

**HOCKING COUNTY TOWN HALL MEETING
SCRIBE NOTES
OCTOBER 14, 2008**

GUESTS: Carol Mackey, Marion Township; Clark Sheet, Marion Township; Mike Walsh, Mayor of Logan; Tracy Mann, Senator Voinovich's office.

Six Main Voting areas – First Voting Round Results

Workforce Development/Education = 5

Infrastructure = 4

Tourism = 0

Housing = 0

Health Care = 0

Transportation = 0

Discussion Points

INFRASTRUCTURE

- EPA mandates affect water/sewer rates
 - 3% annual increase in rates, which does not cover increased annual expenses
 - Hard to find funding for building a new facility
- Logan uses Issue II funds for paving, which means they are not available for use in water/sewer projects (already spent)
 - Still hard to keep up with paving schedule (not enough funds)
- Villages don't have budgets big enough to keep up with roads, water, etc.
- Logan is losing 30% of its monthly water billing
 - Murray City is losing 1 million gallons each month
- Rock Bridge area has a sewer over-use issue that will need addressed soon
- Lack of broadband and cell phone coverage all over county
 - Affects public safety
 - Sheriff using 3 cell carriers to try to get complete coverage over county
 - Lack of towers for service
 - Affects tourism, job development
- Le-Ax water line expansion project abandoned due to cost
 - Still needed
 - Old Straitsville to pick up part of this large project
- Burr Oak Water System mandates have hurt City of Logan, others financially

- EPA sewer mandates cover many areas
 - No funding to correct these problems
- Downtown Logan needs a public parking lot
 - Part of downtown revitalization plan
- Logan is working now to establish a Historic District to attract future development
- Logan does not qualify for New Markets Tax Credit program – WHY??
 - Senator Voinovich’s office will look into this for an answer
- Increase in EMS calls, which increases costs to departments
 - Mostly volunteer departments
 - Funded by levy
 - Facing smaller budgets, increased expenses
- Volunteer departments are having staffing issues (hard to find staff)
 - May need to pay staff in the near future – with no funding available to do so

EDUCATION

- Hocking College is just starting to grow in Logan area
- Education leads to economic development!
- Hocking College is working to explore new technology, alternative energies
- Officials can attract new businesses to the area, but those employers cannot find trained employees ready to start immediately
- Look to Tri-County Career Center as a partner with businesses to provide skills training appropriate to available jobs
- Need to focus on basic work ethics
 - Many do not want full-time work, as they will lose their public benefits
 - Overall lack of interest in jobs that are already available
- How do we tap into the commuting workforce (those that leave the county for their job)?
 - Need to find the right combination of job types, pay, and benefits

SENIOR HOUSING/HEALTH CARE

- There is no single facility where patients receive full continuum of care
 - Cannot age in place
 - There is potential for private development of such facility, but this may exclude many who need it (low-income)

- Baby boomers will work longer
 - They will still need “senior” housing, with both independent and some assisted living capabilities
 - County will also need to provide more programs with personal contact as this group grows in size (Meals on Wheels, etc.)

Six Main Voting Areas – FINAL Voting Round Results

Infrastructure = 3

Workforce Development/Education = 1

Housing = 0

Health Care = 0

Tourism = 0

Transportation = 0