



# RALPH T. MEACHAM CPA MAHONING COUNTY AUDITOR

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Auditor Meacham Rescinds Raises** *Rights the Wrongs of Previous Auditor*

Auditor Ralph Meacham has rescinded the raises granted by the previous auditor to several employees, both fiduciary and union members. Previously, Meacham suspended the raises while he studied the matter further.

In a meeting this morning with those employees as well as AFSCME Representative Louis Maholic, Local 2533 President Janet Szenborn and a representative from the Mahoning County prosecutor's Office, Auditor Meacham permanently cancelled the raises, citing a lack of funds in the Auditor's budget.

Auditor Meacham has been reviewing finances with his accounting staff and determined that it would be financially irresponsible to uphold the raises with the current state of the budget.

“Additionally, I believe the previous Auditor violated the Union contract by issuing the raises to union employees. I will continue to work with the union on this and any other pertinent issues as they arise,” stated Meacham.

Janet Szenborn, President of AFSCME Local 2533 which represents employees in the Auditor's Office and the County IT Department stated that, “The Union respects the Auditor's decision. We want it to be clear that the contract was not violated by the Union members but by past management.”

According to Meacham, “This was an unfortunate situation that needed corrected. I value the contributions of the employees of the Auditor's Office and look forward to continued cooperation on all sides in the future.”

In other matters, Auditor Meacham is working to fill the position of Chief Deputy Auditor and plans to have the posted before the end of the week.