

Regular Meeting #31 - 2017
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 18, 2017

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, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Joshua Horacek, Mary Beth Lane, Tony Vogel, Todd McCullough, Jeff Porter, Donna Stalter, Bart Hampson, Aunie Cordle, Dan Neeley, Chief Perrigo, Jonathan Ferbrache, Corey Clark, Spencer Remoquillo, Michael Kaper, Dennis Keller, Jeff Camechis, Branden Meyer, Rick Szabrak, Jon Kochis, Ray Stemen, Laura Holton, and Jon Slater.

- Legal Update

Josh Horacek stated that at next week's meeting, he planned to provide a memorandum and an update on the legal aspects relating to the creation of a sub-district of County Utilities, for the Greenfield Township Water and Sewer District which plans to dissolve. Ms. Brown added there was a draft release to communicate the intention of the Commissioners to acquire the Greenfield Township Water and Sewer District and create a subdistrict, in the interest of efficiency for the public (there will be one fewer political subdivisions managing the operations) and upon the request of the current district board.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements

The next roundtable meeting for elected officials and department heads is August 10th.

The leadership conference is Thursday, September 28, at 8:30 am at FMC.

The formal building dedication for the jail and public safety facility is Friday, September 29th at 12 noon.

Ms. Brown welcomed Sarah Stevens and professionals from JFS in attendance at the meeting.

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

We had a proclamation to honor the services of Ed Campbell, Sr., for his community volunteer work connected with EMA. Mr. Jon Kochis was going to provide the proclamation to him.

Last week, the Commissioners approved a resolution to declare it a necessity to renew an existing levy with an increase outside of the ten-mill limitation for child and elderly adult protective services and requested the Fairfield County Auditor to certify the total current tax valuation of the County and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the proposed levy. This week, we proposed a resolution to proceed and place upon the ballot (November 2017) the question of a levy outside the ten-mill limitation for child and elderly adult protective services. The JFS report to the community and a letter of support, along with the County Auditor certification, will be within the Commissioners' records as a supplement to the resolution to proceed.

The Engineer proposed an agreement with Intellwave to improve fiber-optic lines in rural areas posting a bond for potential damage to field tiles. This agreement was reviewed in a RPC meeting and with Economic Development meetings, in connection with the broadband study. The Engineer proposed declaring the Blacklick culvert project an emergency; the work was expected to be accomplished in-house, although a contract may be necessary.

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We proposed an approval of the purchase agreement for the Columbus Road property for Airport Board use, as discussed last week.

FCFACF proposed the approval of contracts with Community Action for the Help Me Grow program and with Juvenile Court for the court based mental health program.

JFS proposed approval of network contracts for placement services.

Economic and Workforce Development proposed an RLF agreement and disbursement.

There were financial resolutions proposed, such as:

- An advance from the general fund for a special revenue fund relating to a grant for Common Pleas Court;
- A draw for the HOME grant;
- Interest allocations for June for the Board of Health and the Parks District;
- Processing of BWC refunds;
- Appropriations from unappropriated for an Airport grant and for the Juvenile Court recovery fund;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations to properly classify Sheriff's Office expenditures relating to the operations of the new jail and public safety facility;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for the special revenue funds of the FCFACF Council;
- An allocation for MSY, as planned;
- Multiple fund to fund transfers of resolution by operation of law for JFS related funds and authorization for IM state allocations to be used in the combined agency of JFS for the CSEA; all in accordance with ODJFS reconciliations and procedures;
- The payment of bills (including the UHC payment for the health benefit plan & approval and payment of then and now certifications or substitute then and now certifications, as needed).

c. Administrative Approvals & Budget Update

Administration Update

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

Ms. Brown reported that with cybersecurity training, more than 85% of the full staff has taken the required training. Training is important because IT professionals and evidence in the field suggest that employee actions are part of the greatest risk to organizations. In addition, the underlying foundation of leadership support is of the utmost importance to cybersecurity efforts, which is why we continue to stress the training and surrounding concepts.

All Commission staff and Commission department staff have taken the training. The Commission and its departments, though represent about a third of the total employee population. For this reason, cybersecurity training (and the additional required training relating to unlawful harassment and ethics) will be a part of the roundtable agenda on August 10th.

Mr. Porter added that CORSA informed him that Fairfield County was the first county in the state to complete the cyber security training.

County Budget Update

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The next level access for 2018 changes is level 3, and the deadline for those changes is September 1. This September 1 deadline is the final time for the general fund departments to make changes with the data entry process.

Ms. Brown also reviewed the quarterly budget update including a public records request log update; general fund 2nd quarter revenues; items to watch and measure; the sales tax rates of neighboring counties; expenditures; expenditures compared to estimates; preparation for out years; and a review of appropriation changes.

There were no recommendations for changes to the budget or to management approaches at this time. The reports from the County Auditor were reviewed and supplemented with the most current information relating to casino revenues. Continued monitoring, as usual, was recommended. The parameters as communicated during the budget process remain: 2% increase of salaries and related fringe benefits; no new employees; flat budgeting for contracted services; 5% increase of health benefit plan.

In addition, we have received a workers compensation refund, which the County Auditor will distribute as appropriate.

Mr. Davis stated that he remains in regular communication with Fairfield County's state representatives regarding the MCO sales tax. While the Governor vetoed that portion of the budget, the house overrode the veto. The senate plans to move on it in the future. Mr. Davis is not sure why the Senate hasn't moved on this yet, and he assumed it was backroom politics (which he would rather not happen). If the Senate does not override the veto, the Commissioners will need to come up with a solution to avoid a General Revenue Fund crash in the near future.

d. Jail and Public Safety Facility Update

The most recent report on the jail population showed the inmate population at 290.

The project continued to be on time and on budget.

We had some pictures from the demolition of the old building on Wheeling Street.

Mr. Keller reported the demolition would be wrapping up today with Phase 2 officially starting. The entire project will be concluded in 6 to 8 weeks.

Mr. Davis asked how the site handled the rain last week.

Mr. Keller replied that it handled rain very well due to the site being mostly sand. The rain was actually a benefit to keeping the dust down.

Mr. Davis stated he heard on social media that the jail had flooded.

Mr. Keller replied that the building did not flood, but there was pooling of water in the parking lot near the maintenance garage. He pointed out that many parking lots across the area had the same issues.

e. Roundtable – August 10th

A draft agenda was included in the review packet. Dr. Payne is going to lead a short discussion on transportation at the end of the roundtable meeting. We have invited Mayor Smith and Carrie Woody to the meeting.

d. Bravos

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Thank you to Michael Kaper and the Land Bank for furthering the project to upgrade property in the village of Millersport for the use of a future park.

Bravo to Rick Szabrak for his work with the STEM summer camp. (There was a great article in the Eagle Gazette about the camp. The article was in the review packet.)

Thanks to Jon Kochis for helping with the Picktown Palooza following storms. (There was an update in the Eagle Gazette about the changed plans for the event.)

- Old Business

- a. Picktown Palooza/ Flooding at Buckeye Lake State Park

Ms. Brown reported that on June 13th, Jon Kochis assisted the City of Pickerington, as the Picktown Palooza was severely impacted by the rain. It is possible the site will be relocated in the future. EMA sheltered 24 festival workers after their quarters were flooded. We are in process of sending written thank you notes to community partners who were helpful.

Mr. Kochis stated that it was extremely bad timing to have a festival in a park that floods every five to seven years.

Mr. Davis asked who notifies EMA that their assistance is needed.

Mr. Kochis replied that the police or fire departments know to contact him.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Levacy about the flooding at Buckeye Lake.

Mr. Levacy replied that he and others met with Senator Portman last Monday to discuss ODNR's stance on the discharge on the toe side of the dam as increased flooding is a concern. The recent rain event resulted in 6+ inches of rain. The main area of extensive flooding was on the dam side of the lake. Before the rain, the lake was one foot below summer pool level. The rain increased the level by two feet bringing the lake one foot above summer pool level. The water is discharged from the lake into the Licking River which results in flooding on I-70. They were able to retain some of the water in the lake which minimized the flooding on I-70.

Mr. Camechis asked if anyone would be trying to get federal disaster relief as this was the worst rain they had seen in years.

Mr. Kochis replied that the declaration process does not go forward unless there are unmet needs for the event above state per capita support. Neither of those conditions was met as this was a localized event. For a localized event to meet those needs there must be homes and businesses completely destroyed (not just water entering the home). Mr. Kochis will research the state support available.

- New Business (none)

- General Correspondence Received

- a. ODYS Notice re: FY 2018 Subsidy Grant Allocations

DYS provided a letter relating to the Juvenile Court Youth Services grant.

- b. Rushcreek Conservancy District – Email Complaint from Constituent to Commissioners Kiger (with other officials involved)

Commissioner Mike Kiger received a complaint from Carol Schleich regarding Mt. Zion road and the nearby dam. Keith Rowe with the Rushcreek Conservancy

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District is the correct point of contact to provide information about the complaint. Commissioner Kiger has attempted to reach Keith Rowe and also contacted Tom Corbin, attorney for the District. Hung Thai is a contact for ODNR dam safety, which may be a good informational support. Jeremiah Upp is also aware of the complaint and has suggested contacting Keith Rowe. Further, we recommend Ms. Schleich attempt to contact Keith Rowe and perhaps attend the next Rushcreek Conservancy District meeting.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- a. Congressman Stivers Opiate Roundtable – Friday, August 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Ag Center
 - 1. Commissioners Levacy and Kiger will attend.
- b. Big Brothers Big Sisters Dream Big Gala – Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00 p.m. at Cheers Chalet

- FYI

- a. Youth Mobile Crisis Team Collaboration

A project description of the Youth Mobile Crisis Team Collaborative was received. The collaborative received \$325,000 for SFY 2018 and SFY 2019. This is the collaboration Rhonda Myers, Director of the ADAMH Services, spoke of in a presentation to the Board of Commissioners.

- b. JFS Report to the Community

The JFS Report to the Community is on the county website, has been distributed by email, and was in the review packet on 7.11 and 7.18. We will include this community report in the roundtable packet on August 10th.

- c. DD Newsletter

The DD newsletter was emailed and was in the newsletter folder.

- d. Baltimore Gun Range

Ms. Brown reminded everyone that in response to various concerns raised in public meetings, the Commissioners had offered to help make the Baltimore Gun Range safer if they are able to do so. We were aware Chief Tussey recommended increasing the height of the soil, and he mentioned other options for safety improvements. The Commissioners have indicated they wanted to hear more from the Sheriff about that office's decisions. In addition, the Commissioners suggested on June 13th Attorney Jeff Feyko provide a memorandum responding to concerns about deed restrictions, as such concerns were raised in a Board of Commissioners public meeting. To follow up, there is an administrative meeting on Monday, July 24th regarding decisions of the Sheriff's Office. That meeting will include representatives of the Sheriff's Office, the Commissioners' Office and counsel. We have not received the memorandum from Attorney Jeff Feyko yet.

- Issues Bin (none)

- Open Items

- a. Presentation of the CAFR

Mr. Slater presented the Commissioners with the 2016 CAFR. He added that his staff takes great pride in their work.

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Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Slater and his office for a job well done.

Mr. Brown added that the Commissioners often use the CAFR for grant applications and general information.

Commissioner Davis stated at 9:39 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 18, 2017 beginning at 10:03 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Joshua Horacek, Kristi Burre, Spencer Remoquillo, Aunie Cordle, Bart Hampson, Corey Clark, Rick Szabrak, Dennis Keller, Donna Stalter, Todd McCullough, Jon Kochis, Ray Stemen, Mary Beth Lane, Jonathan Ferbrache, Jeff Camechis, Johanna Pearce, Jon Slater, and Cheryl Ricketts.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any 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 Tuesday, July 11, 2017

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy and Mike Kiger
Abstaining: Steve Davis

Approval of the Auditor's Office Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Auditor's Office resolutions:

2017-07.18.a A resolution to approve a refund as memo expenditure for fund #7428

2017-07.18.b A resolution to approve a refund as memo expenditure for fund #7428

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of the Commissioners' Office Resolutions

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

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- 2017-07.18.c A resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation. [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.d A resolution authorizing the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners to enter into a purchase agreement for property to be used by the Fairfield County Airport Board. [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.e A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield Department of Health – Fund #7012 & Fund# 7321 [Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Kochis thanked the Commissioners for honoring the life of Mr. Campbell who passed away yesterday. He added that the Commissioners would have met him during the siren installation process. Mr. Levacy asked Mr. Kochis to give the family the Commissioners' condolences.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution to proceed and place upon the ballot the question of a levy outside the ten-mill limitation for child and elderly adult protective services; see resolution 2017-07.18.f.

Discussion: Ms. Cheryl Ricketts stated she was a resident of Violet Township who has met with JFS staff in the past. They are doing an exceptional job. She appreciates the Commissioners support in moving forward with the levy. Ms. Brown added that a summary of protective services had been distributed and a letter of support was included with the resolution.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

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

- 2017-07.18.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories for the Fund# 3011, Subfund# 8135– Fairfield County Commissioners/Airport [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.h A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursement for Fairfield County Historical Parks – Fund # 7308 [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.i A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer to the Fairfield County Family Adult Children First Council for Multi-Youth Committee – 3rd payment for the 2017 Allocation - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.j A resolution authorizing the approval of a request for payment and status of funds report–FY2016 Home Funds – Drawdown for \$16,165 [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.k A resolution approving account to account transfers into major object expense categories from the Facilities Budget to the Sheriff's Office Budget – Fairfield County Commissioners

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolution

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On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Common Pleas Court resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense category for fund and cash advance request from the General fund #8151 – 2018 ISP Grant – Fairfield County Common Pleas Court Probation; 2017-07.18.l.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of the Economic and Workforce Development Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Economic and Workforce Development resolutions:

2017-07.18.m A resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee for a proposal to fund Beer Geeks DBA Double Edge Brewing as an RLF Project. [Economic & Workforce Development]

2017-07.18.n A resolution authorizing the disbursement of funds from the Fairfield County Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund Program RLF/EDA [Economic & Workforce Development]

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak stated this was a new brewery coming to Lancaster on Chestnut Street (next to the EG building). They will open next year. Ms. Brown stated that once the county has acquired the EG building, the parking lot is expected to be available during non-county business hours for the brewery. Mr. Szabrak noted that the parking at the EG building will benefit all of downtown. Mr. Levacy stated he thought the brewery had a very good business plan, and he thinks the brewery will be very successful.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions

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

2017-07.18.o A resolution to declare Blacklick Emergency Culvert Repair project (FAI-CR 83-0.325) to be a continuing real and present emergency and authorizing the County Engineer to Proceed Accordingly. [Engineer]

2017-07.18.p A resolution to approve an Extended Liability Agreement. [Engineer]

Discussion: Mr. Camechis stated that as a result of the heavy rains last week, a culvert on Blacklick Road was washed away. Two other counties are giving up two pre-casts that are already available. The office still needs to check other culverts and clear log jams.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

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

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

2017-07.18.q A resolution to approve the contract between the Fairfield County Commissioners as Administrative Agent for the Family Adult and Children First Council and Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action/Head Start for services funded by the Help Me Grow Project-Central Coordination [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

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- 2017-07.18.r A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 7521 Family Adult Children First Council [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2017-07.18.s A resolution to approve the contract between the Fairfield County Commissioners as Administrative Agent for the Family Adult and Children First Council and Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action/Head Start for services funded by the Help Me Grow Project [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2017-07.18.t A resolution to approve the contract between the Fairfield County Commissioners as Administrative Agent for the Family Adult and Children First Council and the Fairfield County Juvenile Court for services of their Court-Based Mental Health Therapy Program [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of the JFS Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following JFS resolutions:

- 2017-07.18.u A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau and Job and Family Services, Child Protective Services Department [JFS]
- 2017-07.18.v A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2017-07.18.w A resolution approving Fairfield County Plan for Child, Family and Adult Community and Protective Services Expenditures (State Budget Line Item 533) Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2017-07.18.x A resolution approving Fairfield County Plan for Income Maintenance Expenditures Job & Family Services [JFS]
- 2017-07.18.y A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2017-07.18.z A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Juvenile/Probate Court resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Juvenile Court Fund #2481 Juvenile Recovery Fund; see resolution 2017-07.18.aa.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Approval of Payment of Bills Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Mike Kiger, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Payment of Bills resolutions:

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- 2017-07.18.bb A resolution to approve the payment of vouchers without appropriate carry-over purchase orders for all Departments that are approved by the Commissioners [Auditor- Finance]
- 2017-07.18.cc A resolution authorizing payment(s) to United Health Care for purposes of the Fairfield County Health Benefits Plan – Fairfield County Board of Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2017-07.18.dd A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

Commissioner Davis stated at 10:23 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the CDBG Public Hearing.

JFS Update

The Commissioners met at 10:17 a.m. for an update from JFS. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Joshua Horacek, Kristi Burre, Spencer Remoquillo, Aunie Cordle, Bart Hampson, Corey Clark, Rick Szabrak, Dennis Keller, Donna Stalter, Todd McCullough, Jon Kochis, Ray Stemen, Mary Beth Lane, Jonathan Ferbrache, Jeff Camechis, Johanna Pearce, Jon Slater, Sarah Stevens, and Cheryl Ricketts.

Ms. Burre thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to meet again. She highlighted information on the new protective services fact sheet. Last week she highlighted challenges due to the opioid epidemic. While substance abuse is not something new to Protective Services, this particular kind of substance abuse is – it is more complex and has long lasting repercussions. Childhood trauma is raising the costs of placements. Children are not able to return to their families, and situations are getting worse. In 2016, there was 2.6 million spent on placement costs for 90 children. There were an additional 86 children placed in kinship relationships that did not require placement costs. The daily cost for the 90 kids is \$8,000.

Mr. Davis asked of the 90 children what percentage was directly or indirectly related to the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Burre stated that 80% of kids taken in to custody are specific to substance abuse and of those kids 85% are specific to opioid abuse. Meth is now also included in those statistics. Only 10% of these families result in paid placements.

The fact sheet included the statement of how Ohio is 50th in the nation for CPS/APS state funding. Fairfield County is one of the lowest counties in per capita spending. They try to find grants and resources whenever possible.

Mr. Cordle added that the costs for having kids in care are skyrocketing.

Ms. Burre read a testimony from the flier and stated that was what every case looks like in terms of trauma and need; this is now the new norm.

Mr. Levacy stated the epidemic impacts staff as well. He noted from the fact sheet that 40% of the children were younger than 5 years old. He thanked protective services for all their work and stated there is a big disconnect between what Fairfield County provides per kid per day and what Franklin County provides per kid per day. He recently spoke with another county who's CPS/APS funding was three times that of Fairfield.

Ms. Brown added that elder abuse (also addressed by the protective services levy) has increased 75% and that 85% of abusers are family. The elderly rely on care they receive from children and

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grandchildren; and the agency is prepared to step in to protect the elderly when they are abused or neglected. This is a very important part of the levy supported services.

Ms. Burre went on to say that Protective Services has made a strong effort to focus on connections for foster families. She asked Ms. Stevens to share her story.

Ms. Stevens stated she is currently the Director of Training for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption in Columbus. Prior to that, she worked in Fairfield County as a recruiter for the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program. As a recruiter, she had twelve children in her caseload. Four of those children had the same mom with three in one foster home and the fourth in a different home due to behavior issues. At the age of nine, he (John) was on active probation. These children experienced domestic and substance abuse. Ms. Stevens and her husband made the decision to adopt the four children who assumed they'd be in foster care forever. The Stevens fell in love with the children during the process, and Ms. Stevens wanted to share how things have gone since adopting.

While the kids are currently in a stable family, the trauma still exists. Three of the children are now completely off medication, and one of them is off her individualized education plan as well. The son did well for the first six to nine months, but then he started setting fires and stealing. He then started being physically violent at school. He tried to stab Ms. Stevens when he thought she was his birth mom (due to a flashback). He has been in a residential facility since September 2016, and the Stevens continue to visit him weekly. He says he does not want to return home and that he'll have to go to a foster home once he is done at the facility, but the Stevens refuse to give up on him and remind him that he will be returning to his new home – to his family. There are other kids in Fairfield County with the same needs and people who have the resources to care for them. The Stevens do not regret their decision to adopt these four children and encourage others to do so if their heart brings them to that decision.

Mr. Davis stated that when he was little his family also took in a traumatized youth. He asked Ms. Stevens how her biological daughters have handled this transition.

Ms. Stevens replied that one daughter is in college and has a relationship with the kids. The other daughter (age 16) participated in the trainings and home study, and she has been amazing. She has since been diagnosed with anxiety, however. It was difficult for her to see the children being mean to her mother and father. She is included in counseling and is now coping very well. John's increase in traumatized behavior has affected everyone in the family.

Mr. Levacy was amazed by Ms. Steven's story. He also noted that Dave Thomas was a personal friend of his who was passionate about adoption.

Mr. Davis thanked Ms. Stevens for her willingness to share.

Ms. Stevens stated it wasn't often that she shared her story, and she appreciated the Commissioners' willingness to listen.

Commissioner Davis stated at 10:50 a.m. that the Commission would take a brief recess.

Meeting re: Renewal of Walnut Township Agricultural Security Area

The Commissioners met at 11:02 a.m. to discuss the renewal of the Walnut Township Agricultural Security Area. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Mike Kiger. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Jonathan Ferbrache, Tony Vogel, Jon Kochis, and Jon Slater.

Mr. Ferbrache thanked the Commissioners for their time. The meeting was to review the Agriculture Security Area (ASA) renewal process. The ASA is a long term protection of an agricultural area. The landowners have indicated they would like to renew the ASA. There are a few small questions on parcels, but those can be worked out as all families are on the same page. Those in the ASA are required to submit a new application 180 days prior to the termination of the old one. Mr. Ferbrache stated the purpose of meeting with the Commissioners was to address

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any concerns they may have. The school districts will be notified. Both the township and Commissioners will hold hearings. The primary concern with renewing the ASA is to control growth. Parcels in the area are limited to one house per 40 acres. No new roads, water lines, or sewer lines are allowed. This means that anyone who might put those lines through the area needs to look at comprehensive planning.

Mr. Davis noted that the track about Liberty Union was labeled as a temporary protection. He was aware of discussions of a water line being placed down Route 37, and this ASA was an impediment to that proposal. He understands not bringing utilities to the specific area, but he believes they should be able to go through to serve areas outside of the ASA. He said this may be a deal breaker.

Mr. Ferbrache stated there are many reasons why these areas are created and that the desire is that discussions will lay all future development plans on the table. Having a definitive plan in place or an ODOT study creates a block in the future. The Commissioners would need to develop a list of concerns, otherwise they would be in a holding pattern for 10 years.

Mr. Davis stated he understood that drainage was a bigger concern for this area, but asked what would happen if a farm wants to run a water line for irrigation.

Mr. Ferbrache replied they would be prohibited from running the line unless there was an EPA requirement, but in this area it is best to dig a well anyway.

Mr. Levacy noted the process was frustrating 10 years ago and asked how the ODOT right of way was included (which is where the water line was to go).

Mr. Ferbrache stated that ODOT released the service area stating they did not have any future plans. He noted that 10 years is not forever.

Mr. Levacy stated he believed owners should be able to do what they want with their land, but did not agree with including a right of way in the protected area.

Ms. Brown asked about the flexibility for "up to 10 years" noted in a flier and if that meant they could develop an agreement for fewer than 10 years.

Mr. Ferbrache stated that he believed that provision was so landowners could leave the ASA if they wanted to. He stated he would work with Mr. Horacek and the AG's office on the length of the ASA and excluding the ODOT right of way.

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Dave Levacy and a second of Mike Kiger the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Dave Levacy, Mike Kiger, and Steve Davis.

The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by:

Seconded by:

that the July 18, 2017, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:

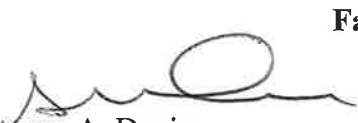
NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

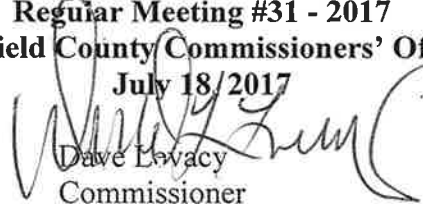
*Approved on July 25, 2017

Regular Meeting #31 - 2017
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office

July 18, 2017



Steven A. Davis
Commissioner



Dave Lavacy
Commissioner



Mike Kiger
Commissioner



Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk