

Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:00 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 and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Chris Wagner, Jon Kochis, and Chief Lape. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Mark Conrad, Dave Burgei, Donna Fox-Moore, Nikki Drake, Lisa McKenzie, Temple Custer-Gagni, Jeff Porter, Dennis Keller, Tony Vogel, Jeff Barron, Aunie Cordle, Jon Slater, Rick Szabrak, Stephanie Fyffe, and Joshua Horacek.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Mr. Kochis reported that the effort schools to pick up PPE has begun; these items were purchased by the Commissioners or state/federal governments, and the supplies are not medical grade. It was a good mix to be able to take care of schools and get them comfortable about classed beginning again. Liberty Union and Berne Union are the only "all virtual" schools. Others are using a hybrid approach, and there are some only in person approaches. They are waiting on more supplies from the state.

Mr. Kochis share the hospital bed count information he receives regularly. Hospital usage is down especially relating to COVID. Hospitals like to keep ICU beds at 80%.

Over the weekend the average was 20 cases or less per day. Today's case count is 8 cases. Fairfield County has not seen a number this low in weeks. This follows the state's trend the last few weeks.

Mr. Davis spoke to a few restaurant owners recently. They mentioned that they can see a trend when the Governor speaks and the number of customers they see. He mentioned this as there is a strand of people who do not think people are listening.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Kochis is there was any request unanswered, as far as help or support in any way.

Mr. Kochis replied there was not anything unaddressed at a local level. He wishes there were more testing options on a national level. There is an emergency cache of supplies should they need those.

Mr. Levacy remembered a few months ago when they did cell phone tracking and were able to see that people were not going anywhere, and Ohio was markedly low in travel statistics.

Ms. Fyffe joined the call and reported they are seeing fewer cases over the past few days. The numbers for the weekend were half of what they were used to seeing. They continue to work with schools and review their plans for reopening.

Mr. Davis asked if the Commissioners' Office could be helpful in anyway.

Ms. Fyffe replied she did not believe so.

Mr. Davis thanked her for her work.

Dr. Brown reported that with EMA and other partners, they are continuing to reach out and identify needs. A MOU would be coming for Meals on Wheels services.

- Legal Update

**Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020**

Ms. Brown-Thompson did not have a legal update but mentioned that she believed advocacy was a good option relating to the CARES Act funding now at the state.

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

The importance of counties receiving their allocation of the remaining \$850 M of CARES Act funds was discussed. The state has not yet determined the methodology or timeframe for providing this remaining allocation.

Ms. Brown-Thompson reported there is no way to force the state to distribute the funds.

When the Commissioners connect with Congressman Stivers in multiple avenues, they will request a letter of advocacy for the state to release the remaining amounts of CARES Act funds to local governments.

Mr. Davis stated he had a number of communications with folks he thought may be helpful in moving this along. He asked Congressman Stivers last night if he would be willing to issue a press release or letter encouraging the distribution of the funds. He stated he would. Mr. Davis stated that Senators Brown and Portman joining in that message, which they have indicated they'd be interested in previously, would be helpful.

Mr. Davis stated that he thinks the state would say most local governments are not far along in using the first distribution so there is concern with distributing more funding which could add to the confusion of some local governments. Mr. Davis does not believe Fairfield County should be penalized for others not knowing how to use the money. He stated this line of thinking is too consistent with prior themes of those who do not know what they are doing dictating results because of what they are or are not doing. He is pleased to see CCAO involved. He remains skeptical of the state's desire to distribute the funds, and he will keep pushing.

Mr. Levacy believes the federal government could fix this and force the issue.

Mr. Davis agreed. He has a perception that the negotiations in Washington are failing and he does not see that changing.

Commissioner Davis asked if Dr. Brown had any additional comments.

Dr. Brown indicated that the county would continue to monitor and track expenditures so that when funding was available, the county would be able to act appropriately. In addition, there is research ongoing about a small business program (with general fund dollars to support all small businesses throughout the county and in connection with other programs) and for an additional Prevention, Retention, and Contingency style program.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

Announcements

Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov or (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

Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 16 resolutions planned for the voting meeting.

RPC proposed approval of a development agreement for Heron Crossing West, as previously approved with RPC.

The County Engineer proposed approval of a perpetual easement for the Wilson Road Culvert Replacement Project.

Economic and Workforce Development proposed a lease with Ohio University, like the lease with Hocking College previously passed.

There were 13 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve, such as:

- A resolution accepting the amounts and rates set by the Budget Commission;
- An advance for the Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, And Reducing Trauma) grant for JFS – you will recall that we approach Substance Use Disorders with compassion, understanding and hope for recovery. This children services program improves outcomes for parents and children With 8 out of 10 cases of abuse and neglect related to drugs (mainly opioids), and with a severe shortage of foster care options, this approach is a relatively new effort to keep families together; this resolution is for an advance to help with financial accounting;
- Three MOUs for FCFACF Council relating to MSY activity (which included an efficient documentation of in-kind contribution by Juvenile Court, partnership with the Commission, and partnership with DD);
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the Utilities, County Engineer (two projects) and Clerk of Courts Title Department;
- A memo expenditure for the County Engineer;
- A reimbursement for WIOA;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for TCAP;
- The payment of bills.

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

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative & Program Updates

Administrative Approvals and Update

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

Budget Update

County 2021 Budget

The deadline for level 3 budget entry is September 3.

We will begin analyzing level 3 as soon as the data entry is complete.

Property Tax Collections

Property tax collections, as previously discussed, have been impacted by the sexennial reappraisal. New construction also continues to grow, with an increase

**Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020**

of about 33% this year. Here are the market values for all property classes of new construction:

TY2018 = 142,257,780
TY2019 = 189,505,400

The second half settlement was \$4,718,153, as compared to the first half settlement of \$5,648,956, bringing the annual collections to \$10,367,109, above original projections by about \$1.6 M. We will confirm the homestead/rollback amounts in the fall. We will update the projection tool now that we have more information about the second half collections. We will also update the tool for the approximate \$200 K reduction in local government funds. Overall, the unencumbered cash balance is projected to mirror that of 2019, bar no additional shutdowns or stay at home orders.

CARES Act Update

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. We will continue to review the CARES Act funding and eligible uses.

CCAO has requested that Fairfield County share its summary in a webinar about the CARES Act eligible uses to help other counties. The webinar will be held on August 21st.

Related Grant Updates

With a Coronavirus federal grant to support the Courts and Sheriff's Office, we have already purchased \$18,487 of antibody testing services and have on order or have received an approximate \$39,521 of equipment to improve teleworking capabilities. There is also a Coronavirus state grant which is being used to support teleworking.

Overall Budget Issues

Mr. Davis stated that they think about the budget of the longer horizon and what they know. They try to keep track of "needle movers" that they are uncertain about; for example, the state's unwillingness to distribute the CARES Act funding to the rural (or non-metro) communities is one important factor. Another is the Franklin County litigation regarding their theft from Fairfield County. Another is the pandemic itself and its overall impact. He stated that when they update the parameters, it is with an awareness of the factors that could significantly impact the budget.

Mr. Levacy referenced a letter he saw in the Eagle-Gazette regarding taxes and a lack of understanding of what specific taxes are used for, such as amounts provided for the Hunters Run Conservancy District or for the work of ditch maintenance districts.

d. BRAVOS

Thank you, again, to the Fairfield County Utilities Department for their work in ensuring there was comprehensive outreach and referrals about utility shutoffs during the pandemic. Of more than 6,000 accounts only one was ultimately on schedule for shut off (due to no response to the department). Two more were vacated. The remaining accounts are current or are on payment plans. This is a credit to the care shown by the employees to the customers.

Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020

Mr. Vogel reviewed the process used to contact customers and whittle down the list of delinquencies. Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Vogel and his staff for handling the situation in such a positive way with an incredible result.

Thank you to Aunie Cordle and Jon Kochis for joining Carri Brown in investing time in taking the National Association of Counties' High-Performance Leadership Academy. The concepts of positive leadership, with strategies of improving positive climate, positive communications, positive relationships, and positive meaning, are always relevant (during a pandemic or otherwise) and for both the public and private sectors.

- Old Business

- a. Completion of the Patriotic Mural at Amstutz

Teri Mecionis applied the first portion of sealant in honor of the completion of the mural. Maintenance will complete the sealing along the same side of the building. A formal dedication will come later. We will prepare at least one video. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the Patriotic Mural at Amstutz.

- New Business

- a. Potential Additional Educational and Awareness Murals on County Buildings

Mr. Davis stated that he discussed with Dr. Brown about how there are other county buildings in the downtown area that lend themselves to being beautified in some way. He appreciates that people are looking into those concepts, and he looks forward to the discussion as the thought processes develop.

- General Correspondence Received (none)

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- a. Ohio Land Bank Virtual Conference – September 23 & 24

FYI - The Hunters Run Conservancy District plans on applying for a Land Bank mini-grant.

- FYI

- a. Article of Interest – Complete Count for US Census

- b. James Mako & TID members are going to an ODOT stakeholder conference today

- c. Jail Population – 285

- d. Public records requests can be made to Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

- e. Article in EG re: PRC Program with JFS using TANF funds to help those impacted by the pandemic

- f. Congratulations re: Dr. Brown's Article in the EG

Mr. Davis thought the article was a neat moment and he knows that he and other members of the county took a little pride in Dr. Brown's success and continue to be very thankful for having her and her service.

Dr. Brown appreciates the ability to work with everyone in Fairfield County and enjoys seeing the progress in the county.

**Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020**

- Open Items – Additional Review Topics

Chief Lape provided an update on jail activities and multiple protocols. There is a new state protocol that requires a 14-day quarantine in the jail before an inmate is transferred to prison.

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 18, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, and Tom Lininger. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Dave Burgei, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Stephanie Fyffe, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Joshua Horacek, Rick Szabrak, and Jeff Camechis.

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.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, August 11, 2020

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

Approval of the Clerk of Courts - Title Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Clerk of Courts – Title resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Clerk of Courts Title Division - #2326 Certificate of Title; see resolution 2020-08.18.a.

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

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Fairfield County Budget Commissioner an authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor; see resolution 2020-08.18.b.

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

**Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020**

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Common Pleas Court resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category; see resolution 2020-08.18.c.

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

Approval of the Economic Development Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Economic Development resolutions:

- 2020-08.18.d Approval for a Space Use Agreement between Fairfield County Commissioners and Ohio University for use of Workforce Center. [Economic & Workforce Development]
- 2020-08.18.e A resolution to approve the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Board of County Commissioners Economic Development Department, the administrative and fiscal agent for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Area 20/21 for administering the program as a memo expenditure for fund 7831 Workforce Innovation OPP Act 20/21 [Economic & Workforce Development]

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions

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

- 2020-08.18.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for signs and repairs [Engineer]
- 2020-08.18.g A resolution to appropriate a perpetual easement for highway purposes from Parcel No. 014-01123-00 for the Wilson Road Culvert Replacement Project (FAI-CR45.6872). [Engineer]
- 2020-08.18.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for training [Engineer]
- 2020-08.18.i A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3434 LIB-45 Bridge Replacement Project [Engineer]

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

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

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

**Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020**

- 2020-08.18.j A resolution regarding a memorandum of understanding between the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities. [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2020-08.18.k A resolution regarding a memorandum of understanding between the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Fairfield County Juvenile Court. [Family, Adult and Children First Council]
- 2020-08.18.l A resolution regarding a memorandum of understanding between the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council and the Fairfield County ADAMH. [Family, Adult and Children First Council]

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

Approval of the Job and Family Services Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Job and Family Services resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to Ohio Starts Grant fund #2843; see resolution 2020-08.18.m.

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

Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Regional Planning Commission resolution to approve a Development Agreement for the Heron Crossing West Section 1 Subdivision; see resolution 2020-08.18.n.

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

Approval of the Utilities Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Utilities resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in an expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5085; see resolution 2020-08.18.o.

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, 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 2020-08.18.p

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

Regular Meeting #36 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 18, 2020

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Dave Levacy and a second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:06 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by: Seconded by:
that the August 18, 2020 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on August 25, 2020

 _____ Steven A. Davis Commissioner	 _____ Dave Levacy Commissioner	 _____ Jeff Fix Commissioner
---	---	---



Rachel A Elsea, Clerk

