

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2013, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, DAVID H. UIBLE AND ROBERT L. PROUD IN ATTENDANCE.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, 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 5, 2013 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:

1. Issue - Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Initiative Update, Lauren Smalley...080428-004

Discussion - Ms. Smalley introduced herself as the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Ms. Smalley stated that the primary function of the PUCO Office of Public Affairs, which opened in July 2012, is to provide public education in regard to energy choice. Ms. Smalley further explained that the primary focus of the four PIO's on staff at PUCO is to speak with residents and small businesses. She provided copies of several handouts. She has been in Clermont County speaking to local groups, including the Township Association meeting, Rotary clubs etc.

Ms. Smalley stated that PUCO started the education initiative in August of 2012 to educate citizens and small business about electric choice as well as natural gas choice. PUCO does not recommend a specific supplier; they simply educate citizens and small businesses about the choices available to them through suppliers and utilities. PUCO will also take complaints, and note concerns in regard to suppliers being too aggressive, as well as conduct surveys to gather data in regard to consumer experiences during the shopping process.

Ms. Smalley discussed the reverse auction procedure for pricing electric, how and when it is set and noted that the reverse auction is always conducted in June. Ms. Smalley further discussed that the natural gas price is always changing and set by market pricing.

Ms. Smalley spoke about as well as provided a handout that describes Governmental Energy Aggregation and the potential benefit it has to reduce costs when purchasing in a large buying group. <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/consumer-information/consumer-topics/governmental-energy-aggregation-local-community-buying-power/>

Ms. Smalley provided a copy of the Apples to Apples chart PUCO provides to citizens to aid in making a decision about suppliers for electric. The Apples to Apples chart gives a detailed listing for all suppliers that are certified by PUCO and the current programs they are offering. Ms. Smalley further noted there are 20 certified suppliers that are offering supply in this area. This chart is updated weekly and is available at: PUCO Website <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/apples-to-apples/duke-energy-ohio-apples-to-apples-chart/>

Ms. Smalley stressed shopping for a supplier is a choice, (this makes up about 50% of your monthly bill) and not something citizens or businesses are required to do. If residents would like more information residents are encouraged to contact PUCO or review the information on PUCO's website at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm>

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed - Ms. Smalley provided the call center number for complaints 1-800-686-PUCO as well as her cell phone number 614-644-0994 for contact information in regard to citizens or businesses that would like additional information regarding shopping for electric or natural gas choices.

2. Issue - Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center (SWORTC) ...080228-001

Discussion - Mr. Michael Pride, Director of Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS), provided a handout in regard to the SWORTC. The training center provides 102 hours to each case worker in the region as well as 32 case worker training seminars per year.

Mr. Pride explained the training center is currently located in the center of eight counties just off I-275 at the Wards Corner Road exit and is currently being administered by Butler County. If Butler County continues to be the administrative agent they would like to move the training center to Butler County. Moving the training center would cost the other 7 counties in the region additional money for transportation as well as staff time to travel to and from training. Mr. Pride further discussed that Clermont County has the opportunity to become the administrative agent for the regional training center.

Mr. Pride stated that should the Board choose to become the administrative agent for the SWORTC the State would like to see them start on July 1, 2013. Mr. Pride explained that the participating counties in the SWORTC are Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, Warren, Brown, Highland, Adams, and Clinton counties and that we have obtained letters of support from the other seven counties for Clermont County to become the administrative agent for the SWORTC.

Mr. Pride gave some discussion as to the funding for the SWORTC. There will be no expense to the host or administrative agent county. The SWORTC is completely funded by the State with no local money or match required. Mr. Pride further stated that it will require a Table of Organization change, adding the five current employees of the SWORTC to the Clermont County DJFS.

Mr. Tim Dick, Assistant Director, Clermont County DJFS Children's Protective Services Division, stated that the SWORTC also provides training to approximately 11,000 Foster and Adoptive parents each year. The Foster and Adoptive Parent training is conducted at the Wards Corner Road office as well as some offsite training facilities.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed -

The Board asked that Mr. Pride prepare the motions for request and approval of Clermont County to become the Administrative Agent for the Southwest Ohio Regional Training Center as well as the modification to the Clermont County Department of Job and Family Services Table of Organization to add the five positions with all of the pay and benefits being State and Federal funded. If possible the five employees will be directly transferred from Butler County to Clermont County.

Adjournment

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

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

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT

DAVID H. UIBLE, VICE PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. PROUD, MEMBER

STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

07/10/13
DATE APPROVED