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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 21, 2020

County Commissioners Reduce General Fund Budget During the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Lancaster, Ohio - On Tuesday, April 20th, the Board of County Commissioners reduced the county general fund budget to help address the impact of the COVID – 19 pandemic. \$700,579 of the \$50 M general fund was cut. Those reductions included:

- The elimination of a Records Center liaison position (\$53,279)
- Reduction of the 2020 Port Authority Allocation (\$35,000)
- Reduction of Workforce Center Investment (\$200,000)
- Reduction of the remainder of 2020 Multi-System Youth Allocation (\$100,000)
- Reduction of capital outlay for Facilities Management (\$300,000)
- The elimination of the Lancaster Festival Allocation for 2020 (\$10,300)
- Reduction in administrative fees for sales tax for 2020 (\$2,000)

Anticipated revenue loss from casino revenues exceed \$900,000. There will be additional losses of revenue, as well. Losses in sales tax revenue are under review, as the county receives sales tax more than two months after collection by the state. The carryover cash balance of 2019 was healthy at \$14 M, but that balance will not cover all losses.

In addition to a hiring freeze for positions not required to meet pandemic needs, the Commissioners have established initial parameters for the 2021 budget. Those parameters include no new hires and no rate increases.

Commissioner Steve Davis, Board President, stated, “The unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused all organizations and all industries to suffer immense losses, and the county is not immune to these losses. It will be an incredibly difficult during the remainder of 2020, and we all will certainly feel the impact to the economy in the years to come.” As more information is known, it will be shared.

If you have any questions, please contact Carri Brown, County Administrator, at carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov at (740) 652-7096.

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