

Regular Meeting #37 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 13, 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, Rochelle Menningen, Tiffany Nash, Jon Kochis, Dennis Keller, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tony Vogel, Dan Neeley, Corey Clark, Stephanie Taylor, Dr. Carri Brown, Marty Norris, Steven Darnell, Rick Szabrak, Lisa McKenzie, Kyle Witt, Jason Grubb, Judy Stemen, and Ray Stemen.

Attending virtual: Aaron Burd, Michael Kaper, Audrey, Britney Lee, Lynette Barnhart, Shelby Hunt, Stacy Hicks, Rachel Elsea, Becky, Belinda Nebbergall, Jeff Camechis, Dan Weis, Jeanie Wears, Marcy Fields, Nikki Drake, Christine Noland, and T Ashton.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and took a moment in remembrance of the lives lost during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Listen & Learn - EMA

Deputy Director of Planning at EMA (Emergency Management Agency), Tiffany Nash, provided an overview of the 2023 Natural Mitigation Plan. Elected officials and jurisdictional leaders, subject matter experts, community stakeholders, and the public are all involved in the process. Many smaller municipalities do not have the budget to properly prepare for natural disasters.

Commissioner Fix asked who owns the mitigation projects.

Ms. Nash explained the municipalities lead the cause and can identify different partners, but Fairfield County EMA will follow up regularly. If projects are not outlined in the plan, they will not be eligible for grants. She went on to speak about the purpose of the Mitigation Plan and added they are not able to prevent natural events like tornadoes and floods, but they can work to reduce the effects they have on the communities, and that there are different FEMA grants available for different mitigation project categories.

Commissioner Fix asked what was causing the large jumps in available grant funding.

Director of EMA, Jon Kochis, explained the jump is largely due to COVID-19. He added that many jurisdictions have expressed intentions to apply for the different mitigation grants.

Ms. Nash also spoke about the top threats that affect Fairfield County, stating that severe storms and flooding are the top two. She added that EMA is having regular conversations with jurisdictions about potential problems affecting each area and that some areas have already completed projects including tornado shelters and have zoning laws to prevent building downstream from dams. She continued by stating that other jurisdictions are talking about installing weather stations and can add additional projects to their Mitigation Plan. Ms. Nash finished by stating that the next steps include meeting with Fairfield County departments to update past projects and identify new ones and that they are conducting a Mitigation Survey on which weather events concern residents the most.

Commissioner Davis asked which weather events are most concerning to our community.

Jon Kochis stated floods are the most frequent.

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County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown, asked if there would be opportunities for food preparedness and food safety during disasters.

Jon explained FEMA typically funds other projects not related to food safety but that the question would be worth the discussion.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen from Lancaster spoke about his concerns regarding gun laws in the United States.

Judy Stemen from Lancaster spoke about her concerns for the COVID-19 vaccine. Ms. Stemen provided a handout to the Commissioners after the meeting that can be viewed in these minutes.

Legal Update

Fairfield County Prosecutor, Kyle Witt, welcomed his office's new Civil Division Prosecutor Steven Darnell, and announced Amy Brown-Thompson would be the new Civil Division Supervisor.

All three Commissioners congratulated Ms. Brown-Thompson on her promotion.

County Administration Update

Week in Review

ARP Update

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle gave an ARP update stating that \$30,607,546.77 had been received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds, and that \$18.9M has been appropriated, \$8.2M expended, and \$5.9M encumbered or obligated.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Board Member Vacancy

Ms. Cordle stated the County Commissioners are seeking applicants of qualified, passionate adults who are immediate family members of an individual eligible for early intervention services or services for preschool or school-age children. These applications are for DD Board member volunteer positions that would begin immediately, and would have a term expiring December 31, 2025.

State of the County

Ms. Cordle invited everyone to please join the Commissioners next Tuesday, September 20 at 11:30 for the State of the County at the Wigwam Event Center located in Pickerington.

Congratulations to Court Administrator and Magistrate, Joshua Horacek

Ms. Cordle congratulated Josh Horacek who was sworn in the previous week as the new Court Administrator and Magistrate for the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas.

Highlights of Resolutions

Ms. Cordle stated that the review packet contains a list of administrative approvals and that there were 22 resolutions for the voting meeting. She listed the following resolutions of note:

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- A resolution from the Engineer to schedule an Annual Township Trustee Meeting on October 5 at 2:00 pm
- A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Solar Power Interconnect Agreement between South Central Power and the Commissioners
- A resolution authorizing and certifying drainage maintenance assessments be accepted and approved for submittal to the Fairfield County Auditor and that the County Auditor place collection on the property tax duplicate.

Budget Review

Ms. Cordle added that the Level 3 budget entry deadline was the previous Thursday.

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, stated that he and his team are continuing to work through the data.

Recognition

Ms. Cordle announced the following recognitions/bravos:

- Recorder, Lisa McKenzie shared her thanks to Tammy Smith and the maintenance crew for working to get the air conditioning operational. She stated a ticket was submitted on Wednesday and the maintenance staff worked on it immediately.
- Auditor, Dr. Brown thanked members of her team for their work with the Homeowner Association members for Sherman's Bluff and for the extra attention to customer service and for making a complex process less complex.
- Auditor, Dr. Brown shared that a resident called in to thank Noel Soddors for moving heavy tree limbs from his driveway while he was reviewing new construction in the area. The resident stated that he was unable to move the tree limbs himself and had no one to call and thought it was so nice of Noel to move those limbs without being asked.
- Auditor, Dr. Brown shared that Bev Anders was thankful for everyone for being so helpful while she was out of the office.
- Auditor, Dr. Brown shared an excellent example of customer service from Dave Burgei and Staci Knight who stayed late to help a resident who arrived right at 4 pm for service. The resident commented how wonderful it was to not have to come back into town to conduct business.
- Thank you to Bennett Niceswanger and the Commissioners' Finance team for their assistance in covering the Clerk duties while Rochelle Menningen was out of the office.
- Thank you to the JFS team for their exceptional work on the Summer Youth Program.
- Thank you to Staci Knisley for her exceptional work on the budget process.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Clerk to the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen, reviewed the following invitations and calendar items:

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- All-Accessible Sports Complex Open House, September 13, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Little Brook Meadows, 100 Edgewood Dr., Lancaster (Levacy)
- United Way Campaign Kick-Off, September 14, 2022, 8:00 a.m., Fairfield County Fairgrounds, 157 E. Fair Ave., Lancaster (Fix, Levacy)
- Family, Adult and Children First Full Council Meeting, September 15, 2022, 8:30 a.m., Virtual (Levacy)
- Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Meeting, September 15, 2022, 11:30 a.m., Virtual (Levacy)
- Celebration of Possibilities, September 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Wigwam Event Center, 10190 Blacklick-Eastern Rd. NW, Pickerington (Fix, Levacy)
- Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting, September 15, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster (Fix)
- Decorative Arts Center of Ohio 'Ohio the Start of it All' Exhibition Members' Reception, September 23, 2022, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Reese-Peters House, 145 E. Main St., Lancaster
- Pickerington Area Chamber Business Summit & Trade Show, September 22, 2022, 11:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll
- Fairfield Center Sheriff Substation Grand Opening, September 20, 2022, 2:00 p.m.
- Invitation from a Fairfield Union High School Junior to Attend the Fairfield County Fair's Livestock Sales, October 13, 2022, 5:00 p.m. and October 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Correspondence

Rochelle Menningen, reviewed the following correspondence:

- Fairfield County Prosecutor's Annual Report as to Criminal Prosecutions, Dated September 6, 2022
- Copy of Fairfield County Prosecutor's Annual Report Pursuant to ORC 309.16, to Kevin Reardon, State Fire Marshall, Dated September 1, 2022
- Bankruptcy Notification from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the: Southern District of New York, Debtor: Endo International plc, Case Number: 22-22549
- Certificate of Appreciation for Thirty-four Years of Support and Loyalty from the County Risk Sharing Authority
- Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Press Release, September 9, 2022, "The Fairfield County Workforce Center to Partner with Ohio University, Hocking College in Appalachian Semiconductor Education (ASCENT) Ecosystem Through Intel Grant Funding"
- Fairfield County Workforce Center Flyer for High School and Ready-To-Work Programming Open House, September 14, 2022, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Jail Population

Ms. Cordle stated that the jail population for September 6, 2022, was 291 with 47 of those being contracted placements, and for September 13 was 296 with 50 of those being contracted placements.

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Old Business

Commissioner Davis spoke about attending a meeting with Lancaster Public Transit and added there will be a new loop which will include the Workforce Center. The Commissioner added he believes this is a positive improvement. He also added he had another meeting about public transit and that there may be an opportunity for Lancaster Public Transit to apply for a grant through ODOT.

Ms. Cordle added that transit consumers must call two weeks in advance to receive the on-demand service and that the transit loop does not always meet consumer needs.

Commissioner Fix thanked Commissioner Davis for his willingness to dive deeper into transit issues and needs.

New Business

Rick Szabrak touched on an opportunity with Intel and stated the Workforce Center has plans to expand their Engineering Technology Program through their partnership with Ohio University and Hocking College. Their goal is to help train future employees for the jobs such as those with the Intel plant.

Commissioner Levacy offered his appreciation for the Workforce Center and its role in student schooling and training, as well as its training opportunities for workers in the county.

Auditor Carri Brown stated her office is updating their website to make it more user friendly. She also announced that David Miller of the Auditor's Office will be retiring at the end of the year and that Ohio University will be holding Social Justice conversations in the coming weeks and encouraged everyone to participate. Auditor Brown further announced Ohio University will hold a Women's Leadership conference in March of 2023.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners met immediately following the Review Meeting 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, Bart Hampson, Bennett Niceswanger, Rochelle Menningen, Tiffany Nash, Jon Kochis, Dennis Keller, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tony Vogel, Dan Neeley, Corey Clark, Stephanie Taylor, Dr. Carri Brown, Marty Norris, Steven Darnell, Rick Szabrak, Lisa McKenzie, Kyle Witt, Jason Grubb, Judy Stemen, and Ray Stemen.

Attending virtual: Aaron Burd, Michael Kaper, Audrey, Britney Lee, Lynette Barnhart, Shelby Hunt, Stacy Hicks, Rachel Elsea, Becky, Belinda Nebbergall, Jeff Camechis, Dan Weis, Jeanie Wears, Marcy Fields, Nikki Drake, Christine Noland, and T Ashton.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

There were no new announcements.

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Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 6, 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, September 6, 2022, meeting.

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

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:

- 2022-09.13.a A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield County Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865
- 2022-09.13.b A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major expenditure object category - Fairfield County Human Resources and Risk Management
- 2022-09.13.c A resolution approving account-to-account transfers in major object expense categories – Fund# 1001

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 ADAMH Board

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 ADAMH Board:

- 2022-09.13.d A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expenditure category for the Fund# 2066 Fairfield County ADAMH Board

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 Court of Common Pleas

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 Court of Common Pleas:

- 2022-09.13.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 Resolutions 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 resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer:

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- 2022-09.13.f A resolution to Schedule an Annual Township Trustee Meeting
- 2022-09.13.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2362-Levy for resurfacing
- 2022-09.13.h A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 BER-26 bridge replacement
- 2022-09.13.i A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 Refugee Rd CR7-1.94
- 2022-09.13.j A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for training
- 2022-09.13.k A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for office furniture
- 2022-09.13.l A resolution authorizing certifying Drainage Maintenance Districts to the Fairfield County Auditor's Office - Commissioners' Office

Commissioner Fix asked if the Annual Township Trustee Meeting is required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and asked if the meeting could coincide with the Township Association Meeting.

Aundrea Cordle confirmed it is required by the ORC.

Superintendent of the Engineer's Office, Jason Grubb, stated he would inquire as to the permissibility of scheduling both township meetings concurrently.

Auditor Brown thanked Chris Wagner for his work on one of the Engineer's resolutions.

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:

- 2022-09.13.m A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Solar Power Interconnect Agreement between South Central Power and the Commissioners

Commissioner Fix asked if the lengthy negotiation time was the norm.

Facilities Manager, Dennis Keller, stated he could not explain the lengthy negotiation timeframe but that he believed it might be due to technology upgrades.

Prosecutor Amy Brown-Thompson added that initial contract received in March was incorrect.

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 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:

- 2022-09.13.n A resolution regarding Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center and Child Protective Services Department
- 2022-09.13.o A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018
- 2022-09.13.p A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018
- 2022-09.13.q A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018

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 Law Library

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 Law Library:

- 2022-09.13.r Fairfield County Law Library Resources Board (Fund 2761)[Law A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated Funds for the Library

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 Prosecutor

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 Prosecutor:

- 2022-09.13.s A resolution approving a Fund to Fund transfer from the Prosecutor's Local Match Allocation to Fund 2784 (Sub-Fund 8265) for Grant Year 2022/2023. [Prosecutor Victim/Witness]

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission

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

- 2022-09.13.t A resolution to approve a Development Agreement for the South Hampton Subdivision
- 2022-09.13.u A resolution to approve the Spring Creek, Section 3, Phase 3B Final Plat

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

2022-09.13.v A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval

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

Return to Old and New Business

Commissioner Davis spoke about a pending request from Lancaster Transit as it relates to the annual transfer and added he would like to speak about public transit at the State of the County on September 20th.

Commissioner Fix stated he applauds the effort Commissioner Davis has put toward public transit and that he believes it will be important to determine the plan moving forward.

Commissioner Davis explained ODOT may be interested in funding surveys through grants and that studies could prompt ODOT to become involved in the process.

Commissioner Fix stated he plans to speak on the topic of poverty in Fairfield County during the State of the County.

Commissioner Davis spoke about his perception of an aging demographics and stated that a recent article he had viewed indicated that Fairfield County has a younger population than that of many other Ohio counties.

Commissioner Fix added that he thinks the young families in the northwest corner of the county are a contributing factor to the changing data.

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 10:23 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, September 20, 2022, at the Wigwam Event Center located at 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd. NW., Pickerington, OH.

