

**Regular Meeting #23 - 2022**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**June 7, 2022**

**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 Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Dr. Carri Brown, Chris Schmelzer, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Rick Szabrak, Staci Knisley, Amy Brown-Thompson, Raz Sabaiduc, Corey Clark, Randy Evans, Krista Humphries, Jodi Smith and Jeremiah Upp.

Attending virtually: James Bahnsen, Lori Hawk, Lynette Barnhart, Calvin Robinson, Jessica Murphy, Joshua Horacek, Lisa McKenzie, Michael Kaper, Nikki Drake, Stacy Hicks, Thomas Lininger, Chief Collins.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

**Listen & Learn – Job and Family Services**

Director of Job and Family Services (JFS), Corey Clark, provided a PowerPoint and a brochure entitled, "Report to the Community." Mr. Clark introduced two speakers from JFS, Krista Humphries with Community Services, and Jodi Smith for Ohio Means Jobs. The presentation PowerPoint and brochure are contained in the minutes.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, thanked Jodi Smith for her work on unemployment, and Commissioner Levacy asked if Ms. Smith believed the employee shortage was due to the unemployment benefits offered during the pandemic.

Ms. Smith replied that research shows that the current employee availability is the same rate as in 1975, and added that she believed early retirements, and more parents staying home with their children were both contributing to the statistics.

Ms. Cordle inquired about the phlebotomy programs being offered and Ms. Smith said that it is popular with High School students because it is a short-term program. Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak added that the phlebotomy program is often taken prior to a nursing program.

Before concluding, Ms. Smith spoke about the agency's collaboration with other counties and how one person was assisted with job placement in northwest Ohio so that he could work and live near family.

Commissioner Fix thanked Ms. Humphries and Ms. Smith for their presentations.

**Public Comments**

Judy Stemen read from handouts she provided (contained at the end of the minutes) regarding the COVID vaccine.

As Ray Stemen approached the podium to speak about faith and God being a part of the U.S. constitution, Commissioner Fix congratulated him on his upcoming 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Chris Schmelzer spoke about the Bible, the Ten Commandments, and his opposition to the removal of prayer from schools.

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Randy Evans spoke about his family farm and vineyard (Clearcreek County Vineyards) in Amanda, and the effects of the proposed solar farms that would surround his family's property. Mr. Evans added that he is not opposed to solar energy but believes it should be implemented on rooftops and not on good farmland. Mr. Evans also publicly questioned why Amanda Township residents are not being well informed from the developers of the proposed solar project.

**Legal Update**

There was no legal update.

**County Administration Update**

**Week in Review**

*ARP Update*

Ms. Cordle stated there are multiple projects under review and that from the \$15,303,451.00 received as the first tranche of fiscal recovery funds, \$10.5M has been appropriated, \$3.3M expended, and \$4.2M encumbered or obligated. She added that there was a work session that day to review water and sewer projects.

*Fairfield Center Bid Update*

Facilities Director, Dennis Keller, provided an update on the Fairfield Center renovation project which had a final bid of approximately 1.9 million from Walsh Construction.

*Upcoming Commission Meetings*

Ms. Cordle reminded attendees that the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting would be at 7:00 pm at the Pleasantville Community Center and that there will not be a meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Davis stated that he will be out of town for the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Capital Budget Community Projects for Fairfield County Total \$1,250,000*

Ms. Cordle reviewed as follows:

- Department of Developmental Disabilities Salvation Army New Community Center \$200,000
- Department of Natural Resources Ohio and Erie Canal Restoration \$175,000
- Department of Natural Resources Lancaster Nature Trail at AHA! \$75,000
- Department of Natural Resources Buckeye Lake Crystal Lagoon and Public Park \$50,000
- Department of Natural Resources Millersport Lions Park \$50,000
- Department of Natural Resources Pickerington Promenade \$25,000
- Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Fairfield County Historical Society Goslin Room \$50,000
- Ohio Facilities Construction Commission Ohio Glass Museum \$25,000
- Ohio University - Fairfield County Workforce Center \$500,000
- Ohio University - Lancaster Festival Upgrades \$100,000

Rick Szabrak spoke about the county's collaboration with Ohio University Lancaster and an apprenticeship program that would be housed at the Fairfield County Workforce Center.

Commissioner Fix spoke about the county continuing to seek out funding for the Workforce Center.

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*Juneteenth Holiday*

Ms. Cordle reminded everyone that the Juneteenth Holiday is Monday June 20<sup>th</sup>, and that the county offices would be closed in observance.

*HB 377 Includes Elections Funding*

Ms. Cordle stated that HB 388 provides \$20 million for the August primary and is supported by state General Revenue Fund and that these funds are made available on a reimbursement basis. She added the bill specifies that by December 31, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter, all unused funds must be returned to the GRF and that the bill also clarifies PERS monetary participation thresholds for BOE workers. She also stated that during a year in which more than one primary election and one general election are held, an election worker who is paid \$600 plus an amount not to exceed \$400 for an additional election is not considered a PERS member, and county boards of elections are not required to make contributions for these individuals. Ms. Cordle also added that a second unbudgeted primary election is a significant expense to all 88 counties, meaning the \$20 million available, in addition to the \$9.2 million already appropriated for primary preparation expenses, will help counties absorb the additional costs associated with the August 2nd primary election.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the failure of the state to have a single primary election.

*Unified Communications RFP*

Dan Neeley provided an update on the progress of the new Unified Communications System and stated that both the partner and provider had been selected.

Ms. Cordle thanked the Prosecutor's Office for their assistance with navigating the phone project.

**Highlights of Resolutions**

*Administrative Approvals and Resolution Review*

Ms. Cordle stated that the review packet contained a list of administrative approvals and that there were 17 resolutions for the voting meeting. She also noted the following resolutions:

- Appropriate from unappropriated for Health Insurance Fund to set the budget for \$375K for HRA expense.
- FY022 ODOT Budget and Advance - Setting up the budget and advance for the FY022 ODOT grant – capital grant approved a few weeks ago for Airport
- Family Adult and Children First Council Resolutions are setting budgets, adjusting budgets which is a normal business for their grants
- Approval of a construction agreement for the Fairfield Center

**Budget Review**

County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown, added that the General Fund end of May revenues are tracking at 48% of annual estimates and are \$25.25M of the \$52.2M estimate; and expenditures and encumbrances are tracking at 43.7% of annual estimates.

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**Recognition**

County Administrator Cordle announced the following recognitions:

- Dr. Brown thanked Judge Berens, Judge Trimmer, and Magistrate Boone for the conduct of the recovery court. Dr. Brown had a chance to visit recovery court and learn more about its process and benefits – and highly recommends visiting to others if they are interested. The process is not a formal court process but is a way to help people stay on track with their individual goals.
- Dr. Brown thanked Josh Harper, Linda O'Toole, and Crystal Walker, and the whole REA team for their work in making sure the Board of Revision processes are running smoothly.
- Congratulations to Michael Scamyhorn, with County IT, for receiving his CISCO Certified Network Administrator certificate.

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

Clerk, Rochelle Menningen, announced the following calendar items, invitations, and correspondence received:

- Regional Planning Commission Meeting, June 7, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Fairfield County Records Center, 138 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster (Fix, Levacy)
- Magna Seating Columbus/Lancaster Government Official Tour, June 8, 2022, 4:00 p.m., Magna Seating Lancaster, 747 Mill Park Dr., Lancaster (Levacy)
- Housing Coalition Strategic Plan Meeting, June 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m. Fairfield County Records Center, 138 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster (Fix, Davis)
- Tour de United Way Bus Tour, June 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Governor and First lady DeWine Ice Cream Social, June 26, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Conley Rd., Cedarville
- Governor and First Lady DeWine Summer Picnic, Recognizing Ohio's County Officials, July 21, 2022, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Ohio Governor's Residence, 358 N. Parkview Ave., Bexley
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County Annual Charity Pie Auction, Pie Baking Contest Drop Off, June 24, 2022, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.,
- Berne Union High School, Charity Pie Auction, June 25, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Peoples Bank Main Stage, Sugar Grove
- Ohio Elder Abuse Awareness Day Webinar, June 22, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Correspondence**

*Informational Items*

- Fairfield County Health Department District Advisory Council Email, May 2022 Report, and May 31, 2022, Meeting Presentation
- Notice of Berne Township Zoning Meeting, Post Dated May 31, 2022, Change Request to Zoning Planned Rural Business District, Parcel 0040068900, 4215 Old Logan Rd., Lancaster, June 9, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Berne Township Fire House, 5872 Sugar Grove Rd., Sugar Grove

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*Jail Population*

*Ms. Cordle announced the jail population as follows:*

- May 31 was 267 with 39 of those being contracted placements.
- June 7 was 256 with 30 of those being contracted placements.

**Old Business**

Commissioner Davis stated that the commissioners have not heard from the developer of the Amanda Township solar project to date and added that he had heard that the developer was the same developer as that of the solar project in Pickaway/Ross County. Commissioner Davis also spoke about SB 52.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the filming of the Commissioner's video at the Sheriff's Office shooting range and training facility the prior week and added that Lancaster City Schools helped to provide the modulators for the site.

Commissioner Fix spoke about emails being received regarding solar projects and encouraged everyone to educate themselves as much as possible on solar energy and added that he and the other commissioners were doing the same.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the PJM process and how a couple of years ago PJM had a few projects to review and now they have 2500 in their queue. Commissioner Davis added that Fairfield County has three projects in the PJM que that look like seven due to the way they are listed. Commissioner Davis also added that he lives in a solar home and that means he is in favor of solar panels on his home.

Commissioner Fix reiterated that the commissioners are doing a lot of homework regarding solar energy.

Auditor Brown stated that the Auditors' Office has a new online fillable lodging tax collection form and that the Point in Pay process is working. Auditor Brown added that the commissioners had approved waiving penalties and interest during the new process transition. Auditor Brown also spoke about rates for indigent defense, the District Advisory Council Meeting, the promotion of Andy Boystel, and jail revenues.

A detailed memo from Auditor Brown was presented and is included in the minutes.

**New Business**

Commissioner Davis spoke about his appreciation for the collaborative efforts that allowed the Lancaster High School baseball team to use the county Workforce Center for their end of year banquet. The commissioner shared a personal note about his excitement for his son who was starting a new internship in London.

County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp, spoke about the Engineer's Office being excited about the addition of Andy Boystel.

Commissioner Davis spoke about his concern regarding phone issues and stated that he always returns the calls of anyone asking to speak with him.

Commissioner Fix called a five-minute recess at 10:27 a.m.

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**Regular (Voting) Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 10:32 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: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Dr. Carri Brown, Chris Schmelzer, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Rick Szabrak, Staci Knisley, Amy Brown-Thompson, Raz Sabaiduc, Corey Clark, Randy Evans, Krista Humphries, Jodi Smith and Jeremiah Upp.

Attending virtually: James Bahnsen, Lori Hawk, Lynette Barnhart, Calvin Robinson, Jessica Murphy, Joshua Horacek, Lisa McKenzie, Michael Kaper, Nikki Drake, Stacy Hicks, Thomas Lininger, Chief Collins.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for May 31, 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, May 31, 2022, Regular Meeting.

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

**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:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2022-06.07.a | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories for the Fund # 5376  |
| 2022-06.07.b | A resolution approving to Appropriate from Unappropriated into a major expense category for Grant Fund# 3034, sub fund # 8302 for the FY2022 Ohio Airport Grant Program/Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Grant match transfer from the General Fund # 1001 & Advance from the General fund |

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

**Approval of 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:

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- 2022-06.07.c      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 6/1/22 [Engineer]
- 2022-06.07.d      A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2580 for subdivision inspections of various subdivisions [Engineer]

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

**Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Facilities**

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

- 2022-06.07.e      A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Construction Agreement and Bid Award with Walsh Construction Group, LLC [Facilities]

Commissioner Fix thanked all involved for their work on the Fairfield Center and Commissioner Davis asked for a brief update.

Facilities Director, Dennis Keller, stated that phase one of the project was slated to be complete by December 15, 2022. Mr. Keller added that this allowed the Clerk of Courts to move before the term of the current lease in Pickerington.

Mr. Keller confirmed that phase one is the building known as building two.

Commissioner Davis stated that the schedule sounded very tight and asked if there was a possibility that the Clerk of Courts could be operating while items were being completed. The commissioner also asked if there were incentives in place regarding completion dates.

Mr. Keller stated there was a possibility to operate in the building based on deadlines and that the contract for the Fairfield Center project had both penalties and incentives.

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 Family, Adult and Children First Council**

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 Family, Adult and Children First Council:

- 2022-06.07.f      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, sub fund # 8157 [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2022-06.07.g      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major expenditure category for the Fund# 7521, sub fund # 8160 – Family Adult Children First (FACF) [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

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- 2022-06.07.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, sub fund # 8286 [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2022-06.07.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, sub fund # 8152 – Family Adult Children First (FACF) [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2022-06.07.j A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, Sub fund # 8164– Family Adult Children First (FACF) [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2022-06.07.k Administrative approval of a contract by and between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and Fairfield County ADAMH [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2022-06.07.l A resolution regarding a memorandum of understanding between the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities. [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

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 and 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 and Family Services:

- 2022-06.07.m A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Hope Haven for Girls and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
- 2022-06.07.n A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Hope Haven for Girls and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
- 2022-06.07.o A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between A New Leaf and Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
- 2022-06.07.p A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between A New Leaf and 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 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:



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2022-06.07.q      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

**Airport Authority Project Funding Discussion**

County Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen, spoke about investment interest earnings and stated that the return on investments (ROI) on buildings is typically 30 years. He later added that he would get the current interest rate for a loan for the airport project.

Auditor Brown stated that funding options for the airport were grants, bonds, and bond anticipation notes, and that interest income could go toward the debt but that the county could not loan to the airport since the airport is part of the county.

EMA Director, Jon Kochis, stated that the airport could build proposed hangars all at once or in a series and stated that the airport currently has 5-6 planes sitting outside waiting for available hangar space.

Mr. Szabrak stated that there are businesses that would like to start manufacturing in Fairfield County, and that he believes the airport could help entice companies into the county.

Commissioner Fix called a recess at 11:13 p.m.

**American Rescue Plan Utility Project Review**

The Commissioners met at 1:00 p.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: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Dr. Carri Brown, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Rick Szabrak, Terri Wise, and Bill Vance.

Commissioner Fix thanked everyone for returning. The commissioner stated that one concern of the Board is the ability for each project to be completed by end of ARP funding period and whether each entity has sufficient funding to sustain the projects.

Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, stated that the ARP funding end date would be December 31, 2026, with all funds encumbered by December 31, 2024.

Baltimore Village Administrator, Teri Wise, stated she felt comfortable that the project could be completed and maintained and added that the project total would be \$755,000.

Administrator Cordle asked if Baltimore was intending to use the second tranche for the initial project.

Ms. Wise stated that the second tranche would be for EPA mandated repairs of the wastewater treatment plant.

Ms. Cordle verified that the Village of Baltimore was asking for \$613,000.

Commissioner Fix asked Ms. Wise if the Village had the funds to front the project and if there was the ability to build maintenance into the village's future budgets.

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Ms. Wise stated she would confirm with her finance person and added that the village's improvement fund was established for maintenance. Ms. Wise also added that the cost for pipe had increased 30-40% this year and that the village would like to do the entire project, but if expenses increased the plan would be to break the project into phases. Ms. Wise ended by stating that affordable housing includes affordable living and that village residents currently pay over 50% toward village loans on each bill.

Bill Vance represented projects for Pleasantville and Walnut Creek. Mr. Vance stated that Pleasantville has an immediate issue with the needed repair of two water tanks that pose a public health issue to the three-hundred and fifty water customers in Pleasantville. Mr. Vance also stated that Pleasantville's water customers currently pay about \$90 per month.

Deputy Administrator Porter asked what the village would do if the project was significantly higher than the 2020 estimate of \$600,000.

Commissioner Fix asked if the village would possibly increase water bills if the cost were higher than originally projected and Mr. Vance confirmed they would.

Mr. Vance spoke about the Walnut Creek project stating that the wastewater plant was over forty years old. Mr. Vance stated that the ask was for \$750,000 and that there would be a CBDG match.

In response to Commissioner Fix's original questions, Mr. Vance stated that the project would complete in 2024 and that it could be maintained, but that the project could not go forward without the county's assistance.

Administrator Cordle responded to Commissioner Fix who had asked about time needed for recommendations by stating that the recommendations could be ready by June 21, 2022.

Commissioner Davis recommended reaching out to applicants if necessary.

Utilities Director Tony Vogel confirmed for the Board of Commissioners that the Utilities Department had proposed three separate projects, the water line to Pleasantville Rd., the Greenfield lift station, and the Greenfield area waterlines.

Commissioner Davis asked about the carryover in the utility fund and stated his concern regarding the debt incurred from the proposed projects.

Mr. Vogel stated that the carryover was for potential EPA mandates and wastewater treatment projects.

Auditor Brown stated there was approximately \$20M unappropriated and that the projects for the Recorder's Office and the Clerk of Courts' Office had been appropriated.

### **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 1:54 p.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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at the Pleasantville Community Center, Pleasantville, Ohio.

