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, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Jon Kochis, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Larry Hanna, Stephanie Fyffe, Jon Slater, Jr., Emily Mix, Tim Pickett, Karla Pickett, Melanie Harrison, Andrea Stem, Audrey Stoffel, and Margaret Enler.

Attending virtually were: Park Russell, Thomas Liniger, Tony Vogel, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Lisa McKenzie, Jeff Camechis, Dave Burgei, Tony Howard, Jim Bahnsen, CJ Roberts, Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Jason Dolin, James Shaw, Donna Fox-Moore, Abby Watson, Stacy Hicks, Dan Neely, Nikki Drake, Chris Wagner, Shannon Carter, Angela Ryan RN, and other callers.

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, updated the Board on COVID-19 responses. The clinics continue, and the Board of Health continues to seek volunteers. We have used the Fairfield Alert system to notify people of options they have for the scheduling appointments. We have moved as much data as possible to the state system, which is now working well. We have planned an amendment to the mall lease to accommodate additional space needs. We are ready for the expansion of eligible groups. There have been more than 31,000 people vaccinated in the county, and the Fairfield Department of Health has given 11,000 of the vaccines, 30 percent of the total given.

Dr. Brown stated that we appreciate the partnership of the Violet Township Fire Department, as there has been positive feedback from the community about their efforts. Dr. Brown also thanked Mr. Tony Howard of the Pickerington Library for the library's community partnership with the education effort about vaccination.

As predicted, the groups eligible for vaccination were expanded, and on March 29, all adults will be eligible and can schedule at the state site as the appointments are available.

Commissioner Davis stated that he appreciated Mr. Kochis' work.

Mr. Larry Hanna stated that he appreciated the collaboration with Jon Kochis and the Board of Commissioners relating to the vaccine campaign.

Ms. Stephanie Fyffe stated that she appreciated Mr. Kochis and the Board of Commissioners. She said it has been a pleasure and honor to work with them.

All three Commissioners thanked Larry Hanna for his service, noting they were aware of his pending retirement. Dr. Brown also wished Mr. Hanna good luck with his retirement. She also stated that she was proud of his work and the Department of Health's work during the pandemic.

Legal Update

Mr. Horacek did not have a legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List
 - a. Announcements

Anyone can email or text a question anytime: <u>Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov</u> or (740) 777-8552

Congratulations to the Elsea family on the arrival of Eleri Jean.

Dates/Events of Interest

Mar 23 EMA Lunch n Learn (today)

Mar 30 Commissioner Fix – Commissioner Connection video

April 2 – Good Friday, Commission Offices Close at Noon

April 14 – Wear Blue for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness

April 14 – Virtual Job Fair

April 15 – 11:30 am State of the Schools Address, Lancaster City Schools

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

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 15 resolutions for the voting meeting.

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

RPC proposed a resolution to approve the final plat for the Heron Crossing West Section One Phase One Subdivision, as previously approved by RPC.

There were 13 financial and grant related resolutions to approve:

- Interest allocations for February;
- JFS transfers by operation of law, reimbursements (six resolutions);
- Account to account transfers of appropriations to properly classify expenditures;
- Accounting transactions for EMA grant funds (two resolutions);
- Appropriations for the County Engineer (two resolutions); and
- Repayment by MCU of an advance.

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

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Updates

- The review packet contained a list of *administrative approvals*. There were no questions posed.
- The posting for the *Deputy County Administrator* was issued internally through Monday, March 22. Carri Brown interviewed an internal applicant, Aunie Cordle, and reported to the Board. We have physical space planned and have technological equipment ordered so that the transition will be efficient. The position description and compensation plan placement were documented. The recommendation is to promote Ms. Cordle and now post for the JFS Director, as an internal posting consistent with the previous motion of the Board (on March 16). The documentation of the previous posting and application process was provided to the Board.
- On March 17, 2021, along with Remo Remoquillo, Carri Brown and Dennis Keller attended the Historic Lancaster Commission meeting and presented the concept murals for the Foster the Future effort. The Historic Lancaster Commission approved the mural concept at the Records Center with a 30% reduction in the lettering of Foster and Future. The mural concept for the drive-thru was withdrawn. The meeting time for the Board of Zoning Appeals will be announced to us. Remo Remoquillo will finalize the design with the lettering sign reduction. We will present to the BZA. Once that approval is obtained, we will be ready to let the contract. We have draft language approved by the Prosecutor and have a purchase order in place. We will need to update the contract to denote the murals at the Records Center only. We will still be on target for a late August, early Fall unveiling.

- Dr. Brown reported Judge Terre Vandervoort is initiating Project HELP a community approach to truancy intervention involving schools, community partners, and Fairfield County Juvenile Court. Carri Brown will be attending a meeting to learn about this new model, how it was developed, and the plan for implementation.
- There will be an administrative meeting with the Mayor Henderson in Pleasantville about potential increases in their utility service area. It will be an informational gathering meeting.
- Planning for the future, in thinking about Sheriff storage and a building to support the Clerk of Courts (We have requested the Clerk of Courts consider square footage needs and are planning for general office space, as well) and functions in the northwestern portion of the county, we will plan ahead with EV charging stations or outlets to prepare for EV charging stations. We will be exploring the concept of hybrid or electric vehicles for staff, as well. This is a long-term approach.

Budget Update

- As we know, the State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds legislation, part of the *American Rescue Plan Act*, has been approved. The U.S. Department of the Treasury will oversee and administer Fiscal Recovery payments to state and local governments. We are brainstorming about allowable uses and are planning. The US Treasury will issue guidelines. The review packet contained an additional summary of the American Rescue Plan Act.
- We are aware of the state efforts to *increase the future reimbursement percentage* to counties for indigent defense. Thank you to state representation for this support.
- 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.
- Dr. Brown reported that year-to-date, the sales tax revenues were \$4.036 M as of February this year, compared to \$3.802 last year at the same time, for an approximate 6% increase. (These are the *sales tax revenues* that have actually been received.)
- The non-auto sales tax receipts from January sales to be received in April for Fairfield County are estimated at \$1.48 M, or 12% above the previous year. The state collections are estimated at 7% above the previous year. The auto sales tax receipts from January sales to be received in April for Fairfield County are estimated at \$363,273, 23% above the \$295,377 of the same period last year, for a combined \$1.846 M, as compared to \$1.624 M the previous year, or a 14% increase for the month over 2020. As we think about comparing these things on a monthly basis, we will need to keep in mind the pandemic experiences. The sales tax estimate for 2021 in Fairfield County is \$23.6 M, or 3% above the sales tax revenues of 2020.
- There are no recommendations for changes to the 2021 budget estimates. A letter describing parameters for 2022 was in the review packet. Just as the Commission departments have used vacancy questionnaires for new positions and have required funding sources for new positions as part of justification, that will be initial guidance for others. In general, there will be a 3% planned increase for wages if a department follows the compensation plan and conducts performance assessments (a 2% increase otherwise) and a 2% planned increase for health benefits (which is a parameter that might change).
- The Energy Conservation Project part 2 includes several upgrades for the Administrative Courthouse and other county-owned buildings. There was an article in the media describing these improvements. In addition to improvements to the exterior of the Administrative Courthouse, both the Hall of Justice and the Administrative Courthouse will have additional interior LED lights installed (as a second phase to previously

installed LED lights). The windows at the Hall of Justice will be replaced. Other HVAC equipment will be upgraded in county-owned buildings.

A solar array for the Lancaster Title Office will be installed as a pilot for solar energy use. While this will be a relatively small part of the overall project, it is one that a lot of people look forward to for the opportunity to learn more about solar energy for the future.

The cost of the Energy Conservation Project part 2 will be about \$6 M. The costs are still being identified and will not be available until May. The main portion of the project is the rejuvenation of the Administrative Courthouse, which is estimated to be just under \$4 M. The cost data could change, as the estimates were derived pre-pandemic conditions. Just prior to the onset of the pandemic, the county had planned to move ahead with the project. It was tabled until there was more information about the effects of the pandemic. Now, the interest rates are low, and the resources are potentially available for the project, making mid-year a time to review the project again.

The County recently obtained a Aa2 bond rating from Moody's and has included in the 2021 budget the opportunity to issue Energy Conservation related debt to proceed with the project if the Board of Commissioners approve the plan. A full plan will be presented in May of 2021. We will adjust as we learn more.

We are also pursuing a potential refinancing of debt, which would offset at least a portion of this new expenditure.

Returning to the topic of the American Rescue Act, Commissioner Fix clarified his thoughts. He believes that there are many people that need the relief during the pandemic and that there are people who have suffered financially. He indicated he had concerns about the national debt, though. He reported that the first day that the \$1,400 stimulus checks arrived in bank accounts there were record sales within the restaurant industry. The problem is that there will be records set within the industry for a few weeks, and then the sales will go down. He went on to describe how it is hard for the restaurant industry to hire employees because applicants weigh their proposed wages against what they are receiving on unemployment. Elements of the American Rescue Plan Act are not really getting people working right now. Mr. Fix stated that the restaurant industry will see a short-term gain, but the industry needs long-term approaches to support businesses.

Commissioner Levacy stated that the ARA program was funded by borrowed money.

Dr. Brown added that Fairfield County is ready to appropriately use the federal resources, and we can envision activities to support and incentivize businesses, groups, and individuals. We await the guidelines from the US Treasury.

Bravos

Thank you to the county employees who have been volunteering for the vaccination clinics.

Bravo to IT (Denise Gressick) for her quick responses to IT tickets.

Thanks to Shannon Carter for the OSU Extension Series opportunity for employees. HR sent email about the series on Friday, March 19.

Bravo to Mark Conrad for helping pull some digital footage relating to an accident this weekend. (We will likely be filing a claim based some damage to a sandstone wall following an accident this past Sunday.)

Old Business

a. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Fix reported that he attended the latest County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) meeting. A main topic of discussion was how some counties desire the state to take over responsibility of the Board of Elections. There was no conclusion to the CCAO meeting, and this topic will continue to be discussed. Another topic for CCAO related to the indigent defense funding, and we are aware of the statewide efforts to improve reimbursement rates to counties. Also, the CCAO region that Fairfield County is in now is a part of the Central Ohio region. He also attended the Strategic Planning Committee meeting for CCAO.

Commissioner Davis stated that there are a number of local employers using billboards to find applicants for jobs. He commented on how many local businesses are struggling to find workers.

Commissioner Fix and Commissioner Levacy will be attending the CCAO sponsored legislative update this week.

Commissioner Levacy reported that the Buckeye Lake Region is conducting a survey about a project for the North Shore of Buckeye Lake. He distributed a flier and reported ODNR is excited to learn about the survey results.

New Business

None

• General Correspondence Received

None

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Dr. Brown reported that there is a Transportation Improvement District meeting on Thursday of this week. The review packet contained an agenda.

• <u>FYI</u>

- o Jail Population 210
- o Sunshine Week Press releases were reviewed.
- o Thank you from the Lancaster Festival
- o OSU Extension Series
- o Congratulations to Rhonda Myers on her retirement (May 2021)

Open Items

o Mr. Kochis reported that there are virtual storm spotter classes. He encourages people to join them. He also reported that the Fairfield Alert system has more people signed up now (as compared to previous times) based on the pandemic.

• Public Comments

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were members of the public present who wished to offer comments at this time.

Ms. Margaret Enler asked the Board of Commissioners to stand and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Levacy stated that the Pledge of Allegiance is done at the beginning of the Board of Commissioners regular meeting. He stated he would invite everyone to join in with the Pledge of Allegiance at that time.

Ms. Andrea Stem of 795 Creekside Drive, Lancaster, voiced her concerns about the vaccine. She does not feel the Board of Commissioners should persuade the public to get the vaccine. There are risks to the experimental vaccine. She believes flyers that the county is sending should list the risks and the benefits of the vaccine. She asked the Board of Commissioners to tell the facts and stop the propaganda.

Ms. Audrey Stoffel of Bremen thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to speak. She stated she was at the meeting to convince people to not get the vaccine. She just wants to make sure the public knows the facts. There have been social media posts that have been shut down, and those posts that have been shut down have been about bad experiences with the vaccine.

Ms. Melanie Harrison of Baltimore asked the Board to google multiple subjects relating to the vaccine. She asked the Board of Commissioners to stand against pushing people into taking the vaccines. She asked that medical freedom be pushed.

Ms. Carla Pickett of Sugar Grove asked the Board of Commissioners if they still plan on using the words "sway" and "persuade" the public.

Commissioner Fix stated that the Board of Commissioners encouraged the public to take the vaccine. The Board has no authority to force people to take the vaccine. For businesses to fully open, it is important to encourage the public to take the vaccine. The words "sway" and "persuade" seem synonymous to "encourage" in this context.

Ms. Margaret Enler stated that her mother has received multiple phone calls asking her to get the vaccine.

Mr. Tim Pickett stated that the government is manipulating and bullying people to get the vaccine.

Mr. Kochis stated that the county alert system is used to contact people who have registered for the vaccine.

Mr. Tim Pickett stated that it is time for the City of Lancaster to get back to work. He asked the Board if they have any idea how to reverse the overreach of the shutdown.

Commissioner Fix stated that the state government made decisions to shut things down. The Board of Commissioners will do what it can to fight the virus, keeping those numbers down in an effort to keep businesses open.

Ms. Melanie Harrison asked the Board of Commissioners to consider the number of deaths that have occurred from other medical conditions (not the coronavirus).

Commissioner Levacy stated that when looking at statistics, it is important to realize that with every statistic, there are real people – real people who are dying due to the pandemic. He has known two people who have died.

Mr. Kochis added his father recently passed away due to COVID-19 complications.

Ms. Audrey Soffel stated that she is sorry for all the personal losses. She added that she is looking at the different perspectives of how actions effect children and those who are older.

Ms. Margaret Enler also expressed her sympathies for those who have had losses. She asked that the Board of Commissioners support the lift of masks and that the county get back to business.

With no addition comments, Commissioner Levacy proceeded to the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 beginning at 9:53 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Jon Kochis, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Larry Hanna, Stephanie Fyffe, Jon Slater, Jr., Emily Mix, Tim Pickett, Karla Pickett, Melanie Harrison, Andrea Stem, Audrey Stoffel, and Margaret Enler.

Attending virtually were: Park Russell, Thomas Liniger, Tony Vogel, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Lisa McKenzie, Jeff Camechis, Dave Burgei, Tony Howard, Jim Bahnsen, CJ Roberts, Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Jason Dolin, James Shaw, Donna Fox-Moore, Abby Watson, Stacy Hicks, Dan Neely, Nikki Drake, Chris Wagner, Shannon Carter, Angela Ryan, RN, and other callers.

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.

Ms. Knisley had no announcements.

Public Comment

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

There was no public comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, March 16, 2021

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, March 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 Commissioners' Resolution

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

2021-03.23.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]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that these were accounting transactions crediting interest for political subdivisions separate from the county.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Emergency Management Agency's 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's Resolutions:

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] [EMA]

2021-03.23.c

A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the general fund to EMA – Fund 2091 (subfund 8147) Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) and Appropriate from Unappropriated into a major expenditure object category [EMA]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that these were grant accounting transactions and cash advances that will be paid back when final grant reimbursements are received.

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:

2021-03.23.d	A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for equipment repairs and maintenance. [Engineer]
2021-03.23.e	A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for annual Civil 3D subscription, Architecture

Discussion: Dr. Brown that these were approvals for appropriations for equipment repairs, maintenance, and architecture engineering support – all for the Motor Vehicle fund.

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

Engineering, support [Engineer]

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:

2021-03.23.f	A resolution regarding a Purchase of Service Contract between Avertest, LLC and Job & Family Services [JFS]
2021-03.23.g	A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Sub Fund 8056 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
2021-03.23.h	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]

2021-03.23.i	A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
2021-03.23.j	A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
2021-03,23,k	A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2599 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
2021-03.23.1	A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

Discussion: Returning to a JFS related topic, Commissioner Davis stated that he appreciates Aundrea Cordle joining the Board of Commissioners' staff.

Dr. Brown added that she was very excited about the announcement, and there will be communications to be provided to all, as well. She commented that the resolutions proposed include a series of transfers by operation of law relating to the combine agency, and there was a resolution to approve a contract for services for protective placement in network.

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

Approval of the Major Crimes Unit Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Major Crimes Unit resolution:

2021-03.23.m A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to JAG 7829 [Major Crimes Unit]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that the resolution was for a repayment of an advance relating to the Major Crimes Unit (which has several grants for operations).

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

Approval of the Regional Planning Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Regional Planning Office Resolution:

2021-03.23.n A resolution to approve the final plat for the Heron Crossing West Section One Phase One Subdivision [Regional Planning Commission

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that the final plat for this subdivision was approved by

the Regional Planning Commission, and the next step in the process if the

County Commissioners to approve the final plat.

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

Approval of the Sheriff's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Sheriff's Office Resolution:
Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

2021-03.23.0 A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer Fund 2442 Commissary [Sheriff]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that this resolution is a for a transfer of appropriations so that there would be proper classification of expenditures within a special revenue fund.

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

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 10:00 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, Staci Knisley, Jon Kochis, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Larry Hanna, Stephanie Fyffe, Jon Slater, Jr., Emily Mix, Tim Pickett, Karla Pickett, Melanie Harrison, Andrea Stem, Audrey Stoffel, and Margaret Enler.

Attending virtually were: Park Russell, Thomas Liniger, Tony Vogel, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Lisa McKenzie, Jeff Camechis, Dave Burgei, Tony Howard, Jim Bahnsen, CJ Roberts, Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Jason Dolin, James Shaw, Donna Fox-Moore, Abby Watson, Stacy Hicks, Dan Neely, Nikki Drake, Chris Wagner, Shannon Carter, Angela Ryan, RN, and other callers.

Additional Public Comment

Ms. Enler asked the Board of Commissioners if they have experienced or have seen anyone in the hospital with COVID-19 or any medical conditions.

Mr. Fix responded that he had a minor procedure done during the pandemic.

Ms. Enler asked the Board of Commissioners to stand for the American people and apologized for her breaking down as she recalled very sad situations with young adults in the hospital.

Ms. Harrison also asked for the Board of Commissioners to intervene and stand for the citizens.

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 10:03 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by: Terffix Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the March 23, 2021 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: TIX Davis, Wacy ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on March 30, 2021

NAYS: None

Steven A. Davis

Commissioner

ave Levacy

Commissioner