The Board of Hocking County Commissioners met in regular session this 27th day of August, 2013 with the following members present John Walker, Sandy Ogle and Clark Sheets.

**MEETING:** The meeting was called to order by President Clark Sheets.

**MINUTES:** August 22, 2013 minutes approved as read.

**AGENDA:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by John Walker to approve the Agenda.

Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS:** Motion by John Walker and seconded by Sandy Ogle to approve the following Appropriation Transfers:

1) Common Pleas - $500.00 from AO2B09/Transcripts to AO2B03/Supplies

2) Prosecutor/VOCA - $1,360.00 from TT62-15/Salary-Fringes to TT62-14/ Printing

Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**TIME WARNER AGREEMENT:** Motion by John Walker and seconded by Sandy Ogle to authorize President Clark Sheets to sign the Right of Entry Agreement between Hocking County Commissioners and Time Warner Cable Midwest LLC to the property located 15359 Burcham Road, Logan, Ohio.

Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**GROUP RETRO PLAN AGREEMENT:** Motion by Sandy Ogle and seconded by John Walker to authorize President Clark Sheets to sign the County Commissioners Association of Ohio Workers’ Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Plan Agreement.

Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**DOG TAG FEE:** Motion by John walker and seconded by Sandy Ogle to make a resolution in the matter of declaring 2014 Dog License Fees – 1 year dog license fee - $15,00 with a $15.00 late fee, 3 year - $45.00 with a $15.00 late fee, permanent -$150.00 with a $15.00 late fee, kennel fee - $75.00 with a $75.00 late fee. Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**JILL SQUIRES – HELP ME GROW:** Motion by John Walker and seconded by Sandy Ogle to authorize Sandy Ogle to sign the State Fiscal Year 2014 Help Me Grow Central Coordination/At Risk Contract upon approval of the Hocking County Prosecutor. Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**DISCUSSION:** John said the building behind Dairy Queen has been moved. Clark stated that the part time Sewer Assistant John Schein last day will be September 6th and we will need to advertise for a replacement. John stated that he talked to Glenn Crippen and the house on Enterprise Ills Road can be put on the list for Ohio Moving Forward. Sandy said it would be for the safety of the people out there it needs to be done.

Motion by John Walker and seconded by Sandy Ogle to proceed with the Moving Ohio Forward Program by putting the house on Enterprise Ills Road on the list. Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

**BILL KAEPPNER-ROOT WIRE:** County resident Bill Kaeppner spoke to the Commissioners regarding the Root-wire Festival and that he feels that his festival has been targeted because of statement from this office saying we don’t like your kind of clientele. Bill asked what kind of events is he allowed to have and he had visited various areas regarding the sound and was told it was fine, but had a call that is insane from a person in Marion Township asking to turn it down, how can that be, is like sometimes I can hear the football stadium. Bill stated that he is worried about being targeted and the reason is because there were 6 sheriff cruisers 24 hours a day for 4 days on the highway plus the Highway Patrol, Lancaster and 2 extra police cruisers a day and he received a card in his mailbox from Workers Comp wanting to investigate. Bill asked who called Workers Comp and asked if they asked the sheriff to do extra enforcement to target him. Clark stated that he had no comment until the sheriff gets here. Sandy said she talked to the sheriff after the event. John stated that he really did not think anyone had to say anything because of the reports from last year from these festivals that it opened the eyes of the sheriff that they need to be on the alert of things. Bill asked if he had their permission for the festivals. Clark stated we can’t keep you from doing any festivals; there is no zoning in the county; it’s not what you are doing it is the clientele that attend some of these events that are law breaking citizens. Bill stated that with the 5000 people out there; and there were no instances, no fights, nothing on site.

**RECESS:** 9:33AM **RECONVENE:** 10:00AM

**ROOT-WIRE FOLLOW UP:** Clark asked Sheriff North to do a run-down of the activities during the festival. Sheriff North said to help with the stats he invited Chief Miller, Chief Brooker, State Patrol, MCU to this meeting to give their stats on the activity of the festival. Eric Brown from the Major Crimes Unit stated that they tried to put together the stats as a whole from all the organizations reflect the activity amongst all the agencies that were involved. Over all we had 74 people arrested, 126 charges that were filed. The different items that were seized were 6,344 grams of marijuana, 68 fruity pebble/cocoa puff marijuana snacks (THC), 63 marijuana brownie (THC), 2 grams of marijuana butter, 76 grams of hash, 162 grams of hash oil, 5 grams of heroin, 1 gram of crack cocaine, 3 grams of silicide mushrooms, 5 grams molly (mdma), 12 oxycodone pills, 36 unit doses of LSD, 70 grams of liquid LSD, 25 pounds of nitrous oxide, and $2,202.00 in cash. Sandy asked how you seize the cash. Eric said that normally in drug enforcement cases in trafficking incidences if you feel you have an amount that is being trafficked the cash that is with that individual or property can be seized. Sandy asked what kind of trafficking would it have to be, would it be opiates. Eric said any kind of narcotics. One of the officers stated that in individuals during the interviews at the interdiction stops stated (a lot of the ones with the LSD) that were in the snacks that they were taking them there for the purpose of selling and that’s where the cash came from. The Prosecutor asked how many stops did the cash come from. Eric stated it was roughly 4. John stated that they would consider this a large quantity of drugs. Eric said yes, it is a large influx into your community of narcotics. Sam Love from the Ohio Investigative Unit stated that some of the hash and hash oils that some of the Ohio Investigative Unit had undercover officers inside that actually buying these products off the venders and patrons that were there and that was some of the arrests also. Clark said so this included the arrest that were inside the festival. Eric said that was correct. EMS Chief Scott Brooker asked what was the total amount of participants. Bill stated 5, 000. Chief Brooker said they had 5 EMS runs out there and typically on event staffing that for every 5,000 you will have 1 run with that being said with having 5 it would be the equivalent of 20,000 to 25,000 people so I would say it was a little bit out of the norm. Bill said after they got going the promoter realized they had the wrong people on site for emergency medical and one a person had bad insulin. Sandy asked if the run they had were related to drugs. Chief Brooker said not wanting to speculate but 3 out of the 5 could be drug related. Sheriff North stated he thought it went well with their interdiction and course of action with the traffic was better organized than years before and the calls on the music we had a few, so with the help of the interdiction I think we made a precinct event for the people that came to the community and our goal is for safety as well as to keep drugs out of the community; we had task force in place we had major crimes unit in place to combat the common issue to have a drug free community. Clark stated that was his concern to enforce what laws they have not targeting anybody just have a safe community. Bill stated we had a meeting and I asked for someone to supervise the onsite personnel and that was declined and I am curious to the fact that everyone that I read in the paper not one was a local resident because that seems pointed and the stops out on 33 and 93 that were not in the festival, I mean to say that you say they are festival related and obliviously we did not want anything on site as I explained earlier on sound levels 5 different people said it was the best ever. We have no desire to have anything inside and anyone who is in the festival could see the families and kids and everything that went on and I am glad you guys stopped the things from coming in from the outside but it’s frustrating to have this painted as something more than it was. But I imagine if this kind of interdiction was done at the fair or the Washboard Festival or other things that there would be a higher level of interdiction if you did that too and that is what concerns me too that it feels targeted and if I was told in advance I could get word out that they if come here you are going to get caught and when you look at other large festivals they only have a third of the arrests. Clark asked Bill if he had security out there. Bill said they had folks inside the whole time. Clark said you had them checking when they came in and Bill stated when they came in. Clark asked how much material did they confiscated. Bill said they cannot take anything but turned them around because they would then have possession. Clark said then they must have missed a few. Bill said it’s possible. Clark said because they had arrests inside with the undercover agents. Chief Miller stated that the traffic issue was better and they had no calls on the music till after the fact, as far as the amount activity for Thursday, Friday, Saturday it was disproportionate to our common period we did not gather numbers who went to Root-wire just the activity. Sandy asked if they would set up on 33 this weekend would you find in comparison more or less or the same. Prosecutor Fetherolf said it would be higher on holiday weekends because more people come. Sheriff North suggested to Bill that he should consider hiring uniform officers. Clark stated he wants to make it a safe event and for the people in the county that he has nothing against the event it was just the high volume of what they suspected was going on with the people coming and he thinks the numbers prove what we thought was happening. Erik Lockhart of the Ohio Investigating Unit stated that inside the grounds we had incidents of violations there were 15 to 16 arrests that occurred inside the venue and they are all drug related arrests, our focus was inside the venue. We had a couple agents undercover that were able to purchase hash oil off one of the venders along with some paraphernalia and we seized about a $1,000.00 from that vender and as our agent were walking inside the people who were working the gate were smoking marijuana and employees were smoking marijuana directly in the open. Bill stated that those were not his employees and once we found out about it we got rid of those folks. Erik stated he wanted to give light a little bit of what was going on in the venue. The Sheriff asked if kids were present at this time. Erik stated yes. Clark asked what were the average ages of the participants in the festival. Erik said 2-60 years. Clark asked the age of those arrested. Erik said in there 30’s. Chief Brooker stated with the effort to try and clean up the county it is a black eye on everybody and he doesn’t like that aspect of it. John agreed with Chief Brooker that it is his concern that we don’t need that type of thing going on in the community, we try to battle it every day we appropriated $100,000.00 to put 3 officers on it and I appreciate the work you fellows have done to try to help to bring this under control. Sandy stated she disapproves of drugs and she is on the opiate drug force and she wished they could stop everybody that comes in from 33 from both ends. Clark said he feels we need to send a message to visitors that are coming into Hocking County this is not the place for recreational drugs or distributing or selling you are not welcome. Clark continued to say that they were not picking on one person or event that it is just the reality of it. Bill stated he would like to see this level of enforcement on every event over a couple thousand people. Clark thanked everyone for coming and sharing the numbers and it was an eye opening experience for everyone. The Prosecutor stated that one of the felony charges was dismissed for future indictment but they are waiting for lab results and there may be more than one. But we have to wait till the tests come back to have a case.

Adjournment: Motion by John Walker and seconded by Sandy Ogle to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Walker, yea, Ogle, yea, Sheets, yea.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Peggi Warthman, Clerk |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Board of Hocking County Commissioners |
|  |  |  |
| This is to certify that the above is the true action taken by this Board of Hocking County Commissioners at a regular meeting of the Board held on August 27, 2013. | | |
|  |  |  |
| Peggi Warthman, Clerk |  | Clark Sheets, President |