# **Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room of the Historic Courthouse on 210 E Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present: Aunie Cordle, Bennett Niceswanger, Brian Wolfe, Tony Vogel, Raz Sabaiduc, Bart Hampson, Tom Lininger, Marty Norris, Chris Schmelzer, Jon Kochis, Corey Clark, Joe Ebel, Dan Neeley, Dennis Keller, Dr. Carri Brown, Judy Stemen, Kyle Witt, Heather O'Keefe, Jeremiah Upp, Branden Meyer, Ray Stemen, Misty Richardson, Melody Delaney, Dolly Jones, Shannon Carter, Jennifer Kolometz, Rick Szabrak, Aubry Fowler, Jeremiah Upp, Clinton Davis, Leslie Cooksey, and Carrie Brown.

Attending virtually: Amy Brown-Thompson, Park Russell, Michael Kaper, Lori Hawk, Chris Wagner, Jeff Barron, Belinda Nebbergall, Lynette Barnhart, Josh Horacek, Jeff Porter, Jessica Murphey, Lisa McKenzie, Ashley Arter, Britney Lee, Calvin Robinson, Stacy Hicks, Toni Ashton, and Tony Howard.

#### Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

#### Listen and Learn

OSU Extension Educators

Shannon Carter spoke on behalf of the OSU Extension Educators. They have had lots of success doing a Cooking Under Pressure lunch and learn. Many people have purchased pressure cookers and needed training to properly use them. They always offer food preservation classes to teach people how to preserve produce from their garden safely. Another program, the Snap Ed Program, focuses on nutrition and physical education.

Carrie Brown spoke about past program success. The first was a vernal pool exploration tour at Coyote Run which was very successful. It was something fun for people to look at, and the kids not only enjoyed it but also the adults.

Commissioner Fix asked how many people attended the tour.

Carrie replied that it was capped at 20, and quickly had a waiting list. In total, there were 38 people. Next, she highlighted the fruit pruning workshop. People were able to get hands on and learn how to properly prune trees. There was also the Nuisance Wildlife Workshop, which was a small group and allowed the team to be able to get up close and personal with the attendees. She Regular Meeting #12 - 2022 – March 29, 2022

also wanted to highlight the Master Gardener program. They are training 27 new interns and train them weekly. They have also received a grant to purchase items for their events. The team has a new event coming up called Dig Into Gardening. All local Farms Food Tours are scheduled for the year. They have a good assortment or locations. The last item Carrie wanted to speak on was a training she went to last week called the Woods in Your Backyard, which was targeted towards helping people create and enhance natural areas around their home. Nearly 18,000 parcels in Fairfield County have woodlands. If these people decide they want to clean up their woodlands, there isn't any professionals to help them.

Commissioner Fix asked Carrie about invasive species in Fairfield County.

Carrie mentioned a moth species that is coming from the east and is a threat to vineyards and other agriculture.

Commissioner Fix asked if these moths have the ability to take down an orchard?

Carrie stated that in a large enough population they can. It is manageable but is a threat.

Commissioner Fix asked about the honeybee population.

Carrie replied she cannot speak very much to the bee population but believes there is still a downward trend in Fairfield County.

Leslie Cooksey and Aubry Fowler spoke about the migratory pattern of birds, and the potential threat of the avian flu. There is a concern for poultry producers. The OSU Extension poultry program in the school is quite large. Years ago, there were no birds at any 4-H events because of the threat of the flu. They have resources available at the office to share with the Commission if they so choose. The avian flu can be a huge potential loss to farmers who produce poultry or eggs.

Leslie spoke about 4-H. The traditional program where kids take on programs start in third grade. They have 243 volunteers who dedicate their time to helping kids grow in 4-H. Many of the clubs are maxed out on sizes, but they are also interested in having new clubs start here in Fairfield County. The registration deadline for 4-H is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Aubry spoke about the older youth opportunities in 4-H. 4-H in Fairfield County is primarily school-based. Students get to take their projects to school and share about them with other students. Students presenting their projects were able to meet over 300 third graders of the next generation of 4-H, and over 1,300 students from around Fairfield County. Through Commissioner support, they have been able to do a lot with 4-H.

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Leslie spoke about 4-H Chick Quest, which is a life science program for elementary students.

Leslie mentioned that Angela Krile received the Alumni Award, and Bays Food Market/Bay Packing received the Ohio Friend of 4-H Award. Bay's thrives on helping kids and offer lots of opportunities for kids to learn more about agriculture and meat production.

Commissioner Levacy asked about fertilizer cost and supply issues for farmers.

Shannon Carter stated it is hard for farmers right now because the costs are high and the supply is low.

#### **Public Comments**

Chris Schmelzer from Bremen stated he feels very lucky to live in Fairfield County, and such a great country.

Ray Stemen from Lancaster spoke about receiving a letter about farmland being targeted for a new pipeline which captures carbon dioxide and stores it underground.

Judy Stemen from Lancaster spoke about people instinctively showing favoritism towards people who will directly benefit them.

# Legal Update

Sports Gaming Update

Assistant Prosecutor, Tom Lininger, spoke about the Sports Gaming Update. House Bill 29, of the 134th General Assembly, legalizes and regulates sports gaming in Ohio through gaming proprietors licensed by the Ohio Casino Control Commission. All professional sports or athletic event, Olympic or international sporting event, motor races, esports, and any other special event authorized by the Commission will be permitted for betting in the State of Ohio. The online sports gaming allows type A sports gaming proprietors to operate one or more online sports pool websites and accompanying mobile applications. Bets will be taken from people 21 years of age or older. All data servers will be housed in secure facilities in Ohio. Sports gaming facilities allow type B sports gaming proprietors to operate one sports gaming facility per license. Lottery sports gaming requires the State Lottery Commission to operate lottery sports gaming and requires each type C sports gaming proprietor to contract with the Commission to operate sports gaming on behalf of the Commission to exchange for a portion of the state's proceeds from lottery sports gaming. There is a 25 maximum for Type A licenses, 40 type B licenses, and 20 type C licenses. Fairfield County could qualify for 1 type B license based off its population. Bar and restaurant owners with certain liquor permits may apply for a type C sports gaming host - 3 -Regular Meeting #12 - 2022 – March 29, 2022

license to offer lottery sports gaming. Sports gaming proprietor employees are required to obtain an occupational license to work. Employees of the gaming hosts are exempted from the license requirement. Lottery sports gaming revenue treats the proceeds of lottery sports gaming the same as other lottery proceeds, and requires the state's profits be used to support public education. Tax on sports gaming revenue imposes a 10% tax on type A and B sports gaming proprietor's net revenue from sports gaming, and requires that sports gaming tax be administered in much the same way as the state's existing tax on casino revenue.

Commissioner Fix asked if the 10% tax would be pooled by the state and then distributed to counties, or if it would be just in that county.

Tom answered that he believes it would be pooled. He has the final legislative order, and he can distribute that accordingly.

### **County Administration Update**

County Administrator Cordle reviewed the Week in Review, Highlights of Resolutions, the Budget Review, Recognitions, and the Jail Population, as follows.

#### Week in Review

COVID-19 Update

Fairfield County's reported COVID-19 cases have decreased by 13% over the past week. From 3/18/2022 through 3/24/2022 there have been 42 new COVID-19 cases reported, for a rate of 26.7 cases per week per 100,000 population (Low Community Levels).

No new hospitalizations were reported in the past week and 3 additional COVID-19 related deaths were reported for February for a total of 23 Fairfield County resident deaths for the month of February. So far only one COVID-19 related death has been reported for the month of March.

Joe Ebel stated the Health Department is watching this new COVID variant that is coming to the country. People with underlying health conditions who are not vaccinated are advised to receive the vaccine before the variant takes off.

There will also be a tire recycling event on Saturday, April 2, which will help cut down on mosquito breeding.

#### ARP Update

There are multiple projects under review.

From the \$15,303,451.00 received as the first tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$9.3M has been appropriated, \$2.8M expended, \$4.2M encumbered or obligated.

NACo refreshed a major update of its analysis of Treasury's Final Rule for the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund. The updated analysis includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Clarifying information on eligible/ineligible uses from Treasury, including capital expenditures
- Deeper dive on the provisions around revenue loss allocations
- Treatment of loans
- Reporting requirements and background information on federal Uniform Guidance/2 CFR Part 200

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, stated the first quarter report will be updated this week. There is also a resolution to approve the purchase of vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown, stated they will provide a communication regarding an opportunity by the end of the week.

#### Unified Communications System

County IT Director, Dan Neeley, provided an update on the request for proposal that was released on Monday, March 28.

#### Square 7 Guest Coffee Baristas

Fairfield DD Leadership will be guest baristas at Art and Clay/Square 7 Coffee house today from 9:30-11.

#### Commissioners' Roundtable

Please join us next Tuesday, April 5 from 1-4 at the Ag Center for the first roundtable of the year. This is a time to provide an update from each office. The expanded time frame will allow everyone plenty to time to share department highlights. There will be some afternoon refreshments available.

Dog Adoption Center and Shelter Receives Grant

Maddie's Fund is a foundation dedicated to animal welfare organizations through education, grants, and collaboration/networking opportunities. The Foundation invests its resources in a commitment to keeping pets and people together, creating a safety net of care for animals in need and operating within a culture of inclusiveness and humility.

The specific grant of \$3,000, which The Fairfield County Dog Adoption Center and Shelter has been awarded, was part of their Open Arms Challenge and focused specifically on innovative marketing and communications directed towards the entire community that embrace open and welcoming policies.

Some of the ways in which our shelter worked to meet this challenge were:

- o Increasing social media posts, both in content and volume
- o Increasing community involvement in assisting with locating owners
- CE webinars for staff reinforcing open adoptions and conversation-based discussions with customers
- Implementing programs such as Borrow a Buddy and fostering, increasing awareness as well as better health
- o Increased aid to owners facing possible rehoming needs

Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, added that he is very happy with the social media outreach of the shelter and they hope this will continue to help more animals get adopted.

# **Highlights of Resolutions**

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals

Resolution Review

There are 24 resolutions for the voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- Proclamations for Child Abuse Prevention Month, Earth Day, National Crime Victim's Rights week.
- Commission meeting date amendment to allow for MCJDC meeting in the morning of May 3.

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- RLF application approval for Bob's Backyard BBQ
- 9 network contracts for CPS
- Sheriff purchasing vehicles

### **Budget Review**

County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown, spoke about the quality of life in Fairfield County. One of the things in Fairfield County is that the county has the lowest sales tax rate in central Ohio. She is particularly proud of how the Auditor's Office and Commissioners' Office estimates have been in agreement. Often for that estimate, their office will take a reduction factor, so they do not have to make new estimates every month. The new estimate is 25.8 million. What it offers is some more flexibility. Right now, that doesn't have a great deal of change to county operations.

Commissioner Davis stated he understands the foundational basis for the change. He added he had a concern with the 16.9% sales tax increase from 2020 to 2021, and that it is a striking number. Nothing in the county's fiscal history is similar to that and stated all would agree that 16.9% cannot be replicated. It is exceptional and an exception.

Commissioner Davis stated he was concerned with some of these patterns we have benefitted from that we might not see for long. There are other revenue streams which seem to be on a positive trajectory and stated that Budget Director Bart Hampson pointed out there was a rush to the casinos.

Dr. Brown stated the county may not have the same refunds for the workers comp. It's based upon those aspects approved by the state that may not happen every year.

Dr. Brown also spoke regarding an adjustment to the first quarter of revenues for 2022.

#### Calendar Review/Invitations Received

#### Correspondence

Items Requiring Response

• No items requiring a response were presented.

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### Informational Items

- Pickerington Senior Center April 2022 newsletter.
- Received a Thank You from Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District for the umbrellas employees received.
- Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce Annual Award Nominations due Friday, April 1, 2022.
- Ohio Division of Liquor Control, Notice of Liquor Permit Application, Permit #5003240, Hood Ventures LLC, 3100 Country Club Rd., Lancaster, OH. Notice was forwarded to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office for a response, and there were no issues.
- Ohio Division of Liquor Control, Notice of Liquor Permit Application, Permit #5801450, Meenu MAA INC, 20 Logan Thornville Rd., PO Box 123, Bremen, OH, to Permit # 6553120, One Stop Crossing, LLC, 20 Logan Thornville Rd., PO Box 123, Bremen, OH. Notice was forwarded to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office for a response, and there were no issues.
- Received notice from CFLP Solid Waste District for upcoming inspections of equipment purchased using grant funds.
- The appointment of Mark Bohach as Trustee of the Fairfield County District Library Board.
- A memo from the Auditor's Office regarding an adjustment to the first quarter of revenues for 2022.
- A Press Release and tutorial from the Auditor's Office regarding the Online Property Tax Estimator.

#### Jail Population

- March 22 was 264 with 24 of those being contracted placements
- March 29 is 268 with 34 of those being contracted placements

#### **Old Business**

Commissioner Davis requested that County Administrator Cordle reach out to the Sheriff for an update on jail contracts.

County Administrator, Aunie Cordle, added she and the Sheriff started that conversation yesterday.

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#### **New Business**

Auditor Brown wanted to announce the unclaimed funds are listed online. She also wanted to report the Auditor's Office is talking a lot about how to increase engagement, especially cyberreadiness.

Commissioner Levacy stated that cyber-readiness is very important right now and has seen a recent uptick in the need for this.

#### Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room of the Historic Courthouse on 210 E Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present: Aunie Cordle, Bennett Niceswanger, Brian Wolfe, Tony Vogel, Raz Sabaiduc, Bart Hampson, Tom Lininger, Marty Norris, Chris Schmelzer, Jon Kochis, Corey Clark, Joe Ebel, Dan Neeley, Dennis Keller, Dr. Carri Brown, Judy Stemen, Kyle Witt, Heather O'Keefe, Jeremiah Upp, Branden Meyer, Ray Stemen, Misty Richardson, Melody Delaney, Dolly Jones, Shannon Carter, Jennifer Kolometz, Rick Szabrak, Aubry Fowler, Jeremiah Upp, Clinton Davis, Leslie Cooksey, and Carrie Brown.

Attending virtually: Amy Brown-Thompson, Park Russell, Michael Kaper, Lori Hawk, Chris Wagner, Jeff Barron, Belinda Nebbergall, Lynette Barnhart, Josh Horacek, Jeff Porter, Jessica Murphey, Lisa McKenzie, Ashley Arter, Britney Lee, Calvin Robinson, Stacy Hicks, Toni Ashton, and Tony Howard.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Fix asked everyone to rise as able and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

#### Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, March 22, 2022

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, March 22, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows: Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix Regular Meeting #12 - 2022 – March 29, 2022

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### Approval of Resolutions from the Board of Commissioners

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Board of Commissioners:

2022-03.29.a	A resolution authorizing the approval of proclamations. [Commissioners]
2022-03.29.b	A resolution amending the approval of establishment of Commissioners'
	Review Session and Regular and Special Meeting Dates for 2022 [Commissioners]

Commissioner Davis spoke in regard to the proclamation for Child Abuse Awareness Month and stated that it can be difficult to see what is really happening in a child's life, which makes the work of Job & Family Services all the more important.

Director of Job & Family Services, Corey Clark, expressed his thanks to the Commissioners, and emphasized the importance of child abuse awareness in Fairfield County.

Director of Child Protective Services, Heather O'Keefe, added that Commissioner Davis is correct in that we don't always know what children are going through in their lives, and it is oftentimes teachers that are the greatest asset in reporting potential neglect and abuse.

County Prosecutor, Kyle Witt, spoke regarding the proclamation for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and mentioned the incredible work the victim advocates do at the Prosecutor's Office for their victims.

Director of Facilities, Dennis Keller, spoke regarding the proclamation for Earth Day and how there is an upcoming event, Seeds of Change on April 23, which is a great opportunity to get involved in Earth Day.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

## Approval of a resolution from the Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development.

2022-03.29.c A resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County
Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee to fund Bob's
Backyard BBQ as a Fairfield County CARES ACT Recovery
Assistance Revolving Loan Fund project. [Economic and
Workforce Development] [Economic & Workforce Development]

Director of Economic Development, Rick Szabrak, stated this is a great way to help business and community grow.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

2022-03.29.d

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

#### Approval of a resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer:

A Resolution to Approve Advertising for the 2022 Crack

Seal Project. [Engineer]

2022-03.29.e A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence for the PLE-29 Stringtown Road Bridge Replacement Project [Engineer]

2022-03.29.f A Resolution to Approve the Contract with J & J Bridge Company for the PLE-29 FAI-TR273-0.029 Stringtown Road Bridge Replacement Project. [Engineer]

County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp, stated that these resolutions will help his office take care of the roads and make sure they last longer.

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

# Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job & Family Services

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Job & Family Services:

2022-03.29.g	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]
2022-03.29.h	A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2599 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
2022-03.29.i	A resolution regarding a Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between The Village Network and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.j	A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between Christian Children's Home of Ohio, and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.k	A Resolution regarding a Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between Carrington Behavioral Health LLC and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.1	A resolution regarding a Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between NECCO and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]

2022-03.29.m	A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between The Julia Paige Family Center and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.n	A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between ENA/NECCO, LLC, and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.o	A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between The Ohio Teaching Family Association, and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.p	A resolution regarding a Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between Community Teaching Homes, Inc and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
2022-03.29.q	A Resolution regarding a Network Placement and Related Services
	Agreement between The Cleveland Christian Home Inc and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]

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

# Approval of a resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff Office:

2022-03.29.r A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund (Fund 2503 Police Revolving).

[Sheriff]

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2022-03.29.s A resolution to approve the purchase of two (2) vehicles from Montrose Ford following a competitive invitation to bid process [Sheriff]

2022-03.29.t A resolution to approve the purchase of six (6) vehicles from Montrose Ford following a competitive invitation to bid process [Sheriff]

2022-03.29.u A resolution to approve the purchase of a vehicle from Montrose Ford using ARP funding following a competitive invitation to bid process

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

[Sheriff]

# Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Utilities Department

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Utilities Department:

2022-03.29.v A resolution to Approve and Adopt the Revised Fairfield County Utilities Construction Specifications Manual dated March 29, 2022. [Utilities]

2022-03.29.w A resolution to adopt and implement the attached Illicit Discharge

Detection and Elimination Plan for MS4 compliance for Fairfield County

[Utilities]

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

#### Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

2022-03.29.x

A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:37 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 5, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Motion by: Steve Davis Seconded by: Dave Levacy that the March 29, 2022, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

\*Approved on April 5, 2022

Commissioner

Dave Levacy // Commissioner Steven A. Davis Commissioner

Bennett J Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk