

**Regular Meeting #24 - 2021
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 1, 2021**

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Joshua Lininger, Chief Hodder, Chief Churchill, Jon Kochis, Judy Stemen, Ray Stemen, Branden Meyer, and Audrey Stoffel.

Attending virtually were: Jeff Camechis, Tony Vogel, Thomas Lininger, Corey Clark, Donna Fox-Moore, Tony Howard, Jim Bahnsen, Dave Burgei, Joe Ebel, Lynette Barnhart, Dennis Keller, Stacy Hicks, Rick Szabrak, Chris Wagner, Jon Slater, Lisa McKenzie, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Jessica Murphy, Jeff Barron, Nikki Drake, Shannon Carter, and other callers.

- Welcome

Commissioner Levacy welcomed everyone.

- Fairfield Forward

Flier in the Review Packet

Dr. Brown highlighted a flier in the review packet about Fairfield Forward events.

Thank you to Donna Stalter and JFS for the graphics design.

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14! We are planning some energetic events, such as coloring, art, poetry, essay, and photography contests and some civic education activities.

We are planning for the Fair grand opening!

Welcoming Back Employees to the Lancaster Downtown

Along with Human Resources and Destination Downtown, we are welcoming many employees back to the office. The review packet contained a draft email for communication to employees. The Commissioners were happy with the communication.

Strategic Planning

In June and July, we will be providing highlights of our vision to engage multiple stakeholder groups in strategic planning, informing use of ARP fiscal recovery funds and other Commission decisions. The purpose of the strategic planning with a third-party vendor will be to obtain input and feedback about longer term goals from community and key stakeholder perspectives. We will be using the Fairfield Forward theme for the planning.

We anticipate catalytic uses of the ARP fiscal recovery funds for the majority of the ARP expenditures. As we think about those catalytic changes, there are two main uses of the ARP fiscal recovery uses that stand out to us:

1. Responding to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Mr. Levacy stated that focusing on Fairfield County is the Commission's job and where the Commission can most affect change. Fairfield County is first.

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Mr. Davis stated that he and Dr. Brown would be having a discussion with the Fair Board tomorrow to discuss the 2021 Fairfield County Fair.

- National Association of Counties Achievement Awards for Fairfield County in 2021

In recent years, Fairfield County has earned 16 NACo Achievement Awards. This year, NACo presented five awards, a record number in a single year:

Achievement Award Category: Human Services
Sustaining & Improving Guardianship—Giving Marginalized Citizens Voice

Achievement Award Category: County Administration & Management
Improving County Services During a National Crisis

Achievement Award Category: Arts, Culture, and Historic Preservation
Inspiring Placemaking with Mural Art

Achievement Award Category: Personnel Management and Training
Speed Mentoring with Follow-on Coaching

Achievement Award Category: County Administration & Management
Ongoing Preparation for Bond Rating Presentations

We reviewed the attached slide show.

NACo recognized a total of 844 awards in 28 states this year. Franklin County had one top award in Human Services.

Mr. Fix commented that Fairfield County has led the way among larger counties in the state and thanked Dr. Brown for her leadership.

Mr. Davis shared a conversation he had with Dr. Brown regarding the application for the awards and the material provided by the other departments to make the applications possible. He spoke to the transformation that has taken place under Judge Vandervoort and commended her for the great work at Juvenile/Probate Court.

Mr. Levacy commented on how Fairfield County is a mid-size county in terms of population but is at the top for leadership, including how Fairfield County is there to help other entities. He mentioned the importance of technology improvements, as well.

Dr. Brown reported the IT technology work group is meeting this week. A template was designed to help prepare departments for requests for funding for technology improvements.

- Legal Update

There was no legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Dates of Interest

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

June 14 – Flag Day

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

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

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

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted nine resolutions for the voting meeting.

We proposed rescinding the state of emergency and associated resolutions from 2020 based on the public discussion last week.

Mr. Davis stated he was ready for this resolution more than any other resolution.

JFS proposed a contract for the Summer Youth program with BSSI. We are encouraged to see the Summer Youth employment program available this year.

Mr. Clark provided an update on the Summer Youth program which is now back after several years of not being able to be conducted. Orientation starts this week. He hopes to get at least 25 participants. Employers will likely be more inclined to participate with "traditional employment" as there are openings available in the market with some advertised as being available to teens.

Mr. Levacy commented that he had heard there were three jobs available for every person who is unemployed. Mr. Clark commented that the agency was ready to help those seeking work and that he was aware of local employers seeking employees.

There were seven financial and grant related resolutions to approve:

- A grant agreement (renewal) for Common Pleas Court;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for JFS, Clerk of Courts, and County Engineer (and memo transaction for the County Engineer - five resolutions); and
- Stafford Act reimbursements (grant transactions processed by EMA).

On June 8th, we expect the resolution for the enterprise zone agreement for Blue Label.

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

For example, we believe RPC will be proposing a resolution to approve the development agreement for the Estates at Lake Forest Subdivision.

c. Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Program Updates

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals. There were no questions posed.

Customer Service Highlights

We are now gathering quotes about the good work of essential workers in Fairfield County, especially over the past 15 months, as we plan for our customer service acknowledgement in July. Thanks to everyone who is participating in that documentation. There are terrific quotes being provided about the essential services Fairfield County has provided and continues to provide.

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Electronic Idea Box

Here is the summary for May 2021

Idea 54: An employee offered a suggestion for a change to a table of organization for an appointing authority.

Response: We thanked the employee for the submission and offered encouragement for it to be shared with the employee's supervisor or appointing authority. Otherwise, we will know there is an employee's support for this idea as it may come up in discussions with the appointing authority. The Commission will continue to provide guidance for budget requests and will evaluate all requests. (The employee followed up and was thankful for the guidance about approaching the supervisor or appointing authority.)

Idea 55: An employee offered an idea for a waiver of the employee share of health benefits costs during the month of December 2021, with connections to achieving health goals.

Response: Thanks for the idea! We will review the possibilities for a waiver of the employee share of the costs of health benefits during the month of December 2021. This was done similarly in 2020. We will also review ways to help employees meet health goals. Again, thank you for your idea.

Idea 56: An employee offered an idea to use "COVID funds" for bonuses.

Response: While CARES Act funds were used by the end of 2020, American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds are now being evaluated for use. Everyone is very appreciative of the hard work of the essential employees of Fairfield County. We are evaluating all potential uses and will keep everyone informed. One thing to keep in mind is that as we think about catalytic changes, there are two main uses of the ARP fiscal recovery uses that stand out to us:

1. Responding to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

There will be a strategic planning process engaged for the use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds. Thank you for your idea.

An idea under review with IT:

- A recommendation from January 2020 was presented to IT and to the Data Board, as well. This is still under review with IT. The recommendation related to password management.

Mr. Davis stated the ARP was designed to spend money and show nothing for it. He stated whatever Dr. Brown and Ms. Cordle can do to frustrate that intent is appreciated.

Dr. Brown added the county focus is to spend money on items that are catalytic or more long term in nature.

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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.

On June 15th, level 2 data entry ends for the tax budget.

e. BRAVOS

Congratulations to Fairfield County for earning 5 NACo Achievement Awards in 2021.

We say special congratulations to Juvenile/Probate Court Judge Vandervoort for the Court's first NACo Achievement Award.

Michael Orlando, Court Director, offered the following about the Achievement Award:

Great news!

Thanks to Dr. Brown, CJ Roberts, Janet Stout, and others contributing to this application and to the amazing team led by Judge Vandervoort, Magistrate Sitzmann, Janet Stout, LeAnna Schaeffer, and many others responsible for designing and implementing our Guardianship Services. And none of this success would be possible without our top-notch GSB team responsible for providing exceptional direct service. As Dr. Brown often says, "this is something to celebrate."

Thanks to Dennis Keller, Facilities Manager, for his expertise in preparing invitations to bid and for being so organized with construction processes.

- Old Business

a. COVID 19 Update

Mr. Kochis added that they will start to transition away from the clinic at the mall and move the clinic to the Health Department. Mr. Kochis reported that EMA protocol was prepared for the major disasters and in the "gray area" of the COVID19 emergency, there were many lessons learned that will help with future responses. He went on to report that the clinic is being moved away from the mall based upon current needs.

Dr. Brown reported we are moving ahead with the amendment to the lease for the Health Department, allowing the move of the clinic from the mall to the Health Department.

Mr. Fix thanked Mr. Kochis and his team for the work they conducted to keep the county safe over the past 15 months. He also thanked the team at the Board of Health.

Mr. Ebel reported that the numbers for May are continuing to trend down. They do expect small waves again in the fall as kids return to school.

Dr. Brown added on May 27th, Fairfield County moved from "red" to "orange" in the state health advisory system, and those maps were retired by the state on the same day.

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b. Commissioner Communications/Additional Updates

Mr. Fix updated the group on pending legislation about solar and wind power site approvals. CCAO has not currently taken a position on the legislations as it is still early in the process.

Commissioner Fix, Rick Szabrak, and Dr. Brown participated in stakeholder sessions for the sports tourism concept being studied now in partnership with the City of Pickerington, Violet Township, and Fairfield County. Mr. Fix will continue to keep everyone updated on the status of the project. The current question is, is a facility like this sustainable?

Commissioner Levacy attended a meeting with Walnut Township Trustees on May 26 and updated the group on that discussion.

- New Business

- a. Executive Session

There was a recommendation for an executive session related to Security, and the Commission will hold such a session at the end of the regular meeting.

- General Correspondence

- a. Regional Planning Commission Packet (for June 1, 2021)

- Invitations

- a. Community Resource Day – June 9th at the Pickerington Library

Commissioner Fix will attend and take information about Flag Day.

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 260

Chief Churchill reported on the increase in the jail population.

- b. Welcome to New Assistant Supervisor Brad Berry starting June 14th

- c. Hometown Help Program – June 8th at the Pleasantville Community Center

- d. Health Department Summer Newsletter

- e. Engineer's Annual Report

Commissioner Levacy stated at 9:50 a.m. that the Commission would take a 5-minute recess.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 beginning at 9:53 a.m. 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, Jon Kochis, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Chief Churchill, Chief Hodder, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Audrey Stoffel, Branden Meyer, and Jon Slater.

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Attending virtually were: Ashely Arter, Jim Bahnsen, Britney Lee, Jeff Camechis, Dave Burgei, Donna Fox-Moore, Chris Wagner, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jessica Murphy, Lynette Barnhart, Shannon Carter, Thomas Lininger, Tony Vogel, and Tony Howard.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were any announcements. There were no announcements.

Public Comment

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

Ms. Stoffel mentioned a statement from Mr. Ebel on May 11st that prompted her to make a public records request to the Health Department for records relating to children being asymptomatic super spreaders. Mr Ebel replied to her that he did not have records responsive to her request. She read her reply to Mr. Ebel and stated she is still awaiting a response to her reply on May 19th. She discussed additional concerns about asymptomatic individuals and commented upon related studies.

Ms. Judy Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster reviewed the attached handout about articles she provided about COVID-19. She highlighted some of the articles for the Commission.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, May 25, 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, May 25, 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' Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution rescinding 2020-03.10.p and 2020-03.16.a, making a determination that a real and present emergency no longer exists for exempting competitive bidding for supplies or services less than \$100,000, in connection with the efforts to address the Coronavirus, and removing the declaration of a state of emergency which was based on previous orders from the Ohio Department of Health; see resolution 2021-06.01.a.

Discussion: Mr. Levacy stated it was a happy day to vote on this resolution, and he stated he was excited to have the buildings fully open again. The Commission is happy to move on to what is in the best interest of Fairfield County. They see national problems and do not want to have those issues in Fairfield County.

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

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Common Pleas Court resolution authorizing the approval of the 2022/2023 FY Grant

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Agreement with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court; see resolution 2021-06.01.b

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

Approval of the Clerk of Courts - Legal Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Clerk of Courts Legal resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category (2318 computer fund); see resolution 2021-06.01.c.

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 Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Emergency Management Agency resolution for memo transactions and increase receipts relating to the Stafford Act Relief Fund #2649 (subfund 8262/) for EMA; see resolution 2021-06.21.d.

Discussion: Mr. Kochis stated this was to provide funds outside of the General Revenue Funds to support the response effort. Dr. Brown thanked Ms. Noland with EMA for her work and attention to detail.

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

Approval of the Engineer 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:

- | | |
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| 2021-06.01.e | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 3434-OPWC for WAL-38 bridge repairs remainder of final retainage [Engineer] |
| 2021-06.01.f | A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2050 for annual inspections in various subdivisions as of 5/27/21 [Engineer] |
| 2021-06.01.g | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle to maintain facility needs [Engineer] |

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

Approval of the Job and Family Services Resolutions

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

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| 2021-06.01.h | A resolution regarding a Purchase of Service Contract between Business Systems Solutions and Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS] |
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2021-06.01.i

A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2072 – Children Services Fund - Fairfield County JFS [JFS]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Executive Session – Security

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss security at 10:07 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Aunie Cordle, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, Jon Kochis, and representatives from the Sheriff's Office.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and second of Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:37 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

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 10:37 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____
that the June 1, 2021 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:
ABSTENTIONS: None
*Approved on June 8, 2021

NAYS: None

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk

