

Regular Meeting #53 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
December 10, 2019

Review

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. to review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Jeff Porter, Corey Clark, Donna Stalter, Sarah Abner, Francisco Argondizza, Stephanie Brooke, Elizabeth Merringer, Kristine O'Neill, Chris Redding, Robin Romano, Jacob Stang, Heather Stoneburner, Simon Welker, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Branden Meyer, Loudan Klein, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jim Bahnsen, Ray Stemen, Rick Szabrak, Jon Kochis, Chief Lape, Aunie Cordle, Jon Slater, and Chris Wagner.

- Welcome
- Legal Update

Mr. Horacek reported the transcript was received and a draft resolution was given to the Commissioners for review. He asked that anyone who had questions to see him.

Mr. Davis asked to deliberate with the Commission on the draft resolution at some point later in the day.

- Administration and Budget Update/Carri's List

a. Announcements

Dr. Brown welcomed the JFS Leadership Development Program participants in attendance. She recognized the JFS leadership development team members: Sarah Abner, Francisco Argondizza, Stephanie Brooke, Elizabeth Merringer, Kristine O'Neill, Chris Redding, Robin Romano, Donna Stalter, Jacob Stang, Heather Stoneburner, and Simon Welker. She went on to thank Corey Clark and the JFS team for their dedication to leadership development. She announced dates of interest:

December 10 – Holiday Open House

December 24 – Close at Noon

December 25 – Christmas Holiday

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 13 – Reorganizational Meeting

January 13 – Speed Mentoring Event

January 20 – MLK Day

b. Highlights of Resolutions

Dr. Brown highlighted 30 resolutions for the voting meeting.

We proposed two change orders for the Baldwin project as it winds down. One change order is a reduction.

RPC proposed approval of the Spring Creek Section 3, Phase 1B Final Plat, as previously approved by RPC.

Common Pleas Court proposed renewal of the Sentinel contract for electronic monitoring.

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The Treasurer proposed approval for the Office to attend conventions and meetings deemed pertinent to the Treasurer's Office for 2020 and as consistent with county policy.

The Sheriff proposed renewal of the contract with Trinity for food services at the jail.

We proposed a resolution to authorize Jeremiah D. Upp and Eric McCrady to be reappointed to the OPWC Integrating Committee.

We proposed a resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee for the EDA Revolving Loan Fund plan.

The Engineer proposes a Resolution to authorize the use of force account by the Fairfield County Engineer.

There were financial and grant related resolutions to approve, such as:

- Approval of the MOW Board approved grants relating to the older adult services levy;
- Approval of the 2020 appropriation measure;
- Memo transactions for the Engineer and Commissioners (four resolutions, with non-general fund appropriations for the Engineer);
- Account to account transfers of appropriations for the Auditor- GIS, Commissioners, IT, EMA, and Prosecutor (five resolutions);
- Appropriations from unappropriated funds for the Common Pleas Court;
- Reimbursements by operation of law for JFS (three resolutions);
- A resolution to assign authority to the director of the Fairfield County Department of Job and Family Services to serve as the designee of the Board of County Commissioners to approve inter-county adjustment agreements relating to the allocation of funds issued by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for specific period of time;
- Repayment of an advance by Juvenile Court;
- Notice of the use of govdeals.com for Internet based auctions; and
- The payment of bills.

Appointments for Mary Snider and Matt Poston for the RLF Committee were ready to be added to the voting agenda.

In queue, there were several resolutions.

For example, JFS will be proposing approval of three IV-D contracts (for child support hearing officers) and four agreements for non-emergency transportation, some of which will be presented in January 2020.

We anticipate a resolution to approve the appointment of Heather Yakes to the RLF committee following her administrative interview.

We will propose a "subcontract" with Community Action for the CFLP recycling grant on December 17.

Also, we expected additional financial resolutions.

Returning to date reminders, Mr. Davis stated that he will be at the Ohio State game in Arizona but expects to be at the reorganizational meeting on January 13th.

Additionally, he approves of an administrative interview for Ms. Yakes.

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Mr. Davis confirmed the appropriation measure was on the voting agenda. He stated that while it is higher in amount than the Commission would like, in part due to the 27 pays, the cash position will be strong. He still cautious that the Commission needs to be concerned about the “five-year outs” and the cash positions in the remaining years. He supports the budget as presented today and thanked Dr. Brown and Commission staff for their work in preparing the budget. He also thanked the 99% of the offices that complied with parameters. He noted how fortunate the Commission is to have the cooperation of so many elected officials and departments. He added there are still some meetings today and in January and February that will impact the “five-year outs”.

Dr. Brown will overview the appropriation measure proposal during the budget update.

c. Administrative, Program, and Budget Update

Administrative & Program Updates

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

The agreement with the City of Lancaster for the light poles and replacement of lights was executed. A copy was in the review packet. Once the City accomplishes the work, we will receive an invoice, and then, the City will be charged with ongoing maintenance of the light poles and lights. We expect to be invoiced by the City early in 2020.

The Main Street parking lot is open. A press release was issued on Friday, December 6.

Budget Update

The appropriation measure for 2020 was ready for a vote.

We had a press release and supplemental materials for communications to multiple stakeholders.

(Please see attached.)

Mr. Davis highlighted how litigation with Franklin County which is scheduled for trial in March was not accounted for in the 2020 budget. A result could be significant in financial planning. He also discussed the MCJDC contribution and its decrease and outlined the agreement with Licking County that is currently in the works. The Commissioners will be meeting with the Bar Association later in the day, as well. Mr. Davis stated Fairfield County is in such great shape because of the good hiring decisions they have made.

Idea Box Update

We received an additional idea and are reviewing it with EMA and security committees:

Idea 17: A copy of the Emergency Response Flipbook for the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center was provided as an example of a flip book Fairfield County could create.

Response: EMA developed “cards” for emergency procedures in the past. Creating a flip book may be a way to have additional information in a convenient way. EMA will review this with the various security sub-committees at each building to obtain feedback about employee needs prior to creating such books.

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Thanks for sharing the idea! This might be a way to build some energy surrounding communications about emergency procedures.

d. BRAVOs

There is a lot of effort that goes into conducting a positive, educational all-staff meeting for a large staff. Thanks to Aunie Cordle, JFS Director, and her team for planning such an event.

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from JFS employees and others about how Fairfield County has created a workout room, installed water and ice machines, offered a Wellness Clinic, and implemented improvements to the compensation plan, with the "21 recommendations" being applauded.

Bravo to "211" for the tour of trees project for holiday donations.

Thanks to Rick Szabrak for presenting at the economic development 211 summit. Commissioner Levacy stated he was the best presenter of the whole panel!

Congratulations to Todd McCullough and his team for earning the Dog Shelter of the year award from his statewide association!

Mr. McCullough stated this year they have continued to work hard at continuing to improve. New challenges are seen each day, but they work hard to overcome those challenges and make their operations better. He highlighted some of the accomplishments from the year, including the Fear Free Shelter Certification. He also highlighted how he and his staff appreciated the support of many people.

Mr. Levacy replied that Mr. McCullough hit on some aspects that he too thinks are very important, including looking at new and better ways to do things as well as the cooperation he sees across Fairfield County.

Mr. Davis stated that he cannot hear about the shelter being named best shelter of Ohio without thinking about the issues and protesting of the Dog Shelter operations in 2011. He is impressed with how much the shelter has turned around.

Mr. Fix added that Mr. McCullough is always one to deflect positive comments, but he has surrounded himself with a strong team and he is to be commended for that. He congratulated Mr. McCullough the entire team for their award.

RLF Vacancy Interview with Mary Snider

The Commissioners met at 9:34 a.m. with Mary Snider regarding the RFL vacancy. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Mary Snider, Matt Poston, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Jeff Porter, Corey Clark, Donna Stalter, Sarah Abner, Francisco Argondizza, Stephanie Brooke, Elizabeth Merringer, Kristine O'Neill, Chris Redding, Robin Romano, Jacob Stang, Heather Stoneburner, Simon Welker, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Branden Meyer, Loudan Klein, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jim Bahnsen, Ray Stemen, Rick Szabrak, Jon Kochis, Chief Lape, Aunie Cordle, Jon Slater, and Chris Wagner.

Mr. Levacy welcomed Ms. Snider and thanked her for her willingness to serve. He asked her to tell the group about herself.

Ms. Snider commented she is President of Fairfield Federal and has been at the bank for 37 years having started as a teller. She and her husband are residents of Lancaster and enjoy living and working downtown.

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Mr. Davis stated he has known Ms. Snider for a long time, and it is very difficult to think of anyone he thinks more highly of than Ms. Snider. He thanked her for her willingness to serve on the RLF and any other committee she'd like to serve on.

Mr. Fix asked Ms. Snider to speak to what she hopes to accomplish.

Ms. Snider replied that as President of a local savings and loan, it is important for them to see local businesses succeed. She is excited to help with that success.

RLF Vacancy Interview with Matt Poston

The Commissioners met at 9:37 a.m. with Matt Poston regarding the RFL vacancy. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Mary Snider, Matt Poston, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Jeff Porter, Corey Clark, Donna Stalter, Sarah Abner, Francisco Argondizza, Stephanie Brooke, Elizabeth Merringer, Kristine O'Neill, Chris Redding, Robin Romano, Jacob Stang, Heather Stoneburner, Simon Welker, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Branden Meyer, Loudan Klein, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jim Bahnsen, Ray Stemen, Rick Szabrak, Jon Kochis, Chief Lape, Aunie Cordle, Jon Slater, and Chris Wagner.

Mr. Levacy asked Matt Poston to introduce himself and speak about his interest in the RLF.

Mr. Poston stated he is a lifelong Fairfield County resident and graduate of Ohio State. He has been with Vinton County National Bank since 2010. He is currently in commercial lending and enjoys what he does.

Mr. Davis thanked Mr. Poston for his willingness to serve.

Mr. Fix thanked both Ms. Snider and Mr. Poston for their willingness to serve and highlighted the discussions of the past year of finding highly qualified individuals to serve on the county boards. He noted this is a strong step in the right direction.

Mr. Davis stated he looks favorably on the appointment of both individuals.

Mr. Levacy agreed. We provided tokens of our appreciations (donated books).

Review (continued)

The Commissioners met at 9:40 a.m. to continue review legal issues and pending or future action items and correspondence. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Jeff Porter, Corey Clark, Donna Stalter, Sarah Abner, Fransisco Argondizza, Stephanie Brooke, Elizabeth Merringer, Kristine O'Neill, Chris Redding, Robin Romano, Jacob Stang, Heather Stoneburner, Simon Welker, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Branden Meyer, Loudan Klein, Dennis Keller, Jeff Barron, Jim Bahnsen, Ray Stemen, Rick Szabrak, Jon Kochis, Chief Lape, Aunie Cordle, Jon Slater, and Chris Wagner.

d. Bravos (continued)

Thank you to Commissioners and Commission staff for all of the preparations for the Holiday Open House for which no public dollars were used. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Old Business

- a. CORSA/CCAO Update & Conference Update

Cheryl Subler is the new CCAO Executive Director.

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At the December 4th CORSA meeting, some CORSA Board members did not know that Suzanne Alexander had resigned as the CCAO Executive Director. Mediation with CORSA and CCAO should be forthcoming. We will monitor any opportunity for a Fairfield County Commissioner to serve on the CORSA board if desired. Jeff Porter is willing to remain as a voting alternate or representative.

Mr. Porter stated the group would continue to pursue mediation, but the CORSA members have voted to terminate the most recent MOU with CCAO. During the December 4th meeting, he expressed the Commissioners desired for mediation to continue.

Dr. Brown reported several people have attended conferences with CCAO, and we updated one another on the conference attendance.

Mr. Fix stated he attended several CCAO Winter Conference sessions. There was good attendance from around the state and good dialogue including regarding the opiate litigation and indigent defense. He continues to be impressed by CCAO and their understanding of what is important to counties.

b. US Census – Complete County Outreach

We viewed the Complete Count videos to encourage participation in the US Census:

<https://youtu.be/MNFVdDs32q8>

We have placed inserts in utility bills and will continue to do so. Along with multiple outreach and social media activities, we conducted awareness events at the fair and school openings. Commissioner Davis has obtained a billboard at no charge from Nauman Outdoor.

c. Records Center

The Records Center conference space is being used often, nearly every day by governments and partners.

Ms. Cordle hosted a meeting with twenty other JFS directors from across the state. They were very impressed by the space.

- New Business (none)
- General Correspondence Received (none)
- Calendar Review/Invitations Received
 - a. Fairfield County TID Meeting – Thursday, December 12th at 9:00 a.m. at the Engineer's Office
 - 1. Mr. Szabrak and Mr. Klein will attend.
 - b. Pickerington Chamber Lunch – Thursday, December 19th at 11:30 at Zion Church, Pickerington
 - 1. Commissioner Fix will attend.
 - c. Bremen Chamber Lunch – Thursday, December 19th at 11:45 a.m. at the Bremen Elementary School
- FYI
 - a. Jail Population – 294

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- b. Holiday Open House – December 10th
- c. Stuff-A-Bus Campaign – Now through December 11th
- d. 2019 Jail Annual Inspection

The inspection resulted in about a 92.3% compliance. Adjustments will be made as more documentation is provided.

For example, we have documentation about air quality; it was not provided by the Sheriff at the time of the inspection but it may be accepted now; we need to see if the air quality test needs to be conducted annually or if the existing report suffices.

Testing for tuberculosis will be needed on an ongoing basis per the state.

There are improvements in documentation of policies and services and in the provision of training that the Sheriff will be working on.

Chief Lape stated a plan on action would be put in place to address the issues mentioned in the inspection.

Mr. Fix thanked Chief Lape and his team for the effort to make the score as high as it is a huge increase from previous years.

Chief Lape replied that all issues should be easily addressed with the exception of the TB testing for which the requirement is ambiguous.

- Open Items

Mr. Davis asked to deliberate on the annexation resolution. Mr. Levacy stated at 9:51 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess until the 10:00 a.m. Regular Meeting.

Commissioners' Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 beginning at 10:05 a.m., with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix, and Dave Levacy. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Staci Knisley, Joshua Horacek, Amy Brown-Thompson, Tom Lininger, Dennis Keller, Jeff Porter, Jon Kochis, Todd McCullough, Tony Vogel, Rick Szabrak, Branden Meyer, Jeff Barron, Chief Lape, Jim Bahnsen, Corey Clark, Donna Stalter, Sarah Abner, Francisco Argondizza, Stephanie Brooke, Elizabeth Merringer, Kristine O'Neill, Chris Redding, Robin Romano, Jacob Stang, Heather Stoneburner, Simon Welker, Loudan Klein, Jon Slater, Chris Wagner, Jeff Camechis, and Ed Laramée.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Levacy asked everyone to rise as able, and he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Commissioner Levacy asked if there were any announcements.

Ms. Elsea stated that there were two resolutions to add (2019-12.10.cc and 2019-12.10.dd to appoint Mr. Poston and Ms. Snider, respectively, to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee).

Additionally, Ms. Elsea reported the Commissioners were considering the approval of the minutes from November 19, 2019, as the annexation hearing transcript had been received.

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Public Comment

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

Mr. Ray Stemen of 2444 West Point Road in Lancaster encouraged everyone to contact their congressman to let him know what their desire is regarding amnesty for illegal immigrants who take jobs from those without a high school diploma.

Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, November 19, 2019 and Tuesday, December 3, 2019

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, November 19, 2019 and Tuesday, December 3, 2019 Regular Meetings.

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

Approval of the Auditor's Office Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Auditor's Office resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2019-12.10.a | A resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expenditure object category Auditor GIS 10244300 [Auditor- Admin] |
| 2019-12.10.b | A resolution approving an account to account transfer into a major expenditure object category Auditor Information Technology 10100104 [AuditorAdmin] |

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

Approval of the Commissioners Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Commissioners' Office resolutions:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2019-12.10.c | A resolution approving the 2020 annual appropriation measure, the county budget [Commissioners] |
| 2019-12.10.d | A resolution authorizing the disposal of Fairfield County surplus property by internet auction for Calendar Year 2020 [Commissioners] |
| 2019-12.10.e | A resolution approving an account to account transfer in major object expense categories for General Fund# 1001 – Fairfield County Commissioners [Commissioners] |
| 2019-12.10.f | A resolution to assign authority to the director of the Fairfield County Department of Job and Family Services to serve as the designee of the Board of County Commissioners to approve inter-county adjustment agreements relating to the allocation of funds issued by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services for specific period of time [Commissioners] |
| 2019-12.10.g | A resolution to approve a memo expense for W. Buckeye Lake/Ballard Lane expenses – Fairfield County [Commissioners] |
| 2019-12.10.h | A resolution approving the grant awards for the Older Adult Services Levy. [Commissioners] |

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Discussion:

Mr. Davis spoke of the Commission's appreciation to all elected officials and department heads who cooperated in the budget preparation. Fairfield County is fortunate to be where they are financially despite the dark clouds on the horizon.

He went on to thank Dr. Brown, Ms. Knisley, and the staff who worked hard on a budget everyone can be proud of. He remembered that when he became Commissioner there were no budget hearings. The budget presented reflected many positive changes since then.

Mr. Levacy noted the budget represented a lot of work from all involved. A key to making the budget work is remaining within parameters. This is another example of cooperation throughout the county.

Mr. Fix compared the simplicity of this budget process, despite the size, to that of the City of Pickerington.

Dr. Brown stated a press release was available with details. She also stated materials would be placed on the county website.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Common Pleas Court Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Common Pleas Court resolutions:

2019-12.10.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category Fairfield County Common Pleas ATP Court Grant 2839 [Common Pleas Court]

2019-12.10.j A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Common Pleas Court and Sentinel Offender Service, LLC [Common Pleas Court]

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated the resolution to continue the Sentinel contract was encouraging as it resulted in a great deal of savings. Between this and the MCJDC adjustments, there is over \$3.6 M in actual savings in five years.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Economic Development Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Economic Development resolution to approve the recommendation of the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee for the revised EDA RLF Plan; see resolution 2019-12.10.k.

Discussion: Mr. Szabrak stated this document is updated every five years per the grant terms. The focus is on manufacturing, development of downtowns, and entrepreneurs.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Emergency Management Agency Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Emergency Management Agency resolution authorizing an account to account

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transfer for EMA Fund 2707 Emergency Management Performance Grant (subfund 8183); see resolution 2019-12.10.l.

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

Approval of the Engineer's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Engineer's Office resolutions:

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|--------------|---|
| 2019-12.10.m | A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for CBTS annual costs 2019 as a memo expenditure for fund 2024 – Motor Vehicle [Engineer] |
| 2019-12.10.n | A resolution to correct billing error on resolution 2019-11.05.e to memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2050 [Engineer] |
| 2019-12.10.o | A Resolution to Authorize the Use of Force Account by the Fairfield County Engineer. [Engineer] |
| 2019-12.10.p | A resolution to authorize Jeremiah D. Upp and Eric McCrady to be reappointed to the OPWC Integrating Committee. [Engineer] |
| 2019-12.10.q | A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2050 for annual inspections in various subdivisions as of 12/3/19 [Engineer] |

Discussion: Dr. Brown stated resolution "m" was reimbursement to the county for the Engineer's portion of the phone system, which resulted in overall savings for the department.

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

Approval of the Facilities Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following: Facilities resolutions:

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| 2019-12.10.r | A Resolution for Approval of Change Order No. 2 to the Contract between the Walsh Construction Group and the Fairfield County Commissioners [Facilities] |
| 2019-12.10.s | A Resolution for Approval of Change Order No. 3 to the Contract between the Walsh Construction Group and the Fairfield County Commissioners [Facilities] |

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

Approval of the JFS Resolutions

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

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|--------------|--|
| 2019-12.10.t | A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS] |
| 2019-12.10.u | A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018 [JFS] |

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2019-12.10.v 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, Steve Davis, and Dave Levacy

Approval of the Juvenile/Probate Court Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Juvenile/Probate Court resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund #2856 Child Abuse & Neglect Discretionary Fund; see resolution 2019-12.10.w.

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

Approval of the Prosecutor's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Prosecutor's Office resolution authorizing an account to account transfer into a major expense category; see resolution 2019-12.10.x.

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

Approval of the Regional Planning Commission Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Regional Planning Commission resolution to approve the Spring Creek Section 3, Phase 1B Final Plat; see resolution 2019-12.10.y.

Discussion: Loudan Klein provided some details about the final plat.

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

Approval of the Sheriff's Office Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Sheriff's Office resolution authorizing the approval of renewing an agreement with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and Trinity Services Group, Inc.; see resolution 2019-12.10.z.

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

Approval of the Treasurer's Resolution

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Treasurer's Office resolution granting Fairfield County Treasurer James N. Bahnsen Permission during 2020 to attend; see resolution 2019-12.10.aa.

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Payment of Bills resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval; see resolution 2019-12.10.bb.

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Commissioners Resolutions

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' resolution to appoint Mr. Matt Poston to the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee; see resolution 2019-12.10.cc.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following Commissioners' resolution to appoint Mr. Matt Poston to the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Loan Review Committee; see resolution 2019-12.10.dd.

Discussion: Mr. Davis thanked both individuals for their willingness to serve. He stated they exemplify the quality of candidates the Commission is seeking.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Commissioner Levacy stated at 10:10 a.m. that the Commission would be in recess and did not expect any additional business prior to adjournment.

Executive Session – Pending Litigation

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 10:23 a.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Davis stated that the following people be included in the executive session: Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Levacy, Commissioner Fix, Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, legal counsel, and representatives from the Prosecutor's Office.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

On the motion of Steve Davis and second of Jeff Fix, the Board voted to exit Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

Roll call on the motion as follows:

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

Meeting with Mitchel Harden re: Law Library Vacancy

The Commissioners met at 10:43 a.m. to meet with Mitch Harden regarding the Law Library Board vacancy. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, and Mitch Harden.

Mr. Levacy thanked Mr. Harden for coming.

Mr. Davis asked if he had any sense of the use of the law library.

Mr. Harden replied that he does not frequently use the law library. Pro-se litigants use it along with some individuals regarding domestic relations.

Mr. Horacek reviewed the current resources at the law library. The Law Library board provides the legal research services to everyone employed by the county and city. He noted both WestLaw and Lexis Nexis services are comparable.

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Mr. Harden feels this is another way for him to help the community.

All three Commissioners thanked him for his willingness to serve.

Meeting with Fairfield County Bar Association

The Commissioners met at 10:57 a.m. to meet with representatives from the Fairfield County Bar Association. Commissioner Levacy called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, and Jeff Fix. Also present were Carri Brown, Rachel Elsea, Joshua Horacek, Charles Elsea, Dave Tawney, and Jason Price.

Mr. Davis welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He stated the commission was permitted to address the association last month and made a proposal of what they thought would be a good approach.

Mr. Elsea thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to meet. The Bar Association has an appointed defense committee which Mr. Price has volunteered to lead. He expressed his gratitude to the Commission for starting the conversation with a raise when a raise hasn't happened in over 20 years. CPI has doubled in that time. He also referenced law school debt and attorneys struggling to pay those loans. The Bar Association also appreciated the commitment to continuing the conversation which is just as important given the underlying numbers. The Bar Association would like to look at the data over the next year and meet again.

Mr. Price expressed his appreciation as well. A few weeks ago, he received an email from Dr. Brown regarding the opportunity to review rates. The Bar Association has historically had a defense committee with Mr. Linehan being the prior chair. Mr. Linehan has stepped away from that committee because he is moving his practice to Columbus. After Mr. Davis made a presentation, the committee met to review the proposal. After a discussion and vote, they recommended the proposal be approved.

Mr. Price went on to state that a lot of attorneys who do court appointed work take pride in what they do and the services they provide. The committee would like to have an ongoing dialogue on what is needed from the Bar Association. Mr. Price asked to meet in summer and fall to review the numbers.

Mr. Davis thinks there are some points that will be easy for the Bar to see and evaluate as a few months go by. Right now, the Commission is under a guideline of 50% reimbursement and only experiencing 42% reimbursed. Going back twenty years the reimbursement has fallen as low as 25% based on the state budget submitted to the Ohio Public Defender and then accounting for the attorney reimbursements submitted. The Commission thought it prudent to use the target and take some of the 20-year experience in not ever hitting the 50% target in calculating the new increase. The county has seen two months now on target at the 70% reimbursement rate.

Mr. Price stated that is why the Bar Association thought this summer or fall would be a good time to reevaluate after several months had been submitted and reimbursed.

Mr. Davis stated the Commission genuinely appreciates the current service model and wants to maintain it. He also noted he spoke with all the judiciary individually prior to speaking to the Bar Association.

Mr. Price stated that the Bar Association appreciated that and is proud of the service they provide.

Mr. Davis stated the Commission will never believe 90% as an ongoing approach for reimbursement based on history.

Mr. Price replied they understood and appreciated the Commission's time.

Mr. Davis added that the Commission moved quickly, perhaps out of turn, to provide an immediate raise for the attorneys and because the data isn't there to determine what the rate should be.

**Regular Meeting #53 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
December 10, 2019**

Mr. Elsea added there is another variable because at the end of the day the judges will be approving the new fee applications. In practice, that doesn't necessary translate how the judges will treat individual applications.

Mr. Davis stated the courts tell him they are not "hard scrubbing" applications.

Mr. Price stated if there is an issue, the judge calls the attorney to discuss it with them.

Mr. Fix added that at the CCAO meeting last week they provided a list of counties and their rates. When Fairfield moves to 50%, they will be right in line with other counties their size.

Mr. Levacy thanked the Bar Association for their willingness to cooperate.

Dr. Brown was thinking about the qualitative and quantitative factors impacting the evaluation. She mentioned that Fairfield County is different than other counties of like size, and that the market itself is a factor. She stated we in Fairfield County are appreciative of the services provided.

Mr. Davis asked that they convey the information back to the Bar Association that the data is out front and asked that they help with the communication effort in that the Commission is being as transparent as they can be. All three Commissioners are committed to the continued dialogue.

Mr. Tawney asked how the cases would be treated that cross over into the new rates.

Mr. Davis stated that cases accepted under the old rate structure will be finished under the old rate structure. Cases assigned after January 1st will be billed at the new rates. He noted there is flexibility with the judiciary.

Mr. Price stated the judges have always said to approach them if there are extenuating circumstances, and they are very willing to meet. He noted that any case that reached the cap is probably going to be a trial.

Mr. Tawney noted he does not reach the caps.

Mr. Davis stated that he did not want to close the meeting without asking if there were concerns that the association had that had not been brought to the Commissioners attention.

Mr. Price replied they are not sure yet as this has all developed in the last few weeks. He is still getting information from everyone. They wanted to address the proposal and continue the dialogue.

Mr. Tawney replied that the attorneys do not share information on what they bill for court appointed attorneys.

Mr. Elsea returned to the concept of comparable counties. He did not think one can underestimate the unique market of Fairfield County in relation to Franklin County. His firm has lost two young attorneys to the Franklin County market and just gave another a sizable raise to keep her at their firm. Keeping young attorneys is difficult due to Columbus being so close and paying so much. Fairfield County is neither rural nor urban, but they compete completely with the Columbus market.

Mr. Tawney noted it is hard to get attorneys to Juvenile Court due to the work and the reimbursement rate. They only have 14 or 15 attorneys. The change will help that judicial area in his opinion.

Mr. Davis commented there were some other changes being made to be helpful, such as with the Guardianship Service Board.

The Commission thanked the Bar Association for attending the meeting.

**Regular Meeting #53 - 2019
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
December 10, 2019**

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Jeff Fix the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 11:29 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by:

Seconded by:


that the December 10, 2019 minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS:

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on December 17, 2019

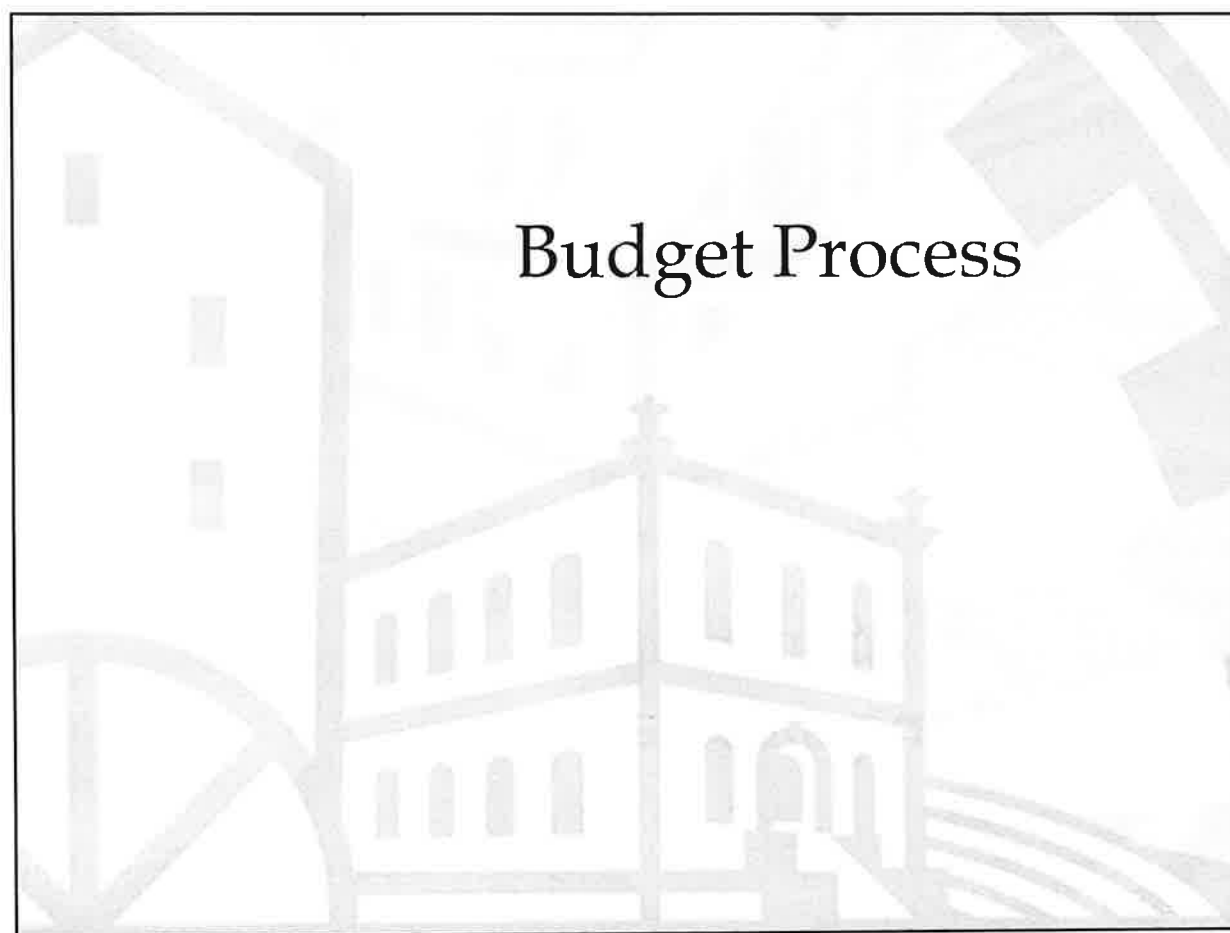
 _____ Steven A. Davis Commissioner	 _____ Dave Levacy Commissioner	 _____ Jeff Fix Commissioner
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Rachel Elsea, Clerk



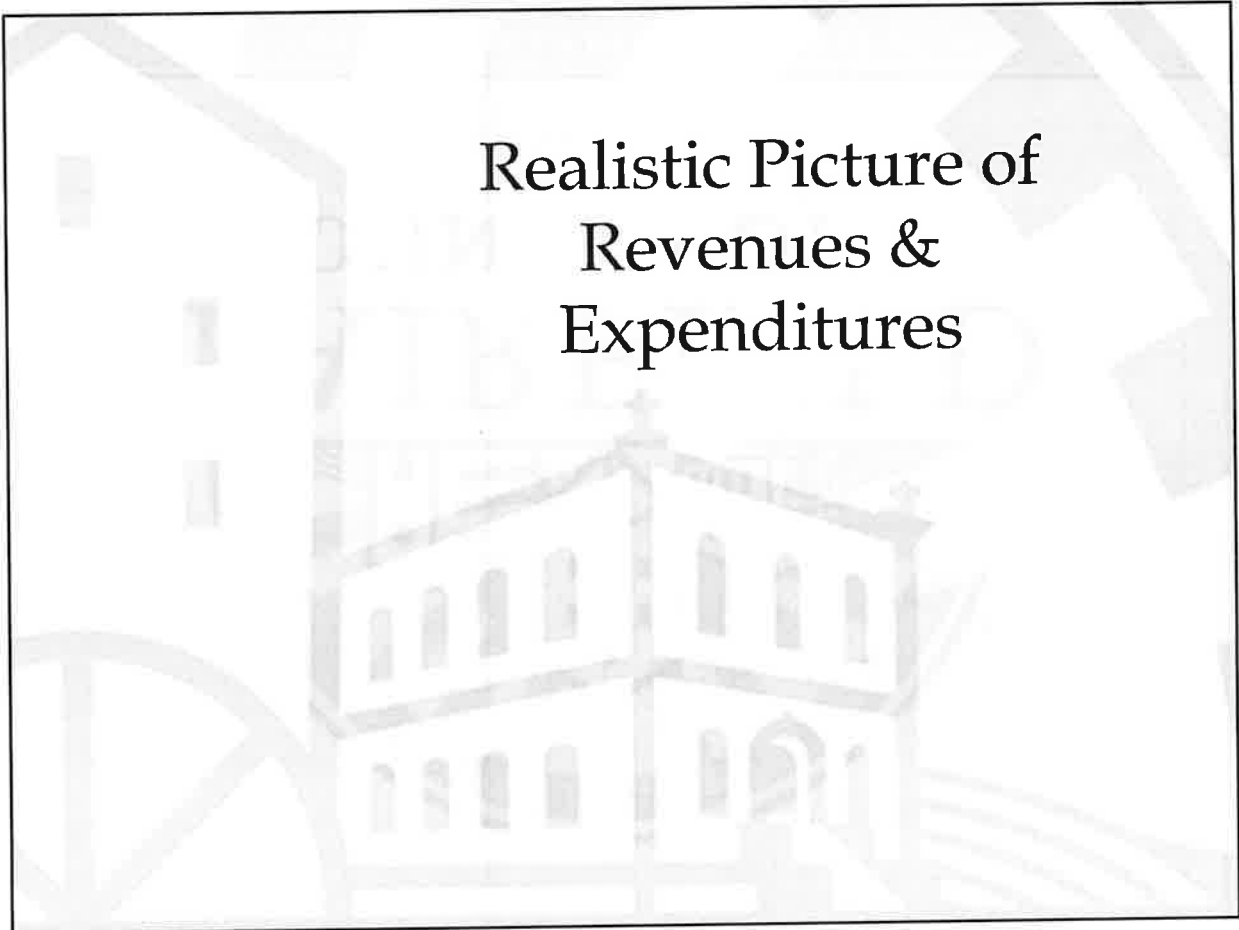
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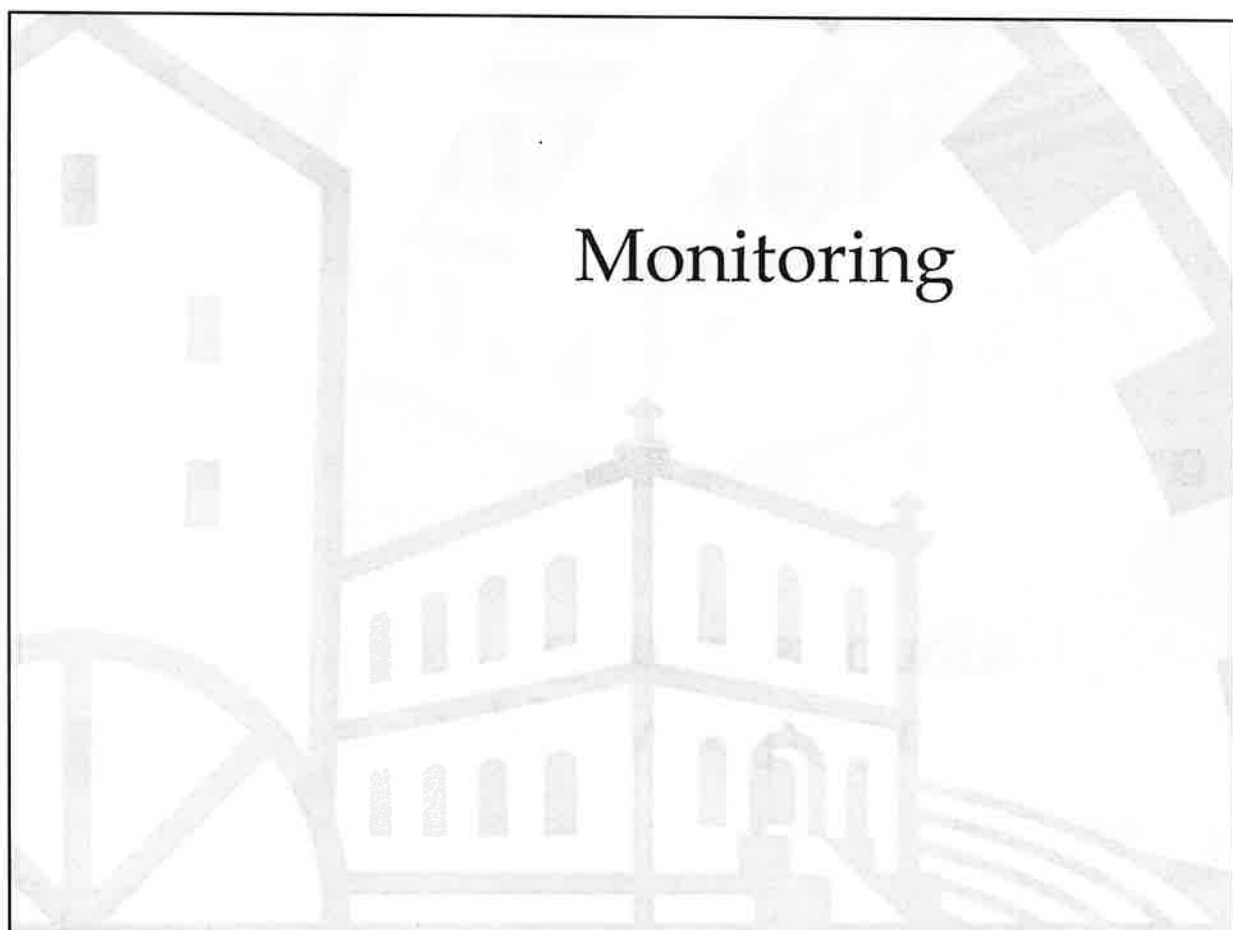
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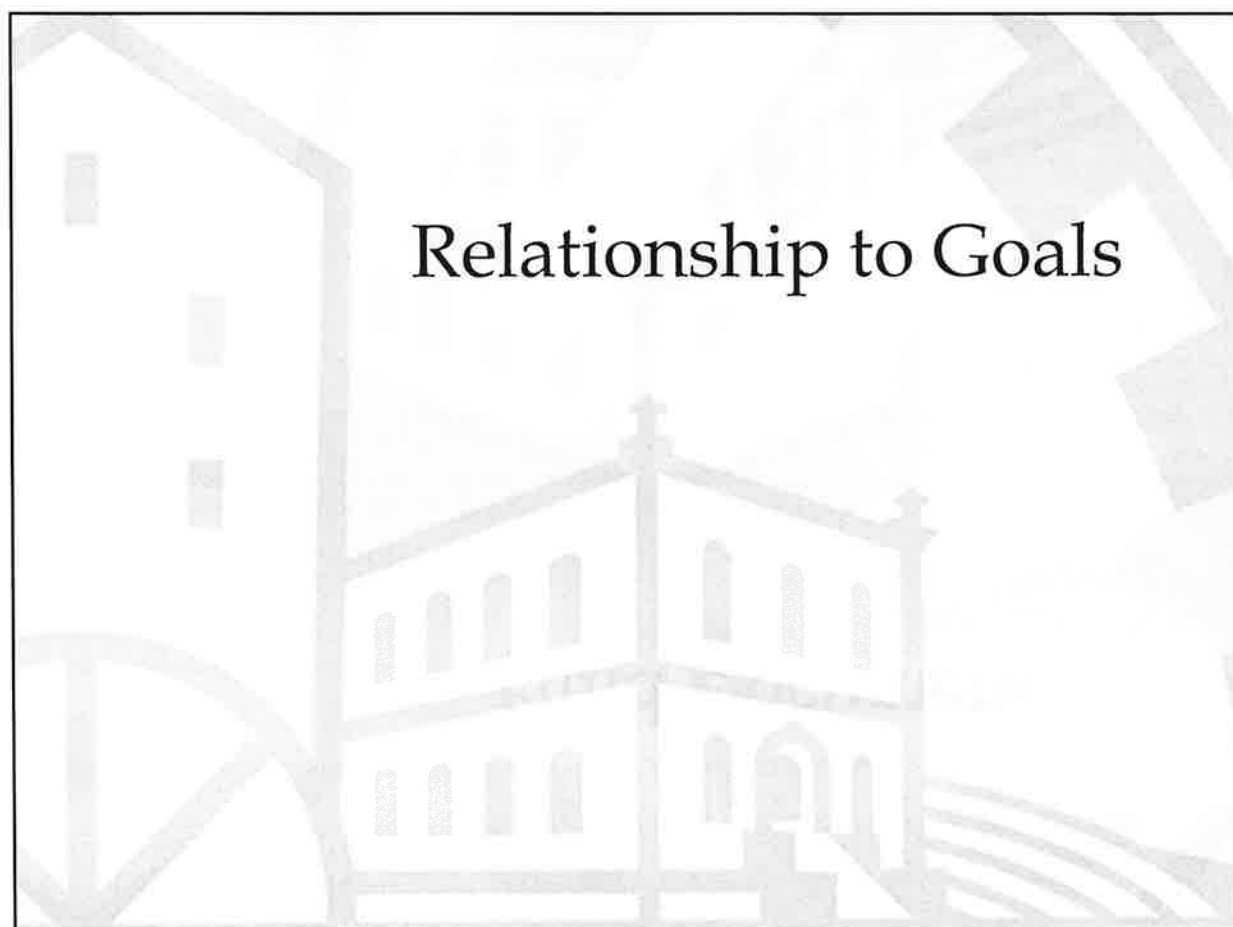


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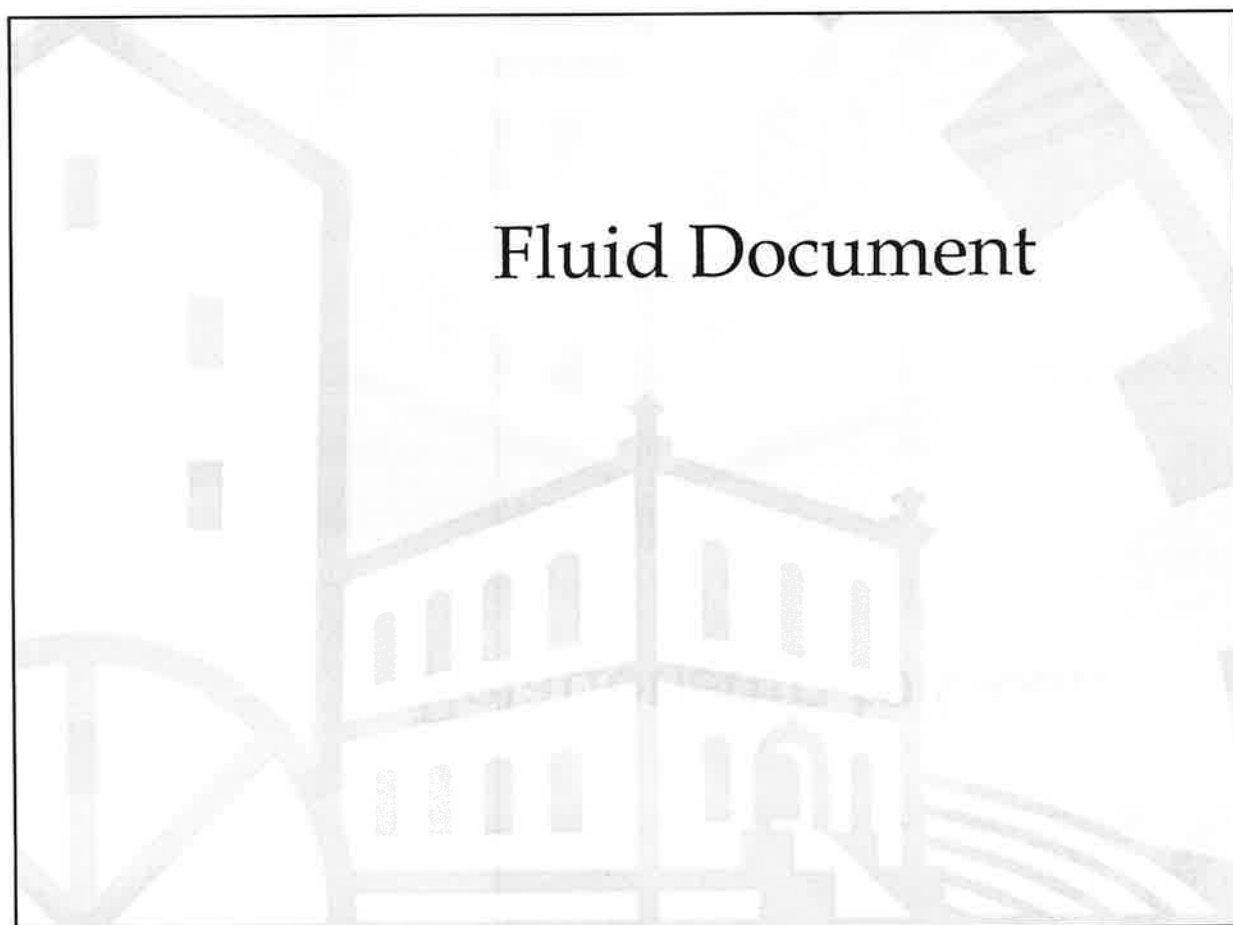
Monitoring

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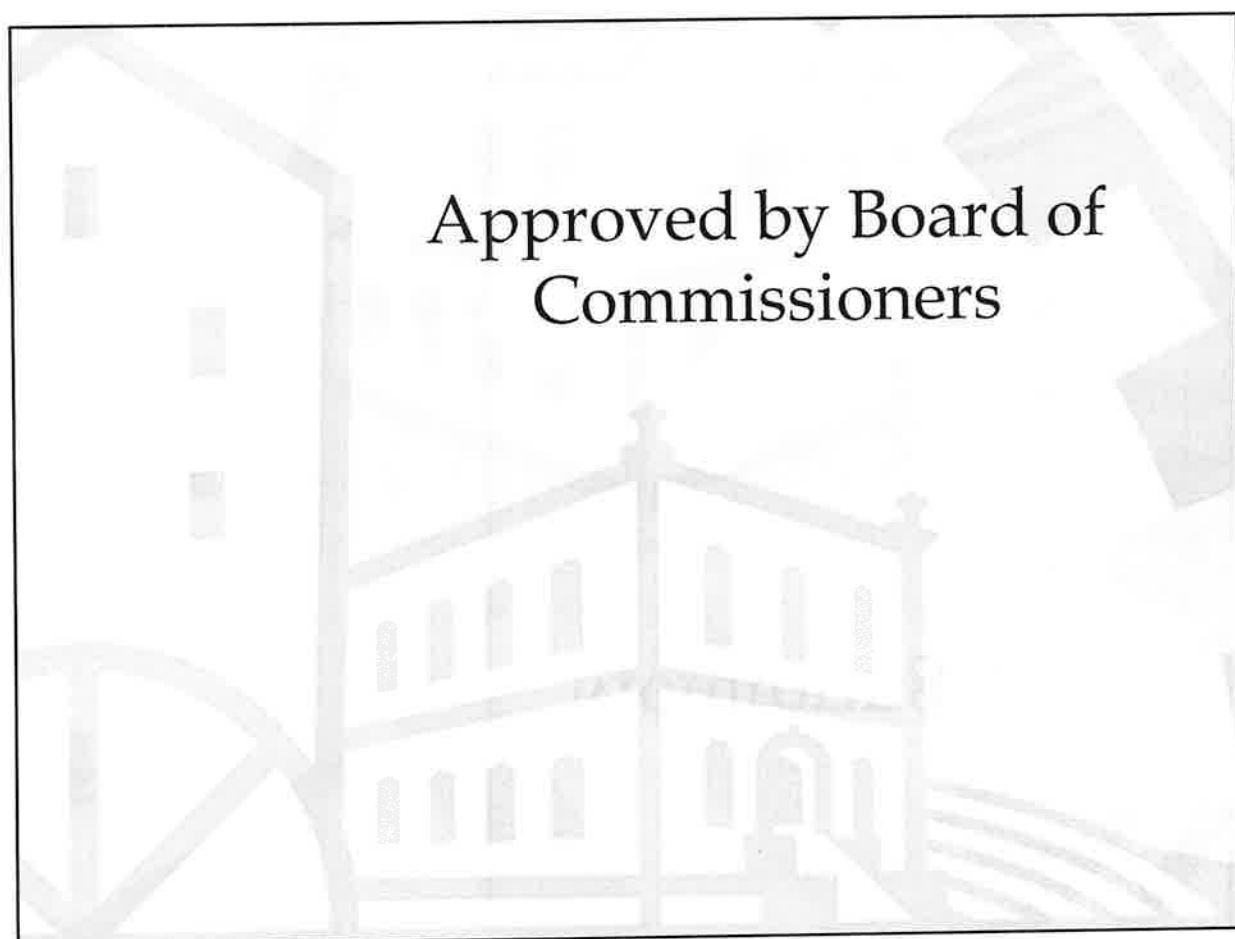


Relationship to Goals

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2020 General Fund Budget

- **\$49.9 M** as compared to \$49.4 M in 2019
 - *Increase of 1%*
 - *Increase of 3%* over original 2019 budget
 - 2019 “one-time” expenditures
 - Walnut Township MARCS tower
 - Baldwin & Workforce Center



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Parameters

- Up to 3% increase in salaries based on merit; 2% otherwise
- No new employees, unless approved with justification
 - MIS Specialist, 911 Dispatcher, Guardianship Service Board
- Health benefit plan + 2%



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2020 Highlights

\$743,000	27 th pay
330,000	Up to 3% merit pay increases
230,000	2% increase for health benefits plan
250,000	Workforce Center Improvements



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2020 Budget Highlights

148,700	Contracts for BOE
144,904	Additional vehicles for Sheriff
139,000	Juvenile Ct. operations & Guardianship Service Board
120,000	Workforce Center operations
115,000	IT equipment
100,000	MAGNA training grant
100,000	Capital improvements, windows



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2020 Budget Highlights

60,000	Vacation conversion, severance
56,000	MIS specialist for Courts
56,000	911 Dispatcher
38,000	Additional MORPC membership
25,000	Coroner services



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Priority of Public Safety

- Sheriff's Departmental Budget
\$14,776,032 - \$16M + functionally
- 4 additional staff for transport continued
- Additional 911 Dispatcher
- Vehicle management
- Flexibility for organizational changes
- Main priority of the budget



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2020 Revenue Projections

- Sales Tax
 - Largest general revenue source
 - 2.8% increase in 2019
 - 2.5% increase estimated in 2020
 - \$22+ M



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Sales Tax Rate (Map)

- 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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2020 Revenue Projections

UP...

- 1/2% for property taxes - \$ 8.6 M
- 3% for conveyance - \$ 3 M
- 1% charges for services - \$ 5+M



2020 Revenue Projections

- *Flat* casino revenues - \$ 1.75 M
- Interest income - \$1.9 M
- LGF - \$1.4 M
- Transfer - \$ 800,000



Carry over cash projections

2019 \$12.5 M +

2020 \$ 12 M

2021 \$ 11 M

- Crossing cash balance - planning thresholds and monitoring tools
- Policy requires ongoing evaluation



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2020 General Fund By the Numbers

Revenues for 2020 are anticipated to exceed \$ 46.7 M

Actual expenditures are expected to be about \$ 47.4 M

About \$743,000 of carry-over will be used for the 27th pay



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Factors

- No extraordinary one-time expenditures
- No settlement included re: Franklin
- Parameters, cooperation
- Merit-based pay implementation
- "21" recommendations
- Connected to goals and strategic plan



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Uncertainty

- Opioid epidemic & drug addiction
- State budget cuts or lost special revenues
- Increased need for technology
 - (work group created)
- Sheriff negotiations
- No adjustment yet for indigent attorney fees, reimbursement/expenditures



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2020

- Restrict additional appropriations
- Monitor expenditures & revenues
- Continue message of parameters
- Support one another
- Continue focus on *strategic themes*



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Positive Factors

- Population Growth
- Excellent management
- Electronic monitoring savings
- Rightsizing MCJDC contribution
- Location
- Strong diversified tax base, flexibility
- Low unemployment
- Current financial health
- Cooperative approaches
- Self-supporting debt
- New construction, expansion
- Reentry focus, Diversion focus
- Community Collaboration
- Grant Acquisition



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3.92% Reduction in Allocations

2019	\$ 5,114,156
2020	\$ 4,913,623

- MCJDC reduction - \$135,962
- Additional 2.04% reduction for 2021



Budget Highlights

- Estimated Revenues+Carry-Over Cash Exceeds Estimated Expenditures
 - Using carry-over appropriately
 - Deficit budgeting is not permitted by statute
- Please see the *press release of 12.10.19*



Priorities/Strategic Themes

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



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Additional Objectives

- Main Street Parking
- Facilities & Emergency Management Complex
- Flooring Improvements
- Renovation for Real Estate Assessment
- Maintain Aa2 bond rating
- “Right size” MCJDC contribution
- Contract Monitoring



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Serve.Connect.Protect

- *Accomplishments*
- *Year in Review*



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Decade in Review


Indicator	Dec 2010	Dec 2019	change
Population	146.16	155.78	+7%
Med. Age	37.1	39.2	+6%
Med. \$\$	55,805	63,424	+14%
Bachelor +	23.3%	26.6%	+3%
Unemployment	8.9%	3.6%	-5%




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Decade in Review			
Indicator	Dec 2010	Dec 2019	change
Average Sale Price of Residential Property	\$171,500	\$203,500	+19%
Assessed Value, Total	\$3.2 B	\$3.7 B	+16%
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Decade in Review			
Indicator	Dec 2010	Dec 2019	change
Top Employer	Fairfield Medical Center	Fairfield Medical Center	none
FMC employees	1,714	2,150 +	+25%
County employees	803	843	+5%
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Decade in Review			
Indicator	Dec 2010	Dec 2019	change
Sheriff Bookings	4,667	5,300	+14%
CPS Referrals	4,960	8,000 +	+61%
			
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Decade in Review			
Indicator	Dec 2010	Dec 2019	change
Bond rating	Aa2	Aa2	none
Sales Tax Rate	6.75%	6.75%	none
carry-over, grf	\$7.8 M	\$12.5 M	+60%
% of expenses	24.5%	25.8%	+1%
			
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Cohort County Review			
County	Population In 000s	GDP Growth	Jobs Growth
Fairfield	155.8	3%	2.1%
Portage	162.9	2.7%	1.6%
Greene	168.0	2.2 %	1.3%
Licking	175.8	2.1%	1.3%
Clark	134.6	1.8%	0.9%

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Cohort County Review		
County	Population In 000s	Premature Death in years before 75 /100K people
Fairfield	155.8	6,368
Portage	162.9	7,342
Greene	168.0	6,646
Licking	175.8	7,117
Clark	134.6	11,670

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Cohort County Review			
County	Food Environment Index	Food Insecurity	Poverty Rate
Fairfield	8.0	12%	9.0%
Portage	7.5	13.7%	12%
Greene	7.6	12.8%	10%
Licking	7.9	12.1%	9%
Clark	6.9	14.9%	15%
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In the past decade, Fairfield County has experienced an increase in:

• Population


• Median income

• Education

• Employment

• Sale prices of homes

• Assessed valuation



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In the past decade, the county has
had no change in its...

- excellent bond rating
- relatively low sales tax rate

And there is more money in the grf bank...

While...



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We have accomplished goals
together...

- Replaced 3 dilapidated jails with a modern one
- Renovated & improved many buildings
- Connected economic & workforce development
- Turned around dog shelter operations
- Improved transparency & communications



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We have accomplished goals together...

- Maintained financial stability (while the state cut shared revenues and MCO sales tax collections)
- Increased revenues with major grants
- Passed new levies & built trust
- Decreased expenditures in major areas, such as electronic monitoring and allocations



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We have accomplished goals together...

- Improved technology, such as with CRMS
- Implemented a county compensation plan
- Developed county wide strategic plans
- Innovated, especially at Job and Family Services, the courts, and visitation center
- Kept costs down
- Improved wellness initiatives
- Improved customer service
- Engaged employees, our best assets



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Here is to the next 10 years!

We will continue to ...

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



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Questions



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