



CRAIG BROWN
COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Fund set up to begin repairs

By MARY ANN GREIER (mgreier@reviewonline.com) - POSTED: January 8, 2009

LISBON - The Columbiana County Commissioners officially set up a new reserve balance fund Wednesday for capital projects at the Courthouse and county jail, with the "to do" list covering everything from roof repairs to paint and period lighting.

"We realize the Courthouse is the peoples' house and we want to keep their house in order," Commissioner Penny Traina said.

The idea of setting up a capital projects fund for repairs to the two structures had already been announced during a county Budget Commission meeting on Tuesday, with commissioners taking action on the fund at their meeting Wednesday morning.

Next week, Commissioner Jim Hoppel said it's likely they'll do a transfer to place about \$400,000 in the fund from the 2008 cash carryover. The Budget Commission certified more than \$1 million of the carryover for spending by the commissioners. After taking out the \$400,000, they'll have a little over \$600,000 to distribute as needed throughout the year.

Hoppel said he's hoping they'll be able to continue placing money in the fund in future years. The commissioners chose to set up the fund strictly for the jail and courthouse because those are the two buildings which need immediate attention, according to Traina.

In a recent project, the two Common Pleas Court rooms on the second floor were renovated and new windows were installed throughout the Courthouse, along with new air conditioning and heating on the first, second and third floors.

The project, though, didn't cover the public restrooms in the basement or the first floor hallway where commissioners want to do some painting. They also want to install period lighting in the hallway and the stairwell. Roof repairs are needed at the jail.

In other business, the commissioners approved the purchase of a new computer server, along with software and maintenance, for county Recorder Craig Brown. The total project cost of \$32,439 will be paid through the recorder's equipment fund via a loan and three yearly payments in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Brown said the current server was on its last leg and needed replaced. He said the project includes upgrades to the recording system through Cott Systems, which could help the system run a little quicker and smoother. The county received a \$5,000 discount for being a Cott customer.

Traina noted that she was asked to serve on the Presidential Board of Trustees for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, which meets once a month in Columbus.

"It was a great honor to be asked. Hopefully I can bring more legislative information back to the board," she said.

The commissioners also agreed to pay \$118 to Kenny Grimes of Alliance for four sheep attacked by three stray dogs on his Knox Township property. One of the sheep was killed, with the other three injured. By law, the commissioners must reimburse livestock owners for any animals killed or injured by stray dogs at a price equal to market value.