

**Regular Meeting #10 - 2025**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**March 4, 2025**

**Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenfield Township Fire Department located at 3245 Havensport Rd., Carroll, 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; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Eligibility Referral Specialist, Heather Kochis; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; FCFC Manager, Jim Bahnsen; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; and IT Director, Dan Neeley. Also in attendance: Jessica Kull, Jeff Williamsen, Liz Moe, Robert Slater II, Gina Matos, Frank Uhl II, and Paul Dixon.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He stated the purpose of the evening meetings is to offer residents the opportunity to attend during the evening when they would otherwise not be available during the day.

**Public Comments**

Frank Uhl II of Hocking Township is a union worker and spoke in favor of the Eastern Cottontail solar project, adding that it will provide many benefits to the surrounding areas.

Robert Slater II of Walnut Township serves as the ad hoc member for Walnut Township on the OPSB and attended the first day of the evidentiary hearings for the Eastern Cottontail solar project. He offered several of his grievances with the process so far.

Jeff Williamsen of Winding Oak Rd. stated that the proposed solar project will need to account for the energy that is needed during times when the solar panels aren't functioning.

**Legal Update**

None.

**County Administration Update**

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

**Week in Review**

*Recognizing Veterans Services Director Park Russell*

Next week the Commissioners' will be recognizing Park Russell, Veterans Services Director, for his dedication to serving the veterans of Fairfield County for 24 years. This doesn't include his years of military service to his country.

**Highlights of Resolutions**

*Administrative Approvals*

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

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*Resolution Review*

There are 12 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- There is a resolution to authorize a joint use agreement between Ohio University and the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners. This is needed in order to utilize the 500,000 that the legislature previously approved.

Director Szabrak stated that the agreement has been a long process and he is happy that both sides are satisfied with the language of the agreement.

- There is a resolution to approve a grant agreement between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and Ohio Emergency Management Agency for the FY24 Emergency Management Performance Grant Award

Director Kochis stated that this is an annual allocation from the federal government.

- A resolution to authorize the County Administrator to sign a letter of intent on behalf of Fairfield County Protective Services to partner with the Gallia County Child Wellness Center

Administrator Cordle stated that the letter of intent will add Fairfield County to a program with 10 other Ohio counties.

Director Clark added that the 10 counties together will be investing 45,000, with the State matching those funds. By placing the children under their protection in that facility, the county will save several hundred dollars per day.

Administrator Cordle stated that Gallia County will be the fiscal agent, but Fairfield County will be a member of the governing board.

Commissioner Levacy recalled speaking with Governor DeWine about how the state should be involved in this process.

Commissioner Fix has heard from other counties that they too struggle with placing children. He asked how long the children can stay at the Gallia County Child Wellness Center.

Director Clark stated it is a short term residential stay, but the kids can stay 30-60 days and in that time will be assessed to see if they are a good candidate to receive additional resources.

Commissioner Fix asked if there will be ongoing operational costs.

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Director Clark stated the placement costs will pay for the operations. The center charges \$370 a day for member counties, and double that amount for non-member counties. Fairfield County pays 700-800 dollars a day for other facilities in the state so this will offer considerable cost-savings.

- A resolution authorizing the approval of the Fairfield County Prevention, Retention and Contingency Plan (PRC Plan) between Fairfield County Job & Family Services and the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. This was recently approved by the Family Services Planning Committee which is also the Executive Committee of the Family and Children First Council.

Director Clark stated that the PRC plan revision is a process they undergo every 2 years. Some of the revisions include improved language for housing assistance.

- A resolution to request appropriations for receipts for Major Crimes Violent Crimes Reduction Grant Fund 7911 and an advance for the Flock Camera system in the County.

Director Kochis stated that the MCU grant has been immensely helpful for MCU operations.

**Budget Review**

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson, stated the county has experienced increased health insurance costs in 2025 compared to 2024. He will continue to look into what is causing those increases.

Commissioner Davis asked what the difference was between revenue and expenses.

Director Hampson stated the difference is nearly double what it was for the same time period in 2024.

Administrator Cordle stated that the HR team is in constant communication with NFP to see how the county can maximize savings and decrease expenses. She added that these numbers should not raise any alarms, but the county is seeing a pattern it has not seen before.

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

*Items Requiring Response*

*Informational Items*

- Fairfield 33 Development Alliance Board Meeting, Thursday, March 6, 2025, 8:30 a.m. at the Workforce Center
- State of Pickerington Address, Thursday, March 6, 2025, 11:00 a.m. at Grace Fellowship, 1449 Refugee Rd., Pickerington

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- Invitation to the CCAO Central Region Meeting, Friday, June 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Morrow County, address TBD

**Correspondence**

- Letter from the City of Lancaster regarding a TIF ordinance
- 2026 Meals on Wheels levy budget
- Correspondence Regarding Industrial Solar
- Letter from county resident regarding SR 188

**Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads**

Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer spent the day testifying at the Statehouse regarding legislature that the Ohio Clerk of Courts Association was concerned with.

Treasurer Bahnsen stated the Treasurer's Office had passed along the property tax collections to the Auditor's Office.

Auditor Brown stated that the BOR online tool is available. The next Budget Commission meeting will be related to Board of Health apportionments. She had the pleasure of providing a presentation for the Recovery Court last week. She also was thankful for the uniform presence at the Administrative Courthouse and the Auditor's Office. In April there will be more communication about state vendor licenses and a one-time fee. The Celebrate Women Conference is open for registration. Those from her office who cannot attend will have the opportunity to attend the POWER seminar.

Director Szabrak stated that they held the Safety Fair with the Chamber of Commerce at the Workforce Center which had a great turnout. OU is hosting a teachers conference at the Workforce Center which will give them the chance to show off the labs to teachers from around the state.

Director Clark spoke on Adult Protective Services' partnership with Fairfield Federal and Vinton County Bank to help seniors avoid scams. He shared a story of a success they recently had where they were able to assist a senior avoid losing a large amount of money to a scammer.

Commissioner Levacy stated he brought up this partnership to the Elder Abuse Commission and believes it should be used statewide.

Director Clark stated that they have plans to add more banks to the partnership.

Director Vogel has 6 apprentices who went through the Workforce Center who will soon be taking their exams.

Director Szabrak thanked Director Vogel for everything he has done for the Water and Wastewater students.

Commissioner Fix learned that the Village of Amanda was not familiar with the Workforce Center and believes the county should make contact with the municipalities to encourage students to enroll at the Workforce Center.

Director Neeley stated that he looks forward to attending the POWER event on Thursday. He will also be participating in an all-county IT personnel meeting.

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**Old Business**

Commissioner Davis attended a meeting Monday with bond council and Fairfield Medical Center to discuss the issue surrounding the hospital trying to sell an off campus building to the Harcum House in which the transaction was scheduled to be closed but the title came back conduit upon debt. He also asked for an executive session at the end of the evening.

**New Business**

Commissioner Levacy offered his appreciation to Greenfield Township for hosting the Commissioners, and for Commissioner Davis serving as the ad hoc member on the OPSB.

Commissioner Davis met with Vivek Ramaswamy on Monday. He also attended the first day of the OPSB evidentiary hearings and thinks the hearings will likely continue.

Commissioner Fix attended a CCAO meeting where they are proposing an amendment to annexations because some counties are experiencing issues with aggressive annexation. He is hopeful that CCAO can come to a solution that does not punish counties who are not experiencing aggressive annexations.

**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; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Eligibility Referral Specialist, Heather Kochis; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; FCFC Manager, Jim Bahnsen; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; and IT Director, Dan Neeley. Also in attendance: Jessica Kull, Jeff Williamsen, Liz Moe, Robert Slater II, Gina Matos, Frank Uhl II, and Paul Dixon.

**Announcements**

None.

**Approval of Minutes for February 25, 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 25, 2025 meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Approval of Roundtable Minutes for February 25, 2025**

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Roundtable Minutes for the Tuesday, February 25, 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:

- |              |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025-03.04.a | A resolution authorizing to Appropriate from Unappropriated into a major expenditure category to the Capital Improvement Project Fund# 3435 and fund to fund transfer. |
| 2025-03.04.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories for the Health Insurance Fund# 5376.                                            |
| 2025-03.04.c | A resolution authorizing fund to fund transfers from the General Fund # 1001 to: #4809, #4851, #4714, #4819, #4895, #4878 for Debt Service Payments for 2025.          |
| 2025-03.04.d | A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the 2nd half 2025 Allocation for Soil & Water.                                                                    |

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:

- |              |                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025-03.04.e | A resolution authorizing the joint use agreement between Ohio University and the Fairfield County Board of County Commissioners. |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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 Emergency Management Agency**

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 Emergency Management Agency:

- |              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025-03.04.f | A resolution to approve a Grant Agreement between Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and Ohio Emergency Management Agency for the FY24 Emergency Management Performance Grant Award. |
| 2025-03.04.g | A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for EMA Fund 2090 (Subfund 8221) COTS Grant 2024/2025                                                                             |

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 Fairfield County Job & Family Services**

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 Job & Family Services:

- 2025-03.04.h      A Resolution to authorize the County Administrator to sign a letter of intent on behalf of Fairfield County Protective Services to partner with the Gallia County Child Wellness Center.
- 2025-03.04.i      A resolution authorizing the approval of the Fairfield County Prevention, Retention and Contingency Plan (PRC Plan) between Fairfield County Job & Family Services and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.
- 2025-03.04.j      A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Birth Certificates paid to Fairfield County Health Departments as a memo expenditure for fund# 2072 Public Children's Services

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 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 resolution from the South Central Major Crimes Unit:

- 2025-03.04.k      A resolution to request for appropriations for receipts for Major Crimes Violent Crimes Reduction Grant Fund 7911 and advance

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:

- 2025-03.04.l      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

**Executive Session**

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to enter executive session to discuss the acquisition of property at 7:51 p.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to exit executive session at 8:06 p.m.

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

**Adjournment**

With no further business, On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

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Motion by: David Levacy

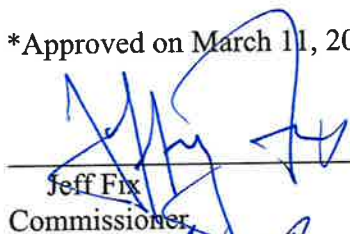
Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the March 4, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

\*Approved on March 11, 2025

  
Jeff Fix  
Commissioner

  
Steve Davis  
Commissioner

  
David Levacy  
Commissioner

  
Bennett Niceswanger, Asst. Clerk