**Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 3:30-4:35 PM**

**Present*:*** Laura Hartman,Rita Bassiet, Graham Guthrie, Angie Hamberg, Gene Hollins, Brandon Lawson, Janis Mitchell, Jeannie Mok, Dina Shultz, Heather Ulry

Staff member: Janet Tressler-Davis.

**Healthcare Updates**

* Hospitals are struggling financially due to ongoing Medicare and Medicaid challenges.
* Potential **state budget cuts** are being considered:
	+ **Medicaid:** Possible elimination of funding for the expansion population (related to the Affordable Care Act).
	+ **Medicare:** Cuts related to site neutrality policies.
* The state budget deadline is June 30; more clarity on proposed cuts will be available by then.
* Funding for new programs is potentially being pulled from hospital taxes.
* Leadership transitions:
	+ CEO of Mount Carmel St. Ann’s/New Albany/Dublin hospitals is retiring

**Legislative & Policy Updates**

* Tax credits from 2018 are expiring; a federal tax overhaul is expected.
* House Bill 2 (HB2): Related to childcare.
* House Bill 114 (HB114): Involves changes to kindergarten age cutoffs.
	+ *See notes below*

**Workforce & Education**

* **Success Bound Event (COTC):**
	+ Led by Carrie Giles.
	+ Involves teachers and workforce providers.
	+ Rachel and Janet will be speaking at the event.
* **Otterbein “READY Day” – September 24, 2025:**
	+ Campus-wide event, no classes.
	+ Includes interview prep, financial literacy (e.g. writing checks), and more.
	+ Businesses will be invited to exhibit and possibly participate.
* **Career Cafes:**
	+ Led by Matt Misener.
	+ May be seeking businesses to participate and engage with students.

**Election & Civic Engagement**

* **Election Academy – June 4, 11, and 18:**
	+ 3-night course (possibly at WACC).
	+ Committee members needed - will meet only twice.
	+ Cost to attend Election Academy: $55
	+ **Seeking committee members** and someone with experience as a **campaign treasurer**.
	+ **Sponsorship opportunity available:** $250
* **Candidate Forums – September or early October 2025:**
	+ One-night event for each race (City Council and School Board races).
	+ Venue needed.
	+ **Sponsorship needed:** $250 per night
	+ Tracy Davidson’s seat will be open.

**City of Westerville – State of the City Comments**

* This year’s focus: **“Ready”**
	+ The city is emphasizing being **shovel-ready** and preparing for front-loaded growth.
* **88-acre site:**
	+ No plans for multi-dwelling units or affordable housing.
	+ Avoiding high-density developments.
* **Zoning code** update is a priority.
* **Home Repair Program**:
	+ City grant available for homes in disrepair (through MORPC).
	+ Details on the Westerville City website.

**Future Meeting Topics**

* Affordable Housing
* Childcare
* City Planning & Zoning Dept.
* John Kasich (Potential Guest/Speaker)
* Please share any suggestions
* State Budget Overview

Council Member Discussion

**House Bill 2**

HB 2 seeks to make childcare services more affordable to working families in Ohio. Several states have implemented public-private partnerships allowing the state to jointly invest in childcare access for working parents and caregivers alongside business owners interested in offering these services as an employee benefit. This concept, known as “Tri-Share,” establishes a grant program pairing state funds with employer matches to offset childcare expenses.

HB 2 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 32, establish a Tri-Share model labeled the “Child Care Cred Program,” providing grant funding to allow childcare costs to be equally shared by participating employees, their employers, and the state. Three of our neighboring states – Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky – have implemented some form of Tri-Share, and all have been well-received. The Chamber supports these measures and believes that encouraging employers to privately invest in such an employee benefit is an innovative solution to address costs and reduce barriers to employment.