

**Regular Meeting #34 - 2022  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
August 23, 2022**

**Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse on 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Bart Hampson, Bennett Niceswanger, Brian Wolfe, Corey Clark, Dan Neeley, Tony Vogel, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, Josh Horacek, Dr. Carri Brown, Lisa McKenzie, Jeff Baron, Vince Carpico, Raz Sabaiduc, Heather O'Keefe, Josh Crawford, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Chris Schmelzer, Audrey Stoffel, David Uhl and Alex Lape.

Attending virtual: Beth Cotrell, Caller 01, Jeff Camechis, T Ashton, Tiffany Wilson, Tony Vogel, Brandy M, Jessica Murphy, Kelly Shoemaker, Shelby Hunt, Jim Bahnsen, Bayley Fields, LH, Becky, and Britney.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

**Listen and Learn – Law Library**

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Josh Horacek, provided a listen and learn on the Law Library. He began by providing a brief history on the Law Library in Fairfield County. The Law Library board consists of 5 members. The purpose of the Law Library Board is to provide legal research goals and resources to the county, courts, and other organizations. It is critical for individuals to be able to access this information. Three computer terminals are supplied which provides them with tools for conducting research. The board keeps law books up to date and maintain other physical copies not available online. The sources of funding come from a portion of fines, penalties, and forfeited bail from the courts, from grants, and from appropriations from the Board of Commissioners. Josh went on to show the Law Library Board revenue since 2017.

Commissioner Davis asked what utilization looks like currently versus past years.

Josh explained that utilization seems to have gone up.

Commissioners Levacy and Fix thanked Josh for his great work with the Law Library and the Prosecutor's Office.

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**Public Comments**

Commissioner Fix stated that last week the Commissioners had experienced some issues during Public Comments. The Commissioners encourage public comments but in a professional and respectful manner.

Ray Stemen from Lancaster apologized for comments he made during the Commissioners meeting the previous week.

Judy Stemen from Lancaster spoke about attending a meeting in another municipality the previous week. She also spoke about her concerns for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Chris Schmelzer from Bremen gave his opinions on how the federal government impacts local government.

**Legal Update**

None.

**County Administration Update**

*County Administrator Cordle reviewed the Week in Review, Highlights of Resolutions, the Budget Review, Recognitions, and the Jail Population, as follows.*

**Week in Review**

*ARP Update*

From the \$30,607,546.77 received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds. \$18.9M has been appropriated, \$7.4M expended, \$6.7M encumbered or obligated.

*Developmental Disabilities (DD) Board Member Vacancy*

The County Commissioners are seeking applicants of qualified, passionate adults who are an immediate family member of an individual eligible for early intervention services for preschool or school-age children. DD Board member positions are volunteer positions, and the County Commissioners are seeking dedicated, qualified applicants to begin serving immediately, for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

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David Uhl explained that the requirements outlined in the DD board vacancy does make the window of applicants smaller but that is a statutory requirement.

**Highlights of Resolutions**

*Administrative Approvals*

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

*Resolution Review*

There are 18 resolutions for the voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution to authorize the establishment of a new Special Revenue fund for the Emergency Management Agency for the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program
- A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Lease Agreement with for the Fairfield Department of Health
- A resolution authorizing the approval of a contract with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Gallia County Board of Commissioners and the Gallia County Sheriff for housing prisoners in the Fairfield County Jail

**Budget Review**

- Sales tax information received.
- Budget Director, Bart Hampson, stated they are continuing to hold their projections and will update as they get more information.
- Commissioner Davis wished to highlight that when a month sees a decline it holds a great significance.

**Recognition**

- County Auditor Dr. Brown thanked Chris Wagner for his leadership in following up about the preparation of the resolution relating to the ditch maintenance districts. Thanks to GIS for providing address information, and thanks to Todd May with the Engineer's Office for examining the details based on the Engineer's needs.

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- County Auditor Dr. Brown thanked Nick Dilley for working with EMA to prepare useful maps and information to help prepare for flood mitigation grants.
- County Auditor Dr. Brown thanked Joshua Horacek for the legal opinion he drafted to support Board of Revision actions. There is uncertainty about the state regarding school board requests for subpoenas, and the legal opinion provided the legal underpinning for the actions the BOR is taking in terms of providing notices and making requests, as opposed to issuing subpoenas.
- County Auditor Dr. Brown appreciates the work of two of the Auditor's staff members who confirm and correct legal descriptions within 24 hours of receipt.

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

- Meeting with Rick and Erin Trott, Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in Commissioner Levacy's Office (Levacy)
- Employee Recognition Event, Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. in the Records Center parking lot (Fix, Davis, Levacy)
- South Licking Watershed Conservancy District, Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at 934 W. Main St., Hebron, OH (Levacy)
- Columbus Partnership Meeting, Wednesday, August 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at 150 S. Front St. #200, Columbus, OH (Fix)
- CCAO Workforce Families and Children Symposium, Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at Cherry Valley Hotel, 2299 Cherry Valley Rd. SE, Newark, OH (Fix)
- Transportation Improvement District, Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Engineer's Office, 3026 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster, OH (Fix)(Levacy)
- Emergency Community Action Board Meeting, Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. online via Zoom (Levacy)
- North Walnut Township Stormwater Conveyance Study Public Review and Input Meeting, Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at Millersport Elementary School, 11850 Lancaster St., Millersport, OH (Fix)(Levacy)
- CCAO Workforce Families and Children Symposium, Friday, August 26, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at Cherry Valley Hotel, 2299 Cherry Valley Rd. SE, Newark, OH (Fix)
- Invitation to the After-Biz Meet and Greet with the Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lancaster Golf Club, 3100 Country Club Rd. SW, Lancaster, OH

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**Correspondence**

*Items Requiring Response*

*Informational Items*

- Information about Proper Public Purpose from County Auditor Dr. Carri Brown
- Press release for a vacancy on the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities, dated August 22, 2022

*Jail Population*

- August 16 was 277 with 42 of those being contracted placements
- August 23 is 270 with 41 of those being contracted placements

**Old Business**

Commissioner Fix stated he met with representatives from the City of Pickerington on the Sports Complex, and continue to make progress on it. He also continues to have conversations about making Fairfield County an appealing place for businesses to locate. He appreciates the work of all people involved in the process.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, stated she and Rick Szabrak met with Regional Planning Commission Director, James Mako, to learn more about the development process.

Commissioner Fix explained they want to make their expectations very clear with the builders.

Dr. Brown stated the Auditor's Office continues to conduct virtual meetings and will hold an in-person meeting next week. They have received over 300 surveys from the public on the hearings being conducted.

Commissioner Fix expressed his appreciation for the changes Dr. Brown continues to make and the information she provides on property values.

**New Business**

Commissioner Davis thanked Ray Stemen for his kind words today.

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Dr. Carri Brown stated she had attended a panel discussion and spoke about a formula for entrepreneurship. She is encouraged by the examples Fairfield County can provide that meet those requirements.

**Regular (Voting) Meeting**

The Commissioners met at the Historic Courthouse on 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH for the regular voting meeting. Commissioner Fix called the voting meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Bart Hampson, Bennett Niceswanger, Brian Wolfe, David Sheffler, Rick Szabrak, Corey Clark, Dan Neeley, Tony Vogel, Jon Kochis, Amy Brown-Thompson, Josh Horacek, Dr. Carri Brown, Lisa McKenzie, Jeff Baron, Vince Carpico, Raz Sabaiduc, Heather O'Keefe, Josh Crawford, Ray Stemen, Judy Stemen, Chris Schmelzer, Audrey Stoffel, David Uhl and Alex Lape.

Attending virtual: Caller 01, Jeff Camechis, T Ashton, Tiffany Wilson, Tony Vogel, Brandy M, Jessica Murphy, Kelly Shoemaker, Shelby Hunt, Jim Bahnsen, Bayley Fields, LH, Becky, and Britney.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Fix asked everyone to rise as able and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Announcements**

Commissioner Fix took a moment to recognize Park Russell from Veterans Services for 45 years of public service. He expressed his deep appreciation.

Commissioner Davis stated he will be unable to attend the employee appreciation event, but wished to thank all employees being recognized for their years of service.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2022**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, August 16, 2022 meeting.

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

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**Approval of Resolutions from the Board of Commissioners**

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

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2022-08.23.a | A resolution to approve to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expenditure category & approve a memo receipt and memo expense for FY2019 FAA grant fund# 3011, subfund# 8224  |
| 2022-08.23.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense category, fund to fund transfer for the match, and Cash advance from the General Fund for fund # 3011, Subfund# 8303 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant FY2022 |
| 2022-08.23.c | 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  |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Elections**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Elections:

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|--------------|---|
| 2022-08.23.d | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Fund #2884 General Assembly Primary Election 2022-Board of Elections |
|--------------|---|

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court:



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2022-08.23.e      A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category

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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Dog Shelter**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Dog Shelter:

2022-08.23.f      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories

Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, explained this resolution is to ensure adequate appropriations.

Commissioner Fix spoke about his ongoing experiences with the Dog Shelter and the dogs he has adopted from the shelter. His dogs are very affectionate and continues to be appreciative of the dog shelter and encourages all who are able to consider adoptions.

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

**Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Economic Development**

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

2022-08.23.g      A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category

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



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**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

2022-08.23.h            A resolution to authorize the establishment of a new Special Revenue fund for the Emergency Management Agency.

Director of EMA, Jon Kochis, explained this grant has been going on for 20 years and allows for additional trainings.

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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Engineer**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Engineer:

2022-08.23.i            A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for comp-time payout

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

**Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Facilities**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Facilities:

2022-08.23.j            A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Lease Agreement with the Colonnade M.O.B.,LLC, for the Fairfield Department of Health

Facilities Manager, Dennis Keller, explained the rates associated with the lease agreement.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy and Jeff Fix  
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**Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council**

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

2022-08.23.k      Approval of a grant agreement between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners as Administrative Agent for the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council, and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services as the Administrative Entity for Ohio Children's Trust Fund

Executive Director of FACFC, Raz Sabaiduc, stated the grant is for the perinatal program.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services:

2022-08.23.l      A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2018 reimbursing Fund 2072

2022-08.23.m      A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2072 – Children Services Fund - Fairfield County JFS

2022-08.23.n      A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2758 – Protective Service Levy - Fairfield County JFS

2022-08.23.o      A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between NECCO, Inc and Child Protective Services Department

2022-08.23.p      A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between All for You 126, Inc and Child Protective Services Department

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2022-08.23.q      A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Kids Count Too, Inc and Child Protective Services Department

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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2022-08.23.r      A resolution authorizing the approval of a contract with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners (Fairfield BCC), the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (Fairfield Sheriff) and the Gallia County Board of Commissioners (Gallia BCC) and the Gallia County Sheriff (Gallia Sheriff) for housing prisoners in the Fairfield County Jail

Commissioner Davis thanked the Sheriff for his efforts in this regard. He thinks empty beds are an asset in the jail. He thinks it would be useful to conduct an asset utilization review sometime in the future.

Commissioner Fix agreed with Commissioner Davis and believed it could be included in the budget process. He asked the Sheriff how many agencies partner with the jail.

Sheriff Lape stated there are five outside agencies and they have stated they prefer the facility at the Fairfield County Jail.

Commissioner Fix thanked the Sheriff for pushing this forward.

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

**MORPC Update**

Commissioner Fix welcomed the representatives from MORPC.

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Commissioner Fix expressed his excitement for this collaboration with other counties in the region and appreciates the work of the representatives at MORPC and Rick Szabrak.

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter Executive Session at 10:27 a.m.

**Executive Session**

To discuss pending court action.

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to leave Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:40 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at the 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

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NAYS: None

\*Approved on August 30, 2022

  
Jeff Fix  
Commissioner

  
Dave Levacy  
Commissioner

  
Steven A. Davis  
Commissioner

  
Bennett Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk