

**Regular Meeting #35 - 2021**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**August 17, 2021**

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy 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, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Corey Clark, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, Chris Schmelzer, Vince Carpico, Gail Ellinger, Jon Slater, Rick Szabrak, and other members of the public.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Belinda Nebbergall, Dave Burgei, Jason Dolin, Lisa McKenzie, Michael Kaper, S. Herdman, Thomas Lininger, Tony Vogel, Shannon Carter, Chris Wagner, Donna Fox-Moore, Raz Sabaiduc, Kelly Turben, Carrie Brown, Joe Ebel, Tony Howard, and other callers.

- Welcome

Commissioner Levacy welcomed everyone.

The Commissioners wished Dr. Brown and Ms. Elsea a happy birthday.

- Fairfield Forward

Teamwork and Leadership

Dr. Brown reported how teamwork and support of youth are strong values of Fairfield County.

We reviewed a picture of the Career Readiness event held on August 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Congratulations to the young people beginning their new careers.

Thanks to the Facilities Team for the flooring improvements at the Government Services Center on Main and Memorial. There have been no flooring improvements from more than two decades, and the improvements were overdue.

Special Events

There were fliers in the review packet and on the hearing room tables about Fairfield Forward community events.

After the meeting, we will formally dedicate the Amstutz mural.

There is an open house tentatively planned for 108 N. High on September 21.

Look for more information about the County Fair to come soon. October 11 is the grand opening. October 15 is the County holiday.

Main Uses of the ARP Fiscal Recovery Funds

We will continue using the Fairfield Forward theme for strategic planning. We had fact sheets on the table to show how we anticipate catalytic uses of the ARP fiscal recovery funds. There are two main uses for us:

1. Responding to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

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As we think about the first purpose, we will need to:

- Identify a need or negative impact of the public health emergency,
- Identify how the county investment would specifically address that need, and
- Readily explain how the investment helps the county respond to the disease or the harmful economic consequences of the economic disruption.

*Summary of Approved Uses, Brainstormed Projects, Expenditures, and Encumbrances*

Dr. Brown highlighted a summary in the review packet. The summary showed approved uses, brainstormed projects, expenditures, and encumbrances as of August 16, 2021, for the American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery fund. \$4.34 M has been appropriated in the system for the first tranche. There were resolutions for expenditures, appropriations, and uses ready for voting meeting.

Brainstorming about Connectivity & Broadband Infrastructure

We are brainstorming about broadband support through ARP fiscal recovery. The state is issuing grant opportunities for providers through the Development Services Agency. The application deadline is November 8. The review packet contained details about the state grants that are available.

We in Fairfield County are evaluating supplementing that application process with a local grant component of \$500,000 that would mirror the state program yet would be focused on Fairfield County hard to serve areas.

In addition, Economic Development will be preparing a web—based resource for providers of services, residents, and others.

There will be an educational component to the resource page to show other resources for residents that are available for internet service costs and hot spot or satellite purchases. Economic Development representatives will also stay in touch with residents who have called to the Commission Office about this topic.

We have confirmed with schools that there are resources for schools for hot spots. If there is a need for individual grants after these multiple grant projects are conducted, that would be evaluated. We also know there is additional federal monies to soon be available for broadband or connectivity improvements.

Internal county projects for broadband include improvements for Beavers Field (county property) and the Utilities Office in Lockville, which are identifiable projects for publicly owned buildings. The resolution for the Beavers Field project is nearly ready, as we await some technical components for the description of services.

- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek reported there were executive sessions later in the morning on an annexation petition and pending litigation.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Dates of Interest

- Announcements

- Dr. Brown asked people to keep Staci Knisley's mom in their thoughts and prayers.

Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

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[Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov](mailto:Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov)  
(740) 777-8552

Dates/Events of Interest

August 19 – EO/DH Roundtable Meeting (Please see the review packet for a draft agenda)

August 31- Commission Connection Taping – Dave Levacy

August 31 – Board of Elections Lunch n Learn

September 6 – Labor Day Holiday

September 7 – National Preparedness Month Event

September 21 – Open House at Real Estate Assessment Offices

September 23 – Leadership Conference

September 28 – State of the County Address

The State of the County Address is scheduled for September 28 at the WigWam.

b. Highlights of Resolutions

There were 14 resolutions for the voting meeting. Dr. Brown provided highlights of the proposed resolutions.

We had a proclamation for Overdose Awareness Day. The proclamation will be presented on August 31<sup>st</sup> at the 6:30 pm event at the gazebo in Lancaster.

We had a resolution to approve the annexation of 25.8723 Acres, more or less, of Hocking Township into the City of Lancaster, Pursuant to ORC 709.02 and 709.03 Petition of Annexation of Land by Mary E. Reedy.

There were 12 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- A resolution approving rates as established by the County Budget Commission on August 9, 2021;
- A resolution approving memo transactions relating to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fiscal Recovery Fund# 2876 – Fairfield County Commissioners, public safety payroll support and communications;
- Appropriations and approved use of ARP fiscal recovery funds for the Juvenile/Probate Court capital expenditure for technology as a response to the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Appropriations and approved use of ARP fiscal recovery funds for COVID 19 medical expenses;
- Appropriations and approved use of ARP fiscal recovery funds for the County Engineer software program for permitting, as a response to the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Memo expenditures for EMA;
- Extending the date for repayments of advances for MCU;
- SSI/SSS reimbursements for CPS; and
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the HOME grant project, JFS, 911 Wireless, and capital projects.

In queue, there were multiple contracting and financial resolutions.

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c. Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative & Program Updates

*Administrative Approvals*

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

*Pickerington Sports Complex Update*

The City of Pickerington held a zoom meeting on August 13 about the sports complex plans. The review and evaluation continue. We are to receive a hard copy of the presentation to review in more detail. There are some promising aspects to the projections. During the presentation, the consultant indicated the industry is such that most of the development projects include public participation. The consultant is also available to speak about the next steps that are available for development.

*US Census Population*

Central Ohio continues to grow. Fairfield County is one of the fastest growing counties in Ohio. The 2020 US Census population is 158,921. An article in the media notes that the county is the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the state. Delaware, Union, Warren, Franklin, Fairfield, and Licking are all growing at high rates.

*Rushcreek Estates Ditch Maintenance District Public Hearing - August 24*

There is a public hearing scheduled for the Rushcreek Estates Ditch Maintenance District maintenance and assessments. The review packet contains the information for the public hearing. County Engineer Jeremiah Upp has held some informal meetings to gather more information and will be adjusting his estimates downward for the public meetings. The adjusted information will be mailed to all property owners within the DMD.

Budget Update

*Ongoing Sales Tax Review & Budget Review*

The sales tax estimate for 2021 in Fairfield County is \$23.6 M, or 3% above the sales tax revenues of 2020. We are tracking ahead of that estimate, but we have not changed the projection or planning tool.

The non-auto sales tax estimate for the receipt of September for June sales for Fairfield County is \$1.9 M, up 10% over the previous year. The overall state receipts for the same time period are up 11%. In 2019, Fairfield County full sales tax receipts were \$2 M for the same month. Auto sales tax receipts for the month at \$220 K would result in a 3% increase in 2019 and 2020.

Overall, the county receipts are tracking ahead of estimates. We do expect the sales tax revenues to normalize more to what has been experienced in the past.

General property tax collections are about \$10.7 M for the general fund, and those are right on the Commission estimate. The pandemic has not resulted in reductions in the collection rate of property taxes.

Budget entry for level three has been extended to September 9.

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*CFLP Budget Implication for 2023*

For 2023, we will plan on accounting for the Sheriff's Deputy assigned to litter control and enforcement with general fund appropriations, freeing some resources for CFLP to help with their long-term budget planning.

*Bond Documents*

Bond documents for the energy conservation project part 2 are ready for signature, with color-coded tabs. On the official statement, the commissioners need to sign in the same order physically as was signed electronically. All documents will be scanned and sent to bond counsel on August 17.

Commissioner Levacy commented on how pleased he was with the county bond rating and the low interest rate for energy conservation project part 2.

d. BRAVOS

Congratulations to the Common Pleas Court for their reentry initiatives in 2021. There will be a press release in the review packet to highlight the initiatives.

Thanks to HR for arranging for the free weights at the Wellness Center and for arranging for additional wellness initiatives.

Thanks to the County Prosecutor & County Auditor Finance Team for review of multiple resolutions.

Bravo to the Facilities Team for their hard work on multiple renovation projects and for setting up for the mural dedication today.

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Davis participated in mediation with Franklin County on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Porter and Marc Fishel also participated. There is an executive session scheduled at 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Levacy attended the Bloom Carroll Schools ribbon cutting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The school leadership was very happy about the county support provided to them during the construction project.

- New Business

- General Correspondence

- a. Communication re: fiberoptic cable

We received communication from an attorney about fiber optic cable work, and we will respond to the attorney in a reasonable timeframe.

- Invitations

- a. FACFC Open House – Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- i. Carri Brown will attend. Dave Levacy will attend. This is the open house to celebrate the retirement of Donna Fox- Moore; she had been an exceptional director for the FCFACF Council.

- b. Bremen Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.

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- c. Overdose Awareness Day – Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
    - i. Mr. Fix will attend and provide the proclamation.
  - d. MCJDC Meeting – September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room
    - i. All commissioners will attend.
  - e. CCAO Meeting in Delaware County – September 13<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Mr. Fix will attend
  - f. Dedication of Workforce Center – Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
    - i. We anticipate receiving more details. Dr. Brown indicated she would attend but would be running late as she has a pre-scheduled webinar.
- FYI
    - a. Jail Population – 268
    - b. Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment (email from Sen. Portman's Office)
    - c. Lancaster – Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce Press Release
    - d. Liquor Permit – Meijer – no issues to report
    - e. 2020 Statistics (Repeat) – Video to Come
    - f. Article of interest – Pickerington Library
    - g. Article of interest – Extended deadline for OneOhio agreement – August 20
    - h. Lithopolis annexation, type 2 expedited, waiting on resolution from Lithopolis
    - i. Congratulations to Carrie Woody, the new CEO of the United Way of Fairfield County

**Executive Session – Lancaster Annexation**

On the motion of Commissioner Steve Davis and second of Commissioner Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss the petition to annex land into the City of Lancaster at 9:26 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Steve Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Fix, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, County Administrator Brown, Deputy County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, and Rachel Elsea.

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

On the motion of Commissioner Jeff Fix and second of Commissioner Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 9:33 a.m.

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

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, beginning at 9:46 a.m. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Joshua Horacek, Jon Kochis, Jon Slater, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, Rick Szabrak, Jeff Porter, Corey Clark, Vince Carpico, Gail Ellinger, Chris Schmelzer, and other members of the public.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Becky, Ahsley Arter, Chris Wagner, Dave Burgei, Raz Sabaiduc, Donna Fox-Moore, Lisa McKenzie, S. Herdman, and Thomas Lininger.

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were any announcements.

There were no announcements.

Ms. Elsea stated the next item on the agenda was a time for public comments. As a reminder, public comments are to be limited to three minutes. Comments may or may not be about county business. While this is a time for the public to offer comments, this is not a time for questions and answers. Comments represent the view of the person commenting.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Levacy 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 27, 2021 and Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the July 27, 2021 and Tuesday, August 10, 2021 Regular Meetings.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of the Commissioners' Resolutions**

On the motion Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' resolutions:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2021-08.17.a | A resolution authorizing the approval of a proclamation. [Commissioners]<br>[Commissioners]   |
| 2021-08.17.b | A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for the reimbursement of COVID-19 specific healthcare expenses, as part of the county health benefits plan, related to medical treatment of effects and long-term symptoms of COVID-19. [Commissioners] |
| 2021-08.17.c | A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for the purchase of a technology solution for court case management that will allow electronic filing, searching, and communications. [Commissioners]   |
| 2021-08.17.n | A resolution approving memo transactions relating to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fiscal Recovery Fund# 2876 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]   |
| 2021-08.17.d | A resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, to purchase cloud-based   |

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software for a permitting program for the County Engineer  
[Commissioners]

- 2021-08.17.e A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for contractual services for the 911 Wireless Fund# 2683 - Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2021-08.17.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object category for the Capital Improvement Fund# 3435 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]
- 2021-08.17.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for HOME project income Fund# 2591 [Fairfield County Commissioners] [Commissioners]
- 2021-08.17.h A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Fairfield County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor [Commissioners]
- 2021-08.17.i A resolution to approve the annexation of 25.8723 Acres, more or less, of Hocking Township into the City of Lancaster, Pursuant to ORC 709.02 and 709.03 Petition of Annexation of Land by Mary E. Reedy.  
[Commissioners]

Discussion: Mr. Horacek reminded the Commission that they must evaluate the annexation petition as it is filed based on statutory criteria. If the annexation meets the criteria, they must approve it. Mr. Fix hoped that the city of Lancaster would work with the township. Mr. Davis stated he is in favor of approving the petition and also agrees with Mr. Fix in encouraging Lancaster to work with the township regarding the future of this annexation and potentially others.

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

**Approval of the Emergency Management Agency Resolution**

On the motion Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Emergency Management Agency resolution to approve a memo expenditure for EMA fund 2091; see resolution 2021-08.17.j.

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

**Approval of the Job and Family Services Resolution**

On the motion Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Job and Family Services resolution:

2021-08.17.k A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services [JFS]

2021-08.17.l A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2018 – Public Assistance Fund - Fairfield County JFS [JFS]

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



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**Approval of the Major Crimes Unit Resolution**

On the motion Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Major Crimes Unit resolution authorizing the approval to extend the repayment date of an advance of funds – Fund #7864 Recovery Ohio Grant, Fund #7874 Covid-19 Supplemental, #7829 Grant Major Crimes Unit; see resolution 2021-08.17.m.

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

**Executive Session – Pending Litigation**

On the motion of Commissioner Steve Davis and second of Commissioner Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 9:45 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Steve Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Fix, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, County Administrator Brown, Deputy County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Rachel Elsea, Jeff Porter, Representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, and Legal Counsel.

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

On the motion of Commissioner Jeff Fix and second of Commissioner Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:08 a.m.

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

The Commission was in recess from 10:08 am until 10:30 am, preparing for the Amstutz Mural dedication.

**Dedication of the Amstutz Mural**

The Commission met at 10:30 a.m. for the dedication of the Amstutz Mural. The event was attended by more than 135 members of the community.

A video about the mural is still on the website, and a press release is found here:  
<https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/COMMISH/pdf/PRESS-Amstutz-Dedication.pdf>

**Executive Session – Pending Litigation**

On the motion of Commissioner Steve Davis and second of Commissioner Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 11:18 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Steve Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Fix, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, County Administrator Carri Brown, Deputy County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Rachel Elsea, Jeff Porter, Representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, and Legal Counsel.

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

On the motion of Commissioner Jeff Fix and second of Commissioner Steve Davis, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 11:37 a.m.

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

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**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:38 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
that the August 17, 2021, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

\*Approved on August 19, 2021

  
 Steven A. Davis  
 Commissioner

  
 Dave Levacy  
 Commissioner

  
 Jeff Fix  
 Commissioner

  
Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk