



Tuscarawas County Commissioners Quarterly Report: October-December

Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners

Joe Sciarretti
President of the Board

Chris Abbuhl
Vice President of the
Board

Al Landis
Member of the Board

Office Hours
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

125 East High Avenue, Room 205,
New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
(330) 365-3240
commissioners@co.tuscarawas.oh.us



**Commissioners Approve General and
Non General Fund Budgets for 2020**

**Working with Provia and EDFA to spur
economic development in the County**

**Save the Date! April 1, 2020 is Census
Day**

Arts are thriving in the County

Courthouse lit for Annual Events

Commissioners Approve General and Non General Fund Budgets for 2020

In the final months of 2019, the Commissioners and Jane Clay, Executive Assistant, worked with all the county departments to have the 2020 General Fund and Non General Fund budgets completed by the end of 2019. Each department attended different Commissioners Meetings, which were open to the public, and presented their budget requests to the Commissioners. Following the budget presentations, which began on November 13th and ended on November 25th, the Commissioners then worked throughout the end of November into December on finalizing the 2020 budgets. On December 18, 2020, the Commissioners approved the approximately 26 million dollar General Fund budget. Commissioner Sciarretti, was pleased to say that this was a fiscally responsible budget, which leaves the County on solid financial footing into the future. Over \$700,000.00 in capital projects will be funded, including new sheriff cruisers, a body scanner for the County Jail, improvements at the Engineer's Office, new carpeting for the Recorder's Office, and work on the Tuscarawas County Health Department's parking lot. Commissioner Sciarretti was also pleased to note that the Commissioners were able to once again carry over approximately 18% of the General Fund, which meets the 16% gold standard recommended by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Commissioner Abbuhl commented that completing the budgets is a tedious process, and that the Commissioners attempt to fund the requests that the departments make. While not every project can be funded, Commissioner Abbuhl stated he felt the necessary projects were provided funding. Echoing those same thoughts, Commissioner Sciarretti stated that whether it be security, child welfare, or capital projects, the large majority of office requests were funded. Agreeing with Commissioner Sciarretti and Commissioner Abbuhl, Commissioner Landis commented that this is his first budget process as a Tuscarawas County Commissioner, and he feels good about both the budgets and the fiscal position of the County. The Commissioners thanked all those involved in the County budget process including all the different County employees and departments. The Commissioners also wanted to specifically thank Jane Clay for working with them throughout the budget process, and that without her knowledge and expertise completing the budgets would be a much more difficult task.

Partnerships Aid in Spurring Economic Development

Throughout much of 2019, the Commissioners have worked with different individuals and organizations to aid in the construction of two turn lanes into a new facility that Provia is building near SR 21 in Strasburg. On December 11, 2019, the Commissioners approved four different resolutions, which declared the necessity of the project, approved surveys, plans and cost estimations of the project, levied a special assessment for the cost of the improvements, and determined the intent to proceed. The aforementioned resolutions concerned agreements for the County to be a guarantor on a loan with Provia and the Economic Development Finance Alliance (EDFA) for two left hand turn lanes into the new Provia Facility in order to remedy traffic congestion. One turn lane would be on SR 21, the other off of Route 250. Total completion of the project is estimated to cost approximately 1.3 million dollars, \$250,000.00 coming from an ODOT grant, and the remaining \$1,089,000.00 being loaned from the State Infrastructure Bank. The Board, Commissioner Sciarretti commented, was pleased that they were able to work out a solution and be of assistance. Commissioner Sciarretti also stated that that the new Provia Facility will be great for the local economy and will bring in approximately 300 jobs. The Commissioners viewed the proposed improvements and surrounding area, and determined that this road construction was absolutely necessary, Commissioner Landis stated. Attorney Richard Fox who was present thanked the Commissioners for moving forward with these agreements, adding that this not only will this aid in traffic congestion, but will open up tremendous economic opportunities for Strasburg and Franklin Township. All the moving parts, Commissioner Abbuhl commented, made developing these agreements a very involved process. However, Commissioner Abbuhl added, the resolutions being before the Board for approval is just another demonstration of different individuals and organizations coming together do what is best for Tuscarawas County.

Commissioners Authorize OCED to move Forward with Grant Application

On October 16th, the Commissioners approved a resolution that authorized the Office of Community and Economic Development to apply for federal dollars on behalf of the Twin City Water and Sewer District for the 1st Street Waterline Replacement Project. Scott Reynolds noted that this MOU is only for the County to apply for the grant funding on behalf of the Twin City Water and Sewer District, and any additional funds needed to complete the project will come from the Twin City Water and Sewer District; there will be no additional funding from the County for this project. Mr. Reynolds mentioned that without the County's involvement, the State would likely not consider awarding funding to the Twin Cities. Commissioner Abbuhl emphasized the importance of partnerships and teamwork in moving these projects forward. According to Commissioner Abbuhl, there is not a better example of federal tax dollars being used than on these types of projects. These types of projects, Commissioner Abbuhl noted, are on a local level and demonstrate a usage of federal tax dollars directly helping people with quality of life improvements in communities. Commissioner Sciarretti agreed, adding that while he is aware of the budget constraints on the Federal Government, he hopes that officials continue to fund these types of programs.



Save the Date! April 1, 2020, is Census Day in the United States. The Census has a direct impact on the amount of funding we receive from the federal government for services, and our representation at the federal level for the next decade. Make sure you are counted! Visit: <https://2020census.gov/en> for more information on how to respond, and why your responses matter!

Creating, Sustaining, and Empowering: TAP Updates Commissioners on the Arts in Tuscarawas County

On Wednesday, October 30, 2019, the Tuscarawas County Commissioners received updates on the arts throughout the County from Wilma Mullet, Executive Director of the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership (TAP). From a shared vision of leaders throughout the area seeking to grow the arts in the County, the Tuscarawas County Commissioners commissioned a feasibility study, in 2014, to determine the need for a county wide organization focused on supporting and growing the arts. In response to the answers from that study, TAP was formed in early 2015.

With the vision to create a sustainable, local arts culture through advocacy, education, and funding, TAP seeks to create and support environments that awaken, empower and inspire the arts in Tuscarawas County. TAP strives to serve all communities throughout the County by assisting in coordinating continued support, advocacy and accessibility of the arts throughout Tuscarawas County, as well as creating partnerships between artists, businesses, and community members. During her presentation, Wilma Mullet noted some of the key events TAP hosts each year, including Arts Signing Day for high school seniors, the ArtsThrive Program, and ArtyParty. However, as TAP continues to grow, so do its goals and events. Upcoming near the end of 2019 and into 2020 TAP hosted the ArtyParty on November 3rd, new ArtsThrive Programs in the fall of 2019 and Spring of 2020, the third annual Arts Signing Day in the Spring of 2020, implementing a county-wide arts series, exploring artist residency programs, and Arts Grant opportunities opening in 2020. The Commissioners commented that they are excited to see how the arts have grown locally, and that this is just the beginning of thrilling next chapter for the arts and TAP in Tuscarawas County. For more information TAP or art related events in Tuscarawas County please visit: www.tuscarawasartspartnership.org



Pictured Above: Wilma Mullet, TAP Executive Director, discussing Arts Signing Day with the Commissioners



Pictured Above: Commissioner Al Landis and Commissioner Chris Abbuhl pictured Wilma Mullet TAP Executive Director, the Arty Party Award Winners and their families. Note: Commissioner Sciarretti was absent due to a prior commitment.

Commissioners Recognize Local Youth Artists

On Wednesday, December 18, the Tuscarawas County Commissioners recognized award winners from the Tuscarawas Arts Partnership (TAP) Arty Party, which was held on November 3rd, at My Museum Tattoo Studio. Hosted by TAP, the Arty Party is a free arts filled event showcasing Tuscarawas County student artwork. Approximately 130 pieces of artwork were received for the Arty Party and were then judged and awarded. Of those 130 pieces of artwork, Commissioner Landis and Commissioner Abbuhl welcomed the award winners from grades two through ten, and congratulated the students on their art and awards. Wilma Mullet, Executive Director of TAP, commented that she and other judges were blown away by the quality and amount of artwork that was received. According to Ms. Mullet, the number of pieces obtained for the Arty Party, demonstrates the ability, diversity, and amount of young artists in Tuscarawas County. Commissioner Landis agreed, stating that "I am so impressed by the artistic abilities of all the students here today, as well as the arts programs in Tuscarawas County." Commissioner Abbuhl encouraged the students to showcase their abilities at other events as well, Student artwork was on display in the William E. Winters Board Room, and each student and his or her family was invited to attend and be recognized.

Advanced Manufacturing Continues to Thrive in Tuscarawas County

On November 6, 2020, the Commissioners received updates on the Multi County Advanced Manufacturing Corridor (MCAMC). According to Scott Robinson, President of the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce, work on the MCAMC began approximately 2.5 years ago with the goal of developing a modern workforce in Tuscarawas County and the surrounding region. There are numerous partners involved, Scott Robinson stated, who have come to the table to make this project possible. Bill Beisel, Director of Business and Community Services at KSU Tusc, mentioned that those partners, including the Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA), Appalachia Regional Commission, Governor's Office of Appalachia, Tuscarawas County Commissioners, Education Services Center, Harrison County Office of Community and Economic Development, and Ohio Means Jobs. Mr. Beisel was proud to add that the MCAMC has received \$732,000.00 in support, including two rounds of grant funding from OMEGA, one for \$248,000.00, and another for \$200,000.00. These dollars have been used to purchase equipment, which has greatly enhanced the lives of students in preparing them to work in modern manufacturing. Commissioner Abbuhl commented that much of what has come through Commissioners Meeting during the last few months of 2019 has shared a common theme: partnerships. It is the collaboration amongst these partners, Commissioner Abbuhl reiterated, that makes projects such as the MCAMC possible. Commissioner Landis commended and thanked all the partners from the community for giving the students of these programs an opportunity for a career and lifetime right here in Tuscarawas County. Commissioner Landis also thanked Buckeye Career Center for having a drug free club, which too promotes a prepared workforce. Mr. Landis added that he cannot thank all the partners enough for the work they have done with the MCAMC. Commissioner Sciarretti concurred in thanking all the partners of the MCAMC. Mr. Sciarretti also added that the extracurricular activities the students participate outside of the MCAMC speaks volumes of the students and their leadership. According to Commissioner Sciarretti, during the Southeast District CCAO Tour, which was hosted by the Tuscarawas County Commissioners, the other commissioners and county officials were very impressed by the facilities and equipment at Buckeye Career Center and KSU Tusc offered. In each of the previous two years, the Commissioners contributed \$25,000.00 to the MCAMC, and Scott Robinson requested that the Commissioners would again contribute funds to the MCAMC. The Commissioners, who have been strong proponents of the MCAMC, took the request under advisement.

Commissioners and Staff attend CCAO Annual Winter Conference

From December 4th, through December 6th, the commissioners and office staff attended the annual County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) winter conference. The winter conference provides an opportunity for the commissioners and staff to attend seminars on a variety of topics aiding in policy understanding to professional development. Commissioner Abbuhl and Commissioner Sciarretti were both involved in different sessions. Commissioner Abbuhl moderated a session on expanding broadband internet access in Appalachia, and Commissioner Sciarretti was speaker at a session centering on government and media relationships. Fran DeWine spoke at Thursday's lunch on a variety of topics, most notably her Imagination Library Initiative, which strives to send books to every Ohio child from birth to age five. On Thursday evening, the officers CCAO and the County engineers association of Ohio (CEAO) for 2020 were inducted.

Commissioners Recognize Pam Ferrell for Her Service to Tuscarawas County

Pam Ferrell, former Executive Director of the Senior Center, was recognized by the Commissioners on December 9th, for her recent retirement. Mr. Abbuhl commented, the actions of Ms. Ferrell have greatly improved the lives of seniors in Tuscarawas County and he wishes Ms. Ferrell the best in her retirement and that he will miss working with her. Commissioner Landis stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Pam Ferrell, and that the Senior Center is an incredible venue. Mr. Landis also said that Ms. Ferrell's leadership, stewardship, and expertise has made the Senior Center what it is, and that Ms. Ferrell will leave behind a great legacy and bright future for the Senior Center. Commissioner Sciarretti echoed the sentiments of both Commissioner Abbuhl and Commissioner Landis, and recalled a visit from representatives from the Franklin County area who were amazed by the facility and programming of the Senior Center in Tuscarawas County.

The Commissioners presented Pam Ferrell a recognition for her service to the Senior Center and residents throughout the County, and wished her the best of luck into the future!

Commissioner Abbuhl Chosen to Serve on CCAO Board of Directors For 2020

The Tuscarawas County Commissioners were pleased to announce that Commissioner Chris Abbuhl (pictured right) has once again been chosen to serve on the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) Board of Directors. Commissioner Abbuhl said that he was honored to once again be chosen to serve on the Board of Directors, which has a successful 2019 in working with state officials to secure more funding for JFS, Road and Bridge, and the Public Defender. Adding that he looks forward to working with rest of the Board in 2020 to secure more funding for jail renovations, as many county jails are suffering from overcrowding, serving in these types of organizations gives Tuscarawas County a voice at the state level. On behalf of the Commissioners, Commissioner Sciarretti congratulated Mr. Abbuhl, adding that Commissioner Abbuhl is a leader and his knowledge and expertise will once again be an excellent asset to the CCAO Board of Directors.



Commissioner Sciarretti Leads a Productive Year as President

In his first term as President of the Board, Commissioner Sciarretti and Tuscarawas County Commissioners were able to move forward on a number of different goals. In the final quarter of 2019 alone, the Commissioners approved measures that propelled goals such as child welfare, fiscal responsibility, security, economic development, and capital improvements forward into the future. The County Office Building was painted, the Commissioners hosted the first CCAO Southeastern District Corridor Meeting in a number of years, and the Commissioners worked aggressively to prepare the County for the 2020 Census. In terms of economic development, the Commissioners contributed funds to the Small Business Development Center, the Multi County Manufacturing Corridor, helped extend rail access in the Newcomerstown Industrial Park, and assisted Provia and EDFSA in moving forward on acquiring a loan from the State Infrastructure Bank for a road construction project. All of this is undoubtedly a team effort amongst the Board and all the partners involved, but the County is on solid footing moving to the future and will look to continue that positive momentum into 2020!

Commissioners Landis Impressed with Anti Vaping Press Conference and Drug Take Back Day

On October, 2, 2019, the Commissioners attended the Anti-Vaping Press Conference hosted by the Tuscarawas County Health Department, the Anti-Drug Coalition, and the New Philadelphia Health Department. Commissioner Landis commented that the press conference was time well spent, and the presenters Katie Seward (County Health Commissioner), former Commissioner, Kerry Metzger, Jodi Salvo, and Brock West (a student from Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School) did an excellent job presenting. Commissioner Landis has been a strong advocate in the fight against drug addiction as seen the “Got Your Back Initiative” and his vocal support of drug addiction programs, and Commissioner Landis has continued that work as a Tuscarawas County Commissioner. Commissioner Landis also volunteered at Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital for the Annual Drug Take Back Day, where individuals could dispose of unused prescription medications at Trinity Hospital, StatCare, and Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital. Commissioner Landis was amazed at the amount of unused prescriptions that were disposed.

Did You Know..?

Ohio Revised Code mandates that the Commissioners Meet 50 times a year? In 2019, The Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners held 93 meetings and approved over 1100 different resolutions!

Pictured Right: The Tuscarawas County Courthouse lit red in recognition of Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign with the goal to encourage young people to be drug free. The Commissioners recognized local high school students and approved a proclamation for Red Ribbon Week on October 21st.



Courthouse Lit Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Paint Tusc Pink

The Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners observed October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Tuscarawas County, and in special observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Courthouse was pink from October 1st through October 7th. In 2019, an estimated 268,600 women, along with 2,670 men, will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States in 2019. It is also estimated that there will be 42,600 deaths, including 500 men, from breast cancer in 2019.

“Breast cancer is a diagnosis that no one wants to hear. It affects the person, the family, and friends. Early detection can be a life saver! By lighting the Tuscarawas County Courthouse in pink we hope this serves as a beacon, a reminder to be proactive with mammograms and self-examinations. The Commissioners and our staff are proud to participate in Paint Tusc Pink!” said Commissioner Al Landis.

During the Commissioners Meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2019, the Commissioners approved a proclamation proclaiming October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and hosted Darrin Lautenschlager and Kim Nathan, both from Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital, to kick off the Paint Tusc Pink Campaign in Tuscarawas County.



Pictured Above: The Tuscarawas County Courthouse lit Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month