

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY AND ROBERT L. PROUD IN ATTENDANCE. LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COMMISSIONER ARCHIE WILSON WAS NOT PRESENT.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND CONNIE TIBBE, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.

LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE JANUARY 11, 2012 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-bcc.aspx>.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUE WAS PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Stonelick-Williams Corner Covered Bridge

Discussion - A group of community members addressed the Board with regard to their concerns regarding the County Engineer's plans to upgrade the wooden covered bridge on Stonelick-Williams Corner Road which was built in 1878. Documentation outlining the specifics of this issue was provided to the Board for their review (attached).

Detailed discussion was held regarding the need for an authentic restoration of the historic bridge in lieu of remodeling it into a modern structure which will take away the character and history of the iconic bridge. Also in attendance speaking in support of preserving the bridge were John Hanley, Stonelick Township Trustee, and John Kies representing the Miami Rifle and Pistol Club which is located near the bridge and consists of 1,800 members. It was noted that a petition was included in the documentation provided to the Board including numerous signatures in support of preserving the last covered bridge in Clermont County.

Additional discussion was held regarding the impact of replacing the bridge floor which could lower the deck by 18 inches. This will make the bridge floor more susceptible to large debris that floats down the creek when the water is high which could ultimately destroy the bridge in the future.

It was noted that it has been suggested to the Engineer's Office to simply reduce the height of the bridge opening to prevent large vehicles from entering the bridge, as well as, placing standard height restrictions signs on both ends of the bridge. However, the Engineer's Office did not endorse these suggestions. It was further noted that recent attempts to communicate concerns regarding this issue via letters to the Engineer's Office have not been successful (with no acknowledgment or response received from the Engineer's Office).

Commissioner Proud indicated that he understands the significance of the Stonelick-Williams Corner covered bridge to the community and that he appreciates the passion expressed today for preserving the bridge. He further stated that he believes that the County Engineer does not want to jeopardize the historic value of the bridge but it is his job to ensure that the bridge is safe for public use.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed - The Board indicated that they will contact the County Engineer regarding the proposed design plans for the rehabilitation of the Stonelick-Williams Corner covered bridge and communicate the concerns identified in today's discussion.

IN RE: ADJOURNMENT...APPROVED

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Proud, that with no further business to come before the commission, to adjourn this informal regular session.

Upon roll call on the foregoing motion, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Humphrey, Aye; Mr. Proud, Yea; Mr. Wilson, Absent.

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

**ROBERT L. PROUD, PRESIDENT
EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, VICE PRESIDENT
ARCHIE WILSON, MEMBER**

01/18/12
DATE APPROVED