

**Regular Meeting #23- 2019**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**June 11, 2019**

**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: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Tony Vogel, Todd McCullough, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Jeff Porter, Jeff Barron, Donna Stalter, Mark Conrad, Lt. Marc Churchill, Loudan Klein, Melissa Wilde, Jake Tharp, Dennis Keller, Rick Szabrak, Aunie Cordle, Sharon Noice, Kristen Kennedy, Mary Hilton, Anna Prickett, Julie Anthony, Lisa Notestone, David Miller, Al Beavers, Jan Picklesimer, Jon Slater, and Carolyn Taylor.

- Welcome
- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek did not have a legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

a. Announcements

June 18 – Time with the Commission at the Sheriff's Office

July 4 – Independence Day!

July 9 – Meetings at Tussing Road Government Services Center;  
Time with the Commissioners

July 23 – Employee Recognition Breakfast (Records Center)

July 26 – Bike Races at Government Services Center on Main Street in Lancaster

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 13 resolutions for the voting meeting.

We proposed a resolution to support the Live the Code document (discussed during the Leadership Conference) and to acknowledge intention for full MORPC membership as of January 1, 2020.

Ms. Picklesimer introduced the JFS staff in attendance who developed the Live the Code document.

Mr. Levacy thanked them and urged them to keep up the good work at JFS.

Mr. Davis stated he was initially hesitant to adopt this as he falls short but likes the idea that this is something to strive towards.

Regarding MORPC members, Loudan Klein and Carri Brown had a teleconference with William Murdock about MORPC and its return on investment. Loudan Klein, Carri Brown, and Rick Szabrak will be attending MORPC meetings in 2019, prior to the full membership in 2020.

Mr. Klein stated they will hold MORPC accountable to make sure Fairfield County gets a good return on their investment. He will report back from MORPC meetings.

Following up on the award of a contract last week, the Utilities Department proposed a notice of commencement for a planned engineering project for the Greenfield system.

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The Engineer proposed a resolution to establish the true line of a segment of Lookout Road (TR301) in Madison Township; the proposed resolution was for the Board of Commissioners to approve a plat and description as submitted for the portion of Lookout Road (TR301) in Madison Township and to order the plat to be placed with the road records of the County Engineer's Office.

There were financial resolutions to approve, such as:

- A DYS grant application and report for Juvenile Court;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for the Common Pleas Court and Commissioners (two resolutions);
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the Sheriff, the Juvenile Court, County Engineer, and an Airport grant (five non-general fund resolutions);
- The payment of bills.

Still in queue was the JFS proposal of a contract with BSSI, network contracts, and a subgrantee agreement with ODJFS, as well as several contracts for protective placement in network. Also, in queue were several financial resolutions and three FCFAF grant and collaboration related agreements.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

**Administrative Update**

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals. No questions were posed.

**Budget Update**

County Budget Data Entry and Planning

We are aligning our county budget with goals. With the implementation of the 20 recommendations for recruitment and retention of employees, there is an opportunity for merit-based increases. To participate in merit-based increases, departments must use the county performance assessment tools and comply with the county compensation plan. There will be an administrative review of budget matters relative to these variables.

Now, there are two departments who have notified us that they do not plan to participate in the merit-based increases, performance assessments, and/or compensation plan. (Unionized departments will continue to be paid by contract.)

Level 2 data entry for the county budget ends on June 18 at noon.

There are 27 pays in 2020, which means there is a timing issue which will result in an increase of more than \$743,000 in the 2020 general fund budget; all county funds will experience this variable.

**Bid opening for Baldwin**

On June 7, 2019, we conducted a bid opening for the Baldwin project. The base bids ranged from a high of \$1,788,616, and a low of \$1,445,720. The low bidder was Walsh Construction Group from Dublin, Ohio. The low bid was within 10% of the published cost estimate, and we are now proceeding with the review for contracting. Based on the available 'deductions' and a reserve for change orders, appropriations of about \$126,000 from the general fund will be needed attributed to compliance with the new Ohio building code.

We will follow up with formal resolutions and a press release. The project should still be

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completed by the end of the year. The work group, consisting of Carri Brown, Dennis Keller, Mark Conrad, Jon Kochis, and Branden Meyer will continue to meet regularly to monitor progress.

NACO Conference Plans

Regarding the NACO Conference, two Commissioners are now able to attend. No directors are attending. Budgeted travel expenses are as follows:

Travel/Expense Item - Estimates	Commissioner Davis	Commissioner Fix
NACO Conference Registration	515	585
NACO Awards Lunch	15	15
Hotel	800	800
Transportation (taxi, etc.)		100
Flight to Conference		550
Flight back to Columbus	550	550
Mileage to Columbus, round trip		70
Meals, estimate	225	225
Total Estimate for Traveler	2105	2825

The NACO Conference is July 12-15. It will be an opportunity to exchange cutting-edge best practices and shape NACo’s federal policy agenda for the year ahead. The conference will provide access to information and resources to address some of our most pressing challenges – the opioid and heroin crisis, criminal justice and mental health reform, transportation and infrastructure, economic development and much more. In addition, there will be an exhibit hall showcasing innovative, cost-saving products and services from a variety of companies.

NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments — rural, urban, large, small and everything in between. A nonpartisan organization, NACo assists America’s 3,069 counties by amplifying our voices at the national level, connecting local and federal officials and providing tools to help us achieve local priorities. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters innovation, encourages intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and offers solutions to save counties and taxpayers money.

In addition to meetings with county officials, experts from the private and nonprofit sectors and other leaders from across the country, the conference offers exceptional educational opportunities. It will provide practical information on a variety of topics including community and economic development, transportation, infrastructure, energy and the environment, justice and public safety, health, human services and financial administration.

In 2019, Fairfield County received three NACO Achievement Awards (previously discussed).

Commissioners have been provided the travel and expense reimbursement policy as a refresher.

d. BRAVOs

Thanks to the multiple employees who participated and led the MUNIS training on June 6.

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Bravo to Jon Kochis, EMA Director, for supporting Hocking County in their filing for disaster aid and for helping to train new EMA Directors in Ohio.

Thank you to Shelby Stevens, Shar Bails, and Jake Tharp for helping with mail coverage in June and July.

- Old Business

- a. MCJDC connections – rightsizing the contribution

The program committee will meet tomorrow and June 19<sup>th</sup> with a special joint board meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> to hopefully pass the budget with a reduced contribution from Fairfield County. Commissioner Davis stressed the extreme difficulty of an agreement beyond 2020.

- New Business (none)

- General Correspondence Received

- a. Thank you from ODOT for US 33 & Pickerington Road Letter of Support

Mr. Klein reported that this intersection is included in the top 150 worst intersections in Ohio list ranking 6<sup>th</sup> on the Rural Intersections List.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- a. ADAMH Strategic Planning Meeting – Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the Liberty Center
    - i. Commissioner Fix and Dr. Brown to attend.
  - b. MORPC Workshop One – Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Lancaster City Hall, 104 East Main Street, Lancaster
  - c. Pickerington Chamber Lunch – Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Zion Church, Pickerington
    - i. Commissioners Levacy and Davis will attend.
  - d. Bremen Chamber Lunch – Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at Bremen United Methodist Church
  - e. Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber Athena Banquet – Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Lancaster County Club
    - i. Commissioner Levacy will attend.

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 299
  - b. Recent media articles re: jail investigation resources

There have been several articles in the media about the state investing more resources in jail investigations. Fairfield County is faring well with jail inspections with the opening of the new jail.

Mr. Davis stated that jail inspections are odd to him in that Fairfield County failed their inspections for several years with no consequences. If additional resources will make inspections relevant, he thinks it would be a very good thing.

- c. Pets for Patriots article

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Thanks to Todd McCullough for organizing this helpful partnership.

- Open Items (none)

**Meeting with Al Beavers**

The Commissioners met at 9:25 a.m. for a meeting with Al Beavers. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Tony Vogel, Todd McCullough, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Jeff Porter, Jeff Barron, Donna Stalter, Mark Conrad, Lt. Marc Churchill, Loudan Klein, Melissa Wilde, Jake Tharp, Dennis Keller, Rick Szabrak, Aunie Cordle, Sharon Noice, Kristen Kennedy, Mary Hilton, Anna Prickett, Julie Anthony, Lisa Notestone, David Miller, Al Beavers, Jan Picklesimer, Jon Slater, and Carolyn Taylor.

Mr. Beavers provided an update on all the exciting things going on with Beavers Field.

Beavers Field has been operational for 30 years. They now host between 165 and 170 games a year with high school and college games in the Spring; Legion games in the Summer; and a high school league in the Fall. Attendance at games this year has been so good they have had to borrow parking from OU-L. He reviewed the latest project which has received a grant from Walmart. He will not start until he has at least 25% funding. He appreciates the support from the County and Commissioners.

Within the lease for the Beavers Field, there was an option to renew from 9.2.2019 – 9.1.2023 at the option of Fairfield County Baseball Complex Association, Inc. We requested a letter regarding that option, and the County Prosecutor offered to prepare an amendment to continue the lease, which would be signed by the Commissioners and the Fairfield County Baseball Complex Association, Inc.

Mr. Beavers stated he would send the letter to the Commissioners.

Mr. Davis applauded the foresight to build a facility like Beavers Field which he believes is one of the best in Ohio. He couldn't have imagined the success. He is frustrated that the Commission can only do five-year leases as this is a gem to the Lancaster community.

Mr. Levacy asked what the cost was of the indoor facility.

Mr. Beavers replied the facility alone is \$400,000-\$450,000 and will be roughly 15,600 square feet. They are working with the USDA on a long-term loan but will not pursue it until they have raised more money.

Mr. Szabrak stated he had spoken with Tyler Sisson, Mr. Beavers' grandson, about the project and believes it could be an RLF project now that they have a bank involved.

Dr. Brown asked if Mr. Beavers was given reasons for not receiving grants they had previously sought.

Mr. Beavers replied that a local bank said they appear to be a for-profit entity, not nonprofit. The Fairfield Foundation stated that they did not have enough funds raised for the project.

Dr. Brown offered to help create narratives for grant projects.

Mr. Fix stated his son played at the facility several times. People from Columbus are blown away by the facility, which is a great asset to Fairfield County. He will be of any help he can.

Mr. Beavers urged everyone to check out their website at [www.beaversfield.com](http://www.beaversfield.com) for more information.

On an accounting issue, we will likely need to reflect in our future \$1 leases (or in a supplemental document) what the market value of the lease would have been otherwise. This is based on a new GASB ruling (not in effect until 2020).

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Commissioner Levacy and others thanked Al Beavers for his update.

Commissioner Levacy stated at 9:47 a.m. the Commission would be in recess until the 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting.

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Loudan Klein, Rick Szabrak, Jeff Porter, Aunie Cordle, Todd McCullough, David Miller, Tony Vogel, Jim Bahnsen, Lt. Churchill, Jake Tharp, Corey Schoonover, Dennis Keller, Mark Conrad, Jon Slater, Ed Laramée, Jeff Barron, and Melissa Wilde.

**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.

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, June 4, 2019**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, June 4, 2019 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' Office resolutions:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2019-06.11.a | A resolution authorizing full county membership in the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, effective January 1, 2020<br>[Commissioners]  |
| 2019-06.11.b | A resolution approving to Appropriate from Unappropriated into a major expense category for Grant Fund# 3034, sub fund# 8218 for the FY2019 Ohio Airport Grant Program/Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Grant match transfer from the General Fund # 1001 & Advance from the General fund – Fairfield County Commissioners/Airport [Commissioners] |
| 2019-06.11.c | A resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expense object category contractual services, Fund# 1001 - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]  |

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2019-06.11.d            A resolution acknowledging the “We Live the Code” document as a tangible representation of Fairfield County’s branding, showing aspirational goals of exceptional internal and external “customer service” - a core value of government and public service [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Fix is pleased the County is joining MORPC for the tangible and intangible benefits.

Mr. Levacy thanked the JFS employees for developing the Live the Code document and indicated he supported it.

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 in a major object expense category – Fairfield County Common Pleas Court Recovery Court; see resolution 2019-06.11.e.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the Engineer’s Office Resolutions**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer’s Office resolutions:

2019-06.11.f            A resolution to establish the true line of a segment of Lookout Road (TR301) in Madison Township. [Engineer]

2019-06.11.g            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for new equipment and for pipe and supplies [Engineer]

2019-06.11.h            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for towing services [Engineer]

Discussion: Mr. Horacek referenced resolution “f” and stated residents disagreed on where the road is, the Engineer stepped in and platted it, and all residents have now signed off on this location of the road.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolutions**

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

2019-06.11.i            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Juvenile Court #2641 Title IV-E Fund [Juvenile/Probate Court]

2019-06.11.j            A resolution authorizing the Approval of the 2020 FY Grant Agreement with the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

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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 Sheriff's Offices 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 2042 Enforcement and Education; see resolution 2019-06.11.k.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the Utilities Office Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Utilities Office resolution authorizing the notice of commencement for the Trussing Road Water Treatment Plant Well No. 10; see resolution 2019-06.11.l.

Discussion: Mr. Vogel stated this is a notice of commencement for a contract signed last week for the replacement of a well that collapsed.

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 Payment of Bills resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval; see resolution 2019-06.11.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

At 10:04 a.m. Commissioner Davis stated the Commission would be in recess until the 10:30 a.m. Picktown Palooza update.

**Human Society Update**

The Commissioners met at 10:05 a.m. for an update from the Humane Society. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Corey Schoonover, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Keller, Loudan Klein, Jeff Porter, Todd McCullough,

Corey Schoonover with the Humane Society presented an update on the operations of the Humane Society. He spoke about the construction they undertook in March of this year, as well as a general update.

The Human Society is geared towards keeping pets in home and at a low cost (grooming, vets clinics, etc.). They are working on finding a full-time veterinarian. An annual exam and medications/shots cost only \$85 and last ten to fifteen minutes. The biggest problem currently faced is workspace for the four employees who work out front. The newest construction project should alleviate the crowded work areas. The Human Society used to do 300-350 adoptions a year, but in 2018, they had over 1,000 adoptions on top of their other services.

Mr. Davis asked why there was such a big increase in adoptions.

Mr. Schoonover replied he believed it was due to the community being better aware of their services. When he started nine years ago both the Human Society and Dog Shelter had bad reputations, and people felt they were rescuing animals from them. They are now engaging the community better through their services, facilities, and social media.



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Mr. Davis asked if they have seen an increase in adoptions with the reduction of retail stores.

Mr. Schoonover is not sure how Petland is doing, but the awareness of shelter animals has increased. They have raised the game to where people want to be a part of adopting from Fairfield County.

Mr. McCullough agreed and added that he thinks they do a good job learning and sharing the stories of their dogs. They get people coming from other counties to adopt their dogs. It is a perception issue in that those coming to Fairfield County know things are being done the right way.

Mr. Schoonover stated there was a customer service orientation that you don't see in other counties. Instead of fixing their problems, Hocking County shut down their dog shelter.

Mr. Davis asked how they get their information out.

Mr. Schoonover stated they do very little advertising and rely on Facebook, word of mouth, and media opportunities.

Mr. Fix asked about their involvement in the northwest part of the county.

Mr. Schoonover replied they are not as present as they should be, and often Pickerington residents are surprised the Humane Society is "all the way down in Lancaster." He added it would nice to have a second location up there if funding allowed and suggest a possible joint venture with the Dog Shelter.

The same GASB accounting issue regarding a lease mentioned above would apply to the Humane Society lease.

The Dog Shelter and the Humane Society are working well with one another. Commissioner Levacy and others thanked Corey Schoonover for his update.

**Lancaster Festival Update**

The Commissioners met at 10:36 a.m. for an update from the Lancaster Festival. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Keller, Loudan Klein, Mark Conrad, Melissa Wilde, Ed Laramee, Deb Connell, Rick Szabrak, and Jon Slater.

Deb Connell provided an update on the Lancaster Festival and its progress. This is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Festival, and they have demonstrated positive impacts to the community. (See the flier in the review packet.)

Mr. Szabrak indicated the partnership with the Performing Arts of the county was very much appreciated.

Ms. Cordle expressed her appreciated of Ms. Connell's work.

Ms. Connell gave credit to the large number of volunteers with the Festival. She spoke about the EMA involvement, along with the Sheriff and Lancaster Police Department, with safety issues.

Mr. Davis stated Ms. Connell's enthusiasm is infectious and asked about the festival's financial standings.

Ms. Connell replied they have almost enough reserved to fund an entire festival. They have \$1 million in reserves and the typically festival costs around \$1.4 million. If an event is canceled the cost is less, of course.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about his brother's involvement with other founders of the Festival.

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Ms. Connell shared how much she and others would miss Dr. Hood.

Commissioner Levacy thanked Ms. Connell for her update.

### Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. to continue review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Keller, Loudan Klein, Mark Conrad, Melissa Wilde, Ed Laramée, Deb Connell, Rick Szabrak, and Jon Slater.

Dr. Brown stated she spoke with Mr. Horacek who informed her they may be able to increase the Beavers Field lease to 10 years and would likely be able to include a condition of a biannual update.

Mr. Davis added that he had mentioned this possibility to Mr. Beavers after hearing the information from Mr. Horacek.

Dr. Brown indicated she would pursue this with the renewal draft.

### 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 11:03 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
that the June 11, 2019 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None  
\*Approved on June 18, 2019

  
 Steven A. Davis  
 Commissioner

  
 Dave Levaey  
 Commissioner

  
 Jeff Fix  
 Commissioner

  
Rachel Elsea, Clerk