

Regular Meeting #10 - 2021
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 9, 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: Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Joshua Horacek, Tiffany Nash, Stephanie Fyffe, and Jon Kochis.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, CJ Roberts, Aunie Cordle, Dave Burgei, Rick Szabrak, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Lisa McKenzie, Lynette Barnhart, Michael Kaper, Nikki Drake, Thomas Lininger, Tony Howard, Tony Vogel, Jeff Porter, Stacy Hicks, Madeline Niceswanger, Hannah Heimberger, Dennis Keller, Jeremiah Upp, Jason Dolin, Shanna Nash, and other callers.

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, updated the Commission on COVID-19 responses.

There are still around 5,500 people who are over the age of 50 who have been called multiple times to schedule COVID vaccination appointments without luck.

Ms. Nash and Ms. Fyffe provided an update on the expected influx of available doses.

Ms. Nash explained what help they need as the number of doses increase. They are looking for help cleaning and more individuals to help distribute the vaccines. They need more volunteers. County employees have been volunteering, but they need more volunteers for the clinics.

Mr. Kochis stated there are a dozen or more EMS staff who are assisting with the vaccinating.

County volunteers have pulled together to staff the call center on Thursdays in March and the first part of April, as needed. Thanks to EMA, Commissioners, JFS, Utilities, the Clerk of Courts, the Engineer, the County Auditor, and others for helping so much with the call center.

The mall location is ready for the clinics (beginning today!), and we shared some pictures of the space. Thanks to JFS for allowing us to borrow cubicle walls not in use at this time at their building.

The vaccination communication plan deliverables were approved by the Board of Health on March 2, 2021. The agreement with Krile Communications (by the Commission on behalf of the Board of Health) was approved on March 2, 2021.

The vaccination communication plan will be similar to the mask up plan with a message to encourage people to accept the vaccination when it is offered to them. There will be educational aspects about where to go to obtain information from trusted sources, too.

We also provided a suggestion for a short message through the Fairfield Alert system:

*Did you know you can register for the COVID-19 vaccination now?
You can do this even before it is your turn.
Call the health department at 740-652-2800 or 614-322-5245 or go to www.myfdh.org.
When your turn comes, you will be contacted.*

This message may need to be altered based on logistics, but the idea of reaching out will remain.

We offered to help with answering phones at the Health Department by acquiring temporary services. They have accepted the offer and will be obtaining temporaries, which the county will cover.

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Last week, Governor DeWine announced that when Ohio reaches 50 cases per 100,000 people for two weeks, all health orders will be lifted.

A mailer card will be created and sent to residents encouraging everyone to register for the vaccination now.

- 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

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 reported on 12 resolutions for the voting meeting.

JFS proposed a contract for protective placement in network.

The County Engineer proposed approval of the contract bid award for the AMA-33 FAI-C.R. 6-0.79 Cedar Hill Road Bridge Replacement Project.

Economic and Workforce Development proposed 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.

We proposed the appointment of Staci Knisley as Acting Clerk during the FML of Rachel Elsea, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

(Congratulations to the Elsea Family as they prepare to welcome a new baby.)

There were 8 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- A planned allocation for the Soil and Water Conservation District;
- Authorization of the subordination FY 2008 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) per grant terms and conditions;
- Appropriations for the self-funded insurance fund and a Juvenile Court special revenue fund;
- An account-to-account transfer for the Sheriff's Office, for a special revenue fund to properly classify expenditures;
- Two repayments of advances; and
- The payment of bills.

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

For example, there is an agreement between Fairfield County, the City of Pickerington, and Braun Holdings Graystone, LLC, relating to the intersection of Refugee Road and Springcreek Drive in queue. This agreement is in the process of being approved to form. All such agreements are approved by the County Engineer and the County Commission.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Updates

The review packet contained a list of *administrative approvals*. The agreement for services for the plan for the vaccination communications was signed on March 2, 2021. The Board of Health is the first point of contact and will approve invoices. The Commission is funding the services on behalf of the Board of Health.

Billboards to communicate that there are jobs available in Fairfield County have been approved and are in progress. The message is that there are jobs in Fairfield County (with pay of about \$33K annually) available right now, and Ohio Means Jobs is ready to help.

We have already processed the allocations for festivals as usual and within the approved 2021 budget through Economic Development. We have confirmed that each festival (Lancaster and Pickerington) will be following the protocols for pandemic safeguarding, and we look forward to the festivals. We would like to provide a time of discussion *about eagerness for the festivals*, as we know there is a lot of energy surrounding them. The Lancaster Festival has recently been in the media about the adjustments they have made in order to present a great event for the community.

Commissioner Fix and Commissioner Levacy expressed their support of the Lancaster Festival and are eager for the events.

We are ready for *Sunshine Week*! A press release announcing Sunshine Week will be issued on Friday, March 12. The proclamation will be displayed. We have press releases all throughout next week planned from Facilities (announcing our projects to improve air quality as part of a response to the pandemic), Economic and Workforce Development (updating on recent workforce plans), JFS (announcing Child Abuse Prevention awareness), EMA (announcing storm awareness), and the Clerk of Courts (announcing a grant related project for fingerprinting). There might be a press release for the April 24th Earth Day event, too. We will also be encouraging supervisors and employees to take the online Sunshine Law training which is required for elected officials or designees. Designees of the Commission have already taken the training. The training is a good one to improve knowledge about Sunshine Law.

The *Environmental Stewardship* committee met on Thursday, March 4. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, contact Dennis Keller, Facilities Manager. There was discussion about various projects and the Earth Day event on April 24th at Rising Park at noon. The benches from bottlecaps will be part of the new arboretum at Rising Park on Orchard Hill. All are welcome to participate. The event will be from noon – 4pm.

We are exploring placing a *recycling trailer* at the Workforce Center.

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In 2020, the Community Action Recycling Center processed 7,253,073 pounds of recycled materials. Below is a breakdown by source.

Recycling Center (Materials Recycled in Pounds)	Residential Drop-off	5,117,746
	Schools/Govt	279,495
	Commercial	966,447
	Industries	206,865
	MRF Buyback	186,010
	Shredding	326,585
	Special Events	800
	MRF Drop-off	169,125
	Total Recycled Materials	7,253,073

Dr. Brown highlighted information about a quote to further one relatively small project of the IT Strategies Work Group. The quote was for \$35,577 to implement *electronic signatures*. This would require additional appropriations (which the commissioners generally favored but would require a resolution) and an implementation/training plan from IT. Once the plan is ready, the resolution for the appropriations will be presented.

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. The Senate passed federal legislation. There is some language about *lost revenue* which could equate to about \$500,000 for the general fund. We do not know the procedures yet, and it is too soon to count on this, but we are monitoring the information to come from the US Treasury. We have also brainstormed about a number of different new services to help with recovery following the pandemic in this same context, with a significant amount of funds to be used through 2024, we believe. These are allocations to come directly to counties.

As of the end of February, revenues are up nearly 5% and expenditures are down almost 13%, from a general fund perspective. There is a payroll timing difference with expenditures, but there are no timing differences with revenues.

We are aware of the efforts to *increase the future reimbursement percentage* to counties for indigent defense. We are monitoring state legislation for this and other aspects of funding that relate to county operations.

Mr. Fix asked if it was a State law that the budget had to be done every year, or could it be done every other year?

Dr. Brown replied an approved budget needed to be accomplished every year, and appropriations are for a calendar year.

Mr. Fix also expressed appreciation for Rep. Stewart and Rep. LaRe for their support of 100% reimbursement to counties for indigent attorney fees.

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d. BRAVOs

Thanks to employees for volunteering to help with the call center and to their supervisors for allowing this. This is a critical need, and we sincerely appreciate the leadership.

Thanks to Dennis Keller for finding the attractive solar lights at the parking lot on Main in between Amstutz and the County Auditor Real Estate Offices.

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Communications

Mr. Fix was pleased to have been invited to the Lancaster Rotary and is now a member. Also, the most recent CCAO Strategic Planning Committee meeting Mr. Fix attended went really well. Mr. Fix thanked CCAO for their organization and advocacy for counties.

Dr. Brown thanked the National Association of Counties for their leadership on the federal level in promoting federal legislation going directly to the counties as opposed to passing such allocations through the states first. She recently attended a webinar hosted by NACo about recent federal legislation.

- New Business

- General Correspondence Received

- a. Liquor Permit for Buckeye Beach Park (sent to Sheriff Lape for review)

- b. Liquor Permit for Sims Corner Co (sent to Sheriff Lape for review)

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 221

- b. RPC Procedures Fact Sheets

- c. OMJ Center RFP Press Release

- d. Violet Township Zoning Notice

- Open Items

Mr. Levacy would like to see the name on the tower of the Workforce Center changed or the tower painted. Dr. Brown replied that new signage was ordered. As for the water tower, a little more time is needed for evaluation as the tower itself may not remain (it is not needed structurally). There could be signage on top of the building in the future, though.

Mr. Kochis provided an update on a program that Fairfield County has been awarded under Ms. Nash's leadership at the Department of Health.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 beginning at 9:48 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Tiffany Nash, Amy Brown-Thompson, and Joshua Horacek.

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Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, CJ Roberts, Dave Burgei, Dennis Keller, Hannah Heimberger, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Jeremiah Upp, Lisa McKenzie, Lynette Barnhart, Madeline Niceswanger, Michael Kaper, Nikki Drake, Shanna Nash, Rick Szabrak, Thomas Lininger, Tony Howard, and Tony Vogel.

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, March 3, 2021

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Thursday, March 3, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy
Absent: 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' resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2021-03.09.a | A resolution to approve the appointment of an Acting Clerk for the Board of County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-03.09.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories for the Fund# 5376 - Fairfield County Human Resources [Commissioners] |
| 2021-03.09.c | A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the 2nd half 2021 Allocation for Soil & Water -Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-03.09.d | A resolution authorizing the subordination FY 2008 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) for Glenna D. Ankrom [Community Action] |

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

Approval of the Economic Development Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic Development 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; see resolution 2021-03.09.e.

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak stated this was a business in Carroll that was looking for long term viability and expansion.

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

Approval of the Engineer's Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's resolution to approve the contract bid award for the AMA-33 FAI-C.R.6-0.79 Cedar Hill Road Bridge Replacement Project; see resolution 2021-03.09.f.

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

Approval of the JFS Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the JFS resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Richmeier Therapeutic Home, Child Protective Services Department; see resolution 2021-03.09.g.

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

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2021-03.09.h | A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund #2856 Child Abuse & Neglect Discretionary Fund (QIC)[JUVENILE COURT] [Juvenile/Probate Court] |
| 2021-03.09.i | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Juvenile Court Fund #2036 Department of Youth Services (reclaim) [Juvenile/Probate Court] |

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

Approval of the Sheriff's Office Resolutions

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

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2021-03.09.j | A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund (Fund 2394 CFLP Solid Waste District) [Sheriff] |
| 2021-03.09.k | A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer Fund 2394 CFLP Litter Enforcement [Sheriff] |

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

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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 2021-03.09.1.

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated the payments were for reimbursements well under \$100,000, but because the reimbursement was for her own continuing professional education, it was brought before the Board for approval.

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

Additional Open Items

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:54 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.


Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____
that the March 9, 2021 minutes were approved by the following vote:


YEAS:
ABSTENTIONS: None
*Approved on March 16, 2021


~~NA~~YS: None

YEAS:
ABSTENTIONS: None
*Approved on March 16, 2021

NAYS: None


Steven A. Davis
Commissioner


Dave Levacy
Commissioner


Jeff Fix
Commissioner

Rachel A. Elsea
Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk