

Regular Meeting #7 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 18, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen, Sheriff, Alex Lape, Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Communications Supervisor, Elizabeth Maple; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Economic Development Coordinator, Anthony Iachini; Facilities and EMA Director; Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer, Stephanie Taylor, Mary Cullison, Brandy Marshall, and Emily Hayek.

Virtual attendees: Josh Horacek, Bryan Everitt, Beth Cottrell, Shannon, Jerry Starner, Colleen Cook, Jane Harf, Jeanie Wears, Nicole Schultz, Nikki Drake, Stacy Hicks, Deborah, Corey Clark, Abby King, Jessica Murphy, Jeff Barron, Baylie Blevins, Jared Collins, Park Russell, Toni Ashton, David Uhl, Leighann Adams, Britney Lee, Kyle Hicks, Joe Ebel, Barb Martin, BGM, Andy Boystel, Greg Forquer, Brian Wolfe, Tony Vogel, MHC, and Russ.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Next Generation 911

Administrator Cordle introduced Sheriff Lape and Elizabeth Maple who attended the meeting to talk about the Next Generation 911 system.

Sheriff Lape stated that the new system allows first responders to connect with new and critical situations before arriving on the scene via new video technology.

Ms. Maple thanked the Commissioners for investing in technology and added that the video aspect of the system is incredible and prepares the county for future generations of related technology. She added that the Sheriff's Office has also invested in a peer support team for the dispatchers who will be even more engaged in traumatic accidents and incidences.

Commissioner Fix asked if other counties are using the technology and about the technology available to first responders on the scene.

Ms. Maple replied that Fairfield County is on the cutting edge of technology and that members of the Sheriff's Office traveled to Guernsey county to view the program. The technology will be on the screens and tablets of first responders as they are on their way to, and at the scene.

Commissioner Davis asked about the processing of public records requests for the videos and about the possible invasion of privacy caused by the recordings.

Ms. Maple replied that they are waiting for case law to be established that would define how to process requests and added that the potential for saving lives would outweigh any negative issues regarding the videos.

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Sheriff Lape added that body cams are currently recorded when the link is hit. He added that his office gets public records requests for body cam footage and requests for the videos would be processed similarly.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the difference in technology since he was a first responder and added that when he was a firefighter you did not know what to expect until you arrived on the scene.

Sheriff Lape stated that the technology is currently in English and Spanish but will eventually translate forty languages. He added that the system also allows an event to be managed without multiple calls. Old 911 systems still use landlines, yet 95% of calls come in from cell phones. The Sheriff also added that the roles have now changed for telecommunication staff and are different from the past. Dispatchers/telecommunications staff are being trained to provide other assistance such as first aid.

Commissioner Levacy stated that these additional resources will save lives.

Commissioner Fix stated that the Board of Commissioners make a lot of decisions regarding investments in the county and added that this is an investment in which they are proud.

Public Comments

Stephanie Taylor of Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio stated that there have been internal changes at Habitat for Humanity, and she now oversees fundraising in her expanded role with the organization. One of the current projects in Lancaster is expected to be finished in the next month and a half and a new project will begin on King Street in April. Lastly, added Habitat of Humanity will be hosting the "We Nailed It" fundraiser at the Workforce Center.

Emily Hayek of Pleasantville spoke in opposition to solar energy. She read verses from the Bible referencing good stewardship of land.

Sherry Pymer asserted that the comments made last week by the Ad Hoc member from Walnut Township were not pointed towards Commissioner Davis, but rather towards the other members of the Ohio Power Siting Board.

County Administration Update

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

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 11 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

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Resolutions of note:

- There is a resolution on the agenda to approve memo transactions for the grant matches for the CDBG PY24. The Board of Commissioners were approved for \$1,140,000 in grant monies for PY24.
- FCBDD has a resolution to approve a memo expense/memo receipt for Transit transportation of individuals in January. This is a monthly transaction that occurs to represent monies owed to Transit for transportation services.
- The Engineer's Office has five resolutions on today's Agenda. Four pertaining to Advertising and Drawing Approvals for the Old Millersport Road and Old Mill Road Bridge Replacement Projects. And the fifth resolution is to appropriate unappropriated monies.
- A resolution from Regional Planning for a change order for the CDBG PY2022 Village of Baltimore Waterline Project. The change order is for additional supplies and services, and for an extension of the completion date.

Budget Review

- No update.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

- Ohio Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Housing Summit, February 20, 2025, 8:30 a.m., Ohio Statehouse 1 Capital Sq., Columbus
- Lancaster Fairfield Community Action's Board of Director's Meeting, February 20, 2025, 11:30 a.m., Recycling Center, 1761 E. Main St., Lancaster
- Family and Children First Executive Committee Meeting, February 21, 2025, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster
- Festival Music Director Community Reception, February 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Provisions Bakery & Deli, 135 W. Main St., Lancaster
- Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission Meeting, February 24, 2025, 10:00 a.m., State Library of Ohio, 274 E. 1st Ave., Columbus
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast, April 9, 2025, 8:00 a.m., Life Church Vineyard, 5550 Lancaster-Newark Rd. NE, Pleasantville

Correspondence

- Friends of Lancaster Parks & Recreation, Letter Regarding Support of Programs
- Thank You Email Regarding Water and Sewer Rates

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Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer Bahnsen stated his office is nearing the end of tax collections. He thanked Ms. Cordle and her team for setting up the temporary parking spots in front of the Administrative Courthouse for taxpayers and for manning the desk on the first floor.

Recorder McKenzie reported that a meeting was held with her office's vendor, FIDLAR. The meeting was a success and was attended by other county Recorders in southeast Ohio.

Sheriff Lape stated he and his command staff recently completed their Strategic Plan. They will work to make sure they are pursuing their goals. His staff will also begin different trainings and include corrections and communications.

Commissioner Davis asked how many drones the Sheriff's Office operates.

Sheriff Lape stated his office operates 4 drones, two of which are larger drones.

Auditor Brown spoke on the fact sheet her office released regarding New Community Authorities. Her office is receiving a high volume of calls about the Hunters Run Conservancy District and its tax bills. She reported that the Board of Education will have extra time this year to file complaints and counter complaints to the Board of Revisions. Her office also achieved a GIS milestone for scanning historical records.

Director Kochis reported that the Workforce Center second phase improvements are out for bid.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy met with the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame to begin developing a 501(c)(3).

Commissioner Davis attended the Transit Ride Along and recalled the story of a rider with developmental disabilities who uses the service to get to work, and the impact Transit has made on that individual's life.

Commissioner Fix met with a representative from Google who spoke about the data center in Lancaster. Google had expressed a willingness to engage with the community about how they can help nonprofits, schools, and the Workforce Center. He was also invited to speak in Knox County at a presentation for the first draft of their Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy mentioned attending the Lancaster State of the City Address and remarks made by Mayor McDaniels.

Commissioner Davis addressed Stephanie Taylor and asked if she could provide a metric on how Fairfield County compares to other Ohio counties in the number of houses being built each year with the assistance of Habitat for Humanity.

Ms. Taylor stated that this year alone, Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio will build 10 houses in their 8-county area.

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Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the Voting portion of the meeting with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, 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; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen, Sheriff, Alex Lape, Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Communications Supervisor, Elizabeth Maple; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Economic Development Coordinator, Anthony Iachini; Facilities and EMA Director; Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer, Stephanie Taylor, Mary Cullison, Brandy Marshall, and Emily Hayek.

Virtual attendees: Josh Horacek, Bryan Everitt, Beth Cottrell, Shannon, Jerry Starnier, Colleen Cook, Jane Harf, Jeanie Wears, Nicole Schultz, Nikki Drake, Stacy Hicks, Deborah, Corey Clark, Abby King, Jessica Murphy, Jeff Barron, Baylie Blevins, Park Russell, Toni Ashton, David Uhl, Leighann Adams, Britney Lee, Kyle Hicks, Joe Ebel, Barb Martin, BGM, Greg Forquer, Brian Wolfe, Tony Vogel, MHC, and Russ.

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for February 11, 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, February 11, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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:

2025-02.18.a A Resolution to Approve Memo Transactions for the Matches on the CDBG PY24 Grant

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County ADAMH Board

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 ADAMH Board:

2025-02.18.b A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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 Board of Developmental Disabilities:

2025-02.18.c A Resolution to Approve a Memo Expense/Memo Receipt for the Cost of Transportation for Individuals Paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a Memo Expenditure for Fund #2060

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development

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 Economic & Workforce Development:

2025-02.18.d A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Economic and Workforce Development/WIOA 20/21; Fund # 7831, Project # 5700; WIOA 20/21

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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:

2025-02.18.e A Resolution to Approve Advertising for the PLE-32, FAI-TR427-1.272 Old Millersport Road Bridge Replacement Project.

2025-02.18.f A Resolution to Approve Advertising for the PLE-33, FAI-TR425-1.419 Old Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project.

2025-02.18.g A Resolution to Approve the Construction Drawings for the PLE-32, FAI-TR427-1.272 Old Millersport Road Bridge Replacement Project.

2025-02.18.h A Resolution to Approve the Construction Drawings for the PLE-33, FAI-TR425-1.419 Old Mill Road Bridge Replacement Project.

2025-02.18.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for Software

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission

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 Regional Planning Commission:

2025-02.18.j A Resolution to Approve Change Order #2 for the CDBG PY2022 Village of Baltimore Waterline Improvement Project

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution 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 resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2025-02.18.k A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; Fund # 2442, Commissary

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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:

2025-02.18.l A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Payment of Invoices for Departments that Need the Board of Commissioners' Approval

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Adjournment

With no further business, On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:54 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

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Motion by: David Levacy

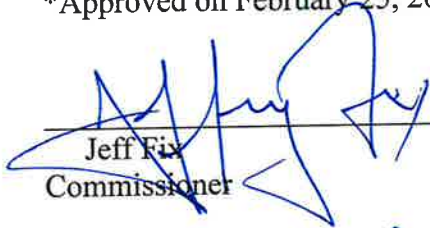
Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the February 18, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

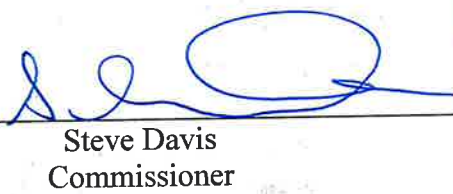
YEAS: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix
ABSTENTIONS:

NAYS: None

*Approved on February 25, 2025



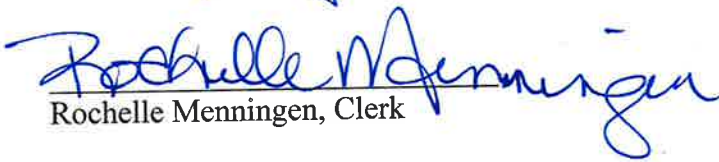
Jeff Fix
Commissioner



Steve Davis
Commissioner



David Levacy
Commissioner



Rochelle Menningen, Clerk