



*Great history,  
bright future!*



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

[WWW.FAIRFIELDTWP.ORG](http://WWW.FAIRFIELDTWP.ORG)



# Administration OVERVIEW



**6**  
Full-Time  
Administrative  
Staff

Fairfield Township Administration includes the Township Administrator's Office, Human Resources, Finance, Special Projects and Events, Development Services, and Communications. The primary role of administration is to implement the policies of the Board of Trustees, lead the day-to-day operations of the Township's four major departments, provide oversight and support of the 140 full-time/part-time employees, and prepare the Township annual budget.

## Administration Department Highlights

- Renewed Humana health plan and wellness initiative resulting in net positive results for the Township in 2020.
- Managed the Township's risk and liability insurance and workers compensation programs.
- Processed over 2,500 checks and purchase orders.
- Provided administrative support to the Community Improvement Corporation.
- Many events were planned, but had to be cancelled or modified due to COVID-19.
- Continued to conduct cyber security training.
- Implemented and onboarded a new payroll software.
- Conducted annual training for all Township employees to ensure compliance with the Township's Personnel Policy and state and federal laws.
- Provided administrative support for the Township's Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Joint Economic Development District Board.
- Actively continued working with the Veterans Memorial Committee.
- Maintained the Township's website and social media presence reaching over 100,000 website viewers.
- Prepared and implemented the Township's \$24 million Annual Budget consisting of 30 different funds.
- Purchase and reimbursement of over \$1.4 million of COVID PPE and equipment, including hands free doors and restroom fixtures and UAV cleaners for vehicles and buildings.
- Management of over 7 significant Township projects throughout the year, including Gilmore Road Widening and a Public Works Building.

## 2020 ELECTED OFFICIALS



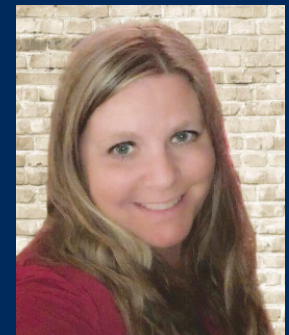
**Susan Berding**  
Trustee President



**Shannon Hartkemeyer**  
Trustee Vice President



**Joseph McAbee**  
Trustee



**Shelly Schultz**  
Fiscal Officer

# A LETTER FROM JULIE VONDERHAAR

## *Township Administrator*



**Great Past...Bright Future!** This is a tagline that never gets old. Each and every time I have the privilege of saying or using this line, I feel immense pride in the Township's past and in what we are continuing to accomplish. This has never been more true than over the course of 2020. A year of unknowns, we witnessed a worldwide pandemic and an unheard-of level of closures and illness. Despite the many challenges faced in 2020, Fairfield Township remained stable, thrived, and was able to accomplish an unprecedented amount of work while being present for its 23,000 plus residents.

2020 was truly a year that goes down as a first for the majority. The large scale worldwide pandemic closed businesses and brought typical daily life to a screeching halt. Sporting events and dining out stopped. Families were separated and students moved home for virtual learning. As it became apparent that a large-scale pandemic was on our hands, Administration worked closely with Public Works, Police, and Fire as they mobilized. The level of preparedness was unbelievable. Leadership within Fairfield Township did not miss a beat. Not only were we completely ready, but we paved the way as leaders, already having set up and actively using remote capabilities before the pandemic, stocked with PPE, and already communicating with residents.

It was vitally important that residents know we were stable and present. No call was unimportant and we knew that we could and would be a voice to assist with fear and unknowns. Although the public was unable to enter Township buildings for about a month, operations within the buildings never slowed and communication among leadership ramped up. As a result, not only was a new playground installed and opened, but a Veterans Memorial Project was kicked off. In addition, a ground-breaking was held for the addition and remodel of the Police Station on Vonnie Vale. Finally, Gilmore Road was completely widened and the first ever Public Works Building was started and almost complete by the end of 2020! And these are just a few of the great things that occurred over the course of 2021.

Butler County allowed Townships the opportunity to award small business grants of up to \$10,000 per recipient. We were happy to award over \$60,000 to struggling businesses in the Township! In early 2020, several wonderful additions to the Township were added, and ribbon cuttings held, including Urban Air and McAlisters. Zoning stayed very active. With people staying home, demand increased for remodels, sheds, decks, and other renovations. With the passage of HB 197, remote Board meetings were authorized so that the Trustees could continue business while reaching the public.

With the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021, we are hopeful for a return to a more active life. One that will see events, full dining rooms, and large gatherings. One with full church services and sporting venues. Thank you to all who were a part of our journey in 2020. We appreciate the ability that so many used to adapt quickly and in a positive manner. We are proud of what has been accomplished and look forward to the upcoming year. Continue to stay safe and be smart in all that you do.

Thank you,  
*Julie Vonderhaar*



*Veterans Memorial*



*State of the Community  
Fairfield High School, March 2020*



# Budget & FINANCE

## Township Appropriation Process

The Township's budgetary process begins in the fall by drafting temporary appropriations. This process involves the Township Administrator meeting with Department Heads and the Fiscal Officer to discuss available fund balances, expected revenue and the particular needs of each department. Proposed expenditures are reviewed to ensure alignment with the adopted goals and/or strategies of the Township.

The Board of Trustees is presented a draft of the temporary appropriations at board meetings by the Township Administrator and Fiscal Officer. Once reviewed, the temporary appropriations may be modified based on feedback from the Board of Trustees. The temporary appropriations are adopted prior to the beginning of the year or at one of the first meetings of the year. The final appropriations are passed before March 31st after conducting a public hearing, enabling the public to review and provide comment.

## Financial Structure

Fairfield Township's appropriations are made up of 30 different funds. Each fund receives revenues from specific sources, such as property tax levies, and is restricted in terms of permissible expenditures. Each fund carries its own balance and carryovers. The general fund permits the greatest discretionary expenditures. All other funds are known as special purpose funds, which have greater restrictions by state law regarding what they can be used for.

The Township's financial structure is best understood as "a la carte" due to the ability of residents, through various dedicated tax levies, to determine the level of services desired. The Township's revenue is primarily received from property taxes with the majority dedicated to public safety (Police and Fire/EMS).

## EMPLOYMENT & Payroll

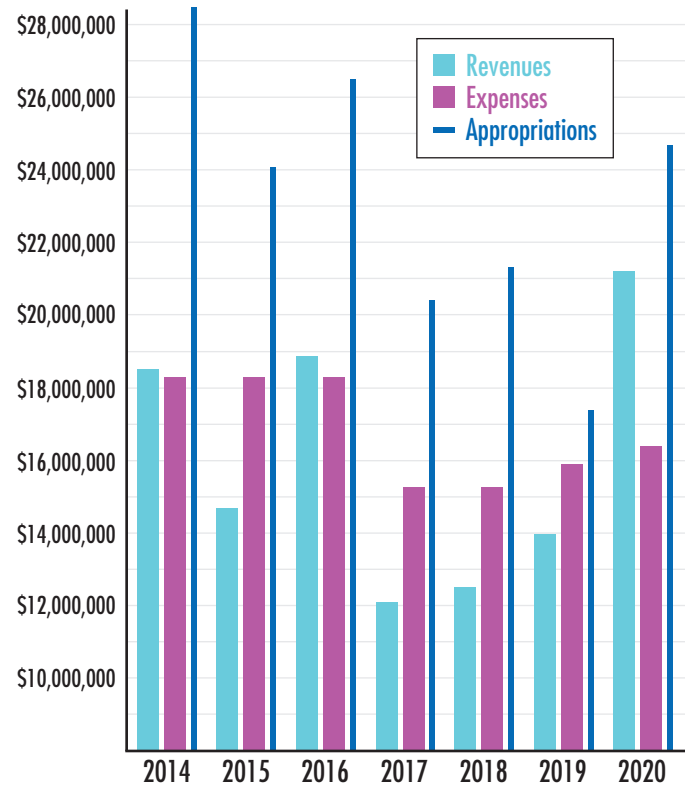


**\$4,894,242.43**  
2020 Wages

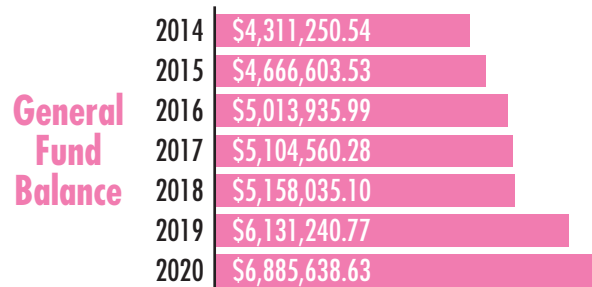


**131**  
2020 Employees

## FINANCIAL RECAP 2014-2020



**\$21,221,836.12** 2020 Revenues    **\$16,471,405.50** 2020 Expenses    **\$24,714,971.94** 2020 Appropriations



# Economic DEVELOPMENT

2020 provided a new set of challenges for all of the residents of Fairfield Township and for all of the Township Departments. The Zoning Department has made and continues to make adjustments in order to safely and efficiently respond to the needs of businesses and residents that reside in Fairfield Township. New software upgrades allow the Department to accept zoning certificate applications, plans and payments online. The software also has a strong workflow and mapping component that increases the efficiency of the department along with an improved online citizen portal.



**281**  
Zoning  
Certificates  
Issued



**239**  
Residential  
Improvements



**48**  
Commercial  
Improvements

Zoning Certificates for residential improvements were higher in 2020 than they have been in any of the past 5 years. These certificates were for residential improvements which included new decks, sheds, pools, fences, solar panels, and residential remodels. There were fewer commercial improvements in 2020 than in the previous few years. That being said there were still a number of notable commercial improvements in Fairfield Township especially along the Princeton Rd. Corridor.

## Zoning and Property Maintenance

The Fairfield Township Zoning Department received 529 zoning and property maintenance complaints and have resolved 387 complaints by the close of 2020.



**Flying Ace Carwash** completed an extensive remodel and update to an existing carwash on Winford Drive.



**Urban Air Adventure Park** moved into the large 30,000 plus sqft vacant space left behind by HHGregg.



**McAlister's Deli** has Completed an extensive remodel to the vacant building that was previously used by Applebee's.

**Sherwin Williams** completed new construction and are open for business. They are the first business to complete construction in the new Business Planned Unit Development Districts on the north side of Princeton Road.



# Service DEPARTMENT


2020 has been a trying year for everyone and the Service Department has been through many changes along with everyone else. We strived to keep new accomplishments and continued maintenance on track despite the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

With spring and improved weather, the Department applied one hundred and sixty tons of fresh ball dirt to the ballfields to help with drainage. Along with that beautification, we also installed new bleachers and mounted player benches.

As the year continued, we returned to a full crew while taking all necessary precautions.

The Service Department continued to address sump line repairs while working with residents to locate and correct problems. New equipment allowed us to try our hand at other maintenance techniques, like large asphalt patches. We are working hard to perfect the skill.

The Department also helped remodel the administration building with new paint, trim, and flooring.



## REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

*by the Numbers*

|                                     |   |                              |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>\$462,843</b><br>Paving          | <b>\$7605</b><br>Crack Seal Program     | <b>\$135,905</b><br>Blackmat |
| <b>2245 gal.</b><br>Salt Brine Used | <b>530.87 tons</b><br>Salt Used         |                              |
| <b>\$3984</b><br>Ball Field Dirt    | <b>\$164,139</b><br>Outside Contracting | <b>\$845.50</b><br>Concrete  |



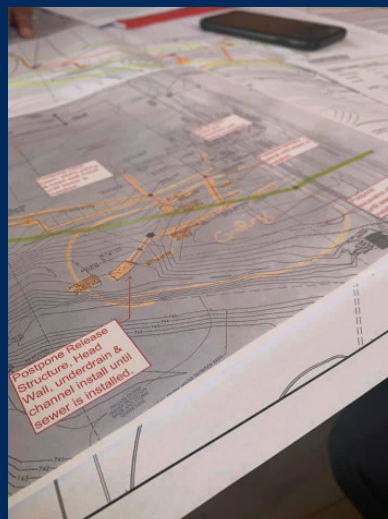
*Adding dirt to the ballfields*



*Administration building remodeling*

## Public Works NEW BUILDING

In 2020, construction began on the very first dedicated facility for Service Department employees and equipment. With more room, more responsibilities, and a larger workforce, the Department is looking forward to another productive year for the residents of Fairfield Township.







# PARKS & Recreation

Park renovations continued in 2020 with the installation of new, more up to date play equipment. In addition to these improvements, the Township broke ground on a Veterans Memorial at Heroes Park.

The Township also added a pocket park near Lennox and Fairfax as part of improvements to the area.

## NatureWorks Grant

To help facilitate playground improvement, Fairfield Township received \$124,109 in funding through the twenty-sixth round of the NatureWorks grant program.



Ribbon Cutting at Heroes Park



Playground at Lennox Pocket Park

## Veterans MEMORIAL

On October 22, 2020, a groundbreaking and dedication ceremony was held for the new Veterans Memorial at Heroes Park. Phase one of construction on the memorial is underway. Fairfield Township would like to thank all our veterans for their service and sacrifice!





# Police DEPARTMENT



**Robert Chabali**  
Police Chief

The Police Department continues to meet the demands of a growing and thriving community. One more police officer is scheduled to be hired in the near future, bringing full-time sworn strength to twenty-three. Additionally, the Police Department has two full-time records clerks, one part-time community resource officer, one part-time property room officer, and one school resource officer (SRO) assigned to Butler Tech.

All new officers are vetted through a stringent hiring process and require a certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC). Once hired, they must complete a challenging Field Training Program and a one-year probationary period. Police Department detectives conduct follow-up investigations and do all background checks for police and fire department candidates.



Community engagement continues to expand to make our personnel more accountable to the community they serve. The Police Department is gradually shifting to the Strafield Model of Problem Solving, Analysis, and Accountability as an approach to crime reduction. This model incorporates evidence-based practices and distinguishes among different types of problems for which crime reduction strategies are implemented and designates responsibility based on the resources necessary to address the problem.



Officers are routinely interacting with community members by attending neighborhood meetings, identifying their concerns, and working as a team with other

personnel and community resources to address those concerns. Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic, most community meetings were canceled in 2020. These meetings will continue as soon as the pandemic subsides.



**851**  
Arrests



**993**  
Charges



**885**  
Traffic Citations



**1,974**  
Offense Reports



**499**  
Crash Reports



**11,700**  
Calls for Service

## Equipment Use & Upgrades

- The Police Department continued the 5-year rotation on our marked units. In 2020, the color of marked cars was changed along with updating the graphics and lights for a more contemporary look. New colored units will be slowly incorporated into the fleet as older vehicles are decommissioned.
- The in-car cameras acquired in 2018 are still in use. This technology provides accurate documentation of events, actions, conditions, and statements made during law enforcement activities.
- As a result of the positive outcome of the in-car cameras, the Department is seeking to expand to body worn cameras (BWCs) in early 2021.



# Fire DEPARTMENT



**Timothy J. Thomas, Sr.**  
Fire Chief

2020 was a challenging year for the Fire Department, with COVID-19 massively impacting the way fire service and EMS do their jobs. The Department refocused efforts into providing even more important and improved emergency response to the community.

As an unfortunate side effect of the pandemic, all non-emergency contact with residents and many programs were shut down. The fire inspection and public education programs were suspended. The Fire Corps smoke detector replacement program was stopped.

The Department's call volume was significantly reduced as a result of the COVID shut down and quarantine. The year ended with a total of 2,938 calls for service. This was 276 less calls than in 2019 and reflects the reduced activity of residents and visitors to the community.

Logan Debord was welcomed back from his military deployment. The Fire Department thanks him for his service to our country.

Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Ferguson was moved to the Inspector position. The Department had planned to host an inspector course in the spring. However, all classes were cancelled due to the pandemic. Chris was eventually able to attend a program late in the year. He was successful in obtaining his Fire Safety inspector certification.

The Fire Officer I & II class finished up in March. All of our members who took the program completed the course successfully.

The new Braun Ambulance was delivered to the department. The new heavier chassis will help to reduce some of our maintenance costs that have been associated with the smaller chassis. Crews attended fire command classes held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Assistant Chief Schumann presented a modified Blue Card Training Program.

## Equipment Use & Upgrades

- In 2020, the Department continued rotating gear out of service every ten years as required by NFPA 1851. Fifteen new sets of turnout gear were purchased and an equal amount were removed from service.
- The Fire Department was fortunate to receive \$15,000 from Medicare for COVID-19 related costs to EMS. This funding purchased portable UV systems as well as vehicle mounted devices.
- A second set of turnout gear was purchased for each member of the department to allow members to properly disinfect their gear after exposure to an infectious patient.
- A new EONE pumper was ordered near the end of 2019. It is nearing completion and will be arriving soon.
- New training props were donated to the Department by AK Steel.
- Multiple staff vehicles were replaced and three pick up trucks were purchased.
- The Department purchased three Lucas CPR Compression devices to help improve the quality of CPR delivered to patients.



**137**  
Fire



**2,113**  
EMS



**65**  
Haz Con



**147**  
Service Calls



**280**  
Good Intent



**180**  
False Alarm



**12**  
Other

# Our COMMUNITY

Fairfield Township prides itself on the invaluable partnerships formed with our many community members. We've worked with Fairfield City Schools, Butler County, and the Cities of Fairfield and Hamilton on economic deals. We've also formed partnerships with Butler Tech, the Fairfield and Hamilton Chambers, the Fairfield Community Foundation, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Butler County, the EMA, Energy Alliance, Butler County Sheriff's Office, the County Commissioners, One Way Farm, Fairfield Rotary Club, Bridgewater Falls, Walmart, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Cincinnati, Matthew Twenty Five Ministries, Ohio EPA, local churches, the Butler County Land Bank, the Butler County Port Authority, the many Butler County Departments and the Butler County Engineer, Fire Corp, CPAA, Parks Committee, Veterans Memorial Committee, scout troops, elected officials and many local restaurants who have donated food and time to Township events. And so many more. Our success is directly related to the incredible partnerships and help received along the way!

## Community Improvement Corporation (CIC)

The Fairfield Township Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) acts as an economic development agent for the Township, promoting, advancing, and encouraging economic growth in the area.

## Aggregation & Safety

It's all about savings to residents and businesses. In November 2015, the community voted to add an aggregation program through Energy Alliances, Inc. That same month, a \$2.9 million safety levy was approved, affording \$1.6 million to improve Fairfield Township.



*Aerial view of Bridgewater Falls*

## Aggregation Comparisons to Consider

It is true that electric utility rates during the winter months are lower for those that cross a usage threshold. In Duke, the threshold is 1000 kWh. If you are on Duke's Standard Service Offer (SSO), the rate you pay for the first 1000 kWh used is higher than for the kWh used above 1000 kWh. On a per rate basis (\$/kWh), someone that uses 2000 kWh on Duke's SSO will have a "lower" price to compare (PTC) in the winter than someone that uses 1000 kWh on Duke's SSO in the same month. When you have extreme weather in the winter we could temporarily see low PTC's on the bills.

However, aggregation performance is a marathon and not a sprint. In the summer, there is no "discount" for using more than 1000 kWh. Residents pay the same amount for EVERY kWh they use. That same customer that used 2000 kWh in January would see a higher per rate bill in July if they used 2000 kWh even though they used the same amount of energy.

This situation shows the need for evaluating the performance of the aggregation across all months with Energy Alliances preferring to use a rolling 12-month average to assess the strength of a program.



# Community Events AROUND THE TOWNSHIP



*Boy Scouts earning a badge while attending a Board meeting and leading the pledge.*



*Celebrating with the Easter Bunny*



*Strategies for Youth brought together youth (ages pre-teen to eighteen) and the Fairfield Township Police Department for meaningful discussion and relationship building.*



*Homemade Brand's Little Dipper made an appearance at fire station 211 so the community could share some ice cream with local first responders.*



*Fairfield North Elementary Students out watching and cheering for the Memorial Day parade that led into the Veterans Memorial Dedication.*





6032 Morris Road  
Hamilton, OH 45011

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

*Around the Township*



State of the Community was held at Fairfield High School



Groundbreaking for planned Police Department expansion



Heroes Park grand opening event on Halloween