

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**December 1, 2020**

**Review**

The Commissioners met at 9:03 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, Jon Kochis, Lt. Churchill, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, and Ray Stemen. Attending virtually were Jim Bahnsen, Michael Orlando, Thomas Lininger, Tony Vogel, Lisa McKenzie, Dave Burgei, Stephanie Fyffe, David Miller, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Barron, Jeff Porter, Jonathan Ferbrache, Jon Slater, Michael Kaper, Madeline Niceswanger, Rick Szabrak, Chris Wagner, Belinda Nebbergall, Dennis Keller, Jeremiah Upp, and other callers.

- Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- COVID-19 Update

Jon Kochis, EMA Director, provided an update on the COVID-19 responses. The COVID-19 cases continue to increase, and that is expected for some time.

Mr. Kochis anticipates a normalized testing number for today, following a five-day count over the Thanksgiving holiday. More importantly, they are tracking hospital utilization as the state has seen another record week of cases. A third of all ICU is COVID related and a third of all COVID cases are on ventilators. This is consistent with expectations relating to the spike in cases. Vaccine planning is moving along, and they should have more information about who can be vaccinated first soon. Social distancing and mask wearing will hopefully decrease regular flu cases. There is a COVID testing site at the fairgrounds in Lancaster on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They expect a large turnout for that event.

Mr. Davis asked when FMC can expect the equipment relating to the CARES Act grant the county provided to FMC.

Mr. Kochis replied the smaller equipment is already in and they are still waiting on the larger machine that would allow for quicker PCR testing.

Mr. Levacy asked about the storage requirements for the Pfizer vaccine.

Mr. Kochis replied that generally the facilities with ultracold capacity will be able to store them properly. FMC and the Health Department have that capacity. The second vaccine, more of a freezer temp, will be distributed into the community to doctor's offices and similar locations.

Mr. Fix asked how many individuals in Fairfield County need to be vaccinated to be safe.

Mr. Kochis replied he has heard between 40% and 60% would be a good target.

Mr. Fix asked what the timeline was to get to having that number vaccinated.

Mr. Kochis replied as soon as possible and that the fact that it will be available privately will be a huge factor. He is worried there will be a lot of pessimism about the vaccine. The current vaccines require two shots separated by 21 and 28 days.

Mr. Fix asked how many patients at FMC were COVID patients.

Mr. Kochis replied, on average, below 20% of FMC patients are COVID patients. This varies from day to day.

Ms. Fyffe reported in the month of November alone cases have doubled from what they were before. The Health Department has hired five new contact tracers. They will be purchasing dry ice for the vaccine. They are waiting on final guidance on who qualifies

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

as Tier 1 for the vaccine, but they expect it will be health care workers and those on the front lines. She has heard vaccination rates need to be around 60% to protect the community and the number of people willing to get the vaccine is lower than that.

Mr. Fix asked, if someone has had the virus, do they still need to get the shot?

Ms. Fyffe replied the individual should get the vaccine as they are not sure how long the antibodies will last.

Mr. Fix asked how long it would take to vaccinate 60% of the community.

Ms. Fyffe replied the process will go on for months and they do not know how much vaccine they will get at a time. Individuals who receive the first vaccine will be given a card for when to return for the second vaccine.

Mr. Levacy believes there is a lot of mixed messaging about quarantining. He asked if someone was exposed five days ago, when does the quarantine period start.

Ms. Fyffe replied day zero is the last contact you had with the positive person. Ms. Fyffe is creating information to post on Facebook and the webpage regarding quarantine and isolation. The information will be very clear. She added the 7-10 days has been discussed, but not formally recommended.

Dr. Brown asked who would receive the vaccine first.

Ms. Fyffe replied they have not received final guidance, but typically first responders, medical providers, and high-risk populations are in the first tier.

Dr. Brown asked if there were any other variables to address other than the availability of the vaccine and the willingness for those to get the vaccine.

