

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012, WITH COMMISSIONERS ROBERT L. PROUD AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE. LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COMMISSIONER EDWIN H. HUMPHREY WAS NOT PRESENT.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, 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 JUNE 4, 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 ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Public Defender's Spacing Needs

Discussion - Dan Hannon, Public Defender, addressed the Board with regard to office space needs at the Public Defender's Office. Mr. Hannon provided an overview of the current staffing levels as well as staff locations and the specifics of the lack of adequate operating space for the Public Defender's Office.

In addition, Mr. Hannon explained that when Juvenile Rule 3 becomes effective on July 1, 2012, the workload for the Public Defender's Office for Juvenile cases (unruly and delinquent) will dramatically increase from the current number of cases, causing a greater need for office space for case processing, additional interviews, etc. Mr. Hannon indicated that he has met with Judge Stephanie Wyler and Gary Bryant of Juvenile Court regarding this issue and that they are all in agreement that there is a definite and unavoidable need to elevate one part-time Assistant Public Defender position to a full-time position in order to handle the upcoming increased caseload due to Juvenile Rule 3. The estimated cost for elevating the position to a full-time status is approximately \$28,000 to \$30,000.

Another significant factor impacting the Public Defender's space needs is the anticipated loss of six Assistant Public Defender staff members (2 full-time and 4 part-time) to the Prosecutor's Office in July 2012. Mr. Hannon stated that the loss of staff is due to the lack of competitive pay rates and is an ongoing issue for the Public Defender's Office. In an effort to combat this issue, Mr. Hannon proposed to eliminate four part-time Assistant Public Defender positions and increase the pay for the full-time Assistant Public Defender positions. For the additional pay, the full-time Assistant Public Defenders will incur a substantial amount of additional cases (which were previously handled by the part-time positions). It was noted that, if implemented, this staffing change will actually generate a cost savings to the county due to the elimination of part-time positions which are grandfathered-in for the receipt of the county's benefits package. The estimated savings will offset the cost of the new full-time Assistant Public Defender position needed due to Juvenile Rule 3 (possibly generating a zero net cost to the county). It was further noted that this scenario will prevent the future loss of staff to private practices due to uncompetitive pay rates. However, it will also increase the growing need for office space in the Public Defender's Office.

To address the space needs of the Public Defender's Office, Mr. Hannon proposed renting the office space located at 150 West Main Street in Batavia, Ohio (which was previously leased by the county to house the Treatment Alternatives for Street Crimes' Office). This building will provide adequate office space for the staff required to meet the public demands of the Public Defender's Office, as well as, provide space for private practices as needed

(with additional space available for increased staff levels in the future if necessary). This option will require the county to pay for 75% of the rented space cost, for an additional \$25,000 per year for space and utilities compared to the annual cost to lease the space currently being used by Public Defender's Office. The other 25% of office space will be rented separately for private practices.

It was noted that the cost savings from the proposed restructuring of the Public Defender's Office will afford the county the opportunity to address the anticipated increased caseload (due to House Rule 3) with no increase to the operating budget. However, additional funding will be needed to rent the proposed new location of the Public Defender's Office. In either scenario, additional funding is needed for the Public Defender's Office. Additional funds are needed to fund either (1.) the cost of the new full-time Assistant Public Defender (\$28,000 to \$30,000) or (2.) the cost of the new leased space (\$25,000). In the latter scenario, the additional funds will be covering the operating cost of the Public Defender's Office while simultaneously addressing need for additional office space to meet the increasing public demand for services.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed - Mr. Rabolt indicated that he is working with Facilities Management and the Office of Management and Budget in an effort to develop an office layout in the proposed new location of the Public Defender's Office and finalize the funding numbers. Upon completion, the information will be provided to the Board for their consideration.

2. **Issue - Moving Ohio Forward Grant**

Discussion – Andy Kuchta and Annette Decatur addressed the Board with regard to the Moving Ohio Forward Grant Program which was established by the Ohio Attorney General (OAG) to assist communities in their economic recovery by removing blighted or abandoned residential structures. The allocation formula for the grant program is based on the percentage of foreclosures filed in each county during the time period of 2008 through 2011. Clermont County has been allocated \$1,173,073. Lead entities must apply and be approved in accordance with the established criteria in order for funds to be obligated. There is no local match for the first \$500,000 allocated to each county. Any grant expenditure above that amount requires a \$1 match for each \$1 of grant funds spent.

Documentation outlining the specifics of the grant program including eligible uses of funds, ineligible uses of funds, and key dates was provided and reviewed (attached). It was noted that the application submission deadline is 06/30/12, with a grant award date of 08/01/12.

Mr. Kuchta indicated that a commitment from the Board (via a resolution) is all that is currently needed, with agreements and matching funds to come at a later date. The state is attempting to make the grant process as simple as possible, with no public hearing required to receive the grant funds. He further recommended that the Board submit the application for the grant funding at this time. A recommended breakdown of the initial \$500,000 (not requiring matching funds) for the townships and cities throughout Clermont County was provided and reviewed (attached). The funding is allocated proportionally to each community's population. Should the entire initial \$500,000 allocation be utilized, any township/city with matching funds can continue to utilize the grant funds on a 50% reimbursement basis. Mr. Rabolt indicated discussions have been held with the townships and that they have expressed interest in receiving the grant funds for cleaning up properties.

It was noted that OAG Office will be reassessing the process to ensure that the funding is being spent. If not being utilized, the funds can be reclaimed back to the state. Mr. Kuchta stated that he has been told that the state intends to be flexible, with no penalties involved for not utilizing the funds. However, the written guidelines for the grant program do not address this issue.

The possibility of only submitting an application for \$500,000 now and applying for an

amendment later if additional funds are needed was discussed.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed - The Board expressed their desire to apply for the Moving Ohio Forward Grant Program. However, the Board directed the Administration to first obtain written clarification on the grant program guidelines, specifically regarding the penalty process and the timeline for submitting matching funds.

3. **Issue - Board Appointments**

Discussion - A report outlining the current and upcoming Board vacancies for terms expiring through 06/30/12 was provided for the Board's review (attached).

Discussion was held regarding the need to fill the current vacancy on the Clermont County Planning Commission due to Douglas Thomson's term ending on 03/30/12. The Board indicated that they would like to review the applications received for the position.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed - Mr. Rabolt indicated that he would provide the applications for the vacant Planning Commission position to the Board for their review as requested.

4. **Issue - CompManagement**

Discussion - Bob Sander and Debbie Beck of Human Resources and Bruce Preston, CompManagement, were present to update the Board regarding the county's Workers' Compensation Program.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided outlining the following issues (attached):

- **CompManagement's Experience and Investment in Ohio**
- **Workers' Compensation Partners and Activities**
- **2012 Individual Modifier** - It was noted that an individual modifier is the result of a comparison between actual claim losses and expected losses. Clermont County's 2012 individual modifier is 0.30. Of the 70 counties in the program, only 3 counties have a better individual modifier than Clermont County.
- **Clermont County's Claim Frequency from 2007 through 2011**
- **Retrospective Premium Savings** - A graph of Clermont County's retrospective premium savings from 2008 through 2012 was provided and reviewed, with a total premium savings of \$1.380 million through 12/31/11.
- **CompManagement's Handicap Reimbursement Savings** - With a 2012 premium savings of \$35,212 and a savings of \$26,494 in retrospective claim costs.

It was noted that the Board's decision to join the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Individual Retrospective Rating Plan has proven to be a good decision, generating a significant cost savings for the county.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed - Other potential program options for 2013 were identified and discussed including self-insurance and group retrospective rating. Mr. Preston indicate that, upon the receipt of the June 30, 2012 data (the end of the fiscal year), all program options will be explored/analyzed and a recommendation for the county's 2013 Workers' Compensation Program will be prepared for the Board's consideration.

Adjournment

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

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

**ROBERT L. PROUD, PRESIDENT
EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, VICE PRESIDENT
DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER**

STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

06/20/12
DATE APPROVED