

Regular Meeting #55 - 2020
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 17, 2020

Public Viewing – Lockville Alley Vacation Petition

The Commissioners met at 8:00 a.m. for a public viewing for the petition to vacate a portion of Lockville Alley. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and Jeff Fix. Also present was Jeremiah Upp.

The Commissioners viewed the proposed alley to be vacated.

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner 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, Joshua Horacek, and Ray Stemen. Attending virtually were Sam Howard, Alex Howard, Jim Bahnsen, Chris Wagner, Temple Custer-Gagni, David Miller, Dennis Keller, Stephanie Fyffe, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Jonathan Ferbrache, Jon Kochis, Jon Slater, Lisa McKenzie, Chief Lape, Aunie Cordle, Nikolas Hutton, Stacy Hicks, Rick Szabrak, Thomas Lininger, Tony Vogel, Larry Hanna, Doug Durrett, Branden Meyer, Hannah Heimberger, Rob Brady, Misty Brady, 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.

Mr. Kochis reported on one tracking method they have seen a decrease on patient numbers (the patient count). FMC positivity remains high between 10-30%. It is the hope that the message of mask wearing and hand washing will help decrease the numbers.

Mr. Davis asked what the messaging is about not having events.

Mr. Kochis replied while it is part of the safeguarding measures and part of the message, this part of the message will receive a lot of pushback nationally. It is important to continue the message, though. Avoiding groups is important.

Mr. Levacy asked about the hospitalization numbers.

Mr. Kochis clarified that as of yesterday, 55 Fairfield County residents are in ICU, mainly in Columbus hospitals.

Mr. Hanna reported there would be a free COVID-19 testing site at the fairgrounds on December 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be led by the National Guard. They will have a strong notification campaign including billboards.

Ms. Fyffe clarified that the ICU number is cumulative. It is a relative number.

She went on to state two new state orders have come out, one for retail establishments and one for events. The BWC is conducting investigations. There are a few ways to submit complaints, one through the Ohio Department of Health. Another is by calling the local health department, but they will be referred to the ODH. There is also a mass gathering order with strict enforcement for mask wearing and no congregate site activities.

They have had to make extreme changes to contact tracing as they try to keep up with the snowballing numbers. At least 100 positive cases are seen every single day. ODH provided guidance to help with this.

Mr. Davis asked about quarantining and for clarification on the time to quarantine.

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Ms. Fyffe replied there was confusion and they have talked about sending out a health alert to physicians to remind them of the guidelines. For quarantine, you are to be quarantined for 14 days from your last contact with the infected person. That is assuming you are not experiencing symptoms.

Mr. Levacy thought it would be helpful to coordinate with billboard messaging.

Ms. Fyffe replied they were fine with that and would do so.

Dr. Brown asked what the difference was between quarantining and isolating.

Ms. Fyffe replied that isolation is for those who have tested positive. If they have others in their household, they need to stay in their bedroom, have their own bathroom, have meals brought to their doors, and close the doors. The time span for that is either 10 days from the start of symptoms or 10 days from being tested and not having symptoms. In those 10 days there needs to be an improvement in symptoms and no fever for 24 hours. Quarantining is for those who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. If they develop symptoms within those 14 days, they then need to isolate and follow those guidelines.

Dr. Brown asked if the Health Department was willing to help those who had questions about safely having events.

Ms. Fyffe reported that the Health Department was willing and ready to help those with questions.

Ms. Fyffe reported an update on vaccines. The effective rates seem promising. They are not sure on the timeline yet, but they will communicate it with the community when they have it. The Health Department plans on a billboard campaign when the time comes.

Virtual Meeting with the Governor and County Communication Plan/Strategies

The Commissioners met by Zoom meeting with the Governor on Saturday, November 14. The Governor and Lt. Governor were pleased with the approach Fairfield County is taking and stated they wished others were doing the same.

In addition, we have held a Community Public Health Coalition meeting (as part of the Defense Team approach). The next meeting is December 3.

Dr. Brown emailed Larry Hanna to approach Dr. Abei about drafting an editorial or narrative about the efficacy of wearing masks.

On Monday, November 16, CCAO shared the Fairfield County communication plan with other counties and stakeholders in their Statehouse Report.

Communications from the State

Governor DeWine issued a press release on November 16 about gatherings. It was in the review packet.

- Legal Update

The Prosecutor and the Sheriff reviewed the Buckeye Beach liquor permit application and history reported. Mr. Horacek received some records from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. He reviewed all the Sheriff's Office reports and nothing stood out as particularly concerning. This location is a campground/mobile home park. A lot of the reports were related to the tenants, not directly related to the operation of the business.

The records received from the Division of Liquor Control do leave a lot of questions unanswered, including how the liquor would be sold or how the operation would be ran.

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There are some tax delinquencies which has resulted in the Ohio Department of Taxation requesting the permit be withheld until those issues are solved.

Mr. Davis stated it sounded like the hearing would be a result of issues that would not typically result in a hearing.

Mr. Davis asked what Mr. Horacek's take would be in the Commission elected to not have a hearing and left the petitioner to solve her own issues with the state.

Mr. Horacek replied that would be acceptable. He added the information he would like to see is what the Division of Liquor Control is also going to want to see. He does not have any huge concerns that they would issue the permit without clarifying those issues first.

Mr. Levacy asked if Mr. Horacek had spoken with the applicant and stated Mr. Szabrak was working with her to build an event center.

Mr. Horacek replied he had not heard that, but it would make sense.

Mr. Fix asked if it was best to leave the Division of Liquor Control to do their job.

Mr. Horacek replied that would be a reasonable solution.

Dr. Brown suggested reaching out and informing the applicant on the process for obtaining a new address, as that seemed to be one question.

Mr. Davis stated if there was no need for a motion or action and if they take no action, they will not be asking for a hearing.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Horacek to let Dr. Brown know if anything arises that changes his feelings toward this situation.

- CARES Act Funds

Dr. Brown reported there are some grants available for non-profit organizations. Grantees must disclose CARES Act amounts received from local governments. Program details and an online application are available on the ODJFS website at <https://jfs.ohio.gov/nonprofitgrants/>. The application deadline is November 27.

Also, some county departments have reported an additional need for laptops or technology to allow for teleworking.

Dr. Brown reported we have advised that we can proceed with necessary expenditures and reimburse the paying fund if there are additional funds available for CARES Act reimbursement in the future.

Dr. Brown reported she confirmed with the County Auditor that they will report that all of Fairfield County's allocated CRF resources has been spent or encumbered, meaning none of the resources in our fund will be up for redistribution.

The County Auditor will conduct a redistribution on November 25.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

- a. Announcements & Date Reminders

- Announcements

- Anyone can email or text a question anytime:

- Carri.Brown@FairfieldCountyOhio.gov
(740) 777-8552

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Date Reminders

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 reported there were 17 resolutions for the voting meeting.

- We proposed a resolution approving signing a Deed of Agricultural Easement relating to the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for the Michael and Nida Berry Farm.
- The County Engineer proposed a resolution to approve advertising by the County Engineer to sell scrap metal and aluminum.
- We had a resolution to approve the Annual County Highway System Mileage Certification for 2020, which is a certification of 362.42 miles, the same as that of 12.31.2019.
- We proposed a resolution communicating the importance of wearing facial coverings and complying with all safeguarding measures to fight community spread of the Coronavirus -and- to acknowledge support of such measures to help keep businesses and organizations open in a safe manner and to be as healthy as possible within the community.

There were 13 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- Account to account transfers of appropriations for HR, Juvenile Court, and Economic Development (four resolutions);
- Appropriations and reimbursement activity for JFS (four resolutions);
- Appropriations for Utilities and FCFAF (three resolutions);
- Creation of a new special revenue fund for Juvenile Court (for the defensive driving grant); and
- Declaring a surplus of \$450,000 within the Clerk of Courts Certificate of Title Fund and processing a fund to fund transfer to the General Fund by agreement of the Clerk of Courts and the Commissioners.

Dr. Brown said thank you to Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer, for his ongoing collaboration. We understand that for 2021 forward there are no identified amounts for a surplus as various projects and activities are under review. The Commissioners do not have any estimate for a transfer included in projections or 2021 forward at this time.

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

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals and Update

Administrative Approvals

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

FYI: The Krile Communications agreement was approved on Saturday, November 14. Thank you to Josh Horacek for approving it to form so quickly.

Dr. Brown highlighted the Stronger Fairfield County, Stronger Community document for 2020, and she reviewed the year in review document. Copies of these reports are available for anyone who would like them for presentations or publications.

Budget Update

The target date for the 2021 budget to be passed is December 8. We received updated reports from the County Auditor about sales tax, conveyance fees, and casino revenues. With a month to go with receipts, all these categories are above County Auditor projections. For example, conveyance fees are at \$3.1 M today, above the County Auditor estimate of \$2.5M.

Some recent updates were reviewed (previously reported):

Non-auto sales tax revenues for the retail sales of September are estimated at \$1,572,234, or 8% above the previous year. Auto sales tax revenues for the month of September last year were more than \$400,000. The state experienced an increase of 5% in non-auto sales tax receipts in September.

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

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.

For the general fund budget for 2021, the expected expenditures (about 95% of appropriations) are aligned with the projected actual revenues. We plan to examine a comprehensive technology plan for mid-year appropriations. We also await information about the costs for the Sheriff's firing and training range.

d. BRAVOS

Thanks to the County Auditor for working with Tyler Technologies to obtain a memo item on checks (or warrants). This project was in response to an idea box suggestion. Thanks for following up!

Thanks to Mandi Hankison for her work to prepare reporting for payroll to summarize public safety payroll support for the CARES Act.

Bravo to the Decorative Arts Center for offering guided tours for first responders. DACO provided this opportunity to say thank you!

Great job to HR for the virtual recognition ceremony. Thanks to all the honorees!

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Communications

- 1. MCJDC Meetings

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Mr. Davis participated in two MCJDC meetings last week. Fairfield County was applauded for being the leader on the CARES Act transfers to MCJDC. Additionally, MCJDC staff and all members were appreciative of the \$4,000 appropriated by Fairfield County for expenses.

The issue of bonus pay was discussed, and the discussion was very spirited. The concept was approved by the Board of Trustees 6 to 2 which then went to the Joint Board of Commissioners. Then, it was denied 8-3. Mr. Davis expects there will be a bit of time where people are feeling sorry for themselves.

2. Lions Club

Mr. Fix presented to the Pickerington Lions Club last Friday and was able to share the County's COVID response as well as information on what county government does.

3. CCAO shared Fairfield County's Communication Plan

Mr. Davis remains concerned that the Governor will leapfrog Fairfield County not giving the communication strategies time to work. The communications now are designed to increase compliance to save businesses.

Mr. Levacy stated he posed the question on Saturday of a mixed message of wearing a mask verses not wearing a mask. He stated the Lt. Gov. was taken back by that. Mr. Levacy believes a consistent message is vital.

Dr. Brown reported that it was requested that Dr. Aebe prepare an editorial on the importance on wearing masks to help combat how the CDC initially reporting masks were not needed to deal with supply issues.

Mr. Davis reported he believes the message has gotten more consistent but there are several avenues for people to go down in terms of their thoughts about wearing masks.

- New Business
- General Correspondence Received
 - a. CFLP 3rd Quarter Education and Recycling Contract Report
- Calendar Review/Invitations Received
 - a. East Point Open House and Tour – November 19th from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – RSVP required
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population – 253
 - b. Liquor Permit Notices – Sent to Chief Lape for review
 - 1. Sugar Crossing Convenience Store – no concerns
 - 2. Sims Coroner
 - c. Communications Received and Responses
 - 1. Sanctuary discussion
 - 2. Letter re: Potential Illegal Dump in Berne Township
 - d. JFS Holiday Donation Drive

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- e. Newsletters for Review
 - 1. DD Newsletter
 - 2. Office of Farmland Preservation 2019 Annual Report
 - 3. The Voice of Ethics Newsletter
- f. Public records requests can be made to Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov or Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov

- Open Items (none)

Commissioner Davis stated at 9:50 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the 10:00 a.m. voting meeting.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 17, 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, Joshua Horacek, Rick Szabrak, Tony Vogel, Kyle Brady, and Ray Stemen. Joining via teleconference were Jim Bahnsen, Branden Meyer, Aunie Cordle, Dave Burgei, David Miller, Dennis Keller, Doug Durrett, Stephanie Fyffe, Hanna Heimberger, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Jonathan Ferbrache, Jon Slater, Chief Lape, Nikolas Hutton, Karie Stone, Thomas Lininger, and Jeremiah Upp.

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, November 12, 2020 and Saturday, November 14, 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, November 12, 2020 and Saturday, November 14, 2020 Regular Meetings.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Clerk of Courts - Title

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Clerk of Courts – Title resolution to approve declaring a surplus for the Clerk of Courts Title Fund #2326, appropriating from unappropriated funds, and a fund to fund transfer from the Clerk of Courts Title Fund #2326 to the General Fund #1001; see resolution 2020-11.17.a.

Discussion: Mr. Davis reviewed the history of declaring a surplus from the title fund. While it used to be a real arm-wrestling match, it is now a process of willingness and cooperation from Clerk of Courts Meyer. Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation to Mr. Meyer and his staff. Mr. Meyer thanked the Commission and expressed his hope to continue the transfer. Mr. Levacy and Mr. Fix expressed their appreciation as well.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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:

- 2020-11.17.b A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category – Fund# 1001 – Commissioners/Human Resources [Commissioners]
- 2020-11.17.c A resolution communicating the importance of wearing facial coverings and complying with all safeguarding measures to fight community spread of the Coronavirus -and- to acknowledge support of such measures to help keep businesses and organizations open in a safe manner and to be as healthy as possible within the community [Commissioners]
- 2020-11.17.d A resolution approving signing a Deed of Agricultural Easement relating to the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for the Michael and Nida Berry Farm. [Commissioners]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Economic and Workforce Development Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic and Workforce Development resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category; see resolution 2020-11.17.e.

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:

- 2020-11.17.f A resolution to approve the Annual County Highway System Mileage Certification for 2020. [Engineer]
- 2020-11.17.g A Resolution to Approve Advertising by the County Engineer to Sell Scrap Metal and Aluminum. [Engineer]

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Family, Adult, and Children First Council Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major expense for the fund #7521, subfund #8188; see resolution 2020-11.17.h.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the JFS Resolutions

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

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- 2020-11.17.i A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2020-11.17.j A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]
- 2020-11.17.k A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 2072 – Children Services Fund - Fairfield County JFS [JFS]
- 2020-11.17.l A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS]

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

Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Juvenile/Probate Court resolutions:

- 2020-11.17.m A resolution approving an account to account transfer [Juvenile Court] [Juvenile/Probate Court]
- 2020-11.17.n A resolution to authorize the establishment of a new fund for the Fairfield County Juvenile Court and Appropriate from Unappropriated [Juvenile Court] [Juvenile/Probate Court]
- 2020-11.17.o A resolution approving an account to account transfer [Juvenile Court] [Juvenile/Probate Court]

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

Approval of the Utilities Resolutions

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

- 2020-11.17.p A resolution to approve additional appropriations by appropriating from unappropriated into a major expense object category – Fund # 5847, Greenfield Twp Water Bond – Fairfield County Utilities [Utilities]
- 2020-11.17.q A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Utilities Funds 5044 Sewer, 5046 Water, 5842 Greenfield Sewer & 5841 Greenfield Water [UTILITIES] [Utilities]

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

Open Items

Dr. Brown stated the Fairfield County mask communication flyer will be turned into a postcard to mail to the tax bill mailing list. We are also researching if we can get inserts approved for the tax bills, and that message may differ from the postcard if new information is available then.

Additionally, she reported that she received information that Deputy Hummel will investigate the report of an illegal dump in Berne Township.

Commissioner Davis stated at 10:08 a.m. that the Commission would take a short recess.

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Economic Development Update

The Commissioners met at 10:11 a.m. for an Economic Development update. 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, Joshua Horacek, Tony Vogel, Kyle Brady, Tony Vogel, and Rick Szabrak. Attending virtually were Jim Bahrensen, Branden Meyer, Chris Wagner, Dave Burgei, Doug Durrett, Stephanie Fyffe, Hannah Heimberger, Jeff Barron, Jeremiah Upp, Jon Slater, Karie Stone, Chief Lape, Mary Rawlins, Nikolas Hutton, Misty Brady, Ron Brady, and Thomas Lininger.

Mr. Rick Szabrak, Economic and Workforce Development Director, provided an update on his department's activities and goals including the Career Readiness Program, Fairfield County Workforce Center, Workforce Development Board, Revolving Loan Fund, and Fairfield 33 Alliance. Please see the attached fact sheet.

The Career Readiness Program is now in its third year. Mr. Szabrak also introduced the Career Navigators and Mr. Kyle Brady, who works for Mr. Tony Vogel at Utilities. Ms. Stone reviewed how the program works at Lancaster. Ms. Rawlins provided an update on Pickerington's program. Mr. Brady has been a success story of the career readiness program. His parents attended the meeting virtually and expressed how they appreciated the program.

Mr. Davis asked if there was a component to the process where the successful student gets any information on financial planning and financial management.

Mr. Szabrak replied each school has their own program, but it is not a part of the Career Readiness Program specifically. He will reach out to OSU Extension to see if their program can be included with the Career Readiness Program. The navigators provided information about what was available at the schools.

Mr. Levacy thanked everyone for their work and envisioned a day when the Career Readiness Program and Workforce Center worked hand in hand.

Mr. Fix thanked everyone and asked of the 800 students, what would be a good target number.

Mr. Szabrak replied the focus was with students who are most employable. He thought 300 students was a good target over time.

Mr. Fix asked what was getting in the way from getting to new students.

Ms. Stone replied it was schedules and other needs of the students. She and Ms. Rawlins reviewed the other programs and hopes to include them in the future.

Mr. Vogel spoke about his experience with the Career Readiness Program. He spoke to Mr. Brady's success in the program and the doors it has opened for him.

Mr. Brady spoke about how the program led him to his job at Utilities.

Mr. Davis applauded Mr. Brady's parents, who were on the line, for their accomplishment with Kyle Brady as a successful county employee.

Dr. Brown suggested gathering program graduates to formalize a peer outreach component. Peers could share their experiences with prospective students. The peers will be trusted by the students. She added that right now, there are multiple vacancies at Utilities that can be filled by individuals just like Kyle.

Mr. Brady spoke about the importance of his parents in the process of participating in the program.

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Public Hearing – Lockville Alley Vacation Petition

The Commissioners met at 11:00 a.m. for a public hearing for the petition to vacate a portion of Lockville Alley. 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, Ray Stemen, Attending virtually were Jim Bahnsen, Branden Meyer, Dave Burgei, Doug Durrett, Hannah Heimberger, Jeremiah Upp, Jon Slater, Karie Stone, Mary Rawlins, Misty Brady, Rick Szabrak.

Mr. Davis reported the Commissioners met on site with the attorney for the petitioners. Either side of the proposed area to be vacated has already been vacated.

Mr. Upp reviewed the area proposed to be vacated. The area has not been used and there are no plans to use it. The land would be transferred to the adjoining properties. No one would be landlocked, and they do not oppose the vacation.

There were no comments in support of nor opposed to the vacation.

There were no additional comments. The hearing was closed at 11:02 a.m.

Economic Development Update

The Commissioners met at 11:02 a.m. for an Economic Development update. 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, Ray Stemen, Attending virtually were Jim Bahnsen, Branden Meyer, Dave Burgei, Doug Durrett, Hannah Heimberger, Jeremiah Upp, Jon Slater, Karie Stone, Mary Rawlins, Misty Brady, Rick Szabrak.

Mr. Szabrak and Ms. Heimberger continued to review the achievements of the Workforce Development Board.

Mr. Szabrak and Mr. Durrett also provided an update on the Revolving Loan Fund and Fairfield 33 Alliance.

Mr. Fix stated that he believes Economic Development is driven by Workforce Development. He feels like Fairfield County is doing so much more than other counties, but that there is so much more to do. He asked what the Commissioners can do to make everything happen.

Mr. Szabrak replied the support of the 33 Alliance is great. He added communication is key. Mr. Szabrak stated the situation regarding workforce is not unique but is a nationwide concern.

Dr. Brown added that Fairfield County is better suited to address these needs with projects such as the Workforce Center. The investment from the county is supportive of combining workforce and economic development.

Mr. Davis asked if the Commission was doing everything Mr. Szabrak thought they could to make them successful.

Mr. Szabrak replied yes, and that he thought the Commission was more involved than any Commission in the state.

Mr. Fix stated that Economic Development is the lifeblood of Fairfield County. As the County finds itself in the financial situation it is in at the end of the year, he would like to know at some point, what additional financial assistance is needed.

Mr. Levacy stated his daughter in law teaches at the Career Center and the stigma that used to exist that the students at a vocational school were not successful. He believes that was turned around and wondered if the same stigma existed in the Career Readiness Program. If there is a stigma, it needs to be addressed.

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Ms. Rawlins replied she believes there is a small stigma, but that it is getting better and more and more students want to be a part of the program.

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending and presented Kyle with a certificate congratulating him on his success.

Dr. Brown thanked Ms. Szabrak and his team for their work. Mr. Szabrak thanked everyone for their partnership and indicated he and others will continue to brainstorm about new ideas to support workforce development.

Open Items

Dr. Brown reported the eviction process training (supported by Fairfield County with CARES Act funds) will be held December 17th with the Bar Association.

She stated there was also a plea to have the Commissioners connect and advocate for an extension of the remote public meetings after December 1st.

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 11:31 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 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by: _____ Seconded by: _____
that the November 17, 2020 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on November 24, 2020

Steven A. Davis
Commissioner

Dave Levacy
Commissioner

~~Jeff~~ Fix
Commissioner

Rachel A Elsea, Clerk



Career Readiness Program

- Mission: Provide relevant workplace skills and essential trainings that prepare students to be professionally competitive and to connect students to local employers directly out of high school
- Target approximately 700 seniors that are graduating, not going to college, and aren't in a career technology program with a given pathway
- Endorsement counts toward alternative pathway to graduation
- Two Career Navigators (Karie Stone and Mary Rawlins), along with counselors, teachers, and other school administrators, work with seven school districts
- Funded through Fairfield 33 Alliance, school districts, the Fairfield County Foundation, and a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant through the Ohio Mayor's Alliance

School Year	Students Involved	Businesses Involved
2018-2019	49 received endorsement	20+
2019-2020	162 received endorsement	30+
2020-2021	165 students involved	30+

Fairfield County Workforce Center

- 72,000 square-foot building is ready for use
- 42,000 square-foot manufacturing space to house skilled trade programs and advanced manufacturing programs
- 15,000 square-foot classroom and meeting space to host in-class learning, computer lab, etc.
- 15,000 square-foot office space for future use
- Hocking College
- HVAC certification training with 11 attendees and will host regular HVAC training in February
- Expended its \$750,000 from state; hired director of workforce innovation for center
- Ohio University will offer online certificate training programs in healthcare to help meet the needs of Fairfield Medical Center
- Still has \$500,000 from state to spend; hiring an instructor for engineering-technology
- Magna Seating has donated/leased three pieces of equipment including a robotic welder to use for screening applicants; working on an apprenticeship program along with FANUC robotics
- Carriage House Printery was awarded lease from RFP to use 1,000 sq. feet for business expansion

Other

- Workforce Development Board
- Hosting virtual career fairs in early 2021 and spring 2021
- Created employer services network to assist businesses with hiring and training needs
- RFP is out for a large WIOA workforce study that will be used to identify training needs
- RLF - \$830,000 COVID relief grant is up and running. Reviewing first applicant today.
- Fairfield 33 Alliance
- Reviewing proposals for upgraded website/marketing materials, including drone footage
- Hosting three-part program in December with local Chambers of Commerce
- Creating Fairfield33jobs.com part of website with marketing campaign to help with hiring

