmerer of 2659 B Elder Road, Lancaster, Ohio, stood up and thanked the Commissioners for listening. He stated there were many good people in government, and he hoped someone would stand up to help his family. He understands the statutory authority of the Commissioners and that they had no plans to extend public works to his area, but that they do have the statutory authority to help blighted areas, which he believes his property would qualify as. He stated he wanted to present a flash drive of pictures to the Commissioners. He added that Mr. Vogel has extensive knowledge of sewage treatment and asked him to look at the pictures as well. He added that he is open to speak to anyone who views the photos and answer any questions they may have.
Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Kemmerer for his comments and asked that he give the flash drive to Ms. Elsea at the end of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, September 3, 2013.**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

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

**Approval of the Auditor’s Office Resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Auditor’s Office resolutions:

2013-09.10.a  A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for GIS Fund # 2443 [Auditor- Admin]

2013-09.10.b  A resolution to approve a refund as a memo expenditure for fund #7428 [Auditor- Payroll]

2013-09.10.c  A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer. [INSURANCE 7671 TO GENERAL 1001] [Auditor- Payroll]

2013-09.10.d  A resolution to rescind resolution 2013-07.16.a for fund #7428, BWC refunds [Auditor- Payroll]

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

**Approval of the Commissioners’ Office Resolutions**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners’ Office resolutions:

2013-09.10.e  A resolution to approve an award of bid to Spires Paving Company for the Village of Pleasantville Paving, Sidewalk and Park Improvements Project FY2012 CDBG/NRP [Commissioners]

2013-09.10.f  A resolution authorizing to Ratify the approval of proclamation declaring Constitution Week 2013 in Fairfield County [Commissioners]

2013-09.10.g  A resolution establishing the Fairfield County Land Reutilization
Corporation for the County Treasurer’s Office, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5722.02, effective September 10, 2013 approving Initial Articles of Incorporation. [Commissioners]

2013-09.10.h A resolution amending the final report for the Fiscal Year 2014 CFLP Solid Waste District Recycling Services Contract for Fairfield County, resolution 2013-8.27.k. [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Davis asked if the proclamation had already been presented. Ms. Brown replied that it had been.

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

Approval of the Emergency Management Agency’s Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Emergency Management Agency’s resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for EMA Fund 2707 Emergency Management Performance Grant; see resolution 2013-09.10.i.

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

Approval of the Engineer’s Office Resolutions

On the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer’s Office resolutions:

2013-09.10.j A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 (CR17) [Engineer]

2013-09.10.k A Resolution to Declare the AMA-04 Bridge Project a Necessity. [Engineer]

2013-09.10.l A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for 2014 County Road Map printing [Engineer]

2013-09.10.m A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for facility fire alarm repairs [Engineer]
A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 (Julian/Strickler). [Engineer]

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

Approval of the Family, Adult, and Children First Council's Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolutions:

2013-09.10.o A resolution authorizing the FY14 Ohio Children’s Trust Fund base Teens with Tots service agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Lancaster Fair [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

2013-09.10.p A resolution authorizing the FY14 Home-Based Family Therapy Program service agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Fairfield County ADAMH Board. [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

2013-09.10.q A resolution authorizing the FY14 Child and Family Health Services, Community Health Assessment component service agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

2013-09.10.r A resolution authorizing the FY14 Ohio Children’s Trust Fund Teens with Tots service agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Lancaster Fairfield [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

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

Approval of the JFS Resolutions

On the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the JFS resolution A Proclamation Recognizing
September as Workforce Development Month in Fairfield County; see resolution 2013-09.10.s.

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

The Commissioners presented the proclamation to Mr. Orlando and Mr. Miller.

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following JFS resolutions:

2013-09.10.t A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Fox Run-The Center for Children & Adolescents, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]

2013-09.10.u A resolution regarding a Purchase of Service Contract between Behavioral Science Specialists, LLC and Job & Family Services, Adult Protective Services Division [JFS]

2013-09.10.v A resolution regarding the approval of a IV-D Contract Amendment between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Subpoena Services Plus, LLC [JFS]

2013-09.10.w A resolution regarding the approval of a IV-D Contract Amendment between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and American Court Services [JFS]

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

**Approval of the Human Resources Resolution**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Human Resources resolution to approve a plan agreement with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio for inclusion in the workers’ compensation group retrospective rating plan; see resolution 2013-09.10.x.

Discussion: Mr. Kiger asked if this was the same group as before. Ms. Cordle replied that it was and must be renewed annually.

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

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Payment of Bills resolutions:

2013-09.10.y A resolution to approve the payment of a vouchers without appropriate carry-over purchase orders for all Departments that are approved by the Commissioners [Auditor- Finance]

2013-09.10.z A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners’ approval [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Davis asked if there was any indication that construction related items were nearing completion, referencing the Clerk of Courts department. Ms. Brown stated that from the information she has received from the administrative team it is nearly complete.

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

Ms. Elsea announced that the next regular scheduled meeting for the Board of Commissioners will be Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 9:50 a.m.

Commissioner Davis announced at 10:15 a.m. that a two minute recess would be held followed by the continuation of review and preparations for the 11:00 a.m. Public Hearing. He added that the hearings would be conducted at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. with a decision coming in six weeks to answer if they should build a new public safety facility and where it should be put.

Review Continued

The Commissioners met at 10:35 a.m. to continue to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. 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, Staci Knisley, Kathleen Young, Ed Laramee, Ray Stemen, Jeff Barron, Mary Beth Lane, Bob Clark, Jason Dolin, and Branden Meyer.

Mr. Davis began by discussing the format for the 11 a.m. hearing. He stated that there was no need for introductions and that everyone would be able to visit each station and ask questions. He asked Ms. Elsea to greet everyone as they came in and direct them where to go.
Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation at 10:38 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following be present: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy and Commissioner Kiger, Carri Brown, and Rachel Elsea.

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

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:54 a.m.

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

Review Continued

The Commissioners met at 10:54 a.m. to continue to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown and Rachel Elsea.

Public Hearing- Location of a Public Safety Facility

The Commissioners held a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. to receive public input on the location of a public safety facility. 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, Staci Knisley, Garry McAnally, Kent Staker, Dennis Keller, Elisa Dowdy, Marc Churchill, Branden Meyer, Judy Groff, Randy Groff, Becky Tener, Reed Bailey, Ray Stemen, Tom Underwood, Dan Jones, Sheriff Dave Phalen, Kirk Kern, Rick Snider, Sandra Davis, Phil Johnson, Scott Hammond, Janet Murlat, Tim Welker, Mayor Dave Smith, David Landefeld, Brian Shonk, Joni Campbell, Bob Clark, Holly Mattei, Deward Watts, Judge Terre Vandervoort, and Judge David Trimmer.

Mr. Davis opened the hearing and explained that everyone was encouraged to visit each station and ask any questions they had and leave their feedback. He also encouraged everyone to fill out the surveys.

Fourteen surveys were completed. Seven favored the downtown location, six preferred the Liberty Center location and one was unsure of the location, but indicated a new facility was definitely needed.
Commissioner Davis announced at 12:00 p.m. that the hearing was closed and the Commission would be in recess until 5:30 p.m.

**Review Continued**

The Commissioners met at 5:30 p.m. to continue to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. 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, and Staci Knisley.

Mr. Davis stated he spent time that afternoon looking at the various jail studies and reports (August 2011, March 2009, February 2009, June 2008, September 2007, 2005, and September 1999). He stated that the final report from the 1999 report (the Kimble Report) was the most interesting as the final recommendation was to have all government building in a campus setting and that when this recommendation was made people did not hear anything else about the report. This was not a popular recommendation at the time and was heard as a threat, not a promise. The Commissioners in 1999 preferred the campus setting, but Mr. Davis never heard a promise that all buildings would be built there. He added that he is hopeful the “enough is enough” concept will allow them to move forward and make a decision.

Mr. Levacy stated he agreed.

Mr. Kiger added he has wanted to get this done for a long time.

**Approval of the Commissioners’ Office Resolution**

On the motion of Mike Kiger and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners’ Office resolution to resolution to approve an award of bid to PJ Martin & Sons General Contracting, Inc. for the Village of Carroll CDBG Curb Installation Project – FY2012 CDBG/NRP program; see resolution 2013-09.10.aa.

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

Mr. Davis asked for the latest survey results.

Ms. Brown stated that there was roughly 62.8% in favor of the downtown location and 37.2% in favor of the Liberty Center.

Mr. Davis added that there were 14 surveys returned, 7 favoring downtown, 6 for the Liberty Center and 1 unsure of a location, but for a new facility. He added that while the EG said the turnout was low, there were at least 35 people at the morning hearing.
Regular Meeting #42 - 2013
Fairfield County Commissioners’ Office
September 10, 2013

Public Hearing- Location of a Public Safety Facility

The Commissioners held a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. to receive public input on the location of a public safety facility. 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, Staci Knisley, Garry McAnally, Kent Staker, Dennis Keller, Gregg Marx, Lt. Marc Churchill, Phil Johnson, Richard Swisher, Tod Noland, Deward Watts, Mayor Dave Smith, Barb Cooper-Schaeffer, Steve Schaeffer, Brian Shonk, Judy Shupe, Janet Muralt, John Snider, Ed Laramee, Tom Underwood, Tracie Dowdy, Dave Bailey, Sheriff Dave Phalen, Jerry Stebelton, and Dave Connolly.

Mr. Davis called the hearing to order and thanked everyone for attending. He stated they had about 35 people attend the morning hearing and had set aside this time to hear public opinion regarding the location of a public safety facility. While the morning session was an informal format, this evening session would be more formal, allowing three minutes for comment per individual followed by any additional comments. Mr. Davis also reviewed the history of the groups created and studies completed regarding the location of a public safety facility. While no decision has been made yet, the Commissioners are done requesting studies and will be ready to make a decision in the next six weeks. The past 15 years of input, along with the two public hearings and surveys and next six weeks has allowed for ample time for the public to voice their opinion. At the end of the next six weeks the Commissions will decide whether or not to build the public safety facility and if so, where to build it.

Mr. Davis stated there were a few individuals who asked to speak first due to scheduling conflicts. Each individual would receive three minutes to comment and could add additional comments at the end once everyone has had the opportunity to speak.

Prosecutor Gregg Marx stated he was in support of the downtown location. He has worked in the prosecutor’s office since 1982 and, along with Dave Landefeld, has feared for years that a federal judge would rule the Fairfield County jails were inadequate. The downtown location would allow for the Sheriff and inmates to be close to the prosecutor’s office. It is also a benefit that the county already owns this land. The new city court house will be downtown, and this will help them as well. A location that is not near the court house, prosecutor, law enforcement, and law firms will hurt the judicial system and be hard on the criminal defense attorneys who have to regularly visit their clients. The new jail must have ample space for attorneys to meet with their clients. When the attorneys don’t meet with their clients it also hurts the prosecution’s case. Mr. Marx concluded by saying the county also pays for the travel time for court appointed attorneys and this would add to costs of having the jail at the Liberty Center.

Mr. Tom Underwood of 1233 Greenmeadow Court, Lancaster, Ohio rose in support of the downtown location. He stated it would benefit the general population who do not have transportation to get to a facility that isn’t near where they already live. He added that the building would be good for Lancaster and stressed the importance of providing
a safe workspace for those who work in the building. He also asked that there be enough space for meetings, classes, activities, and therapy sessions. He stated that they need to design the facility to allow for growth and changes in sentencing laws. He concluded by saying the downtown location would be a very good investment.

Lancaster Police Chief Dave Bailey of 130 South Broad Street, Lancaster, spoke in favor of the downtown location. He stated that LPD provides transportation and security for the municipal court and average 2,765 transports from the Wheeling Street or Main Street facilities a year. Those transports average 15 minutes from start to finish while a transport to the annex (which they understand is a temporary necessity) is 30 minutes. LPD can do both jobs well when the facilities are close, however if the jail were to move to a location that is further away, their security presence at the court house would diminish. Chief Bailey added that LPD cooperates with the Sheriff’s Office and can respond to emergencies at the local jail facilities if needed. If an emergency occurred at the Liberty Center location, they would not be able to provide back up. He concluded by saying that the proximity to all other facilities is very important and that he was certain the new facility would be secure and attractive.

Sheriff Dave Phalen of 1954 Whacker Drive in Lancaster also spoke in support of a downtown location. He stated that the jail has been located downtown for 200 years and that the Sheriff’s Office has been a good neighbor. The cruisers are based in Lancaster and serve as a good deterrent as they leave every morning and drive through Lancaster to go throughout the county. Sheriff Phalen added that the employees at the jails and Sheriff’s Office frequent downtown businesses and often have their lunches there. He said it makes sense with all of the other offices and agencies in Lancaster to keep the facility downtown as the Sheriff works with those offices daily.

Mr. Jerry Stebelton of 536 East Allen Street in Lancaster supports the downtown location. As a property owner in downtown Lancaster, Mr. Stebelton said a downtown location would not be a detriment to Lancaster and would not distract from the town. It is fiscally irresponsible to put the jail at the Liberty Center due to the transportation costs. As an attorney who practiced criminal litigation he understands the work involved and visits required of the attorneys. With both courts in Lancaster, it makes the most sense to build in Lancaster. The Wheeling Street facility currently has a large empty lot that needs addressed and this structure would do that.

Ms. Tracie Dowdy of 2660 Hardwood in Lancaster supports the Liberty Center location. She has been a downtown business over for the past 5 years. Putting the jail downtown would not be a positive movement for the economic development of downtown Lancaster. This would drive away new businesses and developers and would mean more government offices. She does not think a downtown location is a good idea.

Mr. Richard Swisher of 319 Lewis Ave in Lancaster stated it was more feasible (due to the current resources) to keep the location downtown.
Mr. John Snider of 1917 Yorktown Court in Lancaster echoed the thoughts of the Police Chief, Sheriff, and Prosecutor. Public Safety takes up much of the government’s budget and time that is spent transporting prisoners is not a productive use of law enforcement when they should be spending their time deterring crime.

Mr. Brian Shonk of 315 East Allen Street supports a downtown location for several reasons. The county pays for court appointed attorneys and having a location that is not close to the court house will require them to travel more and for the county to pay more. There are a number of law firms in town with several employees (some with 30+ employees) who often eat downtown and provide business to local businesses. If the jail moves to the Liberty Center, the law firms and courts would eventually follow. The city has made a decision to keep their court house in Lancaster; the county should do the same. Mr. Shonk added that he traveled to the United Way breakfast earlier in the day. While it is the same direction of the Liberty Center, it is not as far and still took him 26.5 minutes (which is normal).

Mayor Dave Smith of 515 North Broad Street in Lancaster supports the downtown location. He sat on the committees regarding the location and appreciated the input and concerns of everyone. Lancaster is the county seat and should house the jail. The jail has been in town since the beginning and has worked well there. It is convenient for all who work there. Mayor Smith concluded by saying the Liberty Center would be a quiet location, but there are no services there and that he concurred with the general consensus.

Mr. Tod Noland of 321 East Allen Street stated the Liberty Center location may require additional studies to see if any of the inhabitants of the wooded areas are endangered and asked if the county owns enough land to build there. He suggested the county purchase the Big Bear location and move all necessary offices to the strip mall located there.

Mr. Steve Schaeffer of 5350 Wilson Road NW in Lancaster said there would be no negative impact from keeping the facility downtown. He added that the county already owns all that they need and that the Wheeling Street site was perfect. Moving the jail out of Lancaster would be another nail in the coffin for the city.

Chief Bailey asked to clarify his comments and said that on a very good day they could transport in 15 minutes from the Lancaster facilities and expected the Liberty Center transportation to take at least 40 minutes and probably longer. He agreed with Mr. Shonk regarding the time of his trip to the breakfast at the Cross Roads Event Center.

Mr. Swisher asked if the county had the needed utilities at the Liberty Center and stated that since the city already has utilities at Wheeling Street that would make more sense. The downtown location allows for two types of law enforcement to help when needed.
Mr. Davis stated that the Commission would continue to receive input in the upcoming weeks. They online survey would remain up and hard copies of the survey are also available (the survey is just one means of voicing input). He added that the Commission is seeking input in a variety of means (hearings, meetings, online, etc.) as well as reviewing past reports. There are still six weeks before a decision will be made.

Mr. Shonk stated there was input regarding the negative impact a jail would have on downtown Lancaster. He stated he disagreed with that and that his law firm has invested over a million dollars in improvements for their downtown offices. Many businesses rely on the firms and government offices that are downtown. If the jail were to move, these businesses would see a negative impact.

Mr. Davis asked if there were any other comments.

With no other comments he thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone they would continue to receive input in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Davis closed the hearing at 6:41 p.m.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Mike Kiger the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn 6:45 p.m.

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

The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 9:50 a.m.

Motion by: Seconded by:

that the September 10, 2013, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None