



Delaware County Commissioners

Ken O'Brien
Dennis Stapleton
Tommy Thompson

County Administrator
Tim Hansley

Clerk to the Commissioners
Jennifer Walraven

Delaware, Ohio---Delaware County Commissioners today rejected the Fact Finder's report for Delaware County Sheriff's Deputies, which may result in mandatory Binding Arbitration.

"As responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, the Commissioners could not agree to the three percent wage increase, retroactive to January 1, 2011, as recommended by the Fact Finder, even though it is less than the 4 percent demanded by the Union. We disagree with the assertions in the Fact Finder's report that Delaware County residents have a higher per capita income than other parts of the state, and therefore the deputies should be entitled to higher wages. The County has made cuts and reductions in our workforce to maintain stability. Now it seems we are being penalized for being fiscally prudent. The effects of the recession are continuing to have a dramatic impact on the entire country, including Delaware County, and we do not feel that our citizens should be strapped with additional tax burdens to pay for these non-budgeted increases," said Dennis Stapleton, President, Board of Commissioners.

The Commissioners also rejected the arbitrator's report because other Delaware County non-union employees have not experienced any wage increases in three years or any wage scale adjustments in more than 6 years. Over the past three years, the County has made reductions in staff and did not fill open positions in several departments in an effort to avoid raising taxes, but revenue is still limited. The Commissioners also realize that if Senate Bill 5 remains in effect, the negotiations process will change to allow the County more cost control. Under current law, an unelected arbitrator decides how County dollars are to be spent and the County must abide.

"With 2012 budgeting on the horizon, I must reiterate my concern about the

--more--

2-2-2

County's ability to maintain these additional expenses. We are probably looking at flat funding for 2012 and we will all have to manage doing more with the same amount of dollars," said Commissioner Ken O'Brien, "The arbitrator insinuates in his report that the County should increase taxes to pay the wage increase. We don't agree."

"With budgets in mind, we as responsible Commissioners may be forced to look at additional cuts in County services because of this increase in General Fund expenditures. I don't think our residents are going to appreciate losing services in other areas anymore than they would like less law enforcement or patrol," said Commissioner Tommy Thompson.

###