

Regular Meeting #22 - 2021
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
May 18, 2021

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:01 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, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Jon Kochis, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Keller, Judy Stemen, Ray Stemen, Lisa McKenzie, Jon Slater, Jim Bahnsen, Audrey Stoffel, Alyson Cupp, Marcia Fox, Andrea Stem, and Margaret Euler.

Attending virtually were: Adam Tippett, Chris Wagner, CJ Roberts, Dave Burgei, David Miller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jason Dolin, Jeff Barron, Joe Ebel, Jonett Habberfield, Joshua Horacek, Shannon Carter, Stacy Hicks, Tony Vogel, Corey Clark, Jon Slater, Jeremiah Upp, Lynette Barnhart, Ahsley Arter, Britney Lee, and Jennifer Dickerson.

- Welcome

Commissioner Levacy welcomed everyone.

- Fairfield Forward

Jonette Haberfield, VCB Director, attended the meeting and previously provided the Board with a fact sheet about a few fun things to do in Fairfield County as we move Fairfield Forward. Dr. Brown drew attention to the fact sheet and some picture Ms. Haberfield provided for the review packet. In May, we continue to celebrate National Tourism Month.

Dr. Brown reported that Jim Marcinko, Fair Manager, contacted her on May 14th to report that Fair Board Members have been supportive of the grand opening ideas for the County Fair. They have a Fair Board meeting on the evening of the 18th and will be back in touch. Dr. Brown let Jim Marcinko know that the offer to explore helping with projects remains, such as the offer to help with safety improvements for the track. The plan is for Fair Board members to come to one of the Commission meetings in the future.

We discussed the state support of county fairs, and there will be \$50,000 provided to all county and independent fairs in 2021.

Commissioner Davis asked about the Fairfield Forward theme. Aunie Cordle and Donna Stalter brainstormed about this theme as the discussions about activities post-pandemic were evolving.

- Legal Update

There was no 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

- b. Dates/Events of Interest

May 25 – AG and Prosecutor's Office Lunch n Learn
May 25 – Proclamation for Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness
May 25 – Commissioner Levacy – Commission Connection video to be taped
May 31- Memorial Day – Office is Closed

June 15 – JFS Lunch n Learn, focus on pre-natal program

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June 15- Wear Purple for Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness
 June 22 – County Auditor Lunch n Learn
 June 29 – Commissioner Fix – Commission Connection video to be taped

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

c. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 13 resolutions for the voting meeting.

We had two resolutions for Board appointments or reappointments (for the ADAMH Board and TID Board).

There were six resolutions relating to the debt refinancing and new issuance for the energy conservation project part 2, as previously reviewed . In addition, the review packet contained a timeline and a draft of the project in summary with pictures. We reviewed the project.

There were five additional *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- A grant agreement for Help Me Grow;
- Appropriations for JFS and the County Engineer;
- A repayment of an advance by DR Court; and
- Appropriations for the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery funds.

With the financial resolutions, we had a resolution to authorize initial uses of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and approving appropriations from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876. Initial uses are for public safety payroll support as immediate responses to the pandemic and health concerns, as well as communications support for the Board of Health as a response to the pandemic. This resolution was for appropriations only. There was supplemental documentation for the appropriations. The actual expenditures are not yet being made. We will continue to monitor and evaluate.

There are additional related resolutions in progress for ARP related uses. There will be strategic planning sessions to inform future decisions and future community developments. The review packet contained a packet of information.

There are also additional financial and contracting resolutions (and administrative approvals) in queue.

For example, we have been forecasting a resolution to establish a public hearing for an annexation petition received from Ms. Laura MacGregor Comek, Esq., agent for Love's, for an annexation of 25.8723 +/- acres from Hocking Township into the City of Lancaster.

d. Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Program Updates

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals.

The official statement for the debt refinancing and energy conservation project part 2 will be ready by the targeted deadlines. Narratives are already in place, and the ten-mill certificate is now being prepared.

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Budget Update

- The sales tax estimate for 2021 in Fairfield County is \$23.6 M, or 3% above the sales tax revenues of 2020.
- The full 2019 sales tax rev deposit in June 2019 for March sales was \$1.841 M. The non-auto sales tax deposit anticipated for June 2021 for March sales is \$1.968 M, or about 6.9% above the full receipt two years ago. The increase of the non-auto sales over the prior year is 47%, due to increases in the economy and the pandemic shut down from the prior year. We are keeping our estimate at a 3% increase, but we are tracking more than a 3% increase.
- Mr. Davis stated he believes there is an anomaly in the sales tax data, in that the projected increase is higher than the state, and that benefits Fairfield County. The valley of the past year was not as bad as what the state experienced, but in the recovery, the peak is higher than the statewide averages. This is very unusual by all historical standards.
- We plan to close on new bonds and refinancing on September 3 and will remain flexible with that timeframe.

e. BRAVOS

Thank you to Dennis Keller, Facilities Manager, for his ongoing monitoring of the energy conservation project. Since its inception in July 2014 and through March 2021, the project (phase 1) has saved a total of \$651,392.60. Thanks to Dennis Keller for his leadership. We reviewed a recent article in the media about Dennis Keller.

Thank you to Staci Knisley for serving as the Acting Clerk during Rachel Elsea's family leave. Welcome back to Rachel Elsea!

Congratulations to the NACo leadership academy graduates and to those who are pursuing this course, as well.

Bravo to Rick Szabrak for the ongoing partnership with the Workforce Center. Mr. Szabrak recently conducted a tour of the Workforce Center.

- Old Business

- a. COVID 19 Update

Mr. Ebel reported the vaccine numbers have flattened out, and they are still working on the second doses. They are starting to see a contingent of 12–15-year-olds coming in. New case numbers are dropping slowly averaging at about 18 cases per day. If this trend continues, he hopes to be in better shape soon.

Mr. Levacy asked what the target case number was.

Mr. Kochis replied it was 22 cases per day over a two-week average.

Mr. Kochis thanked everyone for their support along the way. He looks forward to talking about other areas of EMA expertise soon.

Mr. Levacy applauded Mr. Kochis for all his work during the pandemic.

Mr. Fix stated that ten years from now they will have the benefit of hindsight, but he expects what will not change is the respect for the efforts of those at EMA and the Health Department.

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Mr. Kochis added that the county, nation, and world are now better prepared for what will come next.

Mr. Davis stated when the rules are confusing, there are no rules, and that is currently where we are.

The statewide mask order has been amended to follow CDC guidelines. Those who have been vaccinated need not wear masks. Those who have not been vaccinated are encouraged to wear masks and socially distance. The review packet contains a recent article in the media and a statement from Governor DeWine.

b. Commissioner Communications/Additional Updates

Commissioner Steve Davis had a taping with WLRY (this will be done quarterly). He met earlier this morning with a representative from the Fairfield Community Health Center. He also met with Roger Huston this morning. Mr Huston appreciates all concerns brought to the Commission were addressed to the community's satisfaction. While all signage has been changed, the traffic behaviors continue to remain the same. He asked Mr. Davis to help lead communications between the community and the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Davis told him he would do what he could.

Commissioner Dave Levacy reported he would be participating in a Commission Connection taping next week.

Commissioner Jeff Fix will be presenting to the TRAC for the I70 Far East project later in the day. The Commission and the TID members are supportive of this project. The I-70 East Freeway project will support important workforce and economic development objectives. In addition, the safety, mobility, and quality of life for residents are dependent on this roadway improvement. Overall, the project is critical to the continued growth and prosperity of the area. There has not been improvement in this interchange since 1970, in spite of explosive population since that time.

- New Business (none)
- General Correspondence (none)
- Invitations
 - a. NACO Conference – Please let Ms. Elsea know as soon as possible if would like to attend.
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population – 226
 - b. There is a nonprofit looking for warehouse space to store wheelchairs. Please let Dr. Brown know if you know of any space.
 - c. 2020 Department of Health Annual Report

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 beginning at 9:36 a.m. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. Also present were

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Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Dennis Keller, Aunie Cordle, Lisa McKenzie, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Jon Slater, Jim Bahnsen, Audrey Stoffel, Alyson Cupp, Marcia Fox, Andrea Stem, and Margaret Euler.

Attending virtually were: Staci Knisley, Adam Tippett, Ashely Arter, Britney Lee, Chris Wagner, Corey Clark, Dave Burgei, David Miller, Jennifer Dickerson, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, Lynette Barnhart, Shannon Carter, Stacy Hicks, 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.

Thank you to Staci Knisley for her assistance while Ms. Elsea was out.

Public Comment

Commissioner Levacy asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments. He stated this is a time for voters and taxpayers (members of the public) to provide comments.

Mr. Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster mentioned that some of the information being presented is difficult for a lot of people to take in because it comes from a lot of different sources. Mr. Stemen commented that Mrs. Stemen has done a lot of research on this. Because it is difficult to understand, everyone needs to check on the sources just as Mrs. Stemen does. He does not believe Dr. Fauci has been consistent with his messaging. He does not believe anyone has any faith in Dr. Fauci.

Mrs. Judy Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster stated her husband would be passing out information for everyone to read. Mrs. Stemen reviewed the distributed information. She would like more emphasis on the US Constitution. (Please see the attachment distributed.)

A resident by the name of Monica commented that she has been a nurse practitioner for many years. She would like to emphasize that health does not come in a shot, but what it comes from what is consumed. She went on to state health came through exercise and from the Creator. She commented that this (COVID 19 vaccination) is not an FDA approved drug. She fears for children who are pushed to take it. She stands her ground that health should be pushed by medical professionals.

Approval of Minutes for Thursday, May 13, 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, May 13, 2021 Regular Meeting.

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

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution approving the Engagement as Bond Counsel for Not to Exceed \$15,560,000 Various Purpose Refunding and Improvement Bonds, Series 2021 – Fairfield County Commissioners; see resolution 2021-05.18.a.

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Discussion: Mr. Davis asked Dr. Brown to review the purpose of the individual bond resolutions. Dr. Brown reviewed the individual resolutions, which included refinancing along with new debt for the energy conservation project, part 2.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$2,600,000 of bonds for the purpose of currently refunding all or a portion of outstanding bonds issued to pay part of the cost of acquiring and constructing a utilities department administration building known as the "Lockville Utilities Office", and matters related to such bonds; see resolution 2021-05.18.b.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$6,200,000 of bonds for the purpose of currently refunding a portion of outstanding bonds issued, in part, to pay part of the cost of constructing a new county jail facility on real property owned by the county, and matters related to such bonds; see resolution 2021-05.18.c.

Discussion: Mr. Levacy noted that while the Commission had good bond rates to build the jail, these rates were even better.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$850,000 of bonds for the purpose of currently refunding all or a portion of outstanding bonds issued to pay part of the cost of renovating and improving county buildings and related facilities, including associated parking facilities, to house agencies, departments, boards and commissions of the County, and demolition of other site improvements thereto, and matters related to such bonds; see resolution 2021-05.18.d.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$6,000,000 of bonds for the purpose of paying part of the costs of renovating and improving the County Courthouse, the Hall of Justice, and the title office at Liberty Center, including acquiring and installing improvements comprising "energy conservation measures", as defined in section 307.041 of the Ohio Revised Code, and matters related to such bonds; see resolution 2021-05.18.e.

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated that he supported this project, albeit, some aspects of it more than others. Mr. Levacy highlighted the importance of preserving the buildings and the return on investment of the project overall.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution consolidating up to four bond issues of the County of Fairfield, Ohio into a consolidated bond issue, and establishing the terms of such consolidated bond issue; see resolution 2021-05.18.f.

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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

2021-05.18.g A resolution to reappoint the Fairfield County Economic Development Director, the Fairfield County Engineer, Mitch Noland, and Kelvyn Moyer to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board and to appoint Greg Butcher to the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District Board [Transportation Improvement District] [Commissioners]

2021-05.18.h A resolution authorizing initial uses of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and approving appropriations from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876 [Commissioners]

2021-05.18.i A resolution to approve the appointment of Ms. Alicia Bridges to the ADAMH Board [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Davis thanked Dr. Brown and Ms. Cordle for their fast start to the work with the ARP Act despite the time for debate of the propriety of the funds has passed.

Mr. Fix similarly thanked Dr. Brown and Ms. Cordle and went on to highlight two board appointments. He commented on how Fairfield County was working to bring value board appointments and commented on the value that new appointees Mr. Butcher and Ms. Bridges would bring to the boards they were appointed to with the resolutions.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Domestic Relations Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Domestic Relations Court resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund #2848 Justice for Families Grant Program; see resolution 2021-05.18.j.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Engineer Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024 – Motor Vehicle for fuel pump repairs; see resolution 2021-05.18.k.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Family, Adult, and Children First Council Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolution approving a grant agreement for Help Me Grow Early Intervention Service Coordination and Outreach by and between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities for State Fiscal Year 2022; see resolution 2021-05.18.l.

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated this was a renewal of a grant agreement for Help Me Grow. Ms. Fox-Moore reviewed the formula allocation for \$421,092 which is slightly higher than last year.

