

**Regular Meeting #50 - 2020**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**November 3, 2020**

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:01 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Kirk Davis, and Jon Slater. Attending virtually were Joshua Horacek, Diana Steckman, Jon Kochis, Stephanie Fyffe, Chris Wagner, Mark Conrad, Jeff Porter, Hannah Heimbarger, Jeff Barron, Michael Kaper, Tony Vogel, Shannon Carter, Stacy Hicks, Jim Bahnsen, Dave Burgei, Dennis Keller, Lisa McKenzie, Tony Howard, Nikolas Hutton, Larry Hanna, Chief Lape, Rick Szabrak, and others.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, provided an update on the COVID-19 responses. He reported on the upswing in the weekend numbers which was mainly due to the outbreak in a single facility. More concerning is the Central Ohio ICU capacity and the hospital admissions. Fairfield Medical Center remains well-proportioned compared to the rest of Central Ohio. He believes there is greater than 50% chance Fairfield County will go “red” with the state’s health advisory this week.

Mr. Fix asked if there were any concerns with any of the school systems.

Mr. Kochis replied there are a few cases here and there, and the schools have been isolating students as needed.

Mr. Fix asked who monitors plans of the schools.

Mr. Kochis replied that was the Health Department.

Ms. Fyffe reported there is one nursing home experiencing an outbreak. They are working with the schools as well. While they are not seeing a lot of cases in the schools, they are seeing a lot of students or teachers in quarantine due to exposure either out of school or in school. For detailed information on the outbreaks everyone can visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov). She noted that the numbers are high throughout the county, even without the facility outbreak. They are working on spreading the message on what it means to isolate and quarantine.

Mr. Hanna reported they are bringing in other staff to help with the contact tracing. They are extremely behind. If they continue to be so behind, they will likely have to go into a crisis mode and conduct tracing with the neediest cases. He anticipates they will be in this mode in the next two weeks.

Mr. Davis asked if there were any resources the Commission could provide.

Mr. Hanna replied there was not anything they currently could think of but would keep that in mind.

Mr. Levacy thanked Mr. Hanna and Ms. Fyffe for all they are doing.

Mr. Fix asked about the oversight of reopening schools.

Ms. Fyffe replied they are still in contact with schools and meet virtually every Friday. They have several schools in the county who are in school full time. There is some concern as you cannot do all the necessary social distancing in that environment.

Dr. Brown noted the County will continue teleworking in various ways and offered to share information with any departments as necessary to help with teleworking.

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Mr. Kochis urged everyone to be diligent to help stop the spread.

Mr. Davis asked that Mr. Hanna and Ms. Fyffe convey to the entire Health Department the Commission's appreciation for their work.

During the press conference on October 29, Governor DeWine called on leaders in each county to form, if they have not already, a *COVID Defense Team* that includes the county commissioners (or county council members and county executive), mayors, health commissioner, local hospital leaders, business leaders, religious leaders, and other local leaders. The governor acknowledged that many counties already have such groups or similar groups established. He is asking the *COVID Defense Teams* to assess the county situation, inventory assets, and focus on what steps are needed. The governor noted it is crucial for the *Defense Team* to explain to people in their community what is happening and what steps must be taken to slow the spread of the virus.

We propose using the existing EMA Community Health Coalition as the building blocks for the *COVID Defense Team*. It is a well-connected group, and the next meeting is November 12 at 1 pm. It is a virtual meeting. In addition, we will continue to have weekly updates with the Commission meetings, which also have a virtual option.

One of the best things we can do is continue our safeguarding measures. From a county perspective, we are physically distancing, washing hands, monitoring symptoms, and wearing masks. We have virtual options for meetings, and we are avoiding gatherings to help keep community spread as low as possible. With staff, we are teleworking and using shift work whenever possible. Our buildings are open for services mostly by appointment to help keep the distancing at least six feet apart. With courts, we have arranged for alternative locations when necessary to maintain distancing. Video hearings are used whenever possible. The jail protocols are being maintained for safeguarding. We have alerted employees multiple times about the safeguarding measures.

In public meetings, we have shared the state public awareness announcements. Our flu clinics were successful, and EMA and the Health Department are coordinating well. We will continue to have weekly updates on Tuesdays. And we are staying connected with stakeholders.

The review packet contained *an open letter from Governor DeWine to the people of Ohio in the final days before the election calling for unity and renewed commitment to fighting the coronavirus.*

- Legal Update

Ms. Brown-Thompson reported there is no new news on the Franklin County case.

Ms. Brown-Thompson provided information about requesting a hearing for liquor permits issued by the state. The prosecutor's office will review the reports provided this morning by the Sheriff's Office to see if any of the incidents rise to the level of objection for the liquor permit. They will report back next week on their review.

Mr. Fix noted that having had issues like this in Pickerington, raising the issue alone had resulted in a change of behavior.

The current permit under review is for Buckeye Beach.

Mr. Davis informed Mr. Horacek he wants to restart discussion regarding the indigent defense reimbursements. He asked Mr. Horacek who he should start those conversations with at this time.

Mr. Horacek replied he would stay out of the discussions, but Jason Price is the Chairman of the Indigent Defense Committee and would be the appropriate person to contact. Mr. Horacek will provide his contact information. If a member of the executive committee should be involved it would be Jennifer Sitterly, currently the Vice President.

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Returning to the conversation about liquor permits, Mr. Levacy asked if there would be any communications with the applicant.

Ms. Brown-Thompson replied she thought it was too early to say.

Mr. Horacek added that once they review the reports, if they are in the grey area, it may be worth communicating with the applicant to see if they can prompt a change of behavior.

Mr. Fix explained how they were able to change the behavior of the bar they had issues within Pickerington.

- CARES Act Funds

At the next meeting, there will be at least one resolution relating to the CARES Act funds for the county. There will likely be additional financial resolutions for the CARES Act funds over the next several weeks.

We have reached out to Community Action to offer physical space at Tussing Road (if needed for CARES Act delivery and/or HEAP delivery). We talked previously about the Community Action effort for rent, mortgage, and water assistance, and the applications are available for anyone affected in these areas by COVID-19 and meeting the requirements, such as at being no more than 200% of poverty guidelines. For a family of four, this is \$52,400. An example of the application is in the review packet.

During the budget hearings on Thursday, we shared this information with several people. We also sent a global email about the opportunity.

The Commission and Mr. Slater commended Dr. Brown on her hard work.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

- Announcements

- Anyone can email or text a question anytime:  
[Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov](mailto:Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov) or (740) 777-8552

- Date Reminders

- Wednesday, November 11 – Veterans Day
    - Thursday, November 12 – Virtual Roundtable (Drafts are in the review packet. Special dates are also in the review packet.)
    - Friday, November 13 – Employee Recognition (Records Center)
    - Tuesday, November 17 am – Viewing and Hearing for Lockville Alley
    - Thursday & Friday, November 26, 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday
    - Thursday, December 3 – Viewing Day – with the County Engineer
    - Tuesday, December 8 – Target Date to Pass the County Budget
    - Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve – Courthouse Closes at Noon
    - Friday, December 25, Christmas – Offices are Closed
    - Monday, January 11 – Reorganizational Meeting
    - Tuesday, January 12- First Regular Meeting of 2021

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 13 resolutions for the voting meeting.

We had a resolution for the holiday schedule of 2021, following the same pattern as previous years and as recommended by the Recruitment and Retention Committee.

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We had a resolution to approve a small change order for a reduction for the FAI-CR18/20/31 Resurfacing Project. We also had a resolution to approve a Change Order for the BLO-35, FAI-CR23-2.461 Winchester Road over a Tributary to Walnut Creek Culvert Replacement Project, an increase.

There was a contract with Community Action for the recycling program.

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

- Repayment of an advance by EMA;
- A resolution authorizing the County Auditor to assess and place on the tax duplicate delinquent sewer rentals for the Buckeye Lake Sewer System for the dates of July 15, 2020 through August 15, 2020;
- Appropriations for County Engineer projects (two resolutions), the Sheriff, and EMA;
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for the Dog Shelter and Sheriff; and
- The payment of bills (for WIOA).

In queue, there are financial and contracting resolutions at various stages of progress. For example, we forecast a settlement agreement for an appropriation of land for an Engineer's project.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Update

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

Budget Update

*Target date for passing the 2021 appropriation measure*

The target date for the 2021 budget to be passed is December 8.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> is the final date for adjustments at the special revenue (board) department level.

*Meeting schedule*

Following December 8, the Commission will be available for (virtual) meetings if there are financial or other resolutions to be addressed.

January 11 is the date set for the reorganizational meeting. January 12<sup>th</sup> will be the first regular meeting of the new year.

*Strategic planning*

The 2021 budget is tied to the county wide strategic plan (within the review packet). There is also a draft technology template prepared (shared with IT and ready for Data Board use) because of the common thoughts about comprehensive technology strategies (also in the review packet).

*Casino revenue update*

Also, casino revenues for the July-September 2020 period came in very strong, as expected. The deposit for this period was \$537,553, or more than 14% above the previous July – September. The annual total is \$1,495,681.91, a 21% reduction over the previous year based on how the casinos were closed because of the

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pandemic. We have adjusted the planning tool. The estimate for 2021 is the standard \$1.75 M.

*BWC refund – a third time*

We will keep our eyes open for the BWC refund that is expected. This is the first time that we can ever remember three refunds within one year, and we appreciate how the state is helping with this refund and sharing in the resources they have at BWC.

d. BRAVOS

Congratulations to Commissioner Dave Levacy for being honored with the Floyd Wolfe award by the Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations to all Chamber award winners.

Congratulations to the Land Bank for earning the State Auditor's financial reporting award. We celebrated this with the County Auditor previously. The State Auditor may come to a Commission meeting to present these awards.

Bravo to the Workforce Center team. The MAGNA equipment is being installed! The team recently held a virtual retreat, too, to consider strategies. In addition, the WIOA Area 20 is conducting a labor analysis and has issued an announcement about that study, which Rachel Elsea tweeted.

Mr. Levacy stated every time he sees another step taken in the Workforce Center he is amazed with the innovation of the project.

Thanks to everyone for their interest in the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. Thanks to the Commission for supporting the employees who desire to take this training.

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Fix had a good strategic planning session for CCAO on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, CCAO is highly supportive of Fairfield County's utilization of the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy. The first meeting will be November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Fix will share the CCAO Board priorities documents with the Commission.

- New Business

- General Correspondence Received

- a. Regional Planning Commission Packet for November 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

- Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- a. CCAO Energy Committee Virtual Annual Meeting – November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
– Dennis Keller will attend

Mr. Davis is interested in the subject matter and has shared his thoughts and concerns with Mr. Keller.

- b. MCJDC Meetings, November 13

- FYI

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- a. Jail Population – 248
  - b. Thank you notes
  - c. Open enrollment is live
  - d. Notice of Class I Modification from Retrieval Technologies
  - e. Jon Kochis will be in Walnut Township today and will send pictures of the radio tower.
  - f. We will stay in touch with CCAO about the need for ongoing virtual meetings to help safeguard against the virus.
  - g. Public records requests can be made to [Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov) or [Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)
- Open Items (none)

Commissioner Davis stated at 9:55 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting.

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Jon Slater, and Kirk Davis. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Chris Wagner, Dave Burgei, Dennis Kelle, Stephanie Fyffe, Jeremiah Upp, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, Chief Lape, Nikolas Hutton, Mark Conrad, and Tony Vogel.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Davis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

**Announcements**

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

**Public Comment**

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

**Approval of Minutes for Thursday, October 29, 2020**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Thursday, October 29, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

**Approval of the Commissioners' Resolutions**

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

- 2020-11.03.a            A resolution to approve the Holiday Schedule for 2021. [Commissioners]
- 2020-11.03.b            A resolution authorizing the County Auditor to assess and place on the tax

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duplicate delinquent sewer rentals for the Buckeye Lake Sewer System for the dates of July 15, 2020 through August 15, 2020 [Commissioners]

2020-11.03.c      A resolution entering into a contract between Fairfield County and the CFLP Solid Waste District for Recycling Services for 2021.  
[Commissioners]

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

**Approval of the Dog Shelter Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Dog Shelter resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major expenditure object category; see resolution 2020-11.03.d.

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

**Approval of the Emergency Management Agency Resolutions**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Emergency Management Agency resolutions:

2020-11.03.e      A resolution to request for appropriations for receipts for EMA  
Emergency Performance Grant Fund 2707 [EMA]

2020-11.03.f      A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the  
General Fund from EMA 8147 Hazardous Materials Emergency Training  
Grant Fund. [EMA]

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

**Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions**

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

2020-11.03.g      A resolution to approve a Change Order for the FAI-CR18/20/31  
Resurfacing Project. [Engineer]

2020-11.03.h      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure  
object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for repairs and  
water for facility [Engineer]

2020-11.03.i      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure  
object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for road salt for  
2020-2021 snow season [Engineer]

2020-11.03.j      A resolution to approve a Change Order for the BLO-35, FAI-CR23-2.461  
Winchester Road over a Tributary to Walnut Creek Culvert Replacement  
Project. [Engineer]

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

**Approval of the Sheriff's Resolutions**

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

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|--------------|--|
| 2020-11.03.k | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Sheriff's Office Fund 2442 Commissary [Sheriff] |
| 2020-11.03.l | A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 1001 [Sheriff]  |

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

### Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, 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 2020-11.03.m.

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

### Open Items

The Commission encouraged anyone who had not already voted to vote.

Commissioner Davis was happy to have his brother Kirk Davis (traveling from Boston) with him during the meeting and throughout the day.

### Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:06 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
that the November 3, 2020 minutes were approved by the following vote:

**YEAS:**                      **NAYS:** None

ABSTENTIONS: None

\*Approved on November 10, 2020

  
 Steven A. Davis  
 Commissioner

  
 Dave Levay  
 Commissioner

  
 Jeff Fox  
 Commissioner

Rachel A Elsea  
Rachel A Elsea, Clerk