

of experts to formulate systems designed to increase the efficiency of the various county offices in the performance of their governmental functions, does not constitute the provision of "facilities" for the administration of such offices within the meaning of the term as used in Section 2419, General Code.

There is a further consideration which must not be lost sight of in construing statutes conferring power upon a board of county commissioners. It is established in Ohio that a grant of power to such a board must be strictly construed. In speaking of a board of county commissioners as a quasi corporation, the Supreme Court said in the case of *Treadwell v. Commissioners*, 11 O. S. at p. 190:

"A grant of power to such a corporation must be strictly construed, and when acting under a special power, it must act strictly on the conditions under which it is given."

In the last analysis, a board of county commissioners has the broad function of providing the money and the physical facilities necessary to enable the various county offices to function. It is not the province of the commissioners to study how these offices should be run. It would be a subterfuge to construe Section 2419, General Code, as providing such authority, and clearly contrary to well established rules of statutory construction. Possibly a legislative enactment conferring such authority would be of great general benefit. I can, of course, only interpret the laws as they now are in the light of the rules of statutory construction which have been laid down and followed by the courts.

I find nothing in Section 2419, General Code, to warrant varying the procedure followed by the Bureau of Inspection and Supervision of Public Offices, and approved in my Opinion No. 2887.

Respectfully,

GILBERT BETTMAN,
Attorney General.

3116.

APPROVAL, AGREEMENT FOR REMOVAL OF CONDUIT SYSTEM IN CONNECTION WITH ROAD IMPROVEMENT IN ERIE COUNTY, OHIO.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, April 3, 1931.

HON. O. W. MERRELL, *Director of Highways, Columbus, Ohio.*

3117.

APPROVAL, AGREEMENT FOR GRADE ELIMINATION NEAR JEWETT, HARRISON COUNTY, OHIO.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, April 3, 1931.

HON. O. W. MERRELL, *Director of Highways, Columbus, Ohio.*