

Regular Meeting #11 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 11, 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; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Transit Director, Aaron Kennedy; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Planner, Josh Hillberry; Facilities & EMA Director; Jon Kochis; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; IT Director, Dan Neeley; ADAMH Program Coordinator, Miranda Gray; ADAMH Executive Director, Marcy Fields; ADAMH Grants Manager, Dylan Sanders; Veterans Services Director, Park Russell; Deputy Recorder, Devin Brown; Computer Support Specialists, Davin Fertig and Donna Mitchell; IT Help Desk Supervisor, Jimmie Gordon; Engineer Administrative Assistant, Jeff Camechis; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Samantha Meadow, and Sherry Pymer.

Virtual attendees: Michael Kaper, Beth Cottrell, Barb Martin, Belinda Nebbergall, Jerry Starner, Deborah, Jeanie Wears, Shelby Hunt, Josh Horacek, Nicole Schultz, Vince Carpico, Colleen Cook, Ruyi, Aubrey Ward, Lisa, Abby King, Jessica Murphy, Ashley Arter, Toni Ashton, Jared Collins, Greg Forquer, Andy Boystel, Lori Hawk, Britney Lee, Jeff Barron, Connie Vargo, Tony Vogel, Alex Lape, Justine Feinstein, Brian Wolfe, Chris Snider, Steven Darnell, Stacy Hicks, Baylie Blevins, Shanda Wyrick, and David Uhl.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Introduction of New Staff

Mr. Gordon introduced two new staff members from IT, Davin Fertig and Donna Mitchell.

Recorder McKenzie introduced a new employee in her office, Devin Brown.

Recognition of Park Russell, Veterans Service Commission Director

Commissioner Fix spoke on and read the proclamation (contained within the meeting minutes) presented to Park Russell.

Mr. Russell stated it has been an honor to work with veterans and their families and spoke about how the job positively impacted his own life.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Russell for his 24 years of dedication to Fairfield County, veterans, and veterans' families.

Listen & Learn, ADAMH Board Strategic Planning

Marcy Fields, Dylan Sanders, and Miranda Gray

Ms. Fields introduced the ADAMH Grants Manager, Dylan Sanders, and spoke briefly about the Venture Place project. She added that the Starlight facility is open and operational.

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Mr. Sanders stated that his job involves gathering data to seek out grants. He spoke about gathering some data through a survey that went out to the community and community stakeholders. The survey was distributed in a variety of ways and had a good range of respondents. The findings indicated the needs people felt were currently unmet, which included need for additional housing services.

Commissioner Fix asked for a definition of housing services.

Mr. Sanders stated that housing services are intended as a reference to places people live in on a long-term basis and not temporary living spaces. He added the survey indicated a difference in findings based on zip codes in the county. Mr. Sanders also spoke about the 30 interviews conducted throughout the county and the indicators from the survey that people who are involved with social services feel there is excellent collaboration across agencies. Strategic considerations developed from the survey include maintaining an adequate behavioral health workforce, continuing to address housing issues, and increasing awareness of behavioral health supports.

Commissioner Davis stated his admiration for the ADAMH and the changes they have made.

Commissioner Levacy stated he would be interested in a survey that would ask if people were willing to support levies to pay for additional services.

Commissioner Fix spoke about the Board's support of ADAMH, its staff, board, and services.

Ms. Fields stated the ADAMH Board recently had a planning meeting and added that programming could change based on available funding.

Ms. Cordle asked Ms. Fields to speak with Mr. Clark regarding funding.

Ms. Gray spoke about a grant which would allow for the addition of a third case worker to connect unhoused individuals with services.

Ms. Cordle asked about unhoused individuals outside the City of Lancaster.

Ms. Gray replied that individuals are not always easy to identify as unhoused.

Ms. Fields spoke about the Corporation for Supportive Housing and stated that Fairfield County is at the top of the list for housing development.

Commissioner Fix added that there are individuals in the Pickerington area that may not be living in tents, but rather out of their vehicles.

Ms. Gray said that marketing could be done with businesses to encourage them to reach out when they see someone who is, or is at risk of being, unhoused.

Ms. Fields spoke about the value of connecting with community resources and added that they were able to assist an individual recently due to an officer referral.

Ms. Gray stated that some connections with individuals occurred due to Project FORT.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke fondly of his assisted living facility and thanked the Commissioners for the years he was welcomed in the meetings by the Board.

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Sherry Pymer of Walnut Township attended the evidentiary hearings last week for the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) and noted that the only two board members who attended were Commissioner Davis and Bob Slater of Walnut Township. She spoke about her disappointment in the testimony of the expert witnesses and the absences of the other board members.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Award to Recognize Fairfield County's Comprehensive Plan

The Fairfield County Comprehensive Plan has been selected for an Honor Award from the American Planning Association's Small Town and Rural (STaR) Division. This recognition is usually given to only 1-2 communities per year, and the "Honor" designation is the higher of the two categories they use to recognize work. Planning NEXT was nominated for the award for their work on the plan.

Commissioner Fix recalled the process of going to each township and village to revise the plan and thanked all the parties involved including Planning Next. He added that it is nice to have your work recognized and further added that there would be three additional meetings that day. The Commissioner stated that the work across the county is ongoing, including Regional Planning's work on a model zoning code.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 22 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- There is a resolution to approve the proclamation that was presented to Park Russell, Fairfield County's Veterans Service Commission Director, for over 24 years.
- The Engineer's Office has two resolutions. The first resolution is an agreement between Fairfield County and Marty Transportation, Inc, for bridge load ratings as directed by the County Engineer. The second is to approve the Contract Bid Award for the Pickerington Road Bridge Replacement Project. The Engineer's Office is recommending that the bid be awarded to J&J Bridge Company in the amount of \$439,982.50. This was the lowest bid received, and the Engineer's Office has determined that J&J Bridge Company has met all the requirements.

Mr. Camechis stated that the bridge had been in the works for quite a while.

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- There is a resolution to approve an agreement with Garland DBS, Inc for the replacement of the roof at the Sheridan Center.

Mr. Kochis stated the Sheridan Center's new roof would be at current energy standards and would save the county money.

- JFS has 11 resolutions for service agreements for network placement for children who are in the care and custody of Child Protective Services.

Budget Review

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson provided an update on the recent Sales Tax figures. He stated that the figures are analyzed year over year and the cumulative, through February 2025, was \$100,000 additional, or 2.1%. Of the 2.1%, non-auto is up 1.38% and auto is up 8.37%. The forecast for February 2025 was 1.4% or \$65,000.

Commissioner Davis stated he met with Mr. Hampson earlier that day.

Commissioner Fix asked for a conversation regarding the Bed Tax letter that was contained in the Review Packet.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

- TID Meeting, Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 1:00 p.m. at the Records Center
- Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, March 13, 2025, 8:30 a.m. at the Workforce Center
- LDG Groundbreaking event, Friday, March 14, 2025, 10:00 a.m. near S. Ewing and Lawrence Streets in Lancaster
- Invitation to the Central Ohio Regional Housing Coalition stakeholder update webinar, Friday, March 14, 2025, 12:00 p.m. via online meeting link
- State of the Schools Address, Thursday, March 27, 2025, 11:00 a.m. at Stanbery Career Center, 345 E. Mulberry St., Lancaster

Correspondence

- CFLP Closeout letter for the 2024 Combined Education & Recycling contract
- Notification from the Fairfield County Board of Elections for completed ballot proofing for the May 6, 2025, Primary/Special election
- Notice to commence from Skyworks for work to be done at the Fairfield County Airport
- Correspondence from a county resident regarding the allocation of bed tax revenue.
- Correspondence Regarding Industrial Solar

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Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer Bahnsen stated the Land Bank has several projects they are working on.

Auditor Brown stated her office has two technological advancements going live this week; which some counties are wanting to replicate. The office has multiple videos on the DocLink tool, which manages data and provides training. She will attend the Supreme Court Continuing Legal Education meeting. Her office will release correspondence on the DD renewal levy, the one-time vendor license fee, and its annual report. She was also honored to have presented to a group of women executives from Park National Bank.

Mr. Anders stated the Utilities Department is working with a consultant to locate future well fields.

Mr. Szabrak attended a conference at the Workforce Center to see what the Ohio University is doing with STEM, along with 120 STEM teachers from throughout the state.

Mr. Kochis stated he is happy to see the Sheridan Center project moving.

Mr. Clark spoke about a fellowship/internship program for students interested in social work. He added that Fairfield County is one of the pilot counties and that he anticipates hiring both students currently in the program.

Mr. Porter stated the Leadership Conference is on April 15th and will be held at Alley Park.

Mr. Kennedy stated that Transit has hired several new drivers and an operations manager. They are anxiously waiting to see if they have won the ODOT award.

Ms. Cordle stated the Transit rebranding is scheduled for April 19th. She thanked Krile Communications and Martin Barking for their work on the department's rebranding.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis thanked Ms. Pymer for recognizing the time he had spent at the OPSB hearings. He stated he is anxious to hear the takeaways from the hearings and added that he has some concerns regarding the process.

Commissioner Levacy stated his appreciation for Commissioner Davis's willingness to serve as the ad hoc member to the OPSB. He also spoke about attending the State of Pickerington Address which was hosted at Grace Fellowship's new building.

New Business

Commissioner Davis spoke on the note regarding the MCJDC phone system and recording features. He added that the information provided stated that the recording feature was part of a package and would begin costing additional money. MCJDC has asked for input on the necessity of that feature. The Commissioner spoke with Judge Vandervoort and the Prosecutor's Office and stated that the recording feature should remain.

Commissioners Fix and Levacy agreed that the recording feature should be purchased.

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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; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Transit Director, Aaron Kennedy; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Planner, Josh Hillberry; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; IT Director, Dan Neeley; ADAMH Program Coordinator, Miranda Gray; ADAMH Executive Director, Marcy Fields; ADAMH Grants Manager, Dylan Sanders; Veterans Services Director, Park Russell; Deputy Recorder, Devin Brown; Computer Support Specialists, Davin Fertig and Donna Mitchell; IT Help Desk Supervisor, Jimmie Gordon; Engineer Administrative Assistant, Jeff Camechis; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Samantha Meadow, and Sherry Pymmer.

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Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for March 4, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the meeting Minutes for Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

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 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:

2025-03.11.a A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Proclamation

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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:

2025-03.11.b A resolution to approve a memo transaction for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865.

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- 2025-03.11.c A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Fund# 2736, sub fund# 8337, FY2024 CFLP Grant.
- 2025-03.11.d A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund – Fund #2788 Sub-fund 8334, PY2023 CDBG Critical Infrastructure 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 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:

- 2025-03.11.e A resolution to approve a memo exp./ 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 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 resolution from the Fairfield County Engineer:

- 2025-03.11.f A resolution to approve an Agreement between Fairfield County and Carpenter Marty Transportation, Inc.
- 2025-03.11.g A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the BLO-36, FAI-CR20-1.964 Pickerington Road Bridge Replacement 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 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:

- 2025-03.11.h A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of an Agreement for the Replacement of the roof of the Sheridan Center with Garland DBS Inc.

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 Family and Children First Council

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 Family and Children First Council:

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2025-03.11.i A resolution to amend the certificate, update receipt line item & request for appropriations for Fairfield County Job & Family Services; Family Children First Council # 7521, Sub-Fund #8184.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job and 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 and Family Services:

2025-03.11.j A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Bus Passes paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2072 Public Children's Services

2025-03.11.k A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and New Mercy Outreach Inc.

2025-03.11.l A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Adolescent Oasis, Inc.

2025-03.11.m A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Advantage Family Outreach and Foster Care

2025-03.11.n A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Allwell Behavioral Health Services

2025-03.11.o A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and The Julia Paige Family Center

2025-03.11.p A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Keys to Success LLC

2025-03.11.q A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and National Youth Advocate Program

2025-03.11.r A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Ohio Mentor Inc.

2025-03.11.s A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Richmeier Therapeutic Home

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2025-03.11.t A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth of Ohio, Inc. (SAFY)

2025-03.11.u A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and SJO Kids, Inc. dba NewPath Child & Family Solutions.

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 South Central Major Crimes Unit:

2025-03.11.v A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for MCU Fund 7864 (sub fund 8289) Recovery Ohio FY21 Grant

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 10:02 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, March 18, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

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Motion by: David Levacy

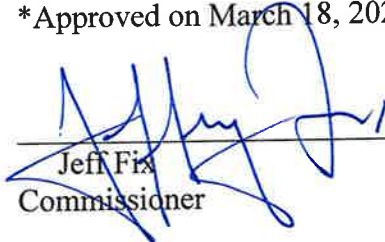
Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the March 11, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

*Approved on March 18, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner
Steve Davis
Commissioner
David Levacy
Commissioner
Rochelle Menningen, Clerk