

Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine; Communications Officer, Rachel Elsea; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Soil and Water Technician, Chad Lucht; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; and Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer.

Virtual attendees: Park Russell, Tony Vogel, Alisha Hoffman, Chris Snider, Shannon, Barb Martin, Lynette Barnhart, Deborah, Lori Hawk, Josh Horacek, Jennifer Morgan, Jeff Barron, Brian Wolfe, Abby King, Shelby Hunt, BGM, Garrett Blevins, Stacy Hicks, Vince Carpico, Greg Forquer, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Jim Bahnsen, Steven Darnell, Jane Harf, Lori Lovas, Andy Boystel, Jerry Starner, Jeanie Wears, and Joe Ebel.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Listen and Learn

County Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown provided an update on the Fairfield County Auditor's Office. Dr. Brown spoke about new technologies being implemented in her office and about proposed legislation that will affect real estate procedures and property taxes. Legislation regarding the Homestead Reduction is being considered that will increase the threshold of the income for property owners, allowing more retirees to take advantage of the property tax reduction.

Dr. Brown continued by outlining programs in her office, which are often also used throughout the county and the state. Two testimonial videos from a county employee and one from the Fairfield County Park District were played that described the effectiveness of the modernization of the Enterprise ERP financial system. One of the strategies of the Auditor's Office is to use technology to improve services for the residents and municipalities of Fairfield County. The DocLink platform provides more efficient access to data for internal and external stakeholders. This data includes, but is not limited to, Budget Commission submissions, Levy & Special Assessment Requests, Training Materials, and Networking Links. Dr. Brown thanked RPC Interim Director Holly Mattei for the work she has done that has assisted the Real Estate Office with the new Lot Split Program. The lot split process also includes the Engineer's Office, Utilities, the Health Department, IT, and the Recorder's Office; and there are over 300 lot splits that occur each year in Fairfield County. The REA Fund has covered the costs for the Lot Split Program which will make a complex process more efficient.

Dr. Brown continued by stating that other strategies of her office are "Interning the Workforce", "Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)", and "Financial Stewardship".

Dr. Brown produced a copy of the Strategic Plan of the Fairfield County Auditor's Office which can be viewed in the minutes, along with Dr. Brown's PowerPoint presentation.

Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025

Public Comments

None.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

- *The County Administration Update was provided by County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, unless otherwise noted.*

Week in Review

2024 Achievement Level Award from The Ohio EPA

Jon Kochis recently applied for recognition from The Ohio EPA in their Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities program. We are pleased to announce that The Commissioners has been recognized as a 2024 Achievement Level recipient for achievements in improving Ohio's environment through economic, social, and environmental sustainability projects and initiatives.

February 4, 2025, Commissioners' Review and Regular Meeting

The Commissioner's next meeting will be in the evening on February 4th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be here, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at 7:00 p.m. There will be four additional evening Review and Regular Meetings throughout the county in 2025. The first in four weeks at the Greenfield Twp Fire Department located at 3245 Havensport Rd. in Carroll; on May 13th at the Wigwam in Pickerington; on August 5th at the Rushcreek Fire Department; and on November 18th at the Berne Union School Building.

Tax Payment Parking

Temporary parking has been identified for Tax Payment Parking for the ½ hour street parking spots that are in front of the Historic Courthouse and the Hall of Justice. Thank you to Jon Kochis and Christy Noland for their assistance with the temporary signage to provide taxpayers with easier parking access to the office during tax season

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 21 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025

- A resolution from the Auditor's Office to rescind resolution 2025-01.14.y, which approved a memo receipt/expense for JFS Fund #2599 Reimbursing Fund #2018. Fund #2599 did not have sufficient funds to complete the transaction at this time.
- Domestic Relations has a resolution to authorize the repayment of an advance to the General Fund from the Justice for Families Grant Program.
- The Engineer's Office has a resolution to approve a Road Usage Maintenance Agreement between the county and AEP for temporary access to construct overhead power lines.
- The Engineer's Office has also provided a resolution to approve the 2024 annual county highway system mileage certification. 361.122 recorded miles of road in Fairfield County have been verified by ODOT.

Engineer Upp stated that the recorded mileage of county roads can vary slightly from year to year, typically by only a half-mile to a mile.

- Facilities has a resolution to approve a contract with Columbus Building Services for the roof top HVAC project at the Government Services Building.

Director Kochis stated that they are looking to replace the HVAC in the spring for minimal disruption.

- Juvenile/Probate Court has a resolution to approve a lease agreement between Juvenile Court and the City of Lancaster on the second floor of the City Annex Building at 123 East Chestnut Street.

Commissioner Davis met with Mayor McDaniel to express to the city that the county wants out of the lease. The county will continue to work towards getting rid of leases that are not well negotiated.

- The Sheriff's Office has three resolutions on today's agenda. One to appropriate from unappropriated in Fund #2394, another for an inmate housing agreement with Canal Winchester, and another to approval a service agreement between the Sheriff's Office and Violet Township for the continuation of equipment and personnel necessary to perform policing services.
- Major Crimes has five financial resolutions on the agenda. These resolutions establish a grant fund, partially repay an advance, appropriate unappropriated monies, authorize an advance for the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Grant, and authorize an account to account transfer in the Recovery Ohio FY21 Grant Fund.
- And the Utilities Department has four financial resolutions authorizing fund-to-fund transfers.

Budget Review

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson, had nothing to report.

Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

- South Licking Water Conservancy District Meeting, January 28, 2025, 3:00 p.m., Licking County Soil & Water Office, 771 E. Main St., Newark
- Potential Ohio Power Siting Board Eastern Cottontail Solar Project Public Hearing, January 28, 2025, 4:45 p.m., Pleasantville Elementary School, 300 W. Columbus St., Pleasantville
- Canal Winchester Chamber Annual Awards Night: Denim & Diamonds, February 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m., BrewDog Tap Columbus, 96 Gender Rd., Canal Winchester
- Friends of Fairfield DD's 15th Annual Celebration of Possibilities, March 26, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Crossroads Event Center, 2095 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster

Correspondence

- Lancaster Eagle Gazette, Jeff Barron, January 22, 2025, "Does Mass Deportation Concern Fairfield County? Commissioners Talk Trump's 2nd Term"
- Fairfield 33 Development Alliance Letter Regarding Contributions, Stakeholders, and Initiatives, January 17, 2025
- Correspondence Regarding Industrial Solar Projects
- Special Note: All Reoccurring and Formerly Distributed Correspondence from County Agencies Will Hence Forth Be Provided in the Commissioners' Folder of the Same Name

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder McKenzie will be hosting a meeting for the southeast Ohio region with her offices recording vendor.

Clerk of Courts Meyer stated he hired Tiffany Daniels for a position with the Records Division.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Commissioners are looking to replace the position at the information desk with someone who has a background in security.

Auditor Brown stated that January 31st is the deadline for dog licenses. She thanked Clerk of Courts Meyer for assisting with dog license tags at the Clerk's satellite office. She also reported that 1099's are mailed. Tax bills have also been mailed and are available on the Auditor's website.

Director Szabrak stated that Ohio University had announced the beginning of a free phlebotomy program which has already been filled.

Commissioner Davis asked if the only course fee was free or if all aspects of the course was free.

Director Szabrak stated that the students will pay nothing. There were 15 students last time the program was offered, with 14 passing their certification exam.

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025**

Commissioner Levacy was enthusiastic about the program giving students a better opportunity to kickstart their careers in medical care.

Director Kochis provided the Commissioners with the cost savings on electricity made possible by the solar array located the Liberty Center.

Commissioner Davis was interested in understanding the net costs, annualized savings in reducing the energy, and using the numbers to calculate the return on investment to make projections into the future costs of electricity. He added that the county spends over \$3 million per year on electricity costs.

Director Neeley noted that last year county IT contracted for a cybersecurity product, and they are now seeing how effective it has been. They were made aware of an attempted breach of an employee's account that had been successfully stopped thanks to the product.

Director Clark noted that the Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast is scheduled for April 9th.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy stated that last Thursday he attended the final 911 Committee meeting. He believes the county has come a long way with its 911 technology, and thanked Director Kochis for bringing all the emergency response agencies in the county together. Friday, he visited the Yellow Bud solar project in Pickaway County and was interested to see how it was being built.

Commissioner Davis attended the National Championship last week and ran into actor Anthony Mackey while out for dinner and got to spend time with him that evening.

Commissioner Levacy gave his appreciation to Commissioner Davis for his willingness to be the Ad Hoc member on the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Commissioner Davis stated a number of people have called for his resignation over the topic of solar, but he plans to see the process through.

New Business

Commissioner Davis attended the public hearing Monday evening for the Eastern Cottontail solar project and thought that most conducted themselves in a respectful manner.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine; Communications Officer, Rachel Elsea; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Soil and Water Technician, Chad Lucht; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; and Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer.

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025**

Virtual attendees: Tony Vogel, Chris Snider, Shannon, Barb Martin, Deborah, Lori Hawk, Josh Horacek, Jennifer Morgan, Brian Wolfe, Abby King, Shelby Hunt, BGM, Garrett Blevins, Stacy Hicks, Vince Carpico, Greg Forquer, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Jim Bahnsen, Steven Darnell, Jane Harf, Lori Lovas, Jerry Starner, and Joe Ebel.

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, January 21, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Commissioners

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

2025-01.28.a A Resolution to Approve a Memo Receipt and Expense for Stop Loss Pool Sub Fund & the Self-Funded Healthcare Fund

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Auditor - Finance

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Auditor - Finance:

2025-01.28.b A Resolution to Approve to Rescind Resolution # 2025-01.14.y, A Resolution to Approve a Memo Receipt and Expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund #2599 Reimbursing Fund #2018, Fairfield County JFS

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas:

2025-01.28.c A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas; Fund # 2852, Targeted Community Alternative to Prison

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025**

Commissioner Davis stated that Administrator Cordle, Clerk of Courts Meyer, the Judges, and himself will meet Wednesday to continue a discussion about the Hall of Justice and its usefulness in serving their needs.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Domestic Relations Court

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Domestic Relations Court:

2025-01.28.d A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Repayment of an Advance to the General Fund, Fund #2848 Sub Fund #8284, Justice for Families Grant Program

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer:

2025-01.28.e A Resolution to Approve the Road Usage Agreement between Fairfield County and Ohio Power Company, a Unit of AEP

2025-01.28.f A Resolution to Approve the Annual County Highway System Mileage Certification for 2024

Engineer Upp stated that AEP has been very cooperative during the process of the road usage agreements.

Commissioner Davis asked if the Engineers have a file of previous road usage agreements that they reference when negotiating new ones.

Engineer Upp stated they do have a file that they use to reference. The agreement seems to be working well for both entities.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Facilities

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Facilities:

2025-01.28.g A Resolution to Approve a Contract for the HVAC Install Services for the GSB RTU Project

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile & Probate Court:

- 2025-01.28.h A Resolution to Approve a Lease Agreement for the Fairfield County Juvenile Court by and between the City of Lancaster and the Board of County Commissioners

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

- 2025-01.28.i A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Township of Violet
- 2025-01.28.j A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Contract with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and The City of Canal Winchester for Housing Prisoners in the Fairfield County Jail
- 2025-01.28.k A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff's Office; Fund 2394, CFLP Litter Enforcement

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions from the South Central Major Crimes Unit

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the South Central Major Crimes Unit:

- 2025-01.28.l A Resolution Authorizing a Creation of a New Fund and Appropriate from Unappropriated for the Violent Crimes Reduction Grant
- 2025-01.28.m A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Partial Repayment of an Advance to the General Fund from MCU, Fund #7864, Recovery Ohio Grant
- 2025-01.28.n A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category, Fund #7864
- 2025-01.28.o A Resolution Authorizing an Account-to-Account Transfer, Fund #7864, Sub Fund #8289, Recovery Ohio FY21 Grant
- 2025-01.28.p A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of an Advance from the General Fund to Fund #7858, Sub Fund #8360, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Grant

**Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025**

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Utilities

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Utilities:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2025-01.28.q | A Resolution Authorizing Fund-to-Fund Transfers from the Water Fund #5046 to Funds #5534, #5556, #5776, #5818, #5823, and #5849, Debt Service Payments for 2025 |
| 2025-01.28.r | A Resolution Authorizing Fund-to-Fund Transfer from the Greenfield Water Fund #5841 to #5846, Debt Service Payments for 2025 |
| 2025-01.28.s | A Resolution Authorizing a Fund-to-Fund Transfer from Greenfield Sewer Fund #5842 to #5847, Debt Service Payments for 2025 |
| 2025-01.28.t | A Resolution Authorizing Fund-to-Fund Transfers from the Sewer Fund #5044 to Funds #5533, #5554, #5776, #5817, and #5823 Debt Service Payments for 2025 |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2025-01.28.u | A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Payment of Invoices for Departments that Need Board of Commissioners' Approval |
|--------------|---|

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Adjournment

Engineer Upp stated that his office will be working with all the townships on the road usage agreements so they are protected as well.

With no further business, On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:00 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

Motion by: David Levacy	Seconded by: Steve Davis
that the January 28, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:	

Regular Meeting #4 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
January 28, 2025

YEAS: Steve Davis and David Levacy
ABSTENTIONS: Jeff Fix

NAYS: None

*Approved on February 4, 2025



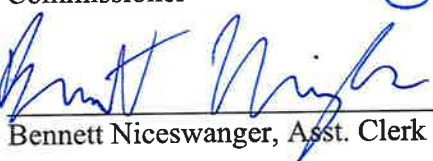
Dave Levacy
Commissioner



Jeff Fix
Commissioner



Steve Davis
Commissioner



Bennett Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk
