

St. Clairsville, Ohio

January 3, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, met this day in regular session. Present: Mark A. Thomas, Gordie W. Longshaw and Charles R. Probst, Jr., Commissioners and Jayne Long, Clerk of the Board. Minutes of the meeting of December 27, 2007, were read, approved and signed.

**MEETINGS ARE NOW BEING RECORDED**  
**ALL DISCUSSIONS ARE SUMMARIZED, FOR COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS**  
**PLEASE SEE CORRESPONDING TAPE FOR THIS MEETING DAY.**

**IN THE MATTER OF ALLOWANCE OF BILLS**  
**AS CERTIFIED IN THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

**"BILLS ALLOWED"**

The following bills having been certified in the Auditor's office, on motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Longshaw, all members present voting YES, each bill was considered and it is hereby ordered that the County Auditor issue his warrant on the County Treasurer in payment of bills allowed.

Claim of	Purposes	Amount
<b><u>"NO BILLS SUBMITTED"</u></b>		

**OPEN PUBLIC FORUM** - Mike Bianconi voiced his opposition on the study for a parking garage. Mr. Bianconi questioned the recent headline in a local newspaper which inferred the county had a "huge budget surplus," and questioned Commissioner Thomas as to why "he" said this. The headline was read, and it stated "Belmont County Boasts Budget Surplus." Commissioner Thomas corrected Mr. Bianconi and said he did not make that comment and that it was written by the newspaper. Commissioner Thomas noted that he further said that all of the surplus monies are being appropriated predominately for health insurance for 2008. "While we did have a surplus, it is already being committed for increased health care", said Thomas. Commissioner Thomas stated the interview was incomplete, and noted there is never excess money in the county. Commissioner Probst advised letters had been sent in 2007 to different office holders and agencies asking them to restrain their spending due to the economic times being tough in Belmont County. Commissioner Thomas credited the elected officials and department heads for the "surplus" as they did tighten their belts. He noted the majority of elected officials live within their budget. Commissioner Probst listed the various items that monies will be used for in 2008 including health insurance, replacing the cooling tower, generator, and a new phone system. Mr. Bianconi said he hoped the board would still fund the CIC Board. Commissioner Longshaw stated \$100,000.00 has been earmarked for CIC in the year 2008.

Richard Hord asked what might have turned things around financially for the county. Commissioner Thomas referred to what had just been discussed-everyone tightening their belt based upon the Commissioners' requests throughout the year and, in the beginning of every year, formulating, creating and then adopting a very conservative budget based upon a very conservative estimate of receipts by the County Auditor. Commissioner Thomas said investment income and sales tax income cannot be predicted. Mr. Thomas credited Auditor Joseph Pappano for doing a fantastic job. Mr. Bianconi asked, "What was the total general fund appropriation for 2007?" Commissioner Thomas replied \$16.9 million. He said Mr. Pappano certifies additional monies throughout the year. Mr. Bianconi asked what the total general fund appropriations were including the additional monies to which Mr. Probst replied, "about \$20 million."

Mr. Hord then asked how rare it is for counties in the state of Ohio to have a balanced budget. Commissioner Longshaw stated he wasn't sure of how many other counties were in the red, but is aware of some other local counties who are struggling. Commissioner Thomas stated the only credit he would take would be for continually reminding the elected officials and department heads to live within their budget. He further stated the county Commissioners alone do not deserve the credit for a balanced budget. Mr. Thomas reported that when you get below 100,000 people in a county, which is the majority in Ohio, there are budget issues across the state.

Mr. Hord wanted to know if the Port Authority was still TANF funded. Commissioner Thomas responded that funding will end June 30, 2008. The Department of Job & Family Services in Ohio is undergoing major funding cuts.

Mr. Hord requested an update on Belmont Senior Services. Commissioner Thomas advised that other than some personnel cuts that needed to be made by the Senior Services Board, the seniors have not had a decrease in services. Commissioner Thomas said the Senior Services board is currently advertising for a new director and should begin interviews soon. He said the Commissioners are in constant communication with the Senior Services Board.

