

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY AND TOM BLUST IN ATTENDANCE. LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COMMISSIONER ROBERT L. PROUD 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 FEBRUARY 16, 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 - Veterans' Service Commission Funding Request**

**Discussion** - Representatives of the Veterans' Service Commission including Dan Bare, Bob Derr and Chief Riley addressed the Board with regard to the funding request for the Veterans' Service Commissioners' salaries as outlined in their correspondence dated December 30, 2011 (attached). The request is for a \$100/month salary increase which would result in a \$1,200 budget increase each year for the next five years (as the Veterans' Service Commissioners' terms are effective for five years and expire on a rotating basis). The requested increase would increase the salaries from the current \$800/month to \$900/month. It was explained that the Veterans' Service Commissioners cannot receive a mid-term increase in salary due to a 2001 Ohio Attorney General opinion.

The funding history of the Veterans' Service Commission, as well as, the rationale for the funding request was discussed. It was noted that budget reductions have been put into place over the last four years; with no raises, no bonuses, as well as, other budget reduction efforts including not filling a vacancy due to a resignation. It was further noted that the last salary increase for the Veterans' Service Commissioners was five years ago.

An overview of the current Veterans' Service Commission's activities, meetings, trainings, projects and program initiatives was provided (with the Board being significantly more active than in previous years). Growing service demands, program accomplishments and state recognitions for the Clermont County Veterans' Service Commission were also addressed.

It was further noted that the only travel costs paid by the Veterans' Service Commission are for the trips to Columbus, Ohio. The possibility of instituting expense reimbursements for all travel costs for all Board members (in lieu of the requested salary increase) was discussed (which would immediately benefit all Board members). Mr. Derr indicated that the Board discussed this option, but believes that the requested flat increase is the best alternative to implement (with the expense reimbursement option resulting in a significant burden on the Board members).

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** - The Board of County Commissioners indicated that would ask Commissioner Bob Proud to review the video of today's discussion in order to get his input on the Veterans' Service Commission's funding request. In addition, Mr. Bare is to obtain salary comparisons for other Veterans' Service Commissioners in other counties of comparable size for review and consideration in this issue.

2. **Issue - Warren County Sewer Agreement**

**Discussion** - Tom Yeager and Lyle Bloom, Water Resources Department, provided an update to the Board regarding the status of the proposed a Warren County Sewer Agreement (which has been under consideration for the last two years). A brief overview of the history of the issue/agreement was provided. The purpose of the agreement is to provide centralized sanitary sewer service to southeastern Warren County within the O'Bannon Creek drainage area in order to support the expansion of the Hartz Mountain facility located within Pleasant Plain, Ohio, in Warren County. In order for Warren County to provide the requested sewer extension, they need to go beyond their county line into Clermont County. A contract is needed to formalize the mutual agreement between Clermont and Warren Counties to allow sanitary sewer service to the area to be developed.

It was noted that the draft version of the contract has been reviewed and approved by the Prosecutor's Office of both Clermont and Warren Counties. It was further noted that the agreement allows for the extension of the public sewers at no cost to Clermont County and that Clermont County will serve the area and administer its rules and regulations to all customers within the service area.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COMMISSIONER ROBERT L. PROUD ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS TIME.**

Advantages of proceeding with the proposed contract were identified including the creation of jobs at Hartz Mountain, regional cooperation, and the best use of public funds relative to the provision of sewer service to citizens within Clermont and Warren Counties.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** - The Administration is to prepare the Warren County Sewer Agreement for their approval in regular session.

3. **Issue - CECOS**

**Discussion** - A brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of having Dave Spinney, the formal Clermont County Administrator, assist the county with the ongoing litigation relative to the hazardous waste leakage at the Aber Road facility of CECOS International. It was noted that Mr. Spinney has a wealth of knowledge regarding this issue and his input can potentially save the county from incurring large attorney fees in the future.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** - The Administration is to proceed with the initiative of obtaining Mr. Spinney's assistance with the CECOS litigation.

**Adjournment**

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

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

**ROBERT L. PROUD, PRESIDENT  
EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, VICE PRESIDENT  
THOMAS L. BLUST, MEMBER**

**STEPHEN H. RABOLT, INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

02/27/12  
**DATE APPROVED**