

Regular Meeting #53 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 12, 2020

Roundtable

The Commissioners met at 8:32 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Davis called this roundtable meeting with elected officials and department heads to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown and Rachel Elsea. Attending virtually were Amy Brown-Thompson, Aubry Fowler, Jim Bahnsen, Branden Meyer, Shannon Carter, Chris Wagner, Aunie Cordle, Dave Burgei, David Miller, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Porter, Jeremiah Upp, John Pekar, Jon Kochis, Jon Slater, Joshua Horacek, Kelly Turben, Kyle Witt, Chief Lape, Judge Laura Smith, Leslie Cooksey, Lisa McKenzie, Luann Davidson Lynette Barnhart, Magistrate Jill Boone, Mark Conrad, Michael Kaper, Nikki Drake, Park Russell, Rhonda Myers, Rick Szabrak, Tamara Ennist, Judge Terre Vandervoort, Thomas Lininger, and Tony Vogel.

- **Welcome**

Mr. Davis welcomed everyone. He stated he received a call from a gentleman who lost his wife due to COVID-19 last week and encouraged the Commission to continue to do all they can to fight the virus. Mr. Davis spent most of Wednesday on the phone with several doctors. One of them shared the thought that the virus will be with us for years to come, even after there is a vaccine. He thinks this is something to keep an eye on. There will not be a time in the five-year horizon where they are not having to account for the existence of the virus and how operations are affected by that.

Mr. Levacy thanked everyone for joining the meeting and urged them all to stay the course with safeguarding measures.

Mr. Fix stated he is incredibly encouraged by how the county government has come through so far and is impressed with the adaptability of the employees. He is grateful for Fairfield County emerging as a leader in the state.

Dr. Brown added she receives communications from other counties every day regarding what they are doing during the pandemic. She noted not all counties have such great cooperation or collaboration with their other elected offices. She was grateful to work in Fairfield County with its positive organizational culture. She encouraged everyone to continue with the basics of wearing masks, washing hands, and keeping at least six feet apart. She commented on email sent to all employees earlier in the day.

- **Department Updates**

- a. Emergency Management Agency – Jon Kochis

Mr. Kochis stated EMA is now receiving PPE again from the state. They will make one distribution per week to the 95 organizations they support. The COVID Defense Team meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. They have 144 who have been invited and expect a good turnout. They continue to work with the Health Department on a vaccine distribution plan. The vaccine will be coming soon, but storage will be challenging as it requires ultra-low temperatures.

Mr. Kochis also updated everyone on winter preparations and encouraged everyone to have their contact information updated in MUNIS for potential winter weather advisories.

EMA recently received their storm ready certifications. Mr. Kochis will visit the Real Estate and Treasurers Office regarding security thoughts. Anyone can contact Mr. Kochis with any security issues.

Mr. Kochis commented that Airport is undergoing a terminal renovation. They will also update their ten-year master plan starting in January.

- b. Health Department

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Mr. Davis called a Special Meeting on Saturday, November 14th at noon with the Governor via Zoom. The Governor's Office will host the meeting, but by calling a special meeting, this allows all Commissioners who would like to participate to participate in the call. There could be actions to take because of the Governor's Zoom meeting.

c. Sheriff's Office

Congratulations to Sheriff Phalen on his retirement and Chief Lape on his election!

d. Board of Elections

The Board of Elections continues to work on certifying election results. We are thankful for the organized and civil process thus far.

e. Economic and Workforce Development – Rick Szabrak

Mr. Szabrak updated everyone on the Career Readiness Program. There are 150 students participating in the certificate program right now. The first training at the Workforce Center has occurred. They will begin hosting classes in early spring, pandemic permitting. OU will host some health care training with clinic work in the Workforce Center. Mr. Szabrak reviewed staffing needs throughout Fairfield County businesses.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Szabrak to keep in constant contact with Dr. Brown should there be more closures of businesses.

Mr. Fix expressed his concern with the number of unfilled jobs.

Dr. Brown provided some statistics about the increase in the number of students who have earned Career Readiness. She also reported a Fairfield County example will be highlighted next week with an additional Economic Development update.

f. Utilities – Tony Vogel

Mr. Vogel provided an update on developments. The housing market in Violet Township is doing very well, and they are keeping up with it. The office is moving forward with posting five positions for operators.

g. Treasurer & Land Bank – Jim Bahnsen

They will start sending property tax bills in January. Staff is preparing to move to the first floor and make their temporary office permanent. They are working on isolating staff in case there needs to be a quarantine.

Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Bahnsen for his customer service orientation and keeping foot traffic on the first floor for safety.

h. Auditor (Auditor, IT, GIS, Real Estate) – Jon Slater

Mr. Slater reported the real estate market is still very hot in Fairfield County. They are staying busy and are learning to use the new building across the street. The new space has helped with spacing issues.

He urged everyone to check their budgets for the end of the year processing.

The administrative team is working on the law change that allows for surviving spouses of public safety officers to have homestead exemptions. They are working to spread the word that this is available. Mr. Slater stated he would provide text to tweet about this. He also stated he would follow up to confirm that Fairfield

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County has spent or encumbered all funds from the CARES Act allocation as of today.

- i. Recorder – Lisa McKenzie by Carri Brown (Lisa was unable to attend the meeting.)

The office went live with their new system. They have conducted training with appropriate social distancing. The new system provides a lot of improvement for the public. The office has hired two new employees, and HR sent an announcement by email so that everyone can welcome them.

- j. Juvenile/Probate Court – Judge Vandervoort

Judge Vandervoort reported both courts are fully functional with virtual options. The Guardianship Services Board is now serving 92 wards with 55% of those individuals suffering from alleged abuse. There are currently only two youth in detention. Judge Vandervoort talked about Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative efforts with the state of Ohio. She thanked Dr. Brown for initiating discussions about technology improvements for 2021.

- k. Domestic Relations Court – Judge Smith

The court is keeping busy and has been doing in person hearings. They are required to hold certain hearings within deadlines, or they are dismissed. They are using video hearings when possible.

- l. Common Pleas Court – Magistrate Jill Boone

Magistrate Boone stated they are trying to do as many video hearings as they can. They have done over 1,000 video hearings since April. Judges are still having limited in person hearings.

Dr. Brown commented on the continued positive energy surrounding the TCAP program.

- m. JFS – Aunie Cordle

JFS is preparing for the holiday donation drive. This year donations can be made online. Families or elderly individuals can still be adopted for the holidays, and curbside drop-off is an option. Thank you to Facilities for their help. They are trying to accomplish certain protective service visits virtually whenever possible. Most staff continue to telework.

Dr. Brown thanked JFS for continuing to follow safeguarding protocols. The building is open to the public. She also commented that the agency had served 1,885 people with disaster assistance this year.

- n. Engineer's Office – Jeremiah Upp

The Engineer's Office is working to keep up with pandemic protocols. They have had five positive cases and have had to quarantine as needed. The office remains closed to the public except for scheduled meetings. The road crew remains on staggered start times. Everything is disinfected several times a day. The office is transitioning from construction activities to snow and ice removal activities.

- o. Prosecutor's Office – Kyle Witt

The office is starting to see case levels increase to pre-pandemic levels. They have yet to have a jury trial since the beginning of COVID-19, but they are navigating the process to ensure speedy trials. They did seat a grand jury in September. Mr. Witt was very impressed with the response from the jurors and court. They are

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seeing an increase in domestic violence referrals due to the pandemic and more people spending time at home.

Dr. Brown thanked Amy Brown-Thompson for her help with the CARES Act funding. She thanked Joshua Horacek for preparing the Licking County agreement for increased efficiency and Tom Lininger for reviewing contracts. The Civil Division is very helpful to everyone.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Witt for his thoughtful approach to budgeting. The Commission will be sending Mr. Witt a certificate of appreciation.

p. Sheriff's Office – Chief Lape

Chief Lape reviewed the current project including body camera options. The jail inspection was yesterday and there should be no issues there. Chief Lape completed the necessary trainings with the deputies. They continue to keep up demand for calls of service.

q. Coroner's Office – Luann Davidson

Ms. Davidson thanked the Commissioners for allowing employees to be poll workers. She stated it was a privilege to work that day and the Board of Elections did a great job.

She added the Coroner's Office continues to toil through their work helping families during the most difficult days of their lives. They also provide aftercare to family and friends of the decedents. They are set apart from most counties in the state as the aftercare is the most essential part of the office. In the past two weeks, the aftercare services have focused on referrals to grief counselors who were able to help surviving partners notify their small children. While the work is largely scientific in nature, it is essential to have a very hands-on approach. They receive calls years after the fact from family members to check in on them.

Case numbers are as expected. They have not seen an increase, but they are closely monitoring overdose deaths and will be able to provide more in-depth reporting next year due to a new software.

Mr. Levacy thanked Dr. Varney for the kindness he experienced. He added that is one area of service people do not know the Coroner provides.

Ms. Davidson stated they consider it an honor to work with families during these most difficult times.

r. Clerk of Courts – Branden Meyer

Mr. Meyer thanked HR for their support recently and Facilities for their deep cleaning services lately. He reviewed how his office is maintaining operations during the pandemic.

s. Facilities – Dennis Keller

Mr. Keller reported there is plenty of equipment to keep the buildings and staff safe. They have four electrostatic sprayers and are adding hygiene stations. They are getting ready to install UV radiation equipment in most buildings. The office is also preparing for winter. He highlighted other renovation projects.

t. Human Resources – Jeff Porter

Open enrollment concluded on November 6th. Mobile Wallet Card is receiving good use and has been updated with the 2021 benefit guide and flip book. They will be implementing SlickText and asking employees to update their mobile

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numbers in ESS. Tomorrow is the public service virtual recognition event. They continue to work on the implementation of NeoGov which will improve the employment application process.

u. Dog Shelter – Jeff Porter

There are currently 17 dogs under care. Dog licensing season starts December 1st. This year they dog tags will be a bit different and shaped liked dog bones. The Pickerington site at Tussing Road will launch soon. We will sell dog tags there as well to better serve the northern part of the county.

Dr. Brown commended the staff for the foster program which arose from the pandemic and will continue.

v. Regional Planning – Tamara Ernst

New education tools will be rolled out in January at the RPC Meeting. Development continues at a steady pace. They have five final plats and several sketch plans. Growth is expected to be very strong in 2021. They continue to work with developers on new subdivisions.

w. ADAMH – Rhonda Myer

Thank you to the Commissioners for sending out information about the “We’re Here to Help” campaign. They do have yard signs left and can deliver them. Mental health care is health care and there are increases in domestic violence. Recent data shows overdose deaths at 37 as of October 23rd passing last year’s total of 28. They want to let people know there is help available. They have increased the amount of in-home therapy options. Service applications for the ADAMH Board went out last month. They are excited about the new resolution process they will be putting in place. This process is like the Commissioners Resolution Management System.

x. DD – John Pekar

Mr. Pekar thanked the Commissioners for the emergency meeting to address the pandemic. He thanked Mr. Davis for the passion and for urging Fairfield County residents to do what is necessary.

Early in the pandemic DD decided to journalize their response to the pandemic. They included communication with families as much as possible. They created the Fairfield County Virtual Community to share Fairfield County resources with everyone. DD will be adding a customer service ambassador to the staffing roll. The Board of DD authorized \$300,000 for a Childhood Relief Fund to help students with disabilities with childcare. Derek Upp, Fairfield County Board of DD member, is a candidate for a statewide board.

y. Soil & Water Conservation District – Nikki Drake

SWCD is promoting No-Till November. They continue to utilize the website and Facebook since they cannot do in person gatherings. They have also started a new blog and have “Conservation Corner” articles in the EG every Friday. Urban staff is very busy because of the growth in the Northwest portion of the county. The Ag staff is doing surveys for best management practices for farmers.

z. OSU Extension – Aubrey Fowler

The Junior Fair was very successful with around 700 exhibitors participating. The office is open by appointment two days a week.

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aa. Veterans Services – Park Russell

Veterans Services is staffed and open 8:00-4:00. They provide transportation to the Clinic.

Mr. Russell stated they are concerned that some veterans are not seeking the help they need. He reviewed the Veteran Services outreach programs with the clinic and other advertising.

bb. Family, Adult, and Children First Council – Donna Fox-Moore

Ms. Fox-Moore reported that Mr. Pekar will be providing an update of their survey at next week's FCFACF annual meeting. She thanked the Commissioners and Dr. Brown for their leadership and commented on the successful collaboration in Fairfield County.

- Budget Update and Rapid News

Dr. Brown reviewed the attached budget presentation and special dates for 2021.

She also highlighted the draft fact sheets in the review packet.

She requested that elected officials and department heads review the technology request template for the Data Board meeting next week.

Rapid News

We said thanks to Sheriff Phalen for his tremendous public service to Fairfield County.

We reviewed our mission, training opportunities, and the checklist.

Dr. Brown congratulated Jon Kochis and Aunie Cordle for earning the NACo High Performance Leadership certificate. There are more than 65 people signed up for this training next year.

Highlights of Resolutions

There were nine resolutions for the voting meeting.

We proposed the re-appointments of Mr. Bill McNeer, Mr. Michael Kaper, and Mr. Jon Kochis to the Airport Authority Board, as well as the reappointment of WIOA Area 20 WDB Member JB Dick and appointment of new WDB Member, Matt Claypool.

Following a competitive process, we proposed the contract bid award for the Bader Bridge Replacement Project.

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

- Allocation of costs for the BWC specialist and employer BWC premiums paid in January 2020, as proposed by the County Auditor;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the FCFACF Council; and
- Two account to account transfers of appropriations to properly classify expenditures for the County Auditor.

In queue, there were financial and contracting resolutions at various stages of progress.

Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative Update

We discussed a draft enhanced communication plan to help fight the coronavirus.

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Budget Update

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

Public Records Requests or Questions?

Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

Open Items

Mr. Davis discussed the meeting with the Governor's Office on Saturday. The meeting will be held in the hearing room. Ms. Elsea will take care of proper notification.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2020, beginning at 11:02 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea. Attending virtually were Amy Brown-Thompson, Aubry Fowler, Jim Bahnsen, Branden Meyer, Dave Burgei, David Miller, Dennis Keller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Porter, Jeremiah Upp, John Pekar, Jon Kochis, Jon Slater, Joshua Horacek, Leslie Cooksey, Nikki Drake, Rick Szabrak, and Thomas Lininger.

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 Monday, November 9, 2020 and Tuesday, November 10, 2020

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Monday, November 9, 2020 and Tuesday, November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting.

Discussion: Mr. Davis stated that early on Monday it was unclear if they should have the emergency meeting. After the meeting transpired it became crystal clear that having the meeting was the right thing to do. A great number of people have reached out to express their appreciation. The Governor's Office has expressed their appreciation for the meeting.

Mr. Levacy thinks one of the biggest challenges is communication.

Dr. Brown noted the communications plan will continue to be updated. She thanked the Commissioners for the PSAs they have already prepared.

Mr. Davis stated he wanted to PSAs out as soon as possible. Those are to be cut today. He also conveyed to Ms. Krile (with Krile Communications) there was a need for speed. He is thankful to have the opportunity to speak with the Governor on Saturday hopefully before the Governor is committed to a course of action.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis and Dave Levacy

Absent: Jeff Fix

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Approval of the Auditor's Office Resolutions

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

- 2020-11.12.a A resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expenditure object category Auditor GIS 10244300 [Auditor- Admin]
- 2020-11.12.b A resolution to approve allocation of BWC Specialist direct administrative cost as a memo expenditure for various funds. [Auditor- Payroll]
- 2020-11.12.c A resolution to approve the allocation of employer BWC premium paid in January 2020 as memo expenditures for various funds/orgs. [Auditor- Payroll]
- 2020-11.12.d A resolution approving an account to account transfer[Auditor's Office] [Auditor- Finance]

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

Approval of the Commissioners' Resolutions

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

- 2020-11.12.e A resolution approving the reappointments of Mr. William McNeer, Mr. Michael Kaper, and Mr. Jon Kochis to the Fairfield County Airport Authority Board. [Commissioners]
- 2020-11.12.f A resolution to approve the appointment of Mr. Matt Claypool to the Area 20 Workforce Development Board (WDB). [Commissioners]

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

Approval of the Economic and Workforce Development Resolution

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic and Workforce Development resolution regarding the reappointment of J.B. Dick to represent the WIOA AREA 20 Workforce Development Board from November 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023; see resolution 2020-11.12.g

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak spoke to the excitement of having Mr. Claypool and Mr. Dick serve on the WIOA Board.

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolutions

On the motion of Dave Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Engineer's Office resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the LIB-26, FAI-TR251-0.406 Bader Road Bridge Replacement Project; see resolution 2020-11.12.h.

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



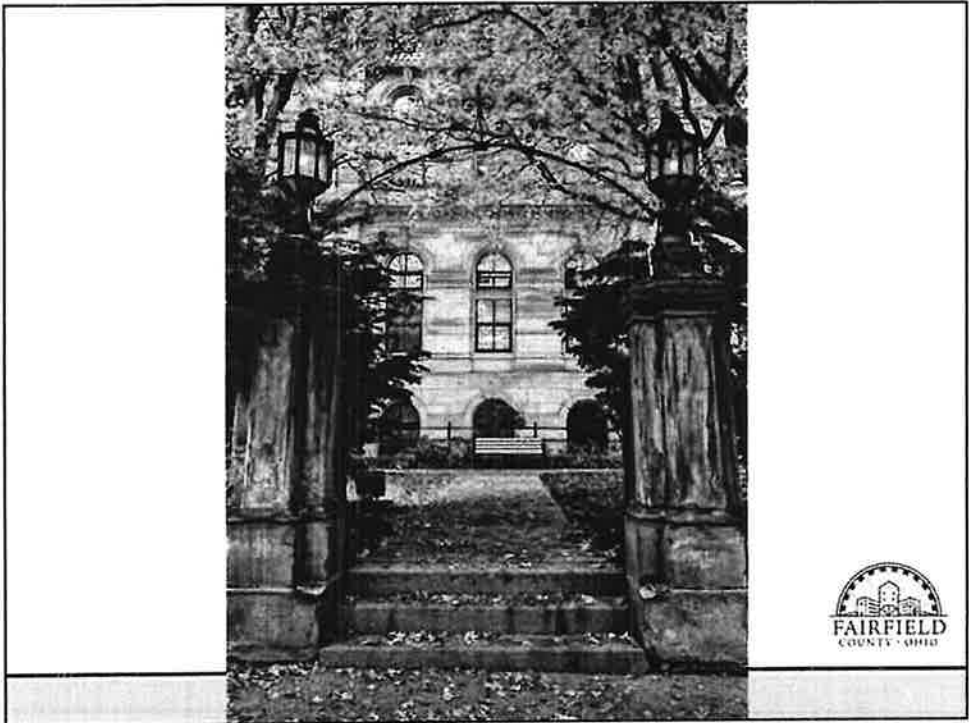


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2


11/12/2020



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Congratulations!

*Many Elected Officials Will Begin
New Terms in 2021.*




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Department Updates


All Participants




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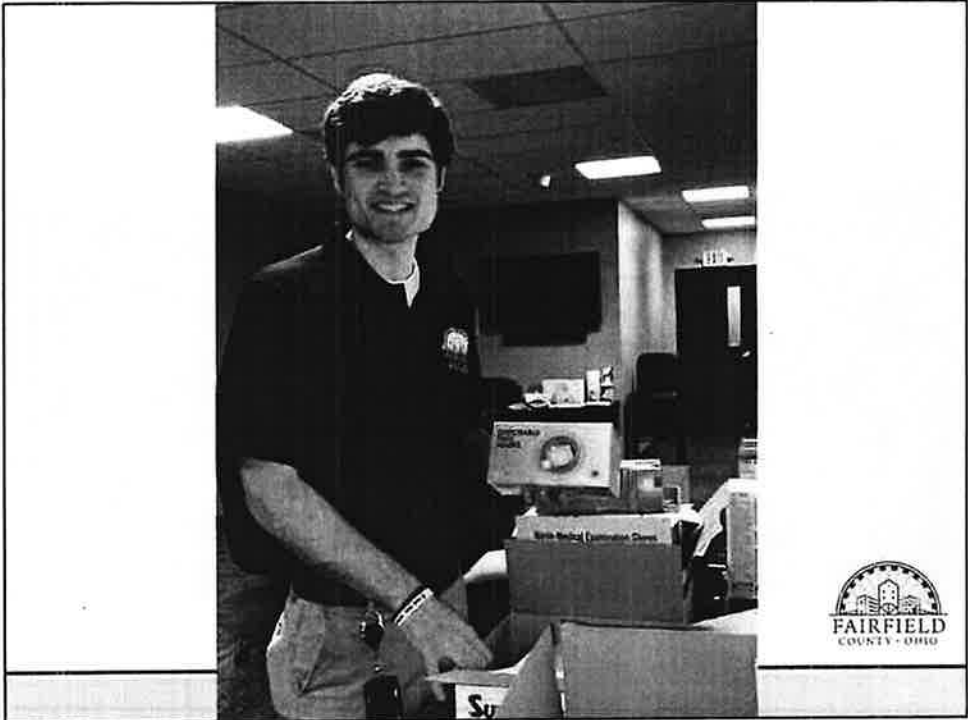


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2020 Quarter 3 &
2021 projection

November 14, 2020



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Objectives

- Review public records request data
- Review estimated & actual data of the general fund
- Highlight issues to watch
- Provide a forum for open discussion
- Receive input & feedback on format of presentation



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Public Records Request Log

- The Commission maintains a log
- Commission departments are included – *we have helped other departments*
- Some departments keep their own logs
- *Logs are considered a good management tool & "best practice" by the State Auditor & Attorney General*



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Commission Public Record Log

• 2015	41
• 2016	25
• 2017	53
• 2018	22
• 2019	16
• 2020	14

Same day service is the mode, median, and average over time (outliers in 2020)



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12.31.2019 Review


The State Auditor gave Fairfield County its highest “STARS” rating for transparency and compliance with sunshine laws during the review for the period ending December 31, 2019.




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Questions About Public Records




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General Fund Quarter 3 YTD Revenues			
2019		2020	
Property Taxes	8,726,469	Property Taxes	10,367,110
Homestead Rollback	546,602	Homestead Rollback	1,274,642
Conveyance Fees	2,416,041	Conveyance Fees	2,744,215
Sales & Use Tax	16,725,293	Sales & Use Tax	17,065,529
Casino	1,427,553	Casino	958,129
Local Government	1,049,549	Local Government	1,040,847
Investment Earnings	1,725,262	Investment Earnings	1,375,048
Fees & Charges for Services	3,889,225	Fees & Charges for Services	4,773,225
Title Surplus transfer, unclaimed, transfers	33,266	Title Surplus, unclaimed, transfers	34,469
CARES Act Resources	N/A	CARES Act Resources, Reimbursements	2,212,621
Total GRF Revenue	36,539,260	Total GRF Revenue	41,845,835

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General Fund – Revenues

- Revenues as of Q3 were \$41.8 M, or \$5.3 M above the prior year; this is a 14.5% increase
- CARES Act reimbursements were \$2.2 M
- 91% of estimates (above target)
- Categories with decreases are casino revenues, investment earnings, local government funds (all previously discussed)
- Sales tax collections for 9 months increased 2%
- Property tax collections increased 18.8%
- Conveyance fees increased 13.6%
- Fees and Charges increased 22.7%



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Sales Tax Rate

- Fairfield County's rate has not increased since January 1, 2010
- Fairfield – 6.75%
- Hocking, Licking, Perry, Ross, & Pickaway – 7.25%
- Franklin – 7.50%



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Sales Tax Revenues Factors

- “close to home” effect
- bubble of unemployment benefits
- strong employment in Fairfield County
- online sales
- auto and non-auto sales tax are up, recency
- have already hit the target without September retail sales included



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Expenditures – as of Q3

- 2019 Expenditures \$36.05 M
- 2020 Expenditures \$35.17 M

About a 2.4% decrease in expenditures (delays and fewer capital expenditures; compliance with parameters during the pandemic) – 27th pay to come




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Items to Watch

- Ongoing monitoring of all categories
- No adjustments are *necessary* now
- 27 pays in 2020
- Vacation payouts




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Items to Watch

- All pandemic related factors
- Planning tool
- CARES Act documentation
- Franklin County case
- Health benefits - no increase for 2021!
- Good consumers are needed
- State Budget
 - Decrease in attorney fee reimbursement ?
 - Other decreases



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Prepare

- No new employees in the general fund
- Postings for pandemic essential positions
- Critical thinking training re: budget
- Merit-based increase, 1, 2, and 3%
- Comp plan utilization
- Careful monitoring



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September 2020 (2019)

- Revenues = \$41.85 M (36.54 M)
 - Includes memo receipts for reimbursements of eligible CARES Act expenses (would have increased anyway)
- Expenditures = \$35.17 M (36.05 M)



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General Report to OBM for activity through September 30, 2020

CARES Act as of 9.30.2020

Fund 2868, connected to HB 481		
Revenues, Sources		
Description	Date	Amount
Allocation from the State, HB 481	8.10.2020	1,677,849.52
Allocation from the State Controlling Board, HB 481	9.8.2020	838,924.76
Total CARES Act funds received through September 30, 2020		2,516,774.28
Interest was not calculated or received in the fund yet		
OBM guidance on Interest was received on 10.1.2020		
Expenditures, Uses		
	Amount, by category	
Public Health and Safety Employees, Payroll Support	2,186,396.97	
Improve Telework Capabilities of Public Employees	47,325.91	
Personal Protective Equipment	3,950.00	
Public Health Expenditures	9,355.68	
Expenditures through September 30, 2020	2,247,048.56	
Encumbrances:		
Food Program	19,000.00	
COVID-19 testing	5,560.00	
Improve Telework Capabilities of Public Employees	23,361.98	
Public Health	221,803.74	
Total Encumbrances from the first two distributions	269,725.72	
Difference	0.00	
Additional encumbrances as of 9.30.2020, Public Health	524,333.26	
(amended certificate already issued for \$5M+ to come)	794,058.98	total encumbered

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CARES Act Eligible Uses

- Public Safety Payroll Support
- Public Health Payroll Support
- Equipment to fight the virus
- Supplies to fight the virus
- Teleworking equipment for public employees
- Contracts for necessary services due to the pandemic



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Next steps

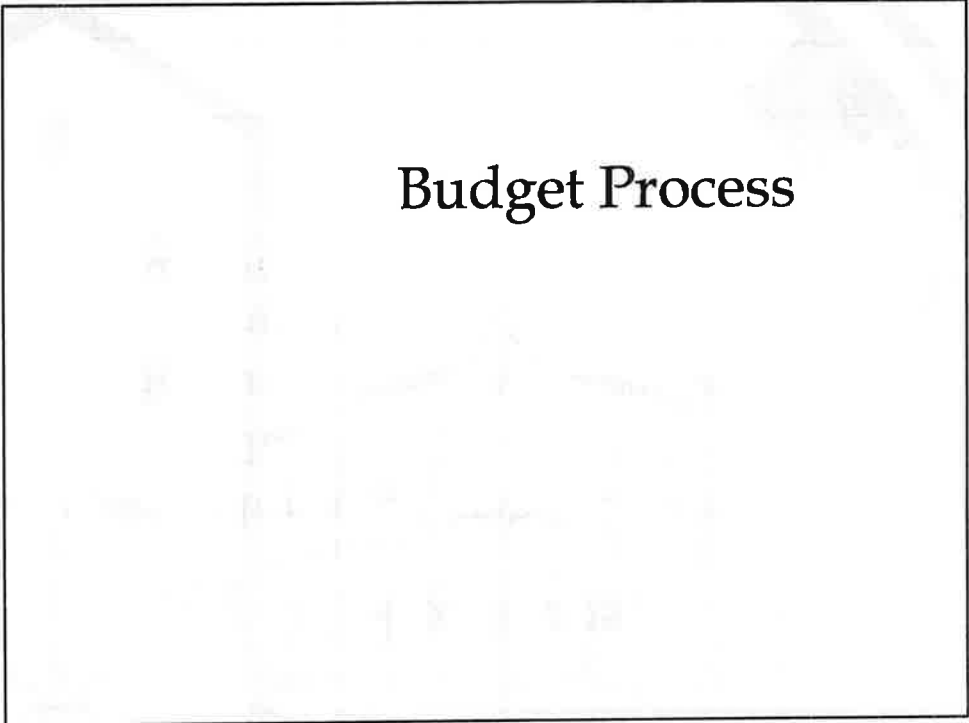
- November 20 (encumbered & spent)
- Reconciliation
- Additional requests are in queue
- No changes from the federal government at this point



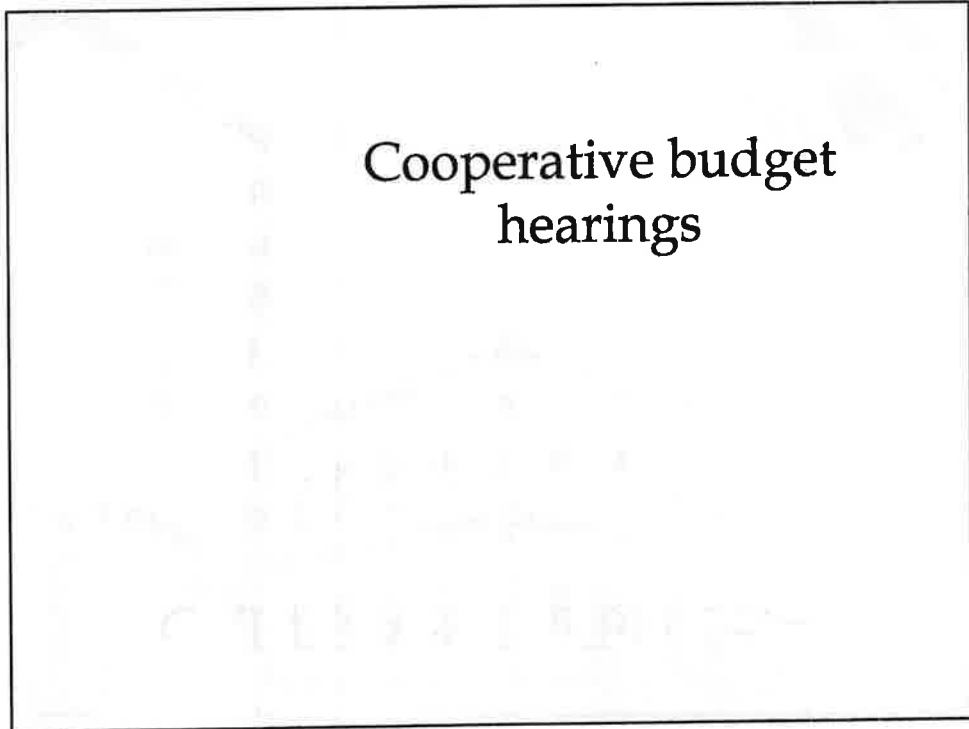
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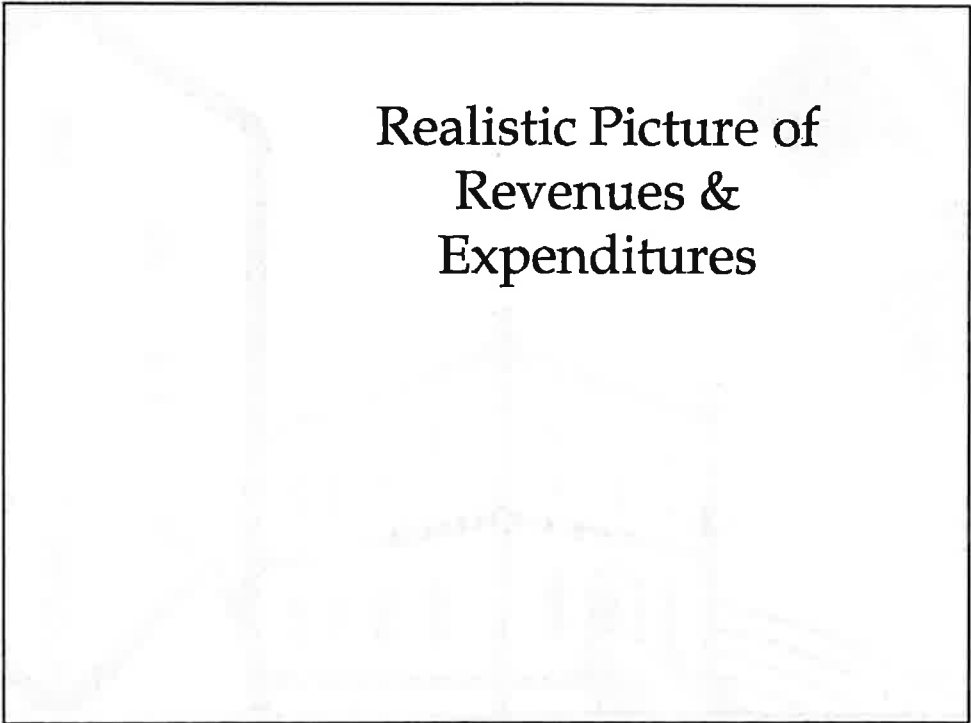
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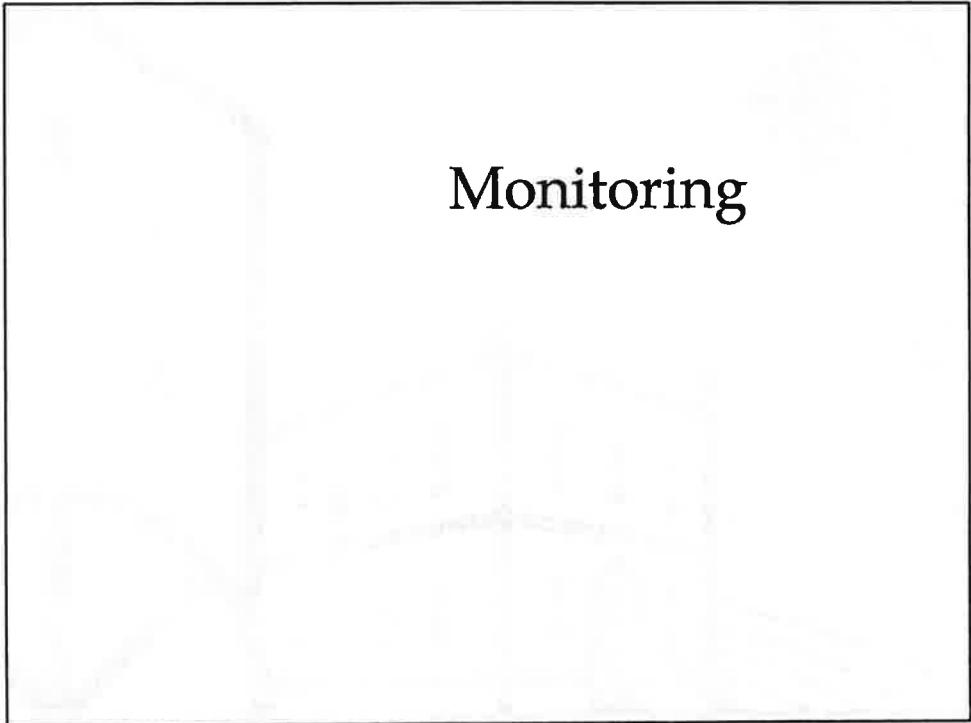
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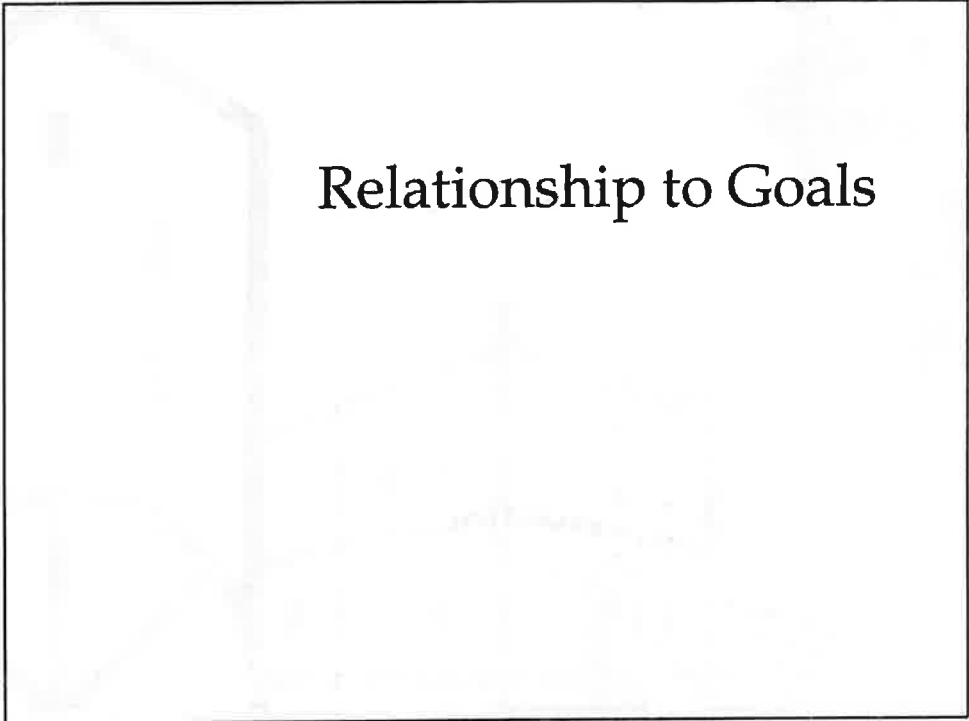


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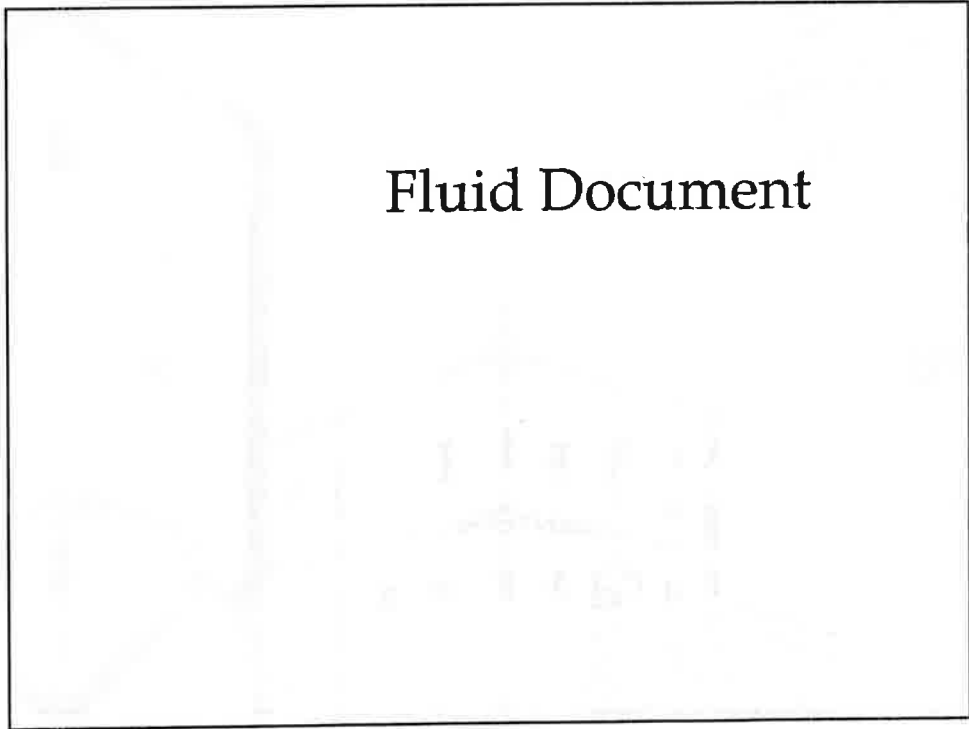


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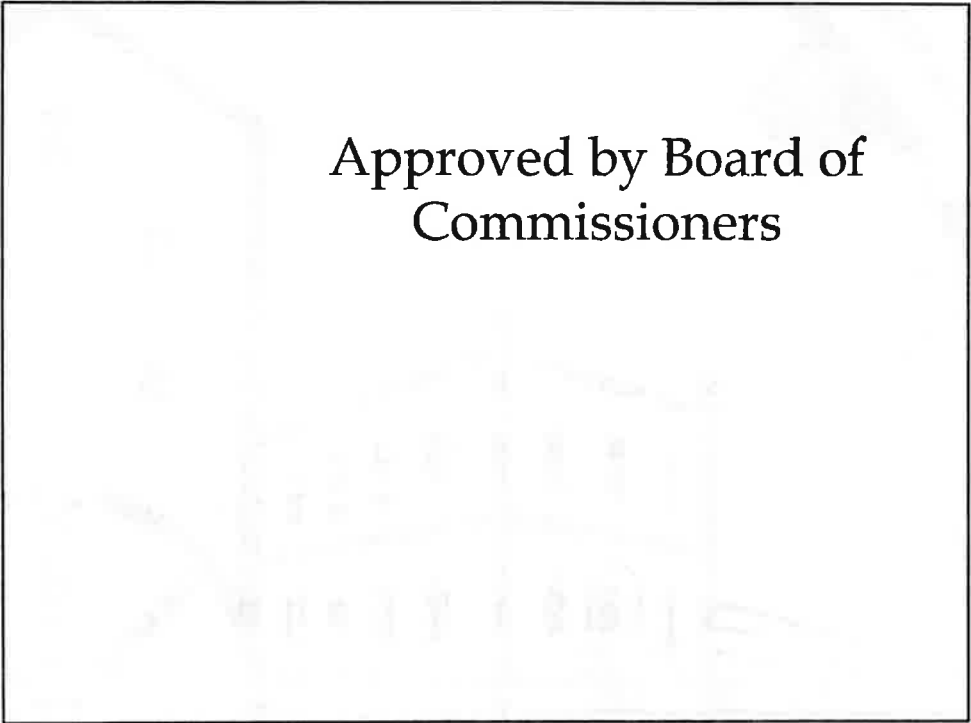
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2021 General Fund Budget

- **\$50.1M** as compared to previous **\$49.3M** (adjusted)
 - *Increase of 1.6% over current budget; relatively flat over original 2020 budget*
 - One-time expenditures added back for Workforce Center and multiple capital projects, such as paving of Baldwin
- Adherence to parameters
 - up to 3% increase in salaries based on merit; 2% otherwise
 - no new employees, unless approved with justification - EMA example, no new general fund employees
- Health benefit plan rates are flat
- Projected carryover **\$23 M+ based on CARES Act & collective practices**



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2021 Budget Highlights - Increases

- \$355,000 - Sheriff's Office - increases for salaries & variable fringe benefits
- \$316,000 - Workforce Center equipment and debt assumption
- \$300,000 - restoring capital projects
- \$300,000 - Energy conservation project, part 2, mid-year debt
- \$250,000 - Merit-based increases for general fund departments (not including the Sheriff's Office)
- \$140,000 - Supervised Visitation and Exchanges
- \$100,000 - Restore Facilities (reassignment to general fund)
- \$65,000 - New Grant Matches, including Economic Development
- \$50,000 - MUNIS (accounting software) fees
- \$42,000 - leadership academy training



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2021 Budget Highlights, Decreases

- 750,000 - 27th pay
- 440,000 - MCJDC Allocation
- 70,000 - Employer Insurance Costs



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Priority of Law Enforcement

- Sheriff's Departmental Budget
\$17M + functionally
- Full Table of Organization
- Vehicle management
- Flexibility for organizational changes
- Main priority of the budget
- Firing range to be added once identified



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2021 Revenue Projections

- Sales Tax
 - Largest general revenue source
 - 3% increase estimated in 2020
 - \$23+ M



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11/12/2020


Additional 2021
Revenue Projections

UP...

1% for property taxes - \$ 10 M

1% for conveyance - \$ 3.5 M

1% charges for services - \$ 6 M




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2021 Revenue Projections

- Standard casino revenues - \$ 1.75 M
- Interest income - \$700 K
- LGF - \$1.25 M
- Transfer - \$ 0 (planning for major projects in future years)



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Carry over cash projection

2020 - 2024

- Policy requires ongoing evaluation
- **Projects for technology are not yet identified specifically - expect to appropriate for these projects**
- Planning for uncertainty and downturns



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2021 General Fund By the Numbers

Revenues for 2021 are anticipated to exceed \$ 48 M
Actual expenditures are expected to be about \$ 47.6 M
Available carry-over cash will be about \$23 M



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11/12/2020

Variables

- **No extraordinary one-time expenditures**
- No settlement included re: Franklin
- Current parameters, cooperation
- Merit-based pay implementation



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Uncertainty

- Drug addiction impacts all departments
- State budget cuts or lost special revenues (Juvenile Court example)
- Increased need for technology expenditures (work group created/template created)
- Sheriff negotiations (2021 forward)
- Pandemic effects




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Positive Factors

- Population Growth
- Excellent management
- Electronic Monitoring
- Rightsizing MCJDC contribution
- Exceptional location
- Strong diversified tax base, flexibility
- Low unemployment (relatively speaking)
- Current financial health
- Cooperative approaches
- Self-supporting debt
- New construction, expansion
- Reentry focus, Diversion focus
- Community Collaboration
- Collaborative Grant Acquisition



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9% Reduction in Allocations

2019 \$ 5.11 M
2020 \$ 4.91 M
2021 \$ 4.28 M

- MCJDC reduction
- Matched revenue for county grants
- JFS funding formula for DR Court assigned position
- Court related allocations
- EMA grant adjustments
- Contracted services & other



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11/12/2020

Additional Budget Highlights

- Estimated Revenues+Carry-Over Cash Exceeds Estimated Expenditures
- 2021 - critical planning year for technology; firing range to be added
- Meeting of December 8
- *County Prosecutor Witt earned the appreciate award for 2021!*



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Priorities/Strategic Themes

- Fighting the drug epidemic
- Valuing employees
- Improving technology
- Improving business opportunities
- Securing funding & monitoring expenditures




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Multiple Objectives

- Paving, flooring, & improvements
- Maintain AA2 bond rating
- Contract monitoring
- CARES Act finalization
- Transparency & communications – 2021
Dates in packet
- Technology & capital planning
- One-page document





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Questions?





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11/12/2020

Rapid Fire News

Dr. Carri Brown



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Rapid Fire News

- BRAVO to Sheriff Phalen!
- What have we done to accomplish the mission...
- Required Trainings
- Review of Packet & Checklist



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**Thank you for
attending!**



A G E N D A

B O A R D O F C O M M I S S I O N E R S

Commission Meetings November 12, 2020 – Virtual Meetings

8:30 am Roundtable Meeting (Departmental Updates with Specific Order)

Commissioners
Steven A. Davis
Jeffrey M. Fix
David L. Levacy

County Administrator
Carri L. Brown

Following Roundtable, Commissioners' Review Session and Regular Meeting

Clerk
Rachel A. Elsea

Elected Officials/Department Heads Roundtable

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the roundtable discussion is to facilitate the review, discussion, and analysis of topics with relevance for Fairfield County elected officials and department heads. It is a time to provide information, network with peers, and plan.

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A. Welcome | Commissioners Davis, Fix, & Levacy |
| B. Departmental Updates | All Participants |
| C. Budget Update and Rapid News | Carri Brown |
| a. 2021 Budget
b. BRAVO to Fairfield County Sheriff Phalen
c. What have we done to accomplish the mission...
d. Required Training
e. Review of Packet – Checklist | |

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

ADJOURN

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Roundtable Checklist
November 12, 2020

- _____ Use the GEM module; share your appreciation of great work accomplished
- _____ Take Ethics, CyberSecurity, and Unlawful Harassment Training annually -- include Cultural Competency and Service Skills Training in your plans
- _____ Provide examples of exceptional customer service to Carri Brown by email to carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov
- _____ Check all budget lines to ensure appropriations are sufficient for the year
- _____ Complete performance assessments for employees prior to November 30
- _____ Be sure **HR** has all alternative policies approved by appointing authorities
- _____ Continue to be vigilant about **COVID-19 Safeguarding** Procedures

November 12 Roundtable Updates

1. Emergency Management Agency
2. Health Department
3. Sheriff's Office
4. Board of Elections
5. JFS
6. Economic and Workforce Development
7. Utilities
8. Treasurer/Land Bank
9. Auditor (Auditor, IT, GIS, REA)
10. Recorder
11. Common Pleas Court
12. Juvenile/Probate Court
13. Domestic Relations Court
14. Engineer's Office
15. Prosecutor's Office
16. Coroner's Office
17. Clerk of Courts
18. Facilities
19. Human Resources
20. Dog Shelter
21. Regional Planning Commission
22. ADAMH
23. DD
24. Soil and Water Conservation
25. OSU Extension
26. Veterans Services
27. County Parks District
28. Major Crimes Unit
29. Education Service Center
30. Other Departments, Any Other Areas

Strategic Themes/Broad Goals – In 2021, we are...

1. **Fighting the opioid and drug epidemic** & implementing community responses
 - Building upon the Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison grant activities
 - Improving mental health services at the jail
 - Improving educational counseling at the jail
 - Increasing staffing at Common Pleas Court to support reentry and probation
 - Continuing multiple grant projects, such as those with JFS for peer support
 - Implementing the CARA project with Major Crimes (Project FORT)
 - Supporting the early warning program with Juvenile Court and collaborators
 - Providing property and support for ADAMH
2. **Valuing employees** & improving recruitment and retention of employees
 - Conducting performance assessment training; implementing performance incentives
 - Developing a strong organizational culture by improving communications
 - Continuing roundtables, leadership conferences, & lunch n learn sessions
 - Increasing opportunities for work group involvement across department lines
 - Conducting strategic “stay” interviews and speed mentoring
 - Evaluating the compensation plan from a countywide perspective
 - Continuing pandemic protocols as needed
3. **Improving technology** and records retention services
 - Strengthening cybersecurity initiatives
 - Developing a comprehensive technology plan
 - Filling vacancies with the IT Department
 - Examining telecommunication contracts
4. **Improving business opportunities**
 - Improving the Fairfield County Workforce Center (fact sheet available)
 - Working closely with One Columbus to promote Fairfield County to businesses
 - Developing a Career Readiness Program with area schools
 - Continuing a training grant program for businesses expansion
 - Adding grants for small businesses
5. **Securing funding** and monitoring expenditures to help provide for resources to meet growing demands on services
 - Achieving savings and improving capacity with electronic monitoring
 - Coordinating with MORPC and others for grant opportunities
 - Working with associations to promote financial stability measures
 - Continuing to offer training and support for efficient conduct of budget evaluation
 - Securing pandemic related funding

In addition to the broad strategic themes, we have objectives to **improve services and infrastructure**:

- Implement the Energy Conservation Project, Part 2, which includes sandstone repairs
- Conduct infrastructure improvements, including paving at Baldwin
- Planning for satellite offices in the NW portion of the county for the Dog Shelter and others
- Support the Probate Guardianship Services Board
- Maintain the county’s AA2 bond rating
- Provide leadership training and increase cultural competencies
- Improve communications on the website and create videos for public communication

Fairfield County Commissioners 2021 Special Dates

January 2021

1 – New Year's Day - Offices Closed
11 – Reorganizational Meeting
18 – MLK Day - Offices Closed
26 – Steve Davis Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

February 2021

11 – EO/DH Roundtable
15 – Presidents' Day – Offices Closed
23 – Dave Levacy Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

March 2021

xx – Leadership Conference, Part I/ Online Public Records Training during in preparation for Sunshine Week
14-20 – Sunshine Week
9 – Lunch & Learn – DD
30 – Jeff Fix Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

April 2021 – National County Month

2 – Good Friday -- Close at noon
xx – Wear Blue – Child Protective Services
Breakfast – Abuse Prevention Month
13 – Lunch & Learn – ADAMH
27 – Steve Davis Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

May 2021

xx – Wear Orange for Supervised Visitation Awareness
xx – JFS All Staff Meeting
4 – State of the County
11 – Lunch & Learn – Juvenile/Probate
13 – EO/DH Roundtable
25 – Lunch & Learn – Prosecutor
25 – Dave Levacy Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (12p)
31 – Memorial Day – Offices Closed

June 2021

x-xx; xx-xx – Engineering Tech Camps
x – Wear Purple for Elder Abuse Prev.
8 – Lunch & Learn - Board of Elections
15 – Speed Mentoring
22 – Lunch & Learn - Auditor/GIS/IT
29 – Jeff Fix Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

July 2021

5 – Independence Day Observed – Offices Closed
11 – Lunch & Learn at the Sheriff's Office
xx – Employee Recognition Breakfast & Meetings at the Records Center

27 – Steve Davis Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

August 2020

5 – EO/DH Roundtable
5 – Procurement Training
10 – Lunch & Learn – Treasurer/Land Bank
xx – Wear Green for CSEA Awareness
31 – Dave Levacy Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

September 2021

6 – Labor Day – Offices Closed
7 – National Preparedness Month Event
14 – Lunch & Learn at the Engineer's Office
xx – United Way Day
xx – Economic and Workforce Development Summit
23 – Leadership Conference
28 – Jeff Fix Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

October 2021

xx – Fair Day – Offices Closed
12 – Lunch & Learn – Common Pleas Court
21 – Budget Hearings
26 – Steve Davis Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)
28 – Budget Hearings

November 2021

4 – EO/DH Roundtable
9 – Lunch & Learn – Veterans Service
11 – Veterans Day Observed – Closed
16 – Speed Mentoring
25 & 26 – Thanksgiving – Offices Closed
30 – Dave Levacy Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)

December 2021

xx – JFS All Staff Meeting
xx – 33 Alliance Annual Meeting
7 – Lunch & Learn – Visitation Center
7 – Lunch & Learn – OSU Extension
14 – Jeff Fix Commissioner Connection Video with Bob Competti (11a)
14 – Holiday Open House
24 – Christmas Eve Holiday – Close at Noon
27 – Christmas Day Holiday – Closed

- County Training Dates will be added as they are scheduled.
- Voting, regular Board of Commissioner meetings are held Tuesdays at 10 am.
- Review sessions are held at 9 am prior to the voting, regular meetings.

10.5.2020

2021 Lunch & Learns Schedule

Lunch & Learns will typically be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 11a in the Commissioners Hearing Room. If held in person, lunch will be provided.

March 9 – DD

April 13 – ADAMH

May 11 – Juvenile/Probate Court

May 25 – Prosecutor

June 8 – Board of Elections

June 22 – Auditor, IT, GIS

July 13 – Sheriff @ the Sheriff's Office

August 10 – Treasurer and Land Bank

September 14 – Engineer @ the Engineer's Office

October 12 – Common Pleas Court

November 9 – Veterans Service Commission

December 7, 11:00 a.m. – Visitation Center

December 7, 11:30 a.m. – OSU Extension

**Fairfield County Commissioners
2021 Awareness Proclamations**

January 2021

February 2021

March 2021

- 2/23 – DD Awareness Month
- 2/23– Sunshine Week
- 2/23– Kidney Health Awareness

April 2021– National County Month

- 3/30 – Child Abuse Prevention Month
- 3/30– Victims Crimes Rights Week
- 3/30– Earth Day

May 2021

- 4/27 – Foster Care and Adoption Month
- 4/27 – Fraud Prevention Awareness
- 4/27– Peace Officer Memorial Day
- 4/27– Supervised Visitation
- 4/27– Mental Health Month
- 4/27 – Stepping Up
- 4/27 – Military Awareness Month
- 4/27 – Older Adult Month

June 2021

- 5/25 – Elder Abuse Prevention Month

July 2021

- 6/29 – Customer Service – Core Values

August 2021

- 7/27 – CSEA Awareness Month
- 7/27 – Wellness Month

September 2021

- 8/31 – Prostate Cancer
- 8/31– Recovery Month
- 8/31 – Constitution Week
- 8/31 – National Preparedness Month

October 2021

- 9/28 – Manufacturing Month
- 9/28 – Dog Shelter Awareness Month

November 2021

- 10/26– National Adoption Month

December 2021

- 7 – Customer Service



SCHEDULE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

2021 Budget Hearings as of October 26, 2020

Commissioners
Steven A. Davis
Jeffrey M. Fix
David L. Levacy

County Administrator
Carri L. Brown

Clerk
Rachel A. Elsea

Thursday, October 21, 2021

9:15 a.m. – Facilities
9:30 a.m. – Sheriff
10:00 a.m. – Dog Shelter
10:40 a.m. – EMA
11:00 a.m. – Regional Planning Commission
11:20 a.m. – Recorder
1:00 p.m. – Prosecutor
1:40 p.m. – OSU Extension
2:00 p.m. – Domestic Relations Court
2:30 p.m. – Juvenile/Probate Court

Thursday, October 28, 2021

9:00 a.m. – Treasurer
9:15 a.m. – Coroner
9:30 a.m. – Clerk of Courts
9:45 a.m. – Engineer
10:00 a.m. – Auditor
10:20 a.m. – GIS
10:25 a.m. – Real Estate
10:40 a.m. – IT
11:00 a.m. – Board of Elections
11:20 a.m. – Municipal Judges
1:00 p.m. – Veterans Services
1:20 p.m. – Soil & Water
1:40 p.m. – Municipal Clerk
2:00 p.m. – Common Pleas Court

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IT Project Proposal for Comprehensive Strategies, 2022-2025:

<title here>

Submission date:

Submitted by:

Submit to: Mark Conrad, IT Director and Data Board Secretary

Project Sponsor: Required (Implementing Department)

The project sponsor commissions others to deliver the project, is responsible for championing the project, and accepts responsibility as the escalation path for problems. The project sponsor provides vision and high level direction for the project.

Funding Sponsor: If Known (List Funds that are the Resources for the Project)

This person or department would be actively involved in obtaining budget necessary for successful implementation of the project.

Project Owner: Required (Operational Person in Charge)

The project owner confirms the need within their area of responsibility, validates objective(s), provides the functional specifications, administers, monitors, and is responsible for the overall delivery of the project/product. The project owner is the first escalation step on the path to the project sponsor.

Additional Stakeholders (add as many as appropriate):

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Function

Project Name and Description:

Briefly introduce the project. How did it come about?

Project Purpose/Goal(s): (be brief)

Why should we undertake this project? What problem will be solved? What is the impact of not initiating this project?

Interdependencies with other services (including replacement or consolidation of services), projects, systems, or campus groups/departments:

In Scope

-
-
-

Out of Scope

-
-
-

Uncertain

-
-
-

Timeline / Milestones:

What is the needed or hoped for an implementation date?

Is there a specific "window of opportunity" for implementation?

Projected Project Cost and Resources:

(outline what you know now)

	Project Needs / Investment	Recurring Cost / Maintenance
Staffing Needs (Technical and/or Functional)		
Consultants		
Training/Documentation		
Hardware		
Software		
Other (Please specify)		

Narrate Bidding Requirements: (Competitive Bidding for Hardware, Software, DAS processes, sole source concepts, etc.)

CFAES

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Highlights in Fairfield County

November 2020

4-H Youth Development



- Over 700 exhibitors exhibited over 1900 projects at the 2020 Fairfield County Junior Fair. Members had an action-packed week of interviews, weigh-ins, shows and livestock auctions.
- The Fairfield County Junior Leaders Club will be recognizing the 223 volunteer advisors with a Drive Thru recognition event.
- The planning of the 2021 4-H year will begin soon. New volunteer (advisor) applications will be due February 1, 2021. Member recruitment will be ongoing now through mid-March 2021 when members will be placed into clubs.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Coordinated the Muscle Quality & Performance project assessment and conclusions for 4-H youth participating in MQP project for market swine and market lamb projects.
- Assist clients with any questions related to agriculture or horticulture and consulting on 33 soil tests since July
- Assist local producers with questions regarding government farm programs.
- Fairfield County Cattlemen's Association has been selected to receive the prestigious *Outstanding County Award*.
- The Fairfield County Cattlemen's Association along with the Blue Ribbon Showmen 4-H Club, Bay Food Market and the Ohio Collegiate Cattle Association received a matching grant from Ohio Beef Council allowing a total of nearly 900 pounds of ground beef to be donated to Fairfield County Food Pantries this fall and winter.


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Master Gardener Volunteer Program

- AHA! Children's Museum team received the Excellence Award for medium sized MGV program
- Wagnall's Library Learning Gardens team was recognized as one of three projects in the Environmental Horticultural category in the State Master Gardener Volunteer Awards Celebration



Family and Consumer Sciences

Food Preservation

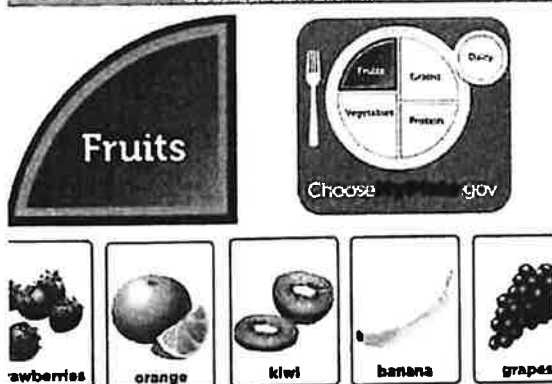
- Drive-thru Pressure Canner testing offered July - August
- Virtual Canning sessions offered in partnership with Franklin County Extension

Mindful Wellness Virtual Classes

- 3 series of 4-lesson classes presented to Fairfield DD and public participants
- 3 single lesson classes presented to OSU Family Wellness Expo, Vision Loss support group and Young Professionals of Lancaster

Live Healthy, Live Well email challenge:

- Take a Break launched October 19th with 69 participants.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

This a slide from a Kindergarten MyPlate virtual lesson.

SNAP-Ed

- Training for new data entry and training to adapt our programming to a virtual platform.
- Taught live zoom meeting lessons with adult groups on the topics of MyPlate, Whole Grains, Lean Proteins and Food Shopping.
- Partnering with other counties to do virtual programming in other counties as well as in Fairfield County.
- Recording lessons to share with elementary schools on the topics of MyPlate, fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, dairy, drinking water, healthy snacks and physical activity.
- Providing indirect newsletters to adults, including commodity food participants.

Office Appointment Hours
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Office Telework Hours
Monday - Friday, 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

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Fairfield County

Serve. Connect. Protect.

2020 - Year in Review

Fairfield County Mission

The mission of the local government is to improve the quality of life while supporting businesses, protecting citizens, and planning for the future. The mission of the Fairfield County executive leadership team is to provide professional recommendations for vision and policy. We work to ensure high quality services at exceptional value to taxpayers. We foster economic and financial sustainability, and we enhance the county's reputation as a high-performing, learning, and caring organization.

2020 Highlights

Fairfield County adapted to *provide services during the pandemic*. The county led the way by developing communication templates, policies, and safeguarding practices. During the pandemic, multiple workload measures increased. Technology was used to maintain services. The county awarded subgrants or contracts of CARES Act funds to the County Board of Health, Fairfield Medical Center, the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center, Meals on Wheels, and others. EMA provided more than 750,000 pieces of PPE and maintained strong partnerships for the pandemic response.

Fairfield County earned three National Association of Counties Achievement Awards for:

- Creating a Culture of Customer Care
- Improving Governance
- Board of Revision Civic and Public Education

Fairfield County created a well-received **patriotic mural** for education and awareness at the Amstutz Building.

With collaboration of Regional Planning and multiple stakeholders, **the Land Use Plan was communicated**. We also established the **Complete Count Committee to ensure an accurate census count in 2020**.

The Facilities Management Department continued to meet goals in support of the entire county:

- The building at **108 N. High Street** in Lancaster, the former location of the Detective Bureau, was converted to offices for Real Estate Assessment.
- **LED lighting** was added in multiple areas.
- Liberty Center was renovated to **add storage space**.
- The team **shared staff with the Utilities Department** to conserve general fund resources.
- In addition, nine buildings are operating more efficiently now than in the past. With the ongoing conservation program, we are on track to save about \$3 Million over time.

Fairfield County has increased revenues:

- We have worked diligently to use CARES Act resources appropriately.
- We have received more than \$1M of Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison (T-CAP) grant funds. The funds were used for mental health & substance abuse treatment, evidence-based training for inmates, and adult probation services.
- Fairfield County completed the West Buckeye Lake Drainage Improvement project. We were awarded \$495,222 for that project to improve area drainage conditions – and we completed the project under budget.
- Fairfield County was awarded a \$498,578 Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act grant to enhance Project FORT, the Fairfield County Overdose Response Team.

Fairfield County has decreased expenses by rightsizing the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center contribution and negotiating new contracts for electronic monitoring services. (Together, this is savings of \$3.6 M in 5 years.) The county also refinanced debt in 2020 to save \$450,000 over time. The County ended the year with a carryover cash balance exceeding \$22 M.

New construction increased more than 8.4% in 2020. The total assessed valuation of the county is \$4.15 B.

Three county leaders obtained **National Association of Counties certificates for high performance leadership**.



Fairfield County

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2020 - Year in Review

Serve

The Courts and the Sheriff's Office worked together to conduct virtual hearings during the pandemic.

Marriage licenses were issued with a virtual process for the first time ever.

A new Guardianship Services Board was created to improve services for vulnerable adults.

The Economic and Workforce Development Department supported county businesses by opening the Workforce Center. We partnered with multiple stakeholders to open the Workforce Center at 4465 Coonpath Rd. The 72,000 square foot building houses programming by OU and Hocking College. HVAC training was held in 2020.

Fairfield County Utilities now fully operates all Greenfield Water and Sewer Utilities. Utilities customers increased over 3% during the year, totaling more than 7,300 customers. We continued to develop five new subdivisions in Violet Township.

The Emergency Management Agency hosted various virtual meetings and activities to help safeguard against community spread of the Coronavirus.

The Fairfield County Dog Adoption Center & Shelter partnered with community volunteers for a new foster program.

More than 24,200 dog licenses were issued in Fairfield County.

Leaders from the Fairfield County Commission Departments assisted many boards to improve services for area residents.

The JFS Child Support Enforcement Agency:

- Collected \$22 Million + in child support.
- Established a new process to conduct administrative hearings by telephone.
- Developed safe, off-site drive-thru services for collections and genetic testing.

\$4.8 M of loans have been made to 98 businesses with the revolving loan fund. More than \$900K of new loans are available now with no interest.

162 students earned career readiness certification, up from 49 in 2019.

JFS continued to improve document management systems & financial reporting and budgeting processes.

JFS Community Services expanded assistance to families through Prevention, Retention, and Contingency programs:

- 195 families received financial assistance for housing
- 820 children received school clothes
- 25 families received transportation assistance
- 261 families were provided utility assistance
- 1,885 received disaster assistance based on the pandemic



Fairfield County

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2020 - Year in Review

Connect

Human Resources continued to improve the employee health benefit plan while controlling costs. There was no increase in the premium costs of health benefits from 2020 to 2021.

A fitness facility was safely open at the Records Center for Fairfield County employees and their dependents.

We partnered with the state to build a new radio tower in Walnut Township.

More than 91,400 interviews for assistance programs were performed with a virtual call center involving 10 counties. Fairfield County JFS accepted calls for multiple other counties during the pandemic.

We led a mini-grant program so the Land Bank can support local groups and increase awareness of the Land Bank mission.

Fairfield County contracted on behalf of the Hunters Run Conservancy District and provided technical assistance to help the District manage responsibilities and develop new funding strategies.

The Dog Adoption Center and Shelter led a fostering program for dogs, allowing for safe care and adoptions of shelter dogs.

Ohio Means Jobs at JFS maintained services during the pandemic to assist job seekers and those with unemployment claims. They also provided laptops to help businesses and individuals participate in virtual job fairs.

The impact of the pandemic on our local budgets is an ongoing challenge. We appreciate the high degree of cooperation and collaboration in Fairfield County.

EMA assisted the Educational Services Center with receipt and distribution of PPE for county schools.

The Commissioners, the Board of Health, and EMA held weekly public meetings to keep everyone informed about the pandemic response. The EMA Community Healthcare Coalition met regularly to provide information and technical assistance.

By the Numbers

Regular Meetings – 52	Administrative Approvals - 338
Roundtables and Leadership Conferences – 5	Budget Hearings - 24
Press Releases - 26	Resolutions - 848
New Twitter Followers -61	HR Trainings – 1
Tweets – 163	Twitter Profile Views – 660+
Questions received from the website – 84	All funds budget: \$190 M +

Total number of county employees -- 853
Total number of employees paid from the general fund – 359

Public Records Requests

Received - 14
Average, Median and Mode Response Time – 1 day



Fairfield County

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2020 - Year in Review

Protect

Deputy Dog Wardens have responded to 900 service calls from the public and completed 187 dog bite investigations. Also, the entire shelter staff is “Fear Free Certified” as they know how to protect the animals from fear, anxiety, stress, and frustration commonly found in dog shelters.

County operations were conducted with safeguarding measures to fight the community spread of the COVID-19 virus.

JFS Protective Services addressed 8,425+ inquiries for Protective Services.

On average, there are 150 children in custody and 32 in residential treatment.

With reports of elder abuse, about 85% of the perpetrators are family members.

JFS Child and Adult Protective Services continued programs to better serve the public. The agency:

- Established **Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams** in collaboration with Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate court to assess the capacity to collaboratively address health and substance use disorder treatment needs of infants, young children, and their parents or caregivers, to create community-based solutions.
- Initiated a program called **Ohio START**. Funded by the Ohio Attorney General, Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, & Reducing Trauma) pairs caseworkers with peer mentors in recovery with a goal of stabilizing families harmed by parental drug use so that children and parents can recover and move forward with abuse-free and addiction-free lives.
- Led the **EPIC (Enhancing Permanency in Children & Families)** program to provide interventions that focus on Family Treatment Drug Court, Medication Assisted Treatment, and support for kinship caregivers.
- Continued a pilot program, funded by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office via the Victims of Crime Act, to **locate relative and non-relative kin for children within the first 30 days** they enter the foster care system, with a goal of keeping siblings together, maintaining school of origin, and preserving important relationships with supportive adults.
- Continued a pilot program, with funding from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services and the Casey Family Fund, for primary parents who have been successful in working with their Children Services agency **to lead support groups for other parents** who are currently involved with the child protection system, so that parents can share what has worked for them, share where to find resources, and encourage each other.

The Facilities Department supported the entire county as part of our pandemic response:

1. Over 100 plexiglass shields were constructed and installed in County buildings to protect employees and the public.
2. In response to the pandemic, four electrostatic sprayers were purchased to use when disinfecting workspaces. We also purchased numerous sanitizing stations, spray bottles, gloves, masks, and other protective gear.
3. Modifications were made at the Board of Elections to assist with the safe provision of the 2020 election.

We will continue to...

- Enhance the quality of life through customer service
 - Improve business operations
 - Protect citizens
- Prepare for the future by creating value and improving technology



Stronger
Fairfield County
STRONGER COMMUNITY
2020

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Go to www.co.fairfield.oh.us to learn more!





We deliver “people-centered” services, maximize government efficiency, and ensure responsible STEWARDSHIP of taxpayer dollars.

We CONNECT all residents, including our most vulnerable citizens, to services that help forge pathways to self-sufficiency.

158,232
Population



853 Employees



\$250M capital assets



13 Villages

32 Civilian sheriff's office employees



8.4% Increase in new construction



2 Cities



Low unemployment, below state average

13 Townships



Aa2 Bond rating

Lowest sales tax rate in the region



Low poverty rate, below state average

\$190+ Million all funds budget

\$50 Million general fund budget



370+ Veteran clients served financially



1,650+ Veteran clients served with transportation

150 Children in protective custody on average

8,425+ Child protective services inquiries

1,350 People with developmental disabilities and families supported by the Board of DD

76,000+ People participated in the social enterprise of Art & Clay/Square 7

18,000 Transportation trips for medical appointments and work activities



157 Multi-system youth clients protected

950+ Supervised visits or exchanges

9,200+ Child support cases



195+ Children supported with school clothes and supplies

Led an **11-county** collaboration for parenting time

Partnered with the Ohio Attorney General for a program to locate relatives and non-relative kin for children within the first 30 days of entering the foster care system



Led peer counselor programs at Protective Services

30,000+ Medicaid cases

Led a **10-county** virtual call center

We INVEST in infrastructure and develop the economy to IMPROVE the quality of life.

Long-term land use plan communicated

859,963+ Feet of water lines

828,633+ Feet of sewer lines

\$4.8M+ Loans issued

98 Revolving loan projects

180,000+ Vehicle and boat titles issued



363 Miles of roads

6,700+ County utility customers

County Airport – 2 hours flight time of 60% of the U.S. population

Tourism drives jobs by sustaining 8.5% of private employment

\$4.15B+ Total countywide assessed valuation



162 Students achieved career readiness certification



8 Historical covered bridges

342 Bridges



2,200 County culverts

Visitors to Fairfield County generate \$460 M+ business sales

2,250 Number of employees of largest employer, FMC



By securing partnerships with the public, private, and non-profit sectors, we REMOVE barriers, PROTECT our citizens, and IMPROVE services.

6,475+ Residents participating in OSU Ext. Nutrition Education programs

1,180+ Students enrolled in 4-H



\$1.3M CDBG grants

\$200,000 Critical infrastructure grant



\$500,000 Neighborhood revitalization grant

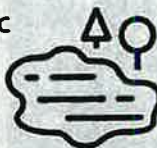
\$1M+ Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison grant

2,000 Hours of master gardener volunteer



West Buckeye Lake drainage improvement project grant completed

4.1 Mile scenic shoreline for the public – Buckeye Lake Region



Completed new parking lot for the Decorative Arts Center



70+ Community Watch volunteers



\$498,000 Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act grant

Provided new warning sirens through Emergency Management

Supported implementation of Multiple Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) and creation of a new radio tower in Walnut Township



We work hard to provide
EXCEPTIONAL public services.

We Serve. Connect. Protect.


2,485+ Sheriff citations



5,300+ Prisoners booked



405+ Cases investigated by the Coroner




24,200+ Dog licenses issued



5,270+ Deeds recorded




\$22M Collected in child support



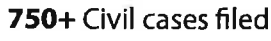
109,155+ Registered voters




Implemented new voting equipment




750+ Civil cases filed




800+ Criminal cases filed



4,700+ Criminal cases prosecuted



Led a complete count committee for the U.S. Census



AWARDS

Fairfield County earned three National Association of Counties Achievement Awards for:

- Creating a Culture of Customer Care
- Improving Governance
- Board of Revision Civic and Public Education





PANDEMIC RESPONSE





- Fairfield County adapted to provide services during the pandemic.
- The county led the way by developing communication templates, policies, and safeguarding practices.
- During the pandemic, multiple workload measures increased.
- Technology was used to maintain services.
- The county awarded subgrants or contracts of CARES Act funds to the County Board of Health, Fairfield Medical Center, the Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center, Meals on Wheels, and others.
- EMA provided 750,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the community.


WHAT'S HAPPENING


- 


The building at 108 North High Street in Lancaster, the former location of the Detective Bureau, was converted to offices for real estate and GIS.
- 


Fairfield County created a well-received patriotic mural for education and awareness at the Amstutz Building.
- 


The Auditor's Office was updated with new carpeting, painting, and LED lighting.
- 


LED lighting was added in multiple areas.
- 

The Liberty Center was renovated to add storage space for voting equipment.
- 

Nine buildings are operating more efficiently now than in the past. With the ongoing conservation program, we are on track to save about \$3 million over 20 years.
- 

JFS provided disaster assistance to more than 1,885 people.
- 

We partnered with multiple stakeholders to open the Workforce Center at 4465 Coonpath Road. The 72,000 square foot building houses programming by OU and Hocking College to help local businesses train its workforce and to increase skill sets of our general labor pool.
- 

The county refinanced debt in 2020 to save \$450,000 over time, ending 2020 with a general fund carryover cash balance of more than \$22 million.
- 

JFS continued a program called Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma). Funded by the Ohio Attorney General, the program pairs caseworkers with peer mentors in recovery with a goal of stabilizing families harmed by parental drug use.

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