Memorandum

To: Mayor & Members of Council **From:** Monica Irelan, City Manager

Subject: General Information Date: March 23, 2015

CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015

- 1. AGENDA Finance & Budget Committee @6:30 PM
 - a. Approval of Minutes the November 24, 2014 meeting minutes are attached.
 - b. First Quarter Budget Adjustments the proposed budget adjustments for the 1st quarter are enclosed.
- 2. AGENDA Personnel Committee @7:00 pm
- 3. CANCELLATION Safety & Human Resources Committee

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015

1. AGENDA – Civil Service Commission @4:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

1. AGENDA – Parks & Recreation Board @6:30 pm

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. AMP Weekly Update/March 13, 2015
- 2. OML Legislative Bulletin/March 20, 2015
- 3. Government Finance Officers Association 2015 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

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Calendar

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Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
	6:15 PM TECHNOLOGY		4	<u> </u>	U	
	6:15 PM TECHNOLOGY Committee Meeting					
	7:00 PM City COUNCIL					
	Meeting					
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	6:00 PM Council Rules Review					
	Commission					
	7:00 PM City COUNCIL					
	Meeting					
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	6:30 PM FINANCE & BUDGET Committee Meeting	4:30 PM CIVIL SERVICE Commission Mtg.	6:30 PM Parks & Rec Board Meeting			
	7:00 PM PERSONNEL	Commission Witg.	Weeting			
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	5th Monday/No Scheduled Mee				HOLIDAY - GOOD FRIDAY -	
© 2015 Lotus Development Corp.			3/20/2015 at 9:48 AM			Page 1

Finance & Budget Committee

LOCATION: City Offices, 255 W. Riverview Avenue, Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:30pm

- I. Approval of Minutes (In the absence of any objections or corrections, the minutes shall stand approved.)
- II. First Quarter Budget Adjustments
- III. Any other matters currently assigned to the Committee
- IV. Adjournment

Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk

City of Napoleon, Ohio FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE IN JOINT SESSION WITH CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 24, 2014 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT

Committee Council Jason Maassel - Chair, Ron Behm, Chris Ridley, Heather Wilson

John Helberg (President), Jason Maassel (President Pro-Tem), Jeff Comadoll, Travis

Sheaffer (arrived at 6:37 pm), Heather Wilson

City Staff Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk of Council

Monica S. Irelan, City Manager Trevor M. Hayberger, Law Director

Recorder Others Tammy Fein News Media

ABSENT

Members Others Jeffrey Marihugh, Christopher Ridley

Call To Order

Chairperson Maassel called the Finance & Budget Committee meeting to order at

6:31 pm.

President Helberg called the Council meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Approval Of Minutes

Minutes from the October 27 Finance & Budget Committee meeting stand approved with no objections or corrections.

Review of 2015 Budget Summary Irelan distributed a memo regarding the 2015 Budget Summary; see attached.

Irelan explained the presentation regarding the 2015 balanced Budget; Heath added these are projections on projections, with an unofficial goal of unencumbered \$1,000,000 balance in the General Fund. Irelan stated that the Capital Improvement Projects Fund accounts for street repair and maintenance. Wilson thanked Irelan for the presentation. Sheaffer asked if the \$5.6 million unencumbered total represented debt; Heath replied that this is the Reserve Fund balance. Behm asked how much this balance had decreased in the previous year; Heath stated that the goal is to maintain at least \$1,000,000 balance in the General Fund, and the balance may be trending down, and municipalities are hoping that the State may not implement House Bill 5 until January 15, 2016 which could result in a quarter million dollar loss to the Income Tax. Irelan added that the City is working on ways to curtail those losses and having discussions with Departments regarding cutting expenses and increasing revenue. Irelan stated that every vacant position must be discussed with Irelan and the Human Resources Department before the position is filled to be certain that the duties cannot be handled in another way. Irelan is discussing restructuring with the Fire Department to cut recurring costs. Maassel asked to review the General Operating/Capital Income Tax slide, asking why Income Tax is separate; Heath stated this is the way the Ordinance is written; the cost of collecting is taken out first as the Recreation Department does not pay that as part of their levy. Irelan added that the fifteen percent (15%) represents a fulltime Tax Administrator and fulltime Accounts Clerk. Behm stated that the General Fund budget slide represented unencumbered \$800,000; Irelan stated that the Budget balance is listed as \$840,000 instead of a million dollar

Budget. Heath reminded the Committee and Council that revenue is estimated conservatively and expenditures are estimated liberally. Maassel asked how much the additional budget requests affected the General Fund; Irelan replied these did not affect the General Fund much with the anticipates savings, however most of the approvals have recurring costs associated with them. Irelan stated that she is concerned with the trend as opposed to the actual number as this indicates changes must be made. Heath stated that levy increases have been approved previously; adding that Council must use what they have control over such as fees and Income Tax credit. Heath stated if the State does decide to take over Income Tax collection, there will be no control left, reminding Council to become involved in the political process. Maassel asked, regarding the Capital Improvements Project Fund, if a quarter of a million dollars would fully complete Marco Drive; Irelan stated this is just the street portion and the sewer and water portions are listed in their own Funds.

The Budget will now go to the Mayor and he will present it out to the Committee and Council at the December 15 Council meeting.

Helberg asked how long the fifteen percent (15%) has been taken out of the General Fund before the operating/capital percentages are calculated; Heath stated this was written in the Ordinance and goes back to the origination of the Income Tax. Maassel believes this skews the 62%/38% distribution.

Any Other Matters Or Items Currently Assigned To The Committee None

Finance Motion To Adjourn Motion: Behm Second: Wilson

To adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm

Passed Ro Yea- 3

Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Maassel, Wilson, Behm

Nay- 0 Nay-

Council Motion To Motion: Sheaffer Second: Wilson

Adjourn To adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm

Passed Roll call vote on above motion:

Yea- 5 Yea- Maassel, Helberg, Sheaffer, Comadoll, Wilson

Nay- 0 Nay-

Approved:

Date Jason Maassel, Chair

EXHIBIT-A ATTACHMENT TO ORDINANCE	No15	F	&B COMM	, It, II
2015 APPROPRIATION BUDG	ET - 1ST QT BU	JDGET ADJU	JSTMENTS	
BUDGET SUMMARY BY FUI	ND, DEPARTME	NT AND CA	<u>TEGORY</u>	
	=== 2015 1ST QUAR	RTER BUDGET AL	OJMNTS.===	2015
ORDINANCE No15, Passed / /2015	PERSONAL			FUND
1ST QT Approved - 2015 Appropriation Budget	SERVICES	OTHER	TOTAL	TOTAL
400 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND				
1100 City Council/Legislative		500	\$500	
Total - 400 Capital Improvement Fund	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
- 1100 City Council/Legislative - Additional for Door and	Sound System Impro	vements +\$500:		
Accounts - 400.1100.57200 Buildings and Improvements		500		
521 SEWER (WWT) UTY.REP. & IMP. FUND				
6310 Sewer(WWT)/Collection System	0	15,000	\$15,000	
Total - 521 Sewer (WWT) Uty.Rep.& Imp. Fund	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
- 6310 Sewer (WWT)/Collection System - Appropriation t	o Cover a 2014 Carry	over PO not Encu	ımbered in 2014	ı, +\$15,000:
Accounts - 521.6310.57810 Sewer Lateral Improvements		15,000		
		\$15,500	\$15.500	\$15,500
* GRAND TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$15,500 ==================================	010,000 =========	# 10,500 ==================================

CITY OF NAPOLEON, OHIO

255 W. RIVERVIEW AVENUE • P.O. BOX 151 • NAPOLEON, OHIO 43545 FAX (419) 599-8393 PHONE (419) 599-1235

MAIL INVOICES TO ABOVE ADDRESS

MUST APPEAR ON VOUR INVOIGE

RG150361

AMOUNT

PURCHASE ORDER AND CERTIFICATE

DEPT. REQ. NO. :

EMG14-72

P.O. DATE

01/02/15 · ·

631 SEWER/COLLECTION SYSTEM CITY OF NAPOLEON, OHIO

1775 INDUSTRIAL DR, PO BOX 151

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THIS DUDCHASE ORDER NOT	VALID UNLESS FINANCE DIRECTOR'S	CERTIFICATE IS SIGNED

CITY USE ONLY

Authorizing signature on final goods and/or services received:

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION HEAD

CONTRACT PURCHASE ORDER SEE GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

Personnel Committee

LOCATION: City Hall Offices, 255 West Riverview Avenue, Napoleon, Ohio

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00pm

- I. Approval of Minutes (In the absence of any objections or corrections, the Minutes shall stand approved)
- II. Executive Session: Compensation of Personnel
- III. Any other matters currently assigned to the Committee
- IV. Adjournment

Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk of Council

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 16, 2015 at 6:00pm

PRESENT

Personnel Committee

City Staff

Travis Sheaffer – Chair, Jason Maassel, Mayor Ronald Behm

Trevor Hayberger, Law Director Monica Irelan, City Manager

Acting Recorder

Others Absent Monica Irelan

Call To Order

Chairperson Sheaffer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 26 meeting stand approved with no objections or corrections.

Review Of Personnel Matters

Motion To Go Into Executive Session

Motion: Maassel Second: Behm

To go into Executive Session to discuss employment of personnel

Passed Yea- 3 Nay- 0 Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Behm, Sheaffer, Maassel

Nay-

Into Executive Session

The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:00pm.

Motion To Come Out Of Executive Session Motion: Maassel
To come out of Executive Session

Passed Yea- 3 Nay- 0 Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Behm, Sheaffer, Maassel

Nay-

Out of Executive

Session

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 6:29pm. Sheaffer reported that the Executive Session was held to discuss the employment of personnel

and no action was taken.

Motion To Adjourn

Motion: Maassel To adjourn at 6:29pm Second: Behm

Second: Behm

Passed Yea- 3 Nay- 0 Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Behm, Sheaffer, Maassel

Nay-

Date Approved

Travis Sheaffer, Chair

Memorandum

To: Safety and Human Resources Committee, Township Trustees, Council, Mayor,

City Manager, City Law Director, City Finance Director, Department Supervisors

From: Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk of Council

Date: 3/19/2015

Re: Safety and Human Resources Committee Meeting Cancellation

The Safety and Human Resources Committee meeting scheduled for Monday,

March 23, 2015, at 7:30pm has been CANCELED due to lack of agenda

items.

Civil Service Commission

LOCATION: City Hall, 255 West Riverview Avenue, Napoleon, OH 43545

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 4:30pm

- I. Approval of Minutes (In the absence of any objections or corrections, the minutes shall stand approved.)
- II. Approval of Testing for Police Officer/Firefighter Paramedic, including: testing type, date, time and location, type of exam, application blanks, age requirements, education requirements, method and subject of examinations, establishment and application of credits
- III. Review of Job Application
- IV. Any other matters to come before the Commission
- V. Adjournment

Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk of Council

Civil Service Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 4:30pm

PRESENT

Members: David Meekison - Chair, Jon Tassler

City Staff: Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk of Council

Trevor M. Hayberger, Law Director

Robert Weitzel, Police Chief

Recorder: Tammy Fein

Others:

ABSENT Mike Flory

Call To Order Chairman Meekison called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

Approval Of MinutesMinutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting stand approved as presented

with no corrections or objections.

Motion To

Approve Blank Application

Motion: Meekison Second: Tassler

To approve the blank application

Passed Roll call vote on above motion:

Yea- 2 Yea- Meekison, Tassler

Nay- 0

Motion To Motion: Meekison Second: Tassler

Approve To approve the applicant list:

Applicant List Baker, Jason

Druhot, Tony

Rohrs, Eric

Passed
Yea- 2

Roll call vote on above motion:
Yea- Meekison, Tassler

Nay- 0

Motion To Motion: Meekison Second: Tassler

Approve Time Of Exam To approve time of exam:

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 4:30pm in City Council Chambers

Passed Roll call vote on above motion:

Yea- 2 Yea- Meekison, Tassler

Nay- 0

Civil Service Exam: Meekison asked for any questions from the three (3) applicants; there were

Fire Chief no questions presented from the applicants.

Meekison read the general instructions provided for the exam verbatim.

Commission Recessed To
Administer The Exam

The Commission went into recess to administer the exam at 5:45pm.

Commission Reconvened

The Commission reconvened after the exam was administered at 6:43pm, with the same two (2) Commission members present.

Meekison reported that all three (3) applicants completed the exam within the required time limit of two (2) hours:

Rohrs competed the exam with sixty percent (60%) of the questions correct, failed;

Druhot completed the exam with fifty five percent (55%) of the questions correct, failed; and

Baker completed the exam with fifty one and one quarter percent (51.25%) of the questions correct; failed.

Meekison reported that the Commission has the authority to either direct the Human Resources Director to advertise the exam for Fire Chief and open the exam to the public who are not members of the Fire Department, or to vote to give the City Manager the authority to appoint the Fire Chief from within at her discretion, notwithstanding that the written exam was failed by all three (3) applicants. Hayberger noted that the position would be open to all applicants, not merely current members of the Fire Department. Heath added that the Commission could make a recommendation to the Appointing Authority as they deem necessary. Meekison asked Hayberger if the City Manager discretion to hire would include the applicants who tested today; Hayberger stated that it would include the current applicants even though they failed the test. Tassler believes that the City needs a Chief as soon as possible; Meekison agreed. Human Resources Director Druhot stated that interviews could be completed right away if the three (3) applicants were interviewed, while opening the exam to the public would require approximately sixty (60) days. Tassler stated he would rather give the City Manager the authority to appoint the Fire Chief, adding that, even though the acting Fire Chief is doing a good job, the City requires this position to be filled as soon as possible.

Second: Meekison

To authorize the City Manager to appoint the Fire Chief and to waive the

Motion To Authorize The City Manager To Appoint The Fire Chief And To Waive The Rule For Further Testing

Passed

Yea-2

Nav-0

Any Other Matters To Come Before The Commission Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Meekison, Tassler Nay-

Motion: Tassler

rule for further testing

Heath reported that the original testing lists for Patrolman and Fire Fighter expire in May 2015 and suggested that the Commission meet next month for a proposed time frame for testing in July for these positions. Meekison suggested that the date of Saturday, July 18, 2015 for the original exam for the positions; adding that the third Commission member is currently not present and the final date will be presented at the March meeting.

Motion To Adjourn

Motion: Meekison Second: Tassler Motion to adjourn the meeting

PassedRoll call vote on motion:Yea - 2Yea- Meekison, TasslerNay - 0Nay -

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm

Date Approved:

David Meekison, Chair



Parks & Recreation Board

LOCATION: City Hall Offices, 255 West Riverview Avenue, Napoleon, Ohio

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 6:30pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Discussion and/or Action: City Facilities Usage Policy (Tabled)
- IV. Miscellaneous
- V. Any other matters currently assigned to the Board
- VI. Adjournment

Gregory J. Heath, Finance Director/Clerk of Council

Parks & Recreation Board

Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 6:30pm

PRESENT	P	R	ES	\mathbf{E}	N	Т
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Parks & Recreation Board

Matt Hardy - Chair, Peg Funchion, Aaron Schnitkey, Pat McColley, Chad

Richardson

City Staff

Tony Cotter, Parks & Recreation Director

Recorder

Tammy Fein

Others

News Media; Rachel Hefflinger, Toledo MetroParks representative

ABSENT

Joe Bialorucki, Mike Saneholtz

Call To Order

Recorder Fein called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Approval Of Minutes

Minutes of the December 30, 2014 meeting stand approved with the following

correction: Bialorcki mentioned the advertising on the golf carts; not

Richardson.

Election of Board Chairperson

Fein asked each member in order of seniority for a recommendation of a name

for Chairperson.

Funchion nominated Hardy

Hardy passed

Richardson nominated Hardy Schnitkey nominated Hardy McColley nominated Hardy

Motion To Nominate Hardy As Chairperson Motion: McColley Second: Function

To nominate Hardy as Board Chairperson

Passed Yea- 5

Nay-0

Roll call vote on above motion:

Yea- Hardy, Funchion, Richardson, Schnitkey, McColley

Nay-

Discussion Regarding Proposed Educational Programming Rachel Hefflinger, Toledo MetroParks and Liberty Center Public Library, presented options to the Board regarding programs for children that are more educational based for consideration.

Hefflinger had started an eight (8) week program in the Toledo MetroParks system that was run for one and a half hours on Monday evenings with an average of twenty five (25) attendants per night, ranging in ages from two (2) years old to twelve (12) years old. Hefflinger presented a list of proposed programs to the Board for consideration, and stated that she is also willing to run Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs as well. McColley approves of offering the programs in the City; Funchion agreed that educational programs should also be focused on by the Parks Department, not just athletic programs; adding that this could set the City recreation program apart from others. Hardy asked where this program would be offered in the Winter months; Cotter suggested Oberhaus Park and school classrooms and gymnasiums;

adding that space will not be an issue. Hefflinger stated that the programs would be set up for approximately one (1) program per week, using the history of the MetroParks programs as the basis for this schedule. Funchion asked about liability regarding the proposed canoeing and camping trips; Cotter and Hefflinger will research this. Cotter stated that he approves of these programs and would like to see the programs progress. Cotter believes that now is the best time to begin to fill in gaps between athletic programs. Function asked if there would be a minimum number of registrants required for each program to run; Hefflinger replied that the minimum number at MetroParks was usually four (4) or five (5) participants; Hefflinger added that she would like to see a preregistration ability set up. Cotter stated that he will research the program fees with the City Law Department to amend the Ordinance to accommodate the rates for these programs. McColley asked if all aspects of the programs would be run through the City; Cotter stated that it would, including the fees. McColley asked if Hefflinger would be a contract employee; Cotter stated either a contract could be created or Hefflinger could be put on the payroll and the salary cost could be negotiated and adjustments could be made. McColley asked how the programs would be marketed; Hefflinger explained that she has experience in marketing and has a checklist of options to market the programs, including using WNDH, the local newspaper as well as social media. Hefflinger stated that she could not find a webpage for the Parks & Recreation Department; Cotter stated that there is a Facebook page for the City that he updates with Parks Department information. Hefflinger believes that the Parks Department needs its own page to market these programs as well as adding Project Wild information, graphics and links that are related to each upcoming program. Cotter stated that he had suggested to the MIS Department that the Parks Department should have its own Twitter account, though this has not been created yet. Hefflinger stated that drawings could be held once per month at the programs for prizes from local businesses; Hefflinger has already procured items such as tickets to the local drive in and prizes from Seasons' Eatings and other local markets for these drawings. Hefflinger stated that flyers could be sent home with the children from schools as well. Hefflinger stated that Northwest Ohio Education Service Center (NWOESC) is interested in partnering with the Parks Department for offering these programs beginning in April. Hardy asked if the programs could be started this quickly; Cotter replied that it is possible, but the fees issue may take a bit longer to research. Hefflinger suggested not charging a fee for the April program and using that as a measure of the amount of interest in the programs, Hefflinger stated that the NWOESC would pay for the afterschool programs, and material costs are low. Hefflinger believes that these programs would offer positive promotions for the City, including six (6) second Vine videos, which was voted as the best marketing tool in 2014.

Motion To Recommend Council Approval Of Proceeding With The Programs As Presented

Passed Yea-5 Nay-0 Motion: McColley Second: Richardson
To recommend Council approve proceeding with the programs as presented

Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Hardy, Funchion, Richardson, Schnitkey, McColley Nay-

City Facilities Usage Policy

Cotter reported that an audit was performed on all City departments by the loss control group with the City insurance; the group discovered that the Parks Department did not have a policy in place stating that non-City affiliated groups must sign a form to indemnify the City of any damages when City facilities are used. Cotter stated this policy is not uncommon and is used by other entities. Cotter stated that he is researching the insurance limits for this policy, adding that the City must be listed as the additional insured on certificates of liability insurance. Cotter distributed a draft of the written Policy and asked for Board input regarding this policy; Cotter added that the distributed form has not been approved by the Law Department yet. Cotter stated that this policy is only for groups that are not affiliated with the City and who are administered separate from the City. McColley interprets this form to read that individuals renting shelterhouses must have a certificate of liability insurance and believes that individuals will misinterpret the wording; Cotter stated that he will clarify this with the Law Department to amend the wording. Hardy suggested taking out the wording 'facility' to clarify this issue. McColley asked if this would ever be an individual using a City facility, or would it always be a group; Cotter stated that there could possibly be an individual renting the facility. Schnitkey asked if schools would be required to sign the agreement; Cotter replied yes, adding that he has to sign an agreement to use school facilities. Cotter reported that the permits obtained for certain functions have the limits of liability listed. Hardy believes the language should reflect exactly who should be required to have the insurance certificate of liability with no room for interpretation. Hardy believes that obtaining the certificate of liability insurance would cut into the earnings of the nonprofit groups; Cotter will research this. Hardy asked why there should be insurance for certain City areas and not for others. McColley added that the City takes liability for the programs that are run by the City. Cotter noted that this is a strong recommendation by the insurance company loss control group as well as the Finance Director. Hardy asked if Council must approve this policy; Cotter will research this, as well as the required wording, with the Finance Director, Law Director and City Manager. Hardy reported that the Northwest Ohio Athletic League (NWOAL) through Wauseon and Archbold require a certificate of liability insurance; Funchion asked if the cost is disbursed; Funchion suggested that the League purchase insurance for the teams then divide the cost among the teams; Hardy stated that the NWOAL bases the cost on the number of participants and the League pays for the insurance. Cotter stated that this could cost approximately ten dollars (\$10) to fifteen dollars (\$15) per participant.

Motion To Table City Facility Usage Policy Until Further Research Is Gathered

Passed Yea- 5 Nay- 0

Miscellaneous Schnitkey Motion: Richardson Second: Function To table City Facility Usage Policy until further research is gathered

Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Hardy, Funchion, Richardson, Schnitkey, McColley Nay-

None

Richardson None Hardy reported that the third and fourth grade basketball leagues ended over Hardy the weekend and all went well. **Funchion** None **McColley** McColley stated that he was glad to be on the Board. Cotter reported that all basketball leagues have ended and all of the team Cotter seasons went well. Cotter added that Lauf and Funchion did a great job coaching, and it was nice to see the Kiddy Kats come back. Cotter stated that Peg Funchion volunteered to run the scoreboard during one of the games. Hardy added that he would like to see the high school basketball participants coach the third and fourth grade leagues at some point. Cotter stated that he reached out to both Varsity coaches and they intended to help, but there were scheduling conflicts. Cotter reported that the softball registration will begin in a few weeks followed by baseball, and registration forms will be going to the schools soon. Cotter reported that the high school gym and pool are close to being closed due to the construction, and he is talking with the school administration regarding using the new junior high gym as well as future usage of the facilities. Funchion believes the pool is to be closed as of March 9 and the gym is to be closed as of March 26. Motion: McColley Second: Richardson **Motion To Go Into** To go into Executive Session to discuss purchase of property **Executive Session: Purchase Of Property** Roll call vote on above motion: Passed Yea- Hardy, Funchion, Richardson, Schnitkey, McColley Yea-5

Nav- 0

Nay-

Into Executive Session Motion To Come Out Of

Motion: Richardson

Executive Session: Purchase Of Property

Second: Schnitkev To come out of Executive Session for purchase of property

The Parks & Recreation Board went into Executive Session at 7:27pm.

Passed Yea-5 Nay-0

Roll call vote on above motion:

Yea- Hardy, Funchion, Richardson, Schnitkey, McColley

Nay-

Out Of Executive Session

The Parks & Recreation Board came out of Executive Session at 7:55 pm. Chairman Hardy reported that the discussion was regarding the purchase of property and no action was taken.

Any Other Matters To Come Before The Board Cotter reported that the current school playground equipment will be assigned a value by the schools; Cotter has identified some components of the equipment that could be usable by the City, adding that there will be damage

to the posts during removal and Cotter will be responsible for this cost. Function stated that a majority of the new structures were donated by the PTO at no cost to the schools. Cotter reported that no price has been received yet, and the school requested an estimated value by a vendor; Cotter stated that the vendor he spoke with would not give an estimate on used equipment and added that the posts must be purchased from the company that sold the equipment. Cotter believes the value to be reduced once the poles are removed from the ground; Cotter will meet with the school representative in approximately one (1) month. Cotter stated that there are services that can be traded for the equipment as approved by the City Manager, including tap fees. Cotter stated that if inkind services can be traded, the approximate cost would be \$10,000; and he believes that the two (2) pieces that he is interested in cost approximately \$35,000 new for the equipment at CD Brillhart and approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the equipment at West. McColley stated that if the equipment is taken from CD Brillhart, there is no other playground equipment on the Southside and he recommends that equipment stay. Cotter stated he would consider moving the equipment from Swearinger Park to the Southside. Funchion asked if equipment could be put at Oberhaus, McColley stated that may get complaints from residents as Oberhaus is designated as a passive park. Cotter stated that he would like to get rid of all the old steel equipment as well as the internal wooden structures. Cotter stated that he has heard concerns from residents regarding the line of sight in the middle of the wooden structure. Cotter explained that the removal will not be easy, and his employees have experience doing this type of work. Cotter will research whether he will salvage the current posts, adding that his Department employees did all the work at Ritter Park under the supervision of one (1) representative from the equipment company.

Motion To Adjourn	Motion: Function	Second:	MicConey
3	To adjourn the meeting		
Passed Yea- 5 Nay- 0	Roll call vote on above motion: Yea- Hardy, Funchion, Richard Nay-		McColley
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.		
Date Approved	Matt Hardy , Chair		

March 13, 2015



AMP/OMEA group voices regulatory concerns with congressional offices

By Jolene Thompson – senior vice president & OMEA executive director

More than 50 members, guests and staff attended the 2015 American Public Power Association (APPA) Legislative Rally as part of the AMP/OMEA group, with 22 member communities represented from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The annual APPA Rally provides a valuable opportunity for public power to be engaged in the legislative process. More than 600 public power utility professionals gathered in Washington, D.C., for the event.

The AMP/OMEA contingent met senior staff or lawmakers from a total of 17 congressional offices, including:

- Speaker John Boehner (R-OH)
- Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA)
- Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
- Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA)
- Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-OH)
- Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-O11)
- Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH)
- Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH)
- Rep. Jim Jordan(R-OH)

- Rep. David Joyce (R-OH)
- Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
- Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)
- Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA)
- Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH)
- Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH)
- Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH)
- Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH)

During the Rally's Legislative & Resolutions Committee meeting on March 10, OMEA co-sponsored one of the six resolutions – In Support of Affordable, Reliable Solar Power Deployment (15-06).

The other resolutions, available on APPA's website, approved were:

In Support of Legislative and Regulatory Reforms to Protect Utilities
 That Receive Coal by Rail (15-01)

see RALLY Page 3

Energy prices lower with warmer weather

By Craig Kleinhenz – manager of power supply planning

The severe cold temperatures seem to be mostly at an end and warmer weather forecasts pushed energy prices lower. This occurred despite news that the amount of natural gas withdrawn from storage was larger than expected due to last week's cold weather.

Overall, the stock of natural gas in storage is 47 percent above last year (up 7 percent from last week) and 13 percent below the five-year average (down 5 percent from last week).

April natural gas prices finished the week down \$0.11/MMBtu to finish yesterday at \$2.73/MMBtu. 2016 on-peak power prices at AD Hub closed down \$0.19/MWh from last week, finishing yesterday at \$41.78/MWh.

AFEC weekly update

By Craig Kleinhenz

AFEC continued its streak of continuous operation, remaining online for the entire week. Last Friday was the strongest generation day of the week, with the plant at max base production for the entire day. The rest of the week saw the plant at base maximum levels during almost all on-peak hours and only a couple of hours at base minimum levels during the overnight hours.

Duct burners were used 15 hours this week, including several early morning hours from March 5 into March 6, when temperatures were close to 0 degrees outside. The plant ended the week with a 75 percent load factor (based on 675 MW).

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FEBRUARY OPERATIONS STATISTICS							
	February 2015	February 2014					
JV6 Wind Output 24% 29%							
Belleville Output 97% 69%							
Fremont Energy Center Output 74% 60%							
Blue Creek Wind Output 36% 31%							
Napoleon Solar Output 15% 11%							
Prairie State Output	Prairie State Output 70% 71%						
Avg. A/D Hub On-Peak Rate \$55/MWh \$75/MWh							
*Fremont capacity factor based on 675 MW rating *Solar capacity factor based on 3.54 MW rating							

*PS capacity factor based on 1,582 MW rating

On Peak (16 hour) prices into AEP/Dayton Hub							
Week ending March 13							
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI			
\$34.08	\$30.78	\$29.94	\$26.92	\$33.33			
Week end	ling March 6						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI			
\$36.38	\$34.52	\$33.55	\$81.25	\$67.79			
AEP/Dayton 2016 5x16 price as of March 13 — \$41.78							
AEP/Dayton 2016 5x16 price as of March 6 — \$41.97							

February 2015: Record cold weather brings return of PJM congestion

By Mike Migliore – assistant vice president of power supply planning & transmission

Although not quite as newsworthy as the 2014 Polar Vortex, average temperatures for February 2015 in the AMP service territory ended in the top seven coldest Februaries in the last 121 years. Leading the way were Ohio and Pennsylvania, which shivered to their second coldest February ever.

Despite prices in the western portion of PJM (Ohio and Illinois) ending lower than last year, eastern PJM did not

see the same lower rates. During the coldest days, natural gas still suffered from a lack of pipeline capacity to the east coast, which boosted gas and power prices. Although PJM did not suffer from the generation outages that it saw in the winter of 2014, congestion prices to the eastern portions of PJM were much higher than both last February and expectations. No generation emergencies or demand response requests have been declared by PJM this winter.

AVERAGE DAILY RATE COMPARISONS							
	February 2015 \$/MWh	January 2015 \$/MWh	February 2014 \$/MWh	January 2014 \$/MWh			
A/D Hub 7x24 Price	\$49.23	\$32.82	\$63.20	\$85.12			
PJM West 7x24 Price	\$75.79	\$38.62	\$71.44	\$132.05			
A/D to AMP-ATSI Congestion/Losses	\$1.77	\$1.17	\$5.38	\$7.85			
A/D to Blue Ridge Congestion/Losses	\$21.50	\$2.98	\$4.90	\$27.23			
A/D to PJM West Congestion/Losses	\$26.56	\$5.80	\$8.24	\$46.92			
PJM West to PP&L Congestion/Losses	\$21.71	\$1.36	\$2.69	\$35.35			
IND Hub to A/D Hub Congestion/Losses	\$8.82	\$2.06	\$4.91	\$21.27			

AMP Metering Course covers safety, installation

By Bob Rumbaugh - manager of technical training

Meters are an essential part of municipal electric utilities and 23 attendees from 10 members participated in AMP's Metering Course March 10-12 at AMP headquarters. The course covered safety in metering, basic terminology, principles of instrument transformers, metering math, troubleshooting, installation and wiring methods, and hands-on meter wiring.

AMP's Training Catalog is available on the Member Extranet section of the AMP website. Please contact Jennifer Flockerzie, technical services program coordinator, at <u>iflockerzie@amppartners.org</u> or 614.540.0853 with questions, for more information or to register for a course.



- In Support of Public Power Utilities' Use of Unmanned Aerial Aircraft in Utility-Related Operations (15-02)
- In Support of the Right of Preference Customers to Be Protected from the Costs of Transmission Projects in the Western Area Power Administration and the Southwestern Area Power Administration (15-03)
- In Support of Equitable Treatment of Public Power Utilities Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (15-04)
- Support for Legislation to Address Flaws in EPA's Final Rule to Regulate Coal Combustion Residuals (15-05)

On behalf of AMP and OMEA, I would like to thank all the members who participated in the effort to raise awareness of the customer impacts of increasing transmission costs and capacity market structures; the importance of taxexempt financing to municipal governments; and concerns about sequestration impacts on Build America Bonds.

AMP promotes Park to new position in IT

By Tim Hooks - IT director

Emily Park is taking on a new role at AMP as enterprise content administrator. Previously IT coordinator, Park will be leading the implementation of new enterprise content management software for AMP.



Emily Park

Park joined AMP in 2011, having previously worked with Pharmacy Systems

Inc. as the corporate IT administrator. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ohio State University.

AMP distributes spring edition of Public Power Connections

By Krista Selvage – manager of publications

The spring 2015 edition of Public Power Connections (PPC) was distributed earlier this week to AMP principal contacts and others who have requested it. In this edition are articles on how environmental and regulatory issues affect the costs of power, what an RTO is and how it works, and tips on efficiency and call before you dig.



Members who would like to be added to the PPC distribution list may contact me at 614.540.6407 or kbselvage@amppartners.org. Also feel free to contact me with any feedback or suggestions.

For current and past editions of PPC, please visit the Member Extranet section of the AMP website.

Spots available for March 31 Regional Safety Meeting

By Kyle Weygandt, LSP-MSA – director of member safety

There's still time to register for AMP's Regional Safety Meeting, to be held from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 31 at the Barlow Community Center in Hudson, 41 S. Oviatt St.

The meeting agenda includes topics on enhancing safety and a presentation by Chief Jerry Vanes of the Hudson Fire Department on trenching and excavation.

The meeting is free, but registration is required by March 17 for a lunch count. To register or for more information, please contact me at 330.323.1269 or kweygandt@ amppartners.org.

Finance & Accounting **Subcommittee Meeting covers** issues regarding financial soundness for members

By Joe Regan – member credit compliance analyst

The City of New Martinsville, West Virginia, hosted members from several AMP communities on March 12 for an AMP Finance & Accounting Subcommittee meeting.

Dawn Lund, vice president of Utility Financial Solutions, started the meeting with a discussion on performing a financial checkup for utilities. Lund's discussion covered a variety of financial topics and best practices intended to provide a total picture of the condition of a utility.

Lund was followed by James Engel of Kensington Capital Advisors, who provided a primer on hedging bond financings. Specifically, Engel discussed how hedging is an important tool used to maximize savings for debt issuance for AMP project participants.

Engel was followed by Tom Wilson, partner with Dinsmore & Shohl, who discussed economic development techniques. Wilson discussed various economic development techniques that can be used as tools to benefit a local community and its economy.

Alice Wolfe, AMP assistant vice president of power supply planning and alternative generation, followed Wilson with a discussion on AMP solar projects. Specifically, Wolfe discussed the AMP Solarium Program and how it can be used to help AMP members with peaking needs.

I closed out the day with a discussion on the AMP credit scoring program. I discussed the program and provided insight on a few things AMP members can do to strengthen their credit scores. I also covered how rating agencies use the AMP credit scoring program by providing examples of recent rating agency releases that mention the AMP credit scoring program in their reviews.

The next Finance & Accounting Subcommittee meeting will be held April 9 in Piqua. All interested parties from municipalities are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to either myself at jregan2@amppartners.org or 614.540.6913, or Chris Deeter at <u>cdeeter@amppartners.org</u> or 614.540.0848.

Classifieds

Wadsworth seeks IT professional

The City of Wadsworth is accepting resumes for the fulltime position of Systems Administrator - Security Specialist in the Information Technology Department. The emphasis of the position will be the security of our information technology systems and infrastructure.

Interested applicants can visit www.wadsworthcity.com and click on "Employment Opportunities" for additional details on the job and the procedure to apply for the position. The deadline to apply for the position is Monday, April 7, 2015. Resumes should be sent to Human Resources, 120 Maple St., Wadsworth, OH 44281 or emailed to jkovacs@wadsworthcity.org.

Assistant director of electric needed in Hamilton

The City of Hamilton, Ohio (pop. 63,000), seeks an Assistant Director of Electric. Salary range: \$87,672 to \$112,341/year, plus benefits. Hamilton is a full-service community which operates its own electric, gas, water and wastewater utilities.

This is responsible professional and administrative work involving the planning, organization, direction and supervision and coordination of the operations and activities of the city's Electric Department. Duties of this class include, but are not limited to, the following: acts in the place of the Director of Electric when so requested and authorized; assists with the development of departmental short term and long-range plans; oversees the availability and reliability of electric service for city electric customers; analyzes Electric System design and operation, and determines necessary capital and operational improvements to maximize efficiency, reliability and competitive rates; performs related work as required.

Prefer college bachelor's degree in business administration, engineering or applied science, preferably supplemented by a master's degree and extensive professional experience in public electric utility management, including supervisory experience. Professional Engineer (PE) registration from Ohio or other equivalent certification from another state is desired but not required.

A background/credit check, drug screen and medical examination will be administered.

Qualified applicants must submit detailed resume in Word or PDF by 5 p.m. April 7, 2015 to: Civil Service Dept., One Renaissance Ctr., 345 High St. (1ST Fl.) Hamilton, OH 45011. Apply once via email: cspersonnel@ ci.hamilton.oh.us or fax: 513.785.7037 or via regular US mail. Specify interest in ASST. DIR. OF ELEC. For more details visit: www.hamilton-city.org/.

The City of Hamilton is an EEO & AAE. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.

Cuyahoga Falls to hold exams for open positions

The City of Cuyahoga Falls Civil Service Commission will hold open-competitive written examinations for the following positions:

Apprentice Lineman: April 1, 2015, at 6 p.m.

Apprentice Substation/Meterman: April 8, 2015, at 6 p.m. Pay scale for both positions is \$15.4165/hour -\$18.8543/hour. Non-smoking environment, valid driver's license is required for both positions.

Visit www.cityofcf.com for details and a Civil Service Application. Applications must be submitted or postmarked by March 23, 2015, for Apprentice Lineman; and March 30, 2015, for Apprentice Substation/Meterman. \$25 Non-refundable application processing fee (cash or money order) is due with application. No personal checks. EEO/ADA

Lineworker candidates should apply to St. Clairsville

The City of St. Clairsville Municipal Electric System has an opening for a lineman. Pay is competitive and negotiable. Work is in a small service area with no traveling and most work is "out of the bucket." St. Clairsville is one of Ohio Magazine's "five best hometowns." Detailed job description is available at www.stclairsville.com.

Resumes should be mailed to: Director of Public Services, City of St. Clairsville, P.O. Box 537, St. Clairsville, OH 43950 or emailed to stclair@stclairsville.com. Deadline is March 13, 2015, at 3 p.m.

City of Marshall is accepting applications for job openings

The City of Marshall is accepting applications for an Assistant City Manager/Public Services and for a City Engineer. Application deadline for both positions is March 19, 2015. Submit resume and application online at www.cityofmarshall.com. Full job descriptions are aslo available online. Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V.

Assistant City Manager/Public Services - This position is responsible for assisting the City Manager with project assignments. Also performs complex supervisory, administrative and professional work in planning, organizing, directing, and supervising the Public Services Department which includes environmental, water, wastewater, street, cemetery, park operations, engineering, airport, and other projects and programs for the city. The successful candidate will have a master's degree in public administration or a closely-related field, three to five years of experience working for a municipality with supervisory or executive leadership responsibilities, and outstanding oral and written communication skills. \$65,000 \$73,000 DOQ, plus an outstanding benefit package.

City Engineer - This position will perform engineering and project management for street, water, sewer and drainage system construction projects. Also operates and maintains the city GIS program and acts as field representative for utility marking. Successful candidates will have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or equivalent, and have three to five years of experience in design and plan preparation for civil engineering projects. Registration as a licensed professional engineer is required within one year. \$55,000 \$60,000 DOQ, plus an outstanding benefit package.

Genoa seeks fiscal officer

The Village of Genoa is accepting resumes for the position of a full-time Fiscal Officer/Tax Administrator. This position is responsible for, but not limited to, financial planning and management of all financial issues, income tax collections, and financial reporting. This position is responsible for attending all council meetings, keeping official records of all council proceedings, and posting all meetings and ordinances.

Qualifications include a minimum of an associate degree in accounting and five to 10 years of experience in governmental fund accounting. Knowledge of municipal financing, income tax collection, and thorough understanding of generally accepted accounting principles are required. Must be able to be bonded.

Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, should submit a cover letter, resume, salary history, and professional references to Administrator Kevin Gladden, 102 E. Sixth St., Genoa, Ohio 43430 or kgladden@ genoaohio.org by 4 p.m. March 16, 2015.

Contact the village administrator at 419.855.7791 or by email for questions regarding this position. Position descriptions are available upon request. E.O.E.

AMP seeks candidates for open positions at headquarters

American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) is seeking applicants for the following positions. For complete job descriptions, please visit the "careers" section of the AMP website or email to Teri Tucker at ttucker@amppartners.org.

Assistant Deputy General Counsel - This position assists with drafting and negotiating legal agreements, and also reviews regulatory filings, orders, notices and other regulatory issuances. Candidates must be admitted to the practice of law in the State of Ohio or is eligible for such admission and will do so within one year of employment (admission in Delaware, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia or West Virginia is helpful but not required). One to three years of relevant experience is requested, but a recent or upcoming graduate with appropriate background and/or experience will

be considered. Experience and knowledge in one or more of the following areas of the law: commercial or financial contracts and transactions, energy/utilities, municipal, environmental, regulatory.

Information Technology Coordinator - The basic function of this position is to provide both department and end-user support. Candidates should have work experience in an IT administrative/help desk role and have good working knowledge of IT concepts, terminology and processes. An associate or bachelor's degree in IT-related field is preferred. A minimum of three years of Windows experience as a "Power User" is required and candidates must be proficient in Microsoft Office (including Project and Visio).

Assistant Vice President of Generation Business & Development - This position is responsible for dayto-day coordination of generation project development, analysis and implementation. A bachelor's of science degree in engineering is required, mechanical is preferred. At least 15 years of experience in engineering or engineering-related work, power generation experience and project management experience are preferred. Other combinations of skills and experience maybe accepted upon review. This job does require travel to various generating project sites.

Manager of Marketing/Member Relations - This position will assist the Director of Marketing/Members Relation in the marketing of AMP and MESA services, programs and projects to member management and elected officials. Will perform regular visits to member communities to foster member relationships and joint action between the members. A minimum of a four-year business or engineering-related degree is desired. Must have five or more years of experience in the electric utility industry; and possess proven management skills and technical expertise in the day-to-day activities of member electric systems.

Cannelton Plant Operator I – Position functions as a control room operator and assists with the responsibilities associated with starting and stopping units, coordinating unit discharge rates, monitoring and maintaining upstream pool in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers, records and reports operating information such as hourly readings of distribution metering, unit blade positions, unit temperatures, and dissolved oxygen monitoring equipment. Candidates must have a two- or four-year degree in mechanical or electrical engineering; or engineering technology degree and two years of experience in plant operations; or three to five years of experience in power plant operations and/or maintenance. Welding certification is a plus.



News or Ads?

Call Krista Selvage at 614.540.6407 or email to kbselvage@amppartners.org if you would like to pass along news or ads.



Legislative Bulletin

Ohio Municipal League Legislative Bulletin

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Committee Schedule

March 20th, 2015

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED OML LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The League would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of our municipal officials from across the state and to the members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate who shared part of their evening with us at our Legislative Reception at the Ohio Statehouse. It was a great evening of legislators and local officials catching up with one another and reaffirming shared visions for a strong Ohio.

REFRESHMENT AREA LEGISLATION HEARINGS CONTINUE; POPULATION RESTRICTIONS PERSIST

The Ohio legislature continues to examine the issue of allowing certain cities and townships to create districts where individuals will be exempt from open container restrictions, allowing communities that meet a population threshold to create outdoor refreshment areas in order to attract consumers to special events such as outdoor concerts or other community based happenings. On Tuesday, the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee held a fourth hearing on sub.HB47, legislation introduced by Reps. Blessing (R-Cincinnati) and Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) permitting the establishment of refreshment areas among other provisions (see previous bulletins at www.omlohio.org) for municipalities and townships above 25,000 populations. OML Executive Director Susan Cave provided testimony to committee members that can be found <a href="https://executive-distribution-new-communicipal-distribution-new-communities-com

Also on Tuesday, the Senate State & Local Government Committee held a second hearing on SB 95 introduced by Sens. Seitz (R-Cincinnati) and Thomas (D-Cincinnati) which mirrors the provisions included in sub. HB 47 except the Senate version has a higher population threshold at 35,000.

We anticipate both the House and Senate will continue to study the proposals with more hearings next week. It is important for communities that are below the two projected cut off limits to contact their member of the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate to share with them the benefits such a new opportunity would have for your municipality and region to further provide economic development and stimulate greater interest in local functions.

OHIO SENATE ADVANCES TRANSPORTATION BILL; HOUSE ADVANCES BUDGET TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FOR MORE WORK

The Ohio Senate unanimously passed HB 53, the \$7.06 billion two-year, transportation bill, after further altering the bill through provisions of an omnibus amendment, a copy of which can be found <u>HERE</u>. Among other changes made in the final legislative product produced by the Ohio Senate, language included removing provisions which would have prohibited local governments from imposing residency requirements on public construction projects and a provision to raise the speed limit on rural highways to 75 mph, among many others.

Although the Senate unanimously supported the legislation crafted by their members, the Ohio House refused to concur on the changes made to their bill and have called for a Conference Committee to meet to resolve the differences between the two Chambers.

CHANGES PROPOSED TO PUBLIC SECTOR HIRING PRACTICES

The House Commerce and Labor Committee held a third hearing this week on HB 56, legislation introduced earlier this year that would affect the portion of the public employer hiring process that requires a criminal background check until after the applicant has passed a civil service exam and has been interviewed. The full text of the legislation introduced by Reps. Schuring (R-Canton) and Slesnick (D-Canton) to limit the use of criminal records in the hiring and employment practices of public employers can be found at www.lsc.ohio.gov.

The League is following this proposal closely and we encourage our members to review the language being considered in consultation with your municipal Law Director, Village Solicitor or other legal counsel to determine what future liabilities the legislation, if enacted, could expose your community to. After reviewing the language contained in HB 56, we are asking our members who may oppose this change in state statute to contact the League and share with us your concerns so that we may communicate those to members of the Ohio legislature. We also strongly encourage our members to share with their state representative and senator their position on this important piece of legislation.

BUDGET BILL INCLUDES REMOVAL OF SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In going through the nearly 3,000 pages that comprises the current version of HB64, the \$72.3 billion two-year state operating budget proposal, the league has identified a change in exemptions currently applied to Ohio's Sales Tax which, if approved as part of the final budget plan would remove current exemptions extended to purchases made for local services by having the sales tax applied.

Below is a snapshot of the actual language found on page 2045 of HB 64 which makes the change in exemptions by striking current ORC language:

(22) Sales of services provided by the state or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, institutions, or authorities, or by governmental entities of the state or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities, institutions, or authorities,

A brief list of services Ohio cities and villages currently provide that which we believe could be effected by the removal of the Sales Tax exemption could include but may not be limited to:

- memberships for municipally provided recreational activities including swimming pools, parks, and golf courses
- commercial and residential building and inspection fees and other permit related documents
- auxiliary or special duty safety service personnel engagements
- municipally owned parking fees including parking meters

The League, along with representatives of Ohio's other local government associations have brought this issue to the attention of legislative leaders in both the Ohio House and Senate to ask that clarification be given on what the intent is of this change in sales tax exemption and to inform legislators that these changes would not only effect the bottom line of Ohio cities and villages by mandating more costly administrative changes in billing practices and procedures but would also be another hidden tax placed upon unsuspecting Ohio residents, visitors and businesses. We have urged the administration and leaders of the Ohio General Assembly to reconsider this elimination of exemptions and would urge municipal officials to share any concerns they may have with this budget proposal with their representatives and senator.

Below is the list of committee hearings for the upcoming week. If there are any changes to the hearing schedule after Friday, we will post those on our website.

Enjoy the first weekend of Spring~



Government Finance Officers Association 2015 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

There are numerous issues that will be discussed and dealt with in Washington throughout 2015 that will be of acute interest to GFOA members. These include ongoing discussion related to the federal budget and deficit, which could include proposals to curtail funding to state and local governments, as well as significant reforms to the federal tax code. The tax reform discussion will certainly include changing or eliminating the federal tax exemption on municipal bond interest as well as deductions for state and local taxes. Proposals to regulate public pension plans, and new rulemaking from the SEC and MSRB related to the Dodd Frank Act and other areas involving state and local governments, will come forward throughout the year. The GFOA's Federal Liaison Center (FLC) will monitor these legislative and regulatory activities and work to advance the public policy positions adopted by the GFOA membership. The association's legislative and regulatory priorities for the year are listed below.

Tax Reform

House and Senate leaders, as well as the White House, began the year expressing a desire to find common ground on principles to overhaul the federal tax code. There are numerous implications for state and local governments in this debate, and the FLC will advocate strongly on behalf of our members and work with the entire state and local government community on these issues.

- Changes to Municipal Securities. Similar to activities in 2013 and 2014, Congress and the Administration will likely continue to present tax proposals that could diminish or eliminate the federal tax exemption on municipal bond interest. Any of the options brought forward could have a negative effect on state and local governments and increase their bond issuance costs. The GFOA will oppose any plans to cap the amount of municipal bond interest that taxpayers can exclude from their federal taxes and oppose any proposals to eliminate the federal tax exemption altogether. The GFOA will work with our state and local government association partners to educate Congress and the Administration on both the importance of tax-exempt bonds and how they serve as the primary finance vehicle to meet our country's infrastructure needs.
- Deductibility of State and Local Taxes. The GFOA will work to ensure that any proposals to limit or eliminate the federal deduction of state and local taxes are defeated. The GFOA continues to support legislation that would permanently allow taxpayers to deduct state and local sales taxes on their federal tax return.

Collection of Taxes on Remote Sales

The GFOA supports legislation that would allow for the collection of taxes from sales made by remote means (e.g., Internet and catalog). Congress was close to completing work on this matter in 2014, and the GFOA will work with its state and local government partners to push for passage in 2015. However, the GFOA will oppose any efforts to include provisions in legislation that would limit the amount of tax that local governments can collect on remote sales as well as oppose mandates for state and local governments to simplify their telecommunication tax structures before being able to collect taxes on remote sales.

Preemption of State and Local Government Taxes

- *Telecommunications Taxation*. The GFOA, in conjunction with our other local government partners, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, will vigorously oppose efforts to preempt state and local governments from assessing taxes and fees on various communication-related goods and services.
- State and Local Hotel and Rental Car Taxes. The GFOA opposes any efforts by Congress restricting the ability of states and localities from collecting hotel taxes on the full rental price that hotel occupants pay when renting rooms through online travel companies (e.g., Expedia, Travelocity, Hotels.com). Additionally, the GFOA opposes any efforts to preempt the ability of state and local governments to levy rental car taxes and fees that are appropriate for their jurisdiction.
- Internet Tax Freedom Act. The GFOA opposes legislation that would make permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act's (ITFA) moratorium on state and local government taxes on Internet access. As more services transition from telecommunications and cable to broadband, the scope of what the ITFA covers will greatly expand, even if the ITFA's current language remains unchanged. To protect the tax bases and fiscal strength of state and local governments, we could not support anything more than a short-term extension of the ITFA, which would provide more time for the full scope of the transition from telecommunications/cable to broadband to occur, and a better sense of the costs that ITFA preemption on state and local governments would impose to be more reliably and meaningfully assessed.

Municipal Bonds

In addition to the tax reform efforts noted above that will affect municipal securities, there are many other bond issues of interest to GFOA members that will have the attention of GFOA's Federal Liaison Center. These include:

Disclosure Standards. In July of 2012, the SEC released a proposal on the need for
greater issuer disclosure standards for governments that issue municipal securities. The
recommendations in the report, which includes both changes to SEC rules and legislative
efforts to set disclosure and financial information standards, will likely be brought
forward in 2015. The GFOA and its state and local government partners will work to
oppose such efforts.

- Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act. Following the 2013 approval of a final rule on the definition of Municipal Advisor, the GFOA is expecting additional regulations that affect municipal securities issuers and the professionals they hire to be proposed and finalized this year by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. As additional proposed regulations are issued, we will comment in order to protect the interests of state and local governments. These expected new rules include: a new regulatory framework over financial advisors and changes to regulations over broker/dealers.
- Bank Qualified Debt Limit. The GFOA will be working with our state and local government and industry partners to increase the bank qualified debt limit from \$10 million to \$30 million. The \$10 million amount was set in 1986, and aside from a temporary change to \$30 million in 2009 and 2010, the amount has not changed. The GFOA will continue to support legislation that would permanently increase the annual bank qualified debt limit to \$30 million, and have it indexed to inflation thereafter.

Public Pensions and Retirement Savings

The GFOA along with other Public Pension Network members representing both state and local governments and retirement systems will continue to educate members of Congress regarding the true fiscal condition of public pension systems, as well as oppose congressional proposals to undermine state and local governments' authority to effectively govern and finance their pension plans.

Health Care Reform Implementation

The GFOA will continue to monitor regulations related to the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), which remains largely the jurisdiction of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor. These agencies continue to publish guidance to help define what the law requires of employers, insurers and participants alike. The GFOA will advocate for a regulatory approach that allows states and localities to utilize the most cost effective means of complying with the health care law, while offering appropriate benefit options to employees and retirees. The GFOA will also be closely monitoring legislative efforts to reform the ACA, specifically any proposed modifications to the *Cadillac Tax*. Under that tax, adopted as part of the ACA in 2010, health care plans that cost above a certain amount in 2018 – \$10,200 annually for individual plans and \$27,500 for family plans – will be taxed at 40 percent of their costs above that limit, although plan amounts increase for retirees over 55 and those engaged in high-risk professions. State and local governments are expected to be disproportionately represented among those subject to the tax because they typically offer more expensive plans than those offered in the private sector.

Federal Budget

The GFOA will monitor and inform our members about various short- and long-term proposals to manage the federal budget, including cuts to programs important to state and local governments.