A brief discussion was held regarding the study approved for the construction of a new parking garage facility and the location of the proposed garage was questioned. Mr. Bianconi said that space around the courthouse is limited and he thought the money would be better spent building offices in another area where you would not need to build a parking garage. Commissioner Thomas noted no definitive decision has been made to build the parking facility. He said the \$10,000 cost for the study was split with the city of St. Clairsville as both need parking spaces for employees, the public using the courthouse and the business district.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING**  
**THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE/AUDITOR'S**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Thomas to execute payment of Then and Now Certification dated December 26, 2007, presented by the County Auditor pursuant to O.R.C. 5705.41(d) 1, and authorizing the drawing of warrant(s) in payment of amounts due upon contract or order.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION**  
**OF MONIES BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Thomas to request the Belmont Co. Budget Commission certify the following monies.

**FEMA-Hazard Mitigation Neffs Fund** - \$2,450.00 paid into R-9712-T070-T01.501 on December 28, 2007. Draw No. 2

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS**

Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Probst to approve the minutes of the Belmont County Board of Commissioners regular meeting of: December 27, 2007.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FORCE ACCOUNTS/BELMONT CO. ENGINEER**

Mr. Thomas moved the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, it be determined by the Belmont County Board of Commissioners that the health, welfare and safety of the people of Belmont County can best and most efficiently be served by force account in matters pertaining to maintenance, repair, construction and reconstruction of Belmont County roads, bridges and culverts; and

**WHEREAS**, for all proposed force account work involving the construction or reconstruction of a road, including widening and resurfacing, or for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance or repair of a bridge or culvert, the Engineer shall prepare an estimate to assure that the cost of force account projects will not exceed said limits in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5543.19; and

**WHEREAS**, if it is determined by the Engineer's estimate that the proposed force account work does not exceed the force account limits as prescribed by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That Fred F. Bennett, Engineer of Belmont County, is hereby authorized to employ labor and proceed by force account in the maintenance, repair and reconstruction of roads, bridges and culverts in Belmont County during the year of 2008.

2. That the Belmont County Board of Commissioners reserves unto themselves the right and authority to make all purchases of materials and equipment required in the maintenance, repair or construction of roads, bridges and culverts in Belmont County during the year 2008, except that as the Board may from time to time, by resolution, delegate such purchasing authority to Mr. Bennett, Belmont County Engineer.

Mr. Longshaw seconded the Resolution and, the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

Mr. Probst	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Thomas	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Longshaw	<u>Yes</u>

Adopted this 3rd day of January, 2008.

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES FOR THE COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO**

Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to approve the payment of the annual dues for the County Engineers Association of Ohio in the amount of \$3,511.30, a per capita assessment of five cents, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 325.21.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Probst	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING BLANKET TRAVEL REQUESTS FOR THE BELMONT COUNTY ENGINEER DEPT.**

Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to approve blanket travel requests for the Belmont County Engineer and his employees to travel to various locations in Ohio to attend business related meetings and to obtain parts and supplies for the department during 2008.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Probst	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF BLANKET TRAVEL REQUEST FOR 2008 FOR DWAYNE PIELECH, DIRECTOR, BCDJFS**

Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to approve a blanket travel request for 2008 for Dwayne Pielech, Director, Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services, to travel to various locations in Ohio to attend business related conferences and meetings. Estimated expenses for mileage, meals and registration is \$ 2,748.78.

*\*Note: Commissioner Probst questioned the reimbursement rate of 50.5 which is the IRS new rate for 2008.*

*Motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Thomas to question the matter further.*

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PAYMENT TO MARSHALL J. PICCIN & ASSOCIATES/BELMONT CO. JAIL ADDITION PROJECT**

Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Probst to approve the payment of \$1,685.60 to Marshall J. Piccin & Associates, 105 Carroll Drive, St. Clairsville, Ohio, project engineer for the Belmont County Jail Addition project, ( P.O. No. 512327) for the period of 11/5/07 through 12/31/07. Total: 23 Hours, Mileage: 189 miles

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING PAY REQUISITION NO. 2 FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES SEWER PROJECT/BCSSD**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to approve and sign Pay Requisition No. 2 for the Country Club Estates Sewer project as follows based upon the recommendation of Jeffrey Vaughn, Project Engineer, and David Grum, Project Consultant.

- o Nicolozakes Trucking & Construction, Inc. \$ 50,061.63
- o Vaughn, Coast & Vaughn, Inc. \$ 3,360.00

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING PROSECUTOR'S**

**DETAC FUND REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to accept the Prosecutor's DETAC Fund report for fiscal year 2008 submitted by Chris Berhalter, Belmont County Prosecutor, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 331.261.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL AND ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA FOR THE RECONFIGURATION OF BELMONT CO. 911 800 MHz RADIO SYSTEM**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to accept the proposal and enter into agreement with Motorola for the reconfiguration of the Belmont County 911 800 MHz Radio System to comply with the Federal Communication Commission's Rebanding Report & Order. Payment for the upgrade will come from Nextel and there is no cost to Belmont County.

*Note: The FCC mandates that Belmont County move their 800 MHz System frequencies as part of an overall effort by the FCC to reduce interference in the 800MHz band.*

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION HELD RE: GRANTING A 3% PAY INCREASE TO COMMISSIONERS GENERAL FUND EMPLOYEES**

Motion made by Mr. Probst to grant a three percent (3%) pay increase to all full-time Belmont County Commissioners General Fund employees who have completed one year of service, effective with pay period ending January 5, 2008. This includes the following departments: Commissioners Office Staff, Jail Nurses, Maintenance and Housekeeping, Belmont County Divisional Courts, Emergency Management Agency. All General Fund departments have been allocated a three percent (3.0%) increase in their salary line items to be distributed at the discretion of the Appointing Authority.

**DISCUSSION HELD:** *Commissioner Probst questioned the wording of the motion in reference to the increase being distributed "at the discretion of the Appointing Authority." After a brief discussion the Board decided to remove the language in question and the motion was re-stated and approved as follows:*

**IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A THREE PERCENT (3%) PAY INCREASE TO BELMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS GENERAL FUND EMPLOYEES**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Longshaw, to grant a three percent (3%) pay increase to all full-time Belmont County Commissioners General Fund employees who have completed one year of service, effective with pay period ending January 5, 2008. This includes the following departments: Commissioners Office Staff, Jail Nurses, Maintenance and Housekeeping, Belmont County Divisional Courts, Emergency Management Agency. All General Fund departments have been allocated a three percent (3.0%) increase in their salary line items.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF INCREASING MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008**

Motion made by Mr. Probst, seconded by Mr. Longshaw to increase the mileage reimbursement rate from 44.5 cents per mile to 45.0 cents per mile for calendar year 2008 for any employee who uses his/her privately owned automobile on approved county business and to amend the Belmont County Personnel Policy Manual *Section 7.10 Travel & Expense Reimbursement* accordingly, effective January 1, 2008.

*Note: County reimbursement rate has stayed at 44.5 since 2006.*

*The 2008 IRS mileage rate for business use is 50.5 per mile, up from 48.5 cents per mile in 2007.*

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes
Mr. Thomas	Yes

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNING  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING AT 11:30 A.M.**

Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Probst to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

Mr. Thomas	Yes
Mr. Probst	Yes
Mr. Longshaw	Yes

Read, approved and signed this 9th day of January, 2008.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
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We, Mark A. Thomas and Jayne Long, President and Clerk respectively of the Board of Commissioners of Belmont County, Ohio, do hereby certify the foregoing minutes of the proceedings of said Board have been read, approved and signed as provided for by Sec. 305.11 of the Revised Code of Ohio.

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CLERK