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# Treasurer Mandel meets with leaders

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NEW BOSTON — Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel met with community business and economic development leaders at OSCO in New Boston Thursday afternoon to discuss the state's financial condition and how it will affect local business and government.

Delivering the Fiscal Year 2013 report to attendees — which included representatives from local businesses, and officials from Scioto County, the Southern Ohio Port Authority, Village of New Boston, and the City of Portsmouth — Mandel said the state of Ohio had an \$8 billion operating budget deficit and only 89-cents

in its Rainy Day Fund when he came into office in 2011. Today, he said, those numbers have changed to a \$1 billion budget surplus and \$1.5 billion in the Rainy Day Fund.

"I believe we are operating with a high sense of fiscal responsibility and the way I treat tax dollars is the way you would treat your own dollars at your kitchen table, or at your conference room table, in your family or in your small business. My feeling is, if families and small business are going to be tightening their belts then we should do the same in government," Mandel said.

The treasurer also presented a list of economic development pro-

grams handled by his office, such as GrowNOW, ReEnergize Ohio, Ag-LINK, ECO-Link, and SaveNOW.

When Mandel opened the table to questions, the topic quickly turned to House Bill 5, which Mandel said would simplify the tax code in Ohio by creating a single system between municipalities, rather than using different forms to collect taxes at different rates between communities. He told the story of one electrician who had to file 39 different forms and said sometimes the tax preparation is more expensive the actual tax bill. Mandel said the idea is to simplify the tax process for businesses doing business



Ryan Ottney | Daily Times

Josh Mandel met with local business and economic development leaders at OSCO in New Boston on Thursday to discuss the state's financial condition and how it will affect Scioto County.

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