

Regular Meeting #15 - 2024
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
April 16, 2024

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Transit Director, Aaron Kennedy; Economic Development Coordinator, Anthony Iachini; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; JFS Deputy Director, Heather O'Keefe; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys, Austin Lines and Steven Darnell; and FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson. Also present: Sherry Pymmer, Barb Martin, Francis Martin, Jeff Williamsen, Melissa Hoover-Connor, Selina McCord, Stephanie Taylor, Chris Snider, Jo Price, Bruce Price, Cheryl Berner, Betty Bennett, Brandy Marshall, Nick Gill, Jerry Starner, Mary Cullison, and Bev Sturm.

Virtual attendees: Josh Horacek, Christy Noland, Jim Bahnsen, Deborah, Greg Forquer, Lori Hawk, Jeff Barron, Shelby Hunt, Jessica Murphy, Will Hinman, Tiffany Daniels, Belinda Nebbergall, Abby King, Aubrey Ward, Rachel Elsea, Leighann Adams, Joe Ebel, Toni Ashton, Lynette Barnhart, Stacy Hicks, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Vince Carpico, Tony Howard, Jon Kochis, Park Russell, Brian Wolfe, Jeanie Wears, and Nicole S.

Welcome

Commissioner Levacy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) Presentation on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

MORPC Transportation Director, Nick Gill, spoke about the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. He stated that MORPC is a Regional Council for Central Ohio and works on transportation and infrastructure, development and planning, research and mapping, and policy and grant development. Growth is occurring throughout the entire central Ohio region and job density is along the area's transportation corridor. The MTP is updated every four years and identifies strategies and projects over 20 plus years. The MTP has 6 goals which include creating sustainable neighborhoods, attracting economic opportunities, protecting the national environment, increasing regional collaboration, providing transportation, and reducing energy consumption. The Columbus MTP uses public participation to develop goals, forecast, and strategize. Mr. Gill provided a map of planned and proposed projects for Fairfield County from 2024-2050 and added that MORPC is currently visiting entities to provide those plans.

Commissioner Fix asked Mr. Gill to talk about the proposed 33/70 connector.

Mr. Gill replied that the Fairfield County TID stated it is a concept that has been discussed for several years. As in this case, MORPC is a collaborator to bring people together to move projects along.

Ms. Mattei asked about an ODOT study and how that study could affect the 33/70 connector.

Mr. Gill stated that the ODOT District 5 is in the early stages of studying north/south connections near Hebron, which would move vehicles from Interstate 70 to Route 161.

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Comments from Commissioner Fix

Commissioner Fix spoke about the attendance of Ray and Judy Stemen at Board of Commissioners' meetings and how he respected the couple for taking their citizenship responsibilities seriously. He added that he wished more individuals would take the same interest in their citizenship responsibilities.

Commissioner Fix also spoke about an exclusionary map that would be on the voting agenda. He stated that the map, if approved at a special meeting, would prohibit industrial solar projects in unincorporated areas of the county. He added that the map had no exceptions.

Public Comments

Jeff Williamsen spoke about the economy of solar companies, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Green New Deal. He stated his opposition to industrial solar in Fairfield County.

Selina McCord of Millersport thanked the Commissioners for their hard work and spoke about agriculture and the Office of Farmland Preservation. She added that 84% of farmland in Ohio is crop and that Fairfield County is 40th in the state in crop production.

Sherry Pymer of Walnut Township thanked the Commissioners for the exclusionary map and added that the Eastern Cottontail area is over 2300 acres. She further added she believes that once farmers lease their land to solar, it will not return to farmland.

Stephanie Taylor of Habitat for Humanity of SE Ohio (Habitat) provided an update of the two homes being completed in Fairfield County by Habitat. She added that the home which is near completion will be the 150th completed Habitat home. The other home is at the Fairfield County Workforce Center and will be moved by truck to its permanent lot. Once that home is completed, Habitat will have built six homes in Fairfield County in three years.

Beverly Sturm of Lockville thanked the Commissioners on behalf of her many friends and relatives for supporting agriculture in Fairfield County.

Jerry Starner stated that his goal is to educate others about solar energy.

Legal Update

Steven Darnell spoke briefly about the resolution on the agenda to establish a special hearing to discuss industrial solar farm exclusionary zones.

County Administration Update

- *The County Administration Update was provided by County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, unless otherwise noted.*

Week in Review

April 30th Board of Commissioners' Meeting

As announced in last week's meeting, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners' April 30th meeting will be in the evening, at 7:00 p.m., at the Wagnalls Memorial Library in Lithopolis.

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*Jeff Porter Recognized with National Public Employers Labor Relations Association
Pacesetter Award*

During the National Public Employer Labor Relations Association Annual Training Conference, Jeff Porter was recognized with the organization's Pacesetter Award. Jeff was selected for this prestigious recognition due to his outstanding work with the health benefits plan and the employee physical and mental health clinics. Congratulations Jeff!

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 31 resolutions on the agenda for the voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution to establish a public hearing to consider the designation of restricted areas which prohibit the construction of large solar facilities.
- A resolution to approve a memorandum of understanding between Fairfield County and the Ohio Department of Agriculture to resolve situations where and existing right-of-way or easement needs expanded for public safety purposes in permanent agricultural easements.
- A resolution authorizing a data sharing and confidentiality agreement between ODJFS and Local Area 20 to further the overall workforce mission. Area 20 consists of JFS agencies in Fairfield, Pickaway, Ross, Vinton, and Hocking counties.
- There are 8 resolutions for service agreements between JFS and network placement providers.
- A resolution authorizing a repayment extension for the Public Children Services' Epic Grant.
- A resolution to approve the purchase of two additional Motorola Dispatch consoles for the 911 Dispatch Center for direct integration with the State of Ohio MARCS radio system.

Budget Review

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- ***Clerk to the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen, provided the calendar review, invitations received, and the correspondence received.***
 - Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency's Board of Director's Meeting, April 18, 2024, 11:30 a.m., LFCAA Recycling Center, 1761 E. Main St., Lancaster

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- Family and Children First Executive Committee Meeting, April 19, 2024, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Records Center, 138 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster
- Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission Meeting, April 22, 2024, 10:00 a.m., State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus
- Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Public Benefits Review Committee Meeting, April 22, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Location to be Determined

Correspondence

- Letter, Fairfield Homes, Inc., April 4, 2024, Regarding Reserve at Hunter Trace and Affordable Housing for Seniors
- Fairfield County Municipal Court, March 2024 Criminal/Traffic Division Fee Report
- Press Release, Office of the Fairfield County Recorder, April 9, 2024, "Protecting Ohio's Veterans: Fairfield County Recorder Lisa McKenzie Cautions Veterans to be Aware of Exploitative Practices"
- Press Release, Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit, April 4, 2024, "Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit Transitions to County Department, Launches Public Outreach for Transit Development Plan"
- Report of the Ohio Indigent Defense Study Task Force, April 2024
- Correspondence Regarding Industrial Solar Projects
- For Immediate Release, Office of the County Auditor, April 11, 2024, "Cigarette Dealer's License Deadline Approaching"
- Memo, Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor, April 11, 2024, Subjects: Cigarette License Deadline, Tax Incentive Review Council Meetings; and Board of Revision Update
- Fairfield County Auditor's Office: Wins of the Week, April 11, 2024
- Letter, AEP Ohio, April 11, 2024, Regarding Construction Notice, Sifford-Ruble 2 138kV Transmission Tie-Lines Project, Case No. 24-2384-EL-BNR

Old Business

Commissioner Fix stated his support of the ban of industrial solar projects in Fairfield County and added that he sees the value in preserving farmland and in land use plans adopted in the Fairfield County 2024 Comprehensive Plan. He spoke about the ever changing future of Fairfield County and preparing for those changes.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about a 4H banquet and the encouraging achievements of the students at the banquet.

New Business

Ms. Mattei stated that all county townships which do not have zoning are now participating in the model zoning code. She thanked Commissioner Fix for his assistance with rallying the townships and Mayor Jason Henderson for assisting with the county's villages. She also thanked the Commissioners for funding this work.

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Engineer Upp stated his office is preparing for construction season and working on the salt barn and on road projects throughout the county.

Auditor Brown spoke about the matching of the first half property taxes to the estimate. She added that staff from Athens County visited her office to review the county's payroll procedures and spoke about the scheduling of the Tax Incentive Review Committee meetings.

Mr. Iachini stated Director Szabrak was meeting with Senator Schaffer on capital budget requests. He also stated that the Workforce Center was expecting large attendance numbers at the summer camps for middle schoolers.

Mr. Neeley spoke about meeting with departments to have business data storage discussions and thanked the departments he had already met with for their time and assistance.

Mr. Clark thanked everyone who attended the Child Abuse Prevention breakfast and spoke about posthumously honoring a woman who had fostered over 400 children. He also introduced Ethan Jones who is a new JFS fiscal specialist.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the voting portion of the meeting and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Transit Director, Aaron Kennedy; Economic Development Coordinator, Anthony Iachini; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; JFS Deputy Director, Heather O'Keefe; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys, Austin Lines and Steven Darnell; and FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson. Also present: Sherry Pymmer, Barb Martin, Francis Martin, Jeff Williamsen, Melissa Hoover-Connor, Selina McCord, Stephanie Taylor, Chris Snider, Jo Price, Bruce Price, Cheryl Berner, Betty Bennett, Brandy Marshall, Nick Gill, Jerry Starner, Mary Cullison, and Bev Sturm.

Virtual attendees: Josh Horacek, Christy Noland, Jim Bahnsen, Deborah, Greg Forquer, Lori Hawk, Jeff Barron, Shelby Hunt, Jessica Murphy, Will Hinman, Tiffany Daniels, Belinda Nebbergall, Abby King, Aubrey Ward, Rachel Elsea, Leighann Adams, Joe Ebel, Toni Ashton, Lynette Barnhart, Stacy Hicks, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Vince Carpico, Tony Howard, Jon Kochis, Park Russell, Brian Wolfe, Jeanie Wears, and Nicole S.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes for April 9, 2024

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, April 9, 2024, meeting.

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

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

- 2024-04.16.a A Resolution to Approve Establishing a Public Hearing to Consider the Designation of Restricted Areas Which Prohibit the Construction of Large Solar Facilities in Fairfield County, Ohio

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy

Abstaining: Steve Davis

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

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

- 2024-04.16.b A Resolution to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fairfield County and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to Efficiently Resolve Situations Where an Existing Right-of-Way or Easements may Need to be Expanded for Public Safety Purposes in Permanent Agricultural Easements
- 2024-04.16.c A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in Major Expenditure Object Categories for 911 Wireless Fund #2683
- 2024-04.16.d A Resolution to Approve a Memo Expense for Interest Allocation Reimbursements for the Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority, Funds #7012, #7321, #7308, and #7865

Commissioner Fix stated the MOU from resolution 2024-04.16.b involves a situation where a farmer wants to preserve their land in perpetuity, but by doing so prevents the county from doing any development around that property and prevents the county from running utility lines. The resolution allows the county to work with the property owner to preserve everyone's rights.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development:

- 2024-04.16.e A Resolution to Authorize the Approval of a Data Sharing and Confidentiality Agreement between ODJFS and Local Area 20

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

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

- 2024-04.16.f A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category, Fund #2024, Motor Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance
- 2024-04.16.g A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the Sale of Scrap Metal and Aluminum
- 2024-04.16.h A Resolution to Approve the ODOT Road Salt Contract for 2024
- 2024-04.16.i A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the 2024 Purchase of Liquid Asphalt Project
- 2024-04.16.j A Resolution to Approve Lifting Weight Reductions on County and Township Roads
- 2024-04.16.k A Resolution to Request for Appropriations for Additional Unanticipated Receipts of Memo Receipts and Memo Expenses for Fund #3445, Refugee Rd CR7-1.94

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

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services

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

- 2024-04.16.l A Resolution to Approve a Memo Expense/Memo Receipt for the Costs of Birth Certificates paid to Fairfield County Health Departments as a Memo Expenditure for Fund #2072, Public Children's Services
- 2024-04.16.m A Resolution to Approve a Memo Receipt and Expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund #2015, Reimbursing Fund #2018
- 2024-04.16.n A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Christian Childrens Home of Ohio, Inc., CRC
- 2024-04.16.o A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Enterlock Corp dba Heaven Sent Homes

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- 2024-04.16.p A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Gordell Enterprises LLC dba ASUR Counseling & Treatment Centers
- 2024-04.16.q A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Mary Hill Youth and Family Center
- 2024-04.16.r A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and New Mercy Outreach, Inc.
- 2024-04.16.s A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Oesterlen Services for Youth, Inc.
- 2024-04.16.t A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services and Ohio Guidestone
- 2024-04.16.u A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and the Ohio Teaching Family Association
- 2024-04.16.v A Resolution to Approve a Memo Receipt and Expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund #2072, Reimbursing Fund #2018
- 2024-04.16.w A Resolution Authorizing the Approval to Extend the Repayment Date of an Advance of Funds, Fund #2072 Public Children Services, Sub-Fund #8182 EPIC Grant

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Juvenile/Probate Court

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Juvenile/Probate Court:

- 2024-04.16.x A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Juvenile Court, Fund #2630 Special Projects
- 2024-04.16.y A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Juvenile Court, Fund #2882 Annie E. Casey
- 2024-04.16.z A Resolution to Amend the Certificate, Conversion of Prior Year 2023 Encumbrance to Current Year Appropriation, Reduce Current Year Appropriations for Juvenile Court, Annie E. Casey Fund #2882

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2024-04.16.aa A Resolution to Approve the Purchase of Two Additional Motorola Dispatch Consoles for the Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch Center

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

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Utilities Department

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

2024-04.16.bb A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Utilities; Fund #5044, Contractual Services

2024-04.16.cc A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Utilities; Fund #5046, Contractual Services

2024-04.16.dd A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Utilities; 5405, Contractual Services

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

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

2024-04.16.ee A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Payment of Invoices for Departments that Need Board of Commissioners' Approval

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

Executive Session

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 10:03 a.m. The motion asked for the following persons to be included in the Executive Session: Commissioners, County and Deputy County Administrators, Commissioners' Clerks, Commissioners' Budget Director, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, and outside legal counsel.

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

