

**Roundtable Meeting #28 - 2022**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**July 12, 2022**

**Roundtable #2**

The Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. at the Wagnalls Memorial Library in Lithopolis, OH for a Roundtable Meeting. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Bart Hampson, Bennett Niceswanger, Rochelle Menningen, Dennis Keller, Brett Riffle, Joe Ebel, Tiffany Wilson, Nikki Drake, Connie Smith, Heather O'Keefe, Branden Meyer, Lisa McKenzie, Luann Davidson, Sheriff Alex Lape, Josh Harper, Dave Burgei, Jon Kochis, Chad Reed, Jim Bahnsen, Michael Kaper, James Mako, Rick Szabrak, Josh Horacek, Jeremiah Upp, Judge Terri Vandervoort and Shelby Hunt.

Commissioner Fix welcomed everyone to the second Roundtable meeting.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, explained that some reports were submitted before the meeting and thanked those that were able to do that.

Facilities Manager, Dennis Keller, spoke about some of the projects his department is working on and the plans moving forward. Plans include renovations to the Fairfield Center in Pickerington, exterior work to the Historical Courthouse and Hall of Justice, and the addition of electric vehicle charging ports at the Workforce Center.

Commissioner Davis asked if county vehicles would pay the same rates as the public for use of charging stations.

Rick Szabrak explained that the county can use the charging ports for county vehicles so long as they are remaining open to the public.

Connie Smith from the OSU Extension provided an update on projects the OSU Extension is working on. She was excited to announce that the Fairfield County Fairgrounds have internet that is up and running.

Director of the Regional Planning Commission, James Mako, stated RPC has not received any new residential subdivisions in 2022 and continue to work on developments from the previous year. They have also submitted the Community Development Block Grant applications to the state department of development. In March, RPC completed an update to "Fairfield Growing" which includes the county's agricultural economic development plan.

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Luann Davidson from the Coroner's Office gave an update on the programs and services the Coroner's Office offers to the families of those who have died. She mentioned that the office is considering bringing on a part time assistant to help with daily duties.

County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp, stated his office continues with their daily operations with road and bridge improvements. There are some other traffic lane improvements and road widening projects to prepare for increased travel along county roads which will result from the Intel plant. A section of road along Route 33 will have an additional lane.

Director of the Board of Elections, Brett Riffle, stated the BOE still needs workers for the upcoming election. Fairfield County will get 250k to help with these election costs. They will certify the August election on August 23 and then will start preparing for the November election.

Dave Burgei and Josh Harper from the Auditor's Office spoke about the Triennial Update, which their office is in the middle of the process currently. They hope to get valuation letters sent out to property owners soon. They are also working to keep the public informed on different matters the Auditor's Office deals with. There have also been some recent staffing changes and the office has welcomed some new people to the department.

County Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer, stated his department has seen nice changes since attending Roundtable meetings beginning in 2011. He leaves the meetings feeling like he knows what is going on around the county and feels fortunate to be working in Fairfield County. He thanked the Commissioners for their support with ARP dollars. He added that the Hall of Justice has new windows going in this week.

Sheriff Alex Lape stated the Sheriff's Office continues to work towards recruitment and retention goals. They also have begun fielding their applications online through NEOGOV. He is encouraged by the amount of younger applicants who are wanting to serve the community. He stated that NEOGOV makes the application process easier and more efficient. They also have new technology coming to the department with Tyler Technologies for new computer aided dispatching.

County Recorder, Lisa McKenzie, explained that she enjoys the Roundtables for the information about other county agencies that she can bring back to her staff in the Records Office. She added that there has not been much change to the functions of the Recorder's Office.

Emergency Management Director, Jon Kochis, spoke about the outreach efforts his department conducts to reduce disaster effects. His department is planning to build a safety building in Walnut Township, as well as flood mitigation plans in Walnut Township. However, some

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projects have been delayed due to supply chain problems. They are also adding some materials to the windows in the Courthouse and Hall of Justice to protect from storm damage and break-ins.

Chad Reed from the Parks District filled in for Director of the Parks District, Marcy Shaeffer. He reported a break-in at Rockmill so they have been utilizing security cameras. They also experience issues at other parks and thank the Sheriff's Office for their support.

Tiffany Wilson from Family, Adult and Children First Council was excited to speak about a grant her department was awarded to purchase equipment for families in need. They will also begin working with CPS and the Juvenile Court on the new truancy program. The perinatal cluster group works with at-risk pregnant women and have a new grant to expand the perinatal cluster group to work with more women in the community.

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, spoke about the Level 3 Budget which will end September 8, and thanked Commissioner Davis for his financial history knowledge.

Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, provided an update on the health benefit plan. In 2023 the county will offer Pet Insurance at a group rate. The on-site counselor available to county employees will now be offering services to county employees and dependents on the benefit plan five days a week.

County Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen, stated his office has been in the process of moving to the first floor. They are also in the midst of their 2<sup>nd</sup> half tax collections.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Josh Horacek, explained that the Prosecutor's Office has been busy with trial cases. The Prosecutor's Office is currently down a civil attorney so their operations may be slower than usual.

Director of Protective Services, Heather O'Keefe, spoke about child support awareness month. They are also in the midst of the summer youth employment program for youth to gain valuable work experience around the county.

Juvenile & Probate Judge, Terre Vandervoort, spoke about how the Guardianship Board now cares for 125 persons. Juvenile Detention rates are high currently. This coming school year, she is looking forward to the new truancy program up and running.

Soil & Water Conservancy District Manager, Nikki Drake, spoke about the annual banquet and election that are approaching. Their department is deep into construction season, and have been

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dealing with lots of drainage issue calls during this time of the year. The Chamber's Safety Council will also be starting back up soon.

Director of Economic Development, Rick Szabrak, suggested everyone in room come to the Workforce Center graduation next year, and spoke about the impact these programs have had on the students. Ohio University-Lancaster and Hocking College both partner with the workforce center. They also had 40-50 students go through the Workforce Center summer camp. They also recently began CDL training.

Commissioner Levacy attended the Workforce Center graduation and asked Rick Szabrak to share the story of a student whose aunt and uncle came from out of the country to attend the graduation.

Michael Kaper from the Land Bank provided an update on the funding that was received to demolish some structures.

Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, explained that COVID rates are the highest they have been since February, and the department has free test kits available. The Health Department is starting back to school vaccinations and planning flu shot clinics. The new Tobacco Cessation program is beginning as well. There is mosquito spraying scheduled, and reported higher than normal cases for Lyme Disease from ticks.

Aundrea Cordle spoke about the upcoming event with United Way for the Community Care Day.

Commissioner Fix thanked Aundrea for organizing the Roundtable.

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for participating in the conversation.

Commissioner Fix stated the next Roundtable will be held at the new Fairfield Center on November 15, 2022.





AGENDA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners:  
Steven A. Davis  
Jeffrey M. Fix  
David L. Levacy

County Administrator  
Aundrea N. Cordle

Deputy County Administrator  
Jeffrey D. Porter

Clerk  
Rochelle Menningen

Elected Officials/Department Heads Roundtable

July 12, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Wagnalls Memorial, 150 E. Columbus St., Lithopolis

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to facilitate the review, discussion, and analysis of Topics with relevance for Fairfield County elected officials and department heads. It is a time to provide information, network with peers, and plan.

AGENDA

1. Welcome

County Commissioners  
Steven A. Davis  
Jeffrey M. Fix  
David L. Levacy

2. County Administration Updates

- a. Budget Hearings

3. Departmental Updates

- a. Health Dept., R. Joseph Ebel, RS, MS, MBA
- b. Utilities, Tony Vogel
- c. Facilities, Dennis Keller
- d. Treasurer’s Office, James Bahnsen
  - i. Land Bank, Michael Kaper
- e. FACFC, Tiffany Wilson and Heather O’Keefe
- f. Regional Planning, James Mako
- g. JFS, Corey Clark
- h. Economic and Workforce Development, Rick Szabrak
- i. OSU Extension, Stacy Hicks
- j. Coroner’s Office, Luann Davidson
- k. Auditor’s Office, Dave Burgei and Josh Harper
- l. Board of Elections, Brett Riffle
- m. EMA, Jon Kochis

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