

Roundtable Meeting #50 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 15, 2022

Roundtable #3

The Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. at the NW Government Services Building located at 12933 Stonecreek Drive in Pickerington, OH for a Roundtable Meeting. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and Dave Levacy. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Bart Hampson, Bennett Niceswanger, Branden Meyer, Dennis Keller, CJ Roberts, Nikki Drake, Samantha Green, Lt. John Warner, Dr. Brian Varney, Luann Davidson, Corey Clark, Tony Vogel, Michael Kaper, Josh Horacek, Kyle Witt, Joe Ebel, Tiffany Nash, Shannon Carter, Jim Bahnsen, Rick Szabrak, Jeremiah Upp, Marcey Shafer, Dan Neeley, Dr. Carri Brown, Carter Corcoran, Dennis Lowe, Lauren Strobe, Keith Conroy, Brian Hicks and Carrie Woody.

Commissioners Davis and Levacy welcomed everyone to the third Roundtable meeting. They provided their appreciation for the work that has been done to bring the Fairfield Center online.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, offered her appreciation for the Facilities team for getting the building ready for the roundtable meeting. She outlined the agenda for the day and the purpose of the department updates.

Director of Economic Development, Rick Szabrak, introduced the team at Hicks Partners who will begin partnering with more departments in Fairfield County beginning in 2023.

Brian Hicks spoke about the grant writers at Hicks Partners and the areas they specialize in. He explained the step-by-step process for submitting a grant and the ways the team manages the projects. Brian also described some of the previous and current projects they have worked on which are applicable and can be helpful to Fairfield County.

Keith Conroy explained the types of grants Hicks Partners specializes in which includes state, federal, and foundation & corporate. The next steps will include a portal service for Fairfield County municipalities. The site will be populated with applicable grants so officials are aware of what is available to them. They hope to meet with each department head individually to understand what the needs are.

Commissioner Davis asked if there was a metric for measuring the success of the relationship with Hicks Partners.

Brian Hicks explained that as more grants are applied for, there will be more wins but also more losses.

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Commissioner Davis stated he would be in favor of some sort of metric to track successful applications. He encourages everyone in attendance to consider what their end goal is for the grant application process.

Brian Hicks added that some grants get additional scoring if there is sustainability. Hicks Partners will determine which grants they think Fairfield County will have a higher likelihood of being awarded.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about a positive personal experience he had with Hicks Partners and the Buckeye Lake area.

Rick Szabrak stated they will be reaching out to departments to determine a point of contact moving forward. He encourages everyone to utilize their services.

Brian Hicks asked the departments heads to determine who will be the subject matter on a subject matter to increase the odds of being awarded a grant.

County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp, commented on how many grants the Engineer's Office applies for and wants people to be aware of what happens after a grant is awarded.

Rick Szabrak went on to provide an update on the Economic Development Strategic Plan and Land Use update.

Jeremiah Upp thanked Rick and the Commissioners for their dedication to future planning.

Human Resources Director, Jeff Porter, thanked everyone for completing their 2023 benefits elections. He announced that on November 17th information will be communicated regarding a challenge on the Virgin Pulse app for the holidays. The people with the most steps will win wellness incentives. These incentives are made available with wellness funds.

Carrie Woody, Executive Director of United Way, thanked everyone who turned in their campaign sheets and presented the United Way campaign kickoff video. She shared a story about some of the success stories United Way has helped to make possible. She also shared some of the programs United Way helps fund in the community. She thanked everyone who continues to support United Way.

Commissioner Davis asked how people can sign up to have donations deducted from their payroll.

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Carrie explained that people who wish to contribute can fill out the pledge form and designate where their donations go.

Commissioner Davis thanked Carrie for all she does for the community.

IT Director, Dan Neeley, provided an update on multi-factor authentication. It is a second verification that appears after signing in that serves to increase cybersecurity. It helps to prove who employees say they are and explained some of the options available for the two-step security.

Commissioner Davis asked how Duo interacts with a mobile user.

Dan stated that employees will be able to authenticate a device for a certain number of days on mobile devices.

Commissioner Davis asked what the implementation schedule is.

Dan answered that they are looking to implement right away.

Director of Job and Family Services, Corey Clark, stated the population of Fairfield County is becoming increasingly diverse so they are working to identify more ways to reach diverse populations and seek out opportunities to build new and existing partnerships.

Facilities Director, Dennis Keller, explained the Facilities department continuously looks at improvements they can make to county buildings and properties. There is a huge demand in the NW area of the county which the new Fairfield Center will address.

Director of the Parks District, Marcey Shafer, stated the Parks District needs to grow with the growth of the county. They are looking to modernize some of their systems to help the small department reach a broader area. They are looking to add an additional staff member in 2023.

Weights and Measures Inspector, Carter Corcoran, stated Weights and Measures works with local businesses to ensure their weights and measures systems are compliant with standards. The Auditor's Office recently awarded several businesses for excellent weights and measures practices. He hopes to incorporate electric charging stations in the future.

CJ Roberts with Juvenile and Probate Court spoke about the reorganization of the Juvenile and Probate Court that took place in April. She also spoke about the resources and programs provided by the court that are available to the community.

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Emergency Management Specialist, Tiffany Nash, spoke about the Fairfield County Mitigation Plan which will soon be completed and ready to present to the Commissioners.

IT Director, Dan Neeley, stated IT has a new staff member assigned to take over end of year technology orders they expect to receive in the coming weeks. He also touched on the ATC telephone conversion that is taking place for county phones.

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, stated Level 4 Budget Entry will end 11/21/22. His department continues to work through end of year budget activities to finalize the 2023 budget.

Court Magistrate, Josh Horacek, spoke about improving efficiencies in case management going forward. Common Pleas Court is also looking at grant opportunities to fund different programs.

Lt. John Warner with the Sheriff's Office spoke about the increasing presence in the NW area of the county. They are redistricting the county into different sectors to address patrol needs in the communities. The Sheriff is also seeking additional staffing of corrections officers to account for the population growth in the county jail.

Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel, spoke about growing the Health Department and adding additional employees. They are working to acquire additional space for recruiting and retaining staff and are working to improve their efficiencies in current efforts.

Economic Development Director, Rick Szabrak, stated the electric car charging stations are up and running at the Workforce Center. They have 35 high school students enrolled in the Workforce Center to help find a trade after graduating. They are planning to add an engineering technology lab at the Workforce Center to expand existing services. Five school districts are partnered with the Workforce Center and he hopes to have all eight in the future.

Chief Deputy Treasurer, Michael Kaper, spoke about the Land Bank. They have worked with Hicks Partners to coordinate with townships in the county with demolition of properties.

County Coroner, Dr. Brian Varney, reported an uptick in cases at the Coroners Office. He has invited two additional doctors from the community to serve as Deputy Coroners to help with the workload.

County Prosecutor, Kyle Witt, stated the Prosecutor's top priority is public safety. Law enforcement has a prosecutor on-call 24/7 in case of any legal questions. His office is focused on making sure law enforcement has the technological needs to assist in trials and prosecutions.

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Soil and Water District Manager, Nikki Drake, stated Soil and Water continues to grow its drone program which helps with engineering designs. There are 3 watershed areas located in Fairfield County, so the department is working to determine needs in the area.

Commander Dennis Lowe of the South Central Major Crimes Unit spoke about the importance of collaboration for the task force. Major Crimes was just awarded a large grant which they will use to address transportation and housing needs. They will also be purchasing K-9's to work with local law enforcement.

County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp, stated there has been significant changes ever since the announcement of the Intel project. He also spoke about some staffing changes the Engineer's Office is experiencing. They are changing the overall direction of the office to handle the development that is coming to Fairfield County.

Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer, stated the case management conversion system will begin soon.

Utilities Director, Tony Vogel, spoke about the need for increasing utility services provided to county townships.

Shannon Carter with the OSU Extension spoke about the programs and services made available to the community by the OSU Extension.

County Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen, stated an increase in development will mean an increase in the real estate tax. His office is in the final stages of moving to the first floor from the second floor which will be more convenient for taxpayers.

Commissioner Levacy shared his thoughts about the Roundtable meetings. He appreciates the information and thinks the collaboration of the departments in Fairfield County is exceptional.

Commissioner Davis spoke about his recent involvement in transportation. He shared a story he had with someone who was previously incarcerated and was encouraged by how the individual had turned their life around.

Adjournment

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

*Approved on November 22, 2022

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Bennett Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk