



Shelby County Commissioners' 2015-2016 Progress Report

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If Shelby County's Progress for 2015 had to be summarized in one word, your Commissioners would say, "Courthouse". After an RFP process, the Commissioners worked with ESG (Energy Systems Group) and numerous other contractors to update the Courthouse. The local contractors included Area Energy and Electric, Cotterman and Company Inc., Dickman Supply, Eck Refrigeration, Hemm's Glass Shops, Midwest Maintenance, OVIS, Regal Plumbing, Sollmann Electric, Stull Woodworks Inc, and Westerheide Construction. These upgrades included: new cypress wood double-pane windows, HVAC, a fire detection system, new ceilings and energy efficient lighting, replacement of porch membrane roofs, installation of hot water to numerous restrooms, masonry repair, clock tower repair, tuck-pointing, repair and cleaning of soffit. In addition to the original project scope, it was decided to install new sidewalks at a cost of \$175,000 with Miami and Erie Contractors handling the project, and to paint the interior common hallways with Martin Painting exceeding expectations at a cost of \$100,000. Plans have been made to have an "Open House" on June 19, 2016 to give the public an opportunity to view the many changes. With the total cost of these improvements coming to 5.2 million dollars, the County has arranged to make payments over a 5 year period.

The County has been able to fund these projects solely through the allocation of a portion of the County sales tax into a Capital Improvement Fund. For 2015, this revenue amounted to 1.67 million dollars.

The County, in conjunction with the City of Sidney, Logan County, and the City of Bellefontaine, recently installed equipment to upgrade our 911 system. This new system works to move from analog to IP-based technologies providing an opportunity for future use of text messaging and picture data and provides each of these public safety answering points (PSAP's) with a backup via the other cooperating entities.

Other County emergency infrastructure was upgraded as necessary and the County has contracted with NKTelco to connect several tower sites with fiber to ensure there is no interruption in emergency communications.

After renting for many years, the Commissioners purchased the One-Stop Shop which houses the Titles Office, the State Highway driver exam station, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This purchase gave the County the opportunity to collect rent from the other occupants versus paying rent for a necessary office.

Numerous repairs were made to County parking areas including the Sheriff's office, the One-Stop Shop, Emergency Management, and the Agricultural Service Center.

Repairs were also made to the sidewalk and the dock at the Sheriff's office with replacements necessary for the sump pumps, jail kitchen oven, and the kitchen exhaust fan.

Vehicle replacements continue with 4 cruisers bought for the Sheriff's office at a cost of \$45,000 per vehicle.

Ongoing projects include updating the County website and developing a County Brand, planning for the state-mandated installation of wastewater treatment for the Newport area, replacement of a pump station near Lake Loramie, and planning for Fairhaven's total building remodeling.

Other goals for 2016 include installation of new water controls at the jail at a cost of \$ 200,000, upgrading parking lots at the jail, and upgrading the HVAC at the Shelby County Annex.

Additional County improvement projects include fundraising efforts by SCARF for a new Animal Shelter and the Fair Board's quest to raise funds for new grandstands at the fairgrounds.

The Commissioners continue to work with other County entities in addressing issues related to the current heroin/ opiate addiction epidemic, homelessness, water quality, downtown revitalization, and other economic development.

While the County has been very fortunate with the uptick in revenues (mainly in the area of sales tax), we are still very cautious. We have continued to provide funding for the most critical County functions but have not yet been able to afford funding for other entities such as our historical societies and arts programs. We are pleased to report that 2016 was the first year since 2007, to have enough carry-over that the Commissioners did not have to supplement the coming year's General Fund with Permanent Improvement monies.

We continue to work with our State legislature to address funding needs for voting equipment upgrades, children's placement costs, and drug treatment costs.

The projects addressed in 2015 were great examples of why we are extremely fortunate to live in Shelby County. We have many local businesses with talented employees and other elected officials with a "can-do" attitude. It has been very enjoyable to work with these individuals as we all continue to strive to make good things happen in Shelby County.

As always, your Commissioners are committed to serving Shelby County and welcome ideas and input from our residents.