

**Regular Meeting #29 - 2020**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**July 7, 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, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Chief Lape, Jon Kochis, Jon Slater. Joining via teleconference were Logan Weaver, Mark Conrad, Dennis Keller, Jeremiah Upp, Rick Szabrak, Mandi Crist, Todd McCullough, Dave Burgei, Jim Bahnsen, and Doug Durrett.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Mr. Kochis provided an update on COVID-19 and the recent spike reflected in the data. While the data from yesterday is accurate, it was picking up cases that had previously occurred. The number rose by 65, but truly there were only 16 new cases over the weekend, and the other cases were from a previous time. In addition, there were more than 50 cases that had been reclassified to Fairfield County, and half of those have already recovered.

Mr. Davis asked if an explanation about the latest numbers was included with the state's determination of what color the county was in the new Ohio Public Health Advisory System.

Mr. Kochis reported the recent reporting should not affect the determination. The Ohio Department of Health will make updates on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. He anticipates Fairfield County will remain orange (level 2). He also reported (to supplement the recent data) one additional death and how the age range was trending down to the 20-40 range. He assumes that age range is less symptomatic and treatable. Hospital bed availability in Central Ohio is decreasing because there are more outpatient surgeries, not because of COVID, but because there are more routine procedures. There are 156 current cases in all Central Ohio hospitals. He believes Central Ohio has plateaued with cases at this time – with no increasing or decreasing trend.

Mr. Davis asked what needs to happen to get Fairfield County to yellow (level 1).

Mr. Kochis replied the case count needs to go down over a seven-day period. He does not see that happening for a while.

Mr. Davis asked if there were additional items relating to the pandemic to report. Dr. Brown reported the Education Service Center has requested some assistance with storage space for PPE. This seems like a larger request (with pallets), so she has directed them to Rick Szabrak, as the Workforce Center might be a suitable location for storage at least on a temporary basis.

Mr. Kochis replied he thought that was the best option.

Dr. Brown also provided updates on communications about how we are strongly encouraging people to wear masks or facial coverings. There is a communication group helping with this subject for events that are scheduled, and Mr. Szabrak is participating in this group, along with Mr. Kochis. She provided the Commissioners with articles and information on the efficacy of wearing masks. Additionally, information regarding masks is posted throughout the Administrative Courthouse and other county buildings. The courts have mandated earing masks, given there are judicial powers relating to the conduct at court.

Mr. Davis asked Chief Lape about the current situation at the jail.

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Chief Lape replied they are continuing to follow strict protocols as this pandemic is still considered a major threat. They are still able to utilize a quarantine area while they wait for test results to come back. The current jail population allows for the quarantine process.

Mr. Davis stated he hopes the protocols are being stringently followed and offered the Commissioners' Office to be of any help needed.

Mr. Fix asked if there was any understanding of additional responsibilities handed down to local governments from the Governor regarding mandatory masks.

Mr. Kochis replied it is clear from the Governor that this is a local issue to be addressed by each entity.

Ms. Brown-Thompson stated she did not think it would be a Commission decision to mandate masks and suggested the Board of Health would be the entity with that authority. She believed this was a provision relating to public health in the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Kochis added that he expects requests for masks to increase as schools go back in session. This will put a pinch on supplies as schools will be trying to get them for every student and teacher.

Mr. Fix asked if they were seeing a decrease in the supply of gloves.

Mr. Kochis replied the disposable masks and gloves are the two items for which they are seeing decreases in supply.

- Legal Update

We have scheduled a meeting for July 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am for a review about signage and lining of roads.

Ms. Brown-Thompson reminded the Commissioners they had an opinion from the Prosecutor's Office regarding CARES Act expenditures. At the last meeting, it was in progress, and now, the opinion has been finalized.

Dr. Brown thanked Chief Lape and Ms. Brown-Thompson for their collaboration on the research that went into the opinion and related documentation. She went on to review the work accomplished to gather the information necessary to comply with regulations and guidance from the federal and state government. Funds from the initial CARES Act distribution will likely be expended by the end of August.

Mr. Levacy thanked Dr. Brown and Ms. Brown-Thompson for their work on gathering this information.

There was additional discussion regarding local entities and the funds they have been allotted. Half of the townships have already made requests for the CARES Act funding relating to HB 481, and the entities know to reach out to the County Prosecutor for assistance.

