

**Regular Meeting #40 - 2022**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**October 4, 2022**

**Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room of the Historic Courthouse at 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, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Dr. Carri Brown, Lisa McKenzie, Branden Myer, Amy Brown-Thompson, Steven Darnell, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Heather O'Keefe, Rick Szabrak, Deshawn Toney, Marty Norris, John Pekar, Abby Watson, Jason Grubb, Chris Schmelzer, Annie Harbert, Alli Martin, Judy Stemen, and Ray Stemen.

Attending virtually: Tony Howard, Stacy Hicks, Audrey, Marcy Fields, Shelby Hunt, Becky, Jessica Roth, and Andrew Boystel.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

**Listen & Learn – Human Resources, Benefits**

Deputy County Administrator, Jeffrey Porter, presented on Fairfield County benefits. Mr. Porter started by announcing there will be no overall change in rates or deductibles in 2023 and that the only change would be the elimination of one pharmacy on the plan. He added that by eliminating the one pharmacy, the County can continue offering the same prescription program it has been offering, and at the same rate. Mr. Porter highlighted that the benefits program will continue to offer the Wellness Clinic, the onsite counselor, the Employee Assistance Program, and other programs such as Virgin Pulse and Wellbeats. He added that a new benefit that will be available in 2023 is the option to purchase pet insurance and that the Health Reimbursement Account will be continued, and that Virgin Pulse will have some holiday challenges. Mr. Porter stated that Open Enrollment will start October 18<sup>th</sup>. Unrelated to health benefits, Mr. Porter spoke about the Employee Recognition Program and the addition of new recognition years and incentives. He closed by speaking about the Benefits Fair that was occurring that day and the upcoming Benefits Roadshow.

Commissioner Fix provided accolades to Mr. Porter for his work over the last several years on the health insurance rates. The Commissioner added that he has met with County Officials from across the state and has been asked by other counties and their HR departments if they could come to Fairfield County to see how we provide such great benefits and to see how we have such an outstanding workplace culture.

Commissioner Davis asked about the Virgin Pulse app and stated that we are in a good period with great benefits.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, stated that when Mr. Porter started the health insurance rate process, we received a rate with a 14% increase, and then .8%, but Mr. Porter continued working until the increase was at 0%.

Mr. Porter stated that the benefit plan results have been a team effort.

**Public Comments**

Ray and Judy Stemen spoke together on the opinion of many Bible scholars and added that they have been praying for the Commissioners and other elected officials. Mrs. Stemen referred to a passage of scripture and spoke about headlines regarding the COVID vaccination. The Stemens added that they have been married for 61 years.

**Legal Update**

There was no legal update.

**Board of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Interviews**

The Board of Commissioners interviewed applicant Alli Martin for the vacancy on the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Commissioner Fix thanked Ms. Martin for her interest in serving on the Board of DD and asked her to touch on her qualifications.

Ms. Martin explained her direct connection and passion in working with a child with developmental disabilities and stated she has a passion for speaking for children that are unable to speak for themselves so that they are afforded opportunities that they may otherwise not have.

Commissioner Fix asked if Ms. Martin has interacted with DD and the services they provide.

Ms. Martin confirmed she has worked with DD and other agencies and explained the challenges individuals with disabilities and their families face in obtaining quality services.

Commissioner Fix asked Ms. Martin to explain how her professional experiences could help her serve in this position.

Ms. Martin explained that she has extensive experience in working and interacting with all types of people and that she believes the diversity of her experiences helps her to better understand the needs of others. She added that she is excited for the potential opportunity to serve and offer a different perspective to the Board.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Martin for her time and interest in serving and explained how the process would continue.

The Board of Commissioners interviewed applicant Sharon "Annie" Harbert for the vacancy on the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Commissioner Fix thanked Ms. Harbert for her interest in serving on the Board of DD and asked her to touch on her qualifications.

Ms. Harbert spoke on her experience in interacting with and accommodating the needs of those with special needs. She added that she has not had direct interactions with the Fairfield County DD, but has worked with other agencies which work closely with DD.

Commissioner Fix asked Ms. Harbert to touch on her professional experience.

Ms. Harbert stated she served in the United States Army and then transferred to the private sector and worked in human resources. She added that she found that working to help people and accommodate their needs has sparked this interest in her.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Harbert for her time and interest in serving and explained how the process would continue.

The Board of Commissioners interviewed applicant Jessica Roth for the vacancy on the Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Commissioner Fix thanked Ms. Roth for her interest in serving on the Board of DD and asked her to touch on her qualifications.

Ms. Roth explained she is closely connected to children with developmental disabilities and has worked closely with Fairfield County DD. She added that the children she is connected to are very passionate about the services and opportunities provided. Ms. Roth also stated she has done speaking for OPALI which requires her to work with students with special needs and that she takes these lessons and uses them in her own classroom.

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The Commissioners thanked Ms. Roth for her time and interest in serving and explained how the process would continue.

**County Administration Update**

County Administrator Cordle provided the County Administration update.

**Week in Review**

*ARP Update*

Ms. 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, \$8.4M expended, \$5.7M encumbered or obligated.

*Deputy Director of Workforce Development*

Ms. Cordle welcomed Deshawn Toney to the Economic and Workforce Development team.

Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak, introduced his new Deputy Director, Deshawn Toney, and spoke about her duties.

Ms. Toney stated she spent most of her career in non-profits and that she is very happy to be working in Fairfield County.

*Food Donation*

Ms. Cordle stated that Fairfield County employees are encouraged to help Stock the Trailer for the Fill the Pantry campaign happening at the Fairfield County Fair with Farm Credit – Mid-America. She added that in 2021 the Fairfield County Fair, with the help of the Junior Leaders, won the contest with 2.5 tons of donated foods for eight local food pantries and that the drop off locations are throughout County offices through October 7.

*Controlling Board Releases \$15M in ARPA Funds for Ohio Foodbanks*

Ms. Cordle stated Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder announced Ohio is committing \$15 million to help address rising food costs. She added the announcement was made after the Controlling Board released \$15 million in American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds, which ODJFS will issue to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks (OAF). She further added that the funds will be used by foodbanks to work with Ohio-based farms to purchase, transport, store, and distribute livestock, dairy, and poultry protein products for Ohioans in need.

*TID Board Resignation*

Ms. Cordle announced the resignation of the Transportation Improvement District board member, Mitch Noland

Commissioner Fix spoke about the importance of the Transportation Improvement District (TID), and how it impacts everyone.

*Engineer's Office Annual Snow and Ice Control Training and Skills "Road-eo"*

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Ms. Cordle also announced that the Engineer's Office is holding their annual Snow & Ice Control Training & Skills "Road-eo" this Friday, October 7 and that the Commissioners are welcome to join the Engineer's team as they attempt to navigate the plow trucks through the obstacle course.

*Gov. DeWine announces expansion of Bold Beginning Initiative to assist families and children*

Ms. Cordle stated that Governor Mike DeWine announced the previous Friday an expansion to his administration's Bold Beginning Initiative, aimed at supporting families and children across the state and that the initiative had already invested \$1 billion in Ohio's children and families. She further stated the governor's announced expansion to the program includes initiatives to address access to health care and easing the financial burden on families.

*Fairfield County Fair Grand Opening*

The Fairfield County Agricultural Society will be hosting the Grand Opening of the Fairfield County Fair on Monday, October 10 at 8:00 am at the Feeder Creek Show Arena, announced Ms. Cordle.

**Highlights of Resolutions**

Ms. Cordle stated that the review packet contains a list of administrative approvals and that there were 14 resolutions for the voting meeting. She listed the following resolutions of note:

- A resolution where the Fairfield County Engineer will be expending funds from the Motor Vehicle fund for future projects through the Fairfield County Transportation Improvement District (TID).
- Resolution for Approval to sign the Request for Release of Funds for the Program Year 2021 CHIP Grant to construct a Habitat for Humanity House located at 209 S Main Street, Pleasantville Ohio

**Budget Review**

Ms. Cordle stated Budget meetings will take place the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Finance Director, Bart Hampson, stated that the Finance Department is continuing to work through the budget process and thanked all the departments and his staff.

Commissioner Davis stated he had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Cordle, Mr. Porter, and the finance team, and added that he appreciated the work they have been doing on the budget. He added that there are some issues and concerns that the Commissioners will need to address during the budget process and that they are aware of several grant expirations that people are asking the General Fund to cover. He further added that covering grants across the county is a tremendous responsibility.

Auditor Brown spoke about the current estimate of \$53.1M, and about how actual receipts are very close to the estimates. She added that the 2022 receipts do not currently need to be adjusted.

Commissioner Davis, spoke about a current year analysis of investment revenue.

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**Recognition**

Ms. Cordle announced the following recognitions/bravos:

- County Auditor, Dr. Brown, thanked the County Auditor's Accounts Payable team (within Finance) for their good work in maintaining digitization of records.
- County Auditor, Dr. Brown, thanked Nick Dilley and team for the Map of the Month for October – Haunted Places of Fairfield County!
- County Auditor, Dr. Brown, thanked Jen, Michelle, and team for being readily available on Saturday and Sunday for the payroll week completed in three days, prior to the SaaS conversion.
- County Auditor, Dr. Brown, thanked GIS/Mapping for training Lithopolis officials on GIS use and for participating in the HazMat exercise with EMA.
- Thank you to the County IT team for their collective work on managing a phishing campaign, quickly and effectively.
- Thank you to the Workforce Center staff for hosting the Habitat for Humanity Project Playhouse last week. It was great event that exposed a number of people from the community to the great things that we are doing at the Center.

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

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

- Regional Planning Commission, October 4, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Fairfield County Records Center, 138 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster
- County Fair Grand Opening, October 10, 2022, 8:00 a.m., Fairfield County Fairgrounds Feeder Creek Show Arena, 157 E. Fair Ave., Lancaster
- Pickerington City Council meeting, Pickerington City Hall, 101 Lockville Rd., Pickerington
- United Way 5K & 2 Mile Walk, November 12, 2022, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Fairgrounds, Fairground Grandstand, 157 E. Fair Ave., Lancaster
- Fairfield Medical Center Foundation Food & Wine Tasting & Charity Auction, November 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Ohio University-Lancaster, 1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster
- Hocking College Equine Arena Open House & Ribbon Cutting, October 13, 2022, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., Hocking College, 3301 Hocking Pkwy., Nelsonville

**Correspondence**

Rochelle Menningen, reviewed the following correspondence:

- Fairfield County Fair Grand Opening 2022 Agenda and Program
- Memo from Auditor Brown, Dated September 30, 2022
- Press Release, Fairfield County Auditor, "Fairfield County Auditor's Geographical Systems (GIS) Office Recognized as National Leader in GIS Services, September 27, 2022
- Newsletter, Auditor's Ledger: News from the County Auditor's Office, Issue 2
- Resignation Letter from TID Board Member, Mitch Noland
- Ohio EPA Notification of Temporary Authorization, Dated September 22, 2022, EPA ID # OHD071654958

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- Request from Walnut Township Trustee, Terry Horn, for 2023 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program (NRGP) Funding
- Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control, Liquor Permit, Transfer from Permit # 9275132 to Permit # 9275124
- Notice from American Structurepoint, Inc. Regarding Ohio Department of Transportation, District 5, Project No. 2021.0027, IR 70 & SR 256/Taylor Rd.
- Thank you from Chris Stein of Picktown Palooza to Rick Szabrak and Fairfield County for Sponsorship Support

*Jail Population*

Ms. Cordle stated that the jail population for September 27, 2022, was 295 with 46 of those being contracted placements, and for October 4, 2022, was 296 with 43 of those being contracted placements.

**Old Business**

Commissioner Davis touched on the meeting he plans to attend this evening with Pickerington City Council regarding transportation. He thanked all those involved for their support. He believes it is an opportunity to communicate what they are learning in Fairfield County and solidify the current level of support towards transit.

Commissioner Levacy spoke on the event he attended the previous week for the ribbon cutting of the recently finished home by Habitat for Humanity. He was impressed to see the impact this organization has had on the family. He also spoke on an event for Lighthouse Behavioral Solutions he attended and commended the work they do for the community.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, stated the Director of Lighthouse Behavioral Solutions, has expressed an interest to assist in transit efforts.

Commissioner Fix stated he would like to choose the DD Board appointment candidate today.

Commissioner Davis provided his recommendation to consider candidate Alli Martin for the position.

Commissioner Fix liked all three candidates, but thinks that Alli and Jessica's involvement with DD sets them aside. He prefers Jessica's professional background with students who have developmental disabilities.

Fairfield DD superintendent, John Pekar, thinks Jessica is the most qualified applicant. Her professional knowledge outweighs the other candidates in his opinion. He was also impressed by Alli.

**New Business**

Dr. Brown thanked John Pekar for the All-Staff meeting DD held the previous week. She also noted the digitization efforts of records and explained how it had greatly reduced the strain on available space at the records center.

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**Regular (Voting) Meeting**

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Attending virtually: Tony Howard, Stacy Hicks, Audrey, Marcy Fields, Shelby Hunt, Becky, Jessica Roth, and Andrew Boystel.

**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 27, 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 27, 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:

2022-10.04.a      A resolution approving account to account transfers in major object expense categories – Fund# 1001 – Fairfield County Facilities

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 Auditor - Administration**

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 Auditor - Administration:

2022-10.04.b      A resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expenditure object category. Auditor (General Fund)

Commissioner Davis stated he heard the Auditor's budget was within parameters.

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 Domestic Relations 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 Domestic Relations Court:

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2022-10.04.c      A resolution authorizing an account-to-account transfer for the adjustment Personal Services.

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:

2022-10.04.d      A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 7790 for general consulting fees and future projects

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:

2022-10.04.e      A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to the Early Intervention American Rescue Plan Act sub-fund #8297 org. 60829722 Family Adult Children First Council.

2022-10.04.f      A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item, and request approval for appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense category – Fund 7521 - Family Adult Children First Council - Sub-Fund 8307 – OCTF Perinatal Cluster.

2022-10.04.g      A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to Communities of Support sub-fund #8286 org. 60828600 Family Adult Children First Council.

2022-10.04.h      A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to Safe Communities sub-fund #8195 org. 60819522 Family Adult Children First Council.

Executive Director of Family, Adult and Children First Council, Raz Sabaiduc, stated three of the resolutions are for advances and that the advances are to ensure there is a positive balance while they are being reimbursed. He added that they also will set up a fund for the perinatal cluster 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 Utilities**

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 Utilities:

2022-10.04.i      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in an expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5046.



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2022-10.04.j      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in an expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5841.

2022-10.04.k      A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs as a memo expenditure for fund# 5044, 5046, 5842 & 5841

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

**Approval of a Resolution from South Central Major Crimes**

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

2022-10.04.l      A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to Project Income fund 7594 and Federal Equitable 7619

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 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 the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency:

2022-10.04.m      Approval to sign the Request for Release of Funds for the Program Year 2021 CHIP Grant to construct a Habitat for Humanity House located at 209 S Main Street, Pleasantville Ohio 43148.

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:

2022-10.04.n      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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County 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 Fairfield County Board of Commissioners:

2022-10.04.o      A resolution approving the appointment of Ms. Alli Martin to the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Commissioner Davis stated the contributions of John Pekar are greatly appreciated and that he would like to see Alli Martin appointed to the DD Board, and that he greatly respected all of the candidates.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, asked if there were any opportunities to work with DD outside of the Board membership.

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Fairfield DD superintendent, John Pekar, stated there do exist opportunities for the candidates who will not be appointed.

Executive Director of FACFC, Raz Sabaiduc, stated there is an opportunity for the other candidates to participate in programs with FACFC as parent representatives.

Commissioner Fix stated he thinks it is incredible that they are faced with such a difficult discussion about which applicant to choose for the board appointment.

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

### 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 10:35 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, October 11, 2022.

Motion by: Steve Davis                      Seconded by: Dave Levacy  
that the October 4, 2022, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

\*Approved on October 11, 2022

Jeff Fink  
Commissioner

  
Dave Levacy  
Commissioner

  
Steven Davis  
Commissioner

Rochelle Menningen  
Rochelle Menningen, Clerk