

Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Tony Vogel, Dennis Keller, Todd McCullough, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, James Mako, Jeff Barron, Jim Bahnsen, David Miller, Corey Clark, Ray Stemen, Rick Szabrak, Chief Lape, Donald Coakley, and Jon Kochis.

- Welcome

The Commissioners welcomed attendees to the meetings.

- Legal Update

Amy Brown-Thompson reported there was no update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

a. Announcements

We welcomed Donald Coakley to Fairfield County. Mr. Coakley will be serving with Facilities Management as an Assistant Supervisor. He comes to Fairfield County with more than 17 years of professional experience and has strong HVAC and technical skills. We are so happy to welcome him to our team.

Human Resources will be sending out a notice about newly hired employees by email in February.

February 6 – Time with the Commission, Baldwin Tours, Roundtable Meeting

February 17 – President's Day

February 25 – Time with the Commission, Engineer's Office

March 5 – Leadership Conference – Part 1 – Draft Agenda for Review

March 15-21 – Sunshine Week

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 18 resolutions for the voting meeting.

The Sheriff and Chief Lape proposed approving a “go forward decision” to hire a special victims detective specializing in investigation of sex crimes or child abuse. Chief Lape provided a verbal justification, and the resolution was in the review packet.

Mr. Davis asked for more information on the proposed additional detective.

Chief Lape replied the proposed special victims detective will specialize in sex crimes or child abuse. The Detective Bureau has shared the responsibility of investigating special victims crimes since 2010, maintaining a vacancy with one position during that time.

There has been a steady increase in special victims cases for the Detective Bureau, increasing about 83% in workload over the past 10 years. JFS Child Protective Services referrals have increased 61% during the same timeframe.

The proposed special victims detective will assess crime scenes, interview witnesses, work with crime scene investigators, and pursue leads to identify

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020**

suspects. The special victims detective will testify in criminal trials, explain to juries how investigations developed, and present an overview of evidence.

Chief Alex Lape stated he would prepare a recruitment and training plan for the special victims detective.

Mr. Davis asked if, currently, the detective assigned to the case was the same gender as the victim.

Mr. Lape replied that was not currently the case, but they have found children are more receptive to females. Most information is collected by the nurse at the hospital. While it would be a benefit to have a female, that is not a prerequisite.

There are currently six detectives with the new position making seven. At one point there were ten detectives. The current case load is 100-120 cases a year. The Lancaster City caseload is not as high.

Chief Lape went on to applaud the current group of detectives for their work. He anticipates the new detective would have a similar case load of 90-100 cases annually. The position would also participate in other high-profile investigations.

Mr. Fix asked how human trafficking relates to the new position.

Chief Lape replied that was not the primary focus, but he was sure it will come up in some investigations. As they move forward it could develop into another role.

He noted the Sheriff's Office collaborates with the Human Trafficking Task Force which does a great job.

Mr. Levacy asked how much they interact with Protective Services.

Chief Lape replied that receive several referrals from CPS.

Mr. Levacy added he believed human trafficking is a much bigger issue than people think.

Mr. Davis asked, should the resolution pass, when Chief Lape plans on hiring the new detective.

Chief Lape replied they hope to have the position filled by April 1st. He added there is a weeklong specialized training offered by the Child Advocacy Center which specifically focuses on child interviews which will be a valuable tool for the detective.

Mr. Davis asked if any one of the detectives outranks the others.

Chief Lape replied are all equal and report to a Sergeant who is the detective unit commander who reports to Chief Lape. There will be no change in the structure with the new position.

Mr. Davis stated that for years the Commissioners have discouraged new hires, but the Chief has presented a good case and good justification for a new hire. Mr. Davis respected Chief Lape for standing up for what he knows is needed in the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Lape replied this is a legitimate need and a valuable position for the county to have.

There are existing appropriations in place to fund the special victim detective (and to fund the plan to hire two female correction officers and two additional correction officers), at least initially. Evaluation of turnover statistics and

Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020

appropriations will continue throughout the year, administratively, with proposals for new appropriations drafted, as needed.

The new position of a special victims detective will be a key part of the Fairfield County Sheriff's concerted efforts to increase the reporting of crime and improve the experience of survivors.

We have a press release from the Commission and Fairfield County Sheriff regarding the posting of the new position of a special victims detective.

The County Engineer proposed approval of the construction drawings for the Bloom-Carroll Elementary School Turn Lane Improvements.

RPC proposed approval of change order #3 for the Fairfield County CDBG – the Village of Sugar Grove FY2018 CDBG Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project.

The Sheriff proposed renewal of the contract for uniform services with Galls.

There were financial and grant related resolutions to approve, such as:

- A resolution authorizing the County Auditor to assess and place on the tax duplicate delinquent sewer rentals for the Buckeye Lake Sewer System for the dates of October 15, 2019 through November 15, 2019;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for DR Court (three resolutions);
- Two resolutions relating to debt payments of the Airport;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the County Engineer (three resolutions); the EPA recycling grant, the FCFACF Council, and the general fund for the payment of taxes, such as for the Hunters Run Conservancy District change;
- A resolution to authorize the Board of County Commissioners President to sign the Fairfield-Hocking Athens Major Crimes Unit Pre-Award Conditions Forms; and
- The payment of bills.

For Thursday, we will have a resolution to appoint the Board President and County Administrator (as designee) to the MCU Governing Board. We will also have a resolution from EMA to approve the Fairfield County Emergency Operations Plan and signing of the Promulgation Statement, as historically completed.

There are financial (AGOL licenses and memo transactions for the 2% administrative fee relating to the self-funded insurance plan) and a contract resolution for protective placement in network in queue, and those that are ready for a voting agenda will be added to Thursday's agenda.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals. There were no questions posed.

Patriotic Mural at Amstutz – Research and Meeting Dates

The project to explore a patriotic mural at Amstutz progresses. The overall project will cost less than \$25,000, will not harm the building, will provide patriotic outreach, and add to the culture of the community. There are some donations expected. We have artists renderings, technical specifications, and paperwork

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020**

completed. We will meet with the Lancaster Historic Commission on February 19th and the BZA on March 3, with both meetings at 2 pm at City Hall.

Workforce Center Update

We will be holding a Career Readiness Expo at the Workforce Center on April 1. Fairfield County is planning one table (for branding efforts) for JFS, the Dog Shelter, Human Resources, Utilities, and other Fairfield County Departments who are interested in participating. The sponsor of the Career Readiness Expo is Fairfield 33 (the 33 Alliance).

Classrooms at the Workforce Center are ready now for use, as well.

Budget Update

Real Property Taxes

This past week, we received a note from Meals on Wheels indicating they received information from the County Auditor increasing the estimate of real property taxes they expected with the older adult services levy. (There was another correction in the estimate from the County Auditor, resulting in an overall estimated increase of just over \$24,000.)

The County Auditor has sent similar communications to others regarding an increase in their estimates of real property tax receipts, and adjustments to estimated revenue has been made by the County Auditor. For example, the County Auditor has adjusted estimated receipts for the general fund.

For the general fund, they now estimate real property taxes to be \$9.85 Million, as compared to \$8.35 Million, and Homestead and Rollback collections to be \$1.1 Million, as compared to \$1 Million for 2020. The County Auditor has adjusted the official certificate of resources.

These adjustments make a difference for the planning tool for the general fund (and for the current budgets of all funds in receipt of property taxes).

With the planning tool for the general fund, we are now reflecting an increase to the county of about \$1M more in property tax receipts, compared to what was formerly reflected, and over time this is a \$5M adjustment. This is a positive change which, at present, shows the county remaining within targeted levels of carryover cash through 2024.

Planning tools need to be used in a nimble way. Keep in mind there will likely need to be adjustments for new staffing and negotiations, the settlement of the Franklin County case, and additional changes for indigent attorney fee reimbursements. There have been no adjustments relative to potential Ohio constitutional changes to the minimum wage. We will be monitoring the issues and its impacts, as well as the impacts of the economy and other factors.

The County Auditor provided information about the estimate of real property taxes, breaking down in the increases in the estimate into component parts. The County Auditor will be available for any questions about assessed valuation.

Update on a Call with the Perfection Group/Capital Projects

Carri Brown and Dennis Keller held a teleconference with the Perfection Group. When asked about priorities of longer-term capital improvements, we highlighted:

- the salt barn need,
- updating the historical Administrative Courthouse,

Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020

- updating the Government Services Building (including an improved generator, roof, and flooring), and
- implementing a solar option at the One-Stop at Liberty.

We will continue our research. There may be some RFQs and RFPs in the future. For now, we are conducting research.

The Perfection Group was impressed with the Fairfield County website, especially the new building tour.

In addition, we mentioned we were moving ahead with the windows at the Hall of Justice as a second phase with our work with Dynamix. This is a part of the capital projects planned for 2020.

Mr. Davis asked if there was still a plan for a charging station in the parking lot across the street.

Mr. Keller replied the grant was not favorable to the County.

Dr. Brown added the indemnification clause was not something the grantor would remove. The reason the parking lot was being explored was that it was property owned by the county. There is a possible Economic Development related grant that could be more strategic in its placement, as opposed to being placed at a spot because it was owned by the county. Mr. Szabrak stated that there is a charging station on Chestnut Street now.

Tech Cred Grants/Workforce Development Efforts

We in Fairfield County applied for \$7,500 of Tech Cred grants and will know within 60 days if we are awarded such grants. The advertisements for Tech Cred indicated a focus on businesses. An email indicated schools were eligible, and we asked if we were eligible. Once we knew we were eligible, we applied for the grant, which is connected to workforce development efforts of the state.

Mr. Levacy stated that workforce development is doing an amazing job. He added that previous discussions were focused on bringing businesses and jobs, but now the focus is on workforce development and Mr. Levacy feels Fairfield County is ahead of the game.

d. Roundtable & Other Meetings – February 6th and Future Dates

The Commission will host tours, a roundtable and “time with the Commission” on February 6th at the Facilities and Emergency Management Complex on Baldwin Drive. The draft agenda was in the review packet.

The annual policy manual update will be the main part of the Human Resources update at the Roundtable. Mr. Jeff Porter will provide details during the review session of February 6 and during the roundtable meeting, too.

Dr. Brown commented that with market research of HR modules, there are modules which coordinate well with MUNIS, or Tyler Technologies, and a recommendation with a strong return on investment is being formulated. A work group of HR professionals and administrators is coming together to build upon the research and develop a recommendation. We will present information to the Data Board about this topic (in addition to presentations on the topic in general during the roundtable meeting) to follow up.

For the roundtable, we will have a Security Committee Update. Jon Kochis, EMA Director, will be sharing accomplishments of 2019 and plans for 2020. He will also present text for an updated fact sheet, which can be laminated. He will describe this approach for internal communication, which is in part a response to

9

Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020

an electronic idea box submission. The review packet contained a draft of a fact sheet for security.

Mr. Davis asked for a meeting with department heads later in the year, but prior to budget hearings to get a feel for long term planning within the Commissioners' Office. While the five-year forecast is looking better, he would like to have a solid thought framework for needs.

Mr. Fix thought that made sense and asked if elected officials should be included as well.

Mr. Davis stated he thought several meetings would be needed, including with elected officials, but thought they should start with a more focused effort within their office and with costs they can control.

Mr. Levacy agreed.

Dr. Brown stated they could build upon the foundation of the county strategic themes and then present a model or framework to help with budget hearings.

e. BRAVOs

Congratulations to Jon Kochis on the recent article in the Eagle Gazette which highlighted his position as EMA Director. Thanks to everyone who has helped to plan for the tours and meetings at the Emergency and Facilities Management Complex on Baldwin Avenue this week.

Bravo to Todd McCullough, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, and Don Rector for answering the call to service to be a judge at the Liberty Union Science Fair.

Thanks to Donna Stalter for quickly organizing a security fact sheet. Thanks to Jon Kochis and the Security Committee Team for preparing and reviewing text.

We received a nice letter of commendation for Jonathan Ferbrache for his professionalism in managing work at Rock Mill Lake Dam. Bravo to Jonathan, and we have shared this letter with the Executive Director of the Soil and Water Conservation District, Nikki Drake. (We also shared the letter with the Hunters Run Conservancy District because the District operations are mentioned in the letter.)

• Old Business

a. Attorney Reimbursement Fees

Mr. Davis stated he has had discussion with Judge Vandervoort recently regarding how long attorneys are appointed to cases in her court. While Municipal Court and Common Pleas Court cases are resolved relatively quickly, that is not possible in Juvenile/Probate Court. This has caused frustration with the increased rates being effective with January 1 appointments. Earlier, Dr. Brown suggested the judge could re-appoint counsel on those cases allowing for easier billing, which may be a viable option in removing the unique frustration felt within the Juvenile/Probate Court. The Commissioners looked favorably upon this approach.

Administratively, Commissioner Davis and Carri Brown will be meeting with representatives of the Bar Association in February and April for the ongoing review of appointed counsel rates and maximum fees.

The Ohio Public Defender Commission is considering adopting guidelines for appointed counsel hourly rates and maximum fees. The guidelines show a desire to have an hourly rate of at least \$50 per hour as of July 1, 2020, in general. The

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020**

newly passed Fairfield County rates are consistent that that guidelines, and our rates were effective for attorneys appointed as of January 1, 2020.

The OPD guidelines also show a desire to have an hourly rate of at least \$60 per hour as of July 1, 2021, in general. The review packet contained the draft of the full guidelines from OPD.

We will continue our ongoing evaluation.

The most recent reimbursement from the OPD was 85% of expenses, in general. This was for November's expenses (received January 31, 2020).

Mr. Fix asked about the "tipping point" for looking at inhouse provision for public defenders.

Mr. Davis replied that if that did occur, he thought he would be with a new governor that wanted to decrease county reimbursement percentages. He added that we in the county did not have information about how much it costs for prosecution, which could be a comparison.

Mr. Levacy state that each county's experience is different.

Mr. Davis expressed his frustration with the Governor's office and Public Defender Commission for continually changing their guidance.

- New Business (none)
- General Correspondence Received
 - a. Regional Planning Commission Packet for February 4th
- Calendar Review/Invitations Received
 - a. Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner – Friday, February 25th at 6:00 p.m. at Brewdog
 - 1. Commissioners Fix and Levacy will attend
 - b. ADAMH Annual Dinner – Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Pickerington Senior Center
 - 1. Commissioner Fix and Carri Brown will attend.
 - c. Pickerington Chamber Annual Dinner – Thursday, February 6th
 - 1. Commissioner Davis will attend.
 - d. Salvation Army Event – Thursday, February 6th
 - 1. Commissioner Davis informed Judge Clark the Commissioners were already committed to other events on February 6, and he provided their regrets. He requested a time be set up to meet with Salvation Army officials for an update at a Commission meeting.
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population - 312
 - b. Fairfield County Department of Health Coronavirus Statement
 - c. Kirkersville Feeder Canal Study
 - d. South Lancaster Gas Station EPA Notice

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020**

- e. CCAO “County Leader” excerpt – Census 2020, Solar Saving Program (Commission Davis and Dennis Keller to attend), Counselor’s Corner, State Auditor Star System
- f. City of Lancaster Law Director/Prosecutor 2019 Annual Report
- g. 2019 Sheriff’s Law Enforcement Trust Fund Report
- h. Pickerington Senior Center February 2020 Newsletter
- Open Items

Commissioners’ Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 beginning at 10:01 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Dennis Keller, Jon Kochis, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Corey Clark, Jim Bahnsen, Jeff Barron, James Mako, Ed Laramée, Chief Lape, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, David Miller, Ray Stemen, and Jeremiah Upp.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, January 28, 2020

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

Approval of the Commissioners’ Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners’ Office resolutions:

- 2020-02.04.a A resolution authorizing the County Auditor to assess and place on the tax duplicate delinquent sewer rentals for the Buckeye Lake Sewer System for the dates of October 15, 2019 through November 15, 2019
[Commissioners]
- 2020-02.04.b A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense object category for fund # 2807/Subfund# 8223 – FY2019 Ohio EPA Community Recycling Grant [Commissioners]

Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020

- 2020-02.04.c A resolution approving the “go forward decision” to hire a special victims detective specializing in investigation of sex crimes or child abuse for the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office. [Commissioners]
- 2020-02.04.d A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object category for Fund# 4714, Hangar Debt – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-02.04.e A resolution to approve a memo receipt and memo expenditure for fund # 4714 Hangar Debt - Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-02.04.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major expenditure object category for fund# 1001 - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated resolution c was for the hiring of a new special victims detective. Chief Lape reiterated the need for this position which will benefit the community and victims. Mr. Davis stated he was in favor of the position and thanked Chief Lape for standing firm on the need for this position. He respects the Chief for doing what he knew needed to be done and stated he should be proud. Mr. Fix stated he was appreciative of Chief Lape’s leadership.

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

Approval of the Domestic Relations Court Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Domestic Relations Court resolutions:

- 2020-02.04.g A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for the adjustment of Capital Outlay to replace the computer utilized for Parent Education (2338). [Domestic Relations Court] [Domestic Relations Court]
- 2020-02.04.h A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for the adjustment of Capital Outlay to replace Visitation Center computers – Justice for Families (2848). [Commissioners] [Domestic Relations Court]
- 2020-02.04.i A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for the adjustment of Capital Outlay to replace Visitation Center computers – Special Projects (2625). [Domestic Relations Court] [Domestic Relations Court]

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

Approval of the Engineer’s Office Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer’s Office resolutions:

- 2020-02.04.j A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for training [Engineer]
- 2020-02.04.k A resolution to approve the Construction Drawings for the Bloom-Carroll Elementary School Turn Lane Improvements. [Engineer]
- 2020-02.04.l A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for repairs and maintenance [Engineer]

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 4, 2020**

2020-02.04.m A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for sick payout [Engineer]

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

Approval of the Family, Adult, and Children First Council Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund #7521, subfund #8160; see resolution 2020-02.04.n.

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

Approval of the Major Crimes Unit Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Major Crimes Unit resolution to authorize the Fairfield County Commissioners to sign the Fairfield-Hocking Athens Major Crime Unite Pre-Award conditions forms; see resolution 2020-02.04.o.

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

Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Regional Planning Commission resolution authorizing approval of Change Order #3 for the Fairfield County CDBG – the Village of Sugar Grove FY2018 CDBG Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects; see resolution 2020-02.04.p.

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

Approval of the Sheriff's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Sheriff's Office resolution authorizing the approval of renewing a contract with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and Galls, LLC; see resolution 2020-02.04.q.

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Payment of Bills resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval; see resolution 2020-02.04.r.

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

Review Continued

Dr. Brown reviewed the schedule for Thursday's Commission meetings.