Mr. Slater thanked Dr. Brown and her staff for their preparations. He added his office representatives were willing to work with people through October as everyone gets into the details.

Mr. Davis noted that all indications are that there will be an additional round of CARES Act related funding with that round being substantially larger than this first round. It is possible that more than \$4 million would be available for Fairfield County as an entity.

Mr. Levacy asked how the money flows to townships and villages.

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Dr. Brown replied the money is first received by the County Auditor and once the County Auditor receives a formal ordinance or resolution that documents compliance with HB 481 (examples are on the Office of Budget and Management website) from the local entity, the County Auditor will then make distributions similar to how they settle local government funding from the state and in compliance with HB 481. The entity will then document their expenditures and report to OBM.

Ms. Brown-Thompson indicated that she was in touch with many villages and townships and is available to help with the documentation of those initial ordinances or resolutions as needed.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

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

Date Reminders and Calendar Review

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 19 resolutions for the voting meeting.

RPC proposed a resolution authorizing approval of a change order for the Fairfield County CDBG, for the Village of Millersport FY2018 CDBG Sidewalk Improvement Project.

RPC also proposed a resolution to approve the Spring Creek Section 3, Phase 2 Final Plat, as previously approved by RPC.

The Utilities Department proposed a resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between Braun Holdings Graystone, LLC, and the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners: Braun Holdings Graystone, LLC, plans to develop 93 lots in the Graystone Estates Development in City of Pickerington, Ohio, utilizing Fairfield County Utilities Water and Sewer systems. (RPC is not involved with the Utilities development agreement because this development is within the City of Pickerington. This is substantially a normal development agreement.)

We proposed a resolution to appoint Jack Samples, Operations Manager for Worthington Industries at the Bremen location, to an unexpired term on the Workforce Development Board for our WIOA Area.

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

- A resolution to authorize HB 481 CARES Act use, with related appropriations;
- Grant agreements for FCFACF and JFS (two resolutions);
- Reimbursements or transfer by operation of law to the PA Fund and for WIOA (two resolutions);
- Three resolutions for regularly scheduled allocations for MCJDC, JFS, RPC, and the Engineer;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for FCFACF (four resolutions);

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- Account to account transfers of appropriations for the Sheriff (two resolutions); and
- The payment of bills.

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

Regarding the authorization of the HB 481 CARES Act funding uses, the Commissioners reviewed details and exhibits.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Update

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

Budget Update

Returning to the CARES Act funds, with the opinion from the County Prosecutor and supporting documents, we had organized a draft resolution and documentation to support payroll for personnel who were (are) substantially dedicated to the public health emergency and were (are) diverted from substantially different functions. There are other allowable costs. We are documenting the uses and appropriations.

A tax budget hearing was held on July 6. Notes from the July 6<sup>th</sup> hearing were available for reference.

As previously reported, the level 2 tax budget was filed on June 18, 2020, with the County Auditor. The proposed general fund portion totals \$49.68 Million. The proposed general fund expense budget is **.5% below the original 2020** budget and **1% above the current** budget, as we have made net reductions to the original 2020 budget. In the coming days, the details will be examined, and basic parameters are being followed, from a high-level review.

With the level 2 draft, the all funds budget is \$173.1 million.

For all funds, 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.

The deadline for level 3 budget entry is September 3.

Mr. Davis stated while all of this information makes the 2021 budget appear to be okay, there is still information that has not come in and they have no idea what the "out years" look like in terms of revenue. For that reason, we must remain cautious.

d. BRAVOs

Thanks to the Commissioners Administrative Team for covering for one another during vacations. They do a great job cross-training.

Thanks to Commission departments for making sure required training is conducted by all staff throughout the year.

BRAVO to JFS for organizing their services so well during the pandemic. They are leading by example.

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

- a. Annexation Received – 2.156 acres from Liberty Township to Baltimore – under review by subject matter experts

Jeff Feyko, Village Solicitor for Baltimore, sent an annexation petition for the annexation of 2.156 acres, more or less, in Liberty Township, to be annexed into the Village of Baltimore.

This is a petition by owners of contiguous real estate, an expedited type II annexation.

- b. Meals on Wheels Correspondence

We received a letter from Meals on Wheels Board of Trustees President Howard Sniderman in response to the guidance to align their budget proposal with county parameters. We will likely be receiving some additional input.

There is no action that must be taken until the time the budget needs to be approved.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 239

Mr. Davis asked what the capacity is for the building.

Chief Lape replied it is 384. It is the difference between the capacity and inmate count that allows jail staff to maintain the quarantine area.

Mr. Davis stated they had allocated additional funds for transport, but under the pandemic protocol, the court is now using more virtual hearings. He asked how that has changed operations.

Mr. Lape replied instead of transporting inmates to the court they are now taking them to the other end of the building or virtual hearings, monitoring additional procedures, returning inmates to their cells, and generally working in substantially different ways to address the pandemic, such as making sure all safeguards to limit the spread of infection are in place. Yet, they do accomplish transports, albeit within the facility. There have been changes in medical procedures, as well. Also, they are still doing external transports between facilities, such as to state facilities. The function has not slowed down. There have been changes to the duties.

Mr. Davis asked if officers within the command have been repurposed as a result of the protocols.

Chief Lape replied they have not been repurposed as a result of protocols, but they have been given different duties.

Dr. Brown stated that it sounds like could be a semantics issue to address with this conversation. She asked if the officers have been repurposed with new roles that are different because of the pandemic, and Chief Lape stated that was right.

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She referred to a memo from Chief Lape. Chief Lape agreed that there was a language issue in the discussion; deputies (and transport officers in this discussion) are definitely still working. But they are conducting work dedicated to the pandemic issues and work that is substantially different than originally imagined at the beginning of the year. That is the nature of repurposing.

Mr. Davis stated that as Chief Lape continues to have discussions with the judiciary, he wanted everyone to know that the Commission looks favorably on a decreased jail population. They would also be willing to partake in discussions regarding the alternatives to lead to a decreased jail population.

- b. Press Release – County Auditor Real Estate Offices
- c. ADAMH Annual Report for 2019
- d. MCU Governing Board Meeting – July 7<sup>th</sup> - Commissioner Davis will attend
- e. Anytime, a public records request or a question can be posed to:

[Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov) or [Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

- Open Items

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, July 6, 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, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Chief Lape, Jon Kochis, and Jon Slater. Joining via teleconference were Logan Weaver, Jim Bahnsen, Dennis Keller, Doug Durrett, Jeremiah Upp, and Rick Szabrak.

### **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.

There were no public comments.

### **Approval of Minutes for June 30, 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 30, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

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**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 initial uses of HB 481 (formerly SB 310) related Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding (with documentation) and approving appropriations from unappropriated funds for the County Coronavirus Relief Fund, #2868; see resolution 2020-07.07.a. [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated he cannot imagine the County's response to this in the absence of Dr. Brown with the collaboration from the Prosecutor's Office and Auditor's Office. He has been involved in local governments long enough to see situations handled differently. He offered his heartfelt thanks and amazement for the work everyone does. He empathizes with the entities who struggle with issues like this. He thanked Congressman Stivers, Congressman Balderson, State Representative LaRe, and Lt. Governor Husted. He appreciates everyone and makes no apologies for his aggressive approaches along the way.

Mr. Levacy concurred.

Mr. Fix thanked State Auditor Faber and Governor DeWine for their leadership. Even though they may not appreciate the answers to questions in the moment, the ability to speak to statewide leaders is a big deal. He also mentioned that Fairfield County is one of the leading counties in the statewide discussion. Because of Dr. Brown's leadership and intellect, Fairfield County is in a good position to meet challenges and this can also help the state of Ohio.

Dr. Brown thanked the National Association of Counties and CCAO for their advocacy and communication efforts. They have provided useful webinars and opportunities for discussion on some very complex matters.

Mr. Davis stated that what may never be fully understood is how Dr. Brown's contribution to the discussion has helped counties all throughout the country.

When describing the resolution about the CARES Act funding, Dr. Brown listed the following exhibits:

- a) March 10, 2020, resolution determining a real and present emergency existed
- b) March 16, 2020, resolution declaring a state of emergency with initial communications
- c) June 9, 2020, resolution fulfilling HB 481 (formerly SB 310) requirement
- d) June 16, 2020, resolution to establish a new special revenue fund
- e) June 24, 2020, US Treasury Frequently Asked Questions
- f) June 30, 2020, Auditor of State guidance, excerpt from website
- g) June 30, 2020, Ohio Office of Budget and Management guidance
- h) June 4, 2020, County Prosecutor's Opinion (antibody testing allowed with CARES Act funds)
- i) June 26, 2020, County Prosecutor's Opinion (payroll support for public safety and certain others allowed with CARES Act funds, with such expenses evaluated to meet both substantially dedicated and substantially different requirements)
- j) July 2, 2020, letter from Chief Deputy Sheriff Alex Lape demonstrating justification for public safety support program
- k) List of public safety employees (non-exhaustive) with substantially dedicated work repurposed or redeployed from substantially different work activities

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- l) Payroll summary for the such public safety employees for repurposed deputies, detectives, and sergeants and lieutenants, as well as dispatchers and command, for pay dates of April 10, 2020, through July 2, 2020, covering the service dates of March 14, 2020, through June 19, 2020
- m) Memorandum and recommendations - list of allowable uses of CARES Act funds for first round of expenditures relating to HB 481
- n) Planning tool for additional CARES Act funds if available to Fairfield County with documentation of initial receipt of funds, posted July 1, 2020

She also mentioned there was additional documentation available for review and that she would update the Commission on the use of the funds on a weekly basis.

Mr. Davis reminded everyone that the pandemic continues and the potential for financial problems continues as well.

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 following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

- 2020-07.07.b            A resolution approving an account to account transfer in major object expense category, General Fund# 1001 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-07.07.c            A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the 3rd Quarter 2020 Allocation for the Multi County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] 2020-07.07.d A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for Fairfield County Job and Family Services (JFS) –3rd Quarter 2020 Allocation - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-07.07.e            A resolution authorizing fund to fund transfers for intergovernmental agencies for the 2nd half 2020 Allocations - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the Economic Development Resolutions**

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

- 2020-07.07.f            A resolution to approve the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Board of County Commissioners Economic Development Department, the administrative and fiscal agent for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Area 20/21 for administering the program as a memo expenditure for fund 7831 Workforce Innovation OPP Act 20/21 [Economic & Workforce Development]
- 2020-07.07.g            A resolution to approve the appointment of Jack Samples to the Area 20 Workforce Development Board (WDB). [Economic & Workforce Development]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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



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**Approval of the Family, Adult, and Children First Council Resolutions**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolutions:

- 2020-07.07.h            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, subfund# 8157 – Family Adult Children First (FACF) [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2020-07.07.i            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, subfund#8232 – Family Adult Children First [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2020-07.07.j            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, subfund#8198 – Family Adult Children First [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2020-07.07.k            A resolution approving a grant agreement for Help Me Grow Early Intervention Service Coordination and Outreach by and between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2020-07.07.l            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Fund# 7521, subfund# 8160 – Family Adult Children First (FACF) [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated that FACFC, under Ms. Fox-Moore's leadership, will have additional, similar resolutions as they explore more options available to them to address operations during the pandemic.

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:

- 2020-07.07.m            A resolution regarding a Grant Agreement between Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Fairfield County Job & Family Services (FCJFS), the Protective Services Department (FCPS) [JFS]
- 2020-07.07.n            A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund PCSA 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated the county is fortunate to continue their relationship with the Dave Thomas Foundation.

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

**Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolution**

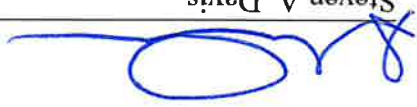
On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Regional Planning Commission resolutions:


- 2020-07.07.o            A resolution authorizing approval of a change order for the Fairfield County CDBG – the Village of Millersport FY2018 CDBG Sidewalk

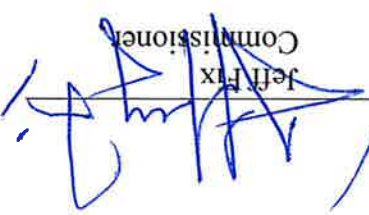


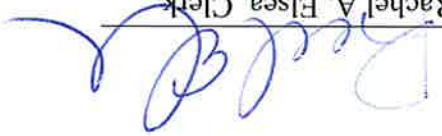
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Steven A. Davis  
Commissioner

  
Dave Levey  
Commissioner

  
Jeff Fix  
Commissioner

  
Rachel A. Eisea, Clerk