

Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:03 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Jim Bahnsen, Lt. Marc Churchill, Ray Stemen, Jon Slater, Bennet Niceswanger. Joining via teleconference were Marc Conrad, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Tiffany Nash, Tom Lininger, Jeremiah Upp, Staci Knisley, Rick Szabrak, Todd McCullough, Jeff Barron, and Jeff Porter.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Kochis stated last week's pop-up testing event was successful. EMA continues to pass out resources. The state of Ohio is transitioning to a virtual PPE exchange.

Ms. Tiffany Nash provided an update. The pop-up testing was organized by the Fairfield Community Health Center and Ohio National Guard. They conducted 395 tests and are still waiting on some of the results. A handful of the tests were positive. Four nursing homes are being testing today.

Regarding the death certificates, Ms. Nash reported that out of the 15 that had passed, they obtained 8 certificates. Of the certificates, 62% had COVID as the primary cause; 25% had COVID as a contributing factor; 12% had COVID but that was not a contributing factor, even though they had the virus. The other death certificates were outside of Fairfield County, and it takes a while to get that information.

Mr. Davis asked that for a death that had COVID, but it was not a contributor, if the doctor would determine that.

Ms. Nash confirmed that was the case.

Mr. Davis asked if the handful of positive tests were symptomatic or asymptomatic.

Ms. Nash replied they were symptomatic.

Ms. Nash and Mr. Kochis reported on the education to the community.

At the request of FMC CEO, Jack Janoso, Rick Szabrak, Economic Development Director, held community conversations to help keep communications consistent in terms of the basics of wearing masks and keeping physical distances of at least six feet. There were 37 people attending the meeting. Mr. Janoso's concern was the number of events scheduled and protocols that are or are not being followed. He is worried there could be an influx from just one event. He is worried from a community and capacity issue at FMC. They average 3 to 5 COVID patients at FMC with a capacity of 15.

Travis Markwood is leading a group to quickly create a suggested event protocol for event organizers in the community.

Mr. Davis stated the Commissioners were willing to participate financially for education and communication. They are also willing to consider if there is physical material needed, they might be able to help.

Mr. Kochis stated while the supply chain is starting to pick up, it would take a few days or weeks for all resources to be available.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Kochis, upon his return, to work with Mr. Szabrak to create a list of items needed for events and to follow up on the communication plan. The Commissioners will be as helpful as they can.

Mr. Fix asked what kind of events they were talking about.

Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020

Mr. Davis replied they were thinking about Chamber events, music events, or meetings larger than 10.

Mr. Fix asked if it was not incumbent on the event organizers to make the events safe.

Mr. Davis replied it was, and that Mr. Janoso thought it would help to have a collective effort to set protocols.

Mr. Fix stated that made sense but did not understand why the county would pay for the items discussed.

Dr. Brown stated that the CARES Act allows for public health expenses, such as communication and awareness efforts, as well as PPE, and this is encouraged. We can explore what is needed.

Mr. Kochis added that the new information from the state is a prepared county by county with red, yellow, and green light system based on trends so that local elected officials can have that information to know how the county is faring in relation to COVID. That will help guide when the events can be held and when they should not be held.

Ms. Nash reported they continue to do their best to balance the governor's orders, best practices, and doing what is best for the community. They continue to do their best to keep the community safe.

Mr. Szabrak stated he got a lot of positive feedback from individuals who were looking forward to having information to keep their events safe.

Dr. Brown commented on how the state issued two short, helpful videos:

You can view the "I Believe – Face Masks" ad [HERE](#) and the "I Believe – Social Distancing" ad [HERE](#).

She also reported the Diley Medical Group issued a written summary of the antibody testing from June 8 and June 11. Some additional testing was conducted on June 25 and at other times at the Diley Medical Services site. These tests can be conducted for Sheriff and Court staff at their site through July 2 and perhaps longer as needed. (There have been no new positive results to report.)

All county buildings with the exception of the Decorative Arts Center are open for scheduled meetings or appointments. Most have arrangements in place to manage operations that do not require scheduled meetings or appointments.

- Welcome

- Legal Update

- a. Speed Limit/Center Road Lines/Traffic Studies

Joshua Horacek updated the Board on issues about a traffic study, speed limits, and lining of a road. Mr. Davis asked if Mr. Horacek would mind facilitating a half-hour session to walk the Commissioners and Engineer through the subject, and Mr. Horacek indicated he would not mind at all. He will schedule such a time.

- b. CARES Act Guidance/Opinion

Amy Brown-Thompson already prepared a legal opinion about the use of CARES Act funds for antibody testing. We are now proceeding to address the use of CARES Act funds for public safety purposes. There was a webinar with federal representatives on Friday of last week, and we are reviewing that information as well.

Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020

The Commissioners and Ms. Brown-Thompson discussed the spending and reporting of the CARES Act funds.

Mr. Slater reported, as Auditor, he was concerned about proper public purpose and would continue to carefully look at spending.

Dr. Brown clarified the discussion was surrounding allowable expenditures from the specific funding source of CARES Act, not a question of proper public purpose in terms of the expenditure being made, of which many have already been properly made.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

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

Date Reminders and Calendar Review

July 3 – Independence Day celebrated

August 5 – Wear green for Child Support Awareness

August 6 – Elected Official and Department Head Roundtable Meeting –
Workforce Center

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted the 16 resolutions for the voting meeting.

The County Engineer proposed a resolution for a liability agreement with the Zayo Group, LLC; 1805 29th Street; Suite 2050; Boulder, Colorado 80301. They have *applied for a right-of-way use* permit to install underground fiber-optic cabling within a certain portion of Fairfield County using a directional bore method of construction instead of an open trench method; and the Fairfield County Engineer has agreed to permit this installation of underground fiber-optic cabling in exchange for an Extended Liability Agreement.

The County Engineer also proposed a resolution to approve the construction drawings for the General Sherman Junior High School Right-of-Way improvements.

We had a renewal for the Surge contract for temporary workers.

RPC proposed a change order for the Millersport CDBG project and the approval of a development agreement for Spring Creek Section 3 Phase 2.

There were *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve, such as:

- A resolution for bond refinancing;
- Interest credits for the Board of Health and County Parks District;
- Transfers by operation of law for JFS reimbursements (two resolutions);
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds and the repayment of an advance for Juvenile Court;
- A fund to fund transfer of appropriations and new appropriations for the County Engineer; and
- The payment of bills.

**Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020**

In queue, there were financial and contracting resolutions at various stages of progress. For example, there were three contracts to approve for child protective services placement in network.

For the voting meeting (with guests arriving at 10:00 am), we also had a proclamation to name July 1 Gene Wood Day in honor of his retirement, as well as a resolution to name Lisa McKenzie the County Recorder, as of July 1.

Congratulations to these dedicated public servants!

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Update

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

Idea Box Summary for June

Idea 40: An employee suggested that the insurance contribution of employees be delayed and also suggested that each department be approached about budget reductions. The suggestion also noted that the insurance change does not affect every employee.

Response: Each department has been approached about budget reductions, and there have been multiple budget reductions. Some parameters impacted all employees, and some impacted groups of employees. We are working an equity with insurance contributions.

We will examine the ability to provide waivers or "holidays" from contributions whenever possible. Also, if you have specific ideas for budget reductions, we would like to hear of them.

A recommendation from April 2019 is under review with the County Auditor who has been working with Tyler Technologies on the recommendation, which was to include a memo item on County Auditor warrants (checks) for efficient communication with vendors. The County Auditor has been working with the vendor (Tyler Technologies). If anyone has input about this project with Tyler Technologies, please contact the County Auditor.

Another idea is under review with IT: A recommendation from January 2020 was presented to IT and to the Data Board, as well. This related to password processes. IT is reviewing options.

Of 40 total ideas, 38 have been implemented or resolved.

Budget Update

Fairfield County was awarded an additional grant to support Courts and others in COVID-19 responses. This was the state counterpart to the federal supplemental funding, and it is anticipated to support about \$123K of technological equipment.

We are working on identifying the best uses of the HB 481 funds which will support activities allowable under the CARES Act. Recommendations for the uses include public safety payroll support, PPE, supplies, technology, equipment, and services for cleaning. We are making sure we can properly document all uses for audit purposes. A resolution for appropriations will be in queue.

Dan Kowalski of the US Department of the Treasury discussed the latest guidance on a NACO webinar Friday. He confirmed that CARES Act funds can be used for

Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020

the 25 percent local match for FEMA. He also discussed how to use CARES dollars for front line public safety officers.

CCAO is conferring with OBM and AOS to make sure that state agencies and local governments have a shared understanding about how to implement the guidance.

d. BRAVOs

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to quickly apply for the Coronavirus Supplemental funding from the state for Courts. We are making some adjustments for a broader technology purchase for the Courts. Michael Orlando and LeAnna Schaffer are managing this particular grant at the departmental level, and that is very much appreciated.

Good job to Rick Szabrak and team for working on the first-ever internal WIOA newsletter designed for Board members, Commissioners, and JFS leaders. This communication can help people across multiple counties stay connected and know more about one another.

Thanks to everyone who is participating in community conversations to maintain COVID-19 precautionary measures.

• Old Business

a. Land at Wilson Road

Dr. Brown reported on an administrative meeting.

Commissioner Davis at the last meeting commented on a discussion he had with Mayor Scheffler. There is some land that encompasses the slope from the Wilson Road overpass ramp close to the bypass and a culvert. Currently, the property is used to access the area for culvert maintenance. The County's right of way is needed for the county to main the slope and the culvert.

After administrative discussion, there was recommendation to transfer two remnant properties from the state now titled to the county to the city of Lancaster, both within the Wilson Road area. Dennis Keller will connect with Joshua Horacek about the property transfers.

The city of Lancaster will work on annexing property. (Mitch Noland and Randall Ullom will lead that effort.)

We will then make sure the annexation material they provide is accurate and will proceed with the process.

The County Engineer will still have access as needed to maintain the culvert, classified as a bridge.

The city of Lancaster will maintain their road, which will essentially be an extension of Fair Avenue.

We may also see an annexation request from a private property owner in the future for property in the area.

Jeremiah Upp added that he thought the approach was a reasonable one.

- New Business (none)
- General Correspondence Received (none)

**Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020**

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received
 - a. July 7th RPC Meeting has been canceled.
 - b. NACo Virtual Conference – July 20th – Commissioner Fix will be the voting representative.
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population – 237
 - b. Anytime, a public records request or a question can be posed to:

Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

or

Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

- Open Items

Mr. Levacy stated PPP loan forgiveness applications can begin on July 6th. While everyone was originally told this would not be taxable, it appears that is not the ultimate effect of the IRS rulings surrounding the PPP loan.

Commissioner Davis stated at 9:57 a.m. that 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 30, 2020 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, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Jon Slater, Ed Laramee, Jim Bahnsen, Gene Wood, Nancy Wood, Marc Conrad, Lisa McKenzie, Bennet Niceswanger, Lauri Kennedy, Jodi Recchi, Bill Squires, Ann Block, Cindy Rodgers, Paul McKeegan, Brian Long, Greg Crist, Brian Boltz, Paul Jasson, Schott Marshall, Craig McKenzie, Andy Boystle, Danny Crank, and Denise Goll. Joining via teleconference were Tom Lininger, Aunie Cordle, Jeff Barron, Staci Knisley, Jeremiah Upp, and Jeff Porter.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

Mr. Jon Slater thanked Mr. Wood for showing him the ropes when he came to the County in 1994. He appreciated Mr. Wood's help, collaboration, and friendship. He wishes him all the best.

Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020

Approval of Minutes for June 23, 2020

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 23, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Dave Levacy, and 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 Commissioners' Office resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation recognizing Fairfield County Recorder Gene Wood; see resolution 2020-06.30.a.

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated July 1, 2020 would be Gene Wood Day in Fairfield County. Having been a Commissioner for ten years he always remembers Mr. Wood's disposition and how he was a part of county leadership. He stated Mr. Wood is always happy and trying to serve the people of Fairfield County.

Dr. Brown mentioned she has known Mr. Wood since 1988, and she thanked Mr. Wood for his exceptional leadership and service as a role model. She stated how she appreciated how he would never ask an employee to do something he wouldn't do himself.

Mr. Levacy stated he's known Mr. Wood for a long time and appreciates how he has always cared for the county. He remembers how he would take care of the building problems himself. He will miss seeing Mr. Wood.

Mr. Fix stated as Chairman of the GOP he has come to know of Mr. Wood's service. There are politicians and public servants - and Mr. Wood is a great example of a public servant who does what's right and does it well. Mr. Fix read the proclamation of the Board of Commissioners aloud.

Mr. Davis presented the proclamation to Mr. Wood and thanked Ms. Wood as well.

Mr. Wood introduced the guests in attendance. Recorders came from all over Ohio to wish him well. He thanked everyone for making the day so special and expressed his appreciation for what the Commissioners have done.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution approving the appointment of the Acting Recorder of Fairfield County; see resolution 2020-06.30.b.

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated that in public service to the county, the last act is to ensure integrity and continuity in the office. Mr. Wood has done that in providing Ms. McKenzie as his successor. He supports Ms. McKenzie being named acting Recorder.

Mr. Fix looks forward to working with Ms. McKenzie and noted that she has been Mr. Wood's right hand for many years.

Mr. Levacy noted that succession plans are very important, and he appreciates Mr. Wood's foresight.

Dr. Brown pledged the Commission's support to help Ms. McKenzie in her new role.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020**

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

- 2020-06.30.c A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield County Historical Parks – Fund # 7308 [Commissioners]
- 2020-06.30.d A resolution amending resolutions Nos. 2020-03.24.d through 2020-03.24.k, inclusive, adopted on March 24, 2020 to facilitate the sale of the bonds authorized thereby, and matters related thereto. [Commissioners]
- 2020-06.30.e A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield Department of Health – Fund #7012 & Fund# 7321 [Commissioners]

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions

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

- 2020-06.30.f A resolution to Approve the Construction Drawings for the General Sherman Junior High School Right-of-Way Improvements. [Engineer]
- 2020-06.30.g A resolution to approve an Extended Liability Agreement with the Zayo Group, LLC. [Engineer]
- 2020-06.30.h A resolution of increase appropriations, appropriate from unappropriate, account to account and fund to fund transfer for Allen/Basil-Western Rd TR227-1.929 intersection improvement [Engineer]

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

Approval of the Human Resources Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Human Resources resolution authorizing the approval of a contract with Daily Services LLC dba Surge for provision of temporary employment services; see resolution 2020-06.30.i.

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

Approval of the Job and Family Services Resolutions

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

- 2020-06.30.j A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2599 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2020-06.30.k A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund PCSA 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

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

Regular Meeting #28 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 30, 2020





Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

Jeff Fix
Commissioner



Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk