

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:01 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, Staci Knisley, Tom Lininger, Joshua Horacek, Marc Churchill, Aundrea Cordle, Heather O'Keefe, Bart Hampson, and Josh Crawford. Joining via teleconference were Jon Kochis, Mark Conrad, Donna Fox-Moore, CJ Roberts, Dennis Keller, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tiffany Nash, Jeremiah Upp, Jon Kochis, Brett Riffle, Nikki Drake, Jeff Porter, and James Bahnsen.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Tiffany Nash with the Fairfield County Department of Health provided an update. She indicated there was an increase of 200 positive cases recently. This was the biggest spike experienced to date. They believe it is due to many social gatherings such as weddings, backyard parties, and vacations. With the contact tracing, they are having trouble tracing with the age group of 20's and 30's. She asked the Commissioners to encourage people to take the Department of Health's phone calls and to continue encouraging safeguarding measures, such as social distancing and wearing masks. Some people believe that wearing a mask eliminates the need to social distance, and it does not. Ms. Nash went on to describe how they are working with schools on developing safety plans.

Commissioner Davis asked if there was sufficient data relating to the destinations of the COVID-19 positive cases.

Ms. Nash replied that they do not have that information yet. Although it would be time consuming to gather, it would be helpful information.

Commissioner Davis stated that he is not asking for additional work but stated that he would be interested in the data if it were collected.

Ms. Nash reiterated their concerns are with bars, restaurants, and all social gatherings.

Commissioner Davis asked if the Department of Health's administration is considering a local order, or are they waiting on the guidance from the state or the Governor's orders?

Ms. Nash reported that the administration is considering a local order, but it has lacked support, and there are no resources to enforce such an order.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, joined the call. He reported that EMA, Fairfield Medical Center, and the Fairfield Department of Health issued a joint statement to focus on positive reinforcement to keep the public engaged and encouraged. If the public uses the tools available such as masks and social distancing, it will help to avoid shutting businesses down. The joint statement was placed on social media by the Commissioners' Office.

Commissioner Davis reported that there were 87 cases added over the weekend.

Mr. Kochis added that there were fewer cases (nine fewer as compared to the previous day) reported overnight at Fairfield Medical Center. He believes that is a good indicator.

Commissioner Levacy reported that there are 486 active cases currently and that 420 have recovered. He asked about the timeframe in which an active case becomes a recovered case.

Ms. Nash reported that active cases fall off after 21 days. After the 21 days, they presume they are recovered unless reported differently. They follow the Governor's formula.

Mr. Kochis reported that the total for recovered cases is cumulative.

Ms. Nash reported that the use of ICU beds has been increasing. There have been many young people testing positive. Elderly people are still testing positive, too. They are testing more, but the younger people are more socially active.

Dr. Brown suggested a media campaign be designed for awareness with a target audience of young adults.

Ms. Nash replied that she had a call this morning with the Governor's Office relating to a media campaign of this nature.

Commissioner Davis asked if there was any indication that Fairfield County will turn to purple (in the advisory system).

Ms. Nash reported that if the trend continues, it is possible.

Mr. Kochis reported that based on the Athens County example, we are not yet on the cusp to turn to purple although we do need to do a lot better. The ICU bed availability is what they base the colors on, and our proximity to Franklin County impacts our experience. Fairfield Medical Center is not putting all positive cases they see in ICU.

Mr. Fix reported that the Ohio Restaurant Association and its Board leadership have been talking with the Governor's Office. A mandate could happen today for all to wear masks. There may be an order to shut down bars.

Commissioner Davis thanked Mr. Kochis and Ms. Nash for their efforts.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Kochis to reach out to Ms. Dana Moore with the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center to see if they need any help with personal property equipment (PPE).

Mr. Kochis stated he would do so.

Dr. Brown reported that Governor DeWine held a press conference on Wednesday, July 15th. A summary was in the media, and it was in the review packet. An additional article of interest was in the review packet.

With a social media campaign, in Fairfield County we are encouraging everyone to wear masks.

- Legal Update

Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Horacek for an update on the Horns Mill Road matter discussed last week. Mr. Horacek reported that the next step would be a resolution for a change.

Mr. Jeremiah Upp, County Engineer, indicated he will propose a resolution to lower the speed limit on Horns Mills Road. ODOT was favorable to the County Engineer reaching out to them. Mr. Upp reported the proposal would be for a recommendation of 35 mph, and his office would also address the road striping. Also, Mr. Upp followed up with Mr. Huston (who attended our meeting last week).

The Commissioners were pleased with how everyone followed up on this matter.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

- Announcement

- Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

- Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov

- (740) 777-8552

- Date Reminders

- August 5 – Wear green for Child Support Awareness

- August 6 – Elected Official and Department Head Roundtable

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted the 24 resolutions for the voting meeting.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

The Sheriff proposed three contracts to renew for services with the ESC, Canal Winchester Schools, and Lancaster City Schools.

RPC proposed a resolution authorizing approval of change order #2 for the Fairfield County CDBG Village of Millersport FY2018 CDBG Paving Projects.

There were 20 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve, such as:

- Account to account transfers of appropriations for proper classification of CARES Act (HB 481) expenditures;
- Repayment of an advance (relating to an Airport program grant);
- Two resolutions for debt and grant transactions (for the Airport and General Fund);
- Two resolutions authorizing subordination of Community Housing Improvement Program loans based on grant terms and conditions;
- The disposal of vehicles by internet auction with Gov Deals, Inc. for the Fairfield County Dog Shelter;
- Memo transactions and appropriations for the County Engineer (three resolutions);
- Three resolutions to process movements of funds by operation of law (and reimbursements) for JFS;
- Appropriations for the Law Library and for Juvenile Court (three resolutions); and
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for Common Pleas Court's Recovery Fund, DR Court's Special Projects fund, the Sheriff's Office general fund department, and for a Juvenile Court special revenue grant fund (four resolutions).

In queue, there were financial and contracting resolutions at various stages of progress.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals.

There were no questions posed.

Budget Update

Dr. Brown reported that the deadline for level 3 budget entry is September 3.

In addition, we have a resolution for 7.21.2020 which will result in the full use (spending or encumbrance) of the HB 481 CARES Act related funding. As we know, House Bill 481 directed the Ohio Office of Budget and Management to disburse Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to Ohio political subdivisions. Eligible expenses are determined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's interpretations of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The most recent guidance from the Treasury was issued on July 8, 2020.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

These resources from HB 481 (CRF resources) are subject to state oversight from OBM and the Auditor of State (AOS). We have reviewed their guidance documents, as well.

In developing strategies for the uses of the CRF resources, county leadership has evaluated the unique circumstances and priorities within Fairfield County. Counties can use CRF resources to address immediate county needs for responding to the pandemic, which we have done.

Examples of such needs include purchasing cleaning and sanitation supplies, acquiring personal protective equipment, and implementing physical barriers to improve distancing measures. Other COVID-19 expenses reasonably necessary to the function of the government and to facilitate compliance with public health orders are eligible expenses. An example of these expenditures is for equipment to improve teleworking.

Most expenses under review at this time *have already been incurred prior* to the receipt CRF resources. For Fairfield County eligible expenditures exceed the first distribution of CRF resources. In addition to examples discussed above, eligible expenses include certain personnel-related expenses, including public safety payroll support programs, which we have documented and have already expended. Some equipment expenditures have been *partially* charged to the special revenue fund, and some public safety payroll expenditures have been *partially* charged because of how there are more expenses (already incurred) than there are CRF resources at this time. We will continue to track the expenses.

Generally, personnel expenses must be for employees substantially dedicated to responding to or mitigating the effects of COVID-19. Treasury guidance has provided some flexibility on this issue by stating that local governments may presume, for the sake of administrative convenience, that public safety and public health personnel are substantially dedicated in this manner unless the chief executive determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise.

In addition, both OBM and AOS guidance suggest a well-documented approach for the use of CRF resources for personnel expenses. We have documented eligible expenditures with a Prosecutor's Opinion, letter from the Sheriff's Office, a list of repurposed employees, and a description of various changes undertaken by the employees serving in these positions.

We have ensured none of the expenditures charged to the special revenue fund for the CRF resources are reimbursed otherwise. We have documented the specific payroll expenditures charged to the special revenue fund. We are also thinking about other funding streams available to the county and are considering the identified community needs. For example, the county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has incurred additional expenses not covered by their resources.

If we receive additional CRF resources, we will review the potential to match Stafford Act submissions. We are working on identifying Stafford Act projects for reimbursement. This will include analysis with several departments and agencies.

**Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020**

We believe Meals on Wheels has incurred costs to provide meals to elderly individuals at home rather than in congregate settings. In this example, a memorandum of understanding with the Board of County Commissioners could be proposed to help facilitate reimbursement to Meals on Wheels with Stafford Act resources.

We will continue to consider the circumstances and priorities of the county, and if additional resources become available, we will re-evaluate the circumstances and overall needs. We have a placeholder in our thinking to include Prevention, Retention, and Contingency funds, for example, if there are significant additional CRF resources available.

Today, there is \$158,979.66 of eligible public safety payroll expenditures not yet charged to the CRF resources. In addition, there is more than \$30,000 expected for future expenses for teleworking improvement; and there is more than \$113,000 being organized for a submission for Stafford Act reimbursement (75%).

This is a chart summarizing the HB 481 funds received and the eligible expenses charged to the newly created special revenue fund to account for these CARES Act related resources.

HB 481 Funds	Received - \$1,677,849.52	Category for Reporting
Eligible Expenses		
1,347,574.04	Public Safety Payroll Support	Amount spent on public safety employees
19,539.82	Public Safety Payroll Support	Amount spent on public safety employees
188,660.37	Public Safety Payroll Support	Amount spent on public safety employees
1,555,774.23	Subtotal	Amount spent on payroll for public safety employees
2,711.00	Overtime for cleaning	Amount spent on public health expenses
3,499.00	Equipment for sanitation	Amount spent on public health expenses
6,210.00	Subtotal	Amount spent on public health expenses
10,940.00	Equipment for REA	Amount spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees
1,572,924.23	Spent as of 7 15 2020	
104,925.29	<i>Remaining as of 7 15 2020</i>	

**Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020**

<i>Resolution of 7.21.2020</i>		
3,921.93	equipment for teleworking - Treasurer/partial	Amount spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees
14,361.96	equipment for teleworking - IT	Amount spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees
233.25	Overtime for Facilities, cleaning	Amount spent on public health expenses
47,310.56	partial Sheriff's Office public safety payroll support, 7.17.2020	Amount spent on payroll for public safety employees
65,827.70	memo expenses with resolution 7 21 2020	
Amount remaining (encumbered or to be encumbered or spent)		
545.00	equipment for teleworking - IT	Amount to be spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees
4,557.00	cleaning supplies and masks	Amount to be spent on public health
11,985.00	sprayers for cleaning	Amount to be spent on public health
11,434.27	equipment for teleworking - JFS and DR Court	Amount to be spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees (7 16 2020)
9,141.12	equipment for teleworking - Engineer	Amount to be spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees (7 16 2020)
1,435.20	Park District Sanitizing Stations	To be encumbered and spent on public health
39,097.59	to be encumbered or spent	
104,925.29	Memo expenses and to be spent	

**Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020**

Summary – HB 481 Distribution		
1,603,084.79	Amount spent on payroll for public safety employees	
50,344.28	Amount spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees	
24,420.45	Amount spent on public health expenses	
1,677,849.52		
0.00	difference	

Commissioner Davis stated he appreciated the work that went into documenting expenditures. He added that he is starting to see red flags on the distribution of remaining CARES Act money to local governments. The metropolitan areas have received 100% of what they expected. Rural areas have only received about 33% of what they expected. If the rural or smaller governments are treated inequitably, things will not go well. About a month ago, there was more talk about the methodology and speed of distribution of the CARES Act monies. Now, that conversation seems to have changed. He advised all commissioners to advocate for the equitable and speedy distribution of CARES Act resources to local governments.

Dr. Brown turned to an update on sales tax revenues. Actual receipts for the sales of April (paid into the county treasury in July) were \$1,557,434 and were projected from the OBM information (previously discussed) to be \$1.5 M. The planning tool showed receipts of \$922,030.

As discussed last week, non-auto sales tax receipts for May retail sales (to be received by the county in August) are estimated to be \$1,509,489.71. That is 4% above last year's non-auto sales tax number. Our planning tool shows \$1,120,497 for all sales tax for May retail sales. We will get preliminary data on auto sales tax soon.

With sales tax revenues, we are tracking ahead of estimates. For the year, in this category of revenues, we are approximating the previous year, with a .2% increase.

Prior to the pandemic, casino revenues were estimated at a flat \$1.75 M. YTD casino revenues are \$923,261.13, as previously discussed. We believed we would have a loss of about \$826,000 based on the closing of the casinos, but the reopening will soften that loss. We will monitor receipts through September.

With conveyance fees, the receipts are tracking about 9% above the previous year, and they are already at 60% of the annual estimate of \$2.6 M.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Commissioner Davis reported that sales tax numbers had significant increases in January and February which supported the overall year to date numbers. Commissioner Fix stated that he was surprised in the recent year to date sales tax numbers, and he is cautiously optimistic.

d. BRAVOS

- Thanks to Staci Knisley for covering Clerk duties while Rachel Elsea is on vacation. Thanks to Rachel Elsea for preparing so well for her vacation. Overall, thanks to the staff for covering for one another and for supporting the whole team.
- Thanks to Tammy Smith for working overtime to clean and sanitize conference rooms, especially the Records Center conference area which is being used a lot.

- Old Business
- New Business
- General Correspondence Received

We received correspondence from Attorney Jeff Feyko about an annexation of +/- 2.684 acres in Berne Township to be annexed to the Village of Sugar Grove. This annexation packet is under review with the subject matter experts for accuracy.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Transportation Improvement District (TID) meeting – July 23, 2020

Rick Szabrak and others are attending. Commissioner Fix requested the sign in information for the meeting, and Dr. Brown will send that by email.

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 240
- b. ODYS communication re: grant funding (for Juvenile Court)
- c. *Public Records Requests or Questions?*

- Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
- Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

- d. Dr. Brown reported the patriotic mural project at Amstutz is right on target for its completion. Several people have commented on how nice it is looking and how inspiring it is. She stated she was looking forward to a time when the mural could be dedicated.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

- e. Dr. Brown drew attention to the press release from Mr. Szabrak and the Port Authority. The press release described how businesses could get support for energy audits and potentially save some money.

- Additional Review Topics

Rockmill Documentary

Commissioner Davis reported that the Rockmill documentary produced and sponsored by Fairfield County Parks was amazing. He appreciates Lou Varga and the Fairfield County Parks for their work on this documentary.

During a conversation about linking or posting the video or a part of the video to the county site, Mr. Lininger clarified that the Parks District had ownership of the video.

Dr. Brown asked Mr. Lininger to see if the Parks District would be interested in sharing a link to the video or an excerpt of it to continue to share the information in the community and on websites.

New Baby

Mr. Horacek announced that Auditor Jon Slater, Jr. (and his wife, Melodi) welcomed their first grandchild (a baby girl) over the weekend.

9:45 a.m. Virtual Meeting with Susie O'Brien with the Secretary of State Frank LaRose's Office

Ms. O'Brien previously requested time on the Board of Commissioners' agenda, and she provided an update from the Secretary of State's Office.

She reported that the Fairfield County Board of Elections is doing a great job. She stated Mr. LaRose supports the distribution of CARES Act funding for local boards of elections. The CARES Act will cover certain items for the elections, including PPE and extra staffing needed for early voting. Ms. O'Brien reported that \$125,000 was secured out of the CARES Act for Fairfield County Board of Elections.

Ms. O'Brien stated that Mr. LaRose is encouraging everyone to vote by mail.

Mr. Fix asked about the struggle to get poll workers and asked if they needed local support.

Ms. O'Brien reported that they have done surveys (at local board of elections) of people who usually serve as poll workers to gauge their willingness to serve now. So far there are three surveys in: 1) 41% willing to work; 2) 42% willing to work; 3) 63% willing to work.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

She asked if the Board of Commissioners had passed a resolution to allow employees permission to have regular paid time off to work as poll worker, and Commissioner Davis reported that the county had done so. Ms. O'Brien was interested in encouraging the private sector to do the same, calling for approval of a democracy day by private employers.

Commissioner Davis asked Ms. O'Brien to research why Fairfield County is always one of the last reporting precincts during an election. He stated that perhaps it is just a perception, but it seems as if reporting is later than others.

Ms. O'Brien stated she would review the last five elections and report back.

Commissioner Levacy stated that in-person voting results lead to a disappointing turnout during this time. Ms. O'Brien reported that there are three ways to vote in the November election. Absentee applications will be sent out in September. There will be 28 days of early in-person voting, and there will be in-person voting on Election day. There are still challenges with social distancing and cleaning.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. O'Brien for her time and attendance (virtually).

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Staci Knisley, Bart Hampson, Josh Aundrea Cordle, Heather O'Keefe, Ray Stemen, Marc Churchill, Tom Lininger, and Joshua Horacek. Joining via teleconference were Jon Kochis, Mark Conrad, Donna Fox-Moore, CJ Roberts, Dennis Keller, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tiffany Nash, Jeremiah Upp, Jon Kochis, Brett Riffle, Nikki Drake, Jeff Porter, and James Bahnsen.

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.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Mr. Ray Stemen of 2444 West Pointe Road, Lancaster Ohio commented on his views about Senate Bill 55 and its House amendment, which was accepted by a majority in the Senate, to decriminalize violations of public health orders. He supports this concept and stated he feels as if he is becoming more of a Libertarian. He urged advocacy for the decriminalization of violations of public health orders.

Approval of Minutes for July 14, 2020

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the July 14, 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 following Commissioners' Office resolutions:

- 2020-07.21.a A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund – Fund #3034, sub fund 8236 FY2020 Ohio Airport Grant Program -Commissioners' Office [Commissioners]
- 2020-07.21.b A resolution to authorize appropriated from unappropriated for the Commissioners/Airport Debt Service Fund# 4714 – Fairfield Co Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-07.21.c A resolution approving to Appropriate from Unappropriated into a major expense category for Grant Fund# 3034, subfund#8245 for the FY2021 Ohio Airport Grant Program/Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), Grant match transfer from the General Fund # 1001 & Advance from the General fund - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-07.21.d A resolution approving account to account transfers in major object expense categories and memo transactions relating to the CARES Act Relief Fund# 2868 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

Discussion: Dr. Brown reported that resolution “d” included documentation of expenditures eligible for reimbursement with CARES Act resources from HB 481 with such expenditures incurred to address the pandemic since March 2020. These expenses were necessary, previously unbudgeted, and made during the timeframe as prescribed by the CARES Act and the guidance from the US Treasury. The eligible expenses include expenditures for public safety payroll support, public health expenditures (for things like PPE, cleaning supplies, and sanitation services), and reasonably necessary expenses relating to improving teleworking capabilities for public employees.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

We will continue to track expenditures in case additional resources are available.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Common Pleas Court resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Common Pleas Court resolution:

2020-07.21.e A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense categories – Fairfield County Common Pleas Court

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Dog Shelter resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Dog Shelter resolution:

2020-07.21.f A resolution authorizing the disposal of vehicles by internet auction with Gov Deals, Inc. – Fairfield County Dog Shelter [Dog Shelter]

Discussion: Commissioner Davis asked how many vehicles were in place at the Dog Shelter. Mr. Porter replied that he believed four were in place. Two older and obsolete vehicles were being auctioned with the Internet auction option.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Domestic Relations Court resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Domestic Relations Court resolution:

2020-07.21.g A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for the adjustment of Capital Outlay to purchase a portable court recording system – Special Projects (2625).

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated she appreciated the cooperation of Judge Smith and DR Court in using special projects funds to support the system upgrades.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020**

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:

- 2020-07.21.h A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2050 for annual inspections in various subdivisions as of 7/14/2020 [Engineer]
- 2020-07.21.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2580-Subdivisions for subdivision inspections of Rolling Hills Storage [Engineer]
- 2020-07.21.j A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for supplies and legal notice advertising [Engineer]

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:

- 2020-07.21.k A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2020-07.21.l A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2020-07.21.m A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Juvenile/Probate Court resolutions:

- 2020-07.21.n A resolution approving an account to account transfer [Juvenile Court] [Juvenile/Probate Court]

**Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020**

2020-07.21.o A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Juvenile Court Fund #2036 Department of Youth Services (reclaim) [Juvenile/Probate Court]

2020-07.21.p A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category – Juvenile Court Fund #2036 Department of Youth Services (reclaim) [Juvenile/Probate Court]

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

Approval of the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) Resolutions – Fairfield County Commissioners

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Resolutions:

2020-07.21.q A resolution authorizing the subordination FY 2014 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) for Donna E. and Michael E. Taylor [Community Action]

2020-07.21.r A resolution authorizing the subordination FY 2014 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) for Donna E. and Michael E. Taylor [Community Action]

Discussion: Dr. Brown reported that the authorizations were consistent with the grant terms and conditions. The grantee for the CHIP program is the Board of Commissioners. LFCAA is the contracted administrator of the CHIP grants, and that accounts for how things were listed on the agenda.

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

Approval of the Law Library resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Law Library resolution:

2020-07.21.s A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated Funds for the Fairfield County Law Library Resources Board (Fund 2761)

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

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Approval of the Regional Planning resolution

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

2020-07.21.t A resolution authorizing approval of change order #2 for the Fairfield County CDBG – the Village of Millersport FY2018 CDBG Paving Projects [Regional Planning Commission]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Sheriff Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Sheriff Resolutions:

2020-07.21.u A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 1001 [Sheriff]

2020-07.21.v A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Fairfield County ESC [Sheriff]

2020-07.21.w A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and Canal Winchester Local Schools [Sheriff]

2020-07.21.x A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Lancaster Board of Education [Sheriff]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

- Open Items – Additional Review Topics – County Engineer's Resources

Mr. Jeremiah Upp stated that he lost audio capability earlier in the meeting. He asked if there were any questions for the County Engineer's Office and the resolutions they proposed.

Commissioner Davis stated he did not have a question about the proposed resolutions, but that at one time, he had received information from Mr. Upp that the County Engineer had made adjustments to its plans to respond to the pandemic and that they had a good handle on the resources available to County Engineer for projects. He asked if this was still the case.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Mr. Upp replied that it was. He had prioritized projects to ensure no grant funds would be lost. He stated he would create a summary for the Board of Commissioners to review.

Meeting with Aunie Cordle, JFS Director, and other JFS Leaders

Directly following the voting meeting, at 10:16 a.m., the Board of Commissioners met with Aundrea Cordle, JFS Director; Heather O'Keefe, Protective Services Director; Bart Hampson, Deputy Director of Finance for JFS; and Joshua Crawford, Budget Officer for JFS. Mr. Crawford is a newly hired employee working with Mr. Hampson. Attending the meeting in addition to the Commissioners and the JFS staff were: Carri Brown, Ray Stemen, Lt. Marc Churchill, Tom Lininger, and Joshua Horacek. Joining via teleconference were other interested parties.

Ms. Cordle thanked the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to provide an update about placement costs. She and JFS team members presented an overall review of how JFS uses kinship, agency licensed foster care, foster care in network, and residential treatment for placement of children who are in our care and custody. Ms. O'Keefe described how children come into the agency's care and custody, with the main reasons being derived from a referral and resulting investigation, through a court case, or by an adoption disruption.

Commissioner Fix asked of the three ways, which was the most common? Ms. O'Keefe replied that referral and investigation was the most common. The agency has been experiencing more adoption disruptions lately, too.

Ms. Cordle presented graphs to depict the per diem costs compared to paid placements (from 2015 to the current year), placements by type (as of May 2020), placement costs per month and number of children in placement, residential costs per year, and custody by age range. The number of children in placement is not growing exponentially; rather, the costs of placement is increasing exponentially. About \$13,767 is the daily per diem by month for all kids in care now. That number was \$8,808 just three years ago for about the same number of kids in care. A copy of the one-page fact sheet is attached to these minutes.

Ms. O'Keefe described the importance of kinship care and the innovative programs in place at JFS to help keep kids safe and to keep costs down. She and Ms. Cordle described their roles as substitute parents in making decisions, such as medical decisions, and they also described some examples of traumatic cases.

Commissioner Fix asked about the costs by placement type. Ms. O'Keefe explained that agency licensed foster care has a low per diem cost at \$15-\$20 per day. When speaking about this low cost, she reminded everyone that foster care located in Fairfield County may not be a Fairfield County agency licensed foster parent. Care in network can range from \$55 - \$215 per day. Residential treatment can range from \$200 - \$615 per day. There are times when we are seeking to fulfill a residential treatment need, and we must take what is available, and the costs are increasing dramatically.

Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020

Ms. O'Keefe and Ms. Cordle described how the state is being helpful. For example, the agency has some special funds to use for a recruiting specialist. They are contracting with Dr. Renee Goodman who is helping the agency communicate the foster parent needs, showing the realities of older children in foster care so that there can be effective education and outreach materials.

Commissioner Davis asked about the socioeconomic variables impacting protective services. Ms. Cordle indicated that the drug epidemic was a major factor.

Mr. Hampson provided a summary of the protective services levy forecast. The summary showed three scenarios ranging from optimistic with state changes (Ms. Cordle described the importance of accessing Medicaid dollars for treatment), the current trends (which are alarming), and a mix of these two scenarios. A copy of the summary is attached to the minutes.

Commissioner Davis expressed his gratitude for having good information as soon as possible.

Ms. Cordle indicated that 2023 was thought of as a critical, evaluative year in terms of taking decisions relating to the protective services levy funding.

Commissioner Levacy indicated that he has had concerns over time about the rising costs of protective placement, and he indicated that the state needed to do something about that so that there were more options available.

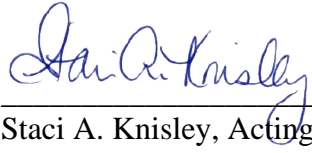
Ms. O'Keefe spoke briefly about the Roweton partnership, an initiative for children and families to develop a regional system of care for children with persistent and complex behavioral conditions. A full continuum of treatment and supports is envisioned.

Ms. O'Keefe also talked about the Family First Prevention Services Act and the impact to the child welfare program in Ohio and in all states. She also provided some examples of how kinship services and programs connected with Project FORT are innovative examples of services.

Commissioner Davis asked if these measures would be considered preventative, and Ms. O'Keefe indicated they indeed be preventative measures, with such measures designed to enhance support services for families to help children remain at home.

Dr. Brown agreed and commented that the Family First transformation will be the most change that the child welfare program will experience since the creation of the IV-E program with the Social Security Act. While Fairfield County is adept at making changes and has made many positive transformations over the past twenty years, the pending changes with Family First will result in the child protective services program looking different than it does now – with more attention on interventions and an ability to use federal funding aimed at preventing placement as much as possible. As we think about how this is operationalized, this means that keeping kids in families will be the top priority.

**Regular Meeting #31 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 21, 2020**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Staci A. Knisley". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Staci A. Knisley, Acting Clerk