Ms. Fyffe replied they are working on getting volunteers to distribute the vaccine, as they did with H1N1. She thanked the Commissioners for their efforts in spreading the messaging of the importance of wearing masks.

The review packet contained a dashboard of the communications activities, of which all are on track with the county's overall plan.

Dr. Brown reported the Alert system could be used to provide information about vaccines.

- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek reported there was no legal update. An executive session was scheduled later in the morning.

- CARES Act Funds

Dr. Brown reported we will begin the final reconciliation and payment activities next week for the CARES Act funds.

The review packet contained a letter of thanks from Fairfield Medical Center. They were very appreciative of the CARES Act funds they have been awarded.

The review packet also contained a list of entities and undistributed funds which comprised the amounts redistributed.

Mr. Fix asked if there was any reasoning as to why some entities did not accept the CARES Act funding.

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**December 1, 2020**

Dr. Brown replied that some entities may not have had immediate CARES Act eligible expenses. Others may not have had a way to document use of the funds. Larger entities were able to use the funds.

- 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

- Date Reminders

- Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve – Courthouse Closes at Noon  
Friday, December 25, Christmas – Offices are Closed

- Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day, Offices are Closed  
Monday, January 11 – Reorganizational Meeting  
Tuesday, January 12- First Regular Meeting of 2021

- b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 21 resolutions for the voting meeting.

We proposed a resolution recognizing the core value of customer service and acknowledging exceptional examples of customer service from law enforcement, EMA, JFS, and many others, including those who have participated in the Going the Extra Mile program. Rachel Elsea will email globally a copy of the resolution.

JFS proposed a contract for transportation services, following the RFP process.

RPC proposed conditional acceptance of the Violet Meadows Section 5, Phase 1 subdivision and approval of a re-plat of Lot 1 of the Storage One/Spring Creek Business Complex Subdivision.

There were 17 *financial and grant related resolutions* to approve:

- A resolution to authorizing the County Auditor to place on the tax duplicate delinquent sewer rentals for the Buckeye Lake Sewer System for August 15, 2020, through September 15, 2020;
- A resolution to waive the 5% administrative fee for the hotel motel lodging tax (3%) for the Fairfield County Visitors and Convention Bureau for 2020 and 2021;
- An account to account transfer of appropriations for JFS (two resolutions), FCFACF, and IT;
- Fund to fund transfers for EMA and the County Engineer (with appropriations);
- Repayment of an advance by JFS and for the CDBG Critical Infrastructure grant;
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for debt transactions, MOW, the County Engineer, FCFACF, and Utilities; and
- Extending advance repayment dates for MCU (two resolutions).

In queue, there were financial and contracting resolutions at various stages of progress. For example, there are additional contracts for transportation and an

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

agreement for legal services (for Violet Township) as well as MOW grants pending approval.

c. Administrative Approvals, Program, & Budget Update

Administrative Approvals

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

Budget Update

The target date for the 2021 budget to be passed is December 8 (next week).

Mr. Davis noted the strong cash position of the county and explained his reasonings for waiting to spend that down. There was no opposition to the reasonings.

d. BRAVOS

Thank you to Facilities for having the parking lots and sidewalks cleared after the snow.

Thank you to Sheriff Phalen and Chief Lape for their collaboration and cooperation with multiple projects.

Thank you to Krile Communications for their sense of urgency.

- Old Business

- a. Commissioner Communications (none)

- New Business

- a. Equipment Inventory Report

Fairfield County EMA was the recipient of \$42,419 of equipment for emergency management where Franklin County was the administrative agent of a grant. The County Auditor has the inventory report for the equipment. Thanks to Jon Kochis, EMA Director, for coordinating the project.

Mr. Davis applauded Mr. Kochis' motivation during the pandemic and asked how the staff was holding up.

Mr. Kochis replied the staff was doing well. The new facility makes things easier to manage things, as well.

- b. Risk Management: Dog Licenses and Health Insurance Claims

Mr. Porter stated today is the first day to purchase dog licenses and runs through January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Davis asked if they are still comfortable with the health insurance claims payout.

Mr. Porter replied they are still feeling good with their numbers.

- c. ADAMH Resignation/New Appointment

Lisa Wells has resigned from the ADAMH Board based on pending residency in Licking County. There were other candidates from the last round of interviews,

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

and there is at least one former board member who could have interest. We will potentially have a resolution to consider at the next meeting.

- General Correspondence Received
  - a. Expedited Type II Annexation Received – 38.727 +/- acres from Violet Township to Pickerington
  - b. RPC Packets (in Commissioners' boxes)
- Calendar Review/Invitations Received
  - a. Sunshine Law Training – Webinar Options Available – Rachel Elsea will send the link to the Commissioners so they can select a date. HR will also share the link with others.
- FYI
  - a. Jail Population – 253
  - b. JFS Holiday Donation Drive
  - c. Press Release re: Available Jobs
  - d. CCAO Annual Report
  - e. Thank you note from FMC
  - f. Flyer for the Dog Shelter – Tags available for purchase in Pickerington
  - g. Public records requests can be made to [Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Rachel.Elsea@fairfieldcountyohio.gov) or [Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov](mailto:Carri.Brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov)
- Open Items (none)

**Executive Session – Imminent Litigation**

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix the Board voted to make a determination that an executive session was needed to discuss imminent litigation at 9:45 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Fix stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Legal Counsel, Jeff Porter, Jon Kochis, and Rachel Elsea.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

On the motion of Dave Levacy and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 9:59 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

**Commissioners' Regular Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 1, 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, Jon Kochis, Lt. Marc Churchill. Amy Brown-Thompson, Joshua Horacek, Judge Vandervoort, and Ray Stemen. Joining via teleconference were Arin Tracy, Chris Wagner, Donna Fox-Moore, Jeff Barron,

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

Jeremiah Upp, Laura Holton, Magistrate Jill Boone, Angel Sanderson, Mark Conrad, and Michael Orlando.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Davis led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

**Announcements**

Commissioner Davis asked if there were any announcements.

Ms. Elsea shared photos of the courthouse taken by Ms. Susan Dixon after this morning's snowfall.

**Public Comment**

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

Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster expressed his concern about problems with the national election. He urged everyone to give the President all the support they can. Mr. Stemen has no doubt President Trump won re-election.

**Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

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 24, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

**Approval of the Auditor's Office Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Auditor's Office resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expenditure object category August Information Technology 10100104; see resolution 2020-12.01.a.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:  
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:

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|--------------|---|
| 2020-12.01.b | A resolution affirming "customer service" as a core value and recognizing exemplary customer service in Fairfield County government.<br>[Commissioners]   |
| 2020-12.01.c | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expenditure object for fund# 4558 & a fund to fund transfer from Debt Service fund# 4558 to the General Fund# 1001 – Fairfield County Commissioners<br>[Commissioners] |
| 2020-12.01.d | A resolution authorizing the County Auditor to assess and place on the tax duplicate delinquent sewer rentals for the Buckeye Lake Sewer System for the dates of August 15, 2020 through September 15, 2020<br>[Commissioners]      |
| 2020-12.01.e | A resolution to waive the 5% administrative fee relating to county hotel  |

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

motel lodging tax administration for 2020 and 2021 (of the 3% of sales collected for the Fairfield County Visitors and Convention Bureau) based on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote tourism, looking ahead to a time when the COVID-19 pandemic will subside  
[Commissioners]

2020-12.01.f      A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from the CDBG Critical Infrastructure grant fund# 2788, subfund# 8204- Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners]

2020-12.01.g      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in a major expenditure object categories for Meals on Wheels-OAAFC, Inc. Fund# 2617 [Fairfield Co Meals on Wheels/Older Adult Agency]

Discussion: Dr. Brown thanked the Commissioners for their support of resolution "e" to assist the VCB in promoting tourism as the pandemic will eventually subside.

Mr. Davis stated that the VCB strategically should be husbanding their resources during a time of extreme limited travel and should be planning for the day the curtain is lifted.

Dr. Brown reported that she had offered to the VCB that the Commission was ready to be good communication partners for future efforts to support tourism.

Referring to resolution "b", Dr. Brown highlighted the honorees of the annual customer service resolution. The Commissioners presented the certificates to those in attendance including Lt. Churchill on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, Judge Vandervoort with Juvenile Court, and Jon Kochis with EMA. Attending virtually were Magistrate Jill Boone, Mark Conrad, and Laura Holton, who also received certificates.

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

**Approval of the Emergency Management Agency Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Emergency Management Agency resolution authorizing an EMA fund to fund transfer; see resolution 2020-12.01.h.

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:

2020-12.01.i      A resolution of increasing appropriations, appropriate from unappropriate, account to account and fund to fund transfer for LIB-26 Bader Road bridge replacement [Engineer]

2020-12.01.j      A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for facility utilities [Engineer]

Discussion: The Commissioners discussed the plan for viewings and hearings on Thursday, thinking about the Engineer's Office in general.

Mr. Upp stated they were happy to adjust anything as needed and offered to answer any questions. He does not expect any viewings to be contentious.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

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

**Motion to Leave the Regular Meeting**

On the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to leave the Regular Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The Commissioners thanked Judge Vandervoort again for the good work of the Juvenile and Probate Court.

**Motion to Return to the Regular Meeting**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to the Regular Meeting.

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 Resolutions**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Family, Adult, and Children First Council resolutions:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 2020-12.01.k | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated funds in major expenditure object categories for the Fund# 7521, subfund# 8184 – Family Adult Children First [Family, Adult and Children First Council]  |
| 2020-12.01.l | A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category for the Fund# 7521, subfund# 8232 Ohio Department of Medicaid/Multi System Youth – Family Adult Children First [Family, Adult and Children First Council] |

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:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2020-12.01.m | A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Sub-Fund #8182 Enhancing Permanency in Children and Families (EPIC) Program, Fairfield County Child Protective Services (CPS) Division. [JFS] |
| 2020-12.01.n | A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 2018Public Assistance [JFS]  |
| 2020-12.01.o | A resolution regarding approval of a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, and Carealot, Inc., d.b.a. Carealot Transport [JFS]  |
| 2020-12.01.p | A resolution approving an account to account transfer Fund 2018Public Assistance [JFS]  |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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



**Regular Meeting #57 - 2020  
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office  
December 1, 2020**

**Approval of the Major Crimes Unit Resolutions**

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

- 2020-12.01.q            A resolution authorizing the approval to extend the repayments date of an advance of funds- Fund #7864 Recovery Ohio Grant, Major Crimes Unit [Sheriff - Major Crimes Unit]
- 2020-12.01.r            A resolution authorizing the approval to extend the repayments date of an advance of funds- Fund #7858 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program Grant, Major Crimes Unit [Sheriff - Major Crimes Unit]

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

**Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolutions**

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

- 2020-12.01.s            A resolution to approve Conditional Acceptance of the Violet Meadows Section 5, Phase 1 Subdivision [Regional Planning] [Regional Planning Commission]
- 2020-12.01.t            A resolution to approve a Re-Plat of Lot 1 of the Storage One/Spring Creek Business Complex Subdivision [Regional Planning] [Regional Planning Commission]

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

**Approval of the Utilities Resolution**

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Utilities resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Utilities Fund 5842 Greenfield Sewer Admin; see resolution 2020-12.01.u.

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

**Open Items**

While the last meeting is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>, there is a likelihood that legislation will come after that requiring another meeting to pass financial resolutions.

Mr. Horacek provided an update on bonds for officials with new terms.

The Commissioners discussed keeping the meeting schedule for 2021 like that of 2020, with public meetings on Tuesday beginning at 9 am.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, on the motion of Jeff Fix and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:38 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, December 8, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

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

\*Approved on December 8, 2020

Dave Levacy  
Commissioner

Jeff Fix  
Commissioner

Rachel A Elsea  
Rachel A Elsea, Clerk