Mahoning County residents had the opportunity to view the Courthouse statues prior to them being hoisted back to their original positon on top of the Mahoning County Courthouse. The statues were originally placed on top of the Courthouse in 1909, making them 108 years old. They weigh approximately 2,000 pounds, and are 16 feet high and 40 feet wide. McKay Lodge Conservation Laboratory in Oberlin, Ohio completed the restoration. “The statues are irreplaceable as the process of stamping copper into wood molds is no longer used”, said Paul J. Ricciuti, Courthouse Renovation Consultant. The two statues on either side are females, and the statue in the middle is male per the Mahoning Valley Historical Society.
The Joint Communications District has improved radio communications across Mahoning County and met with the state mandates for reduction of answering points by county. This attention to the needs of our community and our safety forces will improve communications for generations to come.

State Mandates, Timeline for Changes:

- In December 2014, the commissioners transferred the county’s E-911 operations center from their command to the sheriff’s command; Sheriff Jerry Greene said he favored eventual consolidation of all of the county’s 911 answering points into a single answering point with one backup location, if it would be cost-effective.

- In January 2016, the state released E 9-1-1 regulations which required significant changes to our ability to purchase equipment and routing of calls. Regulations stated that counties within the state of Ohio must cut down to three E-911 answering centers by 2018.

- In July 2017, the Mahoning County Commissioners, Austintown Township and Boardman Township Trustees, entered into an agreement with assistance provided by the Mahoning County Prosecutors Office, and established a Council of Governments which initiated the County Joint Communication District.

The Governing Board of the COG:

- The district will be governed by a three-member board of directors, with one member each to be appointed by the county commissioners, Austintown and Boardman. The board must have regular meetings in each quarter of each fiscal year.

- The directors must appoint a fire advisory committee that will meet quarterly and consist of the acting Austintown and Boardman fire chiefs and one representative each of the county Fire Chiefs’ Association Communications Subcommittee and of the county sheriff’s office.

Consolidation and Efficiencies:

- Dispatchers from the county center were moved to positions in Boardman or Austintown and integrated into their labor forces. The county will contribute annually to Boardman and Austintown for the additional personnel costs according to the agreement in 2016 & 2017. A funding formula will be determined for 2018.

- Austintown will dispatch for itself and for Berlin, Canfield, Ellsworth, Milton, Green and Jackson townships and for the Villages of Beloit and Craig Beach.

- Boardman will dispatch for itself, and for Coitsville, Goshen and Poland Townships; the Villages of Lowellville, New Middletown, Poland and Washingtonville; and for the county coroner, dog warden and Emergency Management Agency.

- Future investments may include: GPS tracking of each radio or officer; a new speaker microphone with built in body camera; text messages sent from CAD to the radio; wave application that will allow you to use a smartphone to monitor a talk group and talk.

- In addition, the county will provide almost $2 million for capital improvements at communication centers in Boardman and Austintown Townships. The capital improvement funding has provided portable radios, two additional antenna sites, two channels and console positions at each location.

- The communications system will be a phase 1, P-25 four site seven channel systems throughout the County. P-25 is the standard that the FCC developed for all public safety systems. Building to this format has made Mahoning County compatible with the State of Ohio’s system and the national standard.

Police departments within the County have the ability to communicate with all other departments:

- Through programming alone we can have an All Call that would broadcast over all talk groups at one time, and have a pursuit channel that with the push of one button on the radio everybody involved can go to that channel. An emergency button for when an officer is in trouble, and ID each transmission so you know who they are, just to mention a few.

Collaborations and Capacity to Expand Partners:

- Youngstown, Mill Creek Metro Parks, Poland Village, YSU, Canfield City, Campbell City, and the list continues to grow.

Mahoning County Sheriff:

- “It’s going to be a more efficient system, and I think it’s a positive step toward regionalization in our area that’s going to result in saving the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars,” said Sheriff Jerry Greene. The initial projected savings to Mahoning County will be about $240,000 per year and eventually will total about $500,000 a year.
2017 Original Certificate of Resources: A dedicated source of revenue through the 3/4% Justice Sales Tax and other contract service agreements with intergovernmental units and other local government subdivisions.

2017 Original Appropriations Budget of $28,080,000 is allocated to two Program Areas:

- **$4,005,832 Legislative & Executive: Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office.** Services include: Criminal Investigation and Prosecution, Civil support for local governments and the County (see additional highlights on page 4). The Office is a valued part of accountability in Government and to the citizens of Mahoning County.

- **$24,074,168 Public Safety:**
  1. Sheriff’s Operations include the County Jail and road deputies, various task forces, Senior Services, court security, inmate transport, foreclosures, monitoring and enforcements and Local, State and Federal support services.
  2. Emergency 911 (COG) services and equipment upgrades occurred through the creation of a Council of Governments between Mahoning County, Austintown and Boardman Townships (see page 2).
  3. Coroner’s Office performs autopsies, identifications, investigation into cause of death, expert testimony, and certification of death (see page 4).

**MAHONING COUNTY CRIMINAL & ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE FUND**

- The Sheriff’s Office is using 21st century technology to assist in search and rescue efforts.
  - A team of deputies have obtained their FAA licensure to operate drones. The Sheriff’s Office has 5 drones that have the capacity to identify a threat without putting our hard working men and women in uniform in danger, and to help save lives.
  - The Sheriff’s office has purchased a Full Body Scanner that is utilized at intake or upon return of inmates from area courts. The intent is to prevent opiates and other contraband from entering the jail. The body scanner was purchased in the amount of $127,500.00 and is an effective tool in preventing incidents within the jail.
  - Body Cameras were purchased for each deputy on patrol. Knowledge of a deputy’s communications with a suspect is essential to operations. The body camera protects the deputy and the integrity of the office while apprehending criminals. The body camera serves as a key piece of evidence in criminal convictions.

**Sentencing to the Mahoning County Sheriff Day Reporting Program, for low level, non-violent offenders, eases the State and Justice Center burden of high inmate populations.**

- The Mahoning County Common Pleas Court, Mahoning County Commissioners, CCA, Inc. and Sheriff are recipients of the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (T-CAP) Grant. The award of $1.2M from the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections will operate over 2 years. The initiative will expand Day Reporting Services to reduce the State Prison Population of felony 5 offenders. The program contracts with Mahoning County Solid Waste for litter clean up and recycling efforts and ODOT to assist with highway litter control programs.

**Mahoning County Sheriff Office (MCSO) receives new grant funding from the Ohio Attorney General, creating the Mahoning County Quick Response Team (MCQRT).**

- The MCSO, Meridian HealthCare, Mahoning County Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC a division of Meridian HealthCare) and the Mental Health and Recovery Board all believe that the QRT model is the most feasible for Mahoning County. This program has been piloted in other areas of the State of Ohio and has better than a 60% success rate.

- The MCQRT will respond with an in person visit to anyone who has experienced an overdose within 72 hours. We believe that in most cases there will be some contact with the individual(s) and/or their family within the first 24 hours in the emergency department at the time of treatment. This initial contact will be followed up with a full team visit. Individuals involved in this program will be connected with social services and recovery supports needed.
Dr. Kennedy has served as the Coroner since December 22, 1994. The office is staffed with four investigators, one clerical and one office manager. Someone is on call 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. The Coroner’s Office is located in Oakhill Renaissance Place and is undergoing a $534,000 capital improvement project for ventilation enhancements to the morgue.

- In situations where the death appears to be the result of natural causes, no evidence of foul play, nor is there evidence to support that the death was anything other than due to natural causes an autopsy may not be performed. In cases where the cause of death is unclear or due to unusual circumstances, such as homicide, suicide, or where concerns of foul play are raised either by others or Law enforcement personnel, an autopsy can be ordered, by law by the Coroner.

According to Ohio law, the Coroner’s Office must investigate the circumstance and determine the cause and manner of death if a person dying is:

- Sudden, when a person is in apparent good health.
- Not under the care of a physician
- Suspicious, unusual, or unexplained
- The result of any violence
- Unlawful or due to criminal neglect
- In detention, or police custody
- Where the identity of the deceased or next of kin is unknown

Most people know that Mahoning County Prosecutor Paul J. Gains prosecutes crimes committed in Mahoning County. But many probably do not know that, by law, Prosecutor Gains is also the lawyer for all Mahoning County boards and offices, all fourteen Townships within Mahoning County, and certain school districts. In fact, each year Prosecutor Gains and his Civil Division handle thousands of legal matters for county and township officials, providing an unmatched level of representation by experienced career prosecutors and administrative staff.

Prosecutor Gains and his Civil Division deliver comprehensive legal services:

- The division is staffed with fifteen assistant prosecutors with an average of 24 years of experience. Prosecutors are skilled in all areas of law that impact Mahoning County and Township officials.
- Expertise includes employment, labor, civil rights, litigation, personal injury, contracts, construction, worker’s compensation, property, tax, foreclosures, environmental, appeals, zoning, land use, regulatory, constitutional, public records, open meetings, ethics, and child abuse, neglect and dependency.
- Prosecutor Gains’ Civil Division is a full-service law firm representing its public clients on virtually all types of legal matters.

Prosecutor Gains and his Civil Division save taxpayer dollars:

- In addition to providing an excellent level of representation, Prosecutor Gains routinely demonstrates the financial benefit to handling legal matters in house as opposed to retaining private counsel.
- In the 2017 budget hearings, Prosecutor Gains reported that by keeping over 3,600 legal matters in house the previous year, his office saved the Mahoning County taxpayers upwards of $5 million – more than the cost of running the entire Prosecutor’s office.
- Among these legal matters, 377 were on behalf of the fourteen Townships. Before Prosecutor Gains assumed office, many of the Townships employed private counsel at taxpayer expense. Now all fourteen Townships use the Civil Division, savings hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Ask any of Prosecutor Gains’ statutory clients about the level of representation and we are certain they will applaud the service provided by Mahoning County Prosecutor Paul Gains and the Civil Division.

Please note: the Civil Division of the Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office is prohibited by law from representing individuals in private legal matters.

Mahoning County Prosecutor Paul J. Gains and Civil Division:

- Represent all County offices, Boards and employees in all aspects of law impacting Mahoning County and its citizens.
- Represent all 14 Townships on state, federal and local law and regulations governing Ohio Townships.
- Civil Division is skilled in all areas of law including employment, labor, civil rights, torts, contracts, construction, worker’s comp, property, environmental, tax, appeals, zoning, regulatory, and constitutional.
- By keeping the legal work in house, Prosecutor Gains’ Civil Division saves the County and Townships hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.
MAHONING COUNTY GENERAL FUND

Issues Facing the General Fund that bring challenges to stabilizing local resources:

- The Commissioners continue to be the advocate for building a proactive revenue base that allows the ability to adjust to changes in State and Federal funding programs.

- Federal Challenges to State base sales tax formulas continue to cause concern for local governments. The Commissioners have been out in the front on this issue to make sure that County voices are heard (see more below).

- Dependency on State receipts and allocations for Local Government Funds, Casino Receipts, continued funding of Grant programs partially funding by General Fund match dollars.

- Support of local businesses in the County supports our sales tax base and the ability to provide local services and continued revenue growth.

- County continues to build adequate reserves to meet bond requirements, cash flow needs, and contingency for cyclical downturns in revenue sources.

Total 2017 Original Appropriation Budget of $34,291,288 is allocated into three Program Areas:

- $13,962,362 Legislative & Executive: Departments include: Commissioners (including Clerk of the Board, OMB, Human Resources, & Purchasing), County Auditor, County Treasurer, Recorder, Data Processing, Facilities, Board of Elections, Planning Commission, and Microfilm.

- $18,286,001 Judicial: Departments include: Common Pleas Court, Judicial General Juvenile Court & Juvenile Justice Center, Domestic Relation Court, Probate Court, Probate Mental Disability, Area Courts, Probation, Bailiffs, Municipal Court, and Clerk of Courts.

- $2,042,925 Human Services: Department Veteran Services Commission.

2017 Revenues Budget $34,291,288

2016-2017 COMMISSIONERS HIGHLIGHTS

The BMCC is working closely with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) in regards to lost revenue that will be recognized in 2018.

- The Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) sales tax will no longer be collected by the State of Ohio; thus, decreasing the revenue which supports important local community services. The discussion for an alternative solution to replace the foregone county and transit authority lost MCO sales tax revenues is ongoing.

- Potential impact is in excess of $4.4 million for Mahoning County government.

- Commissioner Rimedio-Righetti led the fight to encourage other counties to adopt resolutions encouraging State Legislature to take action on this issue. She is committed to address this issue and other issues with CCAO.

- The Commissioners took the resolutions to Columbus and met with the CCAO, other county leaders, and State Representatives in a meeting with the Chairs of the House and Senate.

- This is an ongoing effort that the Commissioners, CCAO, and Ohio counties continue lobbying the State to find a positive outcome for local governments.

- The state has allocated replacement revenues only through 2018.

Looking at cost reductions and current market conditions.

- Each year the Board of Commissioners look at debt to finance on going infrastructure needs for various County offices. They also look at ways to reduce the costs of capital. In doing so, through refunding options they were able to save the taxpayers a combined $2,352,452 over the remaining life of current debt with the 2016 and 2017 debt refundings.

- The County has successfully defended its ratings with S&P for 2017.

The American Cancer Society: Real Men Wear Pink Breast Cancer Awareness campaign for the month of October.

Commissioners in Columbus meeting on MCO Sales Tax issue with CCAO.

Commissioners in Columbus meeting on MCO Sales Tax issue with State Representative John Boccieri.
**Meridian Road**

County Engineer: Meridian Road resurfacing project funded by State, Youngstown City, and local match dollars from the Racino revenues.

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**Senior Levy**

The Area Agency on Aging 11 will manage and implement a 1.0 mill real estate tax levy for senior citizens services:

The BMCC has one appointment on the Area Agency on Aging 11 Board and has also appointed a 5-member Advisory Council to provide input with regard to services, levels of funding and selection of providers. All Levy Funds collected under the authority of the Levy shall be accounted for, reserved for, and expended solely for the provision and maintenance of senior citizens services in Mahoning County. The Area Agency on Aging 11 will receive administrative costs in an annual amount not to exceed 5% of annual net Levy Funds. “As of August 28th, we are serving approximately 1,000 senior citizens with levy dollars in Mahoning County,” said Mr. Joe Rossi, CEO.

Services to be provided with Levy Funds shall include Protective Services, Guardianships, Long Term Care Ombudsman, Sheriff Senior Citizen Unit, and Case Management with Care Coordination. Please call the Area Agency on Aging 11 at 330-505-2300 or 800-686-7367 for information and programming.

Joe Rossi, CEO, & Tony Cario, COO, Area Agency on Aging 11.

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**Dog Pound**

Mahoning County Dog Pound, completion in October will add much needed space to address cross contamination and safety concerns.

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**Telephone Directory**

- **9-1-1 Operations**: 911
- **Auditor**: 330-740-2010
- **Board of Elections**: 330-783-2474
- **Commissioners**: 330-740-2130
- **Coroner**: 330-740-2175
- **Microfilm**: 330-740-2303
- **Planning Commission**: 330-270-2890
- **Prosecutor**: 330-740-2330
- **Recorder**: 330-740-2345
- **Sheriff**: 330-480-5000
- **Treasurer**: 330-740-2460
- **Veteran Services**: 330-740-2450

**Courts**

- **Austintown**: 330-740-2001
- **Boardman**: 330-726-5546
- **Canfield**: 330-533-3643
- **Clerk of Courts**: 330-740-2104
- **Common Pleas**: 330-740-2158
- **Domestic Relations**: 330-740-2208
- **Juvenile**: 330-740-2278
- **Probate**: 330-740-2310
- **Sebring**: 330-938-9873

Joe Rossi presents the 2017 Aging Advocate Award accepted by Commissioners Carol Rimedio-Righetti & Anthony Traficanti.