

**Regular Meeting #7 - 2020**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 18, 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, Jeff Barron, Jim Bahnsen, Dennis Keller, Jeff Porter, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Mark Conrad, Lt. Marc Churchill, Rick Szabrak, Jon Kochis, Jon Slater, and Aunie Cordle.

- Welcome

The Commissioners welcomed attendees to the meetings.

- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek reported there was no update.

- a. Rightsizing the MCJDC Contribution

The Commissioners updated the attendees on the MCJDC meeting of Friday, February 14. We have budgeted \$800,000 for 2020 and \$600,000 for 2021. These actions are consistent with the new agreement with MCJDC, which Commissioner Davis provided to the group.

Commissioner Davis explained that the MCJDC Joint Board and Board of Trustees unanimously approved the resolution, following Fairfield County concessions to not charge the MCJDC for utilities (around \$19,000 -\$20,000 annually) and to round up the contribution to the nearest \$100 K. In addition, the look back period will begin with 2019, as opposed to 2020 (which will not be a full year of history once the budgeting for 2021 begins). The MCJDC carryover target of 20% will be reviewed annually.

Also, the review packet contained a summary of bed days by year.

Mr. Fix thanked Mr. Davis for forcing attention to this issue over the past several years.

Mr. Davis stated he is thrilled with the result but stated there is still work to do.

Mr. Levacy stated that the last few years have been very difficult, but the change in the culture for the youth is just as important as the county's financial contribution as it is important that the youths succeed.

- b. Palmer Energy Consortium

Following the summary provided on February 11, 2020, we confirmed the Commissioners were interested in hearing more about the Palmer Energy solar consortium option. We are in receipt of a draft letter of intent, which is under review.

Mr. Davis stated that he had forwarded a draft letter of intent from Palmer Energy. He asked the Prosecutor's Office to review this with Dr. Brown. Mr. Davis has already spoken with Palmer regarding a few concerns he had regarding certain language. Palmer had received similar feedback from others, and we believe they would allow some adjustments.

Mr. Davis stated he would like to have the letter of intent on for the Board of Commissioner to consider as soon as possible.

Mr. Horacek replied the Prosecutor's Office would have their review completed, and it would be ready for next week - subject to Palmer's agreement.

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We will continue to explore this option as other counties consider the opportunity, as well.

Dr. Brown added that we will update the environmental stewardship committee at their meeting because we believe they will have strong interest in the idea. We will also review other environmental stewardship opportunities, as well.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements

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

March 5 – Leadership Conference – Part 1

March 15-21 – Sunshine Week

April 1 – Career Readiness Expo

April 8 – Wear Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness

April 11 – Township Trustees Assoc. Meeting

April 10 – Good Friday – Close at Noon

April 23 – Circus Night at JFS

April 28 – State of the County Address – WigWam in Violet Township

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 14 resolutions planned for the voting meeting.

There were four contracts for child protective placement in network for JFS.

The County Engineer proposed a resolution to allow the Fairfield County Engineer's Office to be the Leibs Island Road Permitting Authority for the Buckeye Lake State Park, Kirkersville Feeder Channel Improvement Project. The resolution furthers that project appropriately.

Mr. Levacy stated the Kirkersville Feeder Channel Improvement Project will greatly help Buckeye Lake.

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

- An account to account transfer of appropriations (to properly classify expenditures and plan for an employment program for Juvenile Court);
- Reimbursements by operation of law and appropriations for JFS (four resolutions);
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for Juvenile/Probate Court (three resolutions); and
- The payment of bills over \$50,000.

There were financial resolutions in queue.

- c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

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Administrative Approvals

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

March 5<sup>th</sup> Leadership Conference

Mark your calendars now for the March 5<sup>th</sup> Leadership Conference for elected officials and departments heads. Leadership and public records will be discussed. The conference will be held in the Commission Hearing Room, and it will begin at 8:15 am. The roundtable portion of the meeting will conclude at noon.

Sunshine Week!

Sunshine week is in March, and we are seeking additional participants for our county press releases. Please see Carri Brown with ideas. We have a full slate of newsworthy items, but we want to be as inclusive as possible with the approach. Previously, the County Auditor indicated anticipating joining the effort.

State of the County Address

Save the date now for the State of the County Address! It will be April 28 at 11:30 am at the WigWam in Violet Township. We already have the summary of accomplishments and informational packets ready, with some placeholders.

A video for county operations is in progress. We envision a video from the County Parks District, too.

The theme is Counties Matter – and Fairfield County Matters! If anyone has information to add to the packets, please contact Carri Brown, [carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

Amstutz Mural Project

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 completed.

Dr. Brown reported on meetings planned with the Lancaster Historic Commission on February 19<sup>th</sup> and the BZA on March 3, with both meetings at 2 pm at City Hall.

Complete Count – US Census 2020

The Complete Count Committee continues to conduct outreach. Utilities billing inserts have been completed. Fliers and small handouts were provided at the County Fair and at other events. Brainstorming sessions were conducted. Outreach with schools was conducted. Social media has been used. Videos were created and posted on the county website. We have a billboard ready to run in March and April. We are grateful to Nauman advertising for this public service announcement.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> marks the day self-responses begin. We will also use the county alert system to text people.

Electronic Idea Box Update

There was a 26<sup>th</sup> idea proposed with the electronic idea box.

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Idea 26: There was a request for the water coolers placed in multiple locations as part of the wellness effort to be tested to ensure filters were working as expected.

We have responded (and will follow up again).

Response: Thank you for the idea, and the water cooler filters will be tested. We will report back regarding the testing.

Budget Update

In looking at the general fund, the category of revenues known as charges for services or fees increases nearly 15% of about \$50,000 in January 2020, as compared to January 2019. That increase is multiple factors. In this category, we do expect an increase to continue next month based on the increased percentage of reimbursement from the Ohio Public Defender Commission. (We have also increased rates, as previously discussed.)

We will continue to monitor the categories of revenues and expenditures. From a planning tool perspective, we monitor broad categories and from an operational perspective, we do delve into details (such as attorney fee reimbursements) as it makes sense to do so.

Also, for 2020, we are planning for entrepreneurial grants similar to the existing workforce training grants. The entrepreneurial grant applications are ready. We understand that small businesses are a key to a successful local economy.

The county's Entrepreneurial Support Grant was created to aid organizations that help individuals start or grow their business. This grant is not meant to directly support the local business but rather provide funding to organizations that support those local businesses in the form of entrepreneurial programming, a business incubator, maker space, or coworking space.

In general, organizations that intend to utilize the Entrepreneurial Support Grant should meet the basic criteria to be eligible:

- Facility or programming must take place within Fairfield County.
- Organization should provide a minimum of 50% matching funds for any grant.
- Organization should attempt to make a concerted and reasonable effort to recruit entrepreneurs whose business address is in Fairfield County.
- Projects that support high growth industries or provide above average wages will receive priority.
- Projects that reuse already existing, vacant building inventory within the county will receive priority.
- Organization must provide an overall budget detailing the project and why Fairfield County funds are needed to make the project successful.
- The organization must not be delinquent in any taxes owed to Fairfield County.
- The organization must identify any conflicts of interest with Fairfield County.

We will use existing appropriations (estimating about \$25,000 for 2020) but will also review the full departmental budget as we coordinate adjustments with grants. If there is a need for appropriations, a resolution will be proposed.

d. BRAVOs

Thanks to Rachel Elsea, Commissioners' Clerk, for compiling weekly announcements into one global email. We have been inundated with requests that

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are relating to community events. We have also requested that IT consider establishing an electronic bulletin board for this purpose.

Mr. Horacek thanked Fairfield County for hosting the Ohio Judicial Conference Sexual Harassment training last week. It was very informative and well attended at the Records Center.

- Old Business

- a. Rightsizing the MCJDC Contribution (discussed in legal update)
- b. Palmer Energy Solar Consortium (discussed in legal update)
- c. Court Appointed Attorney Fees

An administrative meeting to review the reimbursement of indigent attorney fees is set at 1:00 pm on February 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an article in the Columbus Dispatch relating to this matter. (It was in the review packet.)

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 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. We will continue our ongoing evaluation.

Mr. Davis stated as long a reimbursement rates stay at at least 60% the county will be able to work with it. If the reimbursement rates drop below 60%, Mr. Davis perceives a problem. He will be proposing a new longer-term rate to members of the local Bar Association later today in the administrative meeting. He anticipates another meeting in April where the representatives will let the Commission know if they will accept that rate. He stated that if they do not, the rate will remain the same as it is now.

Dr. Brown stated the proposal is consistent with the Ohio Public Defenders draft guidelines, and our timeline is one year ahead of the proposed schedule. She will be attending a webinar (at least in part) with CCAO tomorrow on this topic.

- New Business

- a. ADAMH Board Opening

The Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for an ADAMH Board position through February 21. The vacancy is for an open position that will expire in June 2021. We will schedule interviews for the week of February 25.

- b. Worthington Industries

We received a press release from Worthington Industries (attached). Worthington Industries has announced it is closing its Wooster plant and shifting some of the jobs to its Bremen facility. The current estimate is for 60 new jobs for the Bremen facility. Rick Szabrak will be meeting with Worthington Industries officials to ascertain how we can assist them with the hiring process.

- General Correspondence Received (none)
- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)

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- FYI
  - a. Jail Population - 312
  - b. Revised Prosecutor's 2019 FOJ Report
- Open Items (none)

**Executive Session – Pending Litigation**

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment of a public employee at 9:34 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, and representatives from the Prosecutor's Office.

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

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

**Review (continued)**

The Commissioners met at 10:00 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, Commissioner Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, and Amy Brown-Thompson.

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 18, 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, Jeremiah Upp, Aunie Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rick Szabrak, Tony Vogel, Jim Bahnsen, Jeff Barron, Jon Kochis, Lt. Marc Churchill, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Ed Laramée, and Mike Waites.

**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.

Mr. Mike Waites of West Rushville asked that the Commission consider passing a resolution for Fairfield County to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary County to represent a broad voice across the state and join others who have also signed to show support of this concept. He was happy to provide any information that would be helpful.

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**Motion to go out of the Regular Meeting**

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to go out of the Regular Meeting.

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

Mr. Davis explained the practice of the Regular Meeting Public Comments and how the Commissioners do not address the comments to avoid controversial debate during the Regular Meeting. He asked Mr. Waites if he had a draft resolution the Commissioners could view.

Mr. Waites replied that he had a copy of Hocking County's resolution and gave Dr. Brown a copy.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Waites and added that for the Commission to go down this path, it would be inconsistent with its personality over the past ten years.

Mr. Waites replied that he understood and just wanted to present the idea for thought.

Mr. Davis thanked him for sharing information.

**Motion to go return to the Regular Meeting**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to the Regular Meeting.

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

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, February 11, 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, February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

**Approval of the Commissioners' Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution approving an account to account transfer in major object expense category, General Fund #1001; see resolution 2020-02.18.a.

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 Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's Office resolution to allow the Fairfield County Engineer's Office to be the Leibs Island Road Permitting Authority for the Buckeye Lake State Park, Kirkersville Feeder Channel Improvement Project; see resolution 2020-02.18.b.

Discussion: Mr. Upp stated this was for the ODNR project near Buckeye Lake. There is concerns that this project may damage the road that ODNR and the County fixed after the dam improvement project. The township has asked the Engineer to work on their behalf with ODNR and the contractor. This resolution allows the Engineer to oversee the permitting authority for the construction. Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Upp for his leadership.

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

**Approval of the JFS Resolutions**

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

- 2020-02.18.c            A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2018 – Public Assistance Fund - Fairfield County JFS [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.d            A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.e            A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Richmeier Therapeutic Home and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.f            A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Willow Branches of Healing and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.g            A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.h            A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Youth Advocate Services and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.i            A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Fox Run-The Center for Children & Adolescents, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
  
- 2020-02.18.j            A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

Discussion: Ms. Cordle stated a number of the resolutions were for protective placement in network. She thanked the Prosecutor for their help in reviewing all agreements. Mr. Levacy asked if prices had stabilized. Ms. Cordle replied they had not and continue to increase.

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

**Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolutions**

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

- 2020-02.18.k            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Juvenile Court Fund #2408 Drug Court Program Sub Fund #8209 [Juvenile/Probate Court]
  
- 2020-02.18.l            A resolution to approve appropriations from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2076, Indigent Guardianship Fund and a fund to fund transfer (Probate Court) [Juvenile/Probate Court]
  
- 2020-02.18.m            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Fund #2481 Juvenile Recovery Fund (Juvenile Court) [Juvenile/Probate Court]





