

Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. in the Millersport Elementary Auditorium, 11850 Lancaster St., Millersport, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Dr. Carri Brown, Corey Clark, Steven Darnell, Chris Wagner, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Rick Szabrak, Elizabeth Moe, Deputy Jamie Shell, Judy Stemen, Ray Stemen, Jason Robinson, Rod Wagner, Doug Leith, Justin Beorse, Karl Elder, Ed Chilcotie, Bill Cunningham, Walter Gabriel, Kevin Elder, Betty Elder, Melissa Conner, Steve Feeney, Lisa Thomas, and Jon Miller.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking those in attendance for coming to the evening meeting. The Commissioner explained the meeting pattern and asked Walnut Township Trustee, Doug Leith, if he would like to speak.

Mr. Leith thanked the Commissioners for scheduling the meeting in his township and spoke briefly about his appreciation for the grant work the Commissioners have been sponsoring to entities in the county.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about money that the Federal government had given to schools and agencies and his consensus that the money did not appear to make improvements.

Judy Stemen of Lancaster spoke about COVID headlines that she has read and provided a copy of the headlines that are in the minutes.

Melissa Hoover Conner of Pleasantville spoke about a grass roots effort to educate the community on industrial solar projects. She stated she is not against solar energy but is against the loss of farmland and the damaging of drainage systems that have been managed by the local farmers. She spoke about the Federal tax dollars that are supporting the industrial solar projects and closed by talking about all the effects of solar farms. These effects include the increase of the cost for farmland.

Steve Fenney of Lancaster spoke of his opposition to solar energy. He stated that solar energy is more expensive and added that the decrease of fossil fuel use increases the climate's carbon dioxide. Mr. Feeney spoke about the earth's atmosphere and climate science and asked the Board not to support the solar projects proposed in Fairfield County.

Bill Cunningham spoke about the chemicals and hazardous materials that are in solar panels and spoke about the hazardous waste that has been created over the last thirty years. Mr. Cunningham spoke about attending a meeting held by Geenex, a solar company, whose parent company is in Australia. He also stated that the electricity produced by solar fields in Fairfield County will be transferred by PGM, an electrical transfer company, to the east coast. Mr. Cunningham spoke about the effects of solar farms on the body and asked the Commissioners to not support solar energy.

Lisa Thomas of Lancaster spoke about the requirement for zoning permits from residents and the lack of any requirements from solar developers. She spoke about failed climate predictions and the Green New Deal. She stated that solar panels are not reliable or renewable and questioned their effects on America.

**Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022**

Kevin Elder of Pleasantville spoke about being part of the Elder Brother's Farms. He stated it takes 500 years to produce an inch of topsoil and that solar energy can destroy it in a very short time. Mr. Elder also spoke about River Valley Mall planning 40 years prior and the effects of development on floodplains, rivers, and roads. Mr. Elder posed the question, if the farmland goes to solar development, what will it be in forty years? He stated someone needs to watch the developers and stated he is not in favor because of the loss of a valuable resource.

Commissioner Fix thanked everyone for their comments and stated that one of the purposes of the evening meetings is to allow people who are unable to attend on Tuesday morning to address the Board.

Legal Update

There was no legal update.

County Administration Update

Week in Review

ARP Update

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, stated that from the \$30,607,546.77 received as the first and second tranche of fiscal recovery funds, \$19.6M has been appropriated, \$9.8M expended, and \$5.2M encumbered or obligated.

Letter of Support for Natural Gas

The review packet contains a letter of support recognizing American natural gas as an abundant and affordable source of energy.

Highlights of Resolutions

Ms. Cordle stated that the review packet contains a list of administrative approvals and that there were nineteen resolutions for the voting meeting. She listed the following resolutions of note:

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution authorizing the approval of establishment of Commissioners' Review Session and Regular Meeting Dates, and Special Meeting Dates for 2023
- A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Lease Agreement with Congressman Troy Balderson for The Fairfield Center
- A resolution to approve the purchasing of a gun by a retiring officer
- A resolution of support of property for the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- Recension of a Developmental Disabilities Board appointee.
- Recension of an EMA resolution from last week that will approve the hazard mitigation plan.

Recognition

Ms. Cordle announced the following recognition:

Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022

- County Auditor, Dr. Brown, thanked Rachel Enmen, Rachel Elsea, Martha Scott, and Bev Anders for gearing up for dog licensing season, decorating the Christmas tree with dog license tags, preparing for the virtual dog show, and for sharing the news all throughout the community about the importance of licensing your dog. The Dog Shelter staff has also been great.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Ms. Cordle reviewed the following invitations and calendar items:

- Fairfield County Foundation Ambassador's Club Donor Reception, November 30, 2022, 5:30 p.m., Ale House 1890, Upstairs Event Room, 149 W. Main St., Lancaster (Fix)
- Economic Development 411 Meeting, December 2, 2022, 8:00 a.m., Ohio Union, The Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St., Columbus (Fix)
- Fairfield 33 Alliance Annual Meeting and Economic Update, December 7, 2022, 8:00 a.m., Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll (Levacy)

Correspondence

Ms. Cordle reviewed the following correspondence:

- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction 2022 Annual Jail Inspection Report, Dated November 21, 2022
- Fairfield County Heritage Association 2023 Annual Membership Card
- Press Release, Office of the Auditor, November 28, 2022, "Fairfield County Auditor Publishes Timeline for Historic Beery House at 108 North High"
- County Auditor Map of the Month, "Christmas Tree Farms of Fairfield County"
- Meals on Wheels 2023 Levy Budget Packet and 2021 Annual Report to the Community
- Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities November 2022, Newsletter, Imagine

Jail Population

Ms. Cordle stated that the jail population for November 22, 2022, was 277 with 37 of those being contracted placements, and for November 29, 2022, was 275 with 33 of those being contracted placements.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis stated CCAO will offer guidance for some anomalies taking place with sales tax and added that they are positive anomalies.

Commissioner Levacy hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and stated that Christmas and Thanksgiving are his favorite holidays.

**Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022**

Commissioner Fix spoke about a meeting he and other County leaders had with Representative Jeff LaRe regarding the budget request made by the County to the State. The request was for support to improve the Fairfield County Workforce Center. Both Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted were impressed after their visits to the Workforce Center and encouraged Fairfield County to submit a request to the State.

New Business

Commissioner Davis spoke about listening to concerns this evening and spoke about the information that is available through the Commissioner Connection Videos. He also spoke about a video in July that spoke to solar farms. The commissioner asked staff to reintroduce the video to the website in the morning.

Commissioner Levacy stated the Governor DeWine has asked him to serve on his workforce board and the Commissioner stated he is very pleased to participate. The Commissioner also spoke about the opportunities that the Workforce Center provides for the labor force and the community.

Auditor Brown reported that there has been a 14% increase to the collection of the hotel/motel tax over the previous year. She also stated that the Special Improvement District agreement is before the City of Lancaster and follows the previous agreement. She added that she brought a map of the month for December for attendees to view.

County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, stated she and Economic Development Director, Rick Szabrak will be participating in a meeting that is evaluating the current and future hotel capacity.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. in the Millersport Elementary Auditorium, 11850 Lancaster St., Millersport, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Dr. Carri Brown, Corey Clark, Steven Darnell, Chris Wagner, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Rick Szabrak, Elizabeth Moe, Deputy Jamie Shell, Judy Stemen, Ray Stemen, Jason Robinson, Rod Wagner, Doug Leith, Justin Beorse, Karl Elder, Ed Chilcotie, Bill Cunningham, Walter Gabriel, Kevin Elder, Betty Elder, Melissa Conner, Steve Feeney, Lisa Thomas, and Jon Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Fix asked everyone to rise as able and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 22, 2022

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, November 22, 2022, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy

Abstain: Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from the Board of Commissioners

**Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022**

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

- 2022-11.29.a A resolution authorizing the approval of establishment of Commissioners' 2023 Review Session and Regular Meeting Dates, and Special Meeting Dates
- 2022-11.29.b A resolution rescinding the appointment of Ms. Alli Martin to the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- 2022-11.29.c A resolution to approve a memo expense for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Auditor - Admin

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Auditor - Admin:

- 2022-11.29.d A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Reese Peters Hotel Motel Tax #2423

County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown, stated this resolution is for appropriations to transfer the money to the decorative arts center.

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas:

- 2022-11.29.e A resolution approving an account to account transfer

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development:

- 2022-11.29.f A resolution to authorize the approval of the agreement between Masman Media LLC and the Fairfield County Board of County Commissioners.

Rick Szabrak stated the resolution is a contract through the Workforce Board to work with local employers to promote working at their businesses and encourage workforce training.

**Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022**

Commissioner Davis asked if the County is multiple angles are being considered for the financial requests for the Workforce Center and Commissioner Fix confirmed it is.

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

2022-11.29.g A resolution to approve the rescension of resolution 2022-11.22.k, and adoption of the federally approved 2023 Fairfield County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

2022-11.29.h A resolution authorizing an EMA fund to fund transfer.

Emergency Management Director, Jon Kochis, apologized for the rescension.

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer:

2022-11.29.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for repairs

2022-11.29.j A resolution to approve a Change Order for the 2022 Micro surfacing Project

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Facilities

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Facilities:

2022-11.29.k A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Lease Agreement with Congressman Troy Balderson for The Fairfield Center

Commissioner Davis thanked the Facilities staff for making space ready at the Fairfield Center for Congressman Balderson.

Commissioner Fix explained that Fairfield County falls within Congressman Balderson's district after the redistricting occurred and he is appreciative that the Congressman chose to locate his office in Fairfield County.

Facilities Director, Dennis Keller, stated the contract has been signed by the Sergeant at Arms.

**Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022**

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court:

2022-11.29.l A resolution approving an account to account transfer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Prosecutor

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Prosecutor:

2022-11.29.m A resolution approving an account-to-account transfer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2022-11.29.n A resolution authorizing the approval of an advance from the General Fund to Fund 2503 Police Revolving.

2022-11.29.o A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 1001

2022-11.29.p A resolution to approve the purchasing of a gun by a retiring officer

Commissioner Davis stated the Commissioners financial support for the Sheriff has increased yearly. The Commissioners are committed to public safety in Fairfield County.

Administrator Cordle stated the gun is being purchased by Deputy Seipel.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Soil & Water Conservation District

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Soil & Water Conservation District:

2022-11.29.q A resolution of support of property for the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Regular Meeting #52 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 29, 2022**

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Treasurer

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Treasurer:

2022-11.29.r A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category (1080 Trust, Unclaimed)

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

2022-11.29.s A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval

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

Adjournment

Commissioner Fix thanked all those in attendance for joining the meeting and invited all to attend the morning meetings as well.

Commissioner Davis stated the evening meetings were Commissioner Fix's idea and thinks they have been very successful and that they will continue into 2023. He also thanked the staff from Fairfield County for joining the Commissioners for their evening meetings.

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

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

