

**Regular Meeting #6 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 15, 2022**

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Carri Brown, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Joshua Horacek, Rick Szabrak, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Corey Clark, Tom Lininger, and Deputy Gary Hummel.

Attending virtually: Lisa McKenzie, Ashley Arter, James Bahnsen, Andrew Boystel, Britney Lee, Chief Collins, Dave Burgei, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, Jessica Murphy, Joe Ebel, Marcy Fields, Nikki Drake, Park, Raz Sabaiduc, Stacy Hicks, and Toni Ashton.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Carrie Woody for presenting on the United Way.

Listen & Learn – United Way

Carrie Woody, United Way CEO, provided a report with a synopsis of what county employees have contributed over the last several years. She thanked everyone in the county for what they have done for United Way and spoke about the food pantry, tax filing preparation, and the fact that there are over thirty United Way programs in Fairfield County. Ms. Woody also thanked Commissioner Davis for jumping into freezing water to raise money for United Way. She stated that the Polar Plunge, which was a three-county fund raiser, raised over \$12,000 this year, and \$8,000 of that was for Fairfield County.

Commissioner Davis asked when the planning for the next campaign would begin.

Ms. Woody stated that there is an agreement with the agencies that receive monies from the United Way that there is a blackout period during the year, therefore planning would begin after the blackout timeframe. She continued by saying that this year United Way is giving its agencies an additional \$300,000, but that the agencies raise funds outside of what they receive from United Way. Ms. Woody also stated that the \$1,333,000 goal was hit this year, but that they are still down from previous years.

Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter stated that the goal this year is to get revenue back to where United Way has been historically.

Commissioner Levacy added that he was the chair one year and saw the difficulties in raising the funds. He also stated that he believes the challenge is in educating people on what is done by the United Way and the agencies it serves.

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Commissioner Fix thanked Ms. Woody for presenting and taking the leadership role with United Way.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about a Senator from Kansas who is concerned about a piece of legislation; and the government's push for the vaccine.

Judy Stemen shared a handout (included as an attachment) and highlighted main points of the said attachment.

Legal Update

Josh Horacek informed the Commissioners that he is still working with Ohio University on the property in the Northwest corner of the county.

County Administration Update

Questions During the Meeting

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle stated that anyone can send an email to her at Aundrea.Cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

County Administrator Cordle then reviewed the following items from the "Week in Review" through the "Correspondence" received.

Week in Review

COVID-19 Update

Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, reported that Fairfield County's COVID-19 case numbers continue to trend downward and new case reports have decreased by 57% over the past week. From 2/4/2022 through 2/10/2022 we have had 345 new COVID-19 cases reported, for a rate of 218.9 cases per week per 100,000 population (High Transmission). Reported cases from 2/4/2022 through 2/6/2022 may have been artificially low due to the winter storm, causing many places to be closed on 2/4/2022, in addition to there still being a 1-2 lag time in reporting from labs.

Thirteen new hospitalizations were reported in the past week and two COVID-19 related deaths were reported. Overall, we appear to be trending down, although we are still running two times the CDC high transmission threshold.

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Commissioner Levacy spoke about COVID-19 and the possibility that it may be here for an extended time. He also mentioned that he has been personally affected through the loss of a friend, and that one of the issues many are experiencing after having the disease is complications from blood clots.

Joe Ebel stated that this January and February had the largest number of deaths due to the volume of numbers.

Commissioner Davis, spoke about a COVID related call with Jack Janoso, Fairfield Medical Center President and CEO, and stated that the conversation was more positive than other recent calls.

Jon Kochis, Fairfield County EMA Director, stated that the goal is less than 100 cases per 100,000.

Overdose Strike Team Invitation to Participate

RecoveryOhio and the Governor's office is inviting Fairfield County stakeholders to meet with them and discuss ways to address the rising overdose deaths in our county.

The Overdose Strike Team is comprised of leadership from the Departments of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Health, and Public Safety, RecoveryOhio and the Pharmacy and Medical Boards. The goal of this newly formed team is to urgently drive down overdose deaths in Ohio.

This team hopes to continue their work and to strengthen the state's relationships with providers, health departments, first responders and law enforcement, the recovery community, faith-based and grassroots organizations and more. Their hope is that by participating in a conversation with key representatives from the community, they will be able to better understand the challenges that are uniquely faced, the tools and resources that are the most effective and most needed and build stronger collaborations at the state and local levels.

This invitation to participate is for a zoom meeting on Thursday, March 3, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 am.

Marcy Fields, Executive Director of ADAMH, participated virtually, and stated that she would be happy to send an invitation to anyone who would like to attend.

Commissioner Levacy asked if the Overdose Strike Team mirrored what Violet Twp put together several years ago.

Ms. Fields stated that this was at a higher level but that they would like to hear about anything that would help at the local level we would like to hear.

Aundrea Cordle stated that there is a resolution to add Alysha Blagg to the ADAMH Board.

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ARP Update

There are multiple projects under review.

From the \$15,303,451.00 received as the first tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$9.2M has been appropriated, \$2.7M expended, \$4.2M encumbered or obligated.

Commission Connection Videos

Commissioner Davis recently completed a Commission Connection video that spoke to support and appreciation of law enforcement as well as the new Intel facility in New Albany and how that will impact Fairfield County. Next Thursday, Commissioner Fix will be conducting a Commissioner Connection video. These videos are shared via email, social media, and on the County website.

Commissioner Davis stated that he felt the Commissioner's Office could do more with the Connection Videos in terms of distribution modeling and tasked the office with the goal of reaching more residents, and those associated with the county.

Strategic Plan Report

RAMA Consulting presented the final Strategic Plan Report to County Leadership last Thursday at the Liberty Center. There are six pillars of focus, infrastructure, economic development, workforce development, social services, housing, county operations. A press release will be sent out following the Commission meeting. release will be going out today.

Virtual Meetings

The Ohio House of Representatives concurred on Senate-amended legislation which would temporarily resume the ability for public bodies to hold and attend public meetings and hearings using virtual technology.

The legislative language, included in a Senate-added amendment to House Bill 51, is identical to language which provided public bodies this ability earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic. This previous ability for virtual meetings expired on July 1, 2021. HB 51, if signed by Governor DeWine, would resume virtual meeting ability until June 30, 2022.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

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There are 18 resolutions for the voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- Personnel Policy Manual update
Jeff Porter stated that section 3:1 of the Personnel Policy Manual addressed merit increases for employees beginning their probationary period after July 1st; and section 4:12 allowed for a greater reimbursement for graduate degree programs.
- A resolution to consider Alysha Blagg for appointment to the ADAMH Board to fill the unfilled term of Whitney Babbert.

Budget Review

- Casino Revenue
 - The October thru December 2021 quarterly casino revenue has been received in the amount of \$532,352.49.
 - With this information an evaluation was completed on our budgeted amount for 2022.
 - Budget Director, Bart Hampson reported that, \$175,000.00 was budgeted for 2022. This estimate looks right based upon the trend over the last few years and unknowns about the pandemic impacts. The analysis and assumptions conclude that there could be an overall increase of \$395,233.83 in CASINO revenue for a total of \$2,145,223.83 (23%) for 2022. If the higher trends from quarters of May 21, July 21 and October 21 continue, there could be an estimated total increase of \$525,258.85 (30%) in CASINO revenue for a total of \$2,275,258.85.

Bart Hampson stated that we received the first quarter casino revenue, and that the county's receipts were higher than anticipated and that the revenue may continue to increase over the next several quarters.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the Sports Book law and how it may potentially tie into the revenue stream.

Recognition

- Rick Szabrak shared how Jennifer Sturgeon went above and beyond last week during the storm. She's been here for two weeks and has already shown great ownership over the Workforce Center. Due to the Level 3 Weather Emergency, she didn't need to report to work on Friday. But as soon as it was downgraded to a Level 2, she drove to the Workforce Center to make sure everything was okay with the building and to keep an eye on things. Love to see that dedication.

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- Auditor, Dr. Brown, thanked the Commissioners for continuing to promote the NACo leadership academy. David Miller, Angel Horn, David Burgei, Josh Harper, Robin Balthaser, Noel Soddors, Jessica Ferguson, and Crystal Walker are taking the course this quarter. Thanks to Noel Soddors for sharing information about the NACo leadership academy at home. His wife (who works for Franklin County) is now advocating for the academy participation in Franklin County - in offices that had not participated previously.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- Ohio Council of County Officials Legislative Reception, April 6, 2022, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Ohio Statehouse Atrium
- RecoveryOhio Overdose Strike Team Meeting, March 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Virtual - Zoom
- The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and Licking County Planning and Development invite our leaders to an Intel impact discussion at MORPC, 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus. Lunch will be provided. RSVPs are required, Noon - 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 24

Correspondence

Items Requiring Response

There were no items requiring a response.

Informational Items

- County Commissioners Association of Ohio 2022 Membership
- CFLP Solid Waste District 2021 Fourth Quarter Report
- Homeport, residential rental managers notice of development
- Enbridge, utility accessing right away for natural gas pipeline
- TC Energy, planned pressure test on 1400 feet of line
- 2021 Local Incentive Annual Report for Community Reinvestment Area, Enterprise Zone, and TIF programs
- City of Lancaster, retention detention pond inspection
- Garmin Miller, Architecture and Engineering Services for County Facilities, 2022 County Qualifications

Jail Population

- February 8 was 259 with 27 of those being contracted placements

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- February 15 is 269 with 27 of those being contracted placements

Old Business

County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown, spoke briefly about the hotel/motel tax collection. (Amended Fact Sheet included in attachments.)

New Business

Dr. Brown spoke about House Bill 51 and how the bill provided County Auditors with the ability to make property adjustments.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

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Attending virtually: Lisa McKenzie, Ashley Arter, James Bahnsen, Andrew Boystel, Britney Lee, Chief Collins, Dave Burgei, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, Jessica Murphy, Joe Ebel, Marcy Fields, Nikki Drake, Park, Raz Sabaiduc, Stacy Hicks, and Toni Ashton.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, February 8, 2022

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, February 8, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Steve Davis and Jeff Fix

Approval of Strategic Planning Minutes for Thursday, February 10, 2022

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Thursday, February 10, 2022, Strategic Planning Meeting.

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Board of Commissioners

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

- 2022-02.15.a A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major expenditure object category, General Fund# 2788 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2022-02.15.b A resolution to approve recommendations and updates to the 2022 Personnel Policy Manual for Fairfield County employees [Commissioners]
- 2022-02.15.c A resolution to approve the appointment of Ms. Alysha Blagg to the ADAMH Board [Commissioners]

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

Approval of Resolutions from Workforce and Economic Development

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

- 2022-02.15.d A resolution to approve the Area 20/21 WIOA Subgrant Agreement. [Economic & Workforce Development]

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

Approval of Resolutions from the County Engineer

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

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- 2022-02.15.e A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for repairs and supplies [Engineer]
- 2022-02.15.f A resolution of increase appropriations, appropriate from unappropriate, account to account and fund to fund transfer for HOC-17 bridge replacement project [Engineer]
- 022-02.15.g A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the HOC-17 FAI-CR28-2.567 Meister Road over a Tributary to Arney Run Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer]

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

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Family Adult and Children First Council

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

- 2022-02.15.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Fund# 7521, subfund #8156 – Family Adult Children First [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

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

Approval of Resolutions from Job and Family Services

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

- 2022-02.15.i A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2022-02.15.j A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2015 – Child Support Enforcement Agency - Fairfield County JFS [JFS]

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- 2022-02.15.k A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2022-02.15.l A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2022-02.15.m A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2022-02.15.n A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2022-02.15.o A resolution regarding an service agreement between Functional Training Services, Inc. and Job & Family Services, Community Services Division [JFS]

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

Approval of the Fairfield County Sheriff

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

- 2022-02.15.p A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 1001 [Sheriff]
- 2022-02.15.q A resolution to approve the purchasing of a gun by a retiring officer [Sheriff]

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

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

2022-02.15.r	A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval [Commissioners]
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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy and Jeff Fix

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:49 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by: Steve Davis Seconded by: Dave Levacy
that the February 8, 2022, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix
ABSTENTIONS: None

* Approved on February 15, 2022

Jeff Fix
Commissioner

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Rochelle M. Menningen
Rochelle M. Menningen, Clerk