

Special Meeting #55 - 2022
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
December 20, 2022

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room of the Historic Courthouse at 210 E Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis, Dave Levacy, Jeff Fix. Also present: Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Dr. Carri Brown, Deputy Hummel, Amy Brown-Thompson, Steven Darnell, Bart Hampson, Dennis Keller, Jon Kochis, Tony Vogel, Rick Szabrak, John Turnbull, Michael Kemper, and Josh Horacek.

Attending virtually: Lisa McKenzie, Dan Weis, Becky, Shannon Carter, and Jessica Murphy.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Public Comments

John Turnbull of Lancaster spoke about the proposed Eastern Cottontail Solar Project and stated that his father still owns some of the farmland being considered for the project. Mr. Turnbull added that the revenue that would be generated from the sale of the land would be important to his father, as well as the local school district. He added that he feels it is important to remember that people work very hard to pay for acquired property and therefore should be able to rely on proceeds from it when needed.

Commissioner Davis stated that the purpose of the Public Comments section of the meeting is to allow the commissioners to have the opportunity to listen to community members, and that in this instance he wanted to convey to Mr. Turnbull that he was thinking about the opposition that people face in these types of matters. The commissioner further stated that he appreciated Mr. Turnbull's point of view.

Commissioner Fix thanked Mr. Turnbull for sharing his thoughts with the Board of Commissioners.

Legal Update

Amy Brown-Thompson spoke about the Commissioners' contract with the Coshocton - Fairfield - Licking - Perry Solid Waste District (CFLP) and added that CFLP contracts should be executed through Board of Commissioners' meetings and not at CFLP meetings.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis spoke about a transportation proposal from the state and added he will be comprehensively reviewing the proposal. He also spoke about reaching out to the state regarding timelines concerning the proposal.

Commissioner Levacy stated he attended several events the previous week which were very successful and well attended. He highlighted the Chili Cookoff event held by Major Crimes.

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Commissioner Fix stated the OneOhio Board has hired an Interim Executive Director, Kathryn Wittington, to assist in the process of distributing funds to aid agencies and communities in attacking the opioid crisis. He added that he and Commissioner Levacy participated the prior week in the Transportation Improvement District meeting and that the twenty-minute radius around Intel is getting a lot of attention and Fairfield County is just outside that circle. The commissioner stated that he met with William Murdock and Steve Stivers regarding workforce development and had a conversation about transportation and poverty issues. Commissioner Fix also spoke about attending the chili cookoff and commended Commander Lowe for bringing everyone together and raising money for a local charity. He talked about being sworn in by Commissioner Davis on December 15th for his second term and that the event set the stage for what he would like to do over the next four years. He finished by stating he had attended the JFS all staff meeting where he offered his great appreciation for the JFS staff.

Auditor Brown thanked Bennett Niceswanger for his work with the Records Commission and Records Center.

New Business

Commissioner Davis stated that he and Commissioner Levacy attended the Love's ribbon cutting and that he was impressed that both the fuel station, and the Hardee's restaurant, were very busy. He also stated that he wanted to acknowledge Love's for the contributions they made to two local charity organizations as part of the grand opening ceremony. Commissioner Davis added that Commissioner Fix's swearing in reminded him that these events are not for the person being celebrated but for the people around us who wish to share in our moments.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the winter storm that is anticipated between now and Christmas and thanked all the county employees that would be dealing with the elements to make the county safe. He stated he is looking forward to 2023 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Auditor Brown spoke about the pricing irregularities at Dollar General stores and stated that her office will be increasing efforts to assist with correcting pricing at the stores. She added that the irregularities appear temporary but are something to pay attention to.

Announcements

Board of Commissioners' Clerk, Rochelle Menningen, stated Fairfield County Offices will be closed beginning at noon on Friday, December 23, 2022, and all day on Monday, December 26, 2022, in observance of the holiday.

Approval of Regular Minutes for December 13, 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, December 13, 2022, meeting.

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Board of Commissioners

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

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2022-12.20.a A resolution to amend resolution 2022-12.13.d to approve reimbursement rates for appointed counsel

Commissioner Davis stated resolution 2022-12.20.a corrects an anomaly contained on resolution 2022-12.13.d. He added that he and County Administrator Cordle had spoken on the matter, but there was a late addition by a judge which was inconsistent with Commissioner Davis' requests regarding the resolution. The commissioner stated that the content was good, but the late addition resulted in some required changes. He thanked Administrator Cordle for spending her time resolving the matter and thanked everyone who helped negotiate terms and who helped get the resolution corrected.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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:

2022-12.20.b A resolution approving the reappointment of Ms. Heather Yakes to the Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund Committee

2022-12.20.c A resolution entering into an agreement between Fairfield County and the Coshocton - Fairfield - Licking - Perry (CFLP) Solid Waste District for Recycling Services and Education Program Services for 2023

2022-12.20.d A resolution to enter into a contract between Fairfield County and the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency for Recycling and Education Services for 2023

2022-12.20.e A Resolution to Approve an Ohio Department of Development Brownfield Remediation Program Grant Agreement for Bloom Carroll Local School District

Director of Economic and Workforce Development, Rick Szabrak, stated Heather Yakes has been a great asset to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee and added that she is one of the best consultants in central Ohio

Administrator Cordle spoke about resolution 2022-12.20.e being for a grant the County applied for with Bloom Carroll Schools and that a signed agreement was needed within ten days, resulting in the need for the passing this resolution on 12/20/2022.

Chief Deputy Treasurer, Michael Kaper, stated all money from the Brownfield Remediation grant must to be spent by the end of May 2023.

Commissioner Fix emphasized the importance of Bloom Carroll Schools fulfilling their obligations regarding the grant.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Adjournment

Commissioner Fix stated he has appreciated the opportunity to serve as commissioner in 2022, and acknowledged the retirement and outstanding tenure of Facilities Director, Dennis Keller.

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Mr. Keller stated that working for Fairfield County had been a wonderful opportunity and that he has enjoyed working with all the Commissioners and county staff.

Commissioner Davis recalled the competitiveness of the hiring process for Dennis. He added that the county has been very fortunate to have had Dennis working with the Facilities Department and on the department's projects.

Commissioner Levacy stated he believed Dennis had truly made a difference in the county. Commissioner Fix thanked everyone for a great year. He thanked Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter and Bart Hampson for stepping into their roles and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Commissioner Davis highlighted his approach with the Investment Advisory Committee and stated his desire to continue serving on the Investment Advisory Committee in 2023.

With no further business, on the motion of Steve Davis and a second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:36 a.m.

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

Motion by: Steve Davis Seconded by: Dave Levacy
that the December 20, 2022, Review Session, and Regular minutes were approved by the
following vote:

YEAS: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, Dave Levacy
ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on January 10, 2022


 Jeff Fitt
 Commissioner


 Dave Levacy
 Commissioner


 Steven A. Davis
 Commissioner

Rochelle Menningen
Rochelle Menningen, Clerk