

Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:02 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Larry Hanna, Aunie Cordle, Corey Clark, Chris Wagner, Lt. Marc Churchill, Jim Bahnsen, Jeff Porter, Bennett Niceswanger, Stephanie Fyffe . Joining via teleconference were Lisa McKenzie, Mark Conrad, Tony Vogel, Garrett Blevins, Jeff Barron, Todd McCullough, Dennis Keller, Jon Slater, Jeff Feyko, Stacey Hicks, Dave Burgei, Rick Szabrak and Shannon Carter.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Mr. Blevins provided an update from EMA. They continue to pass out PPE. The state has indicated that they will slow down shipments and the next will not arrive for 3-4 weeks. This came as a surprise, so EMA is evaluating what they have. The pop up COVID testing will take place from 12-7 at the Fairgrounds. This is a partnership with the Fairfield Community Health Center and run by the National Guard. They have 1,000 test kits available for the day. This is a diagnostic test, not antibody. Yesterday's numbers were 45 to cover the entire weekend.

Mr. Davis asked if there was a priority chart for PPE distribution.

Mr. Blevins replied they start with the tier one facilities. This is based on guidance from the state. They have not released anything to the second tier. They start with long term care, then EMS, then nursing and home health facilities.

Mr. Levacy is concerned with the gap period for receiving PPE and asked if there was an opportunity to buy them on the open market.

Mr. Blevins replied that Mr. Kochis was looking into that and he would have him get back with him that day. He mentioned that when requesting PPE, facilities must fill out a form including information on how quickly they go through PPE.

Mr. Fix asked about local schools.

Mr. Blevins replied they are starting to receive responses from the schools on PPE needs and will work through meeting those needs. He added that Mr. Kochis is talking to different superintendents each day.

Dr. Brown asked if the testing at the fairgrounds was free and what the turn around was.

Mr. Blevins replied it was free and the results should be available within two weeks.

Mr. Fix asked if he was tested today and was asymptomatic he could walk around for two weeks infecting others while he waits for the results.

Mr. Blevins replied that was correct.

Mr. Davis stated one of the factors the county has been dinged on by the state is the levels of testing. He asked if the county gets credit for when the test is conducted or when the results are known.

Mr. Hanna stated that was a great question, but he was not sure. He will find the answer.

Mr. Levacy stated that it was unacceptable that the results would take that long.

**Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020**

Mr. Davis stated he and Mr. Hanna had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Aebi regarding the Health Department's letter. He reiterated his comments with them that from his vantage point, he does not want to play Board of Health or doctor on what the schools should do or be superintendent and try to take all those factors into account to best educate students. He has tried to limit his contribution to the conversation regarding process. He does not know that there is any objective to be achieved to beat that drum louder, but welcomed Mr. Hanna to comments.

Mr. Hanna replied he cannot speak for Dr. Aebi who made that recommendation, and he appreciates the comments from the Commissioners.

Mr. Davis stated the numbers from the weekend were better than they had been.

Mr. Hanna stated they would need more history to have discussion on the trend. It does appear that Ohio may be plateauing. The great concern is that once schools get together there will be an increase in cases.

Mr. Hanna added that they are reviewing plans for schools. They have once a week meeting with the superintendents to provide information. Overall, the plans he has seen are very good and have been well thought out.

Mr. Davis asked if the Health Department was seeing a difference in the plans in communicating with the younger students and older students.

Mr. Hanna stated he has not seen any deficiencies in that regard.

Mr. Davis stated he thinks the community is taking the pandemic more seriously.

Mr. Fix asked if the contact tracing has improved.

Ms. Fyffe replied it has not and that it is still very difficult to get people to cooperate.

Mr. Levacy asked Mr. Hanna about the need for more testing.

Mr. Hanna stated he believes there are physicians who are deciding not to test people at this point.

Ms. Fyffe stated they have been seeing 3-7 days with the labs. What they tell individuals being tested is you need to quarantine yourself until you get your results.

Dr. Brown asked if they were still hiring contact tracers.

Mr. Hanna replied that was correct. Contact tracers have two teams, an intake team to call positive cases and a contact team that calls everyone the positive individual has been in contact with. They monitor the incubation period of those who are positive and also get updates from those who are self-monitoring. The interview is so detailed that it needs to be done via phone.

Mr. Davis stated to the Health Dept that the Commissioners understand a little bit the pressure they are under and at the evolving state and national response to the pandemic is an overarching factor to what they are dealing with. He hopes they know that the Commissioners know they are operating in a difficult environment largely not of their making. He is not letting go of this frustration of process, but he thanked them for what they are doing.

Executive Session – Pending Litigation

On the motion of Jeff Fix and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss the employment of a public employee at 9:31 a.m.

Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jeff Porter, Marc Fishel, and representatives from the Prosecutor's Office.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and second of Dave Levacy, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:31 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 10:31 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were" Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Ed Laramee, Corey Clark, Lt. Marc Churchill, Bennett Niceswanger, Jeff Porter. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Shannon Carter, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Barron, Jeff Feyko, Mitsi Niceswanger, Rick Szabrak, Todd McCullough, and Tony Vogel.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown reported there were 14 resolutions planned for the voting meeting.

We had a resolution for two proclamations: One was to honor Child Support Awareness, and the other was to honor August as Wellness Month. There was good information with each proclamation.

There were two annexation resolutions, type 2 expedited and approved by subject matter experts.

JFS proposed a contract renewal with Business Systems Solutions, Inc. with the purpose of the contract as defined by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP) to provide high quality services for youth and young adults beginning with career exploration and guidance, continued support for educational attainment, opportunities for skills training in in-demand industries and occupations, and culminating with a good job along a career pathway or enrollment in post-secondary education to eligible youth ages 14 to 24.

FCFACF proposed a resolution authorizing the SFY 2021 Help Me Grow Early Intervention service agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council, and the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency.

RPC proposed approval of the Fairfield County Metropolitan Housing Authority Annual Plan.

We had a resolution to approve a petition to conform the boundaries of Greenfield Township with the City of Lancaster, relating to the Timbertop property.

The County Engineer proposed approval and commencement of a resurfacing project.

We had a resolution to approve a change order for the Real Estate Offices project at 108 N. High Street.

**Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020**

There were four *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the County Engineer (two for the County Engineer), EMA, and FCFACF (non-general fund or grant activity – four resolutions).

In queue, there were financial and contracting resolutions at various stages of progress. For example, we had in queue a resolution to approve a contract for protective placement in network.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, beginning at 10:35 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Lt. Marc Churchill, Corey Clark, Ed Laramée, Jeff Porter, Bennett Niceswanger. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Shannon Carter, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Feyko, Rick Szabrak. Tony Vogel,

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

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 (virtual)

The review packet contained a draft agenda and checklist.

August 7-9 Sales Tax Holiday (Back to School)

Ohio will have a sales tax holiday from Friday, Aug. 7 at 12 a.m. to Sunday, August 9, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. During the holiday, the following items are exempt from sales and use tax:

- An item of clothing priced at \$75 or less;
- An item of school supplies priced at \$20 or less; and
- An item of school instructional material priced at \$20 or less.

Items used in a trade or business are not exempt under the sales tax holiday. If anyone has questions regarding this information, they can call 1-800-304-3211.

August 25 – Franklin County trial dates begin

Public Comment

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments. There were no comments.

**Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020**

Approval of Minutes for July 28, 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 28, 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:

- 2020-08.04.a A resolution authorizing the approval of proclamations. [Commissioners]
- 2020-08.04.b A resolution to approve a petition to conform the boundaries of Greenfield Township with the City of Lancaster. [Commissioners]
- 2020-08.04.c A resolution to approve the annexation of 2.684+/- Acres, more or less, of Berne Township into the Village of Sugar Grove, Pursuant to ORC 709.16, Petition by Municipal Corporation for Annexation, Annexation of Land by Mayor J.R. Stoneburner, Village of Sugar Grove.
[Commissioners] [Commissioners]
- 2020-08.04.d A resolution to approve the annexation of 2.156 +/- acres from Liberty Township to the Village of Baltimore, Expedited Type II, pursuant to ORC 709.023, Annexation of Land by Kay Annette Hammer.
[Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Davis commented on his experience with child support growing up. Mr. Clark thanked Mr. Davis for his comments. Dr. Brown highlighted the achievements of the Child Support offices. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Porter about Wellness Month and metrics in mental health support. Mr. Porter replied the EPA program and telemedicine have been utilized. Fairfield County is one of the leaders in using the telemedicine. He thanked the Commissioners for the support they have provided to Fairfield County employees.

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

Approval of the Emergency Management Agency Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Emergency Management Agency resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category EMA 2707 (Subfund 8183) Emergency Management Performance Grant Fund and Account to Account transfer; see resolution 2020-08.04.f.

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions

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

- 2020-08.04.f 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 7/31/2020 [Engineer]
- 2020-08.04.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for BER-26 Hornsmill Road consulting [Engineer]

**Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020**

2020-08.04.h A Resolution to Approve the Contract with The Shelly Company for the FAI-CR18/20/31 Resurfacing Project [Engineer]

2020-08.04.i A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence for the 2020 Resurfacing Project [Engineer]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Facilities Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Facilities resolution for approval of change order no. 11 to the contract between Gutknecht Construction Company and the Fairfield County Commissioners; see resolution 2020-08.04.j.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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

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:

2020-08.04.k A resolution authorizing the SFY 2021 Help Me Grow Early Intervention service agreement between the Fairfield County Commissioners, as administrative agent of the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency. [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

2020-08.04.l 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]

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 Job and Family Services resolution regarding a purchase of service contract between Business System Solutions, Inc. and Job & Family Services; see resolution 2020-08.04.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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 Regional Planning resolution to certify consistency of the Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority 2021 Annual Plan with the Fairfield County Community Housing Improvement Strategy; see resolution 2020-08.04.n.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 10:51 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

Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020

Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Ed Laramee, Corey Clark, Lt. Marc Churchill, Bennett Niceswanger, Jeff Porter. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Shannon Carter, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Barron, Jeff Feyko, Mitsi Niceswanger, Rick Szabrak, Todd McCullough, and Tony Vogel.

- Legal Update

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

b. Announcements & Date Reminders

Announcements

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative & Program Updates

The review packet contained a list of administrative approvals.

Budget Update

The deadline for level 3 budget entry is September 3.

We will begin reviewing multiple departments in level 2 in a bit more detail in August. Departments are largely complying with the parameters.

To Dr. Brown, Magistrate Boone reported Judge Berens is onboarding a new staff attorney/bailiff beginning August 10.

The Court made an offer of employment in April pending the individual passing the bar exam. They have been contracting for services through iForce to bridge the gap since their former employee left in February. The position could be described as essential based on the court responsibilities during the pandemic.

This exception to the hiring freeze is founded in the essential aspects of the position (and continuing operations of the court). It is also believed that the position would be difficult to fill if the current person filling it on a temporary basis did not have the full-time opportunity with benefits. They do not need additional appropriations to take this step.

As reported previously, the full (approximate) \$1.6M of the county CARES Act distribution from HB 481 has been dedicated already to eligible expenditures.

As of July 31, 2020, there was an additional amount (\$348,542.60) of public safety expenditures eligible but not charged, and an additional amount (\$410.58) for public health expenditures.

There are likely additional expenditures even beyond these amounts, and we are keeping a running total of payroll related expenditures in case there are additional amounts of HB 481 resources available from unspent funds provided to other political subdivisions.

We also have plans for disinfection equipment connected with the HVAC systems, and will evaluate the project more if we have resources to proceed with this effort. At this point we are in the evaluation stage - and hope for additional resources. We want to be prepared if we do have resources to proceed.

Also, we are continuing to gather information for the Stafford Act submission and two additional grants.

**Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020**

d. BRAVOS

Thanks to Dennis Keller for working with the state to design the driver license examination area. Fairfield County is one of the few places that examinations are continuing in the state of Ohio. We talked about this effort before, and it is nice to see it come to fruition.

Bravo to Facilities and all departments for the energy conservation project initiative in July 2014; about \$574 K has been saved since that time.

BRAVO to Common Pleas Court for a \$50,000 grant they received to support pro se litigants. The grant is from the Supreme Court of Ohio, and Legal Aid Services will be contracted to help. You will hear more about this in the future.

Thanks to GIS (Dave and Rick) for their work with the US Census boundaries. The boundary for the county was updated with 29 items and the electronic signature of Commissioner Davis was used to notify the US Census Bureau of the accuracy of the 29 items.

Thanks to Rachel Elsea for sharing CRMS information with ADAMH. They have been considering this type of program for a while, and we know that it has been helpful to the county from a resolution management perspective. The National Association of Counties honored the county with an achievement award for the CRMS process in 2017 after the process had been in place for several years.

Speaking of the National Association of Counties, we received the hard copies of the certificates for the 2020 achievement awards we discussed on June 9:

In 2020, Fairfield County was recognized with three Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties.

The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized Fairfield County with awards in the following categories:

- Category: Civic & Public Education -
County Auditor's Civic and Public Education Program
- Category: County Administration & Management-
Creating a Culture of Customer Care -&- Improving
Governance
- Old Business
 - a. Meals on Wheels Update

The Meals on Wheels organization made some minor changes to their levy budget submission, and those changes will be reflected in the level 3 budget. They are complying with the communicated parameters for county departments as it relates to county levy funds.

The adjustment from Meals on Wheels included an increase for expected levy revenue as well as an account to account transfer to decrease salaries and increase supplies and raw food. These actions were approved by the Meals on Wheels board and will be approved as part of the 2021 appropriation measure (for the county levy funds). Also, they await the final report from their financial audit for the period ending December 31, 2019.

b. Patriotic Mural at Amstutz

Regular Meeting #33 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 4, 2020

We have requested a statement about the order of the branches of services from Veteran Services on the Veteran Services letterhead and will comply with the official directive given there has been multiple conversations, voice mails, emails, and texts from Veteran Services, and we want to get the order accurate. We are close to completing the project, and we will send notes of thanks to all the volunteers who worked on the mural and to the artists, as well. As previously discussed, once completed, we will prepare a video describing all the symbols and meanings within the mural.

- New Business

- a. Public Defender Reimbursement Rate Announcement from the State

Mr. Davis expressed his frustration with being pressured by the Ohio Public Defenders office to increase the hourly rate for public defenders. They did this on the promise that the reimbursement would be 70% for the first year and 90% for the second year (of the state biennium). The Commissioners were informed yesterday of the decrease in reimbursement from the expected 90% to 70%. Mr. Davis state he would expect an apology for demanding the increase and then decreasing the reimbursement.

- General Correspondence Received

Last night, the Commissioners received a copy of the update letter from the Department of Health. Commissioner Davis reiterated his displeasure with the process of the communication on the school district recommendation.

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 280

Lt. Churchill will be in touch with Lt. Hodder to see why the increase in the jail population.

- b. We welcomed Denisha Miles to the reception area on the first floor of the Courthouse.

- c. OSU Extension Newsletter

- d. OSU Extension Mindfulness Sessions – Opportunities in August

- e. Heron Rookery Press Release form the County Parks District (There was an article in the media, and you will recall the new fund resolution in connection to this matter.)

- f. Public records requests can be made to Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or [Carri. Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)

- g. A letter of thanks of support was received from the Walnut Sewer District

- Open Items – Additional Review Topics

Mr. Davis asked the Prosecutor's Office to look into the federal funding that was sent to the state for distribution. It is his understanding that there is \$850,000 from the federal government that was to be distributed to local governments but has not. He asked them to look at the language for the distribution.

