



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO**

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TOM ARISS

PAT ARNOLD SOUTH

DAVID G. YOUNG

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WARREN COUNTY, OHIO**

MINUTES: Special Session – August 28, 2014

The Board met in special session pursuant to adjournment of the August 26, 2014, meeting.

Pat Arnold South - present

Tom Ariss - present

David G. Young - present

Tina Osborne, Clerk - present

The Board met this 28th day of August 2014, in the Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street, 29th Floor Conference Room, Columbus, Ohio with representative from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) relative to the racetrack redevelopment funds made available by the legislature for the abandoned racetrack sites when the authorization to construct racinos in Ohio was approved.

The following were present:

David Goodman, Director of Ohio Dept. of Development

Martin Russell, Warren County Economic Development

David Gully, Warren County Administrator

Senator Shannon Jones

Ally (Legislative Aide to Sen. Jones)

John Mahaney, Legislative Liaison with Dept. of Development Services

Katie Courtright, Development Services Agency

Rachael Near, Development Services Agency Liaison

Jen Poklar, Office of Community Assistance

Andrew Pusateri, DOD Chief of Staff

Sen. Jones began the meeting by stating that she and Director Goodman are unified in the hopes that Warren County and the City of Lebanon come to a mutual agreement so that a win/win situation occurs. She stated that there is a view that the process developed by the ODOD may be stacked in favor of the City so that a win/win situation cannot occur. She then stated her opinion

that the topic of discussion needs to surround the process that has been created to allocate the funds.

Commissioner Young provided background information relative to the unique situation that Warren County finds itself in due to the abandoned property being a Warren County taxpayer owned asset and that this primary as a source of income for the maintenance and upkeep of the \$1.5M property is now gone. He stated that, through the help of Sen. Jones, specific language was added to the legislation that allowed Warren County to be included in the fund allocation. He then stated his concern that the "rules" that have been established are now placing the entire allocation of Warren County funds in the control of the City of Lebanon who may or may not allow the application for the funds to be utilized for the actual abandoned site.

There was discussion relative to the need for clarification on the interpretation of the rules that have been developed by ODOD staff relative to the distribution of the funds. Of specific concern was how funds could be spent and clarification on their definition of the word "Community" which has led the City of Lebanon to believe they would be to sole applicant for the \$3M in redevelopment funds.


Commissioner South stated the Board desires at a minimum is to work together with the City as co-applicants and reported that the revenue loss reports thus far are \$60K-\$90K/year to the City and \$260K loss to the County.

After much discussion, Mr. Goodman stated his desire for staff to clarify the interpretation of the rules as it applies to Warren County and the city also iterated that unless the City of Lebanon and Warren County are in agreement, no money will be distributed.

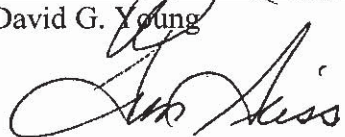
Upon motion the meeting was adjourned.



Pat Arnold South, President




David G. Young



Tom Ariss

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on August 28, 2014, in compliance with Section 121.22 O.R.C.



Tina Osborne, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Warren County, Ohio