

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014, WITH COMMISSIONERS DAVID H. UIBLE, ROBERT L. PROUD, AND EDWIN H. HUMPHREY IN ATTENDANCE.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE THOMAS J. EIGEL, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE APRIL 28, 2014 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>.**

**THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:**

**Let the record show Informal Session started shortly after 10:25 A.M.**

**Issue - Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance, Andy Holzhauser, Chief Executive Officer...140508-001**

**Discussion** – Mr. Holzhauser gave a brief overview of the history of the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance (GCEA). Mr. Holzhauser provided a PowerPoint presentation, which delivered details with regard to the Residential Energy Financing Program they offer to residents in the tri-state area. GCEA has been doing business for 5 years as a nonprofit economic development agency, which provides deployment and enhancement of investment options for clean and renewable energy improvements for residential and commercial property owners. The main focus areas of GCEA are as follows:

- Education/Outreach
- Project Management
- Quality Assurance
- Financing Solutions

Mr. Holzhauser reported that financing solutions have become the main focus of GCEA over the last few years. The economic impact of energy efficiency improvements are very labor intensive. GCEA has had approximately \$42M in direct regional economic impact over the last 3.5 years. Energy efficiency improvement work has increased sales tax, earnings tax and property taxes.

Mr. Holzhauser described the first step in the GCEA program, which is the assessment/evaluation process. GCEA assessment contractors will evaluate heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC), attic insulation, appliances, ductwork and windows for energy efficiency. Commissioner Proud asked what the cost of the assessment was to the resident. Mr. Holzhauser stated the cost for these assessments range from \$0 to \$200. If the homeowner has been pre-approved for financing through a program called GC-Help program, the cost of the assessment is free. Mr. Holzhauser stated the average investment of a whole home energy efficiency upgrade is approximately \$10,500.00, which is a significant investment most residents could not afford to do otherwise.

GC-Help is an unsecured loan program available to assist homeowners in financing costs to implement energy efficiency upgrades over a 10 year period. GC-Help is the program that Mr. Holzhauser and GCEA would like the Commissioners to support for the residents of Clermont County. Mr. Holzhauser stated the GC-Help program is the lowest available

rate/cost for an unsecured/financing loan a contractor can offer to a homeowner in our area. (See slide 6 for details on loan program requirements.)

Commissioner Uible asked where GCEA received their funding. Mr. Holzhauser reported it was a combination of both the interest rate that was collected on the loans and from the Department of Energy. GCEA received a \$17M grant to assist in transforming the energy efficiency financing marketplace from the Department of Energy, Better Buildings Neighborhoods Program.

The Department of Energy has given GCEA permission to expand outside of the initial areas of Boone, Kenton and Campbell Counties in Kentucky and Hamilton County in Ohio, which has been participating for a couple of years. GCEA has letters of support from Butler and Warren counties and would appreciate a letter of support from Clermont County to allow them to offer the program to Clermont County residents.

Commissioner Uible asked if there were any financial requirements from the County to offer this to residents. Mr. Holzhauser stated there was not a financial responsibility to the County.

Commissioner Proud asked Mr. Holzhauser what training had been done in coordination with Cincinnati State Technical & Community College as referenced on slide 7 of the presentation. Mr. Holzhauser explained approximately 70 local contractors have had 200 employees complete the Building Performance Institute (BPI) training certification course regarding Home Energy Assessors and Installers training. The BPI course is available to private contractors with tuition assistance programs and is primarily utilized by contractors who are experienced in HVAC and plumbing services who want to expand their business.

GCEA also offers an equipment leasing program to contractors to help offset startup costs for the equipment to do whole home energy assessments, which are about \$5,000. GCEA also offers a lease program to smaller contractors so they can afford to become more competitive and offer energy efficiency assessment services.

Mr. Holzhauser stated that Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has allowed GCEA over the last 8 months, to establish a pilot partnership program in conjunction with Duke Energy. Each financing program GCEA offers is integrated with Duke Energy's SmartSaver or Energy Rebate Programs.

Commissioner Uible stated he believed we received the GCEA agreement in the past and was unsure as to status of the agreement. Commissioner Uible asked Mr. Eigel if he had an update on the status or concerns he might have with the GCEA agreement. Mr. Eigel stated he believed Mr. Rabolt had concerns with endorsing one vendor's program when there may be other vendors who could offer similar programs to County residents. Commissioner Humphrey inquired as to whether this presentation had been presented to Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments a couple of years ago. Mr. Holzhauser stated that he had indeed presented GCEA GC-Help and PACE programs to OKI about two years ago.

Mr. Holzhauser asked for a letter of support from the Commissioners and indicated he would be glad to have the language modified if necessary. Mr. Holzhauser stated that GCEA was not requesting exclusivity for their energy programs.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – The Commissioners will consider the letter of support after consulting with legal counsel.

## **Adjournment**

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

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**DAVID H. UIBLE, PRESIDENT**

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**ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT**

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**EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, MEMBER**

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**THOMAS J. EIGEL, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**05/07/14**  
**DATE APPROVED**