

RECENTLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

SB 240 COUNTY CHARTER (Burke, D., Lehner, P.) To establish certain requirements to be followed by a county in adopting or amending a charter that provides under Section 3 of Article X, Ohio Constitution, for the succession by the county to the rights, properties, and obligations of any municipal corporations or townships wholly located in the county. *The OTA has serious concerns with this legislation and will be setting up meetings with the sponsors to share our concerns.*

AUDITOR'S BULLETIN (2011-007) REGARDING SALARIES OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Recent legislative changes have altered the statutory landscape that governs the way township fiscal officers and trustees report for salary compensation. The [attached bulletin \(2011-007\)](#) explains the recent legislative changes and the impact of those changes on townships. Additionally, the bulletin details, and provides an example of, what is now required of township trustees and fiscal officers under the new law.

TURNPIKE UPDATE

Governor Kasich laid out spending priorities Tuesday for revenue that could flow from leasing the Ohio Turnpike, *but stressed that no decision has been made yet.* Should the state move to lease the 241-mile toll road, the governor said a majority of the proceeds would go to transportation projects located in northern Ohio, north of U.S. Route 30, which links East Liverpool to Van Wert.

In addition, Governor Kasich is recommending the revenue be used to address local projects adjacent to the turnpike and create dedicated funding streams for public transit and local bridge construction. [Attached is the Governor's proposed turnpike outline.](#)

Although the administration has said that the likeliest course is to lease the toll road, the governor took pains to explain that that was only one of several options. A pending study might determine that the current environment is very unfavorable for leasing the road. ODOT, in conjunction with the Office of Budget and Management, is in the process of reviewing bids for studying the best way to move forward with privatizing the road, if at all.

POTENTIAL OHIO EPA LEGISLATION

It has come to our attention that legislation may soon be introduced altering a variety of Ohio EPA regulations. The [attached document from the Ohio EPA](#) details the proposed regulatory reform legislative initiative. The Ohio EPA is planning on introducing this as an omnibus bill aimed at easing environmental regulations on businesses.

Please review and should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Ohio House and Senate member.

SHARED SERVICES SURVEY - LAST CHANCE!

Please fill this out!

Am. Sub. H.B. 153 (biennium budget), enacted in June, requires the Director of the Governor's Office of 21st Century Education to conduct a shared services survey of Ohio's school districts and local political subdivisions by October 15, 2011. Townships, as political subdivisions, are part of this survey.

It is very important that townships take the time to complete this survey! The survey can be accessed online at: <http://survey.education.ohio.gov/se.ashx?s=60DA72701C32FD35> Townships will **have until October 28, 2011**, to complete the survey. Results will be included in the state's plan and recommendations to the Governor released in December.

The **Shared Services Packet attachment** has a memo (first page) explaining the survey and giving you the link. The next few pages are frequently asked questions that OBM has put together after the survey initially went out last week. The bulk of the attachment is a paper copy of the survey questions so you can review the questions prior to going on line to complete the survey.

Again, please visit <http://survey.education.ohio.gov/se.ashx?s=60DA72701C32FD35> and participate in this survey.

2011 FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS NOW OPEN

The Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of State Fire Marshal is pleased to announce we are now accepting applications for the 2011 Fire Department Training Grants. Grant applications will be available online October 21, 2011 and must be postmarked no later than January 30, 2012 to be considered.

Please review the calendar year 2011 **Fire Department Training Grant Application package (attached)** in its entirety. Many updates have been made and helpful information is included to assist with completing the Training Grant Application.

If you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact Gerald Robinson, Deputy Superintendent, at 888-726-7731 or email Gerald.robinson@com.state.oh.us

NATaT CALL TO ACTION - USDA Rural Development Targeted for a 40% Cut

Last week the Senate debated a "minibus" spending bill that includes the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, of Commerce, Justice, Science and Agriculture appropriations bills.

When the Senate returns on October 31, it will resume debate on amendments before the final vote to approve the minibus. Among the amendments to be considered prior to a final vote is one offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) that would cut USDA's rural development programs by \$1 billion, representing a draconian 40 percent cut.

USDA Rural Development helps rural individuals, communities and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs. Senator Coburn argues that many of these programs are duplicative to programs in other federal agencies that are also available to rural America.

Please call Ohio Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown and urge them to vote against the Coburn amendment (Amendment 800 to H.R. 2112).

Capital Switchboard: Dial (202) 224-3121, ask for your Senator's office, once connected with your Senator's office, ask to speak to the staff person who deals with appropriations issues.