Mayors’ Partnership for Progress  
November 8, 2012  
Leadership Conference Room  
Building 221, The Ridges  
Athens, Ohio

Member: Mayor Paul Wiehl  
City of Athens

Attendees:  
Mayor Doug Heitman  
Village of Zaleski
Mayor Jack Everson  
City of Chillicothe
City Manager Randy Finney  
Village of Gallipolis
Mayor Randy Heath  
City of Jackson
Mayor Mike Gerlach  
Village of Middleport
Mayor Gary Goosman  
Village of Amesville
Mayor Mike Lorentz  
City of Belpre

Representative: Dave Ferguson  
City of Belpre: SSD

Attendees:  
Mary Abel  
Development Services Agency
Todd Shelton  
Office of Senator Rob Portman
Ray Foeller  
Ohio Consumer’s Council
Jim Bernholtz  
Treasurer’s Office

Voinovich School:  
Robert Gordon  
Voinovich School
Kelsey Doyle  
Voinovich School

SUMMARY

Mayor Doug Heitman called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees and guests.

Regional Impact of Drugs and Crime  
Officers John Morris (canine handler) and Byran Guinther of the Athens County Narcotics  
Enforcement Team (NET) were joined by Canine Officer Esko (narcotics and patrol dog) to inform of  
intervention techniques and the training/handling of narcotics dogs.

Canine officers are a considerable investment. It cost  
$11,000 for Esko, including training, car, equipment  
and certifications he totaled $40,000. There is a high  
return on your investment with narcotics and patrol  
dogs because the busts and forfeited possessions from  
the offenders can bring high profits. For example,  
Esko was paid for in full after one bust.

A training regimen is essential to the evaluation of  
each canine. This training decides whether the dog  
will be a passive or aggressive indicator. Esko is  
trained in cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine,  
heroine and all related strains. Esko trains twice a month. This training includes scenarios for detecting  
narcotics in cars, lockers, suitcases and wooded areas.

L-R: Mayor Heitman-President, Officer Morris, Mayor Wiehl-  
Secretary, Mayor Heath-Vice President and Asko (seated).
Multiple dogs in a unit are common. Officer Morris recommends having dual trained dogs rather than one of each type; patrol and narcotics. He further recommends purchasing a canine car that is low to the ground to extend the life of the dog. SUVs can cause shoulder damage because of the impact of jumping in and out of the car. This can lead to dogs having to retire early. German Shepard’s are more sensitive to this due to their size and natural attitudes.

Dogs generally stay in service for eight to nine years. Once officially retired, the dog’s assigned canine handler has the option to purchase him from the county.

When selecting a canine handling officer it is essential to choose individuals who are dedicated to the task, learn new laws, attend training programs regularly, and they have attended interdiction programs.

Canine Officer Esko successfully detected a hidden substance as a demonstration for the Mayors’ Partnership.

Officer Morris closed his presentation with an informative discussion on methamphetamines and the challenges of cleaning up a lab site. In summary he informed that when a site is suspected:

- Contact a local law enforcement agency (Police or Sheriff)
- Allow them to confirm that it is meth related site
- Contact a trained meth clean-up crew to clear the site

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation can provide and train clean-up crews. Middleport is a regional source with two trained officers. The cost of training is roughly $27,000 per officer. Middleport was able to secure a grant to cover the training cost. The suits that the crew wears cost $10,000 each. Middleport’s suits were donated.

For further information Officer John Morris may be reached at the Athens County Sheriff’s Department (740) 593-6633.

Approval of Minutes
Mayor Heitman called for the approval of the October 11, 2012 minutes
  Motion: Mayor Randy Heath  Second: Mayor Jack Everson

Financial Report
Mayor Paul Wiehl, Secretary/Treasurer reported the current treasury amount: $2,864.08
  Motion: Mayor Jack Everson  Second: Mayor Randy Heath

Old Business
Benchmark Report: No discrepancies were presented, however if someone does have one please contact Robert Gordon. Planning for the next benchmark report will be discussed at a future meeting in 2013.

Report of Committees
Nominating Committee
Mayor Jack Everson was nominated for president and Mayor Paul Wiehl was nominated as secretary-treasurer.
  Motion: Mayor Randy Heath  Second: Mayor Paul Wiehl

Mayor Mike Gerlach was nominated Vice-President.
  Motion: Mayor Randy Heath  Second: City Manager Randy Finney
Website Committee
It is requested that all mayors send photos, bios, and other content to Robert Gordon or Kelsey Doyle for inclusion on the website. In 2013 the committee would like to discuss the purchase of a domain. It would be roughly $30 a year.

Membership Committee
It is recommended that a membership committee be formed to plan a membership drive. A recommendation for one of the off-site month meetings could be a “Bring a Mayor” Cookout or an “Appreciation Dinner” for Mayors to bring spouses or outstanding staff members. Something to be considered when selecting locations for the off-site meetings is that they should located in regions where there is high potential to attract and bring in new members.

New Business

Meeting Topics
December Meeting Topic: “Disaster Planning”
It is agreed that communities need a proactive manner of facing the challenges of crisis management.

Information Roundtable
Development Services Agency: Jobs Ohio is looking to help businesses with expansion projects and workforce training. Mary Abel can assist those businesses in contacting Jobs Ohio and provide them with information. Jobs Ohio has training grants for which businesses can apply. There is a new program that will be announced soon. It is called the Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program. It will only be available to qualifying businesses. They are currently finalizing the qualification guidelines. There will be over $20 million available in the first round of selections and $40 million will be available in the second round.

Meigs County: Currently training officials on Meth related issues because recently Meth is becoming more prevalent than pills. On the other hand, Community Action provided a grant to fund the tearing down of abandoned homes.

Gallipolis: If anyone would like to discuss or has questions about their performance audit contact City Manager Randy Finney at rfinney@gallianet.net. Their new Justice Center was opened recently. Bob Gordon attended the opening ceremony and mentioned that it is very impressive. He recommends it as a future Mayors’ meeting host site.

Zaleski: The Lake Hope Lodge will be opening soon. It too was discussed as an ideal meeting site.

Chillicothe: The Ohio State University City Planners Master’s Program is helping with the branding, marketing, and street scape of their First Capital area. They have brought in a lot of innovative and creative ideas. Mayor Jack Everson highly recommends using students from the colleges to help with projects when possible.

State Treasurer’s Office: The STAR (State Treasury Asset Reserve) Program is trying to speak with and discuss opportunities with all the schools in the area. They are currently speaking with Ohio University.

Office of Senator Rob Portman: The Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) serves 25 counties in South East Ohio and are partners with Jobs Ohio. They recently hired three new project managers for organization and contract creation with the Ohio Manufacturing Partnership. They will focus on manufacturing opportunities in the region. Todd Shelton is willing to contact them about speaking with the partnership. The APEG office is located in Nelsonville.
**Village of Amesville:** They passed the parks levee and police levee. Mayor Goosman would like to host a website training program or workshop to help small villages create websites and learn how to use social media effectively. The AmeriCorps VISTA program concept paper is due in mid-December if it is accepted then a full proposal will be due in March.

**Belpre:** A fifteen bed nursing home will be moving into the community. The new Senior Center is currently underway. Belpre is currently trying to bring in one of their largest employers by renovating a building for them to move into.

**Senate Bill 271:** The Telecom Bill passed in the Ohio Senate. The House will be voting on the bill in this session. South East Ohio is the area that is most impacted.

**Dave Ferguson:** All emergency services radios should be switched to the narrow band radio frequency by first of the year. This is a mandate by FCC. If the emergency services are using MARCS then they are already on narrow band and no changes are necessary.

**Announcements/Comments**

**Next Meeting:** **Mayors’ Partnership for Progress**
December 13, 2012, 12:30pm -2:00pm
The Voinovich School, Building 21
Leadership Conference Room

Adjournment 2:30