

Regular Meeting #8 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 25, 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; 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; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Facilities and EMA Director; Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Deputy JFS Director, JFS Director, Corey Clark; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Heather O'Keefe; and Sheriff's Deputy, James Williams. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer and Robert Slater II.

Virtual attendees: Deborah, Jason Grubb, Jennifer Morgan, Nicole Schultz, Tony Vogel, Lisa McKenzie, Jessica Murphy, Beth Cottrell, John, Lynette Barnhart, Barb Martin, Lori Hawk, Jerry Starner, Shannon, BGM, Greg Forquer, Jeanie Wears, Jeff Barron, Jared Collins, Marcy Fields, Josh Horacek, Shelby Hunt, Stacy Hicks, Abby King, Vince Carpico, and Park Russell.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Public Comments

Robert Slater II of Millersport spoke on the process for the upcoming evidentiary hearing for the Eastern Cottontail solar project and believes many of the other board members on the Ohio Power Siting Board are not qualified to pass judgement on the project because they are directors of State agencies. He also offered his concerns for the impact of the project on the residents.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Roundtable

The Commissioners will host a Roundtable for Elected Officials and Department Heads this afternoon from 1:00-4:00 at the Fairfield County Agricultural Center.

Commissioners' March 4th Meeting

The Commissioners' second evening meeting of 2025 will be next week, March 4th, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in Greenfield Township at the Greenfield Township Fire Department located at 3245 Havensport Road in Carroll.

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Department of Taxation

The Department of Taxation for the State of Ohio informed stakeholders that it was unable to provide a preliminary report for December due to transitioning to a new internal system and the need to devote resources to distribution accuracy.

Director Hampson stated that the report had changed after being the same for many years and needed to adjust the new report to match previous data.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 10 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution to authorize a perpetual easement of 111.10 acres and the sale of 3.76 acres to ODOT for the interchange at Pickerington Rd and Route 33.

Commissioner Fix thanked Director Vogel for his assistance negotiating a suitable agreement with ODOT regarding the sale.

- A resolution to approve a proclamation that will be presented by the Commissioners at today's Roundtable for Elected Officials and Department Heads.
- An Engineer's Office resolution to approve an agreement with Woolpert, Inc. for environmental, survey and design work for the Refugee Rd Shared Use Path Project.

Engineer Upp stated that the resolution relates to the third phase for a series of projects on Refugee Road.

Commissioner Fix offered his appreciation for the work that has been done on that corridor and believes it has improved the flow of traffic.

Engineer Upp continues to have discussions with Pickerington North Schools to ensure they are addressing the concerns of the schools.

- Transit has a resolution authorizing a service agreement between Transit, Fairfield County, and DD to provide transportation for the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Budget Review

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

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Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

- CCAO New Member Legislative Reception, February 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Ohio Statehouse Atrium, 1 Capitol Sq., Columbus ii.
- CFLP Board of Directors Meeting, February 28, 2025, 9:00 a.m., Licking County Transit Building, 745 E. Main St., Newark iii.
- CFLP Policy Committee Meeting, February 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Licking County Transit Building, 745 E. Main St., Newark

Correspondence

- Correspondence regarding industrial solar

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer Bahnsen stated that the traffic through the payment drive thru was robust. He also thanked County Administration for the designated parking spots at the front of the building for taxpayers.

Auditor Brown began by reminding all of the BOR deadline to submit complaints. The map of the month features Revenge, Ohio which no longer exists. She enjoyed conducting a presentation at the National AGA Conference and will conduct the same presentation at the later date for the Ohio AGA Conference.

Director Vogel thanked Treasurer Bahnsen for his offices assistance to a taxpayer who had mistakenly paid their taxes to Utilities instead of the Treasurer.

Director Szabrak held a hiring event in partnership with Job and Family Services where they were able to hire 2 additional part-time Transit drivers.

Director Neeley thanked Human Resources for helping to find a suitable candidate for a vacancy he has in his department.

Director Clark hosted a visit last week from ODJFS, DAS and their consultants who reviewed the entire public assistance process to see how they can make improvements. He is looking forward to seeing those improvements.

Deputy Administrator Porter stated the county experienced a significant increase in the year over year health insurance costs.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis provided some Uber trips to several riders recently and shared a story of driving two immigrants to Rickenbacker to then take public transit to work.

Commissioner Levacy has seen some good progress on the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame and appreciates the committee's help in getting it started.

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Commissioner Fix attended the housing summit last week. He was encouraged to hear that the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Statehouse were fully engaged in trying to figure out a solution to housing.

New Business

Commissioner Fix will be attending the legislative update later in the evening.

Commissioner Levacy saw Franklin County and Columbus are working on providing tiny homes to low-income individuals.

Commissioner Davis will film a Commission Connection video which will concentrate on the county's policy regarding incarcerated juveniles.

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; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Economic and Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Facilities and EMA Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Deputy JFS Director, JFS Director, Corey Clark; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Heather O'Keefe; and Sheriff's Deputy, James Williams. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymmer and Robert Slater II.

Virtual attendees: Deborah, Jason Grubb, Jennifer Morgan, Tony Vogel, Lisa McKenzie, Jessica Murphy, Beth Cottrell, John, Lynette Barnhart, Lori Hawk, Jerry Starner, Shannon, Greg Forquer, Jeff Barron, Marcy Fields, Josh Horacek, Shelby Hunt, Stacy Hicks, Abby King, Vince Carpico, and Park Russell.

Announcements

Rochelle stated the Transit resolution 2025-02.25.i has a contract with pages that are out of order and will correct the order before the resolution packet is finalized.

Approval of Minutes for February 18, 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 18, 2025 meeting.

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 Resolutions 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 resolutions from the Fairfield County Commissioners:

- 2025-02.25.a A Resolution Authorizing a Perpetual Easement for Limited Access for Highway Purposes of 111.10+/- and the Sale of 3.760 Acres of Property owned by the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and granted to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- 2025-02.25.b A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Proclamation to be Presented at the February 25, 2025, Roundtable
- 2025-02.25.c A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated & memo transactions Fund# 3011, FY2023 FAA Grant, subfund# 8329.

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 Clerk of Courts – Legal Division

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 Clerk of Courts – Legal Division:

- 2025-02.25.d A resolution approving an Account to Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category-1110, Clerk of Courts Legal

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 Engineer

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 Engineer:

- 2025-02.25.e A Resolution to Approve an Agreement between Fairfield County and Woolpert, Inc.

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 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:

- 2025-02.25.f A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; Fund # 2442, Commissary
- 2025-02.25.g A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; Fund # 2593, Concealed Carry

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2025-02.25.h A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; Fund # 2711, Continued Professional Training

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 Transit

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 Transit:

2025-02.25.i A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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:

2025-02.25.j 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, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Adjournment

Commissioner Fix gave his appreciation for all the offices that submitted their reports before the roundtable meeting so that the Commissioners have time to review them beforehand.

With no further business, On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:28 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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at the Greenfield Township Fire Department, 3245 Havensport Road, Carroll, OH.

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Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

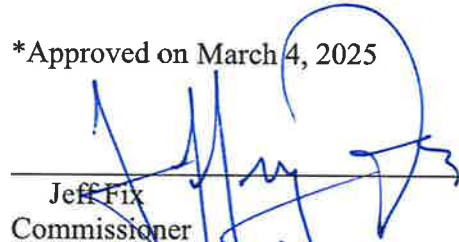
that the February 25, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS:

*Approved on March 4, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Bennett Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk
