

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 03, 2015, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, ROBERT L. PROUD, AND DAVID H. UIBLE 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 03, 2015 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 <https://www.youtube.com/user/clermontcounty/playlists>

Informal Session started shortly before 10:50 AM

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Government Aggregation, Solar and County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Programs – Suzanne Dulaney, Executive Director, CCAO, and Kirk Mizerek, Mark Frye and Bill Bradish, Palmer Energy

Discussion - Ms. Dulaney delivered an overview of the topics that were presented today in session, such as the Community Alternative Sentencing Center (CASC) that she thinks would be of interest to the entire state and her intention to present them at the CCAO winter conference.

Ms. Dulaney also noted CCAO's upcoming Economic Development Conference June 24 and 25, 2015. Commissioner Proud stated Andy Kuchta, Director of our Department of Community Economic and Development is already registered to attend.

Ms. Dulaney extended the Commissioners assistance if they have any questions about CCAO or the services the Association offers. She further discussed the CCAO Service Corporation and the partnership they have with the purchasing of electric and natural gas aggregation. Ms. Dulaney stated there was a new initiative on solar energy, it was important for the Board to consider when and where does it make sense for county government.

Ms. Dulaney introduced Mr. Frye from Palmer Energy. Mr. Frye cited 50 counties in Ohio are participating in the energy program with Palmer and CCAO for both electric and natural gas aggregation. Palmer Energy believes the more counties that participate in the program; the realized discounts will be larger for each county. Mr. Frye reiterated that he understands Clermont does the energy and natural gas Request for Proposal (RFP) and purchasing on our own nevertheless Palmer offers at no cost due to the contract with CCAO the ability to review the offers after the County does the RFP and is ready to contract with a vendor.

Mr. Frye stated that he understand Clermont intends to have Government Energy Aggregation on the ballot for November. Mr. Frye stated Palmer Energy would be available to aid us with educating the public, attending public meetings, or meeting with Township Trustees regarding this ballot issue. They would appreciate the opportunity to assist us with promoting this program, they have 20+ counties that have governmental aggregation through the CCAO process, so they are well versed in the procedure.

Mr. Frye stated a few years ago that solar energy programs were cost prohibitive. Approximately two years ago, a customer approached them with a contract to review on a purchase of a solar array and after reviewing the pricing, Palmer realized the solar array

technology seems to have significant savings potential even here where it would not seem the most likely of locations. The most beneficial of these locations are those that have extremely high-energy consumption and demand with a substantial amount of excess land available such as corrections facilities, Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP), etc. The volume of consumption could potentially benefit from the solar array program. The County would most likely not have the internal expertise in this particular area to write or evaluate an RFP for solar array implementation. Palmer Energy can provide the expertise in this area if that is an avenue the County would like to pursue. Mr. Frye stated there are substantial investment tax credits from the federal government in 2015-2016 for installing and implementing this technology as well as the cost of installation of this technology has decreased exponentially over the last 2-3 years making it much more cost effective especially with the rising cost of electricity and natural gas.

Commissioner Uible stated he understands that the cost of solar energy technology should be going down by 50% over the next few years and asked if it would not be prudent to wait until the technology improves and the implementation cost comes down a little farther before investing in this type of system. Mr. Frye stated that is true, however the tax credit is set at 30% for 2015 - 2016 and in 2017 the credits are set to decrease to 10%. He also feels that the supply and demand will be greater as the cost goes down in states that would see a greater benefit such as those in the south and west in the future.

Commissioner Proud asked if they could give us a comparison on Return on Investment (ROI) if we were to implement a solar array program at the jail. Mr. Frye stated that they are working on a program collectively with CCAO for several facilities in several counties at once to hold costs down. Palmer is hoping this will drive the installation costs down as well.

Commissioner Humphrey asked if there was a set window of opportunity for this next RFP/RFB process. Ms. Dulaney stated that the CCAO Solar Energy RFP process is just starting and CCAO is working on the legal template agreement and RFP. Mr. Frye detailed Palmer is hoping for mid-July to have the RFP out on the street, and that date may be a bit aggressive, but there is a deadline for the end of 2016 for the rebate of 30% tax credit so with this RFP Palmer would want all installations completed before December 31, 2016. After the 2016, RFP Palmer anticipates a year or two of waiting until more incentives before going out for the next round of RFP's.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – No action needed at this time.

Adjournment

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

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

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT

DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER

STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

06/24/15
DATE APPROVED