

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 23, 2021**

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Jon Kochis, Ray Stemen, and Jeremiah Upp.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, CJ Roberts, Dave Burgei, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Porter, Joshua Horacek, Larry Hanna, Lisa McKenzie, Michael Kaper, Tony Vogel, Jeff Barron, Jason Dolin, Jim Shaw, Tony Howard, Aunie Cordle, Jon Slater, Dennis Keller, Madeline Niceswanger, Nicholas Dilley, Rick Szabrak, Clint Davis, Ian Nickey, Chris Wagner, Brian Hicks, Nikki Drake,

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, updated the Commission on the COVID-19 responses. The call center operations were reviewed. The state's plan for town hall meetings and the communications for the 1b group were reviewed. The review packet contained some materials from the Governor's press conference last week.

Mr. Kochis reported they have had a good week. He thanked departments, especially Utilities and JFS, for their help with the call centers. He reviewed the call center statistics. For this coming week they will have 1,125 vaccines delivered for this week with 663 first doses in that batch. This is better than the best week they have had in the past.

Mr. Davis asked if Pfizer had revised its guidance for the deep freeze.

Mr. Kochis replied there were proposed changes, but they were not approved by the FDA. He also provided the goals for the county looking forward. He believes they will need to look at a new vaccine location to handle the higher number of vaccines given. One location is preferable over two because two locations are stressful on staff.

Mr. Fix asked for an update on the schools.

Mr. Hanna reported that FMC would be vaccinating the schools this week. They would be vaccinating all schools and have already contacted them.

Mr. Fix asked how the clinic went in Pickerington.

Ms. Fyffe replied it went very well. They vaccinated 160 in four hours. The location does not allow for much more in that amount of time.

Mr. Kochis added that the Violet clinic will work well for special needs individuals.

Mr. Davis asked what the current number of first dose vaccinations were.

Mr. Kochis replied they have 17,450 people who have started the first dose.

Dr. Brown thanked the Health Department for updating their website which includes helpful information about registration and locations for the vaccinations.

Mr. Davis asked if Fairfield County would know if a variant arrived in Fairfield County.

Mr. Kochis replied it is his understanding that Ohio State monitors the test results from across the spectrum.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 23, 2021**

Mr. Levacy stated that the flags are lowered now in memory of the 500,000 people who have passed away from COVID.

Mr. Kochis added that the 80+ age group has reached the 60% vaccination level for the population. He believes this is a positive sign.

- Legal Update

Ms. Brown-Thompson did not have a legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements

Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov or (740) 777-8552

Dates/Events of Interest

February 23 - Commissioner Levacy – Commissioner Connection video (today)  
 March 9 - DD Lunch n Learn  
 March 14-20 - Sunshine Week  
 March 15 - Highlighting Public Records Training (Commission Offices have completed)  
 March 17 - St. Patrick's Day breakfast and food drive at JFS (7:30 am)  
 March 23 - EMA Lunch n Learn  
 March 30 - Commissioner Fix – Commissioner Connection video

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted the six resolutions now on the voting agenda.

We proposed approval of proclamations.

There were five *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- Memo transactions by operation of law for reimbursement for JFS funds;
- Memo transactions for the ARC GIS online program;
- A fund-to-fund transfer of appropriations for project accounting of the County Engineer;
- Non general fund appropriations for the FCFACF accounting; and
- An account to account transfer of appropriations & a fund to fund transfer for an allocation for the Law Library Board - Fairfield County Commissioners; this resolution increases the allocation planned for the Law Library by \$25,000, based on the lack of fines in 2020, which are expected to increase in again ensuing years; the Law Library contracted services supports the attorneys who are employed by the county, such as with the Prosecutor and the Child Support Enforcement Agency; the resolution does not increase the overall budget of the general fund.

There were financial and contracting resolutions (and administrative approvals) in queue.

There is one resolution to add on should the Commissioners desire to do so. This resolution would increase the budget for allocations as requested by the City of Pickerington and the Buckeye Lake Region Corporation.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 23, 2021**

a. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Updates

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

Dr. Brown will be leading a work group meeting for IT strategies today.

Budget Update

We previously reported that for January, *general fund revenues* increased about 6% while expenditures decreased 14%, as compared to the previous year. The reduction in expenses is impacted by the timing of payroll dates. Without that payroll timing difference, the expenditures are relatively flat, not considering accruals.

County Auditor reports show consistent data for this. Sales tax revenues as of the end of February were up 6.2% for the year compared to the previous year. Conveyance fees were down about \$25K. We also previously reported on casino revenues:

*With casino revenues* for February (for activity of October – December 2020) which have been received. They were \$457,414, similar to 2019 (October – December of 2018) and just below 2020 (October – December of 2019) – and on target for the projected \$1.75 M for the calendar year.

There is no change recommended to the projections.

In thinking about sales tax, we *projected an increase of 3%* for the calendar year of 2021. We realize there are multiple variables impacting consumer behavior. The latest information shows *non-auto sales tax* for December sales received in March for Fairfield County is relatively flat, with an increase of .33%, whereas the state experienced a decrease of .06%. The preliminary auto sales tax data for Fairfield for December received by counties in March shows a decrease of about 4%, or a drop of about \$16 K in this category, as compared to the prior year.

We will monitor all categories.

We are also monitoring the federal legislation for pandemic *relief funds* for local governments.

We are aware of the efforts to *increase the future reimbursement percentage* to counties for indigent defense. Dr. Brown commented on the proposed legislative changes regarding indigent defense reimbursement.

Mr. Davis reviewed the draft language of ORC 120.04 which contains a proposal from the Ohio Public Defenders office to State Rep LaRe's committee. Mr. Davis is not 100% clear on what the intent of the changes are, but he expressed concern to Rep. LaRe of granting the Ohio Public Defender's Office any more power than they already have. He is skeptical of any additional power or authority due to the experience within the last few years of them working against the county's financial interest, so why would the county want them to have any more power or authority?

Mr. Levacy spoke with Rep. LaRe yesterday regarding the same issue. He echoed Mr. Davis' thoughts. Mr. Levacy believes provision of counsel for those who are indigent is a constitutional issue and should be addressed appropriately.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 23, 2021**

b. BRAVOs

Thank you to the leadership of the Law Library Board for dedicating a reading room to Judge Chris Martin.

Thanks to the RPC for increasing communications with developers and stakeholders.

BRAVO to everyone with WIOA, Economic Development, and JFS who worked so hard for a successful virtual job fair on February 18. There were 30 employers and 60+ job seekers participating. We are told this is the most successful showing in the area. We conducted outreach and made referrals from a variety of places. There will be additional virtual and company specific job fairs in the future.

Great job to the Workforce Center for the courses that are being held at the Center. We viewed a picture of a tiny house being built by students of construction.

Thank you to JFS, Utilities, and many county volunteers who are supporting the call center and vaccination clinics.

Congratulations to Kristi Burre on her appointment to the Governor's Cabinet as the Director of Children's Initiatives.

• Old Business

a. Commissioner Communications

Mr. Davis stated the CCAO Tax Policy Committee is evaluating whether or not CCAO should lean into some proposed changes that would affect the Community Investment Act. He sent this info to Mr. Szabrak for his review as well. Mr. Davis will be advocating that the County support the proposed changes to the legislation in order to remain in the conversation.

Mr. Szabrak explained how the legislation would help Fairfield County.

Commissioner Levacy attended a webinar for elder abuse prevention with the Attorney General's Office.

There was a teleconference hosted by CCAO with the Governor on Friday, February 19, 2021. The main topic was the state's plans for town hall meetings and other vaccination communications.

Commissioner Fix has participated in strategic planning sessions with CCAO. The two main topics discussed were indigent defense reimbursement and the requirement for County Engineers to have surveyor and engineer licenses.

The CCAO legislative platform was in the review packet.

Mr. Upp thanked Mr. Fix for his comments, and Mr. Fix commented on how he appreciated Mr. Upp's services and skills.

Mr. Fix and Mr. Davis will be participating in the elected officials' roundtable on Wednesday morning with the Pickerington Chamber.

Commissioner Davis connected with the team at Gorsuch West Elementary School and commented on how teachers can be encouraging to children who are experiencing strife at home.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 23, 2021**

- New Business

- a. Request from the City of Pickerington

Commissioner Fix described a request from the City of Pickerington for \$25,000 (1/3 of a share of a study that costs \$70,000 + \$5,000 in expenses) for the City of Pickerington to contract for a market analysis, planning session, detailed financial forecast, economic impact analysis, and feasibility report for a project the City of Pickerington is leading for the creation of a sports, fitness, civic, recreation, and entertainment destination in Pickerington, Ohio.

Dr. Brown reported a resolution for new appropriations for an allocation to the City of Pickerington can be added later in the day. The review packet contained a proposal to the City of Pickerington regarding the study.

Mr. Levacy and Mr. Davis supported the idea to study this idea and look forward to the results of the study.

- General Correspondence Received

CFLP agendas were provided to the Commissioners.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- a. Virtual TID Meeting – Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. (Rick Szabrak will attend)
  - b. CCAO Budget Briefing Webinar – Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 208
  - b. CCAO Legislative Platform
  - c. Greenfield Township Notice to Vacate Alleys (formal documents are still needed)
  - d. COAAA Report

- Open Items (None)

### **Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 beginning at 9:44 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Ray Stemen, and Jon Kochis.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Brian Hicks, Chris Wagner, CJ Roberts, Clinton Davis, Aunie Cordle, Dave Burgei, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Jim Shaw, Jon Slater, Joshua Horacek, Michael Kaper, Nikki Drake, Rick Szabrak, and Yaromir Steiner.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **Announcements**

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were any announcements. There were no announcements.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 23, 2021**

**Public Comment**

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

Mr. Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster spoke of national political concerns, and he encouraged lawmakers to do things that will positively effect citizens. He also spoke in support of Ohio HB 62.

**Approval of Minutes for Thursday, February 16, 2021**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Thursday, February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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

**Approval of the Auditor's Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve Auditor's resolution authorizing a memo expense memo receipt for reimbursement of agency share of ArcGIS Online License feed for fund 2443 – GIS Department; see resolution 2021-02.23.a.

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

**Approval of the Commissioners' Resolutions**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' resolutions:

- 2021-02.23.b            A resolution authorizing the approval of proclamations. [Commissioners]
- 2021-02.23.c            A resolution authorizing an account-to-account transfer within a major expenditure object category & a fund to fund transfer for an allocation for the Law Library Board - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Levacy spoke of the importance of the proclamations. The DD proclamation will be presented at the March 9<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Learn.

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

**Approval of the Engineer's Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 7790 for general consulting fees and future projects; see resolution 2021-02.23.d.

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

**Approval of the Family, Adult, and Children First Council Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolution to appropriate from

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**February 23, 2021**

unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund #7521, subfund #8232; see resolution 2021-02.23.e.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the JFS Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the JFS resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund WIOA 2599 reimbursing Fund 2018; see resolution 2021-02.23.f.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Commissioner Levacy stated at 9:54 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the meeting with Buckeye Lake representatives.

**Meeting with Buckeye Lake Region Corporation and SWCD Advocates**

The Commissioners met at 10:04 a.m. with members of the Buckeye Lake Region Corporation and SWCD advocates. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jeremiah Upp, and Jon Kochis.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Brian Hicks, Chris Wagner, Clinton Davis, Aunie Cordle, Dave Burgei, Dennis Keller, Ian Nickey, Jeff Barron, Jon Slater, Jonathan Ferbrache, Joshua Horacek, May Leppert, Michael Kaper, Mike Fornataro, Rick Szabrak, Kari Mackenbach, and Yaromir Steiner.

Representatives of the Buckeye Lake Region Corporation, SWCD, and others described a project to improve the region. Licking County will likely be a lead applicant for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program to further the project. The BRIC grant is a FEMA grant, and the project will be to mitigate flooding in the Buckeye Lake region, specifically around I-70. There are multiple partners working on the project.

Kari Mackenbach is the Director of Sustainability with MS Consultants, and she prepared a fact sheet about the project. This fact sheet was in the review packet.

Licking County has provided a commitment of \$20,000 for a study to support the project and grant application.

The partners are seeking the same level of support from Fairfield County (the support for the request was originally \$10,000, but the cost of the study has resulted in the new request of \$20,000.)

A resolution for new appropriations for an allocation for this purpose can be added for voting. Commissioner Levacy clarified the resolution and decision today was about the support for the study.

It is anticipated that ODOT will be on board with the project potentially fulfilling grant match requirements.

**Approval of the Commissioners' Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolutions to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major expenditure object category – Fairfield County Economic Development; see resolution 2021-02.23.g.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2021  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
February 23, 2021**

**Meeting with Dean Jarrod Tudor with Ohio University-Lancaster**

The Commissioners met at 10:30 a.m. with Dean Tudor of OU-L. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, and Jeremiah Upp.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Chris Wagner, Clinton Davis, Aunie Cordle, Dave Burgei, Dennis Keller, Jarrod Tudor, Jeff Barron, and Jon Slater.

Dean Jarrod Tudor met with the Commission to discuss projects and the future of Ohio University Lancaster. He has been connecting with Rick Szabrak and others with the Workforce Center committees. He is excited about the future of Ohio University Lancaster and appreciates the warm welcome he has had in the community. Commissioner Fix and Rick Szabrak are participating in a work group to review the future of the Ohio University Pickerington's campus.

Mr. Tudor announced they are working on two nursing programs (a four-year program in Lancaster and two-year program in Pickerington). He would also like to reboot the Pickerington campus as it has not been performing as it should. They have formed an external workgroup to determine what the Pickerington Center should be.

Mr. Levacy spoke highly of the proposed nursing programs.

Mr. Fix echoed Mr. Levacy's comments about Dean Tudor's energy and enthusiasm.

Mr. Davis stated he felt good about the foundation that was laid prior to Dean Tudor's arrival and looks forward to the brighter path of Dean Tudor's leadership.

Dean Tudor stated the regional campus was the size of New Hampshire geographically and North Dakota in terms of population.

Mr. Levacy thanked Dean Tudor for his time and offered the Commission's help in any way needed.

**Open Items**

Dr. Brown expressed her condolences towards Mary Green at the passing of her husband.





