

Regular Meeting #50 - 2021
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 2, 2021

Public Viewing – Petition to Vacation a Portion of Shell Road, Walnut Township

The Commissioners held a public viewing at 8:00 a.m. regarding a petition to vacate a portion of Shell Road in Walnut Township. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present was Mark Moyer.

The Commissioners viewed the area petitioned to be vacated.

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Aunie Cordle, Rachel Elsea, Jon Kochis, Carri Brown, Tony Vogel, Joe Ebel, Thomas Lininger, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Chris Wagner, Vince Carpico, Deputy Norris, Chris Schmelzer, David Miller, Dennis Keller, Rick Szabrak, Jeremiah Upp, Branden Meyer, and other members of the public.

Attending virtually were: Jim Bahnsen, Dave Burgei, Lisa McKenzie, Jason Dolin, Raz Sabaiduc, Stacy Hicks, Tony Howard, Jeff Camechis, Marcy Fields, Dan Neeley, and Jessica Murphy.

- Welcome
- Fairfield Forward

Grant Meeting with Townships, Villages, and Cities

Mr. Szabrak provided an update on the meeting. Around 16 people (representing 10-11 municipalities) attended. Hicks will meet with each interested municipality to see what resources they can provide.

Main Uses of the ARP Fiscal Recovery Funds

We discussed how there are two main uses of ARP fiscal recovery funds for us:

1. Responding to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

As we think about the first purpose, we will need to:

- Identify a need or negative impact of the public health emergency,
- Identify how the county investment would specifically address that need, and
- Readily explain how the investment helps the county respond to the disease or the harmful economic consequences of the economic disruption.

With the ARP fiscal recovery funds, \$1.4 M has been spent; \$4 M is encumbered, and \$7.9 M has been authorized for use.

For the voting agenda, there will be a resolution to approve an authorized use and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met.

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There is an administrative meeting to review the subgrant agreement with Walnut Township, now in draft form. The review packet contained a draft.

There are multiple projects under review. We continue to connect partners and stakeholders to research affordable housing and various factors connected to antecedents of those in unsheltered situations.

Planning sessions with RAMA and the planning team are scheduled for November and December.

We are still on target for a draft report from RAMA by the year end.

- COVID 19 Update

Mr. Ebel reported they have seen a decline in COVID cases with cases leveling out to roughly 38 cases a day. Hospitalizations are down. There were 12 deaths reported so far for October. Those numbers run a few weeks behind and will probably increase.

They hope to start vaccinating the younger age group starting next week. It will be two doses and will take roughly 5 weeks to be fully vaccinated. About 45% of eligible students are vaccinated. They plan to see similar numbers in the younger age group as well. The schools just finished up their first week of the new masking policy "Mask to Stay, Mask to Play." Mr. Ebel encouraged those who have not had the flu shot to get one.

Mr. Kochis added that the workplace guidance is still the same and that will be emailed out today.

- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek did not have a legal update.

- Administration and Budget Update

- a. Announcements & Dates of Interest

- Announcements

Anyone can email a question anytime: Aundrea.Cordle@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov

- Dates/Events of Interest

November 2 – RPC meeting at 5:30

November 4 – Roundtable at the Workforce Center

November 11 – Veterans Day (offices closed)

November 25 and 26 – Thanksgiving holiday (offices closed)

November 30 – Engineer Projects Viewings and Hearings

November 30 - Commission Connection Video, Commissioner Levacy

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

There were 13 resolutions for the voting meeting.

- The Engineer proposed a change order to show decreases costs for a bridge project.
- We proposed approval of a contract for services with Hicks Partners for the grant writing support discussed previously to assist townships, villages, and cities.

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There were 11 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- A resolution to approve an authorized use and appropriate from unappropriated funds for the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met; A press release on this will be going out today.
- 4 resolutions to appropriate from unappropriated funds for special revenue funds of JFS and the Sheriff;
- 2 resolutions for account-to-account transfers of appropriations to properly classify expenditures;
- 3 repayments of advances for JFS and the Sheriff; and
- Bills requiring Commission approval.

In queue, there were multiple contracting and financial resolutions.

c. Administrative, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative & Program Updates

Administrative Approvals

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

BOR COVID Related Hearings

Hearings for the Special Covid-19-Related Complaints Against the Valuation of Real Property will begin at 9 a.m. on November 3. Aunie Cordle will represent the Commission.

National Public Employers Labor Relations Association Conference

Aunie Cordle will be attending this conference from November 4-10 for continuing education purposes and as a National PELRA Board member.

Performance Evaluations

These are in process for the Commission Departments.

Simplifile

The Fairfield County Auditor's Office is excited to announce the availability of new technology for the public. With e-recordings, or Simplifile, there is now an additional ability to submit, receive, and process documents for recording through the Internet.

Traditionally, documents are sent to the office for recording by a runner, express mail, or courier service. This new electronic option will help businesses save money by reducing the amount of time they spend recording documents and by reducing costs of postage and supplies.

A press release was in the review packet.

Dr. Brown reported there were already 10 recordings filed using this method.

ADAMH Board Position

We continue to accept applicants for the ADAMH Board position. ADAMH has a desire for financial and/or legal experience. Interviews will not be scheduled until November.

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Solar Farm Discussion

An administrative meeting was held with members of Soil and Water Conservation District, Economic Development, Regional Planning, Auditor's Office, and the Prosecutor's office to discuss Solar Farm considerations. The group will learn more and reconvene in the 1st quarter of 2022.

SWCD is not necessarily opposed to the project but wants to be engaged in the process and involved in conversations as they have concerns about drainage, pipelines, topsoil protection, and road erosion.

RPC will invite Geenex to an RPC meeting.

We will continue to hold work group meetings. Currently, there are no recommendations except to continue to gather information.

During the meeting, several documents and bulletins were shared.

October Idea Box Update

Two additional ideas were received and addressed.

Idea 71: An employee wondered about the possibility of putting up some blinds or curtains on the flex room windows (the windows in the exercise room). The employee thought this would make things a little more comfortable.

Response: We checked out putting some blinds or curtains in that area making sure that Facilities is okay with the approach, given the windows are aluminum. Ultimately, the windows need to be exposed for safety advantages.

Idea 72: Generally, an employee suggested a reminder for department heads and supervisors to communicate about changes in procedures or policies. The employee suggested email communication whenever there was a departmental procedure change.

Response: In response to the idea box submission, we reminded department heads and supervisors about the importance of communication in general. Some will communicate often with multiple methods; some might use email.

We also encourage employees to share ideas in a kind, open way with supervisors for practical reasons. We encourage open communication to build trust.

Being able to communicate effectively is one of the most important life skills to learn. We in Fairfield County have some great training tools to help with that, too. HR can provide more information about Service Skills and the High-Performance Leadership Academy.

Data Board Executive Committee

- Met to discuss pilot of electronic signature block
- There has been a desire to accomplish this for awhile
- Thankful that we are moving this forward

State Capital Budget Submission for Fairfield County

- Workforce Center Capital Improvements
- Will be moving OU's Engineering Tech program to the Center
- Last biennium, we submitted for Workforce Center and have been encouraged to submit again

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Budget Update

Ongoing Sales Tax Review & Budget Review

- Without considering December, the revenues exceed the annual expectations.
- Budget hearings have concluded except for two follow up meetings with the Sheriff and Board of Elections. Thanks for the exceptional cooperation.
 - Administrative meetings scheduled for the BOE on 12/1 at 1:30 and the Sheriff on 11/12 at 9:00.
 - Expect passage of the budget on December 14
 - Level 4 entry ends on November 22

d. BRAVOS

Mr. Levacy thanked everyone who helped with the Board of Elections vendor issue in hand delivering 111 absentee ballots.

- Court staff is very appreciative of Randy Carter for his outstanding work with their systems.
- Bravo to Rick Szabrak for his leadership at Grants meeting.
- Rick Szabrak thanked Tammy Smith, Taylor, and the team for their help at the Workforce Center.
- We appreciate our volunteers for the Lancaster High School Marketing Program mock interviews:
 - Dan Neeley
 - Rick Szabrak
 - Sgt. Cassell
 - Ronda Baldwin
 - Wendy Hale
- Dr. Brown thanked Patrick Brighton for quickly providing information about weights and measures costs to help answer a question from another county.
- Dr. Brown also thanked and sent GEMs to Emylee Gussler and Meagan Bowland for managing a phishing scenario and for putting cybersecurity training to use.
- Congratulations to the Real Estate team for the submission of the abstract for tax year 2021 for collections in 2022. Total real estate values were shown as \$4,245 B. The Board of Revision has a meeting on November 3.
- 20 individuals assisted with a time sensitive board of elections project
 - Brian Wolfe (Commissioners' office)
 - Mike Lieber (community member)
 - Marla Lieber (community member)
 - Aunie Cordle (Commissioners' office)
 - Carri Brown (Auditor)
 - Jay Mattlin (Auditor)
 - Christina Foster (Commissioners' Office)
 - Meagan Bowland (Auditor)
 - Todd McCullough (DD)
 - Shannon McCullough (Utilities)
 - Corey Clark (JFS)
 - John Pekar (DD)
 - Tony Vogel (Utilities)
 - Tony's MIL (don't know her name)
 - Jodi Smith (JFS)

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- Kathy Hyme (JFS)
- Heather Funk (JFS)
- Suzie Lynch (JFS)
- Abby Watson (JFS)
- Alyssa Timmons (JFS)

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Connections & Updates

Commissioner Fix provided an update on the visit to the Habitat House in Pleasantville. Yesterday he attended the ribbon cutting for the Coyote Run being named the 140th State Nature Preserve.

Commissioner Davis reported he checked in with Mr. Janoso and FMC is doing well. He met with United Way Director Woody and is looking forward to the changes coming to United Way.

- New Business

- a. Article re: closing of the Logan County Juvenile Detention Center

Mr. Davis reported they are in discussions with the MCJDC partners.

- General Correspondence

- a. CCAO Newsletter Article by Commissioner Fix

- b. CCAO article highlighting Fairfield, Franklin, and Hamilton Counties for their leadership in the NACo High Performance Leadership Development Program

- Invitations (none)

- FYI

- a. Jail Population – 263

- b. New State Grant for Lancaster

- c. Pickerington Senior Center Newsletter

- d. Follow-up re: Lighting concerns on West Fair Avenue

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, beginning at 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Aunie Cordle, Rachel Elsea, Carri Brown, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Joe Ebel, Thomas Lininger, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Dennis Keller, Jeremiah Upp, Rick Szabrak, Vince Carpico, Chris Wagner, David Miller, Branden Meyer, Chris Schmelzer, Deputy Norris, Jeff Porter, and other members of the public.

Attending virtually were Jim Bahnsen, Jeff Camechis, Dan Neeley, Dave Burgei, Jessica Murphy, Lisa McKenzie, Lynette Barnhart, Raz Sabaiduc, Stacy Hicks, and Tony Howard.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Levacy asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were any announcements.

Rachel Elsea reported, as a reminder, public comments are to be limited to three minutes. Comments may or may not be about county business. While this is a time for the public to offer comments, this is not a time for questions and answers. Comments represent the view of the person commenting.

Public Comment

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

Mr. Chris Schmelzer of Bremen stated that he voted today and believes votes are being manipulated. He would like Fairfield County to consider auditing elections. He also spoke regarding his thoughts on Polio, COVID, and other items of national interest.

Approval of Minutes for October 28, 2021 Regular Meeting

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the October 28, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' resolution to approve an authorized use of American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funding and to appropriate from unappropriated funds from the County ARP fiscal recovery fund, #2876, for a broadband infrastructure purpose, pledging support to broadband providers participating in the State of Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program and benefitting Fairfield County residents when certain criteria are met; see resolution 2021-11.02.a.

Discussion: Mr. Levacy stated that broadband access use to be a major issue in Fairfield County and that he is happy to see Mr. Upp has stepped in and made it easier to provide these services to the residents. Mr. Upp thanked Mr. Levacy and added that the criteria for installing fiber optic lines have changed. This has been very successful and there is much more to come.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Clerk of Courts – Legal Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Clerk of Courts – Legal resolutions:

2021-11.02.b	A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category – Clerk of Courts Legal Division [Clerk of Courts- Legal]
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2021-11.02.c	A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category – Clerk of Courts Title Division [Clerk of Courts- Legal]
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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the Economic Development Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic Development resolution to authorize an agreement for grant writing services; see resolution 2021-11.02.d.

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak stated this was an idea of Dr. Brown's to provided support to townships and villages. They hope to turn \$100,000 into millions of dollars of grants.

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's Office resolution to approve a Change Order for the LIB-26, FAI-TR251-00.406 Bader Road Bridge Replacement Project; see resolution 2021-11.02.e.

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

Approval of the Job and Family Services Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Job and Family Services resolutions:

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| 2021-11.02.f | A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for Fund #2843 (12284300) – Ohio Start Grant – Fairfield County JFS. [JFS] |
| 2021-11.02.g | A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund #2843 Ohio START Program, Fairfield County Child Protective Services (CPS) Division. [JFS] |
| 2021-11.02.h | A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for Fund #2072 Children Services (1227207) – Children Services Sub-Fund #8182 EPIC (12207218) Fairfield County JFS. [JFS] |

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

Approval of the Sheriff's Office Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Sheriff's Office resolutions:

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|--------------|--|
| 2021-11.02.i | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Sheriff's Office Fund 2711 Continuous Professional Training [Sheriff] |
| 2021-11.02.j | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Sheriff's Office Fund 2503 Police Revolving [Sheriff] |
| 2021-11.02.k | A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund (Fund 2503 Police Revolving). [Sheriff] |

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:02 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Motion by: _____
Seconded by: _____
that the November 2, 2021, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: _____

ABSTENTIONS: None

NAYS: None

* Approved on November 9, 2021

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

Jeff Fix
Commissioner

Rachel A. Elsea, Clerk

2021-11.02.1 A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund (Fund 2394 CFLP Solid Waste District). [Sheriff]

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Payment of Bills resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval; see resolution 2021-11.02.m

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Commissioner Levacy stated at 9:47 a.m. that the Commission would b in recess until the 11:00 a.m. Public Hearing.

Public Hearing – Petition to Vacate a Portion of Shell Road in Walnut Township

The Commissioners held a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. regarding a petition to vacate a portion of Shell Road in Walnut Township. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix and Dave Levacy. Also present were Aunie Cordle, Rachel Elsea, and Jeremiah Upp.

Mr. Levacy opened the hearing.

Mr. Levacy and Mr. Fix viewed the site earlier in the morning. Mr. Mark Moyer attended the viewing.

The Engineer's office reviewed the vacation to make sure there were not any issues to other properties. They do not have any concerns with the petition. Everything looks good from their standpoint, and they have no objection to the petition.

There were no comments in support of or opposition to the proposed petition to vacate a portion of Shell Street.