

**Regular Meeting #9 - 2021**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 2, 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, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Jeff Porter, Chris Wagner, Ray Stemen, and Sheriff Lape.

Attending virtually were: Lisa McKenzie, Tony Howard, Tony Vogel, Donna Fox-Moore, Jim Bahnsen, Dennis Keller, Larry Hanna, Dave Burgei, Jeff Barron, Joshua Horacek, Rick Szabrak, Aunie Cordle, Shannon Carter, Park Russell, Jeremiah Upp, Stacy Hicks, Randy Carter, Nikki Drake, and CJ Roberts.

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, updated the Board of Commissioners on COVID-19 responses. Members of the Health Department were also present and provided general updates. Mr. Kochis reported the weekend case total was 27 cases. They continue to monitor the biggest testing organization, FMC. Mr. Hanna provided an update about the spike in viral load in the wastewater treatment plants.

Mr. Davis asked what the “color code” of the state’s advisory system was currently for Fairfield County.

Mr. Kochis replied it was red and would be red until we have under 100 cases for two weeks in a row, averaging 22 cases a day.

Mr. Hanna provided an update on the number of vaccines distributed each week. When they move to the mall next week that number will go up significantly. With the increase in vaccines, they are seeing a need for more help in the call center.

Mr. Kochis provided more details on the mall location. They are preparing to distribute 1,200 vaccines a day at that location. This would classify the county as a Type 2 Pod nationally (just next to a metropolitan designation). The Commissioners are leading the charge on the location through the Stafford Act.

Mr. Kochis added there are approximately 9,000 individuals 65 and older who have signed up to be vaccinated but have not received the vaccine yet.

The review packet contained fact sheets and notices about the state town hall meetings about vaccinations. The fact sheets are on the state website and have been useful communication tools.

We are aware that banquet settings are permitted to hold events with reduced capacity. We reviewed some additional announcements from the Governor’s press conference.

Soon, the vaccination clinics will be moving to the River Valley Mall. The lease has been executed for space from March 1, 2021, through August 30, 2021. Dr. Brown had already approved the lease, which is at a reasonable rate of \$1,000 monthly (lower than current costs).

Mr. Davis and Mr. Fix expressed concern on falling behind in registering people to get their vaccine once they have the option (it is their turn) and as supply exceeds demand.

Mr. Hanna reported that Ms. Krile is working on a campaign plan now. Mr. Hanna will provide the details of the plan as soon as available. He will provide that to Dr. Brown.

Mr. Kochis added that the hardest part of the response is to convince people that the vaccine is safe.

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Mr. Kochis provided details on the needs at the call center and what specific qualifications the callers need to have. He and Dr. Brown will arrange for additional volunteers for Thursday clinics in March.

Dr. Varney provided a letter of encouragement for those who are offered the vaccination to take the vaccination. This letter can be used in a variety of communications.

On a related note, we have supported the Health Department on their posting of a Health Commissioner position by drafting a posting, adding graphics, posting with our systems, and paying for the Indeed costs. We will provide applicant information to the Department of Health.

Congratulations to Larry Hanna on his pending retirement. We are certain there will be a proper time to celebrate this occasion.

We have also supported the Health Department on their posting of an Environmental Health Director. Copies of the postings were in the review packet.

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

The video from Commissioner Levacy was posted last week. We have received positive comments.

Dates/Events of Interest

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

The State of the County Address is scheduled for September 28 at the WigWam.

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 24 resolutions for the voting meeting.

The County Engineer proposed awarding two contracts for bridge replacements (in Violet and Green Townships) and proposed advertising for crack sealing and pavement marking projects, as well as approval of drawings for Refugee Road improvements.

JFS proposed approval of a contract renewal for protective placement in network.

RPC proposed a resolution to approve the Violet Meadows Section 5 Phase 2 Final Plat.

We proposed a resolution to schedule the viewing and hearing for a petition to vacate four alleys in Havensport.

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There were 16 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- Interest credits for various political subdivisions;
- Six resolutions for memo transactions, appropriations, and fund to fund transfers for Engineer projects;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for EMA and FCFACF;
- Four reimbursements to the PA fund;
- A new advance for EMA (with appropriations)-and- the repayment of an advance by Juvenile Court; and
- An account-to-account transfer of appropriations for an IT emergency need of equipment (this does not increase the budget, but there could be increases in 2021 proposed based on short term needs of IT).

There were resolutions (and administrative approvals) in queue. For example, we will be proposing a resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee to fund Wolfe Brothers Diesel as an (RLF-EDA) Project.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Updates

- *Administrative Approvals*

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

- *Idea for a Billboard for Ohio Means Jobs*

After hearing (yet again) about the misunderstanding about available jobs in the county, Dr. Brown suggested a billboard for Ohio Means Jobs with a local message. There are available jobs in Fairfield County, and there are fewer applicants than there are jobs. If there is a need for financial support for this effort, Dr. Brown will report back.

Mr. Levacy and Mr. Fix were in support of the idea. Mr. Davis abstained from the discussion.

- *Idea Box*

Here is a summary for February 2021 for the Idea Box:

Idea 47:

An employee suggested having the email display name (within an email address) include a middle initial as opposed to middle name for security reasons.

Response:

The County Auditor alerted payroll officers that going forward they can input only the middle initial for formal records. (The email display is a function of the payroll record.)

If there are employees who would like a change in their existing displayed name, they can alert their payroll officer who can make that change working with the County Auditor's Office. Thanks for the idea!

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Idea 48:

There was an idea for an additional coat rack at the fitness center (at the Records Center on Chestnut Street) based on increasing usage.

Response:

HR will order a mobile coat rack for the lobby and will send some friendly reminders to employees, too, regarding the use of the fitness equipment.

Thanks for the idea.

Idea 49:

In general, can the Commission target a 5:30 am deadline for closing buildings due to weather as some people arrive at work at 7 am?

Response:

Yes, the Commission can target a 5:30 am deadline for closing building due to weather, although there could be circumstances to arise that would require a later closing. It is a good opportunity to remind everyone that the EMA Emergency Notification System will be utilized to communicate any closure information. This system utilizes the most up to date employee contact information that is captured in the MUNIS system. This includes cell phones and home phones. Notifications will also be made in the media and on the website. Please also stay in touch with your supervisor.

49 ideas have been received in the electronic idea box. 48 of those ideas have been implemented and/or addressed in detail. An idea under review with IT: A recommendation from January 2020 was presented to IT and to the Data Board, as well. This is under review. It related to password processes. IT is reviewing options and is not ready for the funding of this effort.

- *Technology Strategic Planning*

The first *IT strategic planning work group meeting* yielded some initial summaries regarding mid-term needs for supplemental reporting, conference room upgrades, a court case management system, a public safety system, phone upgrades, and infrastructure needs.

Some infrastructure needs were immediate (hence a resolution for an account-to-account transfer of appropriations for an unanticipated emergency). There may be additional resolutions this year for maintenance type projects. There were other infrastructure needs, but those were not as much of an emergency. The 2021 budget for IT did not include the emergency needs recently discovered as managers were staying within parameters during the pandemic.

Outside of this specific need, the work group will be identifying the costs anticipated over a four-year period. It is reasonable to think of the first year to be about \$3M, with the ensuring three years about \$2M, but the research is very much in its initial stages with only one work group meeting.

There will be at least some support from other funds, outside of the general fund, such as with the 911 related equipment.

Dr. Brown thanked the members of the work group: Dan Neeley, Mark Conrad, Jay Matlin, and LeAnna Schaffer. There may be others to join the work group.

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- *Records Center Work Group Meeting*

The Records Center Work Group met last week and focused on ways to encourage compliance with procedures in the future. A project-based contract for services is possible in the future to help further this effort, creating a manual and offering training.

- *Letter of Support Provided*

Upon request, a letter of support was provided to Ms. Teri Mecionis regarding the naming of a section of highway SR 158 in memory of Sgt. Joseph Collette. The letter was in the review packet.

Budget Update

- There are no recommendations for changes to the 2021 estimates. A letter describing *parameters for 2022* is in progress.
- We are monitoring the federal legislation for pandemic *relief funds* for local governments. There is no additional news to report.
- We are aware of the efforts to *increase the future reimbursement percentage* to counties for indigent defense. We are monitoring state legislation.
- We are also aware of the state's effort to improve *broadband access* in general, but we need more information about how there could be impact to Fairfield County. There have been a few calls and emails about Internet access lacking (or being very slow) in pockets of Fairfield County.

d. BRAVOs

At last count, *the HVAC training* at the Workforce Center was up to 11, a great outcome for this initial training!

From Mark Conrad, thanks to everyone involved in preparing for *the vaccination clinics*. We continue to thank the many volunteers.

Bravo to *Dennis Keller*, Facilities Manager, for quickly responding to a public records request!

**Executive Session – The Employment and Compensation of Public Officials**

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment and compensation of public officials at 9:37 a.m.

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

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 Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 9:57 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

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**Review (continued)**

The Commissioners met at 9:57 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, Jon Kochis, Jeff Porter, Ray Stemen, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Jim Bahnsen, and Melissa Wilde.

Attending virtually were: Chris Wagner, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, and Joshua Horacek.

- **Old Business**

- a. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Fix and Commissioner Davis reported on their positive experiences with the *Pickerington Chamber hosting of individual elected officials at a roundtable discussion* on current topics of interest for the county.

Several people and the Commissioners attended the *virtual State of the City of Lancaster* address (last Thursday) and the CCAO webinar on the state budget (last Friday).

Following the approval of the appropriations dedicated for the feasibility study for the City of Pickerington project, there were a few phone calls/email contacts about the effort. It was reiterated that there was 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.

*The county resolution was solely for new appropriations for an allocation to the City of Pickerington to support a feasibility study.*

Mr. Fix commented that the project was one that is not publicly funded for construction.

Mr. Fix provided an update on his meeting with State Representative Marilyn John who is supportive of CCAO.

Mr. Fix commented on the enthusiasm for a new government services center in the Pickerington/Violet Township area.

Mr. Davis provided an update on the CCAO Tax Policy Committee meeting from last week.

- **New Business**

- a. Meals on Wheels Levy Budget

Anna Tobin dropped off an annual report to the community describing services and delivered the proposed levy budget for 2022 on February 26, 2021. The packet of materials from Meals on Wheels was in the review packet. There were no questions posed at this time.

- **General Correspondence Received**

- a. RPC Packets for March 2<sup>nd</sup>

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- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)
- FYI
  - a. Jail Population – 218
  - b. DACO Exhibition – Distinctly Paramount: Fashion & Costume from the Paramount Pictures Archive (opening June 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Open Items (None)

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2021 beginning at 10:06 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea,

Attending virtually were:

**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.

**Public Comment**

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

**Approval of Minutes for Thursday, February 23, 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 23, 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 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:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2021-03.02.a | A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865, – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-03.02.b | A resolution approving an account to account transfer in major object expense category, General Fund# 1001 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]   |
| 2021-03.02.c | A resolution to consider a petition to vacate a portion of public roads, Main Street, Columbus Street, Greenfield Street, and Water Street, and establish a viewing and hearing date.   |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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**Approval of the Emergency Management Agency Resolutions**

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

- 2021-03.02.d      A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the general fund to EMA – Fund EMA 2649 (subfund 8262) Fairfield County Public Assistance Stafford Grant for response to COVID-19, increase receipts, and appropriate from unappropriated funds [EMA]
- 2021-03.02.e      A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for EMA Fund 2707 (Subfund 8183) Emergency Management Performance Grant [EMA]

Discussion: Mr. Davis spoke regarding his opinion regarding supply and demand relating to the vaccinations. He believes EMA is doing a great job and his opinions are not meant to be negative with anything going on. He appreciates the work they are doing. Dr. Brown provided an update as she received notice that the communications plan would be made available later in the day, and she anticipated approving that contract for services today. Once the Health Department reviews it, they will add the dashboard aspect just as we had in the mask-up campaign. She also thanked EMA for their help with the Stafford Act management (as it related to the resolution proposed). Mr. Levacy added that he thought it was great that they were able to use the mall location.

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

**Approval of the Engineer's Resolutions**

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

- 2021-03.02.f      A Resolution to Approve Advertising for the 2021 Crack Seal Project [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.g      A Resolution to Approve the Construction Drawings for the FAI-CR7-3.409 Refugee Road at Springcreek Drive Intersection Improvement Project. [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.h      A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 33A/Election House [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.i      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for equipment repairs and maintenance. [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.j      A resolution of increase appropriations, appropriate from unappropriate, account to account and fund to fund transfer for GRE-03 bridge replacement project [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.k      A resolution of increase appropriations, appropriate from unappropriate, account to account and fund to fund transfer for VIO-46 bridge replacement project [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.l      A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 BER-34 Guardrail Improvements [Engineer]



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- 2021-03.02.m      A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the VIO-46 FAI-TR1438-0.376 Village Way over Sycamore Creek Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.n      A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3434 BLO-35 Bridge Replacement Project [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.o      A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the GRE-03 FAI-T114-0.610 Carroll Eastern Road NW Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer]
- 2021-03.02.p      A Resolution to Approve Advertising for the 2021 Pavement Markings Project. [Engineer]

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 approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category for the Fund #7521, subfund #8232 Ohio Department of Medicaid/Multi System Youth; see resolution 2021-03.02.q.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the JFS Resolutions**

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

- 2021-03.02.r      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2021-03.02.s      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2021-03.02.t      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2021-03.02.u      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2021-03.02.v      A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Fox Run Hospital, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Juvenile/Probate Court resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund #2856 Child Abuse & Neglect Discretionary Fund (QIC); see resolution 2021-03.02.w.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Regional Planning Commission to approve the Violet Meadows Section 5 Phase 2 Final Plat; see resolution 2021-03.02.x.

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.

**Additional Open Items**

Mr. Davis discussed a call Dr. Brown received regarding the increase in focus in the Northern part of the county. He wanted to bring to the discussion that the Commission has not had the geographical bent nor do they now. He believes it is time to evaluate the service levels to the Northwest in a way not previously done.

Dr. Brown stated that Mr. Janoso would be meeting at JFS. The meeting would be taped and shared with individuals as part of the educational effort.

Mr. Stemen expressed his concern that a lot of things are being done out of fear. A lot of this is being put on everyone with COVID-19 - such as masking and how it is responded to, in his opinion. He realizes COVID-19 is dangerous, but the statistics he sees, there have not been flu deaths over the year (from his perspective), but the CDC is now redoing the numbers to show more deaths (in his opinion). Mr. Stemen was concerned there is too much shooting from the hip.

Mr. Davis replied that he appreciated Mr. Stemen's thoughts. He has talked to many who have opinions on the virus either way, but the bridge for a small business owner is to understand how the other half is viewing the situation if they want them to be a continuing part of the operations. As a Commissioner, he believes we are much better off getting the economy back on track to be a part of that bridge.

Mr. Levacy expressed his desire to get through the pandemic and then evaluate the conspiracy theories and other theories to see what was correct and what could have been done better. He commented has had friends pass away from this, and it is a very serious disease.



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