

News Release, June 5, 2008

Auditor Roger Reynolds announces transparent government plan

HAMILTON, OHIO – Butler County Auditor Roger Reynolds appeared before the Butler County Board of Commissioners today and unveiled his plan to make county government more transparent.

“I bring forward to you today an idea that is constructed to give citizens an instrument that will allow more transparency within the Auditor’s Office – a tool that will give citizens more control and accountability of our actions,” Reynolds told commissioners.

Reynolds explained that the Auditor’s Office and Information Technology Division are in the early stages of designing an online tool that will enable a search of expenditures incurred by the Auditor’s Office.

“The search tool will allow citizens greater ease of access in viewing Auditor’s Office expenditures,” Reynolds said. “Clearly, an online search tool increases transparency and allows citizens a quick and easy option to view public records via the Internet.”

A link to the search tool will be located on the home page of the Auditor’s Web site.

Reynolds estimates that approximately 80 hours of design, development and testing will need to be completed before the search tool is operational.

“I hope to have the online search page up and running within a few weeks” Reynolds said, noting that “we will take great care in protecting confidential data, just as we would when providing paper documents under a traditional records request.”

The federal government provides a search database, which went online this past December and can be accessed at USAspending.gov. A few states have begun similar databases, and several more are considering it, Reynolds said. The Hamilton County Auditor has a similar online expenditure search tool on his Web site.

“I believe that this search tool, which will cost only a few thousand dollars to implement, will save us money over time,” Reynolds told commissioners, who were receptive of the plan.

“All this is public record anyway,” said Commissioner Chuck Furmon. “I think this is a great thing.”

Commissioner Greg Jolivette said he thought the Commissioners’ Office could also take advantage of this type of search tool once it’s fully operational.

“I would be in favor of that,” he said.