

**THE MINUTES**  
**August 12, 2010**

The Holmes County Commissioners met in regular session Thursday, August 12, 2010; with everyone present. Chairman Miller opened the meeting:

**8:30 A.M. – CHRIS YOUNG – ENGINEER – STANDING APPOINTMENT- CANCELLED**

**MIKE SOMMERS, MIKE McDOWELL & BRENDA RAMSIER – INSURANCE DISCUSSION**

Mike Sommers of Hummel Insurance, Mike McDowell and Sasha Taylor Smith of Huntington Insurance and Human Resource Director Brenda Ramsier met with the Commissioners to discuss the Mid Year Review of the County's Health Insurance with Aultcare.

Sommers passed out paperwork for the Mid Year Review that showed the claims month by month since 2005, then yearly starting with 1999 and finally the claims of \$10,000.00 or more for 2010. There are currently eleven claims of \$10,000.00 or more make up for 89% of the County' claims for 2010.

Sommers also stated that Aultcare will cut the claims off the end of September for the renewal with Aultcare for 2011.

McDowell said that the County is doing well with the HRA claims, beyond the large claims, everyone else is doing well.

Sommers mentioned the meetings for Wellness that the Commissioners conducted and would like to know the response from the Offices.

Miller explained that no one would speak up and say the lets do this with the Wellness Program. As long as no Elected Officials are willing to speak up, we will otherwise forget it.

Sommers commended the Commissioners on keeping the employee contribution the same.

**JACKIE McKEE - AUDITOR – BUDGET/AUDIT/INDIGENT DEFENSE DISCUSSION**

Auditor Jackie McKee met with the Commissioners and discussed several topics.

The first topic McKee discussed was that the State Auditor's Office turned down the opportunity for an outside firm to do the County's Audit. This is the third year in a row that this has been turned down. Ever since McKee has been Auditor, the State Auditors have been doing the County's Audit. McKee also gave the Commissioners a history of the Audit costs for the County Audits.

Next, McKee discussed Indigent Defense. There has been an issue behind the scenes at the Auditor's Office. The issue being that the Auditor's Office is cutting the Attorneys fees by 50% if turned in late by

the Attorney and a resolution was passed in 1989 stating that this could be done because we do not get reimbursed from the State if turned in late. An outside Attorney says that the Auditor's Office cannot do the reduction and if anyone else other than the Judges makes the changes it could be Contempt of Court according to the Attorney. McKee would like to get the three Judges together and discuss having them sign off on the 50% reduction instead of the Auditor's Office. Eyler will set up a meeting between the Judges, McKee and Michele Gerber.

The next topic McKee discussed was the Sales Tax Refund that the State is currently taking out of the Sales Tax reimbursement to the County each month. McKee discussed this with the Auditor's Association and they explained that before any sales tax can be reimbursed, the business must go through an audit and only a small portion of the request is refunded. The State is not allowed to disclose any information only that it is not retail but a consumer direct refund. The Commissioners would like an example of how this happened from the State.

McKee also confirmed that the Personal Property Tax currently being phased out and the final phase will be in 2018.

Finally, McKee discussed the Dog & Kennels Office. The Ohio Revised Code states that the Auditor's Office is to work with the Dog & Kennel Office. McKee also gave the Commissioners a breakdown of the Dog & Kennel Funds. Before, it was a 60% to 40% split with Dog & Kennel and now that has been changed to 68% to 32%. The Auditor's Office costs have been cut with the new software that the former Dog Warden Tetreault purchased. The Dog & Kennel Clerk in the Auditor's Office has also cut her hours down to 32 hours per week. The Auditor's Office is currently doing the work for Dog & Kennel 7% to 8% of the time, when normally it is 15%.

The numbers for dog licenses has gone down in the Satellite business's because the customer can now do it by mail and the Auditor's Office also does a press release every year to make everyone aware to buy their dog licenses.

### **ARNIE OLIVER – PLANNING COMMISSION - EXECUTIVE SESSION – POTENTIAL REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION**

Arnie Oliver of the Planning Commission informed the Commissioners that we did not receive the Grant for Big Prairie Lakeville.

On a motion by Mr. Eyler, seconded by Mr. Ault (Mr. Miller - yes; Mr. Eyler – yes; Mr. Ault - yes), the Commissioners went into Executive Session for the purpose of Potential Real Estate Acquisition with Arnie Oliver of the Planning Commission at 11:03 a.m. The Session ended at 11:12 a.m.

### **ADJOURN MOTION**

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Ault moved that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 p.m.; Mr. Miller seconded the motion (Mr. Miller - yes; Mr. Eyler – yes; Mr. Ault - yes). The next scheduled business meeting of the Holmes County Commissioners is Monday, August 16, 2010.

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Joe D. Miller

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Raymond Eyer

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Attest: Susan L. Haun, Clerk

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Rob Ault