

Centerville City Council
Work Session Meeting
February 7, 2011

TIME: About 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: Centerville Municipal Building
Mayor Kingseed
Deputy-Mayor Doug Cline
Council Members: John Beals
Brooks Compton
Paul Gresham
Belinda Kenley
James Singer
Assistant Clerk of Council Julia Weaver
City Manager Greg Horn
Finance Director Steven Hinshaw
Public Works Director Rob James
City Engineer Doug Spittler
City Planner Steve Feverston
Economic Development Administrator Nathan Cahall
Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Wilder

Guests Press
Honorable Terry Blair Jill Kelley, Dayton Daily News
Adam Klys, resident

Following the State of the City Address at Centerville Police Headquarters, the Council met in work session at the Law Library. Council concurred to reappoint Lowell Stebbins to the Tax Appeals Board and Dan Carfagno to the Property Review Commission, each for a three-year term. Council also concurred to renew Mr. Carfagno's term as Chair of the Property Review Commission for one year.

Mr. Terry Blair, Representative to the Ohio Legislature, was in attendance to share his perspective concerning possible changes to Estate Taxes and Local Government Funds that come to cities and townships from the State of Ohio. Mr. Blair was not optimistic that Estate Tax funding from the State would remain as it is now. Hearings have begun and modifications to the initial bill are being suggested. Possibilities include postponing the start of the cuts to give entities time to adjust budgets, eliminating the Estate Tax entirely, eliminating the State's percentage of the tax and/or making Estate Tax optional for cities and townships. While the State of Ohio needs to cut \$8 billion from its current spending, cutting the Estate Tax would remove a source of revenue for the State.


Council questioned Mr. Blair regarding other areas of interest including the place of townships in the modern setting, subsidization of large townships through services provided by counties, possible changes to annexation laws and pension reform that would increase the employer's share. Mr. Compton stressed the need for studies to back the

work of the legislature so that decisions are based on factual information, rather than instinct or lobbying. Examples he gave were studies showing how many family farms are being lost or partitioned and how many people actually leave Ohio because of Estate Tax. He also asked for careful consideration of the effect of consolidations of governmental entities on the retirement systems.

When asked about Local Government Funds, Mr. Blair stated that he believes that they will be cut, but he is waiting for direction from Governor Kasich before initiating specific legislation. The legislature is looking at ways to help local entities by taking away some costs of mandates and by suggesting savings through regionalization and cooperation.

Mr. Blair asked for the support of Council.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Julia M. Weaver
Assistant Clerk of Council

Approved: 
C. Mark Kingseed, Mayor