

**August 4, 2010**

The Board of County Commissioners, Highland County, Ohio, met this day in Regular Session with Shane Wilkin, Thomas Horst, and Gary Heaton present. Mr. Wilkin called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The minutes of the previous session were approved as written. All documents referenced in the minutes are filed in the Commissioners' office and are available for review upon request.

**NOTE** Rory Ryan, Highland Press, and Ruth Kowalewsky, county resident, were present for the meeting. Kathy Green, county resident, was present for a portion of the meeting.

**MOTION** Mr. Horst moved, seconded by Mr. Heaton, to approve payment of Bill File No. 10-30. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea. The total amount paid was \$113,657.53. The amount paid from the General Fund only was \$20,825.43. A list of all bills paid is on file in the Commissioners' office.

**LETTER** The Highland County Board of Commissioners received a letter from Children Services requesting the appointment of two new board members.

**LETTER** The Highland County Board of Commissioners received a letter from Emergency Management requesting an advance to cover expenses until grant funds are received.

**LETTER** The Highland County Board of Commissioners signed a letter to Dan Cowdrey requesting he vacate the former Economic Development office by August 31, 2010.

**LETTER** Commissioner Wilkin signed a letter to Karen R. Tinsley, Ohio Department of Health, requesting access to the GMIS system for the Highland County Help Me Grow program director.

**LETTER** The Highland County Board of Commissioners signed a memo to all department heads thanking them for working hard in 2010 to keep their budgets low and asking for help in 2011 to hold down costs.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-231** Mr. Horst moved seconded by Mr. Heaton, to authorize a modification to the General Fund budget, Commissioners Salary Employees to TEC Supplies in the amount of \$500.00. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

**RESOLUTION NO. 10-232** Mr. Horst moved, seconded by Mr. Heaton, to authorize a modification to the General Fund budget, County Miscellaneous, and authorize an advance to Emergency Management from Advances Out in the amount of \$4,000.00. EMA will return the advance when funding is received in mid-August. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

**DISCUSSION** The Board of Commissioners discussed the Wireless 911 funds and determined they would need to watch them carefully and review the amount of funds used for Sheriff dispatching. The Health Department warned the Board of possible expenses to the county in regards to a TB case. The Dog Warden requested door-hangers to notify people that he responded to their call when no one was home. The Commissioners office made the hangers.

Mr. Wilkin met with representatives of Fifth Third Securities on August 3 to discuss the refinancing of bonds ("advanced refunding"). The cost of issuance creates an expense that makes refinancing unfeasible at the present time. The County still owes 3.6 million dollars at 4.5% interest on the Justice Center.

**REPORTS** The Highland County Board of Commissioners received the following reports:

Sheriff – July Inmate Count: Average males 50/day, Average females 15/day

Sheriff – August Credit-Procurement Card Expenditures  
 Sheriff – July Statement of Expenditures from Sheriff's Allowances  
 Dog Warden – July: 81 calls, 49 seized, 29 adopted, 8 claimed by owners  
 Sheriff – July income for inmate telephone (\$1,158.17)

**MEETING** The following people met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss OSU Extension office funding issues:

Larry Long, President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO); Sherry Barbosky, CORSA Underwriting Manager, CCAO; Beth Miller, CORSA Claim and Litigation Manager, CCAO; Marjorie Paeltz, Bill Geschwind, and Ralph Jennings, Brown County Commissioners; Jean Rickey, Clerk, Brown County Commissioners; Gwen Wolford, OSU Extension, Government Relations; John Grimes and Rose Fisher Merkowicz, Highland County OSU Extension Office; Randy Riley, Clinton County Commissioner; Bill Fawley, Highland County Auditor; Rory Ryan, Highland Press; Katie Wright, Times-Gazette; and Kathy Green, county resident.

Mr. Wilkin opened the meeting asking everyone to introduce themselves. He stated that personnel had been cut in all General Fund departments in Highland County and mandated departments received priority over the Extension office for the 2010 budget. He stated that the Board did not disagree with anyone concerning the importance of the Extension office and 4-H in the county.

Mr. Riley said it was time to take a different approach to control the costs. He asked what the counties' options are and what they can do, with 4-H being the primary concern in all counties affected by cuts. Ms. Paeltz said that Brown County's Extension office utilized grants for much of their funding but county funds to the Extension office were cut. It is hard to justify funding an unmandated office and felt it was unfair that the Extension Office granted raises and did not reduce staff when the General Fund offices were forced to reduce staff and expenses. She asked why Extension Office educators were not part of the OSU budget. Ms. Paeltz said there were options for the agricultural services such as the library and agricultural vendors. She said that none of the people in the room would be there if times were not tough. Mr. Riley cited the efforts of Highland, Brown, and Clinton counties to negotiate with OSU to reduce costs and possibly make the Extension Office staff OSU employees. He said OSU was not cooperative.

Mr. Long said the only mandated requirement for the counties was to supply office space for the Extension Office. He outlined Federal laws and change in structure of 4-H and the Extension Office, which promoted discussion about structure and funding. There is interest in sharing resources between the three counties. Ms. Wolford presented a background on the legislation governing the Extension Office. A discussion ensued regarding the option to share resources. One idea presented was to have one specialty agent in each county (Family and Consumer Science, Agriculture, and Community Development) and share them among the three counties and share the cost. Ms. Wolford will work with Mr. Long and try to make a workable model for the three counties to share resources. Mr. Long will contact the counties after Labor Day regarding cost, allocations, etc, addressing issues such as making the counties more of a partner with OSU Extension and addressing issues to reduce the cost to fiscally distressed counties.

**RECESS/RECONVENE** The Board recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

**MEETING** The following people met with the Board of Commissioners to discuss Workers' Compensation issues: Bruce Preston and Todd Keserch, Comp Management; Bill Fawley, Auditor; Debbie Zile, Deputy Auditor; and Beth Miller, Sherry Barbosky, and Larry Long, CCAO. Ms. Miller opened the meeting with the announcement that Highland County qualified for group rating status based on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 claims cost. She further explained that Workers' Compensation changed their rating structure which means group programs realize fewer savings than before the change.

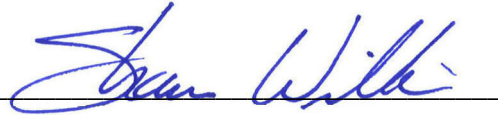
CCAO will institute a new program called Group Retrospective Rating Incentive. In this program the counties pay the Workers' Comp premium up-front and are reimbursed at

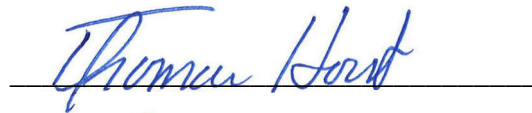
the end of the year after group claims are reviewed. Ms. Miller explained the underwriting guidelines for the new program and stressed the importance of one centralized person tracking county claims. The goal is to prevent claims and, in the event of an injury, returning the injured employee to their job as quickly as possible. A 10-Step Safety Plan is available from CORSA and the county was encouraged to follow the plan, educate elected officials regarding the cost to the county for a Workers Comp claim, consider charge-backs to the departments for claim costs, and create a Safety Committee.

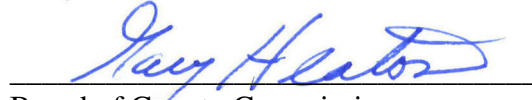
**MEETING** Kyle Arn, Highland County Health Department, met with the Board of Commissioners to explain an invoice he will submit for repair to a failed septic system. The repair will be paid from the Ohio EPA Water Pollution Control Loan Fund Assistance (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-ARRA-funds). The Health Department verifies the invoice and sends it to the EPA. The EPA will send the funds to the County and the County will pay the contractor for the repair work. Mr. Arn said that more systems could have been repaired with these funds if the Federal government had given a longer time-frame for using the money.

**MOTION** At 2:40 p.m., Mr. Horst moved, seconded by Mr. Heaton, to adjourn. The vote resulted as follows: Mr. Wilkin, yea; Mr. Horst, yea; and Mr. Heaton, yea.

**WHEREUPON**, the Board of Highland County Commissioners will meet in Regular Session on Wednesday, 11, 2010.









Clerk of Board

Board of County Commissioners  
Highland County, Ohio