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, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Josh Lininger, Chief Lape, Tiffany Nash, Ray Stemen. Joining via teleconference were Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Lisa McKenzie, Nikki Drake, Tom Lininger, Tony Vogel, Jeff Barron, Jon Kochis, Aunie Cordle, Brett Riffle, Mark Conrad, Lisa McKenzie, Chris Wagner, Jim Bahnsen, Stephanie Fyffe, Jeff Porter, Dave Burgei.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, and others provided an update on COVID-19 responses.

Mr. Kochis reported the number over the weekend was relatively good . The ICU numbers across central Ohio are down, and the local ICU numbers are in good shape. FMC's test results are consistent.

Mr. Kochis also reported the state is beginning to start some level of PPE distribution. EMA may be able to help store PPE for surrounding communities. They continue to work through reporting issues in schools.

Mr. Davis asked what Mr. Kochis was hearing regarding complications to reopening schools.

Mr. Kochis replied there are exercise requirements for fire drills and tornado drills. With the change in classroom arrangements, these requirements are essentially doubled. There are also indications from the fire marshals that some barriers are against fire code.

Mr. Kochis went on to say there is a meeting today regarding a vaccine distribution which is targeted for November. They anticipate that EMT and paramedics will be able to deliver vaccines like they did for H1N1.

Mr. Levacy stated that he would like to see Fairfield go to the yellow level and asked if there was any indication about central Ohio counties were going yellow.

Mr. Kochis replied that Fairfield County must use Central Ohio protocol for hospitalization, unlike Hocking and Perry, but they are also not meeting the cases per capita. He anticipates cases will go up this week due to last week having a few days with larger case counts.

Mr. Levacy stated that the Licking County Commissioners think they will be going to yellow.

Mr. Kochis stated that their indicators were the same as Fairfield and he believed it was more wishful thinking on their part.

Mr. Fix asked how long it would be before they see a spike from Labor Day weekend.

Mr. Kochis replied it would be anywhere from five days to two weeks.

Dr. Brown reported EMA would lead the data entry for the Stafford Act grant items, and Mr. Kochis reported that the 25% match for this grant would be covered by the state.

Ms. Nash reported they are still pulling weekend numbers. Preliminary results look like there were 47 cases for the weekend. They are still seeing community spread and incidents within the schools that are giving them pause.

Ms. Nash stated Mr. Hanna and Ms. Fyffe meet with school officials every week. There was a large meeting held in Fairfield County that resulted in at least eight positive cases. She also reported the WHO is reporting vaccines will be available in the middle of 2021, but there could be vaccines available in November. They are also looking at how they will handle the flu campaign as that will arrive in the fall as well.

Mr. Davis asked if the meeting was governmental or non-governmental.

Ms. Nash reported she believed it was private and anyone who would have been at risk would have been contacted. She is not sure which area of the county the meeting was held in. Her understanding is that social distancing guidelines may not have been followed. She does not have a number for how large the meeting was, but she believes with eight people positive and more under quarantine the number was probably higher than 10.

Legal Update

Mr. Horacek did not have a legal update.

Mr. Davis asked about the revised scheduled for the Franklin County litigation.

Ms. Brown-Thompson believes the first brief is due September 11th.

Ohio's Distribution of the Remaining CARES Act Funds

SB 357 passed with no opposition and is moving to the House.

We are thankful for what has been shared with us and will be prepared for amounts shared in the future. The estimated amount with SB 357 is \$5.5 M.

Mr. Davis stated that this information could guide the county to go back to the planned compensation plan with the parameter of up to 3% of increases based on merit-based evaluations.

Mr. Levacy stated he wholeheartedly supports revisiting this parameter.

Mr. Fix asked where the threshold was if the number was not the entire \$5.5 million to be passed by the House.

Mr. Davis stated that he thought there would have to be a meaningful change in the distribution method.

Mr. Fix asked what a 3% increase would be to the General Fund.

Mr. Davis replied it would be about \$350,000 or more for the General Fund only.

Meeting with the Board of Elections

The Commissioners met at 9:30 a.m. to meet with the Board of Elections. 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, Amy Brown-Thompson, Josh Lininger, Chief Lape, Tiffany Nash, Ray Stemen. Joining via teleconference were Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Lisa McKenzie, Nikki Drake, Tom Lininger, Tony Vogel, Jeff Barron, Jon Kochis, Aunie Cordle, Brett Riffle, Mark Conrad, Lisa McKenzie, Chris Wagner, Jim Bahnsen, Stephanie Fyffe, Jeff Porter, Dave Burgei.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Riffle for joining. He asked that Mr. Riffle address the difference between absentee ballots and mailed ballots.

Mr. Riffle reported the Board of Elections is full steam ahead and has been so since August.

They have received 16,237 absentee requests with about 14,000 of those valid requests. They are currently getting a lot of duplicate requests. The public needs to know you need one request and they will process it. He stated that regarding mail in versus absentee ballots, these are the same for Ohio. You can mail in absentee or in person absentee prior to the election.

Ballots are mailed October 6th and in person absentee starts October 6th as well. They have seen a dramatic increase in absentee requests. For 2016 they mailed out 19, 216 ballots which includes the overseas and military. They are quickly approaching this and have six tubs of mail arriving today which most likely contain 3,500 requests for just today. The process for mail in absentee voting and in person absentee voting are the same. The confusion is that different states are electing to mail a ballot directly to someone. This is not done in Ohio and most likely will never change. You always must request a ballot in Ohio.

Ohio does not solicit the voter; the voter must go to the Board of Elections to request a ballot.

Mr. Davis appreciated the clarification.

Mr. Levacy stated part of the reason he thought it was important to have the discussion and for Mr. Riffle to understand is there is confusion with the masses. He thinks however they can get the word out regarding the process and how to receive a ballot. He believes the Secretary of State is also spreading the message. He thanked Mr. Riffle for all he has done.

Mr. Fix asked about being short poll workers: What are the contingencies for not getting the number that they need?

Mr. Riffle replied they always need poll workers and typically poll workers are easier to find for presidential elections. The contingency plan is for multiple precinct locations to be sharing workers. He believes that they will hit the number by October 15th and thanked county employees for volunteering.

Dr. Brown asked for the clarification on the handout. She requested Mr. Riffle update the handout by explaining the state of Ohio's method of voting (absentee voting as opposed to unsolicited mail in ballots). We would then put the handout on the website (with a few updates).

Mr. Davis asked if there were resources the BOE lacked that the Commission should be thinking about.

Mr. Riffle replied he didn't believe so and stated they will have PPE for everyone including disposable styluses. They are also working on getting plexiglass barriers for the poll workers which will be funded by a grant from the Secretary of State.

Dr. Brown stated that by the end of the year there will be an appropriations request, such as for overtime or other items.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Riffle to speak about the expectation to have final results the night of the election.

Mr. Riffle stated that ballots can be received and counted for up to 10 days after the election. These and provisional ballots can take time to count.

Mr. Riffle added that absolute final numbers will not be available that night. Absentee ballots received by the close of the polls and votes cast at the polls will be counted that night.

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 9:43 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, Amy Brown-Thompson, Josh Lininger, Chief Lape, Tiffany Nash, Ray Stemen, and Jon Slater. Joining via teleconference were Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Lisa McKenzie, Nikki Drake, Tom Lininger, Tony Vogel, Jeff Barron, Jon Kochis, Aunie Cordle, Brett Riffle, Mark Conrad, Lisa McKenzie, Chris Wagner, Jim Bahnsen, Stephanie Fyffe, Jeff Porter, Dave Burgei.

Continued discussion regarding CARES Act Funding and Other Budget Implications

Mr. Davis added that the Commission is nearing a conclusion to the Franklin County litigation and the county's demand is near \$9 million. This would be a significant needle moving event for the health insurance. The guidance right now is to maintain the 20% contribution. If circumstances change or improve, the number or frequency of holidays could change, but it is too early to provide any guidance on the change or in any number of holidays for the 20% participation. He believes the more likely scenario is to utilize holidays whenever possible.

Mr. Levacy agreed.

Mr. Fix stated that once the Franklin County legislation is resolved they will have a much better picture to make decisions.

Dr. Brown will send an email later this week to forecast budget guidance so that finance officers and employees can plan for merit-based increases, contingent upon the passage of SB 357. She also commented that if there was a need to adapt, the county has shown an ability to be flexible.

Mr. Davis stated he would be happy to go through these complexities with employees, elected officials, and department heads.

Dr. Brown went on to describe how the county was examining multiple uses including public safety and public health payroll support, additional public health expenditures (for PPE, vehicles, and equipment), teleworking equipment, digitizing services, and services with non-profit organizations, such as Meals on Wheels and Legal Aid.

We are also preparing for expanding Prevention, Retention, and Contingency options with JFS.

With the most recent guidance, there is confirmation for the approach we have taken and guidance that expressly states the resources can be used for public safety benefits such as vacation, sick leave, and insurance, and that is something we will examine for future charges to the special revenue fund.

Here is a summary of uses and plans, which must be continually reviewed and analyzed based on needs and guidance.

CARES Act resources are designed help address expenses of mitigating and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have used our first round of CARES Act resources to support public safety, public health, and teleworking improvements – all things that support the community in its effort to respond to the pandemic.

CARES Act uses thus far are in three main categories:

1,603,084.79	Amount spent on payroll for public safety employees
50,344.28	Amount spent to improve telework capabilities of public employees
24,420.45	Amount spent on public health expenses
1,677,849.52	Total Distribution HB 481, to date

Proposed for 9.8.2020 (for the Controlling Board related amounts)

528,724.76	Amount for payroll for public safety employees, through July
37,000	Amount spent to improve telework capabilities and services for public employees
273,200	Amount spent on public health expenses
838,924,76	Total

Amounts spent on *public safety payroll support* are to reimburse the county for expenditures made for the payroll of Sheriff's Office staff dedicated to mitigating or responding to the effects of the pandemic.

For example, the Sheriff's Office staff is accomplishing extraordinary efforts to sanitize the jail, vehicles, and waiting areas. The have adjusted their procedures and protocols to fight the spread of infection and have conducted antibody testing for employees.

Amounts spent on *improving teleworking capabilities of public employees* are for purchases of computers, printers, scanners, webcams, and other technological equipment that will support off-site work and virtual services for the public.

This category also includes digitizing services. For example, Probate Court will digitize records to allow for remote access to their records. This means there will be improved social distancing as a safeguarding measure.

Amounts spent on *public health expenses* include the purchase of PPE for multiple entities, sanitizing equipment, sanitation stations for the County Parks District, supplies to build plexiglass barriers, and specially equipped vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and Juvenile Court to use for public transports. The vehicles include barriers and accessories to help fight the spread of the virus.

For next distributions, plans include support for additional expenditures, such as (but not limited to):

- Meals on Wheels services (MOW will purchase shelf-stable food for the emergency) We are awaiting a signed MOU, (\$19,000);
- A Prevention, Retention, and Contingency plan allocation and additional, similar programs to help citizens with rent or food expenses; (currently we are using a TANF based funding sources for this type of support);
- Coordination with the Stafford Act expenditures (a grant match of at least \$25,000);
- A contract for services with Legal Aid to provide services to help citizens facing eviction or having trouble with unemployment claims;
- Specialized HVAC disinfection equipment to be placed in public buildings to help fight the virus (\$178,000);
- Public Health payroll support (with documentation from the Board of Health);
- Additional public health, public safety, and teleworking support expenditures.

A small business grant program (to potentially supplement the new loan programs the county has in place) can be approved from general fund monies, like the training grants now in place, without the deadline of December 30, 2020. (All CARES Act funds need to be spent by December 30, 2020.)

Expenditures will continue to be approved by the Board of Commissioners in public meeting.

We have encouraged all stakeholders to stay in touch regarding identified needs and ideas about CARES Act or related resources during the emergency period.

Funds cannot be used to replace lost revenues based on federal guidance. This is a common question. Funds can only be used for goods and services received by December 30, 2020.

There is some discussion about an amendment to this deadline at the federal level, but that change has not occurred.

Email with questions or ideas can be sent to <u>carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov</u>.

The review packet contained a full summary.

Mr. Davis stated that the Commission is asking Dr. Brown to telegraph potential changes with email communication and that the changes have not been made yet.

Mr. Fix spoke to what he is seeing from other counties as he serves on the CCAO board. He stated the reason Fairfield County has done so well is because of the work of Dr. Brown.

Both Commissioners agreed.

The Commissioners also talked about how their connections with state officials have been helpful in making sure state action was and will be taken.

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

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

October 5 – HVAC Training to be held at the Workforce Center

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown reported there were 13 resolutions for the voting meeting.

There were four contractual resolutions for the County Engineer:

- Two change orders for resurfacing and the Poplar Creek Bridge Replacement project;
- Two changes to speed limits (on Refugee Road and Pickerington Road) for safety. These matters will next go to the state, and there has been a traffic study.

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

- Appropriations and approval of uses for the State Controlling Board released funds relating to the CARES Act (and HB 481);
- Interest allocations for the Parks District, Board of Health, and Port Authority;
- Reduction of appropriations for Common Pleas Court (grant related);
- Appropriations for a BOE special revenue fund and for the County Engineer for project (four resolutions); and
- An account to account transfer of appropriations for the County Auditor and Economic Development to properly classify expenditures.

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

For example, there was a pending grant agreement for the Ohio Clean Diesel program.

\$124,875.00 in grant funding has been allocated to replace three diesel trucks by July 31, 2022. We appreciative how the County Engineer seeks grants and manages projects.

In addition, our CFLP partners (Board of Health, the Sheriff, and Community Action) report agreement about the grant approach and those resolutions are on schedule for September 22.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Update

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

Budget Update

The deadline for level 3 budget entry was September 3. There will be a detailed review of submissions.

While we have been experiencing losses of revenues based on the pandemic and compared to the original projections, we are faring better than expected. The CARES Act resources are helpful to meet the eligible expenses.

d. BRAVOS

Fairfield County is one of eight counties to receive a grant award from the state to provide young drivers access to advanced driver training. This was a focus of a recent Governor's press conference.

CJ Robberts with our Juvenile Court worked very hard on the grant applications. And Michael Orlando and Judge Vandervoort are making sure the Court is ready to provide these very important services. The training can set the stage for a safer community. Here is a summary from the Governor's Office: Eight juvenile courts in Ohio have been awarded grant funding through the Ohio Department of Public Safety to help them provide young drivers more access to advanced driver training. Courts in Adams, Athens, Medina, Knox, Delaware, Miami, **Fairfield**, and Delaware counties will each receive \$20,000 through Ohio's new Youthful Driver Safety Fund which was developed as part of Ohio's biennium budget.

- Old Business (none)
- New Business (none)
- General Correspondence Received

Annexation Petition for 10.155 acres from Bloom Township into the Village of Lithopolis – with subject matter experts for review

- <u>Calendar Review/Invitations Received</u> (none)
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population 279
 - b. Prosecutor's Reports
 - c. Letter of Support (requested by FCSWCD for a conservancy district re: a watershed)
 - d. Public records requests can be made to Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, beginning at 10:02 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Chief Lape, Ray Stemen, Tiffany Nash, and Jon Slater. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Brett Riffle, Dave Burgei, Aunie Cordle, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Jeremiah Upp, Mark Conrad, Nikki Drake, Tom Lininger, Tony Vogel, and Chris Wagner.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

Mr. Davis stated that while participating virtually last week he noticed it was very hard to hear those sitting towards the front of the hearing room and encouraged everyone to speak up so that those participating virtually can hear everyone.

Public Comment

Commissioner Davis asked if anyone from the public who would like to speak or offer comments.

Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster still has a concern regarding the Board of Elections and mail in ballots. People are getting ballots without asking for them. He asked what the county will do with those that come in that are not in time. There is definitely a difference between mail in ballots and absentee ballots.

Motion to Leave the Regular Order of Business

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to leave the regular order of business.

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

Mr. Davis replied to Mr. Stemen that the Commission understands that they are not sending ballots to people who have not requested them. All they can do is take the information that they are given about this topic. The only ballots that they are mailing are those that were requested, and they have rejected those which are duplicate.

Mr. Fix added that this is true for the state of Ohio; the Secretary of State has said that and that he cannot speak for other states.

Mr. Stemen stated that others have received ballots they have not asked for. He stated that there are counties in the state of Ohio that have done other things.

Motion to Return to the Regular Order of Business

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to the regular order of business.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, September 1, 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, September 1, 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 Auditor's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Auditor's Office resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expense category (Fund 1001) (Information Technology); see resolution 2020-09.08.a.

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:

2020-09.08.b

A resolution authorizing uses of State Controlling Board released funds connected with HB 481 (formerly SB 310) relating to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act funding and approving appropriations from unappropriated funds for the County Coronavirus Relief Fund, #2868 [Commissioners]

2020-09.08.c

A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

Discussion: Dr. Brown provided information on resolution C. Three separated political subdivisions are entitled to the interest of the funds that are held in the county treasury. Once the accounts are reconciled the Commissioners credit the interest to the agency funds the County is holding for the political subdivisions.

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 authorizing the reduction in a major expenditure object category appropriations for Civil Justice Grant Fund 2422; see resolution 2020-09.08.d.

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 approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category; see resolution 2020-09.08.e.

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

Approval of the Board of Elections Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Board of Elections resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Fund #2861 Cyber; see resolution 2020-09.08.f.

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolution

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

2020-09.08.g	A resolution to approve a Change Order for the FAI-CR33A-0.000 Resurfacing Project. [Engineer]
2020-09.08.h	A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for general consulting services [Engineer]
2020-09.08.i	A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2580-Subdivisions for subdivision inspections of Heron Crossing Section 4, Views at Pine Hills Phase 2, Rolling Hills Storage and Violet Meadows Section 5 Phase 2 [Engineer]
2020-09.08.j	A resolution to approve a Change Order for the LIB-45 FAI-TR235-0.966 Poplar Creek Road over Poplar Creek Bridge Replacement Project [Engineer]
2020-09.08.k	A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 3445-ODOT for 33A Resurfacing [Engineer]
2020-09.08.1	A resolution to revise prima facie speed limit for Pickerington Road (CR20) [Engineer]
2020-09.08.m	A resolution to revise prima facie speed limit for Refugee Road (CR7) [Engineer]

Discussion: Mr. Upp stated that the 33A and Lib 45 are projects being closed out. The subdivisions are currently being inspected. Property sales, especially in Pickerington, are booming right now. The speed limit changes are connected to projects they received funding from ODOT for intersection improvements that will probably happen next year. Currently a consultant is working on the designs.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Review continued

Dr. Brown reported there is a Land Bank meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Davis stated they may have some visitors at that meeting. The concern is about a potential sale of a land bank property to a nonprofit. He thinks some individuals were alerted to a vote and decision by the Land Bank which had not actually occurred.

Commissioner Fix agreed that no decision was made and that they had requested more information be gathered prior to a decision being made.

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 10:17 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by:

Seconded by:

that the September 8, 2020 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on September 15, 2020

Steven A. Davis Commissioner

Dave Levacy Commissioner

Rachel A Elsea, Clerk