

Regular Meeting #25 - 2021
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 8, 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, Thomas Lininger, Tony Vogel, Chief Churchill, Aunie Cordle, Jon Kochis, Corey Clark, Rick Szabrak, Ronda Baldwin, Judy Stemen, Ray Stemen, Jon Slater, Chris Wagner, Dennis Keller, Lisa McKenzie, and Margaret Enler.

Attending virtually were: Jeff Camechis, Nikki Drake, Jeff Porter, Dave Burgei, CJ Roberts, Jeff Barron, Michael Kaper, Stacy Hicks, Adam Tippet, Jim Bahnsen, Park Russell, Sheriff Lape, Jennifer Dickerson, Jeremiah Upp, Marcy Fields, Ashely Arter, Britney Lee, and Jessica Murphy.

- **Welcome**

Commissioner Levacy welcomed everyone.

- **Fairfield Forward**

Special Events

Dr. Brown reported there was a flier in the review packet about Fairfield Forward events. We continue to promote the Fairfield County cell phone app from the Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Mr. Kochis announced the Luke Bryan Farm Tour is back. It will be held on September 17th with tickets on sale starting today. The farm location is different than the previous location, and it will be closer to Millersport.

Mr. Davis stated that at an event over the weekend an individual brought up Mr. Kochis and spoke of the EMA Director that he has become.

Dr. Brown commented on how Flag Day will be celebrated on June 14. We are planning civic education activities. Rachel Elsea shared the webpages for the Flag Day promotion.

On August 17th, we believe we will have representation from Governor DeWine's Office for the Patriotic Mural dedication at Amstutz.

Commissioner Davis and Dr. Brown met with Fair Board members and will continue to plan with them for the grand opening of the fair. We have a resolution on the voting agenda for a \$50,000 allocation for the County Fair. This is a new, one-time allocation.

Mr. Davis provided some details on the meeting with the Fair Board. He thought the meeting was positive. He heard that one or two members of the Board were concerned about the grand opening becoming a political rally. He reminded everyone that 2021 was not an election year. He supports the resolution for the allocation to be helpful in an unrestricted way. He views this as the beginning of the discussion, not the end of the discussion. He expects additional agreements to have terms and conditions. Mr. Davis is excited about the fair and the new relationship with the Fair Board moving forward.

We anticipate potentially using some safety grant dollars to help with improvements to the track at the fairgrounds and will explore other opportunities as the Fair Board committee reports to us.

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Strategic Planning

We will be using the Fairfield Forward theme for strategic planning.

We anticipate catalytic uses of the ARP fiscal recovery funds. 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.

- Legal Update

Mr. Brown-Thompson reported that Franklin County did appeal the health insurance decision.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Dates of Interest

- Announcements

- Rick Szabrak introduced new employee Ronda Baldwin.
 - Fairfield County has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Ohio EPA through the Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund to install two level 2 dual-port EV charging stations (for a total of four connections) at the Workforce Center.

This was from an application Rick Szabrak prepared in September 2020 and included a letter of support from the Commission at that same time (where we agreed to maintain the charging stations for five years).

The total project cost is estimated at \$61,689, and the county contribution is already budgeted within the Economic and Workforce Development departmental budget.

This is a great opportunity for Fairfield County residents. We are planning to research the cost alternatives regarding the type of charging stations to use (with the hope to have a monitoring year regarding use). Stay tuned for more information!

The Commissioners thanked Rick Szabrak for his leadership with the grant process and with the Workforce Center. Commissioner Davis commented on the navigation systems available for electric vehicles.

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

- Dates/Events of Interest

June 14 – Flag Day!

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

June 15- Wear Purple for Elder Abuse Prevention Awareness

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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.

Mr. Slater reviewed the potential agenda for the Auditor's Lunch & Learn, including Real Estate Assessment and GIS.

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 12 resolutions for the voting meeting.

RPC proposed a resolution to approve the development agreement for the Estates at Lake Forest Subdivision.

Economic Development proposed approval of an enterprise zone agreement for Blue Label.

There were 10 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- Appropriations for a one-time, new allocation of \$50,000 for the County Fair;
- Account-to-account transfers of appropriations for the Common Pleas Court, Commission, and Economic Development;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the Commission and Engineer (non-general fund transactions, three resolutions);
- A new special revenue fund for the Airport to follow federal terms and conditions;
- Reimbursement to the PA fund from WIOA; and
- Appropriations from unappropriated (non-general fund) for training, for the County Sheriff.

Mr. Davis asked a few questions regarding Blue Label. Mr. Szabrak stated that today's resolution was relating to the third expansion phase for office space.

Mr. Davis stated that Blue Label has been treating their employees the right way for a long time. Their business model is extraordinarily successful.

c. Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Program Updates

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

Dr. Brown reported we continue to gather 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.

We had a very productive work group meeting on June 2 for IT strategic planning. We are gathering information to justify investments in technology.

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.

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As we plan for 2022, we recognize anticipated investment from a general fund perspective in:

- technology,
- the Government Services Center in Pickerington,
- market adjustments for compensation, and
- restoration of capital projects.

e. **BRAVOS**

Thanks again to Destination Downtown and Amanda Everitt for the coupons that were part of the effort to welcome people back to the office. Thanks to HR for organizing the promotion.

Congratulations to Rick Szabrak for the grant to support EV charging stations at the Workforce Center.

Thanks to the administrative team for their work in organizing a Flag Day celebration. Thanks to Branden Meyer for obtaining some American flags for us.

Mr. Davis thanked the Sheriff's Office for the new protocols that were very quickly put in place as a result of last week's Executive Session.

- Old Business

a. **Commissioner Communications/Additional Updates**

Commissioner Levacy's Commission Connection video was posted on the website and emailed globally. It is a positive message about how we serve, connect, and protect.

Dr. Brown attended the DACO reception on Friday, June 4, and she shared a poster and some details from that event.

Mr. Fix provided an update on the CCAO Strategic Planning Committee which is almost ready to present the association's plan. He also met with Treasurer Sprague last week.

- New Business

Commissioner Levacy talked about hosting an author who is a member of the Taft family. The author is walking trails of the Hopewell peoples in research for a book. Mrs. Cordle mentioned she met (at L-City Coffee) Hope Taft and a group who were engaged in this project, which sounds very interesting.

- General Correspondence (none)

- Invitations

a. **Bremen Chamber Lunch – Thursday, June 24th at noon – RSVP required**

- FYI

a. **Jail Population – 245**

Mr. Davis asked if Chief Churchill knew when bed rental may be initiated with Athens County.

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Chief Churchill replied they spoke with the Sheriff of Athens County last Friday, and he will follow up with him today to see where they are in the process.

Dr. Brown reported she received email to indicate that Athens County was reviewing the matter on their Commission agenda today.

- b. Liquor permit received (provided to Sheriff for comment – no issues reported)
- c. DACO Exhibit – Hollywood is back in Lancaster beginning June 5 and through January 2.
- d. Strickler Farms notification about filing for a permit
- e. DD newsletter (emailed)
- f. June 9th Board of Health agenda received
- g. There will be a Celebration of Life for Judge Chris Martin on Friday, June 18th at 11:30 AM at St Mary's Church, 132 South High Street, Lancaster, Ohio.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 beginning at 9:38 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, Amy Brown-Thompson, Thomas Lininger, Jon Kochis, Aunie Cordle, Corey Clark, Rick Szabrak, Ronda Baldwin, Tony Vogel, Dennis Keller, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Chief Churchill, Lisa McKenzie, Jon Slater, and Margaret Enler.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Adam Tippet, Chris Wagner, CJ Roberts, Dave Burgei, Jennifer Dickerson, Jason Dolin, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Nikki Drake, Park Russell, Sheriff Lape, Stacy Hicks, and Marcy Fields.

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.

Mr. Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster stated that many issues are coming to fruition as people who made negative comments are turning those comments positive. He believes this is good, but there is still a long way to go.

Ms. Judy Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster reviewed the attached handout with articles relating to COVID-19 and the vaccine. She added that Fairfield County is pushing the vaccine too much on its residents.

Margaret Enler of Sugar Grove is a registered nurse of over 20 years. She has been working with COVID-19 patients for the last 18 months without a vaccine or proper equipment and has been fine. She stated she wants more conservatives in office. She spoke about her father's experience with cancer and how the treatment took away from his quality of life and family time

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in his final days. She does not think people should be pressured to take treatments they do not want to have. She is not against vaccines but believe people should do research and be supported for their personal decisions. She also commented on Thursday's Republican Executive Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, June 1, 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, June 1, 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 following Commissioners' resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2021-06.08.a | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major expenditure object category for fund# 1001, relating to an additional allocation of \$50,000 for the Fairfield County Fair, to be paid to the Fairfield County Agricultural Society - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-06.08.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for the Annexation Proceedings Fund# 2543 – Fairfield Co Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-06.08.c | A resolution to authorize the establishment of a new agency fund for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSA) for the Fairfield County Airport Authority [Commissioners] |
| 2021-06.08.d | A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category for materials & supplies - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |

Discussion: Mr. Davis expressed his enthusiasm for supporting resolution "a". This is a new way to support the fair with the one-time allocation and is a marked policy change for the Commission. He asked what resolution "c" did. Dr Brown replied the resolution established a new agency fund for the airport. This is required for the federal funding they will be receiving. Mr. Kochis added that the funding would be to rehab the taxi way and improve drainage. The airport is doing well. Hangar rent is at full capacity with a wait list of over 25 people. This is the best they have been doing in a while. Mr. Keller is working with the Sheriff's Office and airport on a storage project. They are hopeful to be completed by the end of the year.

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 approving an account to account transfer; see resolution 2021-06.08.e.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Economic Development Resolutions

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

- 2021-06.08.f A resolution to approve the Commissioners entering into an Enterprise Zone Agreement with Blue Label Packaging [Economic & Workforce Development]
- 2021-06.08.g A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category [Economic & Workforce Development]

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak thanked the Commission for their continued support of local businesses. Mr. Davis stated that in early conversations, Blue Label was looking at Franklin County as a potential location. He believes Mr. Szabrak has been a huge participant in Blue Label's discussions and growth.

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:

- 2021-06.08.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for unemployment [Engineer]
- 2021-06.08.i A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 LIB-26 bridge replacement [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 Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Job and Family Services resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2599 reimbursing Fund 2018; see resolution 2021-06.08.j.

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

Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Regional Planning Commission resolution to approve Development Agreement for the Estates at Lake Forest Subdivision; see resolution 2021-06.08.k.

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

Approval of the Sheriff's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Sheriff's Office resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Sheriff's Office Fund 2711 Continuous Professional Training; see resolution 2021-06.08.l.

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Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that this is establishing new appropriations for special revenue funding the Sheriff's Office has for continuing professional education or training.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Open Items

Mr. Davis stated he would be out of town next week and was sorry to miss next week's events.

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 10:00 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Motion by: Jeff Fix Seconded by: Dave Levacy
that the June 8, 2021 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Fix, Levacy

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on June 15, 2021

Absent

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

Jeff Fix
Commissioner

Rachel A. Elsea
Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk