

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Kiger called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jason Dolin, Tony Vogel, Jeff Barron, Wanda Carter, BJ King, David Miller, Aunie Cordle, Ursula LaVeck, Kristi Burre, David Jones, Dennis Keller, Bob Clark, Ray Stemen, Holly Mattei, Jon Kochis, and Greg Butcher.

- Legal Update

Mr. Dolin did not have a legal update. He indicated he had information to share in executive session regarding impending litigation later in the afternoon for the 1:30 p.m. session.

- Administration and Budget Updates/Carri's List

- a. AIMS Local Government Innovation Award Update

Ms. Brown reported that on the voting agenda today is a "closeout" resolution for the AIMS related grant. She reported that Jason Dolin had previously commented on the many requirements that the LGIF process requires, whether a grant or a loan award, and she commented that it was true that there were many requirements to participate in the process. This resolution today is one of those requirements. We are accepting the final report, the feasibility study.

- b. Jail/Public Safety Facility Work Group update

Ms. Brown reported that she received some pictures from Dennis Keller of the work in progress as Bennett & Williams conducted the analysis to characterize the subsurface soil at the current Wheeling Street jail site. The work is right on target at this time. The soil borings have been completed, and the drilling crew has left the site. Bar no problems with shipping, they can begin the laboratory analysis now. They installed two monitoring wells into the fill material to take future samples of water for further testing in about two weeks. The remainder of the test holes were filled with bentonite and capped with concrete. We await results and analysis.

The group will visit Scioto County on April 2. The next work group meeting is April 24 at 10 a.m.

Mr. Kiger stated this was an example of the Board's ongoing due diligence and that they would be relying on experts and their analyses.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

c. Parking Lot Transfer

Ms. Brown reported that as a follow up to the discussion last week, there is a resolution relating to the transfer of the Chestnut Street parking lot to the City of Lancaster, connected with the construction of the Municipal Courthouse, ready and on the voting agenda today. The drive-thru and access to it is retained. There is a reversion clause in the quitclaim deed if the lot is not used for a public purpose.

Mr. Davis stated that while we was once a tenant of the lot several years ago, he removed himself as a tenant for quite a while ago allowing him to participate in this decision.

Mr. Kiger stated that this furthers the cooperation between Lancaster and Fairfield County.

d. State of the County Address – March 25

Ms. Brown reported that the theme is: Prepare. Respond. Thrive. Bob Competti with Innerphase is working in conjunction with Lou Varga. There will be a live Internet feed for the State of the County Address. Rachel Elsea will tweet the link. Good Luck!

Mr. Levacy stated that the Rockmill video had been shot using drones which was a very impressive thing.

Mr. Davis stated he appreciated the work of Ms. Brown, the facilities staff, and everyone else in that the Liberty Center looked great.

e. Connections Meeting

Ms. Brown stated there is an Auditor, Treasurer, IT, Commissioners Connections Meeting scheduled Wednesday March 26 at 8 am. Topics of interest include electronic processes, MUNIS upgrades, vendor approvals, TimeClock Plus, Camtasia, and any other topic the group pursues to further common goals. If there is an item of interest to add to the agenda, please contact Carri Brown.

f. Meals on Wheels Levy Funded Services

Ms. Brown reported that she met with Anna Tobin and Sarah Clagg with Meals on Wheels to review updated levy budget projections. Ms. Tobin is going to reach out again to set a time to present the updated projections to the Board of Commissioners. In the review packet are the following

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

documents: a list of units of service for 2013, a blank grant application form, and the criteria scoring sheet. Earlier with Ms. Tobin, Ms. Brown reported that it was reasonable to request copies of contracts that are in effect for the budget period or a summary of the contracts that are expected and that it is also reasonable to request a list of positions, salaries, and titles; these documents would support the projected expenditures. Ms. Brown made such requests and indicated that she believed Ms. Tobin would bring those documents to her budget presentation. Also, Ms. Brown suggested that at the presentation (which Ms. Tobin thought would be in April) Ms. Tobin and Meals on Wheels could offer a date for a review of proposed contractual items.

- Old Business

- a. Dine Downtown (flyer, emails)

Ms. Brown reported they had a flyer and a news release for internal and external audiences ready to go. Gift certificates were donated for each table at the State of the County Address today.

Mr. Davis stated that he appreciated the Mayor's suggestion and that the businesses may see better business in that six weeks than they have before.

Mr. Levacy stated that he hoped the business would increase.

Mr. Kiger stated they would see how it goes.

Mr. Davis added that he expects the chamber, the Special Improvement District, Fairfield National Bank, and several law firms to do something as well to promote downtown dining.

- b. JFS Director (follow up)

Ms. Brown reported at the last meeting, there was consensus on an approach to include senior leadership of JFS in a double blind assessment of a relevant project for JFS operations. A double blind assessment means in this context that the reviewers would not know of the drafter of the project, as there would be no personal identifying information, and the drafter would not know of the reviewer, except that everyone would know of the pool of the scorers and applicants. The process itself, though, would include a double blind approach. Ms. Brown prepared an assignment for candidates and reached out to JFS senior leaders for input and feedback, and she previously emailed the draft to the Board for

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

review. The project assignment will be provided to the applicants selected for the next step if the Board wanted Ms. Brown to proceed in this way. Two of the four applicants did not meet requirements posted, and Ms. Brown will send a kind letter to them.

Mr. Davis stated he reviewed the packet and timeline and appreciated Ms. Brown's leadership. He expects the new JFS director will be another great hire for Fairfield County.

The Commissioners gave Ms. Brown instructions to move forward with the process.

- New Business

- a. Annexation Received – Violet Township into Pickerington – 195.280+/- acres – Hearing to be scheduled

Ms. Elsea reported that the petition was received and a hearing date would need set as this is a regular annexation. She added that there is already a meeting scheduled to be held at the DD offices in Pickerington on June 17<sup>th</sup> during the hearing window. Additionally, she and Ms. Brown will review the application and process with Mr. Dolin.

Mr. Davis stated that he understood the views of those requesting certain hearing dates and that the process should be above reproach.

Ms. Carter stated that she was attending the meeting to hear of the hearing date and that June 17 would work well for Violet Township.

Ms. Elsea will proceed with scheduling the hearing for June 17.

- General Correspondence Received

- a. Retirement Memo from Perry Orndorff

Ms. Brown stated that they would keep their eyes open for a way to celebrate Mr. Orndorff's retirement. There is a card in the folder for everyone to sign today.

- b. Request for recycled tables, benches, trashcans from Rushville Park Advisory Committee

Ms. Brown reported that Mr. Keller had received the request and inventoried the current stock.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 25, 2014**

Mr. Davis asked if the benches were separate from the tables.

Mr. Keller replied that they were.

Mr. Davis suggested a few tables and benches along with one trashcan be donated. Others agreed that this was the standard approach at this time.

Mr. Vogel stated that the solid waste district was going to require a 50/50 match in next year's budget.

Mr. Keller stated he would follow up with the Rushville Park Advisory Committee.

c. CFLP March 28<sup>th</sup> Agenda

Ms. Brown stated that the Commissioners would be meeting with Community Action on April 1<sup>st</sup> relating to future years' budgets. If there was a need for additional meetings after April 1, there could be additional meetings.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- a. Fairfield County Farm Bureau Policy Meeting – Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

- 1. Commissioner Levacy to attend

- b. Conservative Women's Conference – Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> (afternoon and evening) – Ohio Christian University

- c. Ohio Courthouses Symposium – Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Dennis to attend.

Mr. Davis added that he was asked to speak at General Sherman's student of the month program on Friday and would be attending.

- FYI

- a. Capital Budget Bill

- Ms. Brown stated this was a good snapshot and that while Fairfield County is not specifically mentioned, there could be some infrastructure opportunities.

- Mr. Levacy added that it did include \$4 million for the Buckeye Lake dam study which is primarily in Fairfield County, even though Licking County is specifically mentioned in the bill.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 25, 2014**

b. AHA Children's Museum Fundraiser – Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

c. DD Newsletter

- Issues Bin

- a. Ag Center Available Space

Mr. Kiger stated this was a result of the federal agriculture offices moving out.

Mr. Keller stated it was about 1,700 square feet of very nice office space with access to the conference room.

- Open Items

- a. Pickerington Annexation

Mr. Butcher asked what time the hearing would be on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Elsea stated it would be scheduled for 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Kiger stated at 9:26 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 beginning at 10:01 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Jason Dolin, Bob Clark, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, Greg Butcher, BJ King, David Jones, Jon Kochis, Ursula LaVeck, Kristi Burre, Todd McCullough, Joe Morris, Chief Perrigo, Brian Kuhn, Mayor Dave Smith, Randal Ullom, Ray Stemen, Bill Miller, Bob Wolfinger, Trisha Nettles, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Keller, and Kyle Whitt.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Kiger asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 25, 2014**

**Announcements**

Commissioner Kiger asked Ms. Elsea if there were any announcements. There were no announcements.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Kiger asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments. No comments were made.

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, March 18, 2014**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Commissioners' Office Resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation recognizing April as National County Government Month; see resolution 2014-03.25.a.

Discussion: Mr. Levacy presented the proclamation and thanked everyone who provides services in Fairfield County and applauded all who serve. Ms. Brown thanked everyone who supports county government.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation recognizing April Child Abuse Prevention Month; see resolution 2014-03.25.b.

Discussion: Mr. Davis presented the proclamation to Ms. Burre and stated while the bad news was that there are abused and neglected children in Fairfield County, the good news is that the support system is there for them.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution approving the transfer of the "Chestnut Street parking lot to the City of Lancaster; see resolution 2014-03.25.c.

Discussion: Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Levacy for his leadership in working with the city to facilitate this transfer as it was the right thing to do. Mr. Levacy stated he was very appreciative of Lancaster and the Municipal Court system. Many individuals have told him they are happy with the city and the county working together. They have the obligation to serve everyone regardless of where they live. Mr. Kiger stated that the Municipal Court serves all of Fairfield County and the lot will make it much easier for the public. Mayor Smith appreciated the cooperation with the county and added that it was a pleasant task with a common goal and that Lancaster will be good stewards of the lot. Mr. Kiger added that he looked forward to working with all municipalities. Mr. Levacy noted there would be a formal presentation at the State of the County address.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2014-03.25.d | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into major expenditure object category for the Fairfield County 911 Wireless fund# 2683 & account to account transfer into a major expense object category for 911 Services – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2014-03.25.e | A resolution acknowledging the final report for the Advanced Innovative Management System (AIMS), a feasibility study funded by a Local Government Innovation Fund Grant, has been accepted [Commissioners]  |
| 2014-03.25.f | A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield County Historical Parks – Fund # 7308 [Commissioners]   |
| 2014-03.25.g | A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to the Fairfield County Airport Fuel Fund # 5786 [Commissioners]   |
| 2014-03.25.h | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object category for the Fairfield County Airport fund# 2800 [Commissioners]   |



**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 25, 2014**

2014-03.25.i            A resolution approving to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expenditure category for fund # 2796 AIMS/LGIF & fund to fund transfer from the General Fund # 1001 [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Dog Shelter Resolution**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Dog Shelter resolution authorizing the approval of a contract by and between PetPoint Solutions a subsidiary of Pet Health Services Inc. and the Fairfield County Commissioners.; see resolution 2014-03.25.j.

Discussion: Mr. McCullough stated this was an exciting advantage for the Dog Shelter and it would eliminate paper waste and allow for quicker responses to calls. This is a good step forward. Mr. Kiger added that since changing the euthanasia method two years ago the Dog Shelter has turned around. He recently received positive feedback from a former opponent and that has a lot to do with Mr. McCullough.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Economic Development Resolution**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic Development resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee for a proposal to fund Buckeye Lake Winery as an (RLF-EDA) Project; see resolution 2014-03.25.k.

Discussion: Mr. Clark stated that the Buckeye Lake Winery would be borrowing about \$78,000 for new equipment. They have already created more jobs and doubled their projected revenue. This is the second RLF loan this year with the first going to Subway in Bremen.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Emergency Management Agency's Resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Emergency Management Agency resolutions:

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

2014-03.25.l        A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for receipts for EMA fund 2091 (subfund 8051) Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant. [EMA]

2014-03.25.m        A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the general fund to EMA – Fund 2091 (subfund 8051) Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant [EMA]

Discussion: Mr. Kochis stated this was for 2014 exercise and training and would be paid back in October.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer's Office resolutions:

2014-03.25.n        A Resolution to Approve the Contract with Rock River Construction, Ltd. for the VIO-43 Taylor Road Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer]

2014-03.25.o        A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence [Engineer]

2014-03.25.p        A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for repairs of equipment [Engineer]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit Resolution**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit's resolutions:

2014-03.25.q        A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer. [Prosecutor- Major Crimes Unit]

2014-03.25.r        A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer. [Prosecutor- Major Crimes Unit]

2014-03.25.s        A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer. [Prosecutor- Major

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 25, 2014**

Crimes Unit]

2014-03.25.t      A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer. [Prosecutor- Major Crimes Unit]

2014-03.25.u      A resolution approving an account to account transfer[Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit – Fund 2765 – OCJS DLEF Grant]  
[Prosecutor- Major Crimes Unit]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the JFS Resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the JFS resolution regarding the approval of a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, and Carealot, Inc., d.b.a. Carealot Transport; see resolution 2014-03.25.v.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of Sheriff's Office Resolution**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Sheriff's Office resolution authorizing the approval of the purchase of a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and IDNetworks; see resolution 2014-03.25.w.

Discussion: Chief Perrigo stated that 18 areas will be improved in this new dispatch system for police and fire departments in Fairfield County. They spent one year researching this system and are happy to move forward. Mr. Morris agreed.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Resolution**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Soil and Water Conservation District resolution of support of the property for the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program; see resolution 2014-03.25.x.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
March 25, 2014**

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

**Approval of the Payment of Bills Resolutions**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Payment of Bills resolutions:

2014-03.25.y        A resolution to approve the payment of vouchers without appropriate carry-over purchase orders for all Departments that are approved by the Commissioners [Auditor- Finance]

2014-03.25.z        A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval. [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

Ms. Elsea announced that the next regular scheduled meeting for the Board of Commissioners will be Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Kiger thanked everyone for attending the Regular Meetings as it helps when the Commissioners have questions about the resolutions.

Commissioner Kiger stated at 10:18 a.m. the Commission would be in recess until the State of the County Address at 11:30 a.m.

**State of the County Address**

The State of the County Address was held at 11:30 a.m. at the Liberty Center.

Commissioners Kiger, Levacy, and Davis along with Ms. Brown provided updates on the state of the county, including facility management, economic development, the jail, and budget information. The theme was Prepare. Respond. Thrive.

**Video:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OsETv\\_U\\_Rk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OsETv_U_Rk)

Commissioner Kiger presented an introduction about county services, the resilience of Fairfield County, as demonstrated in one example with the Park District. He spoke about how in the face of economic challenges, Fairfield County has been very resilient. We have built infrastructure, maintained roads and bridges, administered justice, kept communities safe, ran elections, provided essential social services, maintained records, and much more. He commented on his appreciation for the Engineer's road crew, the

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

facilities operations team, and social workers and administrators who protect our children and elderly. He commented on the continuous improvement of the the Fairfield County Dog Shelter and Adoption Center.

We in Fairfield County are **Ready and Resilient**.

***We Prepare... Respond... Thrive...***

Throughout April, County Government Awareness Month, that is our theme, and it is our theme for this State of the County Address...

***Prepare...Respond...Thrive...***

Throughout every situation, the Commission strives to create a healthy, vibrant, safe, and economically competitive community. We conduct our research, look to evidence-based practices, adapt to change, stick to our core values, and take decisive action.

Commissioner Levacy announced the decision to resolution to transfer the parking lot located on Chestnut Street to the City of Lancaster in connection with the construction of the Fairfield County Municipal Court. He invited City Officials to the podium to accept a copy of the resolution as a symbolic representation of that transfer.

The County previously partnered on a work group to plan the construction of the Municipal Courthouse. When officials of the City expressed a dire need for the parking lot, everyone wanted to be of support.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about Fairfield County's support of the business community.

With county government, we want to do everything possible to prepare for new businesses and to respond to outside factors in ways that support businesses. The vision is a Fairfield County where businesses are thriving because citizens thrive when businesses do.

Last year at the State of the County Address, we introduced the plan to create a Port Authority. Port Authorities are tools to support business. Ohio law allows port authorities to construct facilities, issue bonds, make loans, and buy and sell personal property. Commissioner Levacy reported that we now have a Port Authority for Fairfield County – and the Port Authority is ready to serve areas of the county that do not have an existing Port Authority.

Another way the Commission has prepared for business is through the creation of Workforce Development Training grants. We have dedicated \$100,000 for training grants to incentivize new businesses. While we have had some new businesses express interest in the program in 2013, we look for more interest in 2014 and beyond.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

Further, with the collaboration of the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, we have increased our outreach. We have produced a business attraction video.

**Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEWcp0JuGng>

Also, through a collaborative effort, ODOT will begin its Carroll Interchange project in spring 2015. The estimated completion date of the \$54 Million project is 2016. The project will better connect businesses to markets throughout Ohio and the country. It is of vital importance to the economy. It will surely improve public safety and travel efficiency.

One other way that Fairfield County responds to the needs of business is through the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. The purpose of the Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund is to assist small and medium sized businesses in achieving their goals. Created in 1992, the fund has supported 83 projects with loans of more than \$3.8 million.

There are many examples of thriving business in Fairfield County.

Westerman's of Bremen has invested more than \$3.5 million in capital investments, creating 24 new jobs in a three year period.

Ohio Health has invested \$42 million in an outpatient center and emergency room, creating 180 jobs.

Cyclone Power has created 80 new jobs in a venture to produce an engine that can run on waste fuels.

Nifco in Canal Pointe has completed renovations that will lead to more than 120 jobs.

There are many more examples of thriving businesses in Fairfield County, and we are happy to be a part of a Commission that is prepared, responsive, and ready to serve the business community.

We support the business community in terms of policy.

For example, we made a policy decision to support the statewide Sales Tax Holiday, which is proposed for the first weekend in August. This is something that is good for business and good for families.

In all of our actions, everything we do today is designed to make a better tomorrow.

And a better tomorrow is possible.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

We know from our studies that tobacco and prescription drug use with high school seniors is decreasing. We must continue our work with prevention and education in battling drug abuse.

We all know that there are ever-present challenges in today's society. Drug addiction affects businesses, families, the government, and all parts of society. Drug addiction affects every community and every demographic.

There are human needs and human conditions that are very complex. Young people may not always know of the tragic risks they are taking, even the very first time they try a drug. However, drug dealers do know of these risks. Drug dealers should face the most serious terms of incarceration. And with incarceration at record levels, this presents additional problems.

Jail overcrowding is an issue that the Commission is carefully addressing. We will not shy away from complex problems. We will solve them.

Commissioner Steve Davis provided detailed information about processes in decision making and about how the Commission prepares, responds, and thrives, in particular about the decision to move forward with jail construction.

Law enforcement is a priority of our state and of Fairfield County. On the Commission, we address this priority by taking swift and decisive action. We took swift and decisive action in 2013 with the decision to move forward with constructing a jail to address the problem of jail overcrowding. Last year, we announced at the State of the County Address that we would develop a go forward plan for a new jail, a public safety services facility. And that is exactly what we did.

We reviewed multiple studies from 1999 to the present. We reviewed the debates about the decision to move forward or not. We confirmed that there is a dire need for minimum, medium, and maximum security county jail bed space. And while we responded appropriately in the past by implementing the operations of three jail locations, we knew that we could not sustain that plan in the long run.

So we sought stakeholder input. We asked for opinions in a survey (electronic and hard copy) and we held public meetings. The survey demonstrated favor for the downtown adjacent site, making use of an existing jail site. Public meeting comments showed support of the downtown adjacent site. Letters from the Chamber of Commerce and the Bar Association showed support of the downtown adjacent site. Law enforcement and members of judiciary favored the downtown adjacent site.

While the Liberty Center site was considered a good site, the downtown adjacent site had stronger support.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

Common reasons for that support included that the new jail would be closer to the courthouses, including the Municipal Court House that is to be constructed. Others put forth the thought that while there was a cost premium for the foundation with the Wheeling Street site, the operational costs over time were lower. The most important result of the debate was the understanding that the Commission needed to take action.

And take action we did. The Commission moved forward to solve the problem.

We now have a team of experts during the predesign phase of construction examining all the complex issues with construction. If data show that there is a need to make a change, we will do so.

And while the jail project occupies our thoughts, it is not the sole effort of the Commission. For example, we are charged with the complex task of filling vacant leadership positions, even vacant elected official positions. Some of these things involve detailed processes, and some do not.

For example, the former Clerk of Courts resigned last December. We were prepared to respond.

We immediately appointed Judge Joseph T. Clark as the Acting Clerk of Courts to serve until the central committee made its appointment. Judge Clark brought a wealth of experience to the position, and he began to forge a path toward credibility and respect for the position. His long standing relationship with the judiciary served the county well.

The Commission has based its actions on well-thought out analyses and evaluations.

The Commission communicates and collaborates with many different entities. As you know, we are thrilled to support the construction of the Municipal Court building in downtown Lancaster.

The Commission truly is ready and resilient: we continue to prepare, respond, and thrive for all of Fairfield County residents.

Carri Brown provided examples of how Fairfield County is indeed ready and resilient: We prepare...respond...thrive...

Moreover, we are committed to excellence. She recognized the leadership of elected officials, department heads, and administrative staff.

One demonstration of excellence is our annual leadership conference. In 2013, we continued the tradition of holding a leadership conference with all elected officials and department heads. We came together and discussed the merits of projects to address.



**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

**Prepare.**

We created work groups to address the use of the Clarence E. Miller building, apply for a local government innovation loan for technology, prepare the Tussing Road Government Services Center for broader use, and acquire AEDs for public buildings. We have made great strides with all of these areas and continue to collaborate.

Also at the leadership conference, the Commission took decisive action to move forward with the jail construction project. Taking that decision would not have been possible without proper planning. That preparation included intense financial analysis.

In 2014, the general fund budget is approximately \$40 million. With careful planning, we ended the year with an encumbered carryover cash balance of \$11 million. This exceeded our targeted 25% of budgeted expenditures, largely due to our efforts to shore up on our accounting procedures for encumbrances. In the next four years, we have planned for similar carryover balances, a lofty goal for any local government.

The 2014 budget includes a \$2 million investment for the County jail project. The \$2 million was added to the \$3.8 million that was dedicated to the project in 2013.

In 2014, revenue projections include \$18 million of sales tax revenues and \$ 1.6 million of casino revenues. The casino revenues are an important source of revenues for jail construction. However, our projections have been conservative, and we are not surprised by the reality of casino collections.

To make the budget work, we need the cooperation of every elected official and department head. Looking ahead, for 2015-2017, no new positions for the general fund departments are planned. For the same timeframe, a 2% increase for employee salaries is projected. Projections will be carefully monitored in the coming months. Departments not adhering to the parameters will need to justify their requests, in a documented, evaluative manner.

In addition to conducting financial analyses, we are preparing by seeking stakeholder input. For example, to prepare for the future of the Clarence E. Miller building, we are conducting public meetings on April 8 at 11 am and 6 pm.

The Clarence E. Miller building is located at 1587 Granville Pike in Lancaster. The building and site are owned by the Fairfield County Commissioners. The building, a pre-Civil War structure, has served many important uses over time. Most recently, the offices of the Department of Health were located at the building. With that department's relocation, the building is now vacant. While the building has been useful, it has declined from the presence of underground streams, awkward additions to the building, and a lack of available funds for maintenance over the past fifty years. However, with planning and funding, the building could be restored, as shown by our professional assessment from Mr. Steve Luchtenberg, Architect.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking public input on the future of the Clarence E. Miller building. Pictures and an assessment of the building are posted online. The assessment includes an estimate for construction improvements. This estimate is over \$4 million for basic office space upgrades. Currently, the County budget does not provide for this level of investment in the building.

Please attend one of the meetings on April 8 or take the electronic survey at:  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cembuilding>

There is a flyer at the media desk about the public meetings and the survey.

The input we receive will help us make a good decision about the future of the building.

**Respond.**

Obtaining stakeholder input is critical to help us initiate and adapt to change. This ability to adapt to change is important because of how Fairfield County is growing. In the past, urban expansion of the Columbus metropolitan area has been a significant factor impacting Fairfield County. Did you know that Fairfield County was the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in Ohio from 2000-2010? Our county population is now more than 147,000, and it is expected to reach 201,000 by 2030. The growing population of the county has placed increased demands on services of county government. It has been - and will continue to be - a challenge to balance the budget and meet service needs of a growing population.

The growing demand for service and our conservative approach to spending requires us to collaborate – and seek competitive sources of grant funding. In 2013, the county earned a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for its Collaborative Grant Writing and Knowledge Transfer Initiative. Put simply, this means that we demonstrated how to come in early, work late, gather information in groups, design innovative projects, and learn from one another. We used this knowledge to obtain grants in a competitive environment.

As promised last year, we coordinated our efforts to create a go forward plan for jail construction. And while there is additional research underway about building of the jail, we will stay mobilized. We are building stakeholder relationships that will be needed for optimal jail operations. We will continue to support community corrections, counseling, and collaborations with faith-based partners, non-profit organizations, businesses, and other governments who join together to reduce recidivism and engage those who have been incarcerated.

In addition, we have acted appropriately when there have been situations of ethical concerns. Commissioner Davis spoke of how the Commission took swift action to support legislative changes dealing with the removal of elected officials from office in

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

certain circumstances. Locally, we have updated and communicated our fraud reporting policy to include specific contact information for the County Prosecutor and the Ohio Ethics Commission. Also, all department heads and administrative employees take required ethics training annually, and we encourage elected officials to enforce such requirements.

Further, Aunie Cordle, Human Resources Director, provides annual training to all departments on performance assessments. We encourage all departments to attend this training and to use the knowledge gained from it. Conducting thoughtful performance assessments of employees holds employees accountable and recognizes good work behavior. Ultimately, with good performance assessments, we are able to respond to change and improve services for the public. We are able to thrive.

**Thrive.**

And thrive we do!

There are many impressive accomplishments to report – too many to include in one presentation. Last year, we pointed out the importance of technology, customer service, and grant acquisition. Examples of thriving in the areas of customer service, technology, and grant acquisition include:

**Customer Service**

- We must have open, honest government to build trust and stakeholder support. For that reason, we partnered with Ohio University on a project to improve our website and conducted a “Sunshine Review.” With this review, Fairfield County improved its rating from a D- to an A-.
- To better serve customers, the Fairfield County Utilities Department opened a new administrative building at Lockville Road. The Utilities staff of 23 professionals serves over 6,000 customers, operating 5 wastewater and 2 water treatment plants in Fairfield County. They are fully prepared to service new business developments.
- The Facilities Operations Department implemented an Energy Conservation project, replacing lighting and windows this year. Further, the crew managed weather related emergencies and relocated the Health Department.
- The Economic Development Department led the effort to create a Port Authority and keeps new business attraction and job retention as its top goal.

**Technology**

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

- The county developed a social media platform for Twitter, with more than 271 tweets in the first year of implementation. The county also created a YouTube video about county services and why counties matter.
- The Emergency Management Agency redesigned its Emergency Operations Plan and made it fully hyperlinked and available electronically. EMA also implemented a Mobile Incident Command Vehicle and implemented weather and dam failure sirens for Buckeye Lake.
- The Facilities Operations Department implemented a Building Automated System, a web-based system to monitor building temperature and maintenance.
- The Dog Shelter partnered with Ohio University to implement social media strategies to increase adoptions and improve education and outreach.
- Following the completion of a technology related study, the county earned a Local Government Innovation Award for a \$500,000 loan to implement a document management system. This system will reduce paper and increase efficiency for six political subdivisions.
- To improve efficiency, Job and Family Services is using technology for document and workflow management for more than 40,000 files. The agency implemented a call center that is receiving more than 65,000 calls annually. Protective Services is now using mobile devices in the field to improve documentation and efficiency.
- The Prosecutor's Office implemented a new case management system to help manage an ever-growing workload.
- The IT Department is improving wireless access to the Internet.

**New Grant Acquisitions**

- The Visitation Center received a \$400,000 Safe Havens Grant. The Visitation Center policies and procedures are used as models of best practice nationwide, and the center was the first to obtain approval for implementation among the nation's new grantees.
- Job and Family Services earned multiple grants, including grants to increase parenting time orders, support reentry efforts, and improve a child's chance of finding forever homes.

There are many other examples of an unwavering commitment to excellence:

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

- Developmental Disabilities recently opened “Discover U”. Individuals receive training and obtain internships for real world opportunities at Elder Beerman, Old Navy, Charley's Grilled Subs, and Claire's. This exemplary model of a private and public partnership is receiving state and national attention.
- The Regional Planning Commission promoted the Local Food Council, Rolling Forward Program, and the Community Development Block Grant program, which improved traffic control, streets, and drainage systems for multiple communities.
- The Soil and Water Conservation District led the way in administering new agricultural grants and conducted research for an Alternative Transportation grant for a sensory trail.
- The CFLP Solid Waste District reported that the villages of Carroll and Pleasantville recently collaborated on bidding for curbside recycling and were able to obtain a good rate and fill a community demand.
- The Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Board earned a grant through the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for an 18 month project to implement treatment, prevention, and monitoring of prescription drugs in Fairfield County.
- The Family, Adult, and Children First Council implemented successful projects with Prevention Works, Safe Kids, and Help Me Grow. They also implemented the Young Adult Prevention Initiative, a community-based coalition of residents, businesses, organizations, professionals and advocates collaborating to prevent and reduce prescription drug abuse in 18-25 year olds in Fairfield County.

Through these examples of thriving, we show the resilience of county government.

Last year, we said we would form a plan to build a jail, and we did that.

We said we would focus on technology, and we did that.

We said we would focus on customer service, and we did that.

We said we would seek grants, and we did that.

We said we would effectively collaborate, and we did that.

You can count on us to do what we say we will do.

There are multiple challenges, but we lift expectations and meet those challenges.

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

We have fiscal strength, leadership skills, and hearts for service.

In Fairfield County, we will enhance the quality of life, improve business opportunities, protect our citizens, and prepare for the future.

The State of the County Address marks our kick-off for April as National County Government Month.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you – and thanks for attending the State of the County Address.

Thanks to Community Action and the Recycling Center for the lovely centerpieces.

Commissioners Kiger, Levacy, and Davis provided some closing remarks, thanking all elected officials, leaders, attendees, and commenting on the Dine Downtown promotion.

A slideshow is attached.

**Review continued**

The Commissioners met at 1:35 p.m. to continue review of legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Kiger called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jason Dolin, and Jeff Porter.

**Executive Session to discuss Impending Litigation**

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss Impending Litigation at 1:35 p.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following be present: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy and Commissioner Kiger, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Aunie Cordle, Jason Dolin, and Jeff Porter.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy and Mike Kiger

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 2:00 p.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger

**Regular Meeting #13 - 2014**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 25, 2014**

**Review continued**

The Commissioners met at 2:00 p.m. to continue review of legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Kiger called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Mike Kiger and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jason Dolin, and Jeff Porter.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Dave Levacy and a second of Steve Davis the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn 2:00 p.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis, and Mike Kiger

The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

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Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

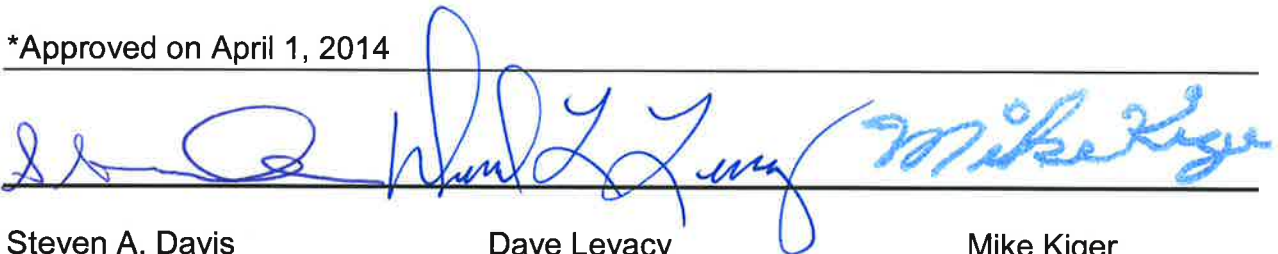
that the March 25, 2014, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

\*Approved on April 1, 2014



Steven A. Davis  
Commissioner

Dave Levacy  
Commissioner

Mike Kiger  
Commissioner



Rachel Elsea, Clerk