

**Regular Meeting #38 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 20, 2022**

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at the Wigwam Event Center at 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd. NW, Pickerington, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Corey Clark, Amy Brown-Thompson, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Jennifer Kolometz, Abby Watson, Heather O'Keefe, Gary Hummel, Shawn Rinehart, Rick Szabrak, Jeff Barron, Joe Ebel, Jennifer Valentine, Branden Myer, and Alex Lape.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and thanked Violet Township for hosting the County at the Township's Wigwam Event Center.

Listen & Learn – Apiary, Shawn Rinehart

Shawn Rinehart, Apiary Inspector for Fairfield County, presented on his role as Apiary Inspector. Mr. Rinehart stated that he checks beehives to determine the overall health of the colony and to identify and prevent the spread of diseases and pests to other hives in the area. Mr. Rinehart also stated that certain diseases such as American Foulbrood require the extermination of the entire colony to prevent further spread of the fungal infection. Mr. Rinehart spoke briefly on the role of bees as pollinators and how they help to increase essential crop production in Ohio and touched on the dangers bee and other pollinators face from herbicides and pesticides used in agriculture.

Commissioner Davis asked if it is the job of the County Apiary Inspector to determine if bee colonies are growing in the state and in Fairfield County.

Mr. Rinehart replied that there has been an increase over the years in the total number of beekeepers and bee breeders, however less and less colonies are surviving through the winter and face increased hardships from diseases and pests. He added that honeybees are still not considered endangered.

Commissioner Fix stated that the problems honeybees and native pollinators face is a serious concern.

Commissioner Levacy added that pesticides are used frequently in his area of the County and asked if farmers were aware of the affects spraying had on pollinators.

Mr. Rinehart explained that farmers should be aware of spraying restrictions and nearby colony locations through the Department of Agriculture. He closed by restating that the purpose of the County Apiary Inspector is to keep diseases and pests under control, so they do not become a larger issue.

Commissioner Fix thanked Mr. Rinehart for his work in Fairfield County and for speaking to the Commissioners.

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Discussion – JFS Recruitment and Retention Funding, JFS Director, Corey Clark

Corey Clark, Director of Job and Family Services, provided an update on recruitment and retention funding and stated that \$15M is being distributed among the eight-eight counties by the State of Ohio. Mr. Clark added that as a result, Fairfield County JFS has received approximately \$163,000, specifically for CPS workers. Mr. Clark further added JFS is proposing a \$1,000 stipend for staff as a retention incentive. Mr. Clark also proposed a referral stipend and potentially a sign-on stipend and stated that the money will be available thru June 2023. Mr. Clark stated JFS would provide an Administrative Approval for a one-time compensation plan adjustment.

Commissioner Fix asked if the funds were all Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) funds.

Mr. Clark confirmed the funds would be exclusively provided by ODJFS and no money would be required from the General Fund.

Commissioner Davis asked Mr. Clark to explain the breakdown of the funding.

Mr. Clark explained that although they get \$163,000 for protective services, they can only use that for protective services staff. The rest would be paid with the community services incentives.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, added that the state is encouraging the County to operate as one agency, but the funding is separated by the program. This would be an adjustment to the County's Compensation Plan.

Mr. Clark explained that JFS is in constant contact with other counties in the state and that what JFS is proposing is consistent with those counties.

Update – CFLP, Presented by Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, and the Fairfield County Health Department

Employees from Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action, the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, and the Fairfield County Health Department were present to provide an update and to answer questions on the CFLP grant applications.

Jennifer Kolometz from Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency (LFCAA) began by explaining the grant application is for 2023 and helps LFCAA with yearly operating monies. Ms. Kolometz stated that one of the big items in the budget is a packer truck and that the price has increased \$45,000 since the last truck was purchased. She added that Community Action is now fully staffed and has budgets in line to account for the staffing.

Deputy Gary Hummel from the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office explained their CFLP grant application is asking for approximately \$6000 more due to increased costs.

Joe Ebel, Health Commissioner for the Fairfield County Health Department, explained that they were getting \$28,000-\$30,000 per year and with the new funding formula the most they can now receive is \$8000. Mr. Ebel added the department's costs will not decrease and they are trying to determine how to increase funding and restore funds back to the county health districts.

Commissioner Davis added that the revenue funding trajectory is not positive, and the models currently show that the only way to balance budgets is for significant cuts in six years. The Commissioner added there are some new monies in revenue streams around manufacturing and that you can also see the effects of the pandemic in revenue streams.

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Commissioner Fix stated that out-of-district trash haulers are dumping trash at lower contractor rates.

Commissioner Levacy asked if Community Action is seeing improvement in prices for recyclables.

Jennifer Kolometz stated that prices for recycling are going down and are at about the same rate as that of three years ago.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

Legal Update

Amy Brown-Thompson spoke briefly about the new prosecutor and the remaining open position in the Prosecutor's Office.

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 by the county as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds and that \$18.9M has been appropriated, \$8.2M expended, \$5.9M encumbered or obligated.

Commissioner Fix asked if there was a mechanism in place to reach out to the ARP applicants periodically.

Ms. Cordle stated that Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, was reaching out frequently.

Commissioner Fix stated that the Commissioners had talked about receiving updates from ARP fund recipients.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commissioners would like to see early warning signs of complications of an agency or entity's' project.

Ms. Cordle stated that the Administration has a very good and engaging relationship with all entities and agencies that the county is funding with ARP funds

Mr. Porter stated that meetings with Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army showed that projects are proceeding as planned.

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Developmental Disabilities (DD) Board Member Vacancy

Ms. Cordle stated the County Commissioners had been seeking applicants of qualified, passionate adults who are an immediate family member of an individual eligible for early intervention services or services for preschool or school-age children and that there are potentially four eligible candidates. She added that they are finalizing eligibility for one candidate and that once finalized, interviews with the Commission will be scheduled and DD leadership will be invited to attend the interviews. She stated that the selected candidate will begin serving immediately, for a term to expire December 31, 2025.

PY 2021 Fairfield County HOME Program

Ms. Cordle announced that Community Action has advertised a Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds for the PY 2021 Fairfield County HOME Program that will construct one single-family home in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. She added that the home will be built for a low- and moderate-income family in Pleasantville at an estimated project cost of \$100,000.

Lt. Gov. Husted Speaks with CCAO Members on Partnerships and Innovations to Strengthen Ohio

Ms. Cordle stated that during its Friday meeting, the CCAO Board of Directors was proud to host Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted who discussed with members policy developments to advance Ohio. She added that Lt. Governor Husted spoke on a number of areas where the state and counties had successfully partnered together throughout the DeWine-Husted administration in order to advance common goals, including areas like transportation funding, support for children services, funding for Appalachia Ohio, jail construction and much more. She further added that Husted also spoke about tools to address workforce challenges, including expanding childcare, transportation, and housing, and that these issues limit labor supply to many employers across the state. Ms. Cordle stated CCAO looks forward to working with the administration in addressing many of these challenges moving forward.

Gov. Mike DeWine Says County Workforce Center is a Model for the State

Ms. Cordle also provided Governor DeWine toured the Fairfield Workforce Center the previous Friday with Commissioners Davis and Levacy, along with representatives from Ohio University, Hocking College and Lancaster and Pickerington High Schools.

Economic and Workforce Director, Rick Szabrak, spoke about the Governors visit and thanked the Facilities staff for their work in preparing for the event.

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Legislative Study Committee Reviews "benefit bridge" Pilot Program with County JFS Directors

Ms. Cordle spoke about the Public Assistance Benefits Accountability Task Force meeting the previous week to review a pilot program aimed at transitioning individuals off public benefits. She stated the Benefit Bridge program was implemented in June 2021 in Licking, Allen, Fairfield, Hamilton, Meigs and Stark Counties, with the goal of smoothing the transitions for those receiving public assistance and moving toward self-sufficiency. She also stated the program has been showing favorable results and is necessary because current public assistance eligibility requirements can discourage individuals from seeking raises and promotions, as the benefits they would lose are often more valuable than the wage gains earned from advancement. She added that individuals often fear the uncertainty of losing benefits and lack an ongoing plan and do not have the resources to financially address personal or family crises, and the "Benefit Bridge" program is designed to address all those issues, and a customized success plan is created with the participant.

JFS Director Corey Clark stated that it is important to get participants past what is known as the benefit cliff and that individuals are often assisted with a one-time rent payment, a laptop for school, or equipment for work. Mr. Clark added that Fairfield County is one of seven counties selected to be a pilot for the Benefit Bridge program, and that individuals participating in the program receive training on budgeting.

Fairfield County Employee Engagement Survey

Ms. Cordle stated Fairfield County is participating in the Top Workplaces USA and Columbus CEO Top Workplaces survey again for 2023. She added the survey measures employee satisfaction with their work environment and that the initial outreach for the survey went out that morning. She also added that based upon last year's survey, Fairfield County was rated as the 12th best workplace in central Ohio among large employers.

Commissioner Fix stated that he has been approached by two County Commissioners in the state that have asked if they could visit our county to see how we are making the county one of the top workplaces in the state.

Highlights of Resolutions

Ms. Cordle stated that the review packet contains a list of administrative approvals and that there were 28 resolutions for the voting meeting. She listed the following resolutions of note:

- A resolution authorizing the approval of a contract amendment to an agreement between Premier Physicians Services, Inc. and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office. \$45,875.00 per month.
- A resolution approving the submission of the Fiscal Year 2023 CFLP Litter Law Enforcement and Solid Waste Enforcement Grant Applications to CFLP.
- A resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 CFLP Solid Waste District Recycling Services and Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Application for Fairfield County.

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- A Resolution authorizing Jon Kochis, Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency Director, to prepare and submit a grant application to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant program and to execute contracts as required for a dewatering pump.

Fairfield County Sheriff, Alex Lape, stated that salaries for jail medical services is increasing due to the very tight labor market.

Budget Review

Ms. Cordle stated that Finance Director, Bart Hampson, is currently working through level 3 budget data.

Recognition

Ms. Cordle announced the following recognitions/bravos:

- County Auditor, Dr. Brown shared a recognition she received from a property owner and taxpayer: "I just received a little rebate in the mail for our owner/occupant status change. Thanks so much. Your community engagement and communication have been first rate since you've taken over. Nice work!"
- County Auditor, Dr. Brown thanked Rachel Elsea and Chris Wagner for joining her in the presentation to the Reynoldsburg Rotary.
- County Auditor, Dr. Brown thanked Patrick Brighton and Carter Corcoran for setting up the scales for the Fairfield County Fair with excitement and expertise.
- County Auditor, Dr. Brown thanked the SWCD and DD for their work in preparing for their annual dinners and celebration events.
- Thank you to everyone in the County who volunteered for the United Way Community Care Day. United Way had more than 500 volunteers at numerous worksites.
- Thank you to Christina Foster for assisting Perry County with a prisoner medical charge situation.
- Thank you to Cheryl Reeves for her work on the upcoming employee survey.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

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

- Pickerington Area Chamber Business Summit & Trade Show, Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd., Carroll (Levacy)
- The Missing Arts Piece, Ohio University - Lancaster, 1570 Granville Rd., Lancaster (Fix, Levacy)
- Fairfield County ADAMH mental Health First Aid Training, October 7, 2022, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 111 S. Broad St., Lancaster
- Violet Township Fire Department Open House, October 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Correspondence

Rochelle Menningen, reviewed the following correspondence:

- Auditor Brown's Items of Interest
- Lancaster Eagle Gazette Article, "Gov. Mike DeWine Says County Workforce Center is a Model for the State", Author Jeff Barron, Published September 17, 2022
- 4-H Endowment Committee Thank You Addressed to Commissioner Fix
- Violet Township Board of Zoning Appeals Special Meeting, September 29, 2022, 7:30 p.m., Violet Township Administrative Offices, 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd., Pickerington, Variance Application Filed by Excel Inc., Case Number 17-VA-2022
- Fairfield County Municipal Court, Fee Collection Report, August 2022

Jail Population

Ms. Cordle stated that the jail population for September 13, 2022, was 296 with 50 of those being contracted placements, and for September 20, 2022, was 290 with 47 of those being contracted placements.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy spoke on attending the United Way Community Care Day Kickoff the previous week and commended Carrie Woody for doing an excellent job. Commissioner Levacy went on to speak about the Governor touring the Workforce Center and added he looks forward to seeing how the Workforce Center will evolve in the years to come.

Commissioner Fix also commented on the United Way Community Care Day Kickoff and stated it boasted over 500 volunteers. The Commissioner added he had the chance to attend the Workforce Coalition where there were discussions on the different challenges in workforce development. Commissioner Fix stated he participated in a meeting for One Ohio and reported that the group continues to make progress. Commissioner Fix also spoke about Fairfield County being mentioned by the Lt. Governor, and spoke about State Budget requests concerning indigent defense, JFS, jail capital, and the reinstatement of government funding that was removed under the Kasich administration. The Commissioner concluded his comments by speaking about the retirement of John Pekar and the significance of his tenure with Developmental Disabilities.

Commissioner Davis spoke about judiciary discussions over local indigent defense and asked Sheriff Lape about the high number of incarcerated men and women at the Fairfield County Jail.

Sheriff Lape stated that there were approximately three hundred housed at the County Jail over the Labor holiday weekend. The Sheriff stated that the number can be of concern.

Commissioner Davis spoke about original plans for another pod at the jail and the estimated cost for that pod.

Sheriff Lape added that a neighboring Sheriff is contracting for basically the same facility as that of Fairfield County, and the cost for that county will be around \$92M.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the process to replace the Lancaster City Treasurer, and congratulated Tom Stoughton on his upcoming swearing in.

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New Business

Ms. Cordle spoke about her upcoming participation in the Blue Ribbon Run in Pickerington.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners met immediately following the Review Meeting at the Wigwam Event Center at 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd. NW, Pickerington, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Corey Clark, Amy Brown-Thompson, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Jennifer Kolometz, Abby Watson, Heather O'Keefe, Gary Hummel, Shawn Rinehart, Rick Szabrak, Jeff Barron, Joe Ebel, Jennifer Valentine, Branden Myer, and Alex Lape.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2022

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, September 13, 2022, meeting.

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 Board of Commissioners

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

2022-09.20.a	A resolution approving the submission of the Fiscal Year 2023 CFLP Litter Law Enforcement and Solid Waste Enforcement Grant Applications to CFLP.
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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 Resolutions from the Fairfield County Auditor-Real Estate

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 Auditor-Real Estate:

2022-09.20.b	A resolution authorizing a memo expense memo receipt for reimbursement of agency share of ArcGIS Online License fees for fund 2022 – REA Department
2022-09.20.c	A resolution authorizing a memo expense memo receipt for the 2022 Reimbursement of agency share of Fairfield County Base Mapping Program 2020-2025 for fund 2443 – REA Department

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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 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:

2022-09.20.d A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expense category for fund #8304 –Recovery Court Grant to establish a budget for 2022 – Fairfield County Common Pleas

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 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:

2022-09.20.e A Resolution authorizing Jon Kochis, Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency Director, to prepare and submit a grant application to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant program and to execute contracts as required.

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:

2022-09.20.f A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3434 HOC-17 Bridge Replacement Project

2022-09.20.g A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3434 PLE-29 Bridge Replacement Project

2022-09.20.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for vehicles from state purchasing contract

2022-09.20.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for employee payouts

2022-09.20.j A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2362-Levy for fees.

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2022-09.20.k A resolution to approve a Change Order for the BER-26, FAI-CR63-1.038
Horns Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project

2022-09.20.l A resolution to change a bridge load rating (PLE-32)

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 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 resolutions from Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council:

2022-09.20.m A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 7521 – Family Adult Children First – Sub-Fund 8154 – F.A.C.F.

2022-09.20.n A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to OCTF Perinatal Cluster sub-fund #8307 org. 60830700. Family Adult Children First Council.

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:

2022-09.20.o A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2018 – Public Assistance Fund - Fairfield County JFS

2022-09.20.p A resolution approving Fairfield County Plan for Child, Family and Adult Community and Protective Services Expenditures (State Budget Line Item 533) Job & Family Services

2022-09.20.q A resolution approving Fairfield County Plan for Child, Family and Adult Community and Protective Services Expenditures (State Budget Line Item 533) Job & Family Services

2022-09.20.r A resolution approving Fairfield County Plan for Income Maintenance Expenditures Job & Family Services

2022-09.20.s A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services

2022-09.20.t A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services

2022-09.20.u A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2599 reimbursing Fund 2018

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2022-09.20.v A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Sub Fund 8056 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 Juvenile/Probate 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 Juvenile/Probate Court:

2022-09.20.w A resolution authorizing the approval for the amendment by and between Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court and Tyler Technologies Inc.

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

Approval of a Resolution from Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency:

2022-09.20.x A resolution to approve the fiscal year 2023 CFLP Solid Waste District Recycling Services and Recycling & Litter Prevention Grant Application for Fairfield County

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 Sheriff

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 Sheriff:

2022-09.20.y A resolution authorizing the approval of a contract amendment to an agreement between Premier Physicians Services, Inc. and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

2022-09.20.z A resolution authorizing the use of a Visa Credit Card between Fairfield National Bank and the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office for allowable purposes

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 Utilities

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 Utilities:

2022-09.20.aa A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in an expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5044.

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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:

2022-09.20.bb 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

Recess

Commissioner Fix called a recess at 10:19 a.m.

State of the County Address

The Commissioners met at the Wigwam Event Center in Pickerington, Ohio for the 2022 State of the County Address.

Travis Markwood, President of the Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce, welcomed everyone in attendance to the 2022 State of the County Address, and thanked the Chamber sponsors.

Kim Barlag, President, and CEO of the Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce thanked the County Commissioners and the Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce.

The American Legion Honor Guard presented the colors.

Dr. David Uhl provided the invocation.

Fairfield County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, gave her thanks to all involved in the preparation of the event and spoke about the theme, "Beyond the Frame". Ms. Cordle then welcomed Commissioner Steve Davis to the podium.

Commissioner Steve Davis opened by speaking about his experience as an Uber driver, the process to become vetted as a driver, and his desire to understand more about transportation needs and issues. The Commissioner explained that most people in Fairfield County use Uber to get to doctor appointments, to get to work, and to obtain food. Commissioner Davis is working with United Way, community leaders, and interest groups to gather more data on the topic. The Commissioner recalled some of his Uber encounters and spoke about his desire to be a part of the solution to transportation issues.

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Commissioner Dave Levacy began by speaking about the Governor of Ohio's visit to the Workforce Center. The Commissioner spoke about the importance of Economic Development in Fairfield County and thanked all involved for their work in the development of the Workforce Center. Commissioner Levacy emphasized the importance of having enough jobs as well as good-paying jobs and stated that the addition of Intel and other major companies in the Columbus area will greatly improve the quality of life in Fairfield County and surrounding areas. He continued by speaking about the impact of classes and services at the Workforce Center on both the students and the community and closed by providing a few statistics on high school students from Fairfield County and their post-graduation plans.

A video produced by Remo and Remo Design was shown.

Commissioner Jeff Fix took a moment to recognize the upcoming retirement of Board of Developmental Disabilities Superintendent, John Pekar. The Commissioner spoke about the progress Fairfield County has made and the impacts on the community. Commissioner Fix also spoke about the major economic benefits from the Intel plant and other companies in the County and added that generational poverty is a major issue in Fairfield County and around the country. The Commissioner closed by stating that he hopes to work towards a solution to decrease the impacts of poverty on families and individuals.

Travis Markwood took a moment to recognize the volunteers and Chamber staff who helped set up for the event.

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 1:09 p.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 27, 2022.

Motion by: Steve Davis Seconded by: Dave Levacy
that the September 20, 2022, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix
ABSTENTIONS: None


NAYS: None

*Approved on September 27, 2022

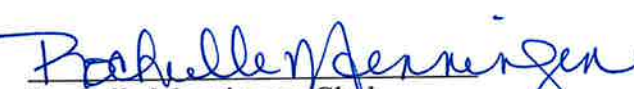
ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on September 27, 2022


Jeff Fik
Commissioner


Dave Levacy
Commissioner


Steven A. Davis
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk