



Tuscarawas County Commissioners Quarterly Report: January – March 2020



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, County buildings have been closed to the general public, and there have been several changes to County operations. Please see page 3 for more details, click [here](#) or visit county website.

Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners

Chris Abbuhl
President of the Board

Al Landis
Vice President of the
Board

Joe Sciarretti
Member of the Board

Office Hours
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

2020 Census is Here!



From March 12th – March 20th, Households received official mailing from the US Census Bureau on how to respond to the 2020 Census.

Haven't taken the Census yet? Well you can complete the 2020 Census right here!

[My 2020 Census](#)

125 East High Avenue, Room 205,
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(330) 365-3240
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March 12th - March 20th:
Households received official mailing from the US Census Bureau on how to respond to the 2020 Census

2020 Census Timeline and Frequently Asked Questions

By March 31, 2021: the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to the states to redraw legislative districts based on population changes

April 1st:
Nationwide Census Day

May - July:
Census Workers will start visitng homes that have not yet completed the 2020 Census

March 30th - April 1st:
Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness

Later in April:
Census Workers will begin visitring College Campuses, Senior Centers, and other types of large housing groups

December:
Census Bureau will deliver apportionment to the President and Congress

Question 1: When can I complete the 2020 Census?

Households received invitations to respond to the 2020 Census from March 12th to March 20th. There are additional reminders to respond that will be mailed throughout the month. Once you receive your invitation, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

Question 2: How are my responses used?

By law, the U.S. Census Bureau can use your responses only to produce statistics. 2020 Census results will help in directing billions of dollars in federal funds to communities for schools, roads, and other public services. Results from the 2020 Census will also help to determine the number of seats that each state has in Congress for the next decade. This is what makes taking the 2020 Census so critical to our communities.

Question 3: What happens to my responses?

The Census Bureau takes its responsibility to protect your information very seriously. The Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 ensures that your data is protected from cybersecurity risks. **The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household. By law, the Census Bureau can use your responses only to produce statistics.** If you respond online, all web data submissions are encrypted in order to protect your privacy. If you respond using a paper questionnaire, your completed questionnaire will be destroyed after processing.

Question 4: Will my information be disclosed with other agencies?

No. **Your information is completely confidential and protected by law and cannot be shared with any other government agencies, including law enforcement or immigration officials.** Federal law (U.S. Code Title 13, Section 9) protects your privacy and keeps your answers safe and secure. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau can use your responses only to produce statistics.

Question 5: How do I know someone works for the Census Bureau?

All Census Bureau workers carry official government badges and should identify themselves immediately when they come to your home. There is useful information on our website ([2020 Census](#)) to help respondents better understand what census takers ask and don't ask for when conducting their work. You can also call your local regional office for verification. Find regional offices' phone numbers on our Regional Census Center page [Click here for Regional Information](#)

- **Answers are credited to the US Census Bureau**

Important Notice Concerning COVID-19 in Tuscarawas County

Commissioners Declare Public Health Emergency in Tuscarawas County

On Monday, March 23rd, the Commissioners approved Resolution (252-2020), which declared a State of Public Health Emergency in Tuscarawas County. In the resolution, the Commissioners called upon all residents to comply with public health guidelines, emergency operations, and cooperate with public officials. The Commissioners also encouraged county employees continue operating in the due diligence of their capacity, and to review health precautions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Upon approval, Commissioner Sciarretti commended the Health Department and EMA, and other local agencies for coming together during this time to serve the community. Katie Seward (County Health Commissioner), and Alex McCarthy (EMA Director) are the eyes and ears of the Commissioners during this situation, Commissioners Landis added. In a similar vein as Commissioner Sciarretti, Commissioner Landis also thanked everyone for coming together during these unparalleled times. Commissioner Abbuhl stated that the Board is taking this situation very seriously, and is in full support of the recommendations of Ms. Seward and Mr. McCarthy. Taking this action, at the recommendation of the Health Department and EMA, is a proactive approach to ensure Tuscarawas County will qualify for state and federal financial assistance to help alleviate the financial burden on first responders in the county.

Please note, as of May 11, 2020, county buildings are opened to the public

Commissioners Close Buildings to the Public Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

County buildings were closed to the public on March 16, 2020, effective March 17, 2020. This decision was made in consultation with the Tuscarawas County Health Department, and in response to Governor Mike DeWine's orders limiting person-to-person contact. Throughout this process the Board will continue, and has continued, to be actively engaged with other public officials throughout the state, county, and country. Best practices will be continued to be reviewed and updated as more information becomes available during these ever changing times. The Commissioners thank all the employees and the public for their patience as we navigate these unfamiliar waters.

Please note, as of May 11, 2020, county buildings are opened to the public

Steps Taken by the Board to Ensure Safety of Employees and Continuity of Services

February 28, 2020: HR emailed the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation regarding the Governor's directions to practice proper hygiene

March 10, 2020: HR emailed CDC guidance links

March 12, 2020: Press release for county to make every effort to provide public services and issued recommendations for offices to limit person-to-person contact, update COOP, social distancing, limit travel and non-essential meetings/gatherings, keep office areas sanitized, etc.

March 16, 2020: HR emailed Ohio Coronavirus update link.

March 16, 2020: Issued a resolution to close all county buildings to the public and encourage social distancing

March 18, 2020: Issued Memo to all elected officials to implement plan for essential functions and begin to limit personnel reporting to common areas whenever possible: rotating employees, allowing employees to work remotely, assigning only essential personnel, assign employees to work evening hours, no non-essential meetings/travel

March 23, 2020: Commissioners will go to 1 meeting per week – Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and will utilize GoToMeeting to continue public access to meetings. Authorize Auditor to process payroll, purchase orders, vouchers, etc. with one Commissioner's signature rather than the O.R.C. mandated signature by two Commissioners.

Tuscarawas County Awarded Critical Infrastructure Grant Funding

The Tuscarawas County Commissioners are pleased to announce that the State Office of Community Development has awarded Tuscarawas County \$500,000.00 for its Project Year (PY) Critical Infrastructure Grant application. In late 2019, the Commissioners approved a resolution that authorized the Tuscarawas County Office of Community and Economic Development to apply for federal dollars on behalf of the Twin City Water and Sewer District for the 1st Street Waterline Replacement Project. Tuscarawas County has since been assisting the City of Uhrichsville and the Village of Dennison in moving forward with this project.

The Commissioners were pleased to see Tuscarawas County awarded these dollars, which are critical to improving local communities. “There is no better example of federal tax dollars at work, than these types of projects” Commissioner Abbuhl stated. “These projects are on a local level, and demonstrate a use of federal tax dollars that directly assist people in our communities with quality of life improvements. Receiving these grant funds is just another example of the partnerships involving different individuals and agencies throughout the County that come together to improve the lives of Tuscarawas County residents” Commissioner Abbuhl said.

Commissioners Provisionally Award Bid for Ragersville Road Resurfacing Project

On Monday, January 27, 2020, the Tuscarawas County Commissioners provisionally awarded the bid for Engineer Project #1-2020 TUS-CR 46 (Ragersville Road) Roadway Resurfacing to Melway Paving Co, Inc. of Holmesville, Ohio. Melway Paving Co, Inc. was the low bidder with a total bid amount of \$1,417,172.50. The Engineer’s estimate for the project was \$1,585,773.00, 1.2 million of which will be paid with by Federal funds.

Provisionally awarding this project was necessary due to state and federal funding being part of this project, and therefore, subject to state and federal approval. This project will consist of resurfacing the existing asphalt roadway, and centerline and edgeline striping of approximately 9.58 miles of Ragersville Road (Tuscarawas County Road No. 56).

Bids Opened and Awarded for Engineer’s Materials

During the Commissioners Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, the Commissioners held the annual Engineer’s Materials bid opening. Bids were opened and read by Martha Campbell, for the following materials:

- Ashes
- Asphalt/Concrete
- Bituminous asphalt materials
- Fuel and gas
- Ice control grits
- Limestone
- Ready-mix concrete
- Sand and gravel

On March 11th, the Commissioners awarded the bids for the Engineer’s Materials, at the recommendation of County Engineer, Joe Bachman.

Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District (TCMSD) Projects Move Forward

Throughout the first quarter of 2020, the TCMSD and Commissioners worked to ensure safe water and sewer infrastructure for county users. On February, 26th, the Commissioners opened bids for the Bolivar Pump Station Upgrade Project. On March 9th, at the recommendation of Michael Jones, Sanitary Engineer, the Commissioners awarded the contract to S.E.T. Inc. Another key project during the 1st quarter of 2020 was the McKinley Avenue/Dutchtown Road Extension Waterline Project. Bids for the project were received on February 5th, and opened at 1:30 p.m. The contract for these upgrades was awarded on March 10th, to BK Layer, LLC. Michael Jones stated that this project has been awarded funding by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), however, that funding would only cover the Base Bid and Alternate A. Therefore, Michael Jones recommenced the Commissioners award only the Base Bid and Alternate A to BK Layer, LLC, and not include Alternate B. Mr. Jones added that he would work to make adjustments to Alternate B to make it more affordable.

Commissioners Hold Reorganizational Meeting

On Monday, January 6th, the Commissioners held their annual reorganizational meeting. On the agenda included appointing the President and Vice President for 2020, setting holidays for 2020, and approving the numerous committee appointments the Commissioners serve on. Upon approval of the Board, Commissioner Abbuhl was appointed President and Commissioner Landis was then appointed Vice President. Commissioner Abbuhl thanked Commissioner Sciarretti for his leadership in 2019, and that as a team the Board had a very productive year under his leadership. Commissioner Sciarretti thanked Commissioner Abbuhl for the kind words, and added that it was an honor to serve with two people in Commissioner Abbuhl and Commissioner Landis who he views as friends and mentors.

In 2020 the Commissioners will serve on such committees as:

- Airport Committee
- Workforce Investment Board
- Children and Family First
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Community Corrections
- Data Board
- Multi County Juvenile Attention System
- Eastern Ohio Development Alliance
- Community Improvement Corporation
- Ohio Mid-Eastern Government Agency
- Tuscarawas County Chamber of Commerce
- Stark-Tusc-Wayne Joint Solid Waste District
- Workforce Investment Board
- Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation
- County Commissioners Association of Ohio

This is not an exhaustive list of committees the Commissioners serve on, only those that require annual appointments.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Abbuhl the Board looks to have a productive 2020, and continue the positive momentum from 2019.

Recognizing Long-Standing Community Partners

On Monday, March 23rd, the Commissioners recognized the YMCA for their 100th Anniversary and WJER for its 70th Anniversary. The Commissioners were proud to recognize both of these great community organizations, noting that both WJER and the YMCA have been some of the most important organizations in the history of a Tuscarawas County. Not merely recalling the past, the Commissioners also commented that WJER and the YMCA are vital to the community today and will be so in the future. The Board wished both organizations the best of luck and continued success!



TUSCParks and the trails offer an excellent opportunity to get outside and enjoy the spring weather while we are all combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic! However, please remember to follow all Ohio Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control guidelines regarding social distancing. Exercising outside is great for both physical and mental health but please help us in not forgetting to #stopthespread because we are #InThisTogetherOhio and Tuscarawas County!





Commissioners Help Promote Drug and Alcohol Free Lives for Teens

On Wednesday, March 25th, the Commissioners proclaimed the week of March 22nd, to March 28th, to be National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week! National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week is a national campaign empowering young people to connect with one another and *shatter the myths* on drug and alcohol use, and encouraging lives free of drug and alcohol abuse. **Pictured left** are Commissioner Landis (left) and Commissioner Abbuhl (right) with the National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week proclamation. **NOTE:** Commissioner Sciarretti was present for the meeting virtually but was unable to be present for a photo.

County Commissioners Recognize Local Eagle Scout

On Monday, February 23rd, the Commissioners recognized Nathan Ruggeri, a young man who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Nathan acquired funding and coordinated the construction of a handicap accessible bridge at the Norma Johnson Center. Much of the construction of the dock had to be completed by hand, and was very intensive manual labor. On top of all the manual labor, Nathan was able to acquire enough funding to cover the complete cost of the project, meaning the construction of the handicap accessible dock was of no cost to the Norma Johnson Center! Nathan is also part of the Dover Concert Band, Steel Drum Band, and has been in scouts since third grade. He hopes to assist with his troop as a leader particularly in helping with younger scouts. Congratulations to Nathan on this remarkable achievement and creating something that visitors to the Norma Johnson Center can enjoy for years to come!



Pictured Above: Commissioner Sciarretti, Commissioner Abbuhl and Commissioner Landis with Nathan Ruggeri and his mother Denise Ruggeri.

Commissioners Help Kickoff Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Nate Kambam (TuscBDD Superintendent), Christine Sapp (TuscBDD Community Connections Specialist), Kerri Silverthorn (Community Relations and Special Projects Coordinator), Richard Anderson (TuscBDD Client) and Nathan Davis (Employer of Mr. Anderson), were present to kickoff March as Development Disabilities Awareness Month in Tuscarawas County. They were excited to announce that there are many community events during the month of March in celebration of Development Disabilities Awareness Month. Some of events include a sensory movie at the Quaker, sensory bowling event, and the annual basketball game at Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School. Following the discussion, the Commissioners approved a proclamation proclaiming March to be Developmental Disabilities Month in Tuscarawas County.