

**MEIGS COUNTY TOWN HALL MEETING
SCRIBE NOTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

Six Main Areas – First Voting Round Results

Health Care = 13

Infrastructure = 12

Workforce Development/Education = 6

Housing = 4

Tourism = 2

Transportation = 2

Discussion Points

HEALTH CARE

- Already have several assets (FQHC, etc.)
- Need an Emergency Care facility – could be a stimulus project, as it would provide jobs and health care
- High cost of health care leads to need for FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center, which accepts fees on a sliding scale)
- Lack of accessibility to doctors without long wait times or travel
- EMS staff is overly-stressed due to lack of an emergency room in the county
 - EMS is volunteer
 - Potential for business/job opportunity with ER (ambulance service)
- Outreach efforts are difficult due to lack of an available facility, transportation
- Bad economy leads to more residents qualifying for state programs
- High cost of medication – state programs only assist some
 - Need to fill program gaps (middle income)
 - This drives up the cost of providing health insurance for employers and employees
- There is a need for more preventative programs
- Lack of funding available for continuing successful programs
 - Grants usually fund new programs, not existing ones
- Difficult to find affordable health care plans for employees

INFRASTRUCTURE

- State/Federal Government needs to change its grant match requirements to reflect population (allow small communities to be more competitive with larger cities)
- Difficult to find local match dollars due to smaller populations – harder to get grant funds
- Broadband – lack of access to it prevents local programming (education, seniors, etc.)
- GPS marking/mapping program through Buckeye Hills is beneficial
 - Mapping will show areas in need of water or sewer service
- New Floodplain levels are still unknown – makes it hard to plan ahead
- County needs to anticipate recreational needs as new development (coal mine, AEP) moves in
- New septic system regulations could have a negative impact on homeowners, potential impact on local agriculture
- When emergencies occur (ice storm, flood), there is a lack of available communication routes
 - Lack of power, cell towers – how to get to folks who may need help
- Funding is available for some needs, but not all
 - Generators not covered under most grant funds

EDUCATION

- Recreation needs for families
 - Swimming pools in Syracuse, Middleport
 - Transportation to these pools is also needed
- Need to make public aware of available resources
 - State parks, history, etc.
- Workforce Development is an area of growth
 - Rio Grande/Meigs Campus sees need for clinical training areas
- Broadband access would allow more educational programs
- Need jobs to keep educated kids here

Six Main Areas – FINAL Voting Round Results

Infrastructure = 6

Health Care = 5

Workforce Development/Education = 2

Tourism = 1

Housing = 0

Transportation = 0