

Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 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, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Rick Szabrak, Doug Durrett, Lt. Marc Churchill, Chris Wagner, Bennett Niceswanger, Jon Slater, Ray Stemen . Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Lisa McKenzie, Branden Meyer, Lisa McKenzie, Nikki Drake, Dennis Keller, Aunie Cordle, Joshua Horacek, Tony Vogel, Larry Hanna, and Stephanie Fyffe,

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Mr. Kochis reported there were good numbers from the pop-up testing. At last count there were 50 tests left to be processed. They are at around 18 positive tests from Fairfield County which is consistent with the average. This was rolled up into the 75 cases reflected over the weekend.

Regarding PPE, the school donation from the State will be in tomorrow, and there will be a distribution plan for those. These are for public schools, but EMA will supplement for the private schools, too. We want to protect all students. Pick up will start on Thursday. Another round will be available as they get closer to the start dates. The districts start anywhere from August 24th to September 1st.

Mr. Davis asked if there was anything the Commissioners' Office could do to help.

Mr. Kochis replied they are meeting PPE requests, minus additional thermometers for a certain district. There are market aspects to consider, too, as some thermometers are hard to find.

Mr. Levacy is looking forward to getting out of the red advisory level.

Mr. Kochis replied the county must be below the 100 cases per 100,000 residents. This is the only thing keeping the county in the red. This is important for some of the school districts as their in-person learning is set on the alert system.

Mr. Fix asked if all the school districts have a mixed plan.

Mr. Kochis replied that all have a plan, some went with the advisory system setting how the students will learn and some went with a board decision.

Mr. Hanna reported they are continuing to work on school plans. They have several they have given guidance to and they now have good plans going forward. The cases seem to be down a little bit. It is not known if this is a lull or not.

We have received positive feedback about the organization of the testing conducted at the Fairgrounds. We passed on the thanks to the Health Department and the community partnership that made the testing a successful event.

- Legal Update

Ohio's Distribution of the Remaining CARES Act Funds Now Held at the State (\$850 M)

Mr. Davis stated his pending question was regarding the state's flexibility on the CARES Act funding.

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020**

Ms. Brown-Thompson reported they are still looking at this, and it is a moving target with things in Washington, DC, especially with the recent executive order. She asked for another week to solidify findings.

Mr. Davis stated the State Legislature is saying to call the Governor and visa-versa.

He recognizes there is time on their side with the decisions being made, but his concern is that if they wait the decision will get made and the Commission will not have participated. He feels strongly that if the state does not distribute the money before the election, they never will.

Mr. Davis went on to state that he does not want metro counties to get 100 cents on the dollar, while the rural counties get 29 cents on the dollar. For a governor who came into office saying they will be there for local governments, this lack of action in his opinion is a lot like John Kasich.

He has asked Dr. Brown to keep this as a standing agenda item until the state pays the rural governments the money they are due instead of keeping it themselves. He stated this is not one of the state's top three issues right now, and he is very frustrated right now.

Review of Policy as Prompted by an Anonymous Letter

Dr. Brown commented on a conversation she had with Attorney Horacek and with Attorney Brown-Thompson.

The county has an open policy on the use of county property for peaceful presentation. We believe it is wise for the County to have an open policy regarding peaceful demonstrations on county-owned property as the County does not want to try to regulate the messaging behind these protests due to 1st Amendment privileges afforded to all.

We reviewed the open, "case by case" approach taken, and are comfortable with the County's current position.

Regarding a demonstration, we received anonymous correspondence with a return address of the Democratic campaign headquarters.

We do not know who sent the correspondence nor do we know for sure if it came from the address noted.

The writer of the correspondence made some assumptions about presentations or protests held on county property (the parking lot of Government Services Building on Main & Memorial).

The Board of Commissioners does not issue permits nor deny access to county owned public property for purposes of presentations. Protests or presentations have been peaceful and organized. They have not been disruptive.

We have considered a practice to be more regimented (issue permits, for example) but because there have not been problems with an open approach, that is the approach taken.

The County Sheriff has reported this aspect of peacefulness of events or protests that have been held in Fairfield County.

We appreciate it when demonstration participants let us know if they intend to be on our property, but that will not always be the case.

Also, employees are free to exercise their first amendment rights and many do so with displays on their own property.

Ms. Brown-Thompson reiterated that the county does not approve any demonstrations and they continue to stand by the county's policy.

Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020

Mr. Davis called this letter a scam and stated it was not presented under accurate or true pretense.

Returning to Ohio's Distribution of the Remaining CARES Act Funds Now Held at the State (\$850 M)

Mr. Levacy stated that he has discussed the state's CARES Act distribution with Congressman Stivers. He is working on a bill that would allow CARES Act funding to be used for revenue loss.

Mr. Davis mentioned that Senator Portman also calls for the distribution to be equal.

Mr. Fix stated that State Representative LaRe is also working on the issue and stated that once the CARES Act funding is cleared up, the state plans on getting the money distributed to local governments.

Mr. Davis stated he thinks something is up and will continue to believe so until something is done.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

- Announcements

- Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jon Slater for recently celebrating 40 years of marriage.

- Happy August Birthdays, too.

- Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

- Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov

- (740) 777-8552

- Date Reminders

- August 25 – Virtual Economic Development Roundtable

- September 7 – Labor Day holiday

- September 8 – Celebrating National Preparedness Month

- September 24 – Virtual Leadership Conference – with Marc Fishel and Others

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

- Dr. Brown highlighted 11 resolutions planned for the voting meeting.

- The Economic Development Director and the RLF Committee propose approval of the loan to fund Maverick Environmental Equipment as part of the RLF EDA program. Rick Szabrak and Doug Durrett provided some details.

- On a related note, a press release was in the review packet.

- Fairfield County was awarded a \$913,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to capitalize a new Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to further economic development and assist businesses impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020**

The grant will be used to provide zero-interest loans to small businesses in Fairfield County. The new RLF will focus on five segments that need the most relief: downtown businesses; tourism industry; manufacturing; healthcare; and minority and female owned businesses.

These segments will be given priority, although, lending opportunities are available for all industries.

Mr. Szabrak provided information on Maverick, a business from Michigan, looking to start a branch in Fairfield County. Maverick services and sells recycling equipment. The business will be just north of Bremen. The building they acquired was originally an ODOT building. They will start with eight employees with room to expand. Once the loans are repaid, this will give the county another revolving loan fund.

Mr. Levacy believes this is a good fit for the community.

Mr. Szabrak went on to highlight the grant for \$913,000 for Fairfield County businesses. Any business with less than 200 employees can apply. The grant must be spent within two years. There is a lot of flexibility with the loans.

Mr. Levacy praised Mr. Durrett for his work.

Mr. Fix stated that his brief experience with the RLF is that they struggle to find takers. He asked what is being done to spread the word.

Mr. Szabrak stated that part of the money is administrative dollars allowable for use for marketing. They will use the 33 Alliance, chambers, and commercial lenders to spread the word. They have already received referrals for businesses. This will be a bit easier than a regular RLF loan as it does not need to be a new start up, just a business needing help.

Mr. Durrett thanked the Commission for allowing him to be part of the team. He stated what was neat about the new RLF is that they will be able to take a bit more risk. He stated the word is out, the challenge will be getting businesses to get application materials submitted.

Mr. Szabrak stated there were six grant recipients in Ohio with Fairfield County being the third highest.

There were 10 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve, such as:

- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the FCFACF Council, Common Pleas Court and Human Resources (non-general fund);
- An account to account transfer of appropriations for the Commissioners (Coronavirus Federal Grant for courts) and for DR Court (special revenue fund);
- Repayment of an advance and other transactions for an Airport related grant (two resolutions);
- Memo transactions for JFS (two resolutions);
- The payment of bills.

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

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020

Administrative Approvals and Update

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

Budget Update

The deadline for level 3 budget entry is September 3. A Budget Commission hearing was held on Monday, August 10. We have preliminary estimates from the Department of Taxation for LGF apportionments.

The initial LGF reflection for the county is \$1.252 M, below the current estimate for 2020 of about \$1.4 M. We should get more information later this month as the state reviews and analyzes its revenue forecasts. We provided the approved tax rates for the collections in 2021 to county departments.

Sales tax revenues for non-auto sales for June to be receipted in September are anticipated to be 14% above the May non-auto sales number and 13% above the previous year's non-auto sales number. They are expected to be \$1.7 M. Last month we had information to show that the auto sales anticipated receipt for May sales was \$484 K. If June's amount is at least \$267 K we will surpass the monthly projection for sales tax revenue.

Actual year to date receipts of sales tax revenue is \$12.65 M for seven months, ahead of projections and about \$28K above the previous year for the seven months, as a comparison.

It is important to point out that there is ongoing uncertainty in dealing with the economy and the effects of the pandemic.

We recalled how we did not expect casinos to open again this soon, and we adjusted our projection for 2020 from \$1.75M to \$923,261. (We already received this amount.)

However, in August 2020, we will receive April – June's shared casino revenues. In November 2020, we will receive July – September's shared casino revenues. An article in the media noted there were record casino revenues from July activity, and related receipts for us will be deposited in November. Anything we receive in 2020 from this point forward is more than we thought we would be getting based on the effects of the pandemic.

As reported previously, the full (approximate) \$1.6M of the county CARES Act distribution from HB 481 has been dedicated already to eligible expenditures. We may receive an additional distribution from the HB 481 amount based on unspent amounts within other political subdivisions. We are tracking additional expenditures and organizing input about potential uses.

A summary of the actions and plans was presented on August 6 (in the roundtable and administrative work session with all elected officials and department heads) and presented to the Board of Commissioners individually. The summary was of action already discussed and taken in public meeting. This summary with updates was in the review packet. CCAO has requested that Fairfield County share its approach with other counties.

We will continue to review the CARES Act funding each week.

The Commissioners indicated they continued to support the actions taken. There were no recommendations for changes at this point.

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020**

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 were additional expenditures beyond these amounts, and we are keeping a running total of payroll related expenditures and keeping a list of other potential uses. We are continuing to gather information for the Stafford Act submission and additional grants.

We are being as adaptable as possible because each day brings new information.

Finally, we are working with our CCAO partner, Palmer Energy, to prepare for a request for proposal based on energy supply in September with a return of responses in early October.

d. BRAVOS

BRAVO to Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development for being awarded new revolving loan funding for opportunities for area business loans. We say thanks to BWC for 4,000 facial coverings (masks), which we will share with others who have needs.

Thanks to Joshua Horacek for quickly approving an agreement to form for the payment of vacation hours.

Thank you to Commissioner Levacy for allowing Jon Kochis and Carri Brown the opportunity to update the hearing room for virtual meetings by giving up his desktop computer for now.

Congratulations to Jon Kochis, Larry Hanna, and multiple community partners for the well-organized testing event at the Fairgrounds. We have received several messages about the professionalism of the event.

Great job to Fairfield County employees for working on training for essential skills, such as customer service and communication skills. Our Service Skills provider commented on our good use of the options.

Thank you to the Utilities team for managing a thoughtful process for reaching out to delinquent accounts to set up payment plans as needed. The team also made sure residents were aware of community resources available for assistance. Of about 6,000 customers, fewer than 30 are delinquent and have not responded to the outreach. We are continuing to reach out to help our customers.

- Old Business

- a. Horns Mill Road

- Mr. Davis had discussions with residents wondering when the additional pavement markings would be added. Mr. Upp stated he anticipates those being added by the end of the month as they have been added to their regular markings schedule.

- New Business (none)

- General Correspondence Received

- a. Liquor Permit for Harvest Adventures – Sheriff's Office has no comments or concerns

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020**

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received (none)
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population – 286
 - b. **For 2021**, we have slated May 4 as the State of the County Address (a date in which the WigWam is available) and September 23 for the leadership conference.
 - c. **For 2020**, we have scheduled taping times for the Commissioners for their individual videos for this year's State of the County Address.
 - d. We have sent communication by email about the virtual leadership conference to be held on September 24.
 - e. Public records requests can be made to Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or Carri. Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
- Open Items – Additional Review Topics

Mr. Davis stated he has had the good fortunate to have Bennett Niceswanger as an intern for him during the last few months. He thinks very highly of him. Today is his last day. He thinks Mr. Niceswanger is an amazing person. He hopes he finds a way to be helpful to Mr. Niceswanger in the future.

Mr. Davis stated at 9:55 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, August 11, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Doug Durrett, Lt. Marc Churchill, Rick Szabrak, Chris Wagner, Jon Slater, Bennett Niceswanger, and Ray Stemen. Joining via teleconference were Aunie Cordle, Jim Bahnsen, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Branden Meyer, Todd McCullough, and Tony Vogel.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis led everyone in 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.

Mr. Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster stated that as citizens of the US we need to show support for the country. They are a lot of flags out, but there need to be more. Everyone needs to get out and vote regardless of the party. He also asked everyone to encourage the representatives and senators to open states and businesses, and to especially open schools. It is important to get them back in session as soon as possible. He went on to state that he keeps a card in his pocket identifying why he does not need to wear a mask, but he wears a mask. He went on to state a lot of people in the county do not know the difference from mail-in ballots and forms sent out from local offices. He stated the Democrats are doing a lot to misidentify these forms.

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020**

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, August 4, 2020 and Thursday, August 6, 2020

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, August 4, 2020 and Thursday, August 6, 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:

- 2020-08.11.a A resolution of an account to account transfer into a major expense object category and approve a refund as a memo expenditure from Grant Fund# 3034, subfund# 8218 for FY2019 ODOT grant and memo receipt to the General Fund# 1001 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-08.11.b A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund# 2866 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-08.11.c A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund – Fund # 3034, Subfund# 8218 FY2019 ODOT Grant – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2020-08.11.d A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major category expense for the Self-Funded Insurance Fund# 5376 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

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

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, 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 – 2020-2021 Civil Justice Grant – Fairfield County Common Pleas Probation; see resolution 2020-08.11.e.

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 Domestic Relations Court resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for the adjustment of Personnel Services; see resolution 2020-08.11.f.

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

Approval of the Economic Development Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic Development resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee to fund Maverick Environmental Equipment as an (RLF.EDA) Project; see resolution 2020-08.11.g.

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2020**

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak thanked the prosecutor for reviewing and turning around the forms so quickly.

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 Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major category expense for the Fund #7521, subfund #8232; see resolution 2020-08.11.h.

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:

- 2020-08.11.i A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund PCSA 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

- 2020-08.11.j A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund PCSA 2072 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 Payment of Bills

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Payments of Bills resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval; see resolution 2020-08.11.k.

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

Additional Items for Review

Dr. Brown stated she was reminded of the E+R=O equation which is Environment + Reaction = Outcome and she was thinking how Fairfield County is experiencing a very chaotic and challenging time, but the reaction is very positive and focused on problem-solving which makes her firmly believe our outcomes will be very positive.

Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation for Dr. Brown's service.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Kochis about the new case numbers announced by email during the meeting.

Mr. Kochis stated of the 36 new cases, what stands out is the 12 cases with health care workers. What he worries about is that they are unknowingly bringing the virus into the nursing home communities. The virus is deadly for the elderly community.

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:10 a.m.

