

Regular Meeting #27 - 2021
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 22, 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 and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Aunie Cordle, Tony Vogel, Mark Conrad, Randall Hunt, Corey Clark, Chris Wagner, Chief Churchill, Jon Kochis, Dan Neeley, Rick Szabrak, Dennis Keller, Jack Lawless, Samuel Herdman, Jon Slater, Branden Meyer, Margaret Euler, Lt. Lee Hawks.

Attending virtually were: Thomas Lininger, Ashely Arter, Jeff Camechis, Emily, Jessica Murphy, Donna Fox-Moore, Michael Kaper, Stacy Hicks, Tony Howard, Kelly Turben, Jeff Porter, Bennett Niceswanger, Adam Tippet, Shannon Carter, David Miller, Jennifer Dickerson.

- **Welcome**

Mr. Szabrak introduced Jack Lawless, an intern for Economic Development.

Mr. Horacek introduced Samuel Herdman, an intern in the Prosecutor's Office.

We welcomed them to Fairfield County.

- **Fairfield Forward**

Special Events

- We reviewed a flier about Fairfield Forward events.
- The Flag Day luncheon is scheduled following the Auditor's lunch n learn session (which is at 10:30 am now).
- Jim Marcinko, Fair Manager, commented how grateful the Fair Board was for the Commission's \$50,000 support. He and others will be in touch with us again to provide information about other projects.
- HR has arranged for yoga classes on the lawn at the Administrative Courthouse and strength training classes at the Wellness Center at the Records Center.
- Also, as we continue our energy conservation project (part 2), there will be some posters in the administrative courthouse to show "after pictures" and keep the public and employees informed as we proceed with the project. We had posters when we were building the new jail and Sheriff's Offices, and it was a helpful part of communications.

Strategic Planning

We will be using the Fairfield Forward theme for strategic planning. We anticipate catalytic uses of the ARP fiscal recovery funds. There are two main uses that stand out:

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.

On the voting agenda was a resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID19 or its negative economic impacts for assistance to Fairfield County townships and villages for grant writing support, technical assistance, and planning

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through a contract for services. This is for \$100,000 for contracted professional services for which we anticipate issuing a request for proposals.

Also, we are seeking competitive bids for UV Disinfection Equipment or similar equipment for buildings at the Utilities Department and Developmental Disabilities. Once we more information, we anticipate a resolution for appropriations of ARP fiscal recovery funds for the equipment.

We also forecast a resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and to appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID19 or its negative economic impacts for assistance to the Fairfield County agricultural community for consulting services to produce a Fairfield Growing plan to support the agricultural community coming out of the pandemic.

- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek reported stated he did not have a legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Dates of Interest

- Announcements

- Congratulations to Chief Churchill on his new grandbaby! And congratulations to Jon Kochis on becoming a grandfather again, too!
 - Anyone can email or text a question anytime:
Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov
(740) 777-8552

- Dates/Events of Interest

June 22 – County Auditor Lunch n Learn at 10:30 a.m.

June 22 – Flag Day Lunch

June 29 – Commissioner Fix – Commission Connection video to be taped

July 5 – Offices Closed for July 4th

July 11 – Sheriff's Office Lunch n Learn

July 22 – Employee Recognition Event

July 27 – Workforce Lunch n Learn

July 27 – Commissioner Davis – Commission Connection video to be taped

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

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown reported there were 13 resolutions for the voting meeting.

RPC proposed a resolution to approve the final plat for the Heron Crossing West Section One Phase Two Subdivision.

The Sheriff proposed to rent jail bed space (20 beds with up to 5 female) for a year to Athens County at \$80 per diem.

Chief Churchill thanked the Prosecutor's Office for their help with the contract development. This agreement is something Sheriff Lape has worked hard to obtain. They will keep the Commission up to date on how the contract is going.

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Mr. Davis asked a few questions about the structure of the agreement including the start date and how variable costs were determined.

The start date is July 1st. Chief Churchill explained how they derived the variable cost of housing an inmate per day. There are variable costs, including meals which are less expensive as the number of inmates increases.

Mr. Davis asked how many inmates are expected.

Chief Churchill replied he did not know, and he thought it would be treated as a “try it out and see how it works” arrangement.

Dr. Brown highlighted #7 of the agreement which addressed off-site medical expenses of inmates.

There were 11 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- The credit of interest for May for agency funds;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the reentry coordinator position to be reflected in the Common Pleas Court departmental budget (the TCAP partnership remains);
- Appropriations for Common Pleas grant funds, Juvenile Court grant funds, and the Airport grant (along with a cash advance for the Airport, for six resolutions);
- Account-to-account transfers of appropriations for Common Pleas Court & DR Court, (two resolutions);
- Movement of funds by operation of law for JFS; and
- Approval of an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID19 or its negative economic impacts for assistance to the Fairfield County townships and villages for grant writing support, technical assistance, and planning through a contract for services.

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

On the 29th, we will have an amendment for the debt financing resolutions. This is not a major change, but the wording will allow for more flexibility in the future. All of the project is considered energy conservation.

Also, on the 29th, we will have the annual proclamation to communicate about customer service as a core value of Fairfield County. Elected officials and department heads have provided quotes about exceptional services during the pandemic. We salute the excellent work of county essential employees. The review packet next week will contain the resolution in its entirety. The quotes will continue to journalize the experiences of the pandemic, as we come out of the pandemic.

Also, Dr. Brown forecasted resolutions for appropriations from unappropriated funds for the shooting/training range and storage garage for the Sheriff, as well as the Fairfield Growing support previously discussed. The storage garage appropriations will likely not be identified until July or August.

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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.

Dr. Brown highlighted the approval of the floating holiday for Juneteenth, which we have received notification of other appointing authorities approving as an alternate schedule for 2021. (Some boards selected a specific date to close and will notify the public of that date.) The feedback was immediate and positive about the approach to stay open in 2021 on June 18th - based on the late notice of the federal and state approvals – yet, everyone wanted to commemorate the important date in history.

For 2022, we plan to present this holiday as part of the regular schedule.

Appointing authorities can adopt alternate schedules with notification to the Board of Commissioners (generally).

Mr. Davis asked for legal advice on overtime: if employees who worked on Juneteenth, a federal holiday, was the county at risk for exposure in paying overtime? Mrs. Brown-Thompson replied she did not think there was exposure as the county has provided a floating holiday with an alternate schedule. After discussion, Mr. Davis asked for guidance about overtime to be ready in case there were any questions to arise from an appointing authority.

Potential Future Resolution – Lodging Tax, Update

Also, as the Commissioners are aware and based on a request from the Visitors and Convention Bureau and based on equity and modernization, there is a draft resolution for 2022 to change the hotel definition to one or more transient beds.

The language for the draft resolution is relatively simple, as there is ORC language to follow.

The real change will come in terms of developing procedures for collection and reporting; the County Auditor's team will be reviewing this and plans to report prior to the end of October. We will report again.

Shooting/Training Range Project

We conducted competitive bidding for the shooting/training range project. The winning bid was from Dirtworks Drainage, Deerfield, Ohio, in the amount of \$409,794.82 including the optional Phase 2 work.

The engineer's estimate was \$463,200 so we are below the estimated cost, and we can proceed with contracting. The Board of Commissioners will see a resolution for appropriations next week. This was expected as this was not included in the original budget and was reported as such. We will then present the contract for approval. The projection did include a placeholder for the project.

Dr. Brown thanked Dennis Keller, Chief Collins, and Linda Aller for many long meetings and hours to plan for this moment. People will recall the location of the shooting/training range at the land donated by Republic.

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Study for the Sports Complex in the NW Portion of the County

With respect to the Sports Complex study for the NW portion of the county, there are administrative meetings scheduled by the consultant to gather more stakeholder input. They expect a report to be delivered to the City of Pickerington on July 16.

Budget Update

Sales Tax Update

For planning, the sales tax estimate for 2021 in Fairfield County is \$23.6 M, or 3% above the sales tax revenues of 2020. We are tracking above this estimate.

For April sales and the payment to be received in July, the non-auto sales tax total for Fairfield County is \$1.83 M or 50% above the previous year's non-auto sales tax for the same month. The state aggregate increase for the same time is 46%. Fairfield County's auto sales tax for the same time is \$459,653, or 59% above the previous year. Together, the collections are 2.29 M.

For Fairfield County, and looking at 2019, the full sales tax receipt was \$1.84 M for the same month. The current collection for April sales is 24% above 2019.

Mr. Davis stated that something has observably changed in the sales tax. He would guess it is transitory in nature and will run its course.

Tax Budget Update

The tax budget was filed and available. Level three is now open for data entry. We do believe there will be multiple adjustments in level three. We know there will be many changes prior to the final, adopted budget for 2022. 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.

The level 2 tax budget was filed on June 17, 2021, with the County Auditor.

At the tax budget level, the proposed general fund portion for expenditures totals \$55.7 Million.

The proposed general fund expense budget is 8.8 % above the current expenditure budget. In the coming days, the details will be examined.

The largest proposed increase is for the Sheriff's Office, with an increase over \$2M as compared to the current budget. This accounts for more than half of the entire increase.

With the level 2 draft, the all-funds budget is \$190 million, compared to a current estimate of \$201 million.

There will likely be multiple special revenue fund adjustments.

For each fund, carry-over cash amounts are required to cover the difference between the estimates of revenue and expenditures.

There will be additional review and evaluation of all amounts.

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For the general fund, there is sufficient evidence to show there would be enough of a carryover cash balance to support the expenditure projections, considering the current revenue estimate from the County Auditor.

The County Auditor estimate for 2022 revenue is \$42.58 M. Average actual revenue for the past three full years, without considering CARES Act funds reimbursed to the general fund, is \$48.4 M.

Mr. Fix asked why the estimates differed so much between the County Auditor with the Tax Budget and the Commission projections.

Mr. Slater replied they are always very conservative in their estimates as they look at trends and history. He stated he met recently with David Miller to review formal estimates. He also noted that Dr. Brown's estimates are much more accurate. He is open to discussions on those estimates if there is a time when the formal estimates would need to be changed.

Dr. Brown reported that on July 27th, there will be a mid-year review of the budget in the Commission review meeting.

e. BRAVOS

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Communications/Additional Updates

The CCAO legislative alert was in the review packet. It was emailed a few times by CCAO.

Commissioner Fix attend a CCAO Board Meeting and a Farm Bureau Meeting last week. He provided an update on the CCAO Board Meeting. The budget was discussed at length. CCAO is lobbying to get the sales tax revenue base put back in the budget bill language. The support for indigent defense remained in the budget bill, but the Senate removed funding for broadband access. He provided updates on other subcommittees of CCAO.

Mr. Fix also reported he and Mr. Meyer met with the Mayor of Pickerington about the potential purchase of property.

He also provided an update on a Habitat for Humanity project to build playhouses throughout the county. Rick Szabrak commented on a partnership with the Workforce Center for the project.

On June 21, Commissioner Davis spoke to the Lancaster Rotary club about county financial stability and American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds. Aunie Cordle joined him with this presentation. Mr. Davis provided an update on the positive feedback received after the presentation.

- New Business (none)

- General Correspondence (none)

- Invitations

- a. TID Meeting – Thursday, June 24th

- b. CFLP Meeting – Friday, June 25th at 9:00 a.m. (all three Commissioners are RSVP'd)

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- FYI
 - a. Jail Population – 226
 - b. Juvenile/Probate Court Annual Report for 2020

Meeting with Randall Hunt, Community Action re: CHIP Grant Changes

Mr. Hunt reported that he just became aware of change for the CHIP grant.

Beginning in Program Year 2021, all CHIP rehabilitation loans are to be between two and five-year terms and shall be 100% forgivable. At the public hearings, we said that we would continue to forgive 75% of the loan, but maybe look to hold back less in the future due to an increasing program income balance. With this policy change from the state, we will need to amend our guidelines now to make the loans fully forgivable in Program Year 2021. We plan to still do a five-year term on the loans, with 20% forgivable each year of the five years.

There were no questions, and the Commissioners thanked Mr. Hunt for sharing the information as a follow-up to the hearings.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 beginning at 9:48 a.m. 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, Amy Brown-Thompson, Joshua Horacek, Jon Kochis, Aunie Cordle, Corey Clark, Dennis Keller, Chief Churchill, Lt. Hawks. Rick Szabrak, Jack Lawless, Tony Vogel, Chris Wagner, Samuel Herdman, Dan Neeley, Jon Slater, Mark Conrad, Branden Meyer, and Margaret Euler.

Attending virtually were: Adam Tippet, Ahsley Arter, Jeff Camechis, David Miller, Jennifer Dickerson, Donna Fox-Moore, Emily, Jessica Murphy, Kelly Turben, Michael Kaper, Shannon Carter, Stacey Hicks, and Thomas Lininger.

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.

Ms. Elsea encouraged everyone to attend the Auditor's Lunch & Learn and the Flag Day Awards Recognition at 10:30 and 12:00, respectively.

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. Margaret Euler shared a few stories from her experience as a nurse. She shared her perspectives which included how there were dying patients in hospitals not being able to see their families (she contacted leadership of the hospital where she works, and visits were permitted with a case she mentioned). She also commented on how nurses are being stretched too thin, and many are not returning to work. She reported on individuals who have died as a

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result of receiving the COVID19 vaccine. She wants someone to standup and help nurses because of the workload they carry. She is not an “antivaxxer”, but she believes there needs to be more research and a stop to mandating the vaccine. Ms. Euler stated she would be holding a “Back the Blue” dinner for first responders on August 28th or 29th.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, June 15, 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 15, 2021, Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy

Abstaining: Steve Davis

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolutions

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

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 2021-06.22.a | A resolution to approve account-to-account transfers of appropriations to accommodate changes in hours of work and changes in staff for DR Court to meet public demands for service. [Commissioners] |
| 2021-06.22.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense category and Cash advance from the General Fund for fund # 3011, Subfund #8272 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant FY2021 Grant for the Airport Master Plan – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-06.22.c | A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865, – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2021-06.22.d | A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID19 or its negative economic impacts for assistance to the Fairfield County townships and villages for grant writing support, technical assistance, and planning through a contract for services [Commissioners] |

Discussion: Mr. Fix spoke regarding resolution “d”. As he has toured the county and visited township meetings, he has heard that they are always working on grants. This resolution will increase their chances of success. He thanked Dr. Brown and the Commissioners for their support. Mr. Levacy added that this help complements what Mr. Upp does in setting aside some of the Engineer's resources to help townships.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolutions

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

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|--------------|---|
| 2021-06.22.e | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense category for fund and cash advance request from the General fund #8271 – |
|--------------|---|

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2021 ISP Grant – Fairfield County Common Pleas Probation [Common Pleas Court]

2021-06.22.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Common Pleas Court 1001 General Fund Common Pleas Court [Common Pleas Court]

2021-06.22.g A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2839 and Sub Fund #8247, FY21 Recovery Court Grant – Fairfield County Common Pleas [Common Pleas Court]

2021-06.22.h A resolution approving an account to account transfer Common Pleas [Common Pleas Court]

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

Approval of the Engineer Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2023 Motor Vehicle for equipment repairs and maintenance; see resolution 2021-06.22.i.

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 Job and Family Services resolution to approve a memo receipt and memo expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services Children Services Fund and Protective Services Levy Fund, respectively, see resolution 2021-06.22.j.

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:

2021-06.22.k A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category - Fund 2036 Department of Youth Services (reclaim) [Juvenile Court]
[Juvenile/Probate Court]

2021-06.22.l A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category - Fund 2036 Department of Youth Services (reclaim) [Juvenile Court]
[Juvenile/Probate Court]

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

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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 the final plat for the Heron Crossing West Section One Phase Two Subdivision; see resolution 2021-06.22.m.

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 authorizing the approval of a contract with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners (Fairfield BCC), the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (Fairfield Sheriff), and the Athens County Board of Commissioners (Athens BCC) and the Athens County Sheriff (Athens Sheriff) for housing prisoners in the Fairfield County Jail; see resolution 2021-06.22.n.

Discussion: Mr. Fix stated this contract was a long time coming and that Mr. Davis had been working on it for some time. He was pleased Sheriff Lape was willing to entertain this idea.

Chief Churchill introduced Lt. Lee Hawks who serves as the Jail Bureau Commander.

Dr. Brown congratulated Lt. Hawks on his promotion.

Mr. Davis stated he appreciated the Sheriff exploring the concept of renting bed space. This is the beginning of utilizing underutilized bed space.

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

Executive Session – Pending Litigations

On the motion of Commissioner Steve Davis and second of Commissioner Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigations at 10:05 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Steve Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Fix, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Aunie Cordle, Jeff Porter, representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, and legal counsel.

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

On the motion of Commissioner Jeff Fix and second of Commissioner Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:29.

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

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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 10:31 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

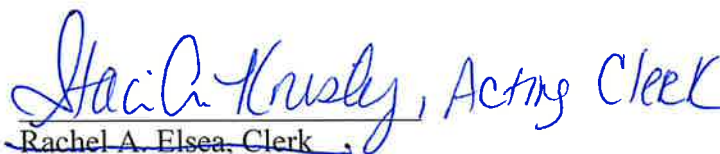
Motion by: Jeff Fix Seconded by: Steve Davis
that the June 22, 2021 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Fix, Davis, Levacy NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on June 29, 2021

 _____ Steven A. Davis Commissioner	 _____ Dave Levacy Commissioner	 _____ Jeff Fix Commissioner
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Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